

THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Summer 2005

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Is your group using the revised DA Preamble?

The revision to the last sentence of the Preamble was approved at the 2002 World Service Conference.

Debtors Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with one another that they may solve their common problem and help others recover from compulsive debt. The only requirement for membership in Debtors Anonymous is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. There are no dues or fees for DA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. DA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.

Have you visited the DA website?

www.debtorsanonymous.org

The DA website is a valuable source of information about the DA program. You can find meetings (including telephone and online meetings), plus download service literature for your group. The selection of free literature is growing all the time.

19th Annual

World Service Conference scheduled for August

The World Service Conference is the annual business meeting of Debtors Anonymous. This is where General Service Representatives (GSRs) and Intergroup Service Representatives (ISRs) gather to work on issues that affect DA as a whole. Here are answers to some "frequently-asked questions."

What is a GSR?

The General Service Representative (GSR) is the primary link between each individual DA meeting and the World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous. This person is elected by his or her group.

What is an ISR?

The Intergroup Service Representative performs the same function as the GSR, but for an Intergroup instead of for an individual meeting.

What is the role of the GSRs/ISRs?

GSRs and ISRs register their local DA group and Intergroup with the General Service Office (GSO). They receive information from the Office and communicate it to their groups. They also have some responsibility for informing the group about the financial needs of the GSO.

GSRs and ISRs attend the annual World Service Conference (WSC) to help perform the work needed to support DA. GSRs and ISRs work within the Conference committee structure (see page 2) to serve the interests of DA as a whole. This is an important commitment for a recovering debtor and should be viewed as an on-

going commitment throughout the following year.

Possibly the most important role of the GSR is a responsibility to share with the group his or her overall perspective based on the 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts of Service that he or she draws from experience with other groups and members worldwide.

What happens at the Conference?

GSRs and ISRs volunteer to participate on one of the seven standing committees (see page 2). They may also choose to serve on one of the three caucuses.

What is the Convocation?

At the end of the WSC the GSRs and ISRs meet in the Convocation to conduct the formal business of presenting and voting on motions brought forth by the committees. Each GSR and ISR is a voting delegate, representing his or her group.



