

**The 14th Annual Debtors Anonymous  
World Service Conference**

*2000 Final Convocation Minutes*

*Madonna Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, September 16–17, 2000*

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P.O. Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492

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*Debtors Anonymous Comes of Age  
The Report of the DA-General Service Board to the Conference  
September 13 - 17, 2000*

The beginning of the new millennium has shown to be a prosperous time for DA's Fellowship. We now have 425 registered DA groups worldwide in twelve countries and six continents. We have a well equipped General Service Office that can serve the suffering debtors inside and outside these rooms with internet and email capabilities to respond to inquiries from our website "debtorsanonymous.org." After much effort, we have an accurate data base demonstrated by the third revised Group Meeting Directory of DA Groups and Intergroups Worldwide. The DA General Service Board has endeavored to better communicate with GSRs and Intergroups worldwide through our newsletter, "Board Call", published and distributed three times annually. In a few minutes you will also hear from our several Trustees about their work for you, the fellowship and the corporation that handles the legal and fiduciary responsibilities. Hollie A, Michigan, will present DA's financial picture. Bea K., Massachusetts, will present the status of our General Service Office in Needham. Robert P from Maryland, will give a brief report on decisions made from the newly formed board publications committee; and Suze G., Texas, who coordinated the mailing and processing of the degenderization ballot.

**GENERAL SERVICE BOARD (GSB):**

The GSB had six conference calls and one face-to-face meeting since the last conference. We elected two new board members from both coasts: Seattle, WA and Washington, DC. We met in Albuquerque in May to conduct our board business and support the local host committee and fellowship in planning for this world conference. The DA-GSB worked hard to develop its internal and committee structure in this period of rapid growth and prosperity including Executive, Finance, Publications, Nominations, BODA, Office, Long Range Planning, Information & Technology, and the Ways and Means. One of the most important steps we took here in Albuquerque was to develop a GSO Mission Statement:

*The Mission of the GSO is to provide timely, consistent service  
and DA information to suffering debtors, DA groups and other interested parties.  
Using the spiritual Principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, the GSO  
facilitates communication and unity within DA and meets the challenges and needs of  
a growing fellowship with professionalism and compassion.*

In addition, the GSB created an office function structure including member services, fiscal operations, database management, publications and administration and addressed the overall capacity of the office by creating new positions that better describe the functions required to provide service to our fellowship. The GSB also completed a two year process of developing a Personnel Manual for the GSO. In its final stages, it clearly describes our responsibilities in managing staff in Massachusetts and set forth guidelines and expected outcomes so employees can operate in an environment that supports prosperity, serenity and service.

### **BODA**

As you remember, 1999 was a challenging time for BODA. A second organization claimed ownership to BODA's service mark and literature, which required the board to respond through an appeal process. Although this matter is still unresolved, we are actively pursuing remedies to retain the use of BODA as the property of DA.

### **WAYS & MEANS:**

The GSB kept our financial commitment to the subscribers of the Ways and Means Newsletter, publishing two in 1999/2000. Although we have recently lost our volunteer editor, the GSB stands behind our commitment to deliver future issues paid in advance by member subscriptions.

### **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT - WISH WEEK**

Week of International Support and Hope was a priority of the GSB for the third year. Seen as an annual recognition of DA's birthday, the week of April 16 was selected to celebrate our fellowship's endeavors to carry the word and spread the message about solvency to the debtor who still suffers. In that vain, we generated \$5,600 in 2000 and look forward to our twenty fifth birthday in 2001.

### **NEW LITERATURE:**

The GSB has also been quite busy in the arena of literature review. Following a literature approval process adopted by the conference, and setting in place a mechanism to interact with the Editorial Board of the Lit.Com, we recommended that three pieces of literature be distributed for you to consider adoption by this conference: The Numbers, a New Approach, The Service Pamphlet; and Notes to Newcomers.

### **DEGENERIZATION BALLOT**

In 1994, the DA World Service Conference approved language to degenderize the Twelve Steps and Traditions of DA. It took three years to assemble a simple mailing list of groups registered with the GSO. In 1997, the first Degenderization Ballot was assembled and mailed. By the expected deadline, nearly half of the ballots were returned as addressee unknown. The ballot failed according to this vote and the fellowship, in 1998, requested that the GSB develop a new data base so that a more accurate ballot could be voted upon. In May, 2000, the data base was solidly crafted, and returns were minimal. The ballot was mailed to 408 registered groups. By August 15, only about half of the ballots were returned. The ballot failed.

### **THE GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)**

The DAGSO had a very busy year. The Office Coordinator and Bea K., Trustee Liaison, managed the following operations: \$90,930 copies of Currency of Hope Books were sold. \$900 worth of Ways and Means Subscriptions were sold. \$22,904 in group contributions were received. 1,288 phone messages were recorded. 1,434 pieces of mail came through the Needham Office. In addition, email was forwarded to the office and in the past year, more than one-quarter of a million hits were recorded on [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) and half a million since the inception of the website.

