

THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

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 Quarter 2
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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.

**2007
 World Service
 Conference Report**
 available now on the
 Service page of the DA
 Web site.

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

Carrying the DA Message: Vital to our Recovery

“We perform service at every level: personal, meeting, intergroup, and world service.” DA's tool of service is often read aloud in DA meetings. Have you ever wondered what carrying the DA message means at the “World Service” level? The General Service Office, the World Service Conference committees and caucuses, and the General Service Board of Trustees work together to carry the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. This is service in action. Here is an update on some of the ways we make, or will soon make, the DA message more accessible to all.

AVAILABLE NOW

**Download the
 GSB service newsletter
 DA Focus from the DA
 Web site.**

The General Service Board of Trustees (GSB) publishes the *DA Focus*, a quarterly service newsletter that is distributed to all registered DA groups and intergroups through the mail. It is also available on the DA Web site www.debtorsanonymous.org. Be sure your group has a copy of the *DA Focus*.

**Download the
 fellowship newsletter
 Ways & Means from the
 DA Web site**

The GSB also publishes a quarterly fellowship newsletter, *Ways & Means*, a “meeting in print” where members can share and comment on DA recovery issues. The W&M is free on DA's Web site. Bring a copy to your meeting. The GSB is continuing to work toward make past issues available on the DA Web site.

**Subscribe to the
 official GSO email
 announcements list.**

At last count, over 3,000 people have subscribed to the DA eNews. The electronic newsletter brings DA service-related announcements to your email inbox. Subscribe on the DA Web site home page, and encourage the members of your group to subscribe.

**Call the DA General
 Service Office 800
 number and use the
 voice mail system**

The GSO voice mail phone “tree” and 800 number is now in place. A few refinements are still in progress. This 800 number is intended to help callers reach the Office more easily. For now, the 800 number is operational for U.S. callers only. What's DA's new 800 number? **800-421-2383**.

COMING SOON

**Use the searchable
 meeting list on the DA
 Web site to find
 a DA meeting**

Attending meetings is an important form of service; the searchable meeting list can help members find meetings wherever they are. The plan to “go live” before the 2007 WSC was unfortunately not met due to unforeseen challenges that required moving the DA Web site to a new host. The GSB InfoTech Committee hopes to launch the service before the 2008 WSC.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has the responsibility of managing DA's finances. See page 4 for the Treasurer's Report.

Donating to DA online.

Members have asked the DA Office to set up a system where members can make automatic payments to the DA bank account. The GSB Finance Committee doesn't recommend this for three reasons: 1) the GSB Treasurer will not be able to determine the source of the contribution; 2) the Office will not be able to send a receipt for the contribution, something that is required by law; and 3) there will be no way to prevent a member from making a contribution that exceeds the annual limit of \$5,000. Finance recommends that members instead consider setting up online bill payments from their own bank account, which will send a physical check to the DA Office. For a member without Internet, most banks will set up the same system for customers upon request.

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 nearing completion. The InfoTech Committee is also responsible for distributing the DA eNews email newsletter, which now has over 3,000 subscribers. To subscribe to the DA eNews, click on the link on the DA homepage.

Literature Publications (Lit Pub)

Literature Publications continues to work with DA's trademark attorney to make sure that DA's service marks are current and defended. 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 edits 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.

Nominations Committee

The GSB Nominations Committee continues to review possible candidates for both "A" (debtor) and "B" (non-debtor) Trustees. Nomination materials have been requested and received from people interested in being a "B" Trustee. Current Trustees have been asked to submit letters of intent and resumes if they are interested in officer positions for next year. The committee also reviewed and discussed the length of terms for each officer position.

Office Committee

The Office Committee of the GSB is working closely with the Internal Operations Committee of the WSC on a volunteer program that would recruit DA members locally and nationwide to help with projects at the General Service Office. 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.

Conference Support Committee (CSC)

The GSB combined two committees into one at the 2007 WSC. The Policy & Delegate Support Committee (PDSC), which worked on Conference concerns, and the World Service Conference Support Committee (WSCSC), which focused on improving the WSC production process, became the new Conference Support Committee (CSC).

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) was created to deal with all issues relevant to the annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC). The committee is in contact with and offers support to both the 2008 Salt Lake City and the 2009 Dallas host committees. Also, there is a liaison from this Board committee who attends the monthly meetings of the WSC Conference Committee. The CSC, as with all Board committees, treats as a priority all the issues and concerns forwarded from the DA fellowship to the WSC. We are investigating the possibility of using technology where appropriate to bring segments of the WSC to more DA members. We are in discussion of ways to improve the Conference experience for first-time GSRs. With this in mind, we are pricing and checking the availability of a booklet explaining the parliamentary procedures in use at the Convocation at the World Service Conference.

Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee of the GSB has engaged in an extensive rewriting of DA's web page dealing with cooperation with the professional community. Designed to emphasize DA's policy of cooperation without affiliation, the changes also emphasize DA's primary purpose, use of the Steps in the recovery process, and the importance of the Traditions.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee oversees the production of the *DA Focus* and *Ways & Means* newsletters, and the eNews, the Office's electronic newsletter. *Ways & Means* is seeking a graphic designer to handle design and layout of the online publication. (See announcement to right.)

