

World Service Board Newsletter November 2014

Welcome to the WSB Newsletter. The committee chairs have provided updates to their committee's service to our fellowship.

In 2014, we welcomed the following groups into our fellowship:

Group No.	City	State	Country
1976	Garfield Heights	OH	USA
1977	Lake Kiowa	TX	USA
1978	Richmond	VA	USA
1979	Ridgecrest	CA	USA
1980	Tokyo		Japan
1981	Osaka		Japan
1982	Nara		Japan
1983	Pine City	NY	USA
1984	Guwahati	Assam	India
1985	Korinthos	Peloponissos	Greece
1986	Libertyville	IL	USA
1987	Wilmington	NC	USA
1988	Londenderry	VT	USA
1989	Louisville	KY	USA
1990	Wintersville	OH	USA
1991	Annapolis	MD	USA
1992	Waterford	MI	USA

Treasurer's Report – Oct. 31, 2014

We are 5 months into our current fiscal year, which began on May 1, 2014. In this period, we had total income of \$56,149 and total expenses of \$56,779 for a net loss of \$630. In comparison, last year for the same period, we had total income of \$61,567 and total expenses of \$62,097 for a net loss of \$530. Very similar numbers.

We have had some very generous donations made for a group and individual giving total of \$16,296. Last year, for the same period, we had a group and individual total of \$23,244.

In order to keep the message going forward, we rely completely on donations and literature sales. We never accept outside donations, this would be a violation of our time honored Traditions. Therefore, it is up to us, the members of this wonderful fellowship, to keep our community healthy and to make sure it is there for those who will have a need in the future.

Please help to keep Families Anonymous a strong and vibrant Fellowship!

Yours in Service,

Lisa K

Treasurer

Treasurer@FamiliesAnonymous.org

Literature Committee

This has been another busy and productive time for your Literature Committee. Below is a summary of some of our completed projects.

E-book Versions of TABW

#1015 Today A Better Way (FA's "daily thought" book written by FA members and fondly referred to as "the red book") has been available for the past year in e-book formats. The retail price of the e-book is just \$7.99.

Reviews of the e-book have been very positive, as shown by the following examples:

"Great to have 12 step material on my phone and tablet to read anytime, anywhere."

"[G]ives families of drug addict[ed] children and family members guidance to make it through the day!"

"Never give up. ... You cannot deal with this alone! FA and similar programs exist to help you. ... You already have the pain; this program and its readings will help you constructively deal with that pain. Not only will you be helped, you will have the privilege of helping others."

"Inspirational ... [T]he daily short read[ing]s ... always make me see and feel differently in a positive way."

"This book kept my hope alive for my addicted child. It taught me acceptance and understanding."

If you are a Kindle user, you may purchase Today A Better Way as an e-book at Amazon's Kindle Store. If you use an iPad, iPhone, or iPod, you may buy the e-book at the iTunes Store. (We have, unfortunately, been unsuccessful in uploading the e-book to Barnes and Noble's Nook Store. But stay tuned! We're still trying!)

E-book Versions of TABW-Spanish

We are pleased to announce that #1015S Hoy un mejor camino—the Spanish translation of #1015 Today A Better Way—recently joined our list of FA literature available in e-book formats. (Hoy un mejor camino is still, of course, available in its original hardcover-book form.) The retail price of the e-book is just \$9.99.

As with Today A Better Way, you may purchase Hoy un mejor camino at your Kindle Store or your iTunes Store.

Additionally, if you are a Nook user, you may purchase Hoy un mejor camino at Barnes and Noble's Nook Store. (Upload was successful!)

Change to the Literature Catalog

Now you easily tell whether you have the most up-to-date version of a particular literature item. Simply refer to one of the most recent literature catalogs, and look for the date at the end of the item description. That date tells you when the piece underwent a substantive revision or when it was introduced for the first time.

If the date on your literature item is older than the date listed in the literature catalog, it is obsolete and should optimally be replaced with the current version. (If the date on your literature is more recent than what's listed in the literature catalog, that's OK and no cause for concern.)

FA Bargain Packs (FAB PAKs) for 2013

Only until December 31, 2014, your group can purchase—at a substantial discount—one copy of each literature item that was newly created or substantially revised during 2013.

Because the Literature Committee translated many of our FA literature pieces into Spanish during 2013, we are, for the first time, offering a FAB PAK in Spanish as well as a FAB PAK in English.

The English-language FAB PAK contains 9 items and sells for \$7.40. The Spanish-language FAB PAK contains 10 items and sells for \$3.25. Order from the WSO or on the FA website.

Website Flyer

A joint project of the Literature Committee and the Public Information Committee resulted in the creation of a new Website Flyer. This flyer is a free download on the FA website (www.familiesanonymous.org). Print out as many copies as you'd like. Make them available at your meetings. Include them in #6002 Welcome! folder that you hand out to new members.

The flyer describes the many valuable resources you can find on the website: how to shop for and purchase FA literature; where to find free downloads of literature and other informational pieces; the latest issues of the fellowship's bimonthly newsletter, The Twelve Step Rag; FA's national and international meeting directories; and more.

Yours in Service,

Ann P.

Literature Committee

literature@familiesanonymous.org

Internet Committee

The re launch of the FA Website in January signaled the return of the e commerce store to purchase FA literature and find resource information for members and potential members of FA as well as the professional community. In Q2 and Q3 of 2014 we have added content and options to find needed information. In August we revamped the homepage to offer easy navigation to each of main website functions: Information, Downloads, Literature purchase and Donations. In October the 2015 Convention resources were added to facilitate registration activity and link users with the New Jersey Convention web page.

