

FWS General Manager's Report

Hello All,

The FWS Office is running as smoothly as can be expected given our recent cut in staff hours and closure of the office on Fridays. Richard is working 30 hours and Ashley is working 20 hours per week. Adrianna's hours have been totally cut at least through the first of the year. I am trying to reduce my hours, but given the recent cuts and state and federal reports/filings that needed to be completed, my days are sometimes pretty long.

All legal and financial reports have been submitted for 2006-08. This month the Annual Reports for the Attorney General of Massachusetts were mailed with a filing fee of \$320. A letter was sent to the IRS correcting the name of the corporation from The Augustine Fellowship to The Augustine Fellowship, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous, Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. as amended in 1984 in the Articles of Organization.

For the state of Texas, I submitted the Texas Franchiser reports, the No Tax Due Information Reports, Form 801 Application for Reinstatement and Form 302 Application for Registration. I also calculated the sales tax due to the state of Texas for 2006-2008 and met with the State comptroller. All outstanding taxes and penalties totaling \$603 were paid. I am also working with the FWS webmaster to charge the proper sales tax for orders made by members/groups/Intergroups in the state of Texas.

An application for the exemption from Texas sales tax, hotel occupancy tax and franchise tax needs to be done soon, too. This will be an important financial savings for the 2010 Annual Business Conference/Meeting in San Antonio August 10-13th.

In the next few weeks, the CPA will provide a professional bookkeeper to help produce our financial reports. We will create a new chart of accounts and system for tracking lost orders, outreach efforts, Journal costs, and shipping/freight cost.

The approved Budget 2009-10 is attached and includes a 10% increase on all items sold by FWS. This will take effect February 1, 2010. There has not been a price increase in 5 years and the BOT and I evaluated the need to increase the prices charged for literature and merchandise. The S.L.A.A. Fellowship is supported mainly by the sale of literature/merchandise and contributions of members. Based on the 2008-09 Actual column of the Budget 2009-10 about 52% of our revenue comes from the sale of copyrighted S.L.A.A. literature, another 32% from contributions and 16% from other sources (such as ABC/M fees and Investments income).

As we are in a recession and anticipate a worst case scenario for 2009-10, the budget has been decreased from last year's Actual of \$302,986 by 5.6% to \$285,875. This past month the cost of producing our *SLAA Basic Text* increased by 22%; that increase was due to higher printing and delivery costs. Note that last year we spent 28% more than we actually charged for shipping/packaging costs (not including handling). Therefore, a price increase of 10% plus charging the full shipping/packaging/handling fees this year was approved by the BOT.

The Conference Committees Expenses has been \$546 in 2008 and \$552 in 2009. For this year, \$750 has been allocated. The BOT has not received the CFC Conference Committees requested budget items and realizes this may not reflect actual expenses for 2009-10. As more information is received, the BOT and I will work to try to accommodate Conference Committee requests on a case by case and needs basis.

Last year, the budget included lines items for the 12x12 Book Project and Translations to demonstrate the BOT's desire to honor the ABM08 requests in this area. However, it has become clear that another approach for funding of both will be needed. BFOC and the BOT are discussing fundraising strategies that include local and international outreach, licensing agreements, and educating the membership about the projects and needs of the Fellowship.

You will also find attached the annual contributions for Groups and Intergroups for the fiscal year October 1, 2008-September 30, 2009.

Sales/Contributions are still down for the first quarter of this fiscal year and I am concerned because we need to purchase pamphlets, medallions, and sobriety chips to restock our inventory.

In an effort to support Conference and Board committees, as well as provide the FWS perspective, I am currently a member of the Board Finance and Operating Committee, Conference Charter Committee and several of its works groups, BOT Journal Task Force, Web Team, Copyright and Translation subcommittee, FWS CCC BOT, and 12 & 12 Subcommittee. I also have weekly calls with the BOT chair and FWS Webmaster.

I am still attending Al-Anon Meetings and the staff and I are having weekly meetings about the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Hamilton
November 15, 2009