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 Double issue

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The DA Focus is published quarterly on a fiscal year basis by the DA General Service Board. It is mailed to all registered DA groups and emailed to all subscribers of the DA eNews.

Service Page Added to DA Website

A work in progress, the Service page is dedicated to assisting DA's trusted servants find information they need to help them perform service work. Copies of Conference reports, flyers, and other service-related documents created by and for DA members and WSC committees and caucuses are available for free. More documents will be posted as soon as possible. Email suggestions for improving the Service page to the General Service Office at office@debtorsanonymous.org.

DA Phone Meetings

Find information about DA's online and telephone meetings at http://debtorsanonymous.org/admin/index.php/find/phone_meeting. If you are a member of a DA group that meets by phone or online, please remember to update your group's information with the General Service Office at least once a year or if there are changes in call-in numbers, passcodes, or other access information.

Searchable Meeting List Now On Line

After some frustrating setbacks, the long-awaited searchable meeting list is finally here.

DA members seeking to locate a meeting anywhere in the world—or even in cyberspace—now have a much easier time of it. A full-featured new searchable meeting list debuted recently on the world service website www.debtorsanonymous.org.

The new search utility gives users a variety of options, including searching by city, state, or within 10, 20, 50, 100, or 200 miles of a particular U.S. ZIP code. It also includes special search functions for meetings outside the U.S., Internet and telephone meetings, and the DA intergroups.

The searchable meeting list represents more than two years of work by members of the General Service Board's Information Technology Committee and the staff at the General Service Office. Several versions have been tested and retested to add improvements and eliminate bugs.

In the past, members looking for a meeting had to either contact the General Service Office in Needham, Mass., by telephone, e-mail or letter, or use one of the links to various DA intergroup websites that were listed on the Debtors Anonymous website. However, a large percentage of DA meetings were not listed with intergroups, or had listings that were out of date. The new list includes every currently registered DA meeting in the world.

To use the new searchable meeting list, simply go to the Debtors Anonymous website and click on the link "Find a DA Meeting." You will be brought directly to the new search utility.



Along with this powerful new tool for finding meetings comes the responsibility of all DA groups and intergroups to make sure that their listings are current.

By vote of the World Service Conference, all registered groups are required to renew their registration annually by June 30, or sooner if any changes to meeting date, time, or place, or the names of meeting contacts, are made. A form to renew group and intergroup registrations is also available on the DA website. ■

Attention Groups:

Be sure to renew your group information with the DA General Service Office so your group will be included in the new searchable meeting list. Renewal forms can be found on the DA Web site.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee oversees the production of the *DA Focus* and *Ways & Means* newsletters, and the eNews, the Office's electronic newsletter. The 2nd Quarter edition of the *Ways & Means*, a compendium of shares from DA members with 20 or more years of not debting, is available for free on the DA website. The Communications Committee will seek Conference approval for the idea of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website, similar to the way stories were approved for the *Ways & Means*.

Conference Support Committee (CSC)

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) was created to deal with issues relevant to the annual DA World Service Conference (WSC). The GSB liaison to the 2008 WSC Host Committee visited Salt Lake City to offer support to the Host Committee, view the hotel site, and meet some local DA members. The 2009 WSC site has been secured: the venue will be the Sheraton Grand in Irving, Texas. The CSC is coordinating two phone training sessions to offer assistance to new and returning Conference delegates. The first call is set for June 8, the second will be held July 13. Visit the DA Service webpage for details and an agenda. The 2008 Service Manual for GSRs and ISRs is now available on the DA Service webpage.

Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

An ad hoc committee was formed to review the GSB bylaws. The committee met twice by phone during the quarter. Other discussion related to encouraging rotation of service at all levels.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has the responsibility of managing DA's finances. See pages 7 and 8 for the Treasurer's Report. The Finance Committee works with the WSC Host Committee Treasurers to prepare and track Conference spending. Finance is currently working on finalizing the 2007 WSC report, assisting the 2008 Host Committee in the final months before the WSC, and helping the 2009 Host Committee prepare a spending plan and negotiate with the hotel.

InfoTech Committee

The DA General Service Office now has an 800 number and an automated voice mail phone tree system. Callers to the GSO will be able to get basic information as well as speak to an office worker or leave a message. After some setbacks, the long-awaited searchable meeting list function is now live. The InfoTech Committee is also responsible for distributing the DA eNews email newsletter, which now has over 3,700 subscribers. To subscribe to the DA eNews, click on the link on the DA homepage.

