

Winter 2005

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Update your group's info

Did a new meeting start in your area? Did your group elect a new GSR? Did your meeting disband, or move? Please update your group's information with the General Service Office know so the database can be kept current. Enclosed with the mailing of this publication is a form to use for updating your group's contact information. You can also update online: www.debtorsanonymous.org. Click on the **update your meeting** link.

Thank you

Thank you to those of you who wrote to express your opinions about the new DA Focus. Your feedback is appreciated!

We're on the Web

The DA Focus is available on the DA website as a pdf file that you can download, print and take to your meeting. And, it's in color!

The DA Focus publication schedule

Spring: April 30 (deadline for approved submissions is April 15), Summer: July 31 (deadline is July 15); Fall: October 31 (deadline October 15) and Winter: January 31 (deadline January 15).

World Service Month: April 2005

Chicago "Action Day" supports World Service Month

Chicago area BDA meetings hosted an "Action Day" to support World Service Month, which is held every April to mark the founding of D.A. An afternoon of three workshops focused on "active" participation through discussion of specific topics by two speakers, followed by a session of small group writing and sharing. The use of a timer helped the event stay on track and run smoothly. Nearly 30 people attended. \$140.00 was generated through registrations (a suggested donation of \$5) and sales of water and literature. After expenses, the event cleared \$46.00. After receiving positive feedback from participants, Chicago area BDA members plan to produce two "Action Days" each year. This type of fundraising event can be expanded and enhanced in many ways for World Service Month. For more information and/or to receive samples of the format, spending plan, service sign-up sheet and evaluation forms used in the Chicago area BDA Action Day, contact Jan J. at jjanz60@hotmail.com.

How to Organize a World Service Month Fundraiser

- Form a committee. Only a few willing people are needed to plan the "Action Day."
- Decide on a date, time and location.
- Create a spending plan.
- Design flyers and publicize the day.
- Decide on the format and topics, and then invite people to speak.
- Pass around service sign-up sheets at your meetings.
- Buy literature and refreshments to sell.

New pamphlet now available

"Recovery from Compulsive Spending"

Visit the D.A. website for more information.

Trustee Nomination Process and Guidelines

GSB TRUSTEE ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous has found that the following attributes are those that contributed most towards fulfilling a General Service Board commitment. It is suggested that a G.S.B. Trustee Nominee would:

1. Be a member of DA who regularly attends meetings, has a sponsor and is a sponsor, has and sits on pressure relief groups and has at least three years of abstinence from incurring any unsecured debt (Class A Trustee.)
2. Be committed to working the Twelve Steps of DA in their own life (Class A Trustees), or have a working knowledge and understanding of the Twelve Step process (Class B Trustees);
3. Have a desire to seek the will of a Higher Power, however one may conceive of a Higher Power;
4. Be committed to service as a principle of life; have a willingness and desire to grow through service with the knowledge that it will have its challenges, requires a definite commitment of time, and that world service takes priority over other service;
5. Be dedicated to and active in DA service, demonstrated by successful completion of service commitments on an ongoing basis; prefer experience and participation in at least one world service;
6. Have the ability to follow through with commitments and shows willingness to complete the commitment in accordance with DA principles, tools, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions;
7. Have a desire and the ability to perform leadership roles in the spirit of being a trusted servant rather than a ruler and have the ability to work independently while at the same time being aware of any ideas, projects, or theories that are generated;
8. Be dedicated and committed to the health of DA and have a desire to carry the message to the still suffering debtor;
9. Understand the difference between majority rule and group conscience and be willing to work within the group conscience;
10. Have flexible attitudes and are able to work with other people even if the direction was not the first choice;
11. Have the ability to express one's self honestly, the ability to listen to others, effective communication skills, and ability to write and deliver reports and be able to follow-up on phone messages and engage in the group process with the G.S.B.
12. Class A Trustees must be a member of Debtors Anonymous. Class A and Class B Trustees must be willing to use their full name, address and telephone number in order to communicate effectively with the G.S.B. and the General Service Office.

The General Service Board (GSB) of Debtors Anonymous (DA) is inviting nominations for Trustee/Board Member. The Guidelines for Eligibility are listed in the box to the left. This process was formalized by the General Service Board beginning in 1995 as a way to widen the selection process for identifying and selecting new Board members so that the Board is more broadly represented.

Over the past ten years, former or currently serving Board members have made nominations to the GSB. In 1994, the World Conference of Debtors Anonymous adopted a new resolution as part of the DA Charter that enables General Service Representatives (GSRs) worldwide attending the DA World Conference to ratify the selection of an individual DA member to the GSB as a Trustee Board Member. The first ratification process occurred at the 1995 DA World Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

All nominations for Trustee/Board Member to the GSB shall be sent to the following address:

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board
Nominations Committee
PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492

All written nominations shall have the following format and include the following information:

- A.) A Nomination shall be in writing and be made on behalf of the recommended nominee by a DA Member, DA Group, GSR Group, or the area's Intergroup.
- B.) The Nomination shall be in letter form and shall include a paragraph as to why the nominee is being recommended and why he/she should be affirmatively considered for a position on the General Service Board as Trustee/Board Member.
- C.) The Nomination shall also include a description of the nominee's experience providing service in DA. A brief biography/profile of the nominee's DA length of membership in DA and service positions and service activities is requested.
- D.) The Nomination letter shall also include a written and signed statement from the nominee that he/she is interested in becoming a Trustee/Board Member to provide world service to DA and if selected and ratified by the fellowship, would agree to serve as a board member to DA for a minimum term of two three-year terms not to exceed six years.