**DEBTORS ANONYMOUS GENERAL WORLD CONFERENCE  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2000**

- Call to Order           The Convocation of the Debtors Anonymous General World Conference was called to order by Chairperson Chris F. at 7:15 p.m. Saturday, September 16, 2000, at the Catholic Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting was opened with a serenity prayer by the audience after which the Chair read the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. The Chair said the agenda would be adopted with any changes that would be necessary. Chris explained that the first half of the convocation would be reports of committees on which all delegates have been working. She stated she was using a gavel which was created in honor of John Henderson.
- 12 Concepts of  
DA World Service       Jane from Maryland read the draft of the 12 Concepts for World Service, noting that in preparation of the draft some of the wording in #8 was placed out of context and the correct wording should be "The Debtors Anonymous GSB of Trustees assumes primary leadership in larger matters of overall policy, finance and oversight and delegates authority for routine management to the General Service Office." She advised that the draft was being furnished to the delegates for their review with a decision to be made on the Concepts at the Sunday meeting.
- Announcements       Chris announced that Alexandra and a subcommittee of Conference local fund raisers would be distributing a questionnaire which should be filled out by delegates and returned on Sunday morning. Bea stated there were new group registration forms available and Tracy asked that the Public Information Committee members meet in the lobby to discuss the spending plan which was left out of the report. The Chair stated the group Encore which has been taping the conference would have tapes available for purchase on Sunday and 16 T-shirts are missing and payment needs to be made for them. Joanna reported there were three pieces of literature that will be voted upon Sunday and Liz asked for addresses and phone numbers so a database can be prepared.
- Parliamentary  
Procedures           Michael Malamut, a Professional Registered Parliamentarian from Rosindale MA engaged by the DA, reviewed parliamentary procedures as they would apply to this conference to ensure fairness to all as the objective. He indicated that the services of a parliamentarian are available from both the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians by contacting their headquarters.

In response to a question about the difference between committees and caucuses, Mr. Malamut said based on the Conference Charter, all items of business are referred to committees and come to the Conference through the committee's report while caucuses differ in that while they can report on meetings and concerns they have no authority to make recommendations to the Conference body.

The Chair explained the voting process, saying all delegates should have a voting number which would be used for voting and that there are 90 General Service Representatives and Intergroup Service Representatives comprising the voting body. She advised that if delegates had to leave the room they should leave their number at the back of the room and should a large number of delegates leave, the voting body count would have to be redetermined.

Open Forum Issues  
Forwarded to  
DA-GSB

The Chair stated two resolutions are being distributed at this meeting that would be coming to the Conference floor for consideration on Sunday, one relating to the business owner DA and the other relating to diversity and sensitivity. She asked that those wishing to speak either for or against either of these resolutions to register with her before they left this meeting. Dan read a resolution from the Literature Committee relating to solvency, and said this, too, would be coming to the Conference floor on Sunday. Chris asked that those wishing to speak on this resolution to also sign up with her before the Sunday session.

Point of Order

A point of order was raised as to the agenda and when the ratification of the GSB trustees would take place. The Chair apologized for not explaining this would be postponed to the Sunday convocation.

Internal Operations  
Committee

Chip, Chairperson of the Internal Operations Committee, expressed his appreciation to Chris for all of her work and presented her with a T-shirt listing all of the cities in which World Service Conferences have been held and noted she had attended 13 of the 14. He introduced the members of his committee. He said the committee, after a study of the history of the Internal Operations committee and the General Service Office, made the following recommendations:

1. A less costly meeting directory. To explore and implement the production of a low-cost meeting directory, available on-line and via surface mail, updated quarterly by the office, taking into consideration office personnel capabilities.