Literature Publications (Lit Pub)

Literature Publications approved two new Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) to join Literature Services to work on managing DA's many literature projects. The committee is also working with Literature Services to review the Literature Approval Process adopted at the World Service Conference in 2004.

Literature Services (LS)

Literature Services continues to work on the DA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book project. Members are also reviewing and compiling comments and corrections for two pamphlet revisions and several Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) pieces. In addition, LS is reviewing and discussing the Literature Approval Process to make it more clear and effective.

Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee continues to discuss challenges facing DA as a whole: The committee is working on the 5-Year Plan document requested by the 2006 WSC. Other discussion includes supporting the Communications Committee in their goal of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website, reviewing training needs for the GSB Trustees, and identifying ways technology can help the GSB and WSC.

Nominations Committee

The GSB Nominations Committee continues to review possible candidates for both "A" (debtor) and "B" (non-debtor) Trustees. Current and former GSRs and ISRs with at least three years of not debting are encouraged to submit applications for Class A Trustee. Information about how to submit and other suggested requirements can be found on the DA Service webpage.

Office Committee

The Office Committee of the GSB is working closely with the Internal Operations Committee of the WSC on a volunteer program that will recruit DA members locally and nationwide to help with projects at the General Service Office. An announcement was distributed via the DA eNews asking for volunteers. The committee is also working on a form to implement the new requirement, approved by the 2007 WSC, that requires all DA groups to re-register annually. Work continues on collecting materials for DA's archives, as the committee works with members in Chicago and New York to secure archival materials in some of DA's oldest centers.

Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee works with the Media Contact Person (MCP), a volunteer who fields media requests for interviews and tracks articles that are written about DA. The GSB PI Committee is preparing to send a survey to DA intergroups asking them to share on their PI-related activities.

World Service Conferences

The **2008 World Service Conference** will be held August 13-17, 2008, at the Red Lion Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. Groups are encouraged to begin saving now to send a General Service Representative (GSR) to represent the group at the WSC. GSRs and ISRs are encouraged to visit the DA Website Events page for updated information.

The **2009 World Service Conference** will be held in Dallas, Texas. Check the DA Events page for updated information. ■

Group Autonomy and the Fellowship as a Whole

The General Service Board was recently asked to give its response on whether or not it was okay to announce AWOL (A Way of Life) groups during the announcements portion of a DA meeting. The GSB frequently gets questions such as this from DA members looking for guidance on issues that come up at their local groups. Often, group autonomy, as expressed in Tradition Four, is mentioned by some members as a basis for why a group should be allowed to conduct its meeting a certain way.

Of course, Tradition Four also states that group autonomy is limited to matters that do not affect DA as a whole. The concept of group autonomy does not give a DA group a 'blank check' to violate any of the other Twelve Traditions or otherwise undermine the message of Debtors Anonymous as a whole. We must be very careful when sensitive issues come up at our group business meetings. Even though our group's conscience, as determined via a vote of the group's members, is to enact a policy or take an action that seems like a good idea for our group, we must always ask ourselves what effect this decision could have on DA as a whole. Are we still focused on our primary purpose? Are we still carrying the message to the still suffering debtor? How will this affect newcomers attending their first meeting?

One of the great things about our fellowship being 'unorganized' is that our individual meetings often seem to take on a personality of their own. Group autonomy is what allows a DA meeting to become a place of recovery that works for the members that attend and should not be discouraged. When trying to determine if a certain policy or action is an appropriate use of the group autonomy referenced in Tradition Four, it is helpful to try to determine if this policy or action would be in conflict with any of the other Twelve Traditions. If so, there is a good chance that this proposed policy or action could negatively affect DA as a whole and would therefore not be an appropriate expression of group autonomy.

In the example mentioned earlier about making AWOL announcements at the DA group level, such action could be taken as an implied endorsement of the AWOL program by Debtors Anonymous, which, as we all know, is not the case. When we look at all Twelve

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Traditions as it relates to this issue, it is clear that making such announcements would be in conflict with Traditions Three, Six, and Ten. Therefore, making announcements about the AWOL groups would not be an appropriate expression of group autonomy.

