

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS WORLD CONFERENCE  
NEW YORK, NY  
September 24, 1994

MINUTES FROM THE CONVOCATION

The DA World Conference Convocation was opened by Mary M., Chair of the General Service Board (GSB), at 2:40 P.M., Saturday. The Conference acknowledged and applauded Travis and the people from New York for the work they did organizing the Conference.

Mary M. stated the format of this year's Conference was changed to start the convocation on Saturday afternoon with one of the reasons being to provide more time to complete the business of the Conference. The change in format will be evaluated for future Conferences.

DA WORLD CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Hollie A. (Michigan) , Chair of the Conference Committee, acknowledged the members of the Conference Committee.

Fred F. (North Carolina) gave a history of the Interim Conference Charter. Work was started on it in 1987 and in 1989 the Interim Conference Charter was produced. In 1992 the Charter was presented for a vote at the Conference in Boston. It was defeated. The committee incorporated suggestions over the past two years to produce the proposed charter. Fred gave a summary of the proposed charter and highlighted the three main changes from the Interim Charter: 1.) Suggested Terms of GSRs was changed from one 2-year term to a 3-year term up to two terms. 2.) Added a provision for amending the Charter 3.) Added a provision for allowing each registered Intergroup to have one voting representative at the World Conference.

Comments were taken from the floor:

Question: I thought at another Conference a few years ago that it was said there would be no discussion of items at the Convocation?

Answer: (Mary M.) We have a brief discussion of items brought to the floor of the Convocation. However, we trust that the committees have worked through the issues and we don't go into a detailed discussion of everything they have worked on over the past year.

Question: Is the 2/3 vote to approve the charter a 2/3 vote of all the groups or of all the GSRs registered at the Conference?

Answer: 2/3 vote of all GSRs registered at the Conference.

Comment: Are we going to allow the ignorant heterosexual Christians from the heartlands to be the ones who decide what the Steps and Traditions should be?

Question: (Pat, New Jersey) Is the two terms for GSRs for a particular group or for 2 terms ever?

Answer: (Fred F., North Carolina) Recommend 2 terms representing a group. They are only recommendations, groups can decide for themselves.

Comment: My group asked me to address the issue of terms of the GSRs and allowing Intergroup representatives to vote at the Conference. With these items being in the proposed charter, I am in favor of it.

Comment: (Michelle, Boston) Is in favor of Charter. It has a provision for modification, so it can be changed, if necessary.

Comment (Linda) As a member of Literature Committee, Unity Subcommittee, I am against the Charter because of the requirement for a 3/4 vote to change Steps and Traditions.

Question: (Alex, New York) Was there any disagreement in the Conference committee regarding the Charter?

Answer: (Fred F., North Carolina) The modifications were hammered out over the past two years and incorporated into the proposed charter. The Committee is unanimously in favor of it as presented.

Comment: (Alan S., New York) I was strongly against the Charter the last time it was voted on. I am in favor of it the way it is written now. The Charter only places restrictions on the Conference and the way it is run. It doesn't cover every nuance and is easily amended by the Conference. It doesn't place any restrictions on individuals and their program.

Comment: (Rob) 3/4 consent of all groups for changing Steps and Traditions provides for a group conscience. I am in favor of the Charter.

Question: (Joanna) Is the Charter different than the by-laws?

Answer: (Fred F., North Carolina) The Charter describes the relationship of the Conference to DA and the GSB. The by-laws

are the by-laws of the General Service Board, a corporation, incorporated in the State of New York.

Comment: (Lynn, Michigan) I just joined the Conference committee at this Conference and have gotten a lot of clarity about the Charter. The requirement for 3/4 vote to change the Steps and Traditions is the same in both the current Interim Charter and this proposed charter.

Question: (David) Is it 3/4 or 2/3 vote required to pass the charter?

Answer: (Mary M, Chicago) 2/3 vote.

#### Vote Taken

A motion was made to adopt the Conference Charter as presented. The motion was seconded by Michelle. The motion passed with 75 in favor, 4 against and 2 abstaining.

The Conference thanked and acknowledged the work of Fred and Esther for their work on the Charter over the past few years.