DA's Service Structure

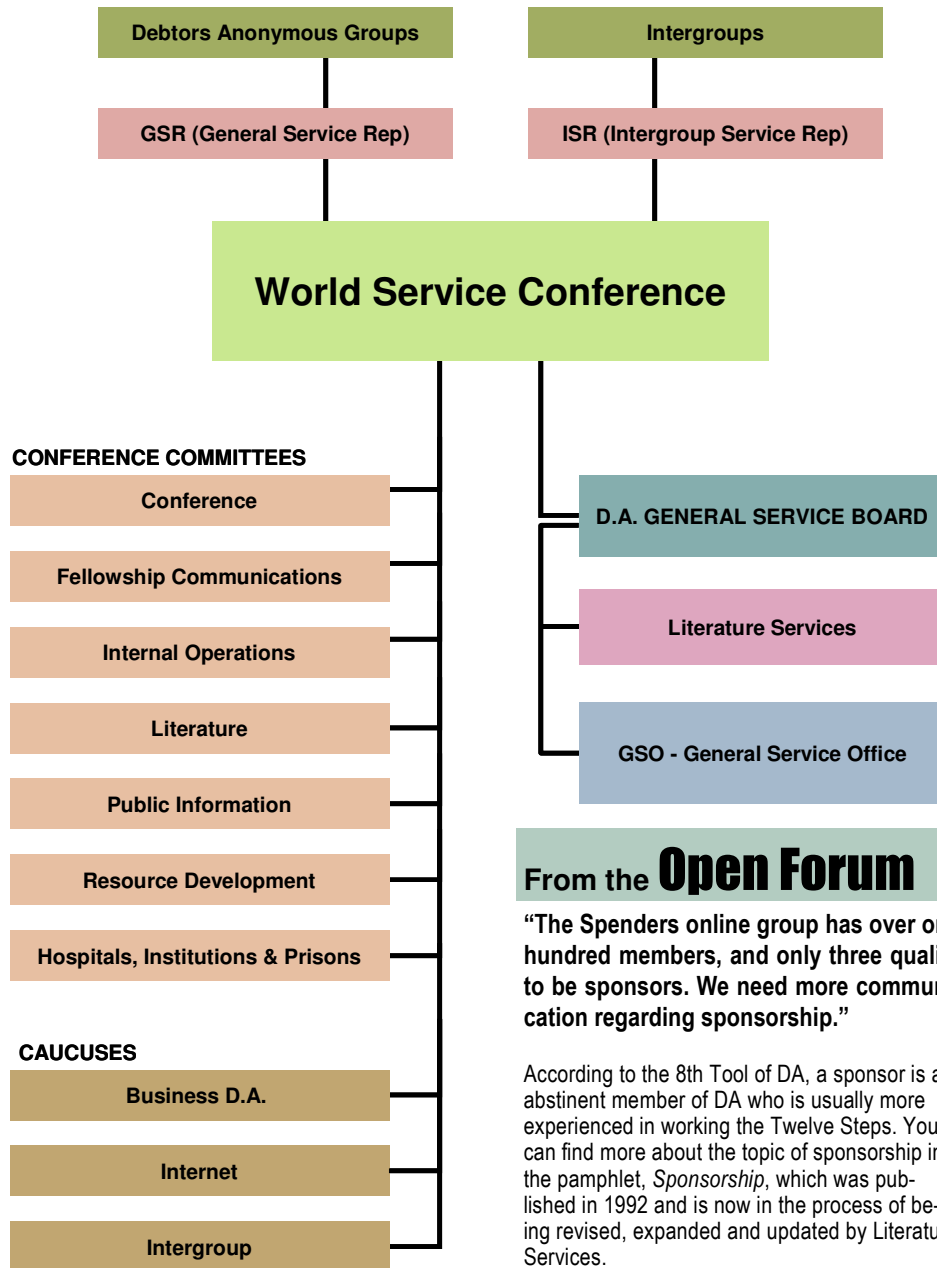
The annual World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous is where the collective conscience of all the groups come together via the GSRs and ISRs. DA groups that send a rep to the WSC are exercising their right to be heard. They have a powerful voice in the worldwide affairs of DA.

Sometimes the group conscience never goes further than the walls of the group's meeting room because that group may not have a GSR to carry the group's conscience to the World Service Conference. An isolated group is like an isolated debtor!

The GSRs and ISRs that come together at the World Service Conference have the full authority to act on behalf of the groups.

At the bottom of the service structure are the Trustees, who derive their authority from the Conference, and are entrusted with the service of carrying out the will of the Conference. The Trustees are also the officers of the Corporation and are charged with certain fiduciary responsibilities.

Debtors Anonymous Organization Chart



The Role of the GSB Liaison to the Conference Committees of the Conference

The liaison...

1. Is a link or conduit between the Board and the committee.
2. Promotes and advocates the use of the 12 Concepts and 12 Traditions.
3. Gets the committee's questions to the Board answered.
4. Acts as the contact to the GSB for the committee and for the committee to the GSB.
5. Is a trusted servant to the committee.
6. May act as an historical reference/resource.
7. During the year, acts as the interface with the committee chair.
8. Reports to GSB regarding committee activities.
9. Reports to committee relevant GSB actions.
10. Attends committee sessions whenever possible, but does not vote.

From the Open Forum

"The Spenders online group has over one hundred members, and only three qualify to be sponsors. We need more communication regarding sponsorship."

According to the 8th Tool of DA, a sponsor is an abstinent member of DA who is usually more experienced in working the Twelve Steps. You can find more about the topic of sponsorship in the pamphlet, *Sponsorship*, which was published in 1992 and is now in the process of being revised, expanded and updated by Literature Services.

Inherent in Step Twelve is the idea that in order to keep what we've been given, we must carry the DA message to others. One of the ways we do this is by sponsoring a newcomer.

It is as important to sponsor others as it is to have a sponsor.

The Open Forum is a part of the traditional agenda of the annual World Service Conference, where GSRs and ISRs can voice concerns and ask questions about DA issues.

Is your area ready to host a World Service Conference?