What about your home group? Are its policies and actions congruent with all Twelve Traditions? The best way to keep your group on track and in observance of the Traditions is to study the Traditions the same way you do the Twelve Steps. If your group follows a topic discussion format, perhaps you could focus on one of the Twelve Traditions each month. If your meeting has a speaker format, why not ask an 'old timer' to share on one of the Traditions? It may seem like a boring topic, but the knowledge and insight you gain may help you to one day steer your group clear of a dangerous decision.

John H Scholarship Fund

Donations to the John Henderson Scholarship Fund for the 2008 Salt Lake City World Service closed on March 31, 2008. This allows the host committee the opportunity to notify recipients and to disperse these funds in a timely fashion. Any funds donated after this date are being allocated to the 2009 Dallas World Service Conference.

Why DA Doesn't Do Chips

Reprinted from the Spring 2005 issue of the *DA Focus*.

At the 2004 World Service Conference, a delegate recommended that the GSB produce chips or medallions to count days of not debting in DA. This suggestion has been made before, so we think it will be helpful to explain why the GSO has no plans to produce or sell these kinds of items.

Debtors Anonymous, the GSB, and the GSO are incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. In a not-for-profit corporation, no stock holder or trustee shares in the profits and losses of the organization and we "exist to accomplish some charitable, humanitarian, or educational purpose." All of our efforts must be toward those aims. Production of literature, because it is educational in nature, is considered a valid undertaking, even when it generates the profit used for the organization to oper-

ate. The production and sale of non-educational merchandise could call into question our status as an educational organization. We look to AA (as we often do) for clarification and example and find that AA does not produce nor sell any non-educational merchandise. They direct members, groups, and intergroups to outside vendors for merchandise such as chips, bumper stickers, and trinkets.

The GSB believes that the production of chips and other products or merchandise is not part of our primary purpose and therefore will not be following this recommendation. Like AA, we recommend that groups and intergroups continue to use outside vendors to obtain chips and other products. The GSB and the GSO will continue to produce educational materials that help to carry our message to the debtor who still suffers. ■

Longtimers Share in Ways & Means

Where have the old-timers gone, the members of DA who have not incurred any unsecured debt for 20 years or more? They're in the brand new Second Quarter 2008 issue of *Ways & Means*, DA's newsletter now available on the DA website at <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org>.

This special issue features the stories of six DA members with 20 years or more of continuous solvency. Their stories tell how they've used the Steps and Tools of the DA program to fulfill DA's primary purpose for more than two decades.

The issue is part of the ongoing celebration of *Ways & Means*' 20th anniversary during 2008.

The newsletter began as a print publication in 1988, and is now published exclusively on the Internet. The Second Quarter 2008 issue is also the largest issue in *Ways & Means*' 20-year history. It runs 12 pages, eclipsing the previous record of 9 pages.

To access the *Ways & Means*, go to the DA website home page and click on the link "2nd Quarter *Ways & Means*."

DA members and groups may download and print out as many copies as they wish for personal or group use and are encouraged to use the stories as readings or topics for DA meetings. ■

GSB Statement on Conference-Approved Literature

At the 2006 World Service Conference (WSC), the Conference voted to approve a statement presented by the Literature Committee regarding the use of conference approved literature at meetings (the statement can be found in the WSC 2006 report). One of the recommendations made by the Literature Committee was that the Board publish the statement on the DA Web site, in the *DA Focus* and *Ways & Means*, and through the e-communications list (DA eNews).

One of the Board's responsibilities is to safeguard and uphold the Traditions. It was clear to the Board that the statement is in opposition to DA's 1st, 4th,

5th, and 6th Traditions which cover unity, matters that affect DA as a whole, carrying the message, and not endorsing outside enterprises. The Board does everything possible to support the work of the Conference and the WSC committees, except in the rare instances that the work falls outside the spirit of the Traditions. After reviewing the statement, the Board decided not to publish it due to its implication that displaying and selling non-conference approved literature at meetings was acceptable.

In the spirit of the Traditions, the Board encourages all DA members and meetings to support the dis-

play, selling, and use of only conference approved literature. A helpful resource for individual members, groups, and intergroups, is the Board-produced essay, "Conference-Approved Literature at Meetings: Assuring Our Unity." This essay is available for free on the DA Web site and can be used as an educational guide and for discussion at meetings.

The Literature Committee encourages and welcomes groups and intergroups who have developed their own literature to submit the material to them for conference approval consideration. ■

World Service Conference Committee Reports

There are eight committees and three caucuses that meet at each annual World Service Conference to work on DA's business. Here are some highlights of the work the 2007-08 committees and caucuses have undertaken over the past few months.

Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA)

The 2007-08 BDA Committee continues to work on literature for BDA meetings and members.

Conference Committee

The 2007-08 Conference Committee subcommittees continue to work on several projects, including improving communication with the General Service Board, proposing an Undereaming Caucus, improving the John Henderson Scholarship Fund distribution process, and preparing for the 2008 WSC.

The 2008 WSC registration packets were mailed to all registered DA groups and intergroups. The registration packet is available on the Events page of the DA website.

All Conference participants are invited to visit the 2008 DA WSC website at www.da2008wsc.org to learn more about the Conference and to find a roommate. Conference participants are responsible for arranging their own roommates.

The site for the 2009 WSC will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Irving, Texas, near Dallas.

Diversity Caucus

The Diversity Caucus, newly formed in 2007, lost momentum during the end of its first year. Diversity Caucus members who plan to attend the 2008 WSC may decide to recommend that the Diversity Caucus become a subcommittee of the WSC Public Information Committee.

Fellowship Communications (FCC)

The FCC is working on revitalizing the *Adopt a Loner* program that has been dormant for several years. (Loners are DA members who aren't able to attend face-to-face meetings.) Please see the FCC's Issues & Concerns Report on page 5.

Hospital, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)

The HIP Committee is focusing on carrying the message to the debtor in prison and in responding to letters from inmates. (See report on page 5.)

Intergroup Caucus

The Intergroup Caucus and the Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission (RTSSC) are discussing the possibility of merging. The RTSSC has sent out a survey to individual intergroups to gauge their interest in having Trustees selected through regionalization. Minnesota Intergroup recently held a DA Day that raised over \$900. PRMs were offered but more people wanted them than there was time to accommodate. Southern California Intergroup (SoCal) suggested a change in the suggested split of moneys paid to Intergroup, World Service, and the Regional GSR Group, whereby a higher percentage would be given to Intergroup and less to the GSO. Groups are autonomous and can vote to contribute in accordance with their group's conscience.

Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

The Internal Operations Committee continues to work closely with the staff of the General Service

Office in recruiting and deploying volunteers, both in person at the office and by telephone and email. A database of volunteers and the specific skills they have to offer has been created. Volunteer forms were distributed at the recent New England Spring DA Conference in Boston.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee continues to work on the outlines for the "Newcomer Welcome Packet" and the "How It Works" book. They are discussing the need to present motions for concept approval on several literature pieces that were either in process prior to the approval of the current Literature Approval Process (LAP) or introduced at the 2004 WSC when the LAP was approved. The committee is compiling comments on the 2nd draft of a "Clarity in Business Finances" pamphlet.

Public Information Committee (PI)

The Conference PI Committee recommended that the DA General Service Board approve the addition of \$3,000 to the 2008-2009 spending plan for local, regional, and national 'helping professionals' conferences and conventions. They are working on flyers about group sponsorship and telephone and online meetings. The Committee voted to discontinue the Carry the Message Network and to take references to that meeting off the website. The Committee has scheduled two training sessions centering around the Traditions for those who are interested in speaking to the media. The first is scheduled for May 28; the second will be held in June. Contact the General Service Office at office@debtorsanonymous.org for more information.

Regional Trustees Selection Study Commission (RTSSC)

The Regionalization Committee's work focused on prioritizing concerns for the rest of the year. One item that received high priority was the suggestion that the Regionalization Commission be merged next year with the Intergroup Caucus in order to consider how to formulate a regionalization proposal that would build upon existing intergroups.

Resource Development Committee (RDC)

The Resource Development Committee has consistently met every month since the 2007 Conference. They recently spearheaded the World Service Month fundraising campaign. They sent an Events Service Guide, an On-line Bill Pay FAQs, and a 12 & 12 funding support letter to the GSB for approval. They are preparing the final draft of a "Group Treasurers Manual" and are also working on a "Prosperity and Abundance" document for use by DA groups at meetings. The RDC is responsible for requesting that Group Contributions Reports be made available to the Fellowship. ■

Fellowship Communication Committee (FCC)

Report May 2008

Since the 2007 WSC in Sturbridge, our terrific committee has worked cooperatively, enthusiastically and successfully on a few agenda items. All of the "Issues and Concerns" assigned to our committee were answered individually or by way of an article in the DA Focus (see article on page 5); we created and completed a committee poll and survey of methods and ideas for improving the DA Website and submitted the results for consideration to the Ways & Means' editor; and we are now busy trying to revive the DA Adopt-A-Loner program.

