

Gratitude in Action

The 2013 Business Convention

What is Gratitude in Action?

Gratitude in Action is a newsletter published by the WSI 12th Step Committee of Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) to inspire you to get involved and do service so that you and others can be helped. We will bring you the latest FA worldwide information, remind you of tools and resources available within FA, and highlight upcoming FA worldwide events. Remember – “Service keeps us abstinent!”

2013 World Service Business Convention (WSBC) – Overview

The World Service Board is very pleased to announce our plans for the upcoming annual FA WSBC, to be held June 7-9th in Danvers, MA. Although many of you have already heard some of these details at your business meetings, we want this information to reach the entire fellowship, near and far. Our hope is that fellows from all over the world will come together for this wonderful chance to share experience, strength and hope with each other. In addition we want to find ways to carry this message to the millions of food addicts who are still suffering.

Having spent the last several years laying the foundation of our organization, we have the unique opportunity this year to focus almost entirely on reaching the newcomer. There are many ways in which we can each do our part to get to the true business at hand-- helping to save the lives of those who are afflicted with the disease of food addiction. It is only through our concerted efforts, unity of purpose, and the mighty strength of a Higher Power that we can accomplish this goal. Our vision is that this Convention will serve to further that mission.

“A life of service is the finest life we can live”, (Twenty-four Hours a Day, April 3rd).

Below you will find an overview of the convention agenda, as well as a list of available service positions. Please consider ahead of time which position you may be willing and able to do.

2013 World Service Business Convention – Agenda

In addition to our standard agenda items (e.g. Friday afternoon qualifications, Friday night sharing meeting, committee meetings, elections, remarks, etc.), the convention will also be comprised of the following:

1. The Saturday morning business session will include a walk-through of the newly designed website, as well as an overview of the marketing plan for the FA book. Friday, June 7th, will mark the official private release to the fellowship! The book will be available for sale all weekend long.

2. The Saturday afternoon business session will be devoted entirely to discussing the resources and programs that FA uses to support the fellowship. These will be reviewed, suggestions will be encouraged, and commitments to service will be sought in an effort to reach the food addict who still suffers. There will be **three 50-minute sessions** designed to create dialogue regarding:
 - a) Public Information and reaching doctors and the professional community;
 - b) Activities for strengthening our fellowship at home and on the frontier; and
 - c) Making use of the supportive resources available to our fellowship.

All members with 5 years or more of continuous abstinence in FA who have completed 2 AWOLs will have a voice at these sessions, regardless of whether or not one is a designated WSC member.

Specific service opportunities will be identified during these sessions. Our hope is that convention attendees will then step-up to fill these service needs by attending the corresponding committee meetings on Sunday morning.

3. The Sunday morning business session will include a **90-minute sharing** meeting. All FA members with 15 or more years of continuous abstinence are invited to share regarding how service has helped keep them abstinent, expand their faith in a higher power, and strengthen their recovery.

Members with continuous abstinence are not leaders, nor do they bring expertise of any kind. But, they do bring long-term experience. Many FA members do not have, and have never had, exposure to this kind of strength. Without it, it is easy to lose connection to our roots, and to those who helped FA become FA. Adding this to the main agenda of the Convention allows all FA members, and especially those who have travelled from remote areas, to experience this wisdom first-hand.

4. And finally, please plan to attend the **Saturday Evening 'Mocktail' Party**, complete with mingling, background music, party games, and the after dinner delight of simply being with one another. Please come in your favorite festive attire for an evening of togetherness.

Job Descriptions for Available Service Positions

Please consider which of the following you may be able to take on. We hope to have all positions filled by the end of the convention. Likewise, if you are unable to attend the convention, but would like to step up to serve in any of these ways, please contact the appropriate committee chair by Saturday, May 18th. Many thanks!

WSI PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE:

Weblinks & Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Subcommittee Chair

Raise awareness about FA by identifying and responding to appropriate external organizations' websites and EAP websites for inclusion of the FA link as a reference item on their websites. The result of an increased number of FA links posted on the web will increase the presence of the FA website in search engine search results. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 5 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

MediaWatch Sub-Committee Chair

Manage daily emails that arrive in the MediaWatch@foodaddicts.org email inbox. In this role, the sub-committee chair will respond to all emails in a timely manner and send responses to relevant stakeholders: FA members, members of the media, doctors mentioned in the media, university researchers, authors, etc. This person will need to have good judgment and, when unsure, will contact the WSI PI Chair to determine whether a particular individual or organization warrants a response from FA to educate them about FA's

existence via the MediaWatch response email. This person will periodically talk to the PI Chair about updating the response letter. This person will attend the monthly WSI PI call on the last Sunday of the month, and will keep track of and report on the number of emails and letters that have come through each month. Ability to keep a spreadsheet of individuals in the media and the professional community we communicate with on a regular basis is needed as well. This person will also work closely with the HealthcareWatch Sub-committee Chair. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Radio Station Contact