2. Adding GSO news to "Board Call." That the newsletter "Board Call" be submitted to the General Service Office for compilation with GSO news and information from World Service Conference Committees and any other service related news for the Fellowship.
3. Office Procedure Manual. The continued development of an Office Procedure Manual, including the idea of reaching those in outlying areas and other individuals who may have difficulty accessing DA. Methods could include newsletters, chat rooms, on-line meetings, penpals, telephone calls from members, e-mail and surface mail.
4. Internet Capabilities. The GSB evaluate the Internet capabilities of the GSO with an emphasis on an adequate ISP (Internet Service Provider) for the Fellowship. Issues to be evaluated may include purchasing our own server and hiring a webmaster.
5. Timing of Final Conference Report. That the Host Committee forward the reports of the WSC to the GSO in an approved format within 30 days of the close of our convocation each year, and the completed Final Report be immediately mailed to the Delegates (GSR's) and Intergroup Service Representatives.
6. Notification of GSB Access Times to Committee Chairs. That committee chairpersons of the WSC be notified two weeks prior to upcoming GSB conference calls or face-to-face meetings in order to submit reports and/or concerns regarding their committee's work. Subsequent to the GSB conference call or face-to-face meeting the GSB liaison notify the committee chairs of issues discussed or responses to their areas of DA work.
7. Lending Library of Office Video. That a lending library of the "GSO Videotape" be created with a minimum of 12 videos available for use by DA groups with suitable deposit subject to safe return.
8. Archives. The establishment of a committee called the Office Archive Committee whose functions would include organizing and safeguarding the history of DA. Composition of the committee would include a member of the Internal Operations Committee and would meet in joint session with the Public Information Archive Subcommittee at the next conference.
9. Office Representation at Conference. That a change to the Conference Charter be made to provide for GSO staff representation at the World

Service Conference.

10. Office Telephone Cost. That the cost of the toll and long distance telephone service incurred by the GSO be reviewed in light of outstanding competitive rates from telephone carriers for business lines and phone lines for nonprofits.

11. Editorial Process of Ways and Means. That the editor of the Ways and Means newsletter be fully informed of the editorial process of the GSB in writing.

12. Membership of Office Advisory Committee. That the composition of the Office Advisory/Pressure Relief Committee be changed to include the following: Class A Trustee; Class B Trustee; New England Intergroup Liaison; a rotating at-large DA member; and three members elected by the committee. This will change the size of the committee from five to seven members plus the office staff.

Question was raised on #9 relating to office representation to the World Service Conference and Chip explained that the committee was not seeking a change in the job description for the office coordinator but to extend an invitation because the first point of contact for DA members, the media and the public in general is the office staff and members should know who they are.

Break

The meeting was recessed at 8:18 p.m. for a break and was reconvened at 8:30 p.m. by the Chair who then announced a 30-second serenity moment.

Credentials Report

The Chair asked for a count of the voting delegates and was advised there were 88 voting members present.

Motion to Receive Internal Operations Committee Report

**Motion was made by Dave and seconded by Judy to receive the report the Internal Operations Committee. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.**

Resource Development Committee Report

The report of the Resource Development Committee was preceded by a song by the members of the committee. Liz acknowledged the members of her committee and stated a numbers of motions were being recommended. Motions were made by Liz for the RDC as follows:

**1. That the Conference adopt the income goal of \$250,000 for the 25th anniversary year to realize their vision as a whole. Duncan, a**



committee member, said this was a gross revenue objective and specific ways of reaching the goal need to be defined and a proposal should be prepared for the World Service Conference and the DA Fellowship Convention. It was proposed that in interest of local group stability that the General Service Board develop a communication suggesting that the group treasurer stay in that position for a minimum term of six months to a year. Following discussion, the vote was taken and all voted aye, except one delegate voted nay, and the motion carried.

**2. That the General Service Board adopt the concept of materials and themes to encourage regular group and individual contributions so that we may achieve the goal of becoming self-supporting through our own contributions.** All voted aye on the motion and it carried unanimously.

**3. That the DA World Conference approve the concept of recovery products to help DA members affirm and enhance their recovery. Suggested items were a meeting timer and recovery chips celebrating the debtor's recovery with silver colored metal coins for one year and colored plastic chips for less than a year.** Following discussion of the necessity of having products such as proposed, a counted vote was taken on the motion with 47 in favor and 35 against, and the motion carried.

The Chair called for a one minute serenity moment. She then asked if the delegation would be agreeable to extending the time of the meeting by 15 minutes to allow sufficient time for the Public Information Committee to report. There was general consent to this request.

James asked for an opportunity to have one person from the minority on the previous motion speak. The Chair stated both sides had been heard on the motion before the vote was taken. In response to a point of information as to whether the Concepts don't allow the minority to be heard, Chris said that is correct and there were comments by those opposing the motion. The parliamentarian responded to the question by stating that if someone who voted on the prevailing side wished to reconsider the motion, they could do so. **Motion was made and seconded to reconsider the motion.** Vote was taken on the reconsider motion and there being less in the affirmative than in the negative, the motion failed.

The Chair announced that the time for the RDC Committee's report had expired and she would work with the committee to schedule a time on the Sunday agenda to complete their report.

A 30-second serenity moment was observed.

