

**The 2008 Annual Debtors Anonymous  
World Service Conference  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

2008 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports,  
Committee Reports, Caucus Reports, and 2008 Issues and Concerns List

Red Lion Hotel  
Salt Lake City, Utah (USA)  
August 13 - 17, 2008

**Anonymity**

This report is provided to the delegates who attended the 2008 World Service Conference, and contains complete contact information for all participants. The information in this report should be kept confidential to protect anonymity.

**WSC Report Availability**

A version of this report without full names and contact information will be made available to the Fellowship and other interested parties on the Debtors Anonymous Website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

**Accuracy**

Every effort has been made to publish an accurate and error-free version of the Conference proceedings. Please notify the General Service Office of any errors before the 2009 Conference.

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\*Note: Rosters and contact information are not available in this Web version

## Chronological Summary of 2008 WSC Motions

1. **Motion:** To accept the 2007 minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
2. **IOC MOTION:** The Internal Operations Committee moves that the General Service Board research the pros, cons, and options for Web-based commerce to enhance DA prosperity, and member and group services. **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**
3. **HIP MOTION:** The HIP Committee moves that the mission statement of the HIP committee be changed to read as follows: ‘the HIP (*committee*) is composed of GSRs and ISRs who would like to focus service efforts on carrying the message of DA to still-suffering debtors confined in hospitals, institutions, and prisons.’  
**Amendment:** A motion was made and approved to add ‘committee’ after HIP. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
4. **FCC MOTION 3:** In view of the increasing significance and dependence on technology in the evolution of our fellowship, we move to convert the Technology Caucus to a Technology Committee. This change will enable the Technology Committee to support our other committees in their technological needs. This will also serve to support the continued growth of the fellowship. **Motion did not carry for lack of substantial unanimity, 46 in favor, 41 against.**
5. **FCC MOTION 2:** To create a Health Care and Debt Caucus: In response to the issues and concerns #10 and #12, we recognize that unpredictable health care costs can put extreme pressure on someone’s expenses perhaps causing them to lose prudent reserve or consider debting. We move that a Health Care and Debt Caucus be created to provide resources for these issues. **Motion did not carry.**
6. **FCC MOTION 1:** Update the FCC Mission Statement: The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership, and the debtor who still suffers. *This function includes the administration of the “Adopt a Loner” service.* Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program. \*The proposed changes are italicized. **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**
7. **PI MOTION 1:** Joint motion with FCC that the Literature Grant be shifted to the FCC Committee beginning in 2009. **Motion did not carry.**
8. **PI MOTION 2:** Motion that the Convocation approve the update of the PI Manual to include the consumer credit counseling letter, new media letter, and the college letter.” **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**
9. **CC MOTION 1:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2010 be held in Denver, Colorado.” **Motion adopted by general consent.**
10. **CC MOTION 2:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2011 be held in Detroit, Michigan.” **Motion adopted by general consent.**
11. **GSB MOTION:** The General Service Board moves that the 2008 World Service Conference adopt the revised Literature Approval Process. **Amendment:** to change Phase One 2.1 to read “Conference Committee can serve as a writer.” **Motion to amend did not carry. Amendment:** To add ‘or writers’ to Phase One 2.1. **Motion to amend carried by general consent. Amendment:** To add *printing* to Phase c. **Motion to amend carried by general consent. Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
12. **RDC MOTION 1:** To revise the current RDC mission statement which reads: Revenue for DA is the focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; Reminding groups about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition; Addressing income needs through special events, such as World Service Month; and Communicating with the Fellowship about the concept of self-support in DA. Proposed new RDC mission statement reads: Revenue for DA is the focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Increasing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions and clarifying the use of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds; Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; and Increasing awareness about the concept of self-support in DA at the level of group, Intergroup and World Service.” **Amendment:** To change ‘Increasing awareness ...’ to ‘Communicating awareness ...’. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
13. **BDA MOTION:** The BDA Committee moves to revise its purpose statement to read: The BDA Committee’s purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering debtor and help them apply the Steps to all their affairs and not debt one day at a time. The BDA Committee focuses on issues specific to the needs of DA members who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own or operate businesses or be self-employed.

The BDA Committee is open to all GSRs and ISRs, not just those who represent BDA groups. **Amendment:** to add 'and Traditions' following Steps. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**

14. **MOTION** (from the floor from a member who previously voted on the winning side): To reconsider the motion to make the technology caucus a committee. **Motion did not carry due to lack of substantial unanimity. 51 in favor, 36 opposed.**
15. **LIT MOTION 1:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book which is currently in production be approved. **Amendment:** to eliminate 'currently in production' from Motion 1. **Amendment was approved by general consent. Motion 1 carried as amended by general consent.**
16. **LIT MOTION 2:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous Daily Meditations book which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**
17. **LIT MOTION 3:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous Business Debtors Anonymous: Clarity in Business and Personal Finances pamphlet which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**
18. **LIT MOTION 4:** That the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous: Newcomers Guide pamphlet which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**
19. **LIT MOTION 5:** That the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous Recovery Stories book which is currently in production be approved. After debate, this motion was withdrawn by the Committee Chair. A point of order was requested. According to parliamentary procedures, the committee chair cannot withdraw a motion without the consent of the committee. A five minute Literature Committee discussion was granted. Fifteen seconds of silence was taken before resuming. The Board Liaison to the Literature Committee gave history on two pieces of literature the BDA Committee is proposing to combine that are related to this motion. **Amendment to Motion 5:** To change the name to 'Debtors Anonymous: Business Recovery Stories. **Motion to amend did not carry due to lack of substantial unanimity. 59 in favor, 29 opposed. MOTION TO RECONSIDER PREVIOUS MOTION:** After further discussion, a motion to reconsider the previous motion was approved by general consent. **The reconsidered motion to amend did not carry. 50 in favor, 38 opposed. The original motion that the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous Recovery Stories book which is currently in production be approved did not carry.**
20. **LIT MOTION 6:** That the concept of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website be approved. **Motion postponed.**
21. **LIT MOTION 6:** That the concept of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**
22. **Motion:** to ratify new General Service Board Class B Trustee, Donna W., was introduced and made brief comments. A motion was made and seconded to accept Donna. **Motion carried unanimously.**
23. **Motion:** to ratify Paul, Alan, and Willie as returning trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**
24. **Motion to adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was requested by Willie, made and accepted. **Motion carried by general consent.**

## Alphabetical Summary of 2008 WSC Motions

1. **BDA MOTION:** The BDA Committee moves to revise its purpose statement to read: The BDA Committee's purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering debtor and help them apply the Steps to all their affairs and not debt one day at a time. The BDA Committee focuses on issues specific to the needs of DA members who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own or operate businesses or be self-employed. The BDA Committee is open to all GSRs and ISRs, not just those who represent BDA groups. **Amendment:** to add 'and Traditions' following Steps. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
2. **CC MOTION 1:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2010 be held in Denver, Colorado." **Motion adopted by general consent.**
3. **CC MOTION 2:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2011 be held in Detroit, Michigan." **Motion adopted by general consent.**
4. **FCC MOTION 1:** Update the FCC Mission Statement: The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership, and the debtor who still suffers. *This function includes the administration of the "Adopt a Loner" service.* Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program. \*The proposed changes are italicized. **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**
5. **FCC MOTION 2:** To create a Health Care and Debt Caucus: In response to the issues and concerns #10 and #12, we recognize that unpredictable health care costs can put extreme pressure on someone's expenses perhaps causing them to lose prudent reserve or consider debting. We move that a Health Care and Debt Caucus be created to provide resources for these issues. **Motion did not carry.**
6. **FCC MOTION 3:** In view of the increasing significance and dependence on technology in the evolution of our fellowship, we move to convert the Technology Caucus to a Technology Committee. This change will enable the Technology Committee to support our other committees in their technological needs. This will also serve to support the continued growth of the fellowship. **Motion did not carry for lack of substantial unanimity, 46 in favor, 41 against.**
7. **GSB MOTION 1:** To accept the 2007 minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
8. **GSB MOTION 2:** The General Service Board moves that the 2008 World Service Conference adopt the revised Literature Approval Process. **Amendment:** to change Phase One 2.1 to read "Conference Committee can serve as a writer." **Motion to amend did not carry. Amendment:** To add 'or writers' to Phase One 2.1. **Motion to amend carried by general consent. Amendment:** To add *printing* to Phase c. **Motion to amend carried by general consent. Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
9. **GSB MOTION 3:** to ratify new General Service Board Class B Trustee, Donna W., was introduced and made brief comments. A motion was made and seconded to accept Donna. **Motion carried unanimously.**
10. **GSB MOTION 4:** to ratify Paul, Alan, and Willie as returning trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**
11. **GSB MOTION 5:** A motion to adjourn was requested by Willie, made and accepted. **Motion carried by general consent.**
12. **HIP MOTION:** The HIP Committee moves that the mission statement of the HIP committee be changed to read as follows: 'the HIP (*committee*) is composed of GSRs and ISRs who would like to focus service efforts on carrying the message of DA to still-suffering debtors confined in hospitals, institutions, and prisons.' **Amendment:** A motion was made and approved to add 'committee' after HIP. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**
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22. **PI MOTION 1:** Joint motion with FCC that the Literature Grant be shifted to the FCC Committee beginning in 2009. **Motion did not carry.**
23. **PI MOTION 2:** Motion that the Convocation approve the update of the PI Manual to include the consumer credit counseling letter, new media letter, and the college letter." **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**
24. **RDC MOTION 1:** To revise the current RDC mission statement which reads: Revenue for DA is the focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; Reminding groups about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition; Addressing income needs through special events, such as World Service Month; and Communicating with the Fellowship about the concept of self-support in DA. Proposed new RDC mission statement reads: Revenue for DA is the focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Increasing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions and clarifying the use of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds; Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; and Increasing awareness about the concept of self-support in DA at the level of group, Intergroup and World Service." **Amendment:** To change 'Increasing awareness ...' to 'Communicating awareness ...'. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**



**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference  
Salt Lake City, Utah, USA**

**August 13 - 17, 2008**

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**SECTION 1  
CONVOCATION MINUTES  
REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES**

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**1. CONVOCATION OPENING**

**AUGUST 16, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by the Chairperson Carol B. at 8:30 a.m. with a moment of silence and the reciting of the Serenity Prayer.

Volunteers were asked to read the DA Preamble, the history of DA, the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts for World Service, and the Debtors Anonymous Conference Charter.

There were 95 registered with 89 present, which constituted a quorum. A quorum was verified and at all times during the meeting when votes were conducted, the quorum was verified, and a quorum was present.

An announcement was made that all delegates please remember to take their ballots with them when leaving the room and brought back upon returning.

**INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Michael Malumut, a professional parliamentarian who has been assisting the Debtors Anonymous Fellowship since 1998, gave a presentation on the parliamentary procedures that would be used during the Convocation. It began with a demonstration of why we need rules. A pamphlet

with the basic guidelines for making motions and voting was distributed to all delegates.

**CONFERENCE VOTING PROCEDURES**

The previously distributed agenda was adopted without objection. The Chairperson announced that all motions must come from the General Service Board or a Committee or Caucus Chair. Conference delegates were asked to refer to the General Service Representative (GSR) Service Manual for more information about the rights and duties of Conference members.

**Substantial Unanimity Threshold**

A threshold of two-thirds was established to indicate substantial unanimity for all main motions.

The Chairperson announced that because voting in Convocation is a spiritual process, by tradition, delegates should refrain from applauding after motions pass or fail. People were asked to hold applause until the end of each report.

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2007  
CONVOCATION MINUTES**

**Motion:** To accept the 2007 minutes.  
**The motion carried unanimously.**

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## 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (IOC)

Chair Julie F.  
 Vice Chair Eric R.  
 Secretary Roxanne K.  
 Treasurer Erik E.  
 Other members: Karen J., Vanessa T., and Sam H.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**IOC MOTION:** The Internal Operations Committee moves that the General Service Board research the pros, cons, and options for Web-based commerce to enhance DA prosperity, and member and group services. **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**

**Discussion:** Other sister organizations have been successful in pursuing this concept; an inquiry about the intent of the motion was clarified by a committee member; be open minded as this motion asks the Board to look at both pros and cons of enhancing our Web site.

#### IOC Recommendations

1. The IOC strongly recommends the GSB prioritize the upgrade and improvement of the database functionality specifically to include the online group registration and profile.
2. In accordance with the 2008 Office Manager Report, the IOC recommends that the Board be proactive in development of an action plan to fund and locate a new office beginning as soon as possible as part of their long-range plan. The IOC further recommends that the office has the attributes as described in the 2005 IOC reports as follows:  
 New office [should reflect] an attitude of prosperity and the 12 Promises: abundant space, a board room for meetings, opportunities for volunteer work by local DA members, a well-lit work area, abundant storage for literature and office supplies, a healthy and beautiful environment, updated computer equipment and software able to meet the needs of a growing fellowship, convenient access to freeways, airport, shipping services, etc., [and] a prosperous spending plan that meets

- the needs of the office and the retention of experienced, competent staff.
3. The IOC recommends that the GSB plan and fund the hiring of a second full-time employee allowing for specialization of tasks and coverage of operations at the GSO.
4. The IOC recommends that the GSB conduct and maintain an assessment of office needs and/or services and list these on the website to promote a system for utilization of volunteers.
5. The IOC recommends that the GSB continue to upgrade the content of the DA website to include members' stories and explore multi-media functions.
6. The IOC recommends that the GSB finalize and approve the Office Operations Manual as presented to them in July 2008 and include in the Office Manager's job description the requirement to maintain and update this Operations Manual.

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### 2. HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND PRISONS COMMITTEE (HIP)

Chair Bill C.  
 Vice Chair Pat B.  
 Secretary Beth P.  
 Treasurer Starr H.  
 Other members: Teresa S., Dani M., Jessica S.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**HIP MOTION:** The HIP Committee moves that the mission statement of the HIP committee be changed to read as follows: 'the HIP (*committee*) is composed of GSRs and ISRs who would like to focus service efforts on carrying the message of DA to still-suffering debtors confined in hospitals, institutions, and prisons.'

**Amendment:** A motion was made and approved to add 'committee' after HIP. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**

**Discussion:** The current mission statement was read. The purpose of this motion is to clarify the mission statement, not change it. The reason for leaving out treatment centers out was explained. They were not included as they are institutions. The definitions of institutions change over time and we

want to be as inclusive as possible; people that are confined are the focus of this committee; scope of institutions and treatment centers has become so broad; mission statements, rather than primary purpose which is more spiritual.

#### **HIP Recommendations:**

1. That "FAQ" be transmitted to the General Service Board for approval to be included on website and for distribution to GSRs.
2. That "HIP Letter to the Professional" be transmitted to the General Service Board for approval to be distributed to professionals.
3. That the Literature Committee approve the concept of creating a pamphlet composed of members' experience, strength and hope on confinement in Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons .
4. That the Literature Committee approve the concept of creating a flyer about Debtors Anonymous aimed at reaching the confined still-suffering debtor.

There was a break from 9:50 to 10:10 a.m. The assembly reconvened with the Serenity Prayer.

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### **3. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (FCC)**

Chair	Richard H.
Vice Chair	Virginia B.
Secretary	Marcia H.
Treasurer	Debi P.
Other members: Stephanie A., John S., Marcy E., Mary S., Julia M., Juliette	

The committee officers and members were introduced. The committee had three motions. They began with motion 3.

**FCC MOTION 3:** In view of the increasing significance and dependence on technology in the evolution of our fellowship, we move to convert the Technology Caucus to a Technology Committee. This change will enable the Technology Committee to support our other committees in their technological needs. This will also serve to support the continued growth of the fellowship. **Motion did not carry for lack of substantial unanimity, 46 in favor, 41 against.**

**Discussion:** The impact of technology on the fellowship is the primary scope for elected members and resources; we currently have eight committees, if we keep adding committees we will not get through reports and be able to do the other business; technology is ever growing and impacts the fellowship; functional committees. The voting required a count.

**FCC MOTION 2:** To create a Health Care and Debt Caucus: In response to the issues and concerns #10 and #12, we recognize that unpredictable health care costs can put extreme pressure on someone's expenses perhaps causing them to lose prudent reserve or consider debting. We move that a Health Care and Debt Caucus be created to provide resources for these issues. **The motion did not carry.**

**Discussion:** Comments in favor and opposed included – this is a specific topic; an outside issue which we might consider having an experienced [sic] address at a conference giving information on this topic.

**FCC MOTION 1:** Update the FCC Mission Statement: The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership, and the debtor who still suffers. *This function includes the administration of the "Adopt a Loner" service.* Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program. \*The proposed changes are italicized. **Motion carried by substantial unanimity.**

**Discussion:** The primary purpose is to give 'adopt a loner' a home; does it violate Traditions?

#### **FCC Recommendations:**

1. FCC recommends to our fellow GSR and ISR delegates that each one of us identifies someone in our meeting to be their Alternate GSR and to encourage our Alternate to participate in the committee work we are doing.
  2. FCC recommends that the Literature Committee consider creating a pamphlet that defines unsecured debt in relation to DA and also looks at the risks and problems of secured debt (in response to issue #20.)
-

**4. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PI)**

Chair           Laurens A.  
Vice Chair     Dionne H.  
Secretary     Michael M.  
Treasurer     Laura P.  
Other members: Suzanne H., Tamara D., Susy I.,  
Maria R., Lynda L., Charlotte P.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**PI MOTION 1:** Joint motion with FCC that the Literature Grant be shifted to the FCC Committee beginning in 2009. **Motion did not carry.**

**Discussion:** Literature Grant formulated a letter over a year to help distant groups to grow and become self-sufficient; each Literature Grant requires approximately \$400; it will be up to FCC on whether to continue this program.

**PI MOTION 2:** Motion that the Convocation approve the update of the PI Manual to include the consumer credit counseling letter, new media letter, and the college letter.” **The motion carried by substantial unanimity.**

**Discussion:** These letters are additions to the manual.

**PI Recommendations:**

1. Recommendation that the Literature Committee consider doing a pamphlet on group sponsorship.
2. Recommendation to the GSB to put the Literature Grant information on Web site.

**PI Announcement:** More PI training is available. A flyer will be available tomorrow and on our Web site.

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**5. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (CC)**

Chair           Michele  
Vice Chair     Dianne L.  
Secretary     Audrey O.  
Treasurer     Patricia W.  
Other members: Mickey M., Ivy H.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**CC MOTION 1:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2010 be held in Denver, Colorado.” **Motion adopted by general consent.**

**CC MOTION 2:** The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference in 2011 be held in Detroit, Michigan.” **Motion adopted by general consent.**

**Recommendations:** None

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**6. GENERAL SERVICE BOARD (GSB)**

**GSB MOTION:** The General Service Board moves that the 2008 World Service Conference adopt the revised Literature Approval Process.

**Amendment:** to change Phase One 2.1 to read “Conference Committee can serve as a writer.” **Motion to amend did not carry.**

**Amendment:** To add ‘or writers’ to Phase One 2.1. **Motion to amend carried by general consent.**

**Amendment:** To add *printing* to Phase c. **Motion to amend carried by general consent.**

**Discussion:** Changing *year 1, 2 and 3* to *Phase 1, 2 and 3* facilitates that the process can move quicker or slower as needed and it would more accurately reflect what is actually happening; the length of the process varies whether the writer is unpaid or paid; most changes are functional rather than substantive.

**Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**

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The Seventh Tradition announcement was made and it was collected.

A moment of silence was requested and taken, followed by the Serenity Prayer.

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**RECESS**

Following a conference announcement, the meeting was recessed at 12:00 pm until Sunday, August 17 at 8:30 am.

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**August 17, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 17, 2008, GSB Chairperson Carol B. called the second session of the Convocation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference to order.

The session opened with the Serenity Prayer, and readings of the DA Preamble, the history of DA, the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, and the DA Conference Charter.

The agenda was adopted as presented. An announcement was made that 95 people were credentialed for the meeting, and 81 were present in the room. There was a quorum present for all voting. Committee reports continued.

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**7. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RDC)**

Chair	Andrea R.
Vice Chair	Maya
Secretary	Larry V.
Treasurer	Ann E.
Other members:	Megan P., Lara I., Heather H., Barbara B., Mary C., Mary S., Karen R.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**RDC MOTION 1:** To revise the current RDC mission statement which reads: Revenue for DA is the focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; Reminding groups about the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition; Addressing income needs through special events, such as World Service Month; and Communicating with the Fellowship about the concept of self-support in DA. Proposed new RDC mission statement reads: Revenue for DA is the

focus of the Resource Development Committee, including: Increasing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions and clarifying the use of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition funds; Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; and Increasing awareness about the concept of self-support in DA at the level of group, Intergroup and World Service.”

**Discussion:** Suggest changing to Primary Purpose/Mission Statement; clarification of 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition spending; giving more information regarding where money goes; recommended newcomer packet.

**Amendment:** To change ‘Increasing awareness ...’ to ‘Communicating awareness ...’. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**

**RDC Recommendations:**

We recommend the Literature Committee create a standardized Newcomer Packet

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**8. BUSINESS DEBTORS ANONYMOUS COMMITTEE (BDA)**

Chair	Christy S.
Vice Chair	Marianne G.
Secretary	Faith M.
Treasurer	Bill S.
Other members:	Elizabeth T., Barrington D., Russ V., Marla D., Bill S., Marianne G., Allen L., Evelyn E., Timothy G., Faith M., Douglas S., Christi S., Christy S., Pete A., Tarra Y., Sam B., Lorraine P., Michael C., Janet Z., Brandi M., Dee C., Jill P., Monica A., Azul A., Chris M., Adrienne L.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**BDA MOTION:** The BDA Committee moves to revise its purpose statement to read: The BDA Committee’s purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering debtor and help them apply the Steps to all their affairs and not debt one day at a time. The BDA Committee focuses on issues specific to the needs of DA members who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own or operate businesses or be self-employed. The BDA Committee is open to all GSRs and ISRs, not just those who represent BDA groups.

**Amendment:** to add ‘and Traditions’ following Steps. **Motion carried as amended by substantial unanimity.**

**BDA Recommendations**

The Committee voted to focus on five action items for the 2008-2009, as follows:

1. Create a process to match people needing BDA sponsors with sponsors;
2. Create a process to facilitate sponsorship of small or new BDA groups by larger or established BDA groups;
3. Continue to work on the Annual BDA Business Plan pamphlet;
4. Continue to work on the BDA Step Study Guide Supplement;
5. Continue to work on the BDA Numbers Booklet

The BDA Committee had five projects. Matching people with sponsors (those with long time experience for contact), how do home groups declare themselves (start with committee groups), how is conference call information distributed (by invitation only), does this conflict with Concept 10 regarding double headed management (maybe, we will work closely with Public Outreach and communicate with PO Committee), spiritual based literature (not how to advise and avoid business plan advise).

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**9. DIVERSITY CAUCUS**

Chair Lynda  
Vice Chair Beth  
Secretary Mickey  
Treasurer Dani  
Other members: none.

The caucus officers and members were introduced. Caucuses do not have motions or recommendations. This caucus is a resource to all committees. We developed a to-do list, which we present in our report.

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A break was held. The assembly reconvened with the Serenity Prayer.

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**10. INTERGROUP CAUCUS**

Chair John S.  
Vice Chair Eric P.  
Secretary Stephanie A.  
Treasurer Mary C.  
Other members: Jean C., Chris M., Vanessa T., Heather H., Pete A., Evelyn E., Mary P.

The caucus officers and members were introduced. The Intergroup Caucus to-do lists includes four items which were reviewed (see minutes on p. 53).

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**11. TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS**

Chair Chris R.  
Vice Chair Virginia B.  
Secretary Douglas S.  
Treasurer Douglas S.  
Other members: Julie F., Rachel H., Erik E.

The caucus officers and members were introduced. Agenda and projects were reviewed.

**MOTION** (from the floor from a member who previously voted on the winning side): To reconsider the motion to make the technology caucus a committee. **Motion did not carry due to lack of substantial unanimity. 51 in favor, 36 opposed.**

**Discussion:** In the previous day’s voting, a non-substantial majority was in favor of making the Technology Caucus into a Committee. A request was made for comments focusing on what changed your mind from yesterday’s vote. No one had comments; therefore there was no need for further debate. A counted vote was called for and taken.

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**12. LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LIT)**

Chair Jennifer S.  
Vice Chair Jean C.  
Secretary Rachel H.  
Treasurer Matt K.  
Other members: John C., Chris R., Sharon S., Eileen N., Amanda M., Eric P., Lucy K., Rachel A.

The committee members were introduced. There were six motions, five regarding pieces of literature. These were in progress in 2004 but were not grandfathered in. The 12 and 12 was approved by general consensus as was the next four motions.

**LIT MOTION 1:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book which is currently in production be approved.

**Amendment:** to eliminate 'currently in production' from Motion 1. **Amendment was approved by general consent.**

**Motion 1 carried as amended by general consent.**

**LIT MOTION 2:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous Daily Meditations book which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**

**LIT MOTION 3:** That the concept of the Debtors Anonymous Business Debtors Anonymous: Clarity in Business and Personal Finances pamphlet which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**

**LIT MOTION 4:** That the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous: Newcomers Guide pamphlet which is currently in production be approved. **Motion carried by general consent.**

**LIT MOTION 5:** That the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous Recovery Stories book which is currently in production be approved.

After debate, this motion was withdrawn by the Committee Chair. A point of order was requested. According to parliamentary procedures, the committee chair cannot withdraw a motion without the consent of the committee. A five minute Literature Committee discussion was granted. Fifteen seconds of silence was taken before resuming. The Board Liaison to the Literature Committee gave history on two pieces of literature the BDA Committee is proposing to combine that are related to this motion.

**Amendment to Motion 5:** To change the name to 'Debtors Anonymous: Business Recovery Stories. **Motion to amend did not carry due to lack of substantial unanimity. 59 in favor, 29 opposed.**

### **MOTION TO RECONSIDER PREVIOUS**

**MOTION:** After further discussion, a motion to reconsider the previous motion was approved by general consent. **The reconsidered motion to amend did not carry. 50 in favor, 38 opposed.**

The original motion that the concept of the Business Debtors Anonymous Recovery Stories book which is currently in production be approved did not carry.

**LIT MOTION 6:** That the concept of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website be approved.

The final motion regarding posting DA recovery stories on the DA website was debated during which a 30 second serenity moment was taken. Due to time constraints, the last motion was postponed.

**LIT Recommendations:** None.

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## **3. CLOSING BUSINESS**

### **TRANSFER OF GAVEL**

Marci W. thanked everyone for coming to Salt Lake City. The official gavel was passed to Mickey of the Dallas Host Committee.

### **SEVENTH TRADITION COLLECTION**

The Seventh Tradition was collected.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEPARTING TRUSTEE**

Carol made comments that included it had been her honor and privilege to serve.

### **RATIFICATION OF NEW TRUSTEE**

**Motion:** to ratify new General Service Board Class B Trustee, Donna W. Donna was introduced and made brief comments. A motion was made and seconded to accept Donna. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **RATIFICATION OF RETURNING TRUSTEES**

**Motion:** to ratify Alan and Willie as returning trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **TRUSTEE PLEDGES**

Pledges for Donna W., Alan K., and Willie W. were administered by Carol.

### **OFFICER PLEDGES**

Pledges were administered for the following GSB officers:

James Q. Assistant Treasurer  
Chris S. Secretary  
Peggy R. Treasurer  
Paul S. Vice Chairperson  
Willie W. Chairperson

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### **UNFINISHED COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The remainder of the time was turned over to the literature committee for its final motion.

**LIT MOTION 6:** That the concept of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website be approved.

**Motion carried by general consent.**

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### **CLOSING BUSINESS RESUMES**

Another thanks was given to Carol for her dedicated service.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was requested by Willie, made and accepted. **Motion carried by general consent.** The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference closed with the Serenity Prayer at 11:40 a.m.



## SECTION 2

### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

August 2008

The DA General Service Board (GSB) is made up of Class A debtor Trustees and Class B non-debtor Trustees who are nominated by members of the Fellowship, elected by the existing GSB, and ratified by the World Service Conference. These individuals are entrusted by the World Service Conference with the stewardship of DA's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts for World Service. The GSB handles all legal and fiduciary responsibilities required of non-profit corporations by law, takes care of all financial, administrative, business and policy affairs, supervises the General Service Office, and as the chief service arm of the Conference, administers and carries out the will of the Fellowship.

The GSB Committees will be presenting to you a summary of the work that was accomplished during the past twelve months. This is our annual report to the World Service Conference. These reports, along with the Convocation minutes, will be published in the World Service Conference annual report which will be mailed in late Fall to all participants attending this Conference. Included in your Conference binder is the report of the resolutions to the issues and concerns that were assigned to the GSB at the 2007 Conference.

The 2007-08 General Service Board started the year with nine Class A debtor Trustees: Aishlin O., Allen A., Alan K., Carol B., Chris S., James Q., Jan J., Jan S., and Willie W., and three Class B non-debtor trustees: Paul S., Peggy R., and MaryJane R. Unfortunately, MaryJane resigned in September 2007 for health reasons, so we have been operating with eleven members. The officers were Carol B., Chairperson, Willie W., Vice-Chairperson and Treasurer, Chris S., Secretary, and Peggy R., Assistant Treasurer. I served as Liaison to the Salt Lake City Host Committee and to the 2009 Dallas Host Committee, Jan S. served again as our Liaison to the General Service Office, and Alan K. served as our Webmaster. We were joined by our newest Class A Trustees Allen A. and James Q., ratified at last year's Conference, and just a few months ago, we approved the nomination of a third non-debtor Class B Trustee. We'll be asking you to ratify Donna W., from Kentucky. Trustees may serve up to two three-year terms, similar to the suggested terms of service for GSRs and ISRs. I am finishing my sixth year and will be rotating off the Board at the end of this Conference. Rotation of leadership is a spiritual principle the Trustees take very seriously.

The Trustees also take their job as trusted servants very seriously. During the past year, the Board met by telephone for seven two-hour-long conference calls, and the ten Board committees each held an average of 8.6 one-hour calls during the year to conduct committee business. Most of our calls took place on Sunday evenings. Sometimes we had three calls back to back. We

accomplish a lot by email and telephone, but there is no substitute for face-to-face discussion. After all that telephone time, we really look forward to the two times a year that we meet face-to-face. This year, we met for our annual mid-year face-to-face business meeting in Portland, Oregon, where local DA members organized a special DA meeting and Fellowship event to welcome us.

Most of the Trustees served on at least three Board committees. The 2007-08 GSB committees were as follows: the Finance Committee, the Office Committee, the Literature Publications Committee (LitPub), the Nominations Committee (NomCom), the Public Information Committee (PI), and the InfoTech Committee. A new committee called the Communications Committee was formed to manage the various aspects of the GSB's communication with the DA Fellowship, including Ways & Means, The DA Focus, and the electronic announcement email service we call the DA eNews. A committee called the Conference Support Committee (CSC) was formed to assist the WSC Conference Committee and the WSC Host Committees in the production of the World Service Conference. Literature Services (LS), a subcommittee of the Literature Publications Committee, consisted of three Appointed Committee Members (ACM) and two Trustees. An ad hoc committee was formed to revise the GSB bylaws which were last reviewed in 2004. The Executive Committee consisted of the GSB Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and one Class B Trustee. Finally, the Long Range Planning Committee was revived after a hiatus of several years, to review DA's long-term outlook and prepare the Five-Year Plan Report which the Conference requested of the Board in 2006.

The chairs of the Board committees will be reporting the accomplishments of their committee during the past year. Some of our technological achievements represent huge leaps forward in our ability to serve the debtor who is looking for recovery in DA. Here are some of the highlights of the year:

- Probably the most profound accomplishment in terms of helping newcomers to find DA, thanks to the InfoTech committee, is the new searchable meeting list on the DA website, which will assist people in locating a DA meeting in any part of the country.
- InfoTech also installed a new 800 number and voice mail system in the DA Office.
- The Communications Committee spearheaded an effort to add a Service page to the website, which features information about each WSC committee and caucus, plus some important archival documents from past World Service Conferences.
- The first ever GSR/ISR Orientation conference calls were held in June and July, to help new WSC delegates get a headstart on their Conference service.

- The GSB responded to a member's question about AWOL groups by publishing an article in the DA Focus. Past copies of the DA Focus can be found on the DA website.
- The Board will distribute to you a proposed "Definition of a DA Group" in response to questions about what constitutes a registered group. We are asking you to discuss this proposal in your committees, in your role as advisors to the Board.
- Two DA Trustees were invited to attend the first annual AA sharing Day at the AA Office in New York City, where they heard about some of the concerns shared by other 12 Step Fellowships.
- Printable versions of the DA Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Tools, and the 12 Concepts for World Service are available for free from the DA website.
- The Trustees also worked closely with the World Service Conference committees during the year to help them accomplish the agendas they set for themselves at the last WSC. This often involved publishing flyers, letters, and other announcements and distributing them to the Fellowship via the DA Focus mailing and the DA eNews.

If we measure the growth of DA by the number of DA groups, DA is not growing. Year after year, the Office reports that we lose as many groups as we register every year. In the past eight years, many proposals have been brought forward by Board committees and WSC committees, sincere efforts to grow our Fellowship. You may remember "Thrive with Five," "Focus on the Newcomer," and "Attraction, Resources, and Growth"—just some of the slogans we have used to gain some momentum. Unfortunately, year after year, we seem to be stuck in the same place. In fact, in the past few years, there is some evidence that we are moving backwards as a Fellowship. Backwards in terms of income stagnation, backwards in terms of the number of members willing to do service, backwards even in terms of our commitment to not debting. The Board hears anecdotal reports from around the Fellowship of members who year after year cannot seem to stop debting, yet they say they have regular pressure relief meetings, attend visions workshops, and keep their focus on prosperity. Are stories like these as common as we fear? Are they just the growing pains of a young Fellowship, or is DA in real danger of losing sight of its primary purpose of not debting?

Trustees who have gone before me have stated their concerns about where they see our program headed, how we seem to be focusing on anything except our primary purpose, how we would often rather have a pressure relief meeting than work the Twelve Steps. Last year the Board, in an attempt to help focus our attention back on our primary purpose, brought a motion to adopt a commentary on DA's primary purpose, which was defeated. But it served the purpose of bringing attention to a situation we fear is growing worse. At the 2006 Conference, the delegates passed a motion requiring the Board to prepare and present a Five-Year Plan to the 2008

WSC. The newly revived Long Range Planning Committee began on the task and quickly discovered upon conducting an assessment of the Fellowship's current situation that the job of writing a realistic five-year plan was not as straightforward as we thought. We don't need another treasure map of visions for the Office. Neither do we need another ideal spending plan that plots an unrealistic path to a gloriously prosperous future. Without accepting that we are compulsive debtors who need to stop debting to deal effectively with the disease's symptoms, our Fellowship will never reap the real rewards of recovery. The Board must ask you for a one-year extension to complete the process of producing a Five-Year Plan that is based on the reality that faces our Fellowship today.

You should know that the Trustees are hard-working, dedicated individuals who are committed to their personal recovery and to the well being of the DA program. And you should also understand that the Trustees are not superhuman, nor are they all powerful. We learn and grow one day at a time in our recovery, just like you do, and we need support in our service work, just like you do. Please don't place a wall between us. Have lunch with a Trustee. Envision yourself on the Board one day.

As I rotate off the Board, I think of all the things I've helped to accomplish over the past six years, and I think of all the things I would like to have done, but just wasn't able to. I have learned to bring my passionate commitment to my DA service work, and I've also learned when it is time to let go. It has been a privilege to serve you as a GSB Trustee for the past six years. I am looking forward to returning to service at the local level, helping to grow our small DA community in Portland, Oregon.

Our individual recovery depends on the unity we share in our groups and here at this Conference. Let's do all we can to focus our service work on carrying the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. Let's gather the stories of our long timers and make them available for the newcomers, so they will have hope that it is possible to live without debting. Let's balance our interest in underearning, prosperity, and visions with renewed commitment to the basics: the Steps, Sponsorship, the Traditions, and Service. We are the ones who can do this, here at this Conference. The work that we do here ensures that the DA program will be here for those who need it, whenever they need it. Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to serve DA.

Yours in service,  
Carol B.  
DAGSB Chairperson 2007-08

## SECTION 3

### GENERAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1. GSB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

2007-08 members: Carol B., Jan S., Alan K., James Q., and Allen A.

The Communications Committee was resurrected at the 2007 WSC after a three-year hiatus. The former Ways & Means and DA Focus committees were enfolded into a new committee—the Communications Committee—dedicated to managing all aspects of communicating with the DA fellowship. What follows are some accomplishments from the 2007-08 year, as well as a look at some communications projects this committee hopes to undertake in the year ahead.

**Ways & Means.** This has been a year of numerous changes for our fellowship's quarterly recovery newsletter, Ways & Means. First, we've increased the number of pages, going from 28 pages a year for the past several years to 40 this year. We've added a lot more stories, particularly stories of members with strong recovery, and international stories from DA members in Europe and Canada. We've added more DA articles on DA history, and have experimented with some enjoyable DA-oriented puzzles and word searches. All year long we've been celebrating the newsletter's 20th anniversary. We've run special issues featuring the stories of members with 20 years or more of not incurring unsecured debt, and the current issue traces the history of DA's publications and offers landmark stories from past issues. As always, Ways & Means is the fellowship's newsletter, and we encourage submissions on all subjects related to the fellowship, and to all aspects of DA recovery.

**DA Focus.** The DA Focus is the quarterly service newsletter published by the General Service Board. The DA Focus typically reports on the work of the GSB committees and the WSC committees and caucuses. Recent articles have included information on the new searchable meeting list, what qualifications are recommended in a GSR or ISR, and why DA doesn't make and sell recovery chips. The DA Focus is printed and mailed to all registered groups and intergroups, and it is also

distributed to all subscribers of the electronic newsletter, the DA eNews.

The Communications Committee is in the process of searching for a graphic designer who can take over the layout responsibilities of both DA newsletters. A notice in a recent issue of the DA Focus generated three responses from qualified individuals. The committee is currently reviewing the bids. In addition to a paid graphic designer, the Communications Committee is looking for an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) to work with it on layout and design of Ways & Means. If you would enjoy doing service in this area and meet the qualifications to be an ACM, please contact any member of the Communications Committee.

**DA eNews.** The DA eNews is a joint venture between the Communications Committee and the InfoTech Committee. Alan K, our Webmaster, manages the distribution of the eNews. The GSB committees and WSC committees use the eNews to send announcements to the DA fellowship. Since last June, approximately 25 eNews "blasts" have been sent by the General Service Office and the General Service Board. Recent eNews announcements have invited members to try out the new searchable meeting list, to download the latest Ways & Means newsletter, and to find the WSC registration packet on the DA website. At last report, there were over 3,000 eNews subscribers. The eNews is an efficient and cost effective way to send announcements to DA members. One thing to keep in mind, however: Anyone in the world can subscribe to the eNews, and it is not possible to know how many subscribers are not DA members, so we don't send personal information or attachments with the announcements. To subscribe, visit the DA homepage and click on the link that says "Subscribe."

The work of the Communications Committee aligns with the work of the Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) in that we are focused on ways of improving communication within the fellowship. Allen A., who joined the

Board last year, served as our liaison to the FCC. The Communications Committee strongly supports the work that the FCC has been doing to revive the Adopt-a-Loner program, a communications effort designed to reach out to DA members who live too far from face-to-face DA groups to be able to attend meetings regularly.

**Service Webpage.** The Communications Committee was instrumental in launching the Service Page, a special webpage on the DA website devoted to assisting DA's trusted servants accomplish their service work more effectively. The page has many of the important documents that DA members, groups, intergroups, GSRs, and ISRs might need, such as a summary of conference motions and recommendations, WSC reports from the last three years, the 2008 Conference Service Manual for GSRs and ISRs, the release form for contributors to the Meditation Book and other DA literature projects, and FAQs on how to become a DA trustee.

Another long overdue accomplishment was the website posting of printable versions of DA's Preamble, 12 Steps, 12 Traditions, 12 Tools, and 12 Concepts for World Service. These one-page documents show the DA logo and list the General Service Office's contact information at the bottom. Registered DA groups and intergroups have permission to copy these documents and distribute them to their members.

Other ongoing Communications Committee projects include the creation of a DA Style Guide, to help us achieve style consistency across all our publications. The Communications Committee is also strongly in favor of posting recovery stories of DA longtimers on the DA website. The committee plans on recommending to the WSC Literature Committee that it bring a motion to this year's conference to approve the concept of posting recovery stories on the website, in much the same way the WSC accepts the recovery stories that are published in the Ways & Means.

Looking forward, the Communications Committee hopes to work closely with the InfoTech Committee to find ways to utilize technology to enhance communication within the fellowship. In the future, however, as new trustees bring new expertise, our communication capabilities will be enhanced by new technologies. New technologies

will improve communication between all levels of service, from the General Service Office and General Service Board to groups and intergroups at the local level. Strong communication channels at all levels are essential to unifying our committees, groups and intergroups in our primary purpose of carrying the DA message to the still-suffering debtor.

As you begin your service at the 2008 Conference, the Communication Committee would like to suggest that you think about how your committees and caucuses can effectively communicate the DA message. We would like to remind all the committees and caucuses that we are dedicated to helping you get your message out to the fellowship. Several communication channels are available to you. 1) Your committee's spending plan allows you to mail one or two flyers with a DA Focus mailing. 2) You can write special reports for the DA Focus about the work of your committee, and 3) you can send announcements for free to all eNews subscribers. Talk to your GSB liaison about how to make it happen.

Finally, it has been my privilege to serve you as the chair of this committee this year, and as I rotate out of my world service role, I look forward to hearing about your work in the months to come.

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## **2. GSB CONFERENCE SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

2007-08 CSC members: Aishlin O., Peggy R., Paul S., Carol B.

The Conference Support Committee was specifically created to deal with all issues relevant to the annual DA World Service Conference. The four trustee members of the 2007 Conference Support Committee were Carol, Peggy, Paul and Aishlin. This has been a busy and productive year for our committee. A liaison from the CSC regularly attended both the Conference and the 2008 WSC host committee meetings. This GSB liaison visited Salt Lake City to offer support to the host committee, view the hotel site and meet several of the local DA members. The CSC was involved with the timely mailing of the 2008 conference registration packet and had recommended that starting this year all delegates

mail their registration fees directly to the General Service Office. The 2009 WSC site has been secured and will take place at the Sheraton Grand in Irving, Texas. The CSC has requested the help of the Conference Committee in securing sites for the 2010 and 2011 conference years.

The CSC has spent much time discussing ways to facilitate all WSC delegates, both new and returning, having the tools necessary to concentrate on the business of Debtors Anonymous. We have involved the entire Board in these discussions and they will continue at this Conference. To this end, with the help of many former and current GSRs, other GSB trustees and the Chair of the 2008 host committee, the CSC organized and facilitated two telephone orientation sessions for new GSRs. These two sessions were attended by twenty-four new GSRs representing every region in the United States, plus one new delegate from Canada. The CSC edited and incorporated many WSC changes to the WSC service manual, which was posted online prior to the first orientation session.

The CSC has ordered copies of a new parliamentary procedure booklet which will be distributed to all participants at the WSC. The CSC has also, with the approval of the GSB, requested all participants at the WSC to refrain from conducting their own personal or outside business at the yearly business meeting of the spiritual fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

NOTE: The CSC presented a report at the 2008 WSC in response to two issues that were sent into the 2007 WSC. The report (entitled "Is Group Representation at the DA World Service Conference Too Low? Can Technology Help Expand Group Representation?") is included at the end of this document.

### **3. GSB FINANCE COMMITTEE AND GSB TREASURER'S REPORT**

Committee Members: Willie W., Chairperson, Paul S., Carol B., Peggy R.

It's been a real pleasure and joy to serve you this past year with such wonderful and dedicated individuals that made up this committee. We spent countless hours this year assuring that your funds

were being managed properly and handled prudently.

The Finance Committee's primary purpose is to see that our General Service Office, our General Service Board, and the World Service Conference Committees remain financially sound in the use of our funds and in alignment with our spiritual purposes. The Committee spiritually and conservatively creates our Income and Spending Plans. It keeps a watchful eye on our Revenue and Expenditures during the year and at the midway point makes adjustments if necessary. When appropriate, the Finance Committee recommends that the General Service Board set aside sums in our Reserve Fund.

The Finance Committee meets monthly to review the Financial Reports prepared by the Treasurer to be presented to the GSB for approval. We discuss motions, actions, recommendations, and funding requests from both GSB and WSC Committees. We review the Financials of the immediate past month to monitor how we are doing and if we are in alignment with our Income and Spending Plans.

Summary of Finance Committee Actions this past year:

- The World Service Conference recommended that we publish Group Contributions this year. Group Contributions for the first six months appeared in the DA Focus. The annual Group Contribution report will be handed out at this Conference.
- The 2007 WSC voted that we give a full report on the World Service Conference Income and Expenses. We relayed that request to the WSC 2007 Host Committee but to this date we have not been able get that information. We received from them a check of \$20,276. However, when we computed what we had collected and paid on their behalf, we rendered a Net Profit of \$9,307 that we show on our Income Statement for the year ended June 30, 2008.
- As a result of the WSC 2007 motion that the GSB Treasurer give a full report of Revenue and Expenses of future World Service Conferences, the GSB and the Host Committee decided that it would move the registration in-house. The participants will register directly with the hotel. The Host Committee will take care of Fellowship Day. This was a joint

collaboration between Howard S., GSO Office Manager, Willie W., GSB Treasurer, Carol B., GSB Chair and Host Committee Liaison, and Marci W., 2008 WSC Host Committee Chair. I would like to thank each of them personally for their efforts in helping us in making this transition.

- We set aside funds to create the DA 12 & 12 Book.
- RDC has created a (wonderful) Group Treasurers' Manual awaiting Finance Committee approval.
- We signed the contract and forwarded the deposit to the Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, TX for WSC 2009.
- We implemented the transfer of \$3,000 from the Translation Fees category to Database Management so that the programmers could further improve the Web site.
- We upgraded our accounting software to Quickbooks Professional 2008.
- We transferred to the Host Committee the \$4229 in John H. Scholarship funds that accrued from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007.
- We created a new Finance Committee internal report, "Month by Month Totals". This report displays each month's activity side by side.
- We extended the 11-Month CD another nine months.
- It had been recommended for continuity purposes that the subsequent year Host Committee Chair attend the WSC immediately prior to their WSC. Therefore, we set aside funds to cover the expenses of the 2009 WSC Host Committee Chair.
- We created a "Third Party Requisition Form." This form is used when a committee requests payment to a third party such as a vendor, establishment, etc.
- We set forth a motion to create a Financial Audit Committee, as recommended by our parliamentarian and attorney.
- We set-up a separate checking account to process and manage the funds of the World Service Conferences.

## The 2007-08 Reports Commentary

### BALANCE SHEET

*Note:* See report on p. 17.

The various Cash Accounts increased from \$141,159 in 2007 to \$168,634 in 2008, which represents a 19% increase. The increase was largely due to the depositing of Conference registration funds.

The overall Total Assets increased from \$177,448 to \$210,385, for an overall increase in Assets of 18.6%.

The Total Liabilities increased from \$8,588 in 2007 to \$15,642 in 2008. The increase was largely due to the holding of Conference registration funds. Both the WSC deposits and holding funds will be expended to cover the cost of the 2008 Conference. Therefore, the Net Worth of our fellowship increased from \$168,860 in 2007 to \$194,743 in 2008.

### INCOME & SPENDING PLAN 2007-08 - COMPARISON

*Note:* See report on p. 18.

#### INCOME

- Group Contributions increased from \$35,048 to \$42,881, a 22% increase, yet Individual Contributions decreased from \$29,538 to \$24,587, representing a 15% decrease.
- World Service Month proceeds decreased from \$4,058 to \$2,645, a 35% decrease.
- Book Sales remained relatively flat: \$25,704 in 2007 and \$25,800 in 2008.
- Pamphlet Sales decreased from \$44,168 in 2007 to \$42,237 in 2008, a 4% decline.
- The John Henderson Scholarship Fund increased from \$4,898 to \$6,999, a 43% increase.
- WSC Net Income increased from \$5,884 in 2007 to \$9,307 in 2008.

Conversely, the overall income was relatively flat showing a modest increase from \$166,825 in 2007 to \$171,255 in 2008, a modest increase of 2.7%.

The Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) showed a \$5,400 (18%) increase in cost, \$30,494 to \$35,903. All of the line items in Cost of Goods Sold showed an increase, with major increases shown in the cost of pamphlet printing (\$1,497) and shipping and postage (\$3,398). Therefore, the increase in COGS coupled with little or relatively no increase in Revenue caused us to only realize a Gross Profit this year of \$135,352 compared to \$136,331 in 2007. That represents a decrease of \$979, or -0.7%.

## EXPENSES

The Total Board Expenses were slightly lower in 2008 than 2007, showing a decrease of \$1,389. General Administrative Expenses increased significantly, by \$9,431. The major reason for the rise was the increase in Insurance Costs, Professional Fees, Copyright Fees, Trademark Fees, Rent & RE Taxes, and the new cost of DataBase Management. The overall General Administrative Expenses increased from \$11,085 in 2007 to \$20,516 in 2008.

In contrast to General Administrative Expenses, the Office Administrative Expenses decreased by \$9,039, from \$16,710 in 2007 to \$7,511 in 2008. The major cause for this decrease was the significant reduction in Contract Services, \$4,579 in 2007 to \$2,033 in 2008, as well as Postage, \$6,212 in 2007 to \$1,160 in 2008, and the \$1,378 that was expended for Small Office Equipment.

Payroll Expenses increased slightly by \$1,047 while WSC Committee Expenses decreased by \$1,307 this year. They were \$2,736 in 2007 decreasing to \$1,429 in 2008.

## PROPOSED EXPENSES

The John Henderson Scholarship Fund was disbursed in 2007 in the amount of \$4,230. Note until this year, this fund was shown as part of the Retained Earnings Account on the Balance Sheet.

World Service Conference Expense had a zero balance in 2007, but we expended \$2,328 in 2008. We expended funds for such items as AA Service Manuals, Conference reports, and photocopying, packaging, and mailing the WSC Registration Packets. Though we expended some of these funds in the past, they may or may not been tracked and reported to you in this manner. In our efforts to

give you clearer information in regards to the WSC we reported those expenses in this manner this year.

Total Expenses in 2007 were \$106,261 vs. \$109,468 in 2008, an increase of \$3,207.

The Surplus was \$30,070 in 2007 and \$25,884 in 2008, displaying a decrease in our overall earnings for 2008 of \$4,186.

## CASH RESERVE REPORT-COMPARISON

*Note:* See report on p. 19.

Checking Account: The end of the year totals decreased from \$16,443 in 2007 to \$15,583 in 2008. There was no change in the Prudent Reserve. The Literature Reserve increased from \$10,070 in 2007 to \$11,762 in 2008. The WSC Seed Fund is set aside for 2009. The JH Scholarship Reserves for 2009 and 2008 increased while 2007 decreased, because it was disbursed to the Host Committee. The Book Printing Reserve and Office Move Reserves were rolled into the 12 & 12 Reserve Fund.

Therefore, we have \$15,583 in the Checking Account, \$67,801 in the 11-Month CD, and \$85,250 in Savings, for a total of \$168,633, of which \$72,225 is available for use.

## YTD 2007-08 SPENDING PLAN

*Note:* See report on p. 20 and charts on p. 21.

### Where do our funds come from?

Group Contributions	25%
Individual Contributions	14%
World Service Month	2%
Interest Income	2%
Book Sales	15%
Pamphlets Sales	25%
Shipping Income	7%
John Henderson Fund	4%
Other Sales & Misc. Income	1%
WSC Net Income	5%

As you can see from the charts, Group and Individual Contributions make up 40% of our Revenue. Book and Pamphlets Sales also foster

40% of our Revenue. The other 20% is produced by the other Income Categories.

**Where do our funds go?**

**Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)**

Cost of Goods Sold was 21% of the Total Sales.

Gross Profit was 79% of Total Sales

**EXPENSES**

Total Board Expenses	18%
General Administrative	19%
Office Administrative Expense	07%
Payroll Expense	49%
Other Related Expenses	07%

Payroll Expense was 49% and General Administrative was 19%. Office Administrative, at 7%, represents 75% of our Total Expenses. However, they are the catalyst that allows our fellowship to function and carry the message to our membership and to the debtor who is still suffering.

The General Service Board Expense of 18% and other related Expenses of 7% make up the remainder.

**2008-2009 PROPOSED - SPENDING PLAN**

*Note:* See report on p. 22.

The Finance Committee considers several factors while preparing the Annual Spending Plan. Some of the factors considered are the spending amounts from previous years and requests from the World Service Conference. We also consider requests from the Fellowship, the General Service Board, the GSR Conference Committees, and the General Service Office. We normally try to create a Zero Spending Plan based on the Revenue and Expenditures from the previous year. This year was a very unique year. The World Service Conference, the Fellowship, and Committee requests exceeded the expected revenue for this year. The new items included in the Plan this year that caused the Expenditures to exceed Revenue were the request for Literature Translation (\$12,000), Website Redesign (\$5,000), Website Producer (\$6,000), and Outreach to Professionals (\$3,000). These new expenditures totaled \$26,000 and caused our Total Expenditures to exceed our Total Revenue by \$25,785.

However, thanks to the careful management of our funds by the General Service Board, coupled with a very prudent spending consciousness, we have accumulated a surplus of Revenue over the past five years. Accordingly, we placed those excess funds in Savings. It was from those Savings that we pledged the \$25,785 necessary to balance the Spending Plan. We will not have to touch our Prudent Reserves nor any other Reserve Account. Therefore, I have re-labeled that Line Item on the 2008-09 Spending Plan to read "Transfer from Savings."

It is the goal of the Finance Committee to remain pro-active in our efforts to provide the fellowship its needs yet be extremely cautious and prudent in our decisions to manage the funds of this wonderful organization.

Thanks for letting me be of service.

Respectfully yours,  
Willie E. W., GSB Treasurer



## Balance Sheet June 30, 2008

### Current Assets

#### Checking/Savings

Bank of America Checking	6,357.30	
BoA Checking #2	9,026.00	
Bank of America Savings	85,249.67	
Certificate of Deposit	67,800.66	
Office Petty Cash	100.00	
Board Petty Cash	100.00	
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	168,633.63	
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		13,877.61
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		1,528.77
<b>Total Other Assets</b>		26,345.26
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		210,385.27

#### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities		15,641.95
Total Equity		194,743.32
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		210,385.27

## Spending Plan Year-to-Year Comparison of Actuals 2006-2007 Compared to 2007-2008

2007- to-2008 Year-To-Year Comparison				
***(2007-2008)****	( A )	( B )	( C )	( D )
	(July07-June08) ANNUAL	JULY, 2006- JUNE, 2007	JULY, 2007- JUNE, 2008	JULY, 2007- JUNE, 2008
	SPENDING PLAN	2007 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	PLAN to ACTUAL-DIFF.
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>				
Group	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,048	\$ 42,881	\$ 7,833
Individual	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,538	\$ 24,587	\$ (4,951)
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -			\$ -
World Service Month	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,058	\$ 2,645	\$ (1,413)
12 & 12 Book Appeal	\$ -			\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	<b>\$ 68,644</b>	<b>\$ 70,113</b>	<b>\$ 1,469</b>
Interest	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,586	\$ 3,534	\$ (52)
Book Sales	\$ 26,000	\$ 25,704	\$ 25,800	\$ 96
Pamphlets	\$ 43,000	\$ 44,168	\$ 42,237	\$ (1,931)
Shipping	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,269	\$ 11,863	\$ (406)
Other Sales	\$ 780	\$ 738	\$ 1,352	\$ 614
John Henderson Fund	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,898	\$ 6,999	\$ 2,101
Misc. Income	\$ 250	\$ 934	\$ 50	\$ (884)
WSC Net	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,884	\$ 9,307	\$ 3,423
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 168,130</b>	<b>\$ 166,825</b>	<b>\$ 171,255</b>	<b>\$ 4,430</b>
<b><u>LESS:</u></b>				
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 25,836	\$ 29,519	\$ 35,903	\$ 6,384
Ways \$ Means Expense	\$ 1,500	\$ 975		\$ (975)
<b>Total COGS</b>	<b>\$ 27,336</b>	<b>\$ 30,494</b>	<b>\$ 35,903</b>	<b>\$ 5,409</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 140,794</b>	<b>\$ 136,331</b>	<b>\$ 135,352</b>	<b>\$ (979)</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Total Board Expenses	29,300	21,507	20,118	(1,389)
General Administrative	\$ 23,590	\$ 11,085	\$ 20,516	\$ 9,431
Office Administrative	\$ 20,076	\$ 16,550	\$ 7,511	\$ (9,039)
Payroll Expense	\$ 53,124	\$ 54,383	\$ 53,336	\$ (1,047)
Tot.Otr Related Expenses	\$ 12,900	\$ 2,736	\$ 7,987	\$ 5,251
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 140,710</b>	<b>\$ 106,261</b>	<b>\$ 109,468</b>	<b>\$ 3,207</b>
<b>SURPLUS(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 84</b>	<b>\$ 30,070</b>	<b>\$ 25,884</b>	<b>\$ (4,186)</b>

(UNAUDITED - FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

## Cash Reserve Position Comparison June 30, 2007 to June 30, 2008

	<b>JUNE 30, 2007</b>	<b>JUNE 30, 2008</b>
CHECKING	\$ 16,442.69	\$ 15,583.30
LESS: PAYABLES	\$ - APPX.	\$ - APPX.
	\$ 16,442.69	\$ 15,583.30
 11 Month CD	 \$ 65,237.94	 \$ 67,800.66
SAVINGS	\$ 59,278.60	\$ 85,249.67
	\$ 124,516.54	\$ 153,050.33
 PRUDENT RESERVE:	 * \$ 35,000.00	 * \$ 35,000.00
LITERATURE RESERVE:	\$ 10,070.01	\$ 11,762.24
WSC SEED FUNDS	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2009)	\$ -	\$ 942.10
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2008)	\$ 667.99	\$ 6,704.48
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2007)	\$ 4,229.79	\$ -
BOOK PRINTING RESERVE	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
OFFICE MOVE RESERVE	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -
12 & 12 WRITER RESERVE:	* \$ -	* \$ 40,000.00
UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS:	\$ 44,548.75	\$ 56,641.51
	\$ 124,516.54	\$ 153,050.33
 <b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>\$ 60,991.44</b>	<b>\$ 72,224.81</b>

\*Note: Items included in (11 month CD)

Prudent Reserve 35,000+30,000=\$65,000 -11 month CD. \$30,000 of 12 & 12 Reserve fund are invested in the (11 Month CD)

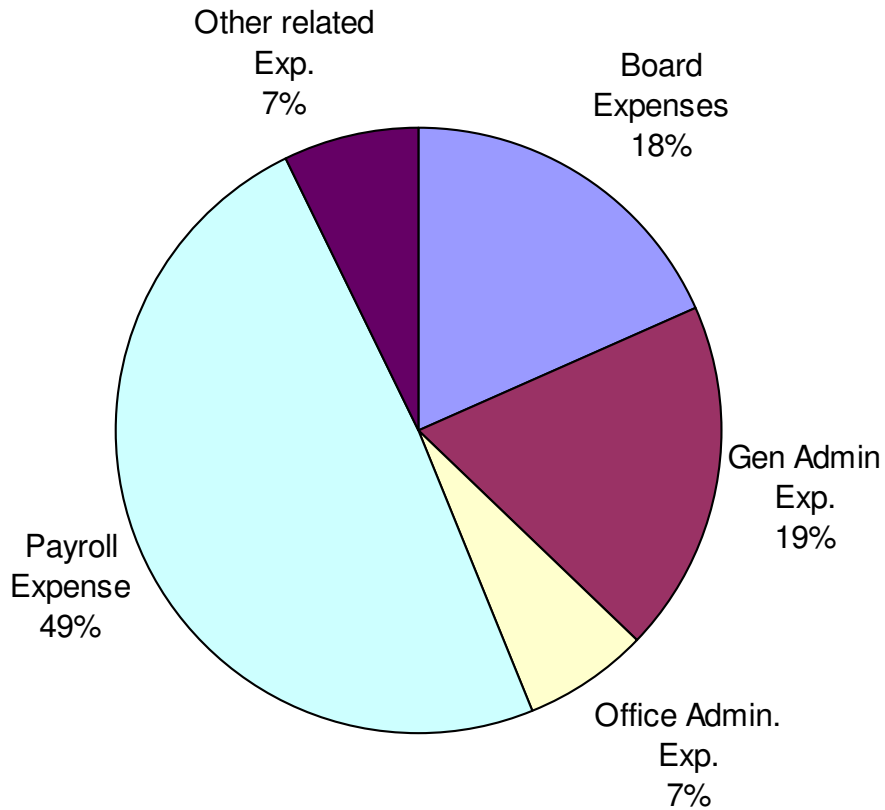
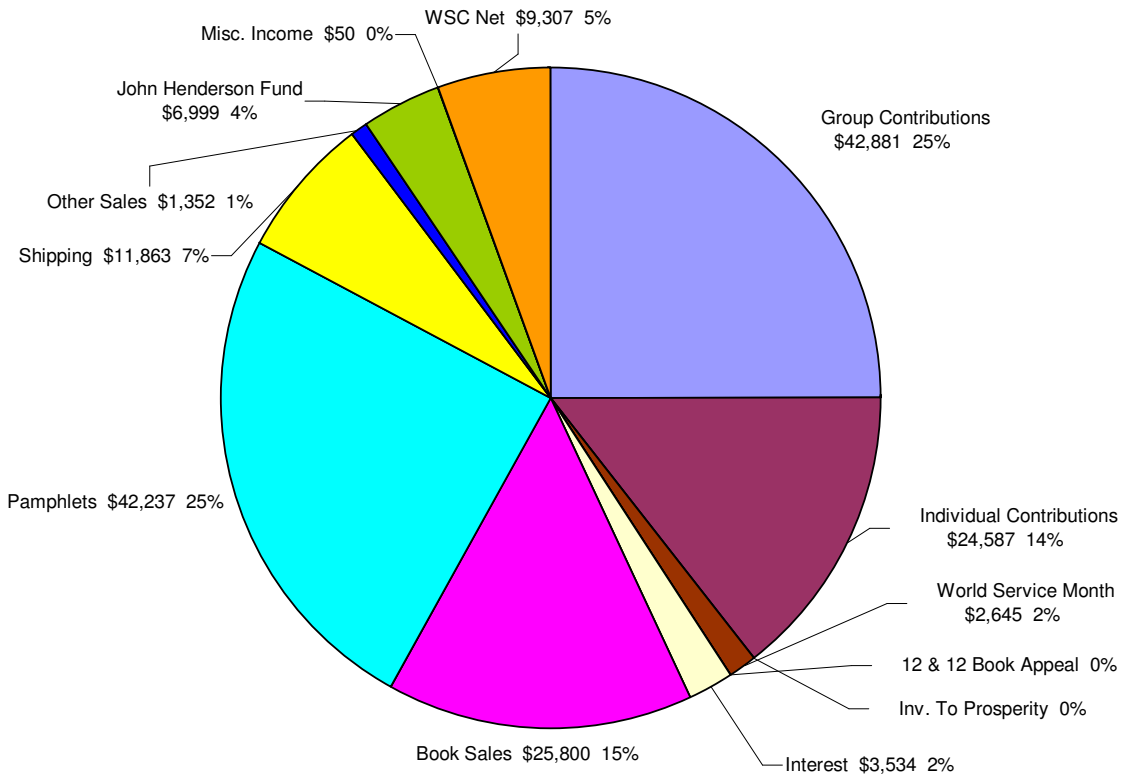
The Cash Reserve Position Report is used to track DA's current cash position as well as the various reserve accounts.

## Year-to-Date Actual to Spending Plan 2007-2008

2007-2008 ACTUAL to SPENDING PLAN(Y-T-D)				
***(2007-2008)****	( A )	( B )	( C )	( D )
	(July07-June08) ANNUAL	JULY, 2007- JUNE, 2008	JULY, 2007- JUNE, 2008	JULY, 2007- JUNE, 2008
	SPENDING PLAN	SPENDING PLAN	ACTUAL	PLAN to ACTUAL
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>				
Group	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 42,881	25% \$ 7,881
Individual	\$ 29,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 24,587	14% \$ (4,413)
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -			\$ -
World Service Month	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,645	2% \$ (3,355)
12 & 12 Book Appeal	\$ -			\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	<b>\$ 70,113</b>	41% <b>\$ 113</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>	<b>\$ 3,600</b>	<b>\$ 3,534</b>	3% <b>\$ (66)</b>
<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>\$ 26,000</b>	<b>\$ 26,000</b>	<b>\$ 25,800</b>	15% <b>\$ (200)</b>
<b>Pamphlets</b>	<b>\$ 43,000</b>	<b>\$ 43,000</b>	<b>\$ 42,237</b>	25% <b>\$ (763)</b>
<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$ 12,500</b>	<b>\$ 12,500</b>	<b>\$ 11,863</b>	7% <b>\$ (637)</b>
<b>Other Sales</b>	<b>\$ 780</b>	<b>\$ 780</b>	<b>\$ 1,352</b>	1% <b>\$ 572</b>
<b>John Henderson Fund</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 6,999</b>	4% <b>\$ 1,999</b>
<b>Misc. Income</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	1% <b>\$ (200)</b>
<b>WSC Net</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,307</b>	5% <b>\$ 2,307</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 168,130</b>	<b>\$ 168,130</b>	<b>\$ 171,255</b>	100% <b>\$ 3,125</b>
<b>Total CGS</b>	<b>\$ 27,336</b>	<b>\$ 27,336</b>	<b>\$ 35,903</b>	21% <b>\$ 8,567</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 140,794</b>	<b>\$ 140,794</b>	<b>\$ 135,352</b>	79% <b>\$ (5,442)</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Total Board Expenses	\$ 29,300	\$ 29,300	\$ 20,118	18% \$ (9,182)
General Administrative:	\$ 23,590	\$ 23,590	\$ 20,516	19% \$ (3,074)
Office Administrative:	\$ 20,076	\$ 20,076	\$ 7,511	7% \$ (12,565)
Payroll Expense	\$ 53,124	\$ 53,124	\$ 53,336	49% \$ 212
Tot. Otr Related Expenses	\$ 12,900	\$ 12,900	\$ 7,987	7% \$ (4,913)
				\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 140,710</b>	<b>\$ 140,710</b>	<b>\$ 109,468</b>	100% <b>\$ (31,242)</b>
<b>SURPLUS(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 84</b>	<b>\$ 84</b>	<b>\$ 25,884</b>	24% <b>\$ 25,800</b>

(UNAUDITED - FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

## 2007-2008 Revenue and Expense Charts



## July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 Spending Plan

'2008-09 Spending Plan				
***(2008-2009)***	( A )	( B )	( C )	( D )
	(July08-June09) ANNUAL	JULY 2008	JULY 2008	JUL,08-JUN 2009
	SPENDING PLAN	SPENDING PLAN	ACTUAL	PLAN to ACTUAL
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>				
Group	\$ 43,000			\$ -
Individual	\$ 25,000			\$ -
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -			\$ -
World Service Month	\$ 2,500			\$ -
12 & 12 Book Appeal	\$ -			\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,500</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$ 3,300</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>\$ 25,800</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Pamphlets</b>	<b>\$ 42,200</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$ 11,900</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Other Sales</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>John Henderson Fund</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Misc. Income</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>WSC Gross Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>			<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 168,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total CGS</b>	<b>\$ 38,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 130,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Total Board Expenses	\$ 26,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Gen Administrative Total:	\$ 46,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Office Administrative-Tot:	\$ 14,475	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Expense	\$ 53,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Tot. Otr Related Expenses	\$ 15,500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 156,385</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>SURPLUS(Deficit)</u></b>				
<b>From Operations</b>	<b>\$ (25,785)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Funds Transferred from Savings Account	\$ 25,785			
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 25,785</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>SURPLUS(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

(UNAUDITED - FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

#### 4. GSB INFO TECH COMMITTEE

2007-2008 members: Alan K., Chair, Jan S., Chris S.

The Information Technology (Info Tech) Committee of the GSB explores and implements ways in which technology can be used to carry the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. The committee researches new and existing technologies and considers how they can be used on the DA world service website and at the General Service Office.

Info Tech determines which current technologies can be useful, and prepares spending plans and action plans for their implementation. The members of the committee during the 2007-2008 Conference year were Alan K., Chair, Jan S., Chris S., and Jon L., an Appointed Committee Member (ACM).

The committee completed two major projects this year, both of which will make the GSO and website much more convenient and user-friendly:

1. **Voice-Mail:** The need for a voice mail and information referral system was suggested to Info Tech by the Fellowship Communications Committee of the WSC two years ago, and after extensive development, went live this spring. The system allows anyone calling the office to speak with a staff member and leave a message to be returned later or automatically access basic DA information. The new telephone number (800-421-2383) allows members to call the office toll free for the first time ever. The English-language service is up and running and Spanish-language service will be added soon.
2. **Searchable Meeting List (Find A Meeting):** A new searchable meeting database makes it far easier than before to find meetings anywhere in the world on the DA website. The new system was developed in conjunction with professional programmers, tested extensively by Info Tech, and is maintained by the GSO staff. The "real-time" feature of the database allows immediate changes for meeting and contact information, and helps keep the meeting list current by giving immediate feedback to group members about their listing.

3. In addition to the two big projects, the committee began or continued working on several others this year:
  - **E-News:** More than 4,500 DA members are now receiving regular communications from the GSO and GSB via a relatively new service called the E-News. Anyone can sign up to receive regular information about DA service activities and events. Simply sign up on the home page of the DA website: [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).
  - **Website Home Page Reorganized:** The DA website's home page has been redesigned to make it more readable and user-friendly. The links on the left hand side of the page are easier to read, with the remainder of the page containing many DA "basics" and the E-News signup box.
  - **Website Service Page Updated:** The DA website Service page has undergone a major expansion. There are many more links to important documents and reports, past and present. GSB members have been working to get the page updated with information of great importance to the fellowship.
  - **GSO Computer Online Backups:** The computers at the GSO are now much more secure with the purchase of online capacity to back up office files. This means DA's databases and other vital records can be easily reconstructed if an accident or disaster should take place at the office.
  - **Website Statistics:** New analytical software gives us the capacity to track how many visitors come to different parts of the DA website. It also has the capability to determine how many documents or periodicals were downloaded.

#### **Web Site Statistics since January 2008**

From January 1, 2008 until July 31, 2008 there have been:

- 1,250,955 hits to the site [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) (A hit is any successful request from a visitor's browser)
- 503,957 page views (A pageview is a request from a visitor's browser for a page on the site)

**Projects for 2008-2009**

The next big project planned by Info Tech is a comprehensive rethinking and redesign of the website, with an eye toward making it more “newcomer-friendly” and compartmentalized so that members can find specific types of information more easily.

We will also be looking into hiring a Producer (to do layout, etc). InfoTech is always looking for

qualified GSRs and ISRs to serve on the committee as ACMs (Appointed Committee Members). If you meet the qualifications for ACM and would like to serve, please contact any member of the committee.

Respectfully submitted.  
Alan K., Chair

## Top 10 pages visited:

	<u>Pageviews</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Home Page	100,462	19.93%
2. Admin Page for Find A Meeting (Howard or Alan)	35,944	7.13%
3. Find A Meeting Page	30,196	5.99%
4. Help Page – Questions	23,503	4.66%
5. Admin Page for Find A Meeting (Programmers)	18,985	3.75%
6. Literature Page	16,778	3.33%
7. Help Page – Getting Started	16,374	3.25%
8. Help Page – Signs	15,451	3.07%
9. Find A Meeting Page – Online Meetings	13,907	2.76%
10. Help Page	12,346	2.45%
11. All Others	220,101	43.67%

## Top 10 documents downloaded:

	<u>Hits</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Adopt A Loner Document	1,819	4.48%
2. Twelve Steps	1,753	4.31%
3. 2008 WSC Registration Packet	1,498	3.69%
4. 2007 Final Report WSC	1,406	3.46%
5. DA Focus – Feb 2008	1,235	3.04%
6. Ways & Means - Quarter 1 – 2008	1,215	2.99%
7. Ways & Means Letter	1,081	2.66%
8. Way & Means – Quarter 4 – 2007	1,062	2.61%
9. Literature Order Form	1,041	2.56%
10. Assignment Of Rights Document	1,030	2.53%
11. All Others	27,496	67.66%



## 5. GSB LITERATURE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (LitPub)

2007-2008 members: Chris S., Chair, Aishlin O., Jan J., James Q., Peggy R. Secretary

It has been another busy year for the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board Literature Publications Committee. The Literature Publications Committee met approximately once per month to discuss new literature, copyright issues affecting existing literature, copyright issues affecting the DA Trade Mark and Service Mark, prospective translations of existing literature, the hiring of a professional writer for a Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book, the need for revisions to the Literature Approval Process, the selection of Appointed Committee Members to serve on the Literature Services Committee, and to answer queries posed to the committee by the membership.

1. Literature in Development  
Literature Services and Literature Publications have reviewed various drafts of literature.

### A. New Literature

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book: A great effort was made this past year toward the selection of a writer for the DA 12 & 12. The Literature Services Committee has the responsibility of finding writers and reviewing materials. Consequently, the report from the Literature Services Committee on page 26 gives a complete overview of the history and status of the 12 & 12.

The LitPub Committee also determined that several important projects such as the DA 12 & 12, the Daily Meditation book, and three BDA pamphlets, which were in process before the adoption of our current Literature Approval Process, need to have their concepts approved by the Fellowship at this Conference if work on them is to continue.

The Daily Meditation book is still in progress. The World Service Conference Literature Committee has not yet presented this piece of literature to the Literature Services Committee for review. Therefore a status report on the

Meditation book will be given by the WSC Literature Committee.

- B. Revisions to existing pamphlets  
As pamphlets have come up for reprinting, those pamphlets were reviewed by the committee and non-substantive revisions made where appropriate. Literature Services took over the responsibility of reviewing all pamphlets for accuracy well in advance of the time when such pamphlets need to be reprinted.
- C. Appointed Committee Members for Literature Services  
The Committee obtained resumes from Carolyn C. and Sherri H., two members of the Debtors Anonymous fellowship, to serve as ACMs to Literature Services. The Committee interviewed these individuals and both members were unanimously appointed by the full GSB to serve the Fellowship in this capacity.
- D. Sales of Literature this past year  
The following is a schedule showing literature sales this past year:

	Item Description	total sold
AV-101	Cassette: DA / PRG & PRM	52
AV-102	CD: DA / PRG & PRM	74
AV-103	CD: Public Service Announcement	14
AV-104	How to Hold a DA Meeting	34
B-102	Currency of Hope (Softcover)	2,611
P-101	Debtors Anonymous	2,654
P-102	Service	758
P-104	Meetings	1,128
P-105	Record Keeping	3,549
P-106	Spending Plan	3,084
P-108	Pressure Relief Groups/Pressure Relief Meetings	2,587
P-109	Debt Payment	1,808
P-110	Using the Telephone and the Internet	1,954
P-112	Communicating with Creditors	1,898
P-113	Visions	2,684
P-115	Business Meetings	666
P-116	Awareness	1,594
P-117	Twelve Signs Leaflets	3,120
P-118	Fifteen Questions Leaflet	2,602
P-119	Twelve Tools Leaflets	3,220
P-120	Monthly Recordkeeper (single)	4,704
P-122	Business Debtors Anonymous	665
P-123	The Promises Leaflet	2,080
P-124	Undereaming	2,458
P-125	Twelve Steps of DA	2,558
P-126	Spirituality	1,570
P-127	Recovery from Compulsive Spending	2,563
P-128	The Numbers: One Approach	2,184
P-129	Just For This Day Bookmark	2,273
S-101	General Service Representative Brochure	640
S-102	General Service Office Brochure	622
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>58,408</b>

2. The GSB Literature Publications Committee has also worked on the following:
  - A. Followed through with an attorney and renewed the DA service mark and logo.
  - B. Set up a system through our attorney to ensure that all DA trademarks, service marks, and logos are monitored to guarantee that the GSB has ample notice of when action need be taken to ensure that DA retains all such trademarks, service marks, and logos.
  - C. Worked with the Finance Committee and the GSB to ensure funds would be available to hire a writer for the 12 & 12 when a suitable candidate was identified, continue to have work done by our copyright attorney, and continue to publish literature as necessary.
  - D. Made bulk orders of the Numbers: One Approach pamphlet available at a discount.
  - E. Responded to requests from international members and others regarding the translation of existing DA material. We have an ongoing request to the DA fellowship for translators. We have received one bid for a Spanish translation of the Currency of Hope. We have also attempted to communicate with an individual in Argentina who has already completed a translation of the Currency of Hope. Unfortunately, after one initial contact, we have had no further response.
  - F. Fielded requests from numerous organizations and individuals to use DA materials on their websites and in their respective publications.
  - G. Approved a spending plan for the committee for the 2008-2009 year.

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## 6. LITERATURE SERVICES

Members: ACMs: Carolyn C., Gail O., Sherri H., (Kelly L., Pat B.,) Trustees: Jan J. (chair), Peggy R.

Literature Services (LS) is a subcommittee of Literature Publications.

In February, two of our ACMs, Kelly L. and Pat B., completed their three-year terms of service. In

April, we welcomed two new ACMs, Carolyn C. (TX) and Sherri H. (OH). Gail's term ends in August. Literature Publications is seeking qualified members for additional ACMs for LS.

### Brief history and status of 12 & 12

The 12 & 12 was originally being written by a subcommittee of the Literature Committee. It remained with the subcommittee for approximately eight years. At the 2006 WSC, Literature Publications suggested to the Literature Committee that they consider releasing the material to LS, who would find a single writer for the project. It was hoped that having a single writer, along with the previously written material, would help the project move forward more quickly. The Literature Committee agreed by group conscience to turn over the materials to LS. Last year, LS created and distributed a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 12 & 12. Thirteen proposals were received and reviewed by LS, followed by a recommendation of a writer to Literature Publications. A second writing sample (Step sample) was requested of the recommended writer. Both Literature Publications and LS reviewed the second sample and discussed it on a joint call. The group conscience was that the sample did not meet the guidelines as expressed in the RFP. Thus, no writer was approved. A new RFP is being created and will be available soon. Through the joint efforts of LS and Literature Publications, we hope to find a writer this coming year.

LS reviewed the original 12 & 12 Request for Proposals and made suggestions to Literature Publications for a revision. Suggestions would make the RFP more clear about expectations and ask for a Step writing sample instead of random writings.

In the process of trying to find a writer for the DA 12 & 12, it became clear that the current description of LS and the Literature Approval Process both needed to be reviewed and redefined. LS asked Literature Publications to clarify the responsibilities and authority of LS. In addition, LS felt that Literature Publications needed to be included in the Literature Approval Process sooner than during the third year of the process to ensure each piece reflects DA's primary purpose and to avoid rejection at the end of the process.

The following pieces were reviewed this past year:

1. BDA Numbers Booklet
  - Comments were sent to the BDA Committee to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.
2. Pressure Relief Groups/Pressure Relief Meetings Pamphlet
  - We prepared for both a reprint of this piece (inventory was low) and for a revision which will include suggestions on how to hold a Pressure Relief Meeting. A writer is needed for the revision.
3. Debt Payment and Communicating with Creditors Pamphlets
  - These two pamphlets are being combined and revised and will soon have its 3<sup>rd</sup> draft. We are hopeful that the pamphlet will be presented for approval at the 2009 Conference.
4. BDA Clarity in Business Finances
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> draft was given to the WSC Literature Committee for their approval or comments.
  - LS received the Literature Committee comments in July and will review them, as will Literature Publications.
  - All comments will then go to the BDA Committee to create a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft.
  - We are hopeful that this piece will come for approval at the 2009 WSC.
5. Annual BDA Business Plan Pamphlet
  - With the BDA Committee to create a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.

#### 6. Income Plan Pamphlet

- The concept for this piece was approved in 2007. Some members of Lit Services have not heard of using an income plan in DA in their areas. The pamphlet that was presented is long and complicated, and we are not sure if the Fellowship has expressed a need for this piece.

#### Other Literature Services Projects

1. We maintained a Literature Status Chart to keep track of all the pieces in the approval process. The chart was shared on a regular basis with Literature Publications and the WSC Literature Committee. The current chart is available in your WSC binder.
2. LS agreed to take on the responsibility of reviewing each piece of literature so that when it comes time to reprint a piece (due to low inventory), there will be a record of edits needed. LS will also make content change suggestions in case a piece is ever revised.
3. We discussed creating a pool of writers for future projects. The pool would include former writers, writers who submitted proposals for the 12x12, former trustees, and former LS ACMs.

The current Literature Approval Process was approved in 2004. We discovered that certain pieces that we were working on were either introduced before 2004 or at the 2004 Conference. The pieces include the 12 & 12, the Daily Meditation book, the BDA Clarity in Business Finances pamphlet, the BDA Newcomers pamphlet, and the BDA Signposts and Tools. At this year's Convocation, the Literature Committee will be bringing forth motions to approve these concepts just so we have the "official" approval of the Conference.

**LITERATURE SERVICES**  
**Report to the 2008 World Service Conference**  
 Last updated: August 2008

Piece	Year Concept Approved	Draft #	Where in Process	Where Goes Next	Date Last Discussed by LS
12 & 12 book	Needs Approval	0	2007 writer search unsuccessful. New RFP being created.	With LS & LP to find writer	12/9/2007
12 Step Study Guide	2007	0	Wait for 12x12 to be written?		
Daily Meditation book	Needs Approval	0	With Lit. Com. Subcommittee Indexing/Reviewing	To LS	7/2/2006
DA Basic Text (How It Works)	2007	0	Lit. Com. working on outline	To LS	
Newcomer's Welcome Booklet	2007	1	Received from Lit. Com. 6/08 Being reviewed by LS	To writer with LS comments for 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	6/22/2008
Debt Payment and Communicating with Creditors pamphlet revision	?	2	Literature Committee sent revisions to LS 6/07— piece currently with writer	3 <sup>rd</sup> draft to LS	10/21/2007
PRG/PRM Revision (with how to give a PRM)	2006	0	LS to find writer—LS is also reviewing existing pamphlet	To writer	1/20/2008
Income Plan pamphlet	2007	0	LS to find writer—LS is also creating an outline Has Fellowship expressed a need for this pamphlet?	To writer	1/20/2008
BDA Clarity in Business Finances pamphlet	Needs Approval	2	With Literature Committee for comments or approval. 1/08	After comments, back to LS	1/20/2008
BDA Numbers booklet	2006	1	With Writer 1/08	To Literature Committee	1/20/2008
The Annual BDA Business Plan pamphlet	2006	1	With Writer 1/08	To Literature Committee	1/20/2008
BDA Newcomer's pamphlet	Needs Approval	1?	LS sent comments to writer 05/05—BDA Committee is trying to locate draft	After revisions, back to LS	9/9/2007
BDA Signposts & Tools pamphlet	Needs Approval	1	Back to writer to incorporate LS suggestions for 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft.	After revisions, back to LS	10/21/2007
DA Basics	2006	1	On hold—the material will be incorporated into the How It Works book	To How It Works writer	10/21/2007
Beginners Meeting Format	2007	0	Lit. Com. collecting samples		
Business Meeting Format	2007	0	Lit. Com. collecting samples		
How to Start a DA Intergroup pamphlet	?	1	With writer (Intergroup Caucus)	After revisions, back to LS	7/2/2006

Piece	Year Concept Approved	Draft #	Where in Process	Where Goes Next	Date Last Discussed by LS
DA and AA Literature pamphlet revision		0	With writer	To LS	2/16/2006
Awareness pamphlet revision		1	With Literature Committee to find writer	To writer	1/7/2007
DA Service Manual	2005	0			
Time Debting pamphlet	2005	1	LS consensus: outside issue	Back to Lit. Com. Lit. Com. decided to shelve this piece 8/07.	2/4/2007
Relationships, Money, and Debt pamphlet		1	LS sent comments to writer 6/06—Lit. Com. set it aside 8/06	After revisions, back to LS	2/4/2007
Sponsorship pamphlet revision		1	LS sent comments to writer 8/05	After revisions, back to LS	7/17/2005
Glossary			Conference did not approve concept 2007		9/9/2007
Just for This Day bookmark			Conference approved 2006	Done/Printed	
BDA Meeting Format			Conference approved 2006	Done/Available on website	
Tools revision			Conference approved 2005	Done/Printed	
Using the Telephone and Internet pamphlet revision			Conference approved 2005	Done/Printed	

LS = Literature Services

LP = Literature Publications

## 7. GSB LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

LRP members: Carol B., Chair, Willie W., Jan S.

The GSB Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) was revived at the 2007 WSC after a three-year hiatus. The members of the 2007-08 LRPC were Carol B., Willie W., and Jan S. The fourth member of the committee, MaryJane R., resigned from the General Service Board in September 2007. The LRPC discussed some of the big picture aspects affecting the health of DA as a whole, including DA's primary purpose, a definition of debting, and DA's long-range Five-Year Plan.

### DA's Primary Purpose

The LRPC's assessment of the health of the DA program will be presented in detail in the Five-Year Plan. Briefly, the LRPC believes that the fellowship's pursuit of prosperity, visions, and relief from underearning has led DA away from a focus on recovery from compulsive debting and from the spiritual and emotional growth that come from not debting and from working the 12 Steps. The position of the LRPC is that genuine recovery comes from not debting, working the 12 Steps of DA under the guidance of a sponsor, and doing service for the debtor who still suffers. Therefore, based on this assessment, the LRPC suggests that the best long-range plan for the fellowship includes an intensive focus on DA's primary purpose of not incurring unsecured debt one day at a time, as expressed through the principles and practices of Sponsorship, the Steps, and Service. The LRPC asked the General Service Board to adopt Three Principles for DA's Future: Steps, Sponsorship, and Service, to be applied thematically in rotation at the annual World Service Conference, beginning with Service for the 2008 WSC, followed by Steps for 2009 and Sponsorship for 2010.

### Definition of Debting

In response to the many requests that the Board receives from members to define debting and not debting, the LRPC spent time discussing various aspects of not debting and investigated some of the guidelines used in various parts of the country, seeking to determine if there was a way to encourage the DA fellowship to adopt a clear, unambiguous definition or set of guidelines for not

debting. The members of the LRPC had mixed opinions about the clarity of DA's longstanding definition of not debting: Not debting is not incurring any type of unsecured debt, unsecured debt being any form of debt not backed up by collateral. To someone who is not debting, this simple definition seems clear and precise. However, many people who are still debting may have difficulty understanding that definition. Therefore, the committee felt a need to adopt a "clarification" that would make it easier for more people to understand what not-debting is. As a basis for discussion, the committee considered one version of an unofficial list of characteristics of not-debting that has circulated at various World Service Conferences in recent years. This unofficial list declared that we can be considered to be refraining from incurring unsecured debt if we haven't used a credit card, bounced a check, borrowed anything without collateral, paid a bill late, or taken any goods or services without paying for them.

A discussion on a set of clarification guidelines was brought by the LRPC to the full Board, which declined to adopt the guidelines, agreeing that attempting to craft a new definition that everyone agreed with could be much more confusing and frustrating than the present situation. It was agreed that the current DA definition of DA's primary purpose, not incurring unsecured debt one day at a time, should be left in place. It was also agreed that the fellowship still has a need for greater clarity on what debting and not debting are, and that that need can be best met at the present time through the wide distribution of stories of members who are not debting, and by having examples of not debting permeate our literature in all media. The LRPC recommended that the Board ask the Literature Committee to bring a motion to the 2008 WSC asking for conceptual approval to post recovery stories on the DA website.

### Five-Year Plan

At the 2006 WSC, the delegates passed a motion requiring the Board to prepare and present a Five-Year Plan to the 2008 WSC. The process of preparing a comprehensive Five-Year Plan was undertaken by the new Long Range Planning Committee. After long and thoughtful discussion, the committee reached the conclusion that it is possible that DA is in danger. The committee shared troubling stories heard in many regions of

the Fellowship, stories that indicate a lack of consensus about what it means to debt and not to debt. If we as a Fellowship cannot or are unwilling to return to our primary purpose, as stated in the DA Preamble, the LRPC believes DA will experience continued stagnation, internal strife, mistrust of our trusted servants at all levels, and a slow decline to eventual dissolution.

At this point the Long Range Planning Committee asked for the perspective of the entire Board, and it quickly became clear that a Five-Year Plan would require many more hours of thoughtful discussion. The intention of the Board was to have the Five-Year Plan ready to present to you at this Conference; however, I must report to you now that the Committee and the Board are respectfully asking you for a one-year extension. The Five-Year Plan will now become the responsibility of the 2008-09 GSB Long Range Planning Committee, and I have no doubt they will endeavor to present to you a complete Five-Year Plan document at the 2009 Conference.

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## 8. GSB NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Members: Chris S., Jan J. (chair), Jan S.

During the past year, the Nominations Committee (NomCom) reviewed and updated a list of potential trustee candidates. NomCom agreed that one of the most crucial qualifications of a potential trustee was that of GSR/ISR service. Since DA has no regional level of service and not many intergroups, attending the World Service Conference and participation on WSC Committees may be the only opportunity for DA members to gain the unique perspective and experience necessary for effective service to the General Service Board. Our list included many qualified DA members; however, some potential trustees were not available to serve at the time, while others needed more World Service experience or came from regions in the country that already have a full complement of trustees on the Board.

NomCom made a nominations procedural change this past year by adding an initial interview of candidates by our committee alone. If the committee agreed unanimously on a candidate, the candidate's nomination materials and a

recommendation were forwarded to the General Service Board.

We interviewed one Class A (debtor) trustee candidate and recommended the candidate to the General Service Board for consideration. The member was interviewed and approved by the entire Board. At the time of the appointment, the member's circumstances had changed and the individual was unable to accept the position.

We also interviewed two Class B (non-debtor) trustee candidates and made a recommendation to the Board. You will be meeting our newest Trustee, Donna W., at this Conference. She will be submitted for ratification at the Convocation.

All trustees, GSRs, ISRs, and DA members are encouraged to think about potential trustees. If you know someone in your area that has the potential to serve DA as a trustee, please encourage the member to become a GSR or ISR. If the member has served at least 2-3 years at the World Service level, ask them to consider applying to be a trustee. Nomination materials are available in the GSR/ISR manual and on the DA website.

NomCom also discussed rotation of service at the World level, developing suggestions that trustees, GSRs, and ISRs who complete their terms allow other DA members the opportunity to serve the Fellowship.

The role and election procedure of Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) were also reviewed. ACMs are DA members (generally former GSRs/ISRs) who have special skills needed on a GSB committee. There is currently one ACM on the GSB InfoTech Committee and three ACMs on Literature Services. If you or someone you know has experience and/or skills that could be useful to a GSB committee, please read the guidelines in the GSR/ISR manual or contact a member of the Nominations Committee.

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## 9. GSB OFFICE COMMITTEE REPORT

The General Service Board Office Committee oversees the operation of the General Service Office in Needham, Massachusetts, and works with the staff to ensure that the fellowship is served in an efficient and effective manner.

This year's committee consisted of Jan S., Carol B., Willie W., and Paul S. Jan S. was the GSB liaison to the GSO and to the Internal Operations Committee of the Conference, which offers advice on Office matters.

The Liaison and other members of the committee communicate with our office manager, Howard S., weekly by telephone and daily by e-mail. The Liaison made one formal in-person visit and two informal visits to the Office during the year. Howard could not attend the Conference this year because of a family commitment, but his written report is at the end of the Office Committee report.

Among the accomplishments of the Office Committee this year were:

1. The signing of a 5-year lease, the first long-term office lease in our history, which gives DA substantial savings on rent and long-term stability in our office operations.
2. The hiring of Ellen L., a part time assistant to the Office Manager.
3. Implementation of a new Volunteer Program at the Office, with the assistance of the IOC. We continue to seek volunteers from the Eastern Massachusetts area to work in person at the office, and from anywhere else to do research and offer expertise in other areas by telephone or e-mail.
4. Completion of an Office Operations Manual, with writing and editing by the chair of the IOC.
5. A clarification of the role of the Office Manager and a rewriting of his job description to reflect the current scope of the job.
6. Creation of a New Group Packet to be mailed for free to newly registered DA groups.
7. Implementation of the annual group re-registration process as voted by last year's Conference. (All DA groups and intergroups are required to re-register annually by June 30.)
8. Working with the Office Manager to "declutter" the Office and achieve a more

efficient and more professional-appearing use of Office space.

9. Maintained our current office equipment, most of which has been replaced in recent years and is in excellent condition, and continued long-range planning for the gradual replacement of aging equipment.
10. Worked closely with the Information Technology Committee on implementation of two major technology projects, a new voice mail and information system and a new Searchable Meeting List available on the DA website. More details on these major projects will be given in the Info Tech Committee report.
11. Rented a climate-controlled storage facility a few miles from the office in Norwood, Mass. for the storage of the growing DA Archives. Work was begun on cataloguing and categorizing the Archives, and special acid-free storage boxes, folders, and sleeves were purchased to preserve our archival materials.
12. Worked with intergroup members in New York and Chicago on obtaining some of their records for the Archives.
13. As always, your General Service Office is eager to hear from DA members, groups, and intergroups on how we can better serve call. Please feel free to contact the Office staff or Office Committee members by telephone, e-mail, or in person at any time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan S., Chair

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### 2008 Report by DA Office Manager Howard S.

Since last year's conference, the General Service Office has initiated and/or completed a number of tasks that have benefited the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

1. The GSO proposed and the Board adopted a new bulk order pricing structure for our recovery book *A Currency of Hope* which allows groups to purchase pre-packs of either ten or twenty books at discounted pricing of between \$8.75 and \$10.00 per book. We have shipped over 36 orders under this very successful program. Overall, however, we are noticing a definite downturn in sales of A



*Currency of Hope*; most likely because it was published in 1998 and remains basically unchanged. Since book sales provide a significant portion of the fellowship's income, I would urge the Board and the appropriate literature committee to consider how our recovery book could be enhanced and reinvigorated. Some of the stories are dated and are no longer the best examples of DA recovery.

2. Beginning with the current World Service Conference, the office has taken over some of the administrative tasks formerly done by the Host Committee. These include printing, assembling, and mailing the conference registration packets to groups; receiving and processing the registration forms and payments; and working with the DA Treasurer on disbursements to conference suppliers and recipients of John Henderson scholarships. Given that this is the first time the GSO has been involved in the conference to such an extent, I believe all parties are very satisfied with the results.

3. This past winter, the DA website went live with the long awaited searchable meeting list. The GSO worked with the Info Tech committee to provide meeting and contact data that is the basis for the meeting list. The office has the ability to update information on any registered meeting and have it appear on the website within seconds. This is a work in progress and the office continues to struggle to find a mechanism to encourage or require groups to provide information and updates on a timely basis.

The database which underlies the searchable meeting, unfortunately, has substantial issues that need to be addressed. It is not the powerful database that was visualized several years ago and in some ways is less useful than the simple spreadsheet that it replaced. The office stands ready to work with Info Tech and provide input to rectify this problem.

4. Finally, this past November the DA Board negotiated and executed a 5-year lease for our existing office space. This is the first time that we have had a multiple year lease. This situation allows the Board and the GSO to focus on other issues for the next few years and not need to have a yearly discussion about office costs, location, and serviceability.

It is important to be aware, however, that by the end of the lease in October 2012 the current space and location will certainly no longer be adequate or appropriate for our needs. Physically, at certain times the office is already overfilled with boxes of books and pamphlets. Our low cost suburban location is not easily accessible, an issue which I believe has and will impact the ability to hire and retain qualified employees. It is also not handicapped-accessible. I encourage the Board to be proactive and develop an action plan to fund and locate a new office beginning as soon as possible.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your office manager and for the support of the DA Board and of my many friends in the DA Fellowship.

Howard S.  
Office Manager

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## 10. GSB PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

PI Committee members: Paul S., Chair, Allen A., Chris S.

The General Service Board Public Information (PI) Committee has had an active year. The Committee was composed of three Trustees, Chris S., Allen A., and Paul S., and our Media Contact Person, Kathy R., and met six times by telephone conference over the course of the last year and twice at our face-to-face meeting in February.

The first action of the Committee was to appoint Kathy R., of New Jersey, to act as our Media Contact Person. Over the course of her first ten months, Kathy received a total of 32 requests for information from the news media. These requests came from outlets across the United States and Canada, as well as Latin America. She was able to link these individuals with interviewees from DA 12 times, or answer their questions personally 7 times, and her efforts resulted in the publication of 10 articles or interviews. Because of the failure of some media contacts to provide us with information, these results are only approximate.

The PI Committee also sent out a letter of inquiry to the Intergroups, requesting information on their public information activities. This was suggested by an Issue and Concern raised at the 2006 World Service Conference; the response to last year's mailing was sparse, but the PI Committee concluded that such inquiries were necessary in light of the lack of communication between the GSB, the WSC PI Committee, and the intergroups about their public information functions. For example, the Wall Street Journal published an article referring to comments by a DA spokesman; when we received inquiries about this, we had no idea who this spokesperson was. We hope for a more extensive reply from the intergroups this year. There is no deadline for replies.

The GSB also approved a letter from the PI Committee to consumer credit counselors, describing DA and noting our anonymity policy. A volunteer is currently working on compiling a mailing list, and it is hoped that this letter will go out as soon as possible. The Committee also approved a form letter to be used by the GSO if we receive information about a public anonymity break. If the GSO knows the address and identity of such an individual, the form letter, gently reminding him or her of our Eleventh and Twelfth Traditions, will be sent out.

A letter was also sent out to newspapers and magazines describing DA and our anonymity policy. Newspapers in the United States and Canada with a circulation of 100,000 or more, as well as a number of magazines and radio and television outlets, were given this information. We hope that this will be continued on an annual basis.

The PI Committee presented a proposal to the GSB to spend up to \$3,000 per year, beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, to rent booths and provide literature at state, regional, and national conventions of helping professionals. This is one way in which DA can present itself in a program of attraction rather than promotion to those who are in a position to introduce the still-suffering debtor to DA. The Board approved this proposal and we are working with the WSC PI Committee to implement this decision. We hope to have a presence at our first conference in the Fall.

The GSB also accepted a proposal made by the WSC PI Committee suggesting to intergroups how

they may spread the DA message to more diverse populations. These suggestions will be placed on the DA website as a guide for intergroups looking to reach out to still suffering debtors who may currently be underserved.

We are working on developing a policy for requests for links to our website. While it appears that we have no ability to deny an outside entity the right to link to our website if it so chooses, some do request permission, often with the request that we provide information about DA to be incorporated in their websites. We are exploring the extent to which this may constitute affiliation rather than cooperation, particularly where commercial websites are concerned.

We are also currently working on a policy, consistent with the spirit of rotation in service, on how we may make use of former Trustees for public information functions, particularly in coordination with the activities of our Media Contact Person.

## SECTION 4

### WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

#### 1. BUSINESS DEBTORS ANONYMOUS (BDA) COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 14, 2008 / First Session / 2:15pm

Christy S. opened the meeting with welcome and description of officer positions. Aishlin O' (GSB Liaison) and Jill P. introduced their respective roles as GSB Liaison and Literature Committee Liaison.

The following officers were elected by unanimous decisions:

Chair:	Christy S.
Vice-Chair:	Marianne G.
Secretary:	Faith M. (back up Douglas S.)
Treasurer:	Bill S.
YahooGroup Mistress:	Janet Z.
Liaison to Literature Committee:	Jill P.
Vice-Liaison to