Submit your group's bid for 2007 or 2008

Bids for 2007 and 2008 will be accepted and evaluated at the upcoming 2005 World Service Conference. (San Diego is the site for 2006.) Even if your local area is small, it might be possible to work with groups in your region to build a strong host committee.

Detailed instructions for preparing a proposal are in the WSC registration packet available for download from the DA website.

Some WSC facts:

- 80-120 DA members attend. Almost all attendees are from the U.S.
- The WSC runs four days and nights. Delegates arrive by Wednesday evening for Orientation, participate in committee work Thursday and Friday, vote in the Convocation, and leave Sunday afternoon.
- A fellowship day is traditionally held in conjunction with the WSC.

Fellowship Communications Committee

The FCC is working with the editor of the *Ways & Means* and the WSC Host Committee to insert a copy of the W&M into the binders that the GSRs and ISRs will receive at the upcoming Conference. Work also continues on a list of FAQs for the DA website.

Resource Development Committee

Accomplishments by the RDC include progress on an Ideal Spending Plan for the *Visions Collection* kit, a concept that was approved at the 2003 WSC. An article offering suggestions on how groups can raise income for their GSR travel fund was published in the Spring 2005 *Ways & Means*. Information is being collected to form the basis for a piece of service literature that will offer guidelines to help groups safeguard their funds.

Public Information Committee

The 12 Signs Posters are now available as a free download from the DA website.

Suggested Voting Procedures from the Conference Committee

A vote on amending Article 3 of the D.A. Charter will occur at the 2005 World Service Conference. Although GSRs are free to make the decision whether or not to take this issue to their group and also free to vote their conscience at the Conference (Conference Charter Article 3) we suggest that the GSR take this information to their group for discussion and debate and consider the opinions expressed in their group when considering their vote.

In the mailing from General Service Office you received the wording of the

amendment. You will find a short explanation of the issue being voted on and a short pro and con argument. It is suggested that you read these with your group before you open the discussion. You may also want to prepare a photocopy of the issue and make it available at your meeting a week or so before the discussion. It is suggested that you allow, at the minimum, twenty minutes for the discussion.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2005 World Service Conference.

GSB Reports

Literature Publications

Recent discussion topics for Literature Publications included the *Meeting in a Box* videotape, which is given free upon request to new groups starting up in areas that are far from established meetings. Fifty copies were purchased in 2002; at the time of this discussion there were four tapes left. The GSO is researching the cost of producing DVDs compared to VHS tapes. Pending the outcome of that research, Literature Publications recommended to the GSB to order fifty more copies of the video.

Literature Specials

From the DA website:

- Anonymity pamphlet FREE download
- 12 Signs Posters FREE download
- Service literature FREE downloads
 - * How to keep your meeting alive
 - * Group Inventory: All shapes and sizes
 - * Conference-approved literature at meetings: Assuring our unity

From the General Service Office:

- AV-101 audiocassette tape closeout price \$2.00 while supplies last. See website for details.

Literature Services

Literature Services lost an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) this past quarter, but gained a new one, which leaves the number of ACMs working on literature projects unchanged at five members. Literature Services is continuing to solicit applications for new ACMs. If you are interested in applying, please email the GSO.

Communications Committee

Ways & Means Subcommittee has been working closely with the Fellowship Communications Committee, the Host Committee of the WSC and the General Service Office to coordinate the printing and delivery of copies of the Summer 2005 issue to be placed into the binders that the GSRs and ISRs will receive at the WSC. Other discussion items:

- Gathering content continues to be an ongoing challenge: shares, cartoons and DA-related articles for upcoming issues are welcome. Send submissions to waysandmeansda@hotmail.com.
- The current editor's contract will expire with the Fall 2005 issue. (The editor receives a fee of \$300 per issue.)

The **InfoTech Subcommittee** has focused recent efforts on continuing the creation of a FAQ webpage, in collaboration with the FCC; researching the upgrading of the GSO phone system to include a voice mail phone tree; migrating the GSO meeting database from Excel to Access; and designing a 7th Tradition webpage that gives info on how to donate to DA.

The **Public Information Subcommittee** is working with the Public Information Committee of the WSC to clarify and define the role of the newly created Media Contact position. Also discussed: what to do when a DA member violates Tradition 11 with regard to media appearances.