Lynn (Michigan) presented other work of the Committee. Three sub-committees have been formed: 1.) Handbook - to work on the development of a handbook for Host Committees in planning the Conference. 2.) General Service Office Relocation - to investigate the possibility of moving the General Service Office out of New York to a place where the cost of living is lower. 3.) Host City - to work on communicating with the fellowship on procedures for being selected to serve as the host city. The committee will address the concern about the location of the Conference being geographically balanced from year to year and will work on being pro-active in contacting groups in different locations.

The committee is working on opening up the process of nomination to the General Service Board and communicating the process to the fellowship. At the 1995 Conference Convocation, a vote will be taken on the approval of GSB members elected after the 1994 Conference, as provided in the Conference Charter.

The Conference Committee submitted a spending plan of \$268.00

The Conference Committee recommended Chicago as the site of the 1996 Conference. Fred mentioned that Chicago was the only city which said they were willing to host the 1996 Conference. The committee thought a west coast city would be good for 1996 but no

one had come forward. Los Angeles has expressed interest for 1997.

Vote Taken

A motion was made and seconded to have Chicago host the 1996 DA World Conference. The motion passed with 75 in favor, none against and 6 abstaining.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Conference committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Spending Plan of the Conference Committee

1.) Conference Call	\$100.00
2.) Telephone Expenses	\$ 90.00
3.) Postage and Copying	\$ 78.00
TOTAL SPENDING PLAN	\$268.00

REPORT OF THE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Greg, Chair of the Committee, thanked the New York Host Committee and especially Travis for making the Conference possible. Greg then congratulated and acknowledged the committee members for the work they accomplished. Greg described the mission of the Fellowship Communications Committee. The current activities of the Committee include: 1.) Maintain the DA database of known DA groups. 2.) Perform outreach activities to communicate with groups that don't have a contact person.

Goals of the Fellowship Communications Committee

- 1.) To contact 100% of known groups.
- 2.) Research and move to a system of a paid position for maintenance of World Service Directory and mailing list.
- 3.) Form an intra-Conference fellowship sub-committee to facilitate communication between incoming and outgoing GSRs.
- 4.) Promote communication between intergroups and GSRs.

Greg indicated that those interested in computer pals should send inquiries to the General Service Office.

**Ways & Means:** Goal is to publish quarterly, on the 1st of December, March, June and September. We are looking for an editor to replace outgoing editor, Lee. Wish to increase circulation, articles and group subscriptions. Request that

committees make quarterly publishable reports to the *Ways & Means*. Would like board to publish its minutes in the *Ways & Means*. Plan to have BODA-style pressure group for the *Ways & Means* editorial changes.

The Fellowship Communications Committee submitted a spending plan of \$1950.00

Mary M. (Chicago) said questions and votes on Committee business would be held at the beginning of Sunday's session.

The Awareness pamphlet was made available and an announcement was made that there would be an up or down vote on the pamphlet at Sunday's session.

Mary M. (Chicago) adjourned the meeting at 3:30 P.M. with the Serenity Prayer, with the Convocation to reconvene at 9 A.M., Sunday.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1994

Mary M. opened the session with the Serenity Prayer at 9:10 A.M. 58 GSRs were present.

Greg continued with the report of the Fellowship Communications Committee.

The Committee came up with an "Ask it" basket for getting issues addressed that come up while at the Conference. Greg requested all groups to fill out a Group Registration Form.

Question: All groups, even if they have registered in the past?  
Answer: YES.

Question: Could you review the spending plan?  
Answer: Greg ran through the spending plan, item by item.

Question: How much does it cost to print the *Ways & Means*?  
Answer: \$800.00 for one issue, around \$3000.00 for 4 issues a year. That amount is not in the Committee spending plan. It is a separate item.

Question: Have you asked the GSB to publish the full minutes in the *Ways & Means*?  
Answer: We are planning to publish an executive summary of Board minutes. May not be a good use of space to publish the full minutes.

Comment: (Julie, California) Thank you for your incredible work on the Ways & Means. We appreciate the recovery stories for the small groups.

Comment: Thank you Lee for all your work on the Ways and Means.

Question: (Tim) You list \$700 for calls in the spending plan. How will it affect your work if the money isn't available?

Answer: The Committee won't be able to make as many calls.

The report of the Fellowship Communications Committee was unanimously approved.