Public Information  
Committee Report

Michael from Richmond VA, chairperson of the Public Information Committee, presented the committee's report, first introducing the members of the committee. He said issues brought up at the open forum were assigned to subcommittees, which in turn made recommendations to the full committee. **On behalf of the committee, Michael moved that the Conference accept the public information manual as presented in the green notebook with the addition of two letters, to professionals and institutions and a new public information letter for the media and other interested queries.** Responding to comments that there hadn't been time to read the manual, Michael said delegates at last year's conference had been given the manual and it was also mailed with the minutes. Carla questioned whether the public information letter could be changed and still have the packet accepted because there was an error in the letter. The parliamentarian stated the packet is a part of the whole program but could be amended if the committee did not object. Request was made to strike out the word "tools" in the letter. Following discussion, the vote was taken on the motion to accept the public information manual. All voted aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other recommendations of the Public Information Committee were as follows: to continue working with the Literature Committee in formulating what they need from the PI Committee; presenting a remodeled Web site version 1.2 with continuation for need of technical help and creating a Public Information page with a request for additional funds to finish the mandated Web site; Vision Plan to develop version 2.0 for 2001; create a Public Information package for mental health care professionals and incarcerated debtors; recommend to the GSB switching the current long distance carrier to Univance - MCI Worldcom; and recommending Intergroups and local groups get a local or 800 number with voice mail and to list the numbers in directories and local newspapers.

Question was raised as to whether there would be any public information service meetings and Michael said there had been discussion but no decision because of legal considerations. Bob asked if there would be a problem with informing people there is help for business owners who are in debt. The Chair said this was a good suggestion and would be included in the report. Deborah said she would support the use of an 800 number as it took her over 30 days to get information about DA.

**Motion was made by Jane and seconded by Chip to receive the report of the Public Information Committee.** All voted aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

The Chair announced the 7th Tradition baskets were going around the room. Mike said a video of work done on the Web site is available for viewing if there was sufficient time. Chris said she would see if there was time on Sunday's agenda for showing this video. The meeting was closed with a serenity prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Call to Order

The Convocation of the Debtors Anonymous General World Conference was called to order by Chairperson Chris F. at 8:30 a.m. Sunday, September 17, 2000, at the Catholic Center, Albuquerque NM. The meeting was opened with a serenity prayer by the audience after which the Chair read the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. She announced the addition of three items to the agenda as follows: two reports from the caucuses after the report of the Conference Committee and the transfer of the gavel to Baltimore. The agenda was adopted as amended.

Credentials Report

The Chair announced there were 82 voting delegates present.

Diversity Resolution

The following resolution was presented by the DA-GSB as a result of comments at the open forum: **While embracing our common welfare, the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous encourages diversity, differing views and sensitivity to different needs. Our Conference will always try to act in the spirit of love and respect.** Discussion was held on the resolution and Skip moved to **amend the resolution by striking out the word "the" before the word "spirit" and insert the word "a."** The motion was seconded and all voted in favor of the amendment and it carried unanimously. The vote on the resolution as amended was all voting in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Business Owner  
Debtor Resolution

The resolution was presented as follows: **The Conference declares that there is an urgent need to provide the still suffering business owner debtor with literature and tools appropriate to the issues they face.** Following discussion, vote was called on the resolution and all voted in favor, and the motion carried unanimously.

Resource Develop-  
ment Committee  
Report

The Resource Development Committee continued its report, a portion of which had been presented at the Saturday meeting. Committee chairperson Liz stressed the need to stimulate prosperity and the committee's goal was to keep the lines of communication open to all members. One

recommendation made by the RDC was that the Conference adopt the concept of a 7th Tradition tent card and letter to be sent, free of charge, to all registered meetings to encourage participation in the 7th Tradition and "Thrive with Five" campaign. Another recommendation by the RDC was that the Conference approve the concept of a campaign called "Adopt-a-Region" which would be used to carry the message to the isolated debtor. Lorinda explained the willingness of the committee to earn the spending plan of \$250,000 for DA World Fellowship for the year 2001. **Motion was made by Jim and seconded by June to receive the report of the Resource Development Committee.** All vote aye, and the motion carried unanimously.

Fellowship  
Communications  
Committee Report

Kathy of New Jersey, chairperson of the Fellowship Communications Committee, introduced the members of her committee. Committee discussions included purpose revision, communication issues, Ways and Means newsletter, outreach, DA Database and regionalization issues. The revised statement of purpose is as follows: "The Fellowship Communication Committee facilitates communication between the General Service Conference, General Service Board and the DA membership as a whole. We strive to incorporate the most comprehensive and appropriate means to accomplish our mission. We recognize and welcome the worldwide nature of our fellowship and look to use all appropriate technologies to achieve comprehensive internal information flow. We ensure the continued integrity of the DA Database and facilitate publication of the Ways and Means."