Long Range Planning Committee

The GSB revived the GSB Long Range Planning Committee at the 2007 WSC. The Committee dis-

cussed challenges that are facing DA as a whole: Why does the number of DA groups remain flat from year to year? Why is DA increasingly fragmented into groups that focus on "special interest" topics such as underearning, visions, prosperity, spending, and time, rather than on DA's primary purpose of not debting? Why do DA members in general seem consistently uninterested in performing service at any level?

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. ■

Spanish Translators Wanted

If you are interested in translating DA literature into Spanish, please download the Spanish Translation Request for Proposal on the DA Web site's Service Page.

2007 World Service Conference asks DA to renew its commitment to DA's primary purpose

At the 2007 WSC, the Conference Committee presented a motion asking the WSC to recommit to DA's primary purpose as stated in DA's Preamble:

Our primary purpose is to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.

Graphic Designer Wanted

The GSB Communications Committee is seeking a DA member with desktop publishing skills and a willingness to be of service to design DA's fellowship newsletter, *Ways & Means*, which is published quarterly on the DA Web site. This could be a paid position.

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 committees and caucuses have undertaken since the Conference.

Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA)

The BDA Committee has been working on creating more literature for BDA meetings and members. Projects in process are: 1. BDA Step Study Guide; 2. Clarity & Business Finances; 3. BDA Recovery Stories; 4. Signposts and Solutions; and 5. BDA Newcomers Pamphlet.

Conference Committee

The 2007-08 Conference Committee subcommittees are working on several projects including improving communication with the General Service Board, creating an Underearning Caucus, improving the John Henderson Scholarship distribution process, and preparing for the 2008 WSC. The 2008 WSC Host Committee is designing the registration packet and finalizing the spending plan. After review by the GSB, the packets will be printed and mailed to all registered DA groups. The 2009 WSC Host Committee is reviewing potential meeting sites for the 2009 Conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas.

Diversity Caucus

The Diversity Caucus, newly formed in 2007, began its first year with discussions of the importance of bringing the DA message to under-served populations.

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.) The FCC is working with the Office manager on the development of a "loners" newsletter that can be emailed monthly via the GSO e-News. Another FCC project is a draft for a survey about the DA website.

Hospital, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)

The HIP Committee has liaised with an AA member who has experience working on the AA Corrections & Treatment Committee. The committee is drafting letters to social workers and other professionals.

Intergroup Caucus

Minnesota Intergroup has adopted guidelines for how they will operate and has planned a DA Day in April, 2008. Northern California Intergroup's annual Winter Lights is scheduled for February, 2008. Florida Intergroup is working on setting up a website, has established bylaws and a bank account, and has elected an ISR. The Austin Texas Intergroup has begun meeting and hopes to create a website in the near future. Chicago Intergroup had 62 attendees at their annual Fall retreat. Green Bay Wisconsin Intergroup is asking for members passing through the area to attend meetings. Contact for Green Bay DA is www.GLADA.org.

Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

The IOC reviewed a proposed flyer that would be used to solicit volunteers for the General Service

Office. The flyer will go to the GSB Office Committee for review. It is the IOC's belief that volunteers can be recruited nationally to do volunteer work via the phone and Internet, as well as local members in New England to do physical work at the office. The committee also continued its work visioning a prosperous future for the GSO. It will continue to set aside time at each monthly meeting for such visioning.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee continues to work on outlining the "Newcomers Welcome Booklet" and a DA "How It Works" book. The Daily Meditation Book subcommittee is collecting submissions until the February 1 deadline. Members are indexing submissions and reviewing five meditations per week to determine their viability for the book. They are also collecting release forms for all submissions, past and present.

Public Information Committee (PI)

The WSC PI Committee has a subcommittee working on developing templates of letters to college counseling personnel and to professionals dealing with transitioning adults—persons who are approaching or just entering retirement. Another subcommittee is working with the Media Contact Person, Kathy R., to provide support. The Committee is also working on preparing a mailing list for a letter prepared by the Board PI Committee to be sent to Consumer Credit Counselors. (See report below.) ■

Report from the Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee has been working on the actions we set for ourselves at the Conference. Beginning in September we have had conference calls each month. These meetings have been well attended and we have been able to make progress on several items. We set up subcommittees based to work on each of the items we chose at the conference and have made progress on many of them. We have a letter before the GSB that, should it be approved, will be sent out electronically (emailed) to colleges and universities across the country. We are working on establishing a presence at one or more gatherings of therapists over the next several months. We are developing flyers that will go out to DA meetings and groups to encourage them to support phone and internet meetings as a way for people who have no access to face-to-face meetings to get recovery. Hopefully this recovery will lead to the formation of meetings in areas that currently have none. Efforts are underway to set up a list of members who can be available to speak to groups of professionals, and we are looking at ways to reach out to the transitioning adult population. The Public Information Committee wishes you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Report from the Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission

The Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission has met twice and has focused on the history of regionalization in DA and in other Fellowships. Discussion centered around the differences in size and growth rate between DA at present and AA at the time that AA adopted regionalization. The Commission also discussed the current Trustee selection process and the regions that currently exist.