Fellowship Communications Committee Spending Plan

Database	\$ 150.00
World Service Directory Publication	100.00
Outreach Calls	500.00
Postage - Outreach	100.00
Postage - Mailings	200.00
Conference Calls	
4 at \$150	600.00
6 at \$50	<u>300.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1950.00

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Jana, Chair, opened with the Serenity Prayer and a moment of silence. She acknowledged the committee members and said they were phenomenal this year.

Michelle presented the report of the Committee. The Committee looked at the finances of DA and how to bring to the consciousness of DA the connection of personal recovery and the health of DA as a whole. If the fellowship wishes to have a Recovery Book, the fellowship must make contributions to the fellowship. Recommend members of the Conference raise the consciousness of groups regarding contributions. Group support runs the infrastructure of the fellowship. GSRs receive Ways & Means. Suggest GSRs share status of the fellowship. Suggest GSRs speak at meetings with 7th Tradition as topic. Suggest 45-45-10 contributions. Suggest intergroups follow same suggestions

as those for GSRs. Will send spending plan as guideline for groups, will include 12 monthly donation slips. Will publish wish list in the *Ways & Means*. Recommend each literature order form contain thank you for purchasing DA Conference approved literature and noting that literature orders help fund DA Service Worldwide. The Finance Committee does not set the price for literature but would like to take on the role of analyzing prices and recommending pricing to the board. Individuals can make contributions to DA GSO up to \$1000. There is a connection between ability to perform service on a national level and individual recovery. Suggest 12th tool include statement of link between financial health of DA and personal recovery (including financial support of our national service organization.) The Committee will take a pro-active role with the GSB. The Committee submitted a spending plan of \$750.

Comment: (Rob) Disturbed about not receiving minutes of last year's Conference in a timely manner. (Attempted to make a motion, but was not allowed.)

Comment: Looking at the profit and loss from 1993, this group is in a deficit. Could we get more current figures?

Comment: (Eric) Excited about the work. I like adding service blurb. But don't like wording using organization. Suggest international instead of national.

Comment: (Travis) A lot of talk about cost of literature. The price of literature would come down if donations went up. Recommend groups contribute regularly, no matter the amount.

Comment: (Alex) We have been studying a move to combine all the pamphlets to make one tools pamphlet.

Comment: (Edith, Miami) Group has plenty of money for literature and donations but has problem with the response from the NY office.

Question: (Terry, California) Is something written about making contributions?

Answer: Yes, in the meeting format pamphlet.

Question: (Sherry F., Washington, DC) It would be helpful for accountability if the amount of contributions made to the GSO were listed by group.

Answer: We will look into doing that.

Comment: (Ashley) Time for Finance Committee to have liaison with Literature Committee. "There is not enough" message needs to stop.

A motion to accept the report of the Finance Committee was made and seconded. It was unanimously passed.

Detailed spending plan not submitted to recording secretary.

#### SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT

Sherry F., Chair, acknowledged the members of the Service Committee. The Service Committee provides the tools and information to help GSRs do their jobs.

Work of the Committee over the past year: The GSR manual was completed. GSR orientation at the Conference. Evaluation of manual and orientation. Copies of completed evaluation forms are available. Evaluation forms can be sent to the GSO.

#### Goals of the Service Committee

- 1.) We ask GSRs to send in issues. We feel strongly that there should be feedback to the GSRs. Will work with other Committees to put in place mechanisms to get back to people with status of their suggestions.
- 2.) Ask GSB to send quarterly summary of their work.
- 3.) Continue to contribute to the *Ways & Means*. The first article to be on area GSRs and announcement that GSR manual is available for charge of reproducing it.
- 4.) The Committee will develop a nationwide GSR Partnership Network. We are starting here. We ask that GSRs go back home and find another group or GSR and share your manual and let them know what it was like to be at the Conference. Would like to have a list next year to review the progress. Will send a letter to all GSRs with information on GSR manual and how to order, along with GSR registration form.

New items and suggestions for manual. GSRs sponsoring new GSRs - information is different for returning GSRs. Traditions, steps, tools. Book belongs to group. Welcome comments on evaluations and orientation. Traditions are key to service.

DA Concepts of Service. How 12-step work can be done on a broad scale.