There have been challenges along the way, we have repeatedly been the target of “bots” that attempt credit card authorizations that are not authentic. With the help of Authoize.net and our new credit card processor BluePay we have been able to reduce this threat. There is no risk of security to our member’s credit card information as we do not store any financial information of customers on the site.

We look forward to further enhancing the site to provide the best information to families and friends in an easy to use format. Suggestions are always welcome.

Yours in Service,

Hank H.

Internet Committee

hankh@familiesanonymous.org

Group Outreach

Group Revivals

The Group Outreach (GO) Committee provides guidance, mentoring and support to existing groups and individual members primarily through response to emails. Members are encouraged to email us at: GO@familiesanonymous.org. We are here to encourage and support the healthy growth of the FA fellowship through the establishment of new FA groups and providing help to existing groups. If your group is having difficulties attracting and keeping newcomers, or is just suffering from boredom and the same few members, we can help. Below you will find the wonderful story of one member who contacted FA to say that her beloved group needed to close due to lack of interest; she contacted us and decided to give it "another try" by speaking to former members about what FA had done for her and inviting them to share as well. She wanted to see if she could generate some excitement and interest in an FA Revival Committee. Below are excerpts from her email:

After spending the summer talking to you and calling former members of our group, the special meeting took place on Tuesday Oct. 14th. It was a HUGE success with 32 people in attendance. I was so delighted to see so many old friends, some of whom brought gifts, etc. I [had prepared and gave my talk about what FA meant to me.]

I had a sign-up sheet and explained how I needed people to form a “revival committee”; 5 people signed up and 4 of them showed up for the first meeting which was 10/28. We mostly brainstormed and listed places (more than had been already covered) where we could leave fliers. We’ve all been doing the work, making contacts, etc. A lot of places I didn’t know about because I’m pretty new to this area. One man doesn’t come to meetings anymore; he was the superintendent of schools in the next town for

many years until retirement, so has a big network of contacts. Our next "revival committee" meeting will be next Tuesday, 11/18.

Step 12 reminds us to "carry this message to others" and the New Year is a wonderful time for setting goals in your FA group. Has your group become stale? Do you have a decline in attendance? Is it time for a Group Conscience meeting to evaluate and restore the health of your group? Have you taken a group inventory? Are the Four Destructive Forces evident at your meetings?

If you want to receive information on starting a group revival, we are here to help. Group Outreach is for helping troubled groups in the same way that you welcome and help newcomers. So, email us today and let us know if you think your group needs help. Just ask and a member of our committee will email or call you with the support you need.

Yours in Service,
Donna D.
Group Outreach Committee
GO@familiesanonymous.org

World Service Office

Can you believe it has been two years and two months since our office move from California to Des Plaines, Illinois? Many thanks go to our volunteer board members who helped facilitate the move. We hired Angel (and she truly is), our Office Coordinator, who oversees the office operation. Angel handles the day-to-day procedures, including all the incoming calls and the literature request mailings. The good news is that our fellowship continues to grow which necessitates another office position. We are now in search of a Data Management Coordinator. If you are interested, please contact the office number listed below.

Our web site has been completely redone thanks to the many hours contributed by Hank H. and Chris D. With the eStore up and running, we are able to fill your requests in a timelier manner. The last, but not least, two people we recognize are George R, our Board President, and Lisa K our Board Treasurer who dedicate much of their time and expertise to the WSO.

Our mission is to keep our fellowship informed of "what's going on". Please feel free to give the office a call to order literature, make a donation, or just say hi to Angel at 800-736-9805 or visit our new website, www.familiesanonymous.org. We would love to hear from you, and stay tuned for future updates from the WSO.

Yours in Service,
Bev C.
World Service Office Committee
BevC@familiesanonymous.org

Public Information Committee

We struggled this year trying to develop a project for the fellowship as successful as the Treatment Center project in 2013.

We began the year promoting the use of literature piece #7014 – “Wit’s End”. We encouraged groups to request the Word version of this literature piece, add their groups’ meeting information and pass these out in their community.

We ran an informal survey in our home groups and at the 2014 Convention in Chicago and found that while many in the fellowship have visited our website most went only to the e-Store. Very few people used the other resources on the website, including the free downloads. This prompted us to develop a flyer with the Literature Committee to promote the other resources on the website.

This month, we created a meeting topic on “Carrying the Message”. We hope groups will use this meeting framework to encourage spreading the word about FA.

If you would like any information about the projects listed above, please contact us. We will also be very appreciative of any “Spread the Word” project suggestions you have.

Sometimes groups/individuals struggle with spreading the word because they don’t want to violate Tradition 11, “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion;”. In our last WSB Monthly conference call we had a short discussion on this phrase from Tradition 11. Our former WSB Chair, Marc M., defined it succulently, attraction is communicating what FA has done for you, while promotion is making promises about what FA can do for someone.

Yours in Service,

Chris D.

Public Information Committee

PI@familiesanonymous.org

2015 FA World Service Convention

The Convention Planning Committee is pleased to announce that the 2015 FA World Service Convention will be held on May 29-31, 2015, at the Westminster Hotel in Livingston, NJ. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at fa2015convention@gmail.com. Registration and Hotel information can be found on the FA website.

To help fund the convention the CPC has created a car magnet.

You see them everywhere - oval black and white "Euro" car magnets with acronyms for popular place names. Now the Fellowship has its very own: a high-quality, full-size (5 3/4 x 3 7/8 in.) oval car magnet with the bold letters TABW, and below that, TODAY A BETTER WAY - for only \$5.00, plus shipping & handling.

Display one on your car to show solidarity with the Fellowship, and your belief in the wisdom of TABW - only you, and other FA members, will appreciate its significance. All proceeds go to support the 2015 World Service Convention.

These will be available soon from the FA website.