John H Scholarship Fund

Donations to the John Henderson Scholarship Fund for the 2008 Salt Lake City World Service will close 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 will be allocated to the 2009 Dallas World Service Conference.

AWOL Groups Statement

A DA member recently asked the General Service Board for its view of A Way of Life (AWOL) groups and whether or not it is appropriate to mention these groups during the announcements portion of a DA meeting.

The response of the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous regarding AWOL groups is that they are an outside enterprise. As stated in Tradition 3, the only requirement for DA membership is the desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. If requirements in addition to this are imposed on members of a group, that group cannot be considered to be a part of Debtors Anonymous.

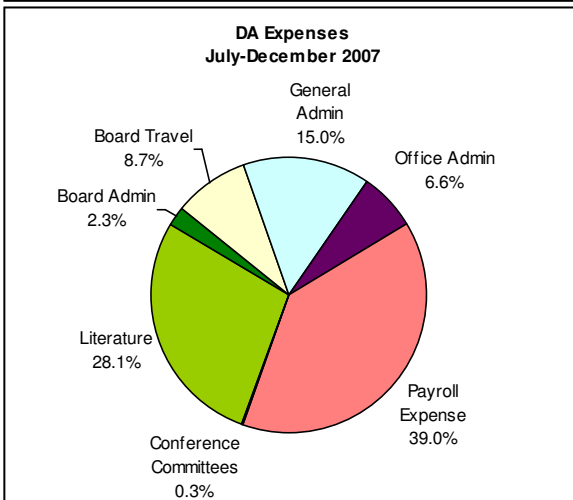
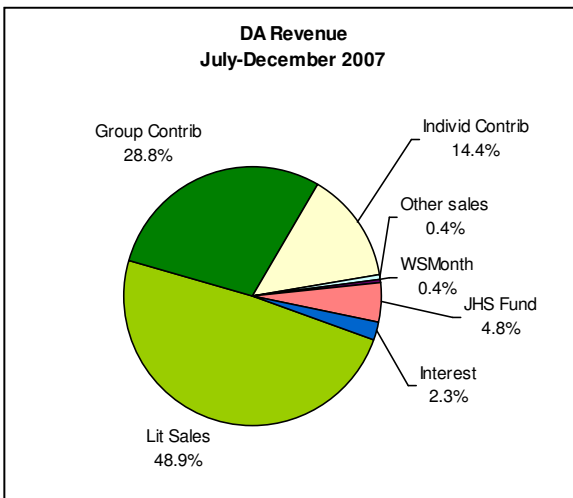
As such, AWOL groups are not affiliated with Debtors Anonymous and must be considered an outside enterprise. In keeping with Tradition 6 which tells us that a DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any outside enterprise, the General Service Board strongly cautions against making announcements at group level that pertain to any outside enterprises; AWOL or otherwise.

Treasurer's Report

Income. Group contributions were substantially higher compared to the DA year-to-date spending plan, but revenue was less than plan overall. The 12 & 12 book appeal has not yet been designed, and the net from the 2007 World Service Conference has not yet been received from the 2007 Host Committee.

Expenses. Expenses for the time period were substantially under plan, mostly due to the low amounts for Board travel and general administrative expenses. The Board travels twice per year—in the early Spring and in the Summer. By the end of DA's fiscal year, June 30, these amounts should be close to the spending plan.

Note to World Service Conference Committees: to date, the WSC committees have spent only \$183 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. ■



Debtors Anonymous Spending Plan to Actual July 1 - December 31, 2007

	PLAN 7/1/2007 to 12/31/2007	ACTUAL 7/1/2007 to 12/31/2007
REVENUE		
Literature Sales	\$ 40,750	\$ 39,163
Group Contributions	17,500	23,040
Individual Contributions	14,500	11,539
Other sales	390	331
Invitation to Prosperity	500	-
World Svc. Month Contributions	3,000	312
12 & 12 Book Appeal	5,000	-
JH Scholarship Fund	2,500	3,849
Interest Income	1,800	1,850
Misc. Income	125	50
World Service Conference	3,500	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 89,565	\$ 80,134
COST OF GOODS SOLD		
Literature	\$ 12,918	\$ 17,266
Ways & Means	750	-
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 13,668	\$ 17,266
GROSS PROFIT	\$ 75,897	\$ 62,868
EXPENSE		
Board Administration	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,413
Board Travel	13,650	5,349
ACM Admin	860	-
General Administration	14,273	9,241
Office Administration	11,060	4,083
Payroll Expense	26,562	23,992
Conference Committees	3,250	183
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 72,655	\$ 44,261
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 3,242	\$ 18,607
Less Proposed Expenses		
JH Scholarship Fund	\$ 2,500	\$ -
WSC Expense	700	1,226
Subtotal	\$ 3,200	\$ 1,226
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 42	\$ 17,381

THE DAFOCUS

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