Submitted a spending plan of \$810.



Comment: (Fred) Good work.

Question: (Hollie) Appreciate the service manual. Would it be appropriate to photocopy service manual.

Answer: Yes, it can be copied but it might not be current. The *Ways & Means* is copyrighted and should not be copied. Service material has traditionally been given away for free.

Comment: (Don) Leave GSR manual with group so it is available to the group.

Comment: (Tim, LA) Suggest groups pay \$5 for manual.

Comment: (Doris) Each one, reach one GSR networking program. Suggest networking with Cindy, database coordinator.

Comment: Good job. Suggest you send a disk with the GSR manual on it so people could print it themselves.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report of the Service Committee. The motion was passed with 1 abstaining and the rest in favor.

Service Committee Spending Plan

Conference Calls 4 @\$125/each	\$580.00
Personal Calls to Members & GSRs	100.00
Mailings to GSRs	100.00
Intra-committee Communication (mail and supplies)	<u>30.00</u>
TOTAL	\$810.00

LITERATURE COMMITTEE REPORT

Eric, Chair, thanked the members of the Unity, Works-in-Progress, and Recovery Book sub-committees.

Nicole, chair of the Works-in-Progress sub-committee, presented the Awareness Pamphlet for a yes or no vote. The pamphlet was approved with 51 in favor, 4 against and 3 abstaining.

The committee is working on a BODA pamphlet and Freedom from Financial Insecurity. Taking comments on Service, Abstinence and

AA Literature tool. Considering changing AA literature tool to DA Literature Tool. Will take comments until November 15, 1994.

#### Motion

A motion was made to require the reading of the preamble and closing stating (the opinions expressed are those of the individual that gave them) at taping of DA events.

Comment: (Ashley) This might suggest we are endorsing and approving the contents of the tape.

#### Vote Taken

The motion passed with 56 in favor, 12 against and 6 abstaining.

Linda presented the Unity Sub-committee report. The committee has reviewed the responses to the proposal to change the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Around 70-80% were in favor of changing him to God. Based on the responses, removed the change of All our Affairs in the 12th. Came up with a letter to send to the groups to request their approval. (Linda noted the sub-committee voted 19-3 in favor of the letter.)

#### Motion

A motion was made and seconded to send the letter as written to the fellowship.

Comment: (Colleen) I am against the change. I've seen a lot of fellowships. The steps as written are the experience of those who wrote the steps. Those who change the steps do not experience the same growth as those fellowships that don't change the steps. The quality of their recovery does not improve. Those who want to change the steps are coming from a point of self-will. It is my perception that newcomers usually want to change the program.

Comment: (Alan S.) Opposed to the implementation and all of the footnotes. Seems like a lot of clutter. Implementation should be the GSB working with the Committee implementing the process of polling the fellowship about approval of the changes.

#### Vote Taken

The motion was amended to get approval from the Conference to move forward with the process of polling the fellowship on

approval of the change to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. The motion passed with 65 in favor, 6 opposed and 3 abstaining.

Tabatha presented the Recovery Book sub-committee report. Tabatha acknowledged the work of the committee. 50 stories have been completed and the committee will be accepting responses from the full Literature committee until November 4, 1994. The committee members will vote on whether or not each story should be included in the book. At the 1995 Conference the committee hopes to provide all GSRs with a draft of the book. At the earliest a vote will be taken at the 1996 Conference. The Committee presented a spending plan of around \$5000.

The report of the Literature Committee was approved with 73 in favor, none against, and 1 abstaining.

Detailed spending plan not submitted to recording secretary.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Bruce, chair, thanked Joanna, Julie and Chris for their work. He stated: The primary purpose of the group is to carry the message to the debtor who still suffers. The only reason I'm here is the 5th tradition. The 11th tradition tells us how to carry the message: attraction not promotion. We propose more members in DA. The turning point of AA came with the publication of the AA Big Book and the Jack Alexander article. Bruce acknowledged the members of the committee.