To achieve the outreach effort of providing support to those newcomers to DA who do not have quick access to meetings, the Fellowship Communications Committee made the following motion: **to aid in this effort the Fellowship Communications Committee requests that DA develop an outreach program entitled Rooms Without Walls to support the solitary debtor in recovery.** In response to a question as to how this would be accomplished, Chris said the board would develop a concept that would come to the members for feedback and approval. All voted aye on the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

On the topic of regionalization, the committee chairperson indicated the committee discussed this issue but learned that the Conference Committee has done extensive work on this issue and, therefore, discontinued its discussion and requested Liz to be a liaison for anyone wishing input from the Fellowship Committee on the issue.

A 15-second serenity moment was observed.

Kathy introduced Sandy C., who has accepted the position of editor of the Ways and Means newsletter for the next four issues. A survey was taken at this conference to gather information on members' concerns and desires regarding the newsletter. Sandy said an electronic version of the newsletter is being considered. She noted that subscriptions are down from last year and an effort will be made to increase readership.

The Fellowship Committee made the following motion: **that DA send a complimentary copy of the Ways and Means to all registered meetings.** In response to a question about the cost involved, she said it would be \$411 with \$141 for postage and \$270 for printing the newsletter. Chris said a subscription form is in each newsletter. Duncan suggested that a letter encouraging members to subscribe be included with the complimentary copy, adding this would add about \$36 to the mailing cost. Vote was called on the motion and all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen from New York City said the committee will be proceeding on upgrading the database including changing it from Excel to Access which would support greater ease and accuracy of data entry as well as stronger query and reporting functions. She said an action plan for the conversion spending plan has been developed which includes \$300 for transportation and communication. She said she would be doing the actual analysis. In addition, Kathleen said the committee recommends that a database procedures manual be developed by the Database Subcommittee in consultation with the GSB liaison. The manual would be submitted for Board approval by April 2002. Deborah asked if there was any estimate of the cost of staff training and Kathleen said that was not included in the spending plan.

**Motion was made by Carla and seconded by Ginni to accept the report of the Fellowship Communications Committee.** All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Conference  
Committee

Conference Committee Chairperson Joseph introduced the members of his committee. He said a survey had been taken at the close of last year's conference to determine members' preference for dates of the conference with the result being first, September; second, October; and third, August. He said this is really what is now being done.

The committee addressed five issues from last year's conference plus 15 items referred to it including Charter Article 3 review; Host Committee

regionalization; scholarship fund for GSR's; collecting and disseminating ideas from local GSR's fundraising; ideas to send GSR's to World Service Conference; a questionnaire for developing new ideas to be circulated at this conference; the possibility of the Internet Caucus becoming a committee; language for Fellowship DO DA Day; and asking if abstention equals a no vote presented to the parliamentarian. The development of a Spirituality Committee was referred for consideration and it was agreed that all committees are spiritual in nature and that spirituality is the foundation of all of our work; therefore, the Conference Committee endorses each committee at the conference operating with emphasis on spirituality and recommends that the Board incorporate language of that nature in the description of the committees and the DA Service Manual for GSR's and ISR's.

The Conference Committee also discussed matters relating to voting at the conference and recommended that the parliamentarian be available earlier during the conference and by phone, e-mail and fax to respond to questions and concerns of this meeting. The Conference Handbook Subcommittee was developed to work on revising and updating the Conference Handbook to include new sections on logistics, host committee bidding process, newcomer orientation and an experienced strength and hope section for comments by prior committee chairs. The purpose of this subcommittee is to develop and maintain the Host Committee handbook as an evolving document to support and facilitate future conference planning. This subcommittee was made a permanent standing committee of the Conference Committee.

The Regionalization Subcommittee researched the issue of establishing regions for DA by contacting the Fellowship Committee and the GSB. It was discovered that the regions have been established for DA based on established AA levels and are listed in the current bylaws. The Conference Committee supports continued work on regionalization and will continue to examine how regions are currently established and whether a different configuration would be more effective in strengthening DA.

Joseph stated the committee has worked on the 12 Concepts for the past several years and a final draft was presented to the GSB for approval during the 1999 World Service Conference. After a year's work, the final revision is now before the assembly for consideration. On behalf of the committee, **motion was made to accept the 12 Concepts for DA World Service.** Chris advised that copies of the 12 Concepts had been distributed to the conference body on Saturday night. In response to a

question as to whether this was going to be enforceable or a separate addition to the Charter, Chris said the 12 Concepts if adopted would be another official document of the Fellowship and would give guidance to the Board in handling business of the Board and Fellowship. They would be distributed to all groups and included in DA literature. Joseph noted that the 12 Concepts were drawn on the concepts of AA.

A point of order was raised as to whether the concepts would be a part of the charter. The parliamentarian responded that the 12 Concepts are statements of principles that are intended to guide the Fellowship in its relationship with the Board. They would aid in interpreting the charter and would be a separate document from the charter.