Quoting DA Literature

Recently the DA GSO received a question regarding the quoting of our basic literature in their local group literature. The DA Focus is sharing the GSB's response so all groups may take advantage of DA's publications and copyright policies.

When considering literature for newcomers, we recommend our "Notes to Newcomers." This is a one-sided sheet that is very inexpensive and may be freely copied by DA groups. It contains an overview of DA and gives newcomers a sense of what DA is all about.

Groups may also quote DA's Twelve Steps, Traditions, Concepts and Tools freely to add to their own local literature. Also, anyone may quote up to 300 words of DA conference-approved literature, as long as the piece of literature and DA are cited as the source.

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board
YEAR END INCOME STATEMENT
 July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005

7/01/2004
 to
 6/30/2005

REVENUE

Literature Sales	\$	70,685
Group Contributions	\$	34,870
Individual Contributions	\$	18,348
World Svc. Month Contributions	\$	2,997
World Service Conference	\$	11,667
Ways & Means Income	\$	2,710
Interest Income	\$	1,124
Misc. Income	\$	75
TOTAL REVENUE	\$	142,475

EXPENSE

Board Administration	\$	7,031
Board Travel	\$	9,495
General Administration	\$	11,145
Office Administration	\$	12,165
Proposed Office Computer	\$	-
Proposed Office Improvements	\$	-
Literature Printing & Production	\$	30,996
Ways & Means	\$	2,731
Payroll Expense	\$	52,780
Conference Committees	\$	1,511
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$	127,854

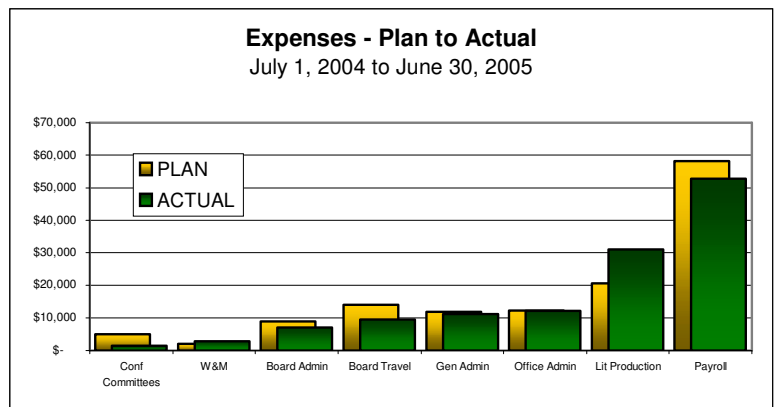
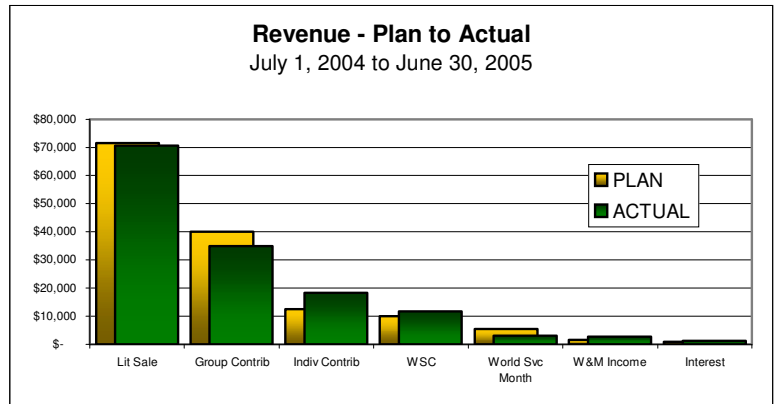
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSE **\$ 14,621**

These figures are unaudited, and intended for information purposes only.

Please note: A group contribution that doesn't have the group number on the check is categorized as an "individual contribution."

- **World Service Month contributions totaled \$2,997, 44% less than anticipated.**
- **Overall spending was 10% less than planned.**
- **Literature sales continue to exceed contributions.**

Please send your personal and group contributions to the General Service Office.



**Attention
 Conference
 Committees**

The DA Focus invites you to tell the fellowship what you have been working on during the past quarter. Email your (brief) report to your GSB liaison(s), and mark it "DA Focus."

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