

General Service Board Issues and Concerns Report | September 2006

Section 1 | GSB 2005 Issues and Concerns, Assignments, and Outcomes

The items on this list came from two sources: *Written on the Meeting Concern sheets* that were filled out by groups and individuals and either mailed to the GSO or hand-carried by the group's GSR to the 2005 WSC; or *spoken during the Open Forum* at the 2005 Conference.

The GSB made every effort to capture each item exactly as it was presented (both verbal and written) and then assigned the items to the appropriate DA entity or entities. This report addresses only the items that were assigned to the General Service Board (Items 29-73). The original list of action items in its entirety, plus the committees to which they were assigned, can be found in the Fall 2005 issue of the DA Focus.

2005 Items	2005 Assignment/Options	2005 Outcome
29. Rethink the DA Service Structure so more groups can send delegates. Too few groups send delegates, and therefore the WSC vote doesn't represent the opinion of DA groups worldwide.	Create a policy committee. Refer to Conference Committee. Solicit ideas via DA Focus.	Ad hoc GSB committee created April 2006 to help with WSC issues.
30. New GSRs need more information about what happens at the Conference, e.g., what is "Open Forum," what is "WSB," what is the difference between a committee and a caucus.	Refer to Conference Committee. Article in DA Focus/W&M.	Ad hoc GSB committee created April 2006 to help with WSC issues. Better planning for GSR Orientation at WSC.
31. Remove "abstinence" from literature, replace with "not incurring any new unsecured debt."	LitPub	See Summer 2006 DA Focus.
32. Take a pass/fail vote on the issue of changing the gender in the Steps and Traditions to determine level of support for the issue.	Include a question in 2006 Info Survey. Article in W&M.	Discussed. No consensus.
33. Amend the Charter to include a safeguard against a small group of responders changing the wording of the steps, traditions, and charter by including a figure indicating at least a minimum of responses are needed.	Moratorium in effect until 2007.	Honoring moratorium.
34. Retain long time members.	F2F: Discuss results of longtimers survey: are there any action items we could implement? Long Range Planning Committee.	Part of 2003 5-Year Plan for Attraction, Resources, and Growth.
35. DA chips should emphasize abstinence and solvency.	DA Focus: create a landing page with links to past articles, including the one about DA chips.	Article in DA Focus.
36. Encourage groups to update their group information yearly.	Office Committee/Internal Ops.	DA Focus article.
37. Place a moratorium on motions that don't pass at the World conference. As it is now the actions of a few monopolize the energy and good will of many.	Done. Mention in DA Focus/W&M (?)	Recommendation by WSC CC at 2005 WSC.
38. GSO staff should not have private matters like salary, personal email addresses, or personnel actions open to review by a conference committee and (by inference) at the conference as a whole.	Office Committee.	Recommendation accepted.
39. Reestablish the Internal Operations Committee as a board committee rather than a Conference Committee.	Office Committee.	Done.
40. Develop DA coins. Currently we use AA coins!!	See item 35.	See item 35.
41. Have the GSB report the status of the database and a plan to improve communications.	Office Committee/InfoTech	Searchable meeting list has been created; coming soon to web site.
42. Update group information every year.	See item 36.	DA Focus article.

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43. Focus on unity of purpose: recovery from unsecured debt.	Focus on primary purpose. Discuss at F2F: ask fellowship/GSRs to offer opinions and direction about DA's primary purpose.	Recommendation accepted. See Conference Reports 2006.
44. Report on the status of the database and a plan for improved communications.	See item 41.	Same as 41.
45. Focus on attraction of newcomers and retention of oldtimers. Leave the Charter for later.	See item 34.	See item 34.
46. The Internal Operations committee should be a GSB committee not a Conference committee.	See item 39.	Duplicate item.
47. Can we develop a special DA anniversary coin?	See item 35.	See item 35.
48. DA charter amendment should only be allowed every 5 years.	See item 33.	See item 33.
49. Remove the word "abstinence" from DA literature and reinstate the use of traditional language in the DA Preamble.	See item 31.	See item 31..
50. Should groups use Robert's Rules for business meetings?	DA Focus article about conducting business meetings.	Writer needed.
51. Focus on singleness of purpose as shown in our "grandfather" program, AA. Do not use other programs like CODA and SLAA as precedents.	Focus on primary purpose. See item 43.	See item 43.
52. Are we underearning? If so how do we stop?	Finance	See financial report.
53. Translate the web site into Spanish.	Lit Pub/InfoTech	Preamble, Steps, and Traditions in Spanish are now on web site. More to follow.
54. How can the Board of Trustees be leaders of DA? Doesn't that violate traditions?	DA Focus article about Concept 2 revision.	Concept 2 revised at 2005 WSC.
55. What happened to the longtimer's survey?	See item 34.	DA Focus article in progress.
56. Make the DA Focus article available on the web site.	InfoTech	DA Focus archives in progress.
57. Allow donations on-line through the DA web site via Pay Pal.	InfoTech	Web redesign initiated.
58. Put a flashing message on the web site "keep coming back."	InfoTech	Web redesign initiated.
59. Do a more accurate job tracking the existing and defunct groups.	Office Committee/InfoTech	Online meeting list in process.
60. The current funding of WSC committees via the "per capita" process is not supportive of committee work. Fund the committees based on...record keeping, and adjust for future realistic needs. It is not a good use of committee time lobbying other committees for funds.	Finance Committee	In progress.
61. Why aren't Jerrold Mundis's books Conference-approved literature?	DA Focus reminder about free service literature on Using Conference-approved literature. Tradition 6.	See Summer 2006 DA Focus.
62. Increase revenue of literature by improving graphics quality and creating user-friendly literature ordering form for the individual DA member.	Lit Pub/Office Committee	Discussed and tabled.
63. The cost of pamphlets hinders DA as a whole. The cost of postage is high.	Finance/Lit Pub	See spending plan and financial reports.

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64. Literature on substantial unanimity. What is it and how do we use it?	DA Focus article on using AA Service Manual/Concepts	Needs a writer.
65. Encourage DAs to be honest about abstinence and to keep coming back if they slip.	Personal recovery issue: Outside scope of GSB	No action taken.
66. Distribute the WSC minutes ASAP after the WSC so GSRs can announce it at their meetings, and keep it "fresh" in everyone's minds.	Office Committee	Recommendation accepted.
67. Put the list of meetings on the website.	InfoTech	In progress
68. Change DA name to "Money Addicts Anonymous."	Outside issue	No action needed.
69. Increase group awareness of DA's actual financial condition.	DA Focus/Finance Committee	DA Focus quarterly financial reports.
70. Why did A Currency of Hope go out of print?	DA Focus/Lit Pub	See article in Summer 2006 DA Focus. See also literature order form.
71. Revise Tool 11: "Our DA literature is our portable program. It aids us in understanding our Steps, Traditions, and Tools. We also study the literature of Alcoholics Anonymous to strengthen our understanding of compulsive disease. We can identify with many of the situations described therein by substituting the words "compulsive debt" for "alcohol."	Lit Pub	See article in Summer 2006 DA Focus.
72. Distribute the WSC minutes ASAP after the WSC so GSRs can announce it at their meetings, and keep it "fresh" in everyone's minds.	See item 66.	See item 66.
73. Keep DA separate from other 12-Step programs, and let go of outside issues, such as family of origin work.	Focus on primary purpose. See item 43.	See item 43.