**Motion was made by River and seconded to amend Concept 7 to strike out the wording “and the Charter” so the last sentence would read “The Concepts are not legal instruments.”** The parliamentarian advised that the charter by law is considered a contract by which every GSR agrees to abide, which makes it a legal instrument. Vote was called on the amendment to the motion and all voted aye, and the amendment carried unanimously. All voted aye on the original motion, as amended, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was made by Joseph on behalf of the Conference Committee that a Scholarship Fund be established to assist in sending GSR’s representing less abundant groups to the World Service Conference. This would be accomplished by adding a box to the registration form offering the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution of \$20 or any other amount. A motion was made to amend the motion to strike out the word “registration” and insert “contribution acknowledgement” in its place.** The motion died for lack of a second. Joseph said the wording would be on the registration form for next year’s conference but any Scholarship Funds would not be available until the 2002 Conference. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was made by Joseph on behalf of the Conference Committee that the 2001 World Service Conference be held in Baltimore, the 2002 Conference in New York City and the 2003 Conference in Pittsburgh.** All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

**Motion was made by Gary and seconded by Jane to receive the report of the Conference Committee.** All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Chris said the committee report would be forwarded to the GSB to make amendments to the Charter which would then come back to

to the next World Service Conference. She added if there was time on the agenda after presentation of the reports already scheduled the motion concerning amendment of the Conference Charter would be considered.

A 30-second serenity moment was observed.

BODA Caucus  
Report

Chairperson Tanna reported for the BODA Caucus, stating the Business Owners Debtors Anonymous pamphlet is ready to be presented to the Conference pending resolution of the copyright and BODA service mark issues. Mike F. was nominated to the GSB by the BODA Caucus at the 1999 World Service Conference and was elected to the Board.

The Caucus responded to issues raised at the 2000 Conference Open Forum as follows:

1. Should DA/BODA adopt AA or SLAA sponsor guidelines for sponsor/sponsee relationships - refer to existing DA literature on sponsorship.
2. Should BODA as a group exclude any business owner who still suffers whether or not that business owner has employees - no.
3. Should DA/BODA as a group require that the treasurer of a group have had at least two pressure relief groups - suggested the requirements for BODA group treasurer be a minimum of three months solvency and one pressure relief group.
4. How to better spread the message to BODA - continue the brainstorming process between conferences and a BODA e-mail network will be developed; BODA issues referred by the GSO will be addressed and BODA related articles will be submitted to Ways and Means.
5. Guidelines in BODA for GSR's who debt in their business - the Caucus felt the question or issue was not clear.

In regard to the BODA Service Mark activities, the Caucus requested the BODA meetings send a letter supporting the GSB in its efforts to contest the Service Mark application to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It was also requested the regular DA meetings send a similar letter of support to the Trademark Office. Samples of both letters are available. Request was made that the Conference reaffirm the unity Resolution from the 1997 Conference that "Business Owners Debtors Anonymous is a viable part of DA and as such, all BODA members have access to all meetings, services, privileges and the right to vote at every DA World



Conference and Convocation” and to request that the GSB send a copy of the Unity Resolution to the Trademark Office.

#### Internet Caucus

Kathleen, Chairperson of the Internet Caucus, reported there were 18 members and two board members who participated in discussions of a variety of issues. The Caucus adopted a draft mission statement to be reviewed by the Caucus and approved in final format later this year. Issues prioritized by the Caucus were as follows:

1. Professional Web site management - to research contracting a Web site maintenance vendor to provide professional services to maintain and update the DA Web site.
2. Internal Communication issues - develop suggestions for the GSB and other DA service bodies about using the internet more efficiently for communication.
3. Official DA Web site - Advise the Public Information Website Subcommittee on issues related to design and maintenance of the current Web site as well as long term planning for the site including security issues.
4. New Internet Service Provider for DA - do research on contracting a new ISP including definition of DA requirements, server reliability and security; to obtain three quotations from different vendors.
5. Guidelines for forming online DA groups - in cooperation with the Literature Committee develop guidelines for new online DA groups similar to the “Meeting Format” which exists for face-to-face groups.
6. Online distribution of publications - suggest best ways to utilize the internet for the publication of literature.
7. Long range planning - develop long range strategy for internet use by DA.
8. Fellowship Communication - develop guidelines to define appropriate contact information to be distributed on the DA web site.
9. Membership participation - develop ways to get input from members on internet related issues and develop a procedure to recruit technical expertise within the membership.

Subcommittees were formed to develop a spending plan to carry out and

develop the Caucus' recommendations in 2001, most of which will be related to support of the official Website. The spending plan was submitted to the Public Information Committee's Website Subcommittee for their review and inclusion in that committee's spending plan for 2001. The Caucus developed a plan for regular communication with members to receive updates by e-mail every other month and the subcommittees to communicate by e-mail on their progress. Conference calls will be scheduled to discuss subcommittee results in preparation for presentation at the next conference.