The DA Adopt-A-Loner program is designed for DA members or newcomers who have no access to face to face meetings. After careful analysis and thought, we have submitted a proposal for consideration by the GSB. We believe that this program as we have re-designed it, can be something that can easily be managed by the committee members of the FCC as a group during their monthly conference calls in the upcoming year and in years to come. We look forward to implementing this program and working with potential DA "Corresponders" matching them with DA Loners and newcomers worldwide. Because the communication process will be a part of the monthly committee calls, this ensures that this important 12th Step work is tended to each and every month as a monthly agenda item by the group, rather than by one individual.

My participation on this committee has been one of the most rewarding and enlightening experiences, and I would like to take my hat off to all of my fellow committee members for their creative and inspired service.

Thank you.

—Ruthie F.
2007-08 FCC Chair

Fellowship Communications Committee Issues & Concerns Report

The Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) received a number of issues and concerns from DA members and groups at the 2007 World Service Conference (WSC). Here are the FCC's responses to these issues and concerns. See also the FCC's report.

Issue 15: *DA could profit from the development of a "volunteer mentor list" for those DA members who have an interest in helping other members who are looking for assistance in developing local face-to-face meetings. This list could be made available on the website or be made available through the GSO via a message or link regarding this service which would be described and posted on the website – Lexington, KY*

FCC: The Fellowship Communications Committee is currently organizing an effort to resurrect the Adopt-A-Loner program, which has as its core a list of DA members who have an interest in helping other members who are looking for assistance. For privacy reasons, the GSB has decided that this list will be maintained by the General Service Office. The Adopt-A-Loner program link is available on the home page of the DA website.

Issue 16: *One issue where I feel completely inadequate to help people in PRG settings regards debt*

Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Report

Since last year's World Service Conference, the Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) Committee has successfully continued its efforts to (1) provide DA information to individuals who are confined in settings that do not allow them access to DA meetings, and (2) to build an infrastructure to assist any DA group or member who wishes to participate in such essential 12th Step service. To further these ends, Committee members have responded to all written requests received by the GSO from prisoners seeking information about DA by preparing personal "recovery story" letters. Also, other Committee members have taken DA meetings to institutions such as a juvenile detention facility and a hospital.

The Committee has also prepared a flyer informing the fellowship about HIP activities, a draft brochure about service to institutions, an informational letter to professionals, and an article on institutionalization and debt. Efforts to extend this vital outreach continue as Committee members establish contacts with other 12-Step fellowships doing similar service as well as government and community service agencies that work with institutionalized persons.

moratorium. Does the practice need to be revised due to current card practices? – SpendersDA 450

FCC: The experience, strength, and hope of the Fellowship Communications Committee is that it is important to take care of our own needs before paying our creditors. However, the FCC considers the debt moratorium topic to be an outside issue for each autonomous group's conscience to decide. Be aware that taking a debt moratorium is illegal in some states, and that DA takes no opinion on outside issues and recommends that you do not give legal advice during PRMs.

Issue 17: *Encourage the creation of meetings that provide some kind of childcare for attendants. – Santa Monica, CA*

FCC: The Fellowship Communications Committee considers childcare for DA members during meetings to be an outside issue and a topic that should be decided by group conscience.

Issue 18: *A central DA list of temporary sponsors as suggested in the Spring Ways and Means – Cincinnati 618*

FCC: The Fellowship Communications Committee recommends that DA temporary sponsor lists should be maintained at the group and intergroup level and not be maintained at the GSO level because the time it would take to keep a centralized sponsor list up to date would monopolize the time the office manager uses to perform other important tasks such as literature fulfillment.

Issue 34: *Can a group decide to use non-conference-approved literature as part of the meeting format and still call themselves a DA group? – Nashville 332*

FCC: Tradition Four states that each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or DA as a whole. If groups start using non-conference-approved literature as part of the meeting format, the newcomer may become confused and think that DA is affiliated with these outside interests. And since Tradition Five states that each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers, reading non-conference-approved literature at a meeting may be carrying a different message than the DA message. For these reasons, the Fellowship Communications Committee recommends that only conference-approved literature be included as part of the format used by DA meetings.