The GSB is currently accepting Nominations to the Board. All Nominations received by the GSB will be responded to in writing. Thank you in advance for your interest and participation in the GSB's Trustee Nomination process.

What is Literature Services?

Literature Services is a service committee that was created at the 2004 World Service Conference to focus specifically on the writing and editing of D.A. literature. Literature Services is made up of appointed committee members (ACMs) and two General Service Board Trustees. To date, several ACMs have been approved to join Literature Services.

Who can join Literature Services?

It is suggested that a GSB Appointed Committee Member Nominee would:

- 1) Be a member of D.A. who regularly attends meetings, has a sponsor and is a sponsor, has and sits on pressure relief groups and has at least *three* (3) years of not incurring unsecured debt.
- 2) Be committed to working the Twelve Steps of D.A. in his or her own life.
- 3) Be committed to service as a principle of life; have a willingness and desire to grow through service with the knowledge that it will have its challenges, requires a definite commitment of time, and understands that world service takes priority over other service.
- 4) Be dedicated to and active in D.A. service, demonstrated by successful completion of service commitments on an ongoing basis, and preferably have attended and participated in at least one World Service Conference.
- 5) Have the ability to follow through with commitments and show willingness to complete the commitment in accordance with D.A. principles, Tools, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
- 6) Be dedicated and committed to the health of D.A. and have a desire to carry the message to the still suffering debtor.
- 7) Note: An Appointed Committee Member will be expected to relinquish any local service commitments to his/her group, including GSR, in order to participate in Board level service work.

How to submit a resume or nominate someone

Three items are required. A **signed letter from the person or group** making the nomination stating their knowledge of the nominee's experience in a service role or activity.

A **letter from the nominee** stating his or her interest in GSB service and that he or she meets the guidelines as described for ACM. If the nominee seeks membership on a specific committee, this should be included in the letter.

A **resume of the nominee** showing prior D.A. service, other Twelve Step service, and any qualifications or experience that may be helpful to the D.A. General Service Board.

Send nominations for GSB ACM to:
Debtors Anonymous General Service Board
Nominations Committee
PO Box 920888 / Needham, MA 02492
da-gso@mindspring.com

Did you know...

25% of every literature order is set aside in a reserve fund to print more literature?

Public Information

The Public Information Committee of the World Service Conference is recommending that in order to expand efforts to put Tradition 5 ("Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers") into action, that each local group would consider creating a Public Information Representative (PIR) as a service position for their group. The PIR would 1) receive and disseminate information about Public Information and Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) outreach to their group; and 2) coordinate making information available to local groups such as schools, courts, marriage and family counselors, libraries, self-help boards, etc.

To help facilitate this new position, the Public Information Committee has created a support group, called the *Carry the Message Network*. Conference calls are held on the last Sunday of each month at 9:00 PM ET. Contact Richard H. to be added to the *Carry the Message Network* distribution list and for call-in information at (818) 843-7058 or rhharrisj@pacbell.net.

InfoTech

The GSB InfoTech Committee, a subcommittee of the Communications Committee, continues to focus on gathering information that will become a FAQ page for the DA website. Other recent projects have included conducting a technology inventory of the General Service Office, investigating how to improve the DA voice mail system, and locating DA members who can offer expertise in the areas of database management (specifically knowledge of Access), technology improvements and website management. If you have interest in being considered as an Appointed Committee Member for the InfoTech Committee, please see the column to the left for more information on how to apply, or email the General Service Office.

Ways & Means

To all DA Intergroups:
The Ways & Means newsletter would love to hear from you. To this end we are planning to set aside a space in the W&M especially for Intergroups to share. The Intergroups are often the first opportunity for a new debtor to find a meeting, find a local event, make friends, or talk to another debtor. We would love to hear what you are doing in your area. Do you have an amusing story or anecdote? What's on your calendar of events? You can use this space to invite DAs from around the world to an event in your area. (DA's do travel in recovery.) This is an opportunity for attraction not promotion! Please make use of your Intergroup "corner" and help make W&M a true "meeting in print." Submit your articles or announcements to the Editor at waysandmeansda@hotmail.com. Together, we can.

—The W&M Subcommittee of the GSB
NOTICE: If you or your group sent in a Ways & Means subscription order at some point in the past, and you did not receive some or any of the copies you ordered, please send an email to the General Service Office da-gso@mindspring.com with your name, address and phone number, and if it was for a group, the group's name and group number. Please indicate the approximate time period your order was placed, how many subscriptions you ordered, for how many years, and how much you paid. Thanks.