Break

Chris announced a 10-minute break. **Motion was made by Julie and seconded to not take a break.** Vote was taken on the motion and there being more in the negative than in the affirmative the motion failed. A 10-minute break was taken after which the meeting was reconvened by the Chair at 10:20 a.m. Christ announced that because there are no dues or fees baskets were being passed around for contributions to cover expenses.

Intergroup Caucus

Recommendations of the Intergroup Caucus to the GSB were reviewed by Chip, Chairperson of the Intergroup Caucus. Two recommendations were made by the Intergroup Caucus as follows:

1. That Debtors Anonymous through its General Service Board and its Intergroups inform the fellowship of our 7th Tradition and our growing need to carry the message of recovery wherever it may be needed. We further recommend that literature be produced and frequent and consistent efforts be made through our newsletters, individuals, GSR's and ISR's, Website, board and members, DA events and individual members to accomplish this goal of increasing the 7th Tradition.
2. That regions and areas within these regions be established in order to improve communication and service within the Fellowship of DA. We suggest that areas and regions be created even where there are no established groups. We look at this as being similar to creating a category and spending plan and allowing the universe to fill it. We further support any communication work to explore the creation of these regions, seeking from this and other fellowships in order to best accomplish this goal.

Plaque Presented to Host Committee

A plaque was presented to Phoenix, Chairperson of the Albuquerque Host Committee. The gavel was then passed to the Baltimore Host Committee.

A serenity moment was observed.

Literature Committee  
Report

Dan, Chairperson of the Literature Committee, reviewed the process that is followed in having literature prepared for approval and presentation to the World Service Conference. He introduced members of the committee and said there was much debate on the resolution now being presented to the Conference. Dan moved adoption of the following resolution: **The process of solvency begins the day we abstain from incurring new unsecured debt one day at a time.** Lorinda asked how this would affect DA literature and Dan said it would fit. Discussion was held on the wording of the resolution particularly with the words "solvency" and "abstain." It was noted by Gary that this is a statement and not a definition. **Motion was made by Gary and seconded to amend the resolution by striking out the wording "the process of" before the word "solvency."** Vote was taken on the amendment and there not being a majority in the affirmative, the motion failed. Vote was taken on the original motion to adopt the resolution and all voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A 30-second serenity moment was observed.

The Literature Chairperson reviewed the issues which had been referred to the committee as follows:

1. Parliamentary Procedure Brochure - referred to the Revisions Subcommittee for a possible revision of the Business Meetings pamphlet.
2. College Student Debt - a new subcommittee for College Student Debt was formed.
3. Pamphlet on self-debting and time debting - the issue of self-deprivation is addressed in the Underearning pamphlet currently with the Board. A new subcommittee, Other Issues, was formed to address the other issues raised.
4. Samples of Meeting Formats - deferred to the Public Information Committee.
5. Please insert God more into the literature - a subcommittee, Spirituality, was formed and the Revisions Committee was asked to look at this request as literature comes for revision.
6. Creation of a blueprint for progress for DA - covered in the Sponsorship guide already with the GSB; there is already a subcommittee working on a "Blueprint for Prosperity."

7. Create a sample letter for the pamphlet Communicating with Creditors and a sample creditor phone log - the Revisions Committee is already working on a revision of the Communicating with Creditors pamphlet to readdress the issue of debt moratoriums.
8. Create literature for incarcerated inmates in correctional institutions - The Literature Committee endorsed the request and formed a Hospital & Institutions Subcommittee. It was noted, however, that the Committee does not have the expertise to address these issues and would look for help outside the committee.
9. Create a daily meditation book - there is already a subcommittee for this idea; a new daily meditation book regarding recovery from debting has recently been published.
10. Create more BODA literature - a subcommittee is already working on BODA literature and when the trademark issue is resolved, the Business Owners pamphlet currently with the GSB could be sent to the conference floor.
11. Create literature dealing with couples in DA - a Relationships Subcommittee has been formed to work on relationship issues.
12. Create a pamphlet on hoarding issues - the Meetings pamphlet should cover this issue.
13. Create a pamphlet on "Showing Up" - referred to the Revisions Subcommittee that is already working on a revision of the Tools of DA; also could already have been addressed by the tool "Meetings."
14. Create a DA 12 & 12 - there already is a 12 & 12 Committee that has completed a first draft of the 12 Steps and a special meeting on the Traditions was held to gather insights on the 12 Traditions.
15. Address the issue of pauperism - referred to the Saving & Creating Wealth Subcommittee.
16. Prepare a new degenderization ballot that uses new language that only degenderizes and makes no content changes - the Revisions Subcommittee is working on language for a new degenderization ballot.