Issue 48: *Official clarification re: bankruptcy. I've heard two "official" positions. What is the official position and please put it in writing. 1) Bankruptcy is an outside issue so DA has no opinion on it. 2) DA does not recommend bankruptcy because it is not a fundamental change. It is similar to going on a "diet"*

would be to a member of OA. – Cincinnati 618

FCC: The experience, strength, and hope of the Fellowship Communications Committee is that many DA members choose not to use bankruptcy as a tool because it does not address the underlying spiritual malady, of which compulsive debt is a symptom. The Fellowship Communications Committee considers bankruptcy to be an outside issue, and DA has no opinion on outside issues. DA recommends that members seek legal counsel regarding bankruptcy.

Issue 49: *Ideas for communicating info about DA to consumer organizations such as Consumer Credit Counseling – San Rafael, CA 419*

FCC: The Fellowship Communications Committee encourages DA members to provide DA pamphlets and local DA contact information to credit repair organizations such as Consumer Credit Counseling as part of our DA effort to educate professionals in the community.

Issue 67: *Is it breaking the 7th Tradition or any tradition to support the John Henderson [Scholarship] fund? – Menlo Park BDA 156*

FCC: The Fellowship Communications Committee acknowledges that one of the goals of each DA member is to become fully self-supporting and for each group to be self-supporting, as well. However, our Traditions also say that group unity comes before personal recovery. The John Henderson Scholarship Fund supports group unity by enabling some DA groups who cannot afford to fully fund sending a representative to the World Service Conference to have representation at the World Service Conference, without individual GSRs or ISRs incurring financial hardship. Having strong attendance and participation at the World Service Conference strengthens DA at all levels. In this way, group unity is strengthened by contributions to the JHS Fund and the Traditions are not broken. It is DA members and groups that give to the JHS Fund, so the JHS Fund is self-supporting.

Issue 74: *Can we consider changing the name to either "Money Anonymous" or "Finances Anonymous" to reflect people who don't have debt but who undeream and/or overspend? – Phoenix, AZ*

FCC: Tradition Five states that each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers. It does not single out those members who don't have debt but who undeream and/or overspend. The Fellowship Communications Committee acknowledges that there are many reasons why members join DA and not everyone has debt. However, the Debtors Anonymous name was voted on and approved by the Fellowship during the first World Service Conference. ■

Attention:

General Service Representatives and
Intergroup Service Representatives

WSC Training Session Announcement

You are invited to attend a training session via conference call to help you prepare to be a delegate at the World Service Conference. You will be able to learn about the Conference experience from delegates who have attended previous DA World Service Conferences. Several Trustees from the General Service Board will be on the call to answer questions.

There will be two calls. You may attend one or both of the calls.

Call 1

DATE: Sunday June 8, 2008

TIME: 4:00 - 5:30 pm ET

Call 2

DATE: Sunday, July 13,

TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 pm ET

CALL IN NUMBER: 712-432-1620 (*this is a toll call*)

PASSCODE: 1051170#

Note: Before joining the call, please download the **2008 Conference Service Manual** and suggested agenda from the DA Service Page
www.debtorsanonymous.org/service.htm.

"For many of us, life has seemed a struggle to get and keep what we could for ourselves. We sometimes compulsively overspent or under-spent in an effort to convince ourselves that we had enough. In DA., we learned that one way to experience abundance and prosperity in our lives was by giving ourselves to others. This is the Twelfth Step in action. In other words, we help ourselves by offering service to fellow members and to DA as a whole. By doing so, we decrease our self obsession and isolation." –from the DA Service pamphlet.

2008 WSC Announcements

ROOMMATES

All Conference participants are responsible for arranging their own roommates and notifying the hotel of the roommate choice. There is a Roommate Finder feature on the 2008 DA WSC website at www.da2008wsc.org. There will be time after the WSC Training Session Conference Calls, June 8 and July 13, to coordinate a roommate with other Conference participants.

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you have dietary restrictions or other special requirements, please notify the Salt Lake City Host Committee as soon as possible so your needs can be addressed. Email the Host Committee at da2008wsc@gmail.com.

FELLOWSHIP DAY

All DA members are welcome to attend Fellowship Day, Saturday, August 16, 2008. Fellowship Day events begin at 12:00 pm. The Fellowship Day lunch and speaker (12:00-1:00 pm) costs \$23.00 (you can hear the speaker without purchasing the lunch), the three afternoon workshops are \$15.00, and the Gala buffet-style dinner and DJ dance event (5:30-11:30 pm) costs \$45.00. Workshop topics include the DA Steps, Traditions, and Tools. A flyer with a registration form is available on the DA Events page of the DA website.