Raise awareness about FA by ensuring that the generic FA Public Service Announcement recording is aired regularly on radio stations in all major cities. The RSC would also contact these same stations prior to FA Information Sessions with a request to air PSAs tailored specifically for the info session. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Cable Station Contact

Raise awareness about FA by ensuring that the generic FA Public Service Announcement is aired regularly on cable stations in as many regions as possible. The CSC would likely be involved in creating a channel slide that could be distributed universally. The CSC would also contact these same stations prior to FA Information Sessions with a request to air PSAs tailored specifically for the information session. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Information Session Contact

Ensure that all information sessions are listed on the Information Session Calendar on the website. The ISC would also reach out to each meeting's PI rep after each info session to collect and archive post-info session evaluations. The ISC may also help areas find appropriate venues for regional information sessions. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

PI Materials Contact

Serve the fellowship by ordering and tracking the distribution of various PI materials as needed, e.g. banners, 20 questions signs, tablecloths, table tents, enclosures for starter kits, plastic sleeves for 12th step paperwork, labels for trifold racks, envelopes that contain the FA logo to be used especially for letters to health care professionals, faith community leaders, etc. 20 questions signs, tablecloths, table tents, enclosures for starter kits, plastic sleeves for 12th step paperwork, labels for trifold racks, envelopes that contain the FA logo to be used especially for letters to health care professionals, faith community leaders, etc. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Book Distribution Contact

Mail the FA book to a pre-determined list of doctors and other professionals. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 3 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

WSI 12TH STEP COMMITTEE:

List Manager, Universal Language List (ULL)

Facilitate communication between FA members who speak languages other than English. The ULL is compiled and distributed quarterly to meeting World Service Contacts. Also, members on the ULL are contacted quarterly to confirm they want to remain on the list. The List Manager is a member of the Communications Subcommittee of the WSI 12th Step Committee. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 2 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

List Manager, Frontier Phone List

Facilitate communication between FA members who have no access to FA meetings (none within 100 miles or 161 km.) in order to provide support to members in outlying areas. The Frontier Phone List is compiled and distributed monthly to listed individuals and to meeting World Service Contacts. Also, the Frontier Phone list is contacted quarterly to confirm that members continue to wish to be listed. The List Manager is a member of the Frontier Subcommittee of the WSI 12th Step Committee. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 2 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Chairperson, Frontier Subcommittee

Facilitate communication between FA members who have no access to FA meetings (none within 100 miles or 161 km.) in order to provide support to members in outlying areas. The Chairperson sits on the WSI 12th Step Committee Service Council, and oversees the list managers of the Frontier Phone List, Frontier Sponsor List and editor for Frontier Communications. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 5 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

WSI TRADITIONS COMMITTEE:

Traditions Committee Secretary

Participate in and take minutes of TRC meetings. Disseminate minutes for committee review. Assist in the compilation of historical responses into an index/database and update going forward. Maintain a directory with names, addresses, email addresses, phone numbers and dates of appointment for all current members of the committee. Keep and distribute a separate running roster of all members (including past members) who have served and their dates of appointment. Helpful qualifications include: understanding of the Traditions, secretarial experience, excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and experience working with databases. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 7 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

WSI OFFICE COMMITTEE:

Archivist

Organize and arrange FA's historical information into a meaningful and useful collection. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 5 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

CD Speaker Contact Information Coordinator

Manage the spreadsheet of CD speaker contact information and periodically update the list by calling or emailing each speaker to verify his or her info. This person could potentially work in coordination with Lynne in the World Service Office. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 2**

WSI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Editor – Support to World Service Board Secretary

Support the WSI Secretary in the following ways: 1) review final proofs of documents to be posted on the FA website or disseminated to the FA fellowship (with the exception of GIA); 2) determine standard nomenclature for titles of electronic files of WSB and WSI documents in consultation with FA office chair and office staff; 3) collates and edits quarterly and annual WSB reports. **Minimum Abstinence Requirement: 5 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

WSI LITURATURE COMMITTEE:

Translators - Spanish and German Speakers

Assist the Language Translation sub-committee in various translation tasks. **Minimum Abstinence Requirements: 5 years, completion of one FA AWOL**

Please note: Service positions listed above subject to change. A final listing will be emailed to all convention registrants in mid to late May

~~~~~

**Mark your calendars**

**2013 Business Convention**

- The 2013 Business Convention will take place from June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Boston North Shore in Danvers, Massachusetts. (Please note: this is the same location as previous years. The hotel has had a name change since last year.) Please check the FA website at [www.foodaddicts.org](http://www.foodaddicts.org) to register and get the latest updates and information.

**2014 Fellowship Convention**

- The 2014 Fellowship Convention will take place October 24-26, 2014 at the Santa Clara Marriott (the same location as the 2009 fellowship convention). Further information will be posted on the FA website later this year.

~~~~~

**Do you have feedback for Gratitude in Action?
Please email your comments to GIA@foodaddicts.org.**