#### Goals for the Public Information Committee:

##### Manual Subcommittee Goals:

1. Maintenance of Manual contents
  - a. Write guidelines for "on Air" appearances
  - b. Create new letters for IRS
  - c. Write guideline for trade fair appearances (utilize other 12-Step policies)
2. Print 50 copies of manual
3. Distribute 50 copies of Manual via Regional Committee
4. Develop Press Kit
5. Develop more visually appealing graphics for Manual and Press Kit
6. Organize all current articles on DA 1993-1994

##### Regional Sub-Committee Goals:

1. Establish contact for 17 Intergroups
2. Develop list of contacts
3. Distribute existing manual to 17 Intergroup contacts

4. Distribute updates to manual when they are ready

Communications Sub-Committee Goals:

1. Co-ordinate outside inquiries referred by the GSO
2. Continue *Ways & Means* articles to communicate any information that the P.I. committee needs to pass on.

Outreach Sub-Committee Goals (1-800 Sub-Committee):

1. Do an article for the *Ways & Means* on the 1-800 subcommittee
2. Identify representative target groups for mailing
3. Obtain copy of the approved letter for mailing - in the manual

Outreach Sub-Committee Goals (Public Service Announcements):

1. Research other 12-Step Group's PSAs
2. Modify text (script) for DA PSA
3. Future spending plan to produce the PSA
4. Present blueprint at 1995 World Conference for producing PSA

The Public Information Committee submitted a spending plan of \$1235.00

Comment: (Travis) I was contacted a number of times by Joanna about whether we should go on certain programs. We didn't go on some. Our policy is attraction rather than promotion.

Comment: Concerned about attraction rather than promotion. My enthusiasm is for the recovering debtor. We can't use our name or face in the media.

Public Information Committee Spending Plan

1. Manual duplication and distribution	\$200.00
2. Communication	
Outside inquiries	\$150.00
Postage - <i>Ways &amp; Means</i>	10.00
3. Outreach	
(PSA)	
Research and Development	\$100.00
Conference Calls	100.00
(1-800)	
Phone	\$ 50.00
Mailing/printing letter	325.00
4. Regional Network Program	

Calls	\$100.00
Printing	100.00
5. Chair Communications	<u>\$100.00</u>
TOTAL SPENDING PLAN	\$1235.00

The report of the Public Information Committee was approved with 71 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstaining.

REPORT OF THE GSB TREASURER

Paige: When the GSB approves a spending plan, that is not a go ahead to spend the money. Committees need to get an OK from Paige each time they want to make a significant expenditure. The treasurer of the committee should contact Paige directly:

Paige Johnson  
 PO Box 9464  
 Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
 707-545-6719

Committees can spend up to \$100 for incidentals without checking with Paige.

NEW BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE

Question: Want the wording of a tool changed.

Answer: Needs to go to the literature committee.

Comment: Want full fellowship day included as part of the Conference.

Reply: Planning on it, but it will be up to the Conference Committee and GSB approval for the format of the Conference.

Comment: Want the literature order form changed to have wording regarding the connection of the health of DA and financial support of DA.

Reply: Don't need approval from the Conference for that.

Comment: Suggest having finance committee chair sit in on GSB meetings.

Reply: Thank you for suggestion. Will see what we can do.

Comment: (Rob) Want minutes from the Conference much sooner than we received them last year.

#### MOTION

A motion was made to have finance committee figure out how many people attend the Conference, how much it costs to produce and mail the minutes and to collect a fee from the Conference to be used specifically for putting out the minutes.

Reply: (Paige) Can add post-committee work expenses to cost of Conference.

#### MOTION

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes from the Conference be mailed to GSRs within 90 days of the Conference. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made to table the previous motion. The motion to table failed.

The motion passed with 63 in favor, 10 opposed and 1 abstaining.

#### CONCLUSION OF CONFERENCE

Mary M. acknowledged the work of the people from New York. The members of the Conference gave the people from New York a standing ovation.

Travis acknowledged the work of the host committee. There were around 80 GSRs attending the conference, 125 locals at the Fellowship Day.

Travis passed on four diskettes of information about the Conference, the Donald A. Conference Gavel, and its accompanying plastic bag to the Michigan Host Committee.

The Conference gave Mary M. a standing ovation. The Conference gave the outgoing GSB members, Allan S. and Diana D., a standing ovation. The Conference thanked Peter S. for taking the minutes.

A motion was made to adjourn the Conference. The motion passed with 72 in favor and 2 opposed.

The Conference adjourned at 12:10 P.M.