A one-year (4 issues) U.S. subscription to the W&M is \$8.00 (Canada: \$8.50, Foreign \$9.00). Discounts apply on orders of five or more subscriptions going to the same address. Subscribe by sending your check or money order to the General Service Office at the address on the back page.

The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous is inviting nominations for Trustee/Board members and Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). Please see the guidelines for GSB Trustee on page 2, and the guidelines for ACM in the Literature Services report on this page.

World Service Conference

2005 World Service Conference

Planning is under way for the 2005 World Service Conference, to be held in the Philadelphia, PA, area in late summer 2005. The date and location will be announced as soon as negotiations for the site are finalized.

2006 World Service Conference

The 2006 World Service Conference will be hosted by the city of San Diego, Calif.

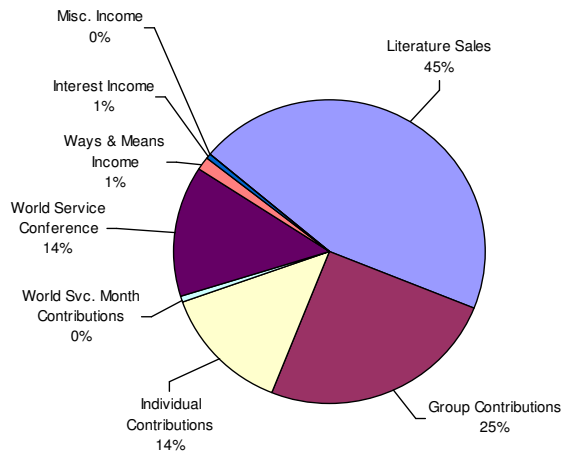
What Is A GSR?

The General Service Representative (GSR) may be the most important service position in Debtors Anonymous. The GSR is elected by his/her local group to act as the primary link between the group and the Fellowship as a whole. As GSR, you share with your groups up-to-date information from the General Service Office (GSO) and the General Service Board of Trustees (GSB). However, that sharing is only the beginning of a far more interesting—and more rewarding—service role.

When and How Does A GSR Serve?

- A GSR's term of office is usually for two or three years. A new term should begin before the World Service Conference so that the GSR can serve on a Conference Committee during the year after the Conference. It is also suggested that elections be held several months before the new term begins so the new GSR can become acquainted with his or her duties.
- A group elects a GSR with the same procedures that it uses for each service position, except the qualifications may differ.
- Individual groups determine the qualifications for the GSR position. It is suggested that a person being considered for GSR have the following qualifications: to be actively working the Twelve Steps, to have had at least two Pressure Relief Meetings (PRMs), to have abstained from incurring new unsecured debt for at least one year, to have given service to a local group and/or as an Intergroup officer, and to be an active member of a home group.
- The group should consider the qualities that make a good DA member and a valued trusted servant at any level: patience, toleration, dedication to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, and active support for the DA way of life.
- An Alternate GSR should be elected, when possible, to fill in for the GSR as necessary and to replace the GSR if the GSR is elected to the Board of Trustees.
- It is suggested that a GSR should not hold any other office in your local group or Intergroup. However, it is understood that this may not always be possible in situations where there may be only one or a few DA groups and not enough qualified members are available to fill all of the service positions.

2004 overall income down 3% compared to 2003



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

The GSB Treasurer reported that for the first half of fiscal year 2004-2005, overall income was down by 3% compared to the same period last year. These figures affirm the importance of supporting DA with group and individual contributions and literature purchases.

Actual Revenue July—December 2004

Unaudited—for information purposes only

Literature Sales	\$ 32,710
Group Contributions	17,951
Individual Contributions	10,040
World Svc. Month Contributions	268
World Service Conference	10,340
Ways & Means Income	976
Interest Income	448
Misc. Income	20
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 72,753

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Q&A From the GSB Treasurer

Dear GSB Treasurer: I have two concerns about the financial report for the period of July – December 2004.

1. Why is the report showing only the revenue and not expenses?
2. Why do we make a profit on the World Service Conference?

Dear Concerned: To answer the first question, our bookkeeper resigned to move on to fulfill her new visions. As a result, we did not have a December 31 Profit & Loss Statement available for this

publication. The good news is that the GSB has hired a qualified person as bookkeeper and is posting the books up-to-date as we go to press. The March 31 financial report in the next *DA Focus* will show revenue and expenses and their comparison to the GSB 2004-2005 Spending Plan. Be assured that during the time without a bookkeeper, the Treasurer and Finance Committee have maintained a watchful eye on expenditures. All checks require the signature of both the Office Manager and a member of the Finance Committee. And, prior to paying any expenditure other than fixed monthly expenses, the Office Manager consults

with the Treasurer for payment approval.

Now to Question #2, the World Service Conference making a profit: the reason we need a profit is to generate the down payments for next year's conference. Each year we give the host committee seed money to work with and put a down payment on the site. Both costs have risen in recent years. And we are being asked to put a down payment down on the site for the 2006 WSC now, almost two years in advance.

—Carolyn H.
Your GSB Treasurer

THE D A FOCUS

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