Subcommittees selected as priorities this year were Revisions, BODA, 12 & 12 and Spirituality while subcommittees remaining as active status

are the Newcomer's Packet, Savings & Creating Wealth, Relationships, College Student Debt and Other Issues. Postponed subcommittees to next year's Conference due to lack of staffing were Daily Meditations, Hospitals & Institutions, Blueprint for Prosperity and How DA Works.

Dan said two pieces of literature were approved by the General Service Board and sent to the conference floor this year for approval. He said the Notes to Newcomers is up for its second and final vote this year. If it is not approved this year, the piece is considered defunct and must start over again in the Literature Committee creation process. **Motion was made by Dan on behalf of the Literature Committee that the Conference approve the Notes to Newcomers flyer.** Discussion was held on the proposed piece of literature and Liz of Austin **moved to amend the ninth paragraph to strike out the wording "a man and a woman."** The Chair ruled this motion out of order as amendments are not allowed to literature that is on the floor. She noted that members have had an opportunity to convey their concerns to the Literature Committee and if that was done and wording was not changed, that was the decision of the Committee. Joanna, a member of the committee, said in wording this paragraph the committee had not felt the time line had to be 30 to 45 days but that was suggested as being preferable and the same applied to the wording "a man and a woman." The Chair said if that was the intent this could be an editorial change effected by the Board through the Publications Committee. Vote was called on the motion with all voting aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A 20-second serenity moment was observed.

Dan reported The Numbers: One Approach and the Service pamphlets are up for their first votes. If they are not approved, they would be sent to the Literature Committee Editorial Board with GSR comments and would then be voted on by the 2001 Conference for a second and final vote at next year's convocation. **On behalf of the Literature Committee, Dan moved approval of the Service pamphlet.** Following discussion, all voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. **Motion was made by Dan on behalf of the Literature Committee to approve The Numbers: One Approach.** Following discussion, vote was called on the motion with all voting aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Herb of Los Angeles asked if the Revision Committee in reviewing the 12 Steps would be doing anything to degenderize them and if that would adversely affect the steps. Dan responded that this is not something with which the Literature Committee would deal. Chris reminded the delegates

of resolutions previously adopted that deal with the tools of DA such as 12 Steps toward recovery and groups are not to change the steps. She asked the Literature Committee if going forward with three pamphlets would be a strain on printing to which Robert said there is money in the Literature reserve which can be used because it is desired to have these pamphlets for sale as soon as possible.

**Motion was made by Chris and seconded by Alexandra to receive the Literature Committee report.** All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of  
New Trustees

The Chair introduced the three new trustees who were elected to the General Service Board, Carolyn, Michael and Carla. Each of the newly-elected trustees gave a history of their background and interest in serving on the board. **Motion was made by Janet and seconded by Joanna to ratify the election of the three trustees.** All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. The trustees were installed by the Chair, and each pledged their service to the board. Chris also installed the new officers of the board, River as Chairperson; Robert as Vice Chairperson; James as Secretary and Michael as Treasurer. The gavel was passed by Chris to River who then expressed the appreciation of the Fellowship to Chris for her two-year service to the board as Chairperson.

A 15-second serenity moment was observed.

Conference  
Committee Motion

River said the Conference Committee has a motion to bring to the floor. David of Los Angeles said the proposed motion deals with an issue previously discussed. The Conference Committee wants delegates to have their groups look at the wording of Article 3 in the handbook of the Conference Charter Page 1. The proposed motion would be to amend the last sentence of Article 3 of the Conference Charter of Debtors Anonymous to read: "No change in Article Ten (10) of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous or in the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous may be made with less than the written consent of three quarters (3/4) of the *responding* Debtors Anonymous groups provided that 2/3 of the registered groups respond."

The parliamentarian said Article 9 of the Charter requires that the text of any amendment should be sent to all registered groups 30 days prior to the Conference. He said according to the rules of procedure any recognized group can propose an amendment which should be received in the General Service Office in time to mail with the conference packets. The Conference Committee should review

the amendment and make recommendations. River said the proposal is an advisory action and the motion would have due process. She said the motion would go out to the group GSR's and will come back with group conscience. The parliamentarian said the reason this amendment was being proposed was because there had been an attempt to change some of the 12 Steps and, therefore, the whole process to get to the 12 Steps.

**Motion was made by Janine and seconded by Tanna to receive the report of the Conference Committee. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.**

Closing Remarks

River expressed appreciation to Phoenix and the Host Committee, the recording secretary Evelynne Thompson, the parliamentarian Michael Malamut and Polly the former treasurer. Chris displayed the gift she had received from the Fellowship which was a set of artist's brushes.

A serenity prayer was recited and a moment of silence observed.

Adjourn Meeting

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:14 p.m.

Evelynne Thompson  
Recording Secretary