Deadline to apply for the John Henderson Scholarship Fund

June 14, 2008

The application form and information is in the 2008 WSC registration packet on the Events page of the DA website.

Find a roommate for the DA World Service Conference

www.da2008wsc.org

New Meditation Book Release Form

Attention all DA members who sent in submissions for the DA Daily Meditation Book!

If you sent in a submission to the DA Daily Meditation Book before January 2006, please sign and send in a revised release form. The release form had to be revised for legal reasons. We will not be able to consider your submission without the revised release form. The revised release forms can be downloaded from the DA web site, <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/AssignmentOfRights.pdf>.

Download the form, fill it in, sign it, and send it to:

Attn: Meditation Book Committee
DA General Service Office
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

We would like to collect all revised releases by August 1, 2008. Please also make this announcement at your meetings. Thank you so much for helping make the DA Daily Meditation Book a reality!

A New Toll Free Phone Number

The Debtors Anonymous General Service Office is now more accessible than ever, with a new nationwide 800 telephone number and a more efficient voice mail system.

The system, which has been in development and testing for several months and which was demonstrated at last year's World Service Conference, will allow toll-free calls to the office from any phone number in the United States. Calls to the office outside of the office's local calling area in Eastern Massachusetts were previously toll calls.

To reach the office, dial 1-800-421-2383. Overflow calls and calls placed outside of regular business hours will go to the new voice mail system, which offers options to leave a message and request a callback, or to listen to recordings with different types of frequently requested DA information. A Spanish-language option will be available in the near future.

Regular hours at the GSO in Needham, Mass., are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday. Callers from outside the U.S. will continue to use the existing office number (781) 453-2743 with the appropriate country code.

Debtors Anonymous Spending Plan to Actual July 1 - April 2008

	PLAN 7/1/2007 to 4/30/2008	ACTUAL 7/1/2007 to 4/30/2008
REVENUE		
Literature Sales	\$ 67,920	\$ 65,425
Group Contributions	29,170	36,942
Individual Contributions	24,170	20,123
Other sales	650	1,119
Invitation to Prosperity	-	-
World Svc. Month Contributions	5,000	663
12 & 12 Book Appeal	-	-
JH Scholarship Fund	4,170	6,539
Interest Income	3,000	3,159
Misc. Income	210	50
World Service Conference	5,830	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 140,120	\$ 134,020
COST OF GOODS SOLD		
Literature	\$ 21,530	\$ 29,649
Ways & Means	1,250	-
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 22,780	\$ 29,649
GROSS PROFIT	\$ 117,340	\$ 104,371
EXPENSE		
Board Administration	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,690
Board Travel	19,430	12,687
ACM Admin	1,450	-
General Administration	19,640	17,955
Office Administration	16,720	6,251
Payroll Expense	44,270	42,957
Conference Committees	5,420	751
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 111,930	\$ 83,291
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 5,410	\$ 21,080
Less Proposed Expenses		
JH Scholarship Fund	\$ 4,170	\$ -
WSC Expense	1,170	2,864
Subtotal	\$ 5,340	\$ 2,864
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 70	\$ 18,216

Note: Unaudited—for information purposes only.

DA's income is flat, expenses are rising, and the net surplus is trending downward.

Income. Group contributions are substantially higher compared to the DA year-to-date spending plan, but revenue is still less than plan overall. Literature sales and individual contributions are less than plan. (See the spending plan to actual on page 7.) As of the end of April, the net from the 2007 World Service Conference had not yet been received from the 2007 Host Committee, and the proceeds from the World Service Month fundraising appeal have yet to appear. Overall, the net income trend is flat, as shown in the DA Revenue chart to the right.

Expenses. Expenses for the time period were under plan; however, expenses have been gradually rising. Three of the past ten months have resulted in deficits. That is, the GSB and the GSO spent more than was received in income. The GSB maintains substantial prudent reserves, so there is no danger that DA will debt; however, the trend is disturbing. ■

Note to World Service Conference Committees:

To date, the WSC committees have spent \$751 of the total \$6500 allocated to them to conduct committee work during the year. Committees seeking reimbursement for expenditures made since the WSC should send receipts and a reimbursement form to the GSB Treasurer before the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2008.

