WSWS Officer and Committee Report (Colorado Springs, CO Board Meeting – 2014)

Office or Committee Name: Finance Committee
Officer or Chairperson Name and Committee Members: Marvin Butler (chair), Brian Mealor, and Fara Brummer
Date of Preparation: March 3, 2014

Financial Summary: The Finance Committee met and reviewed the financial reports during the annual meeting in San Diego, CA and will meet again at the annual meeting in Colorado Spring, CO. The society remains in solid financial condition and the books are in good order. The San Diego meeting generated an income of $66,505 and expenses were $35,808, providing a positive impact on the budget of $30,697. Following is a summary of WSWS assets:

WSWS Net Worth (March 3, 2014):	
Checking	$83,116.46
Money Market	$84,784.25
Total Cash & Bank Accounts	*$167,900.71*
Weeds of the West Inventory	$90,028.44
Total Other Assets	*$90,028.44*
Investments (RBC)	$206,993.35
Total Investments	*$206,993.35*
Total Assets	**$464,922.50**

Investment Portfolio: The Finance Committee reviewed the investment fund allocations last March and agreed with financial advisory Stan Cooper's assessment that we stay the course and not make any changes to our portfolio given stock market conditions at that time. Stan Cooper will join the Board Meeting by phone on March 17 to discuss investment recommendations and strategies.

RBC Investment Value:
January 1, 2013 = $224,849
January 1, 2014 = $209,453
2013 Performance = (-$15,396)
Annual Dividend Yield = (-6.85%)

Asset Allocation (January 1, 2014):
Cash & Money Market = 0%
Bonds = 36%
Growth = 64%

Financial Committee Conclusion: It is the Finance Committee's opinion that the Business Manager and the Financial Advisor are acting according to the guidelines set by the WSWS Board. Thirty one percent of our assets are in cash, with over half in cash and inventory ($221,880) compared to our investments portfolio ($206,993). An investment portfolio that includes stocks and bonds inherently includes volatility rather than straight line growth.
Of greater concern to the Business Manager and Finance Committee is the continuing decline in meeting attendance and reduced income from the Weeds of the West sales to the long-term financial stability of the WSWS.

Recommendations for Board Action: The Finance Committee, in coordination with the Business Manager, recommends the board discussion include these two items of concern, in addition to the phone discussion of our investment strategy with Stan Cooper.

Budget Needs: None

Suggestions for the Future: What role does the Board of Directors see for itself, the Business Manager, the Finance Committee, other committees or an Ad Hoc Committee in addressing the long-term financial strength of the WSWS?

Suggested Changes in Operating Guide: None

Name of Person Preparing This Report: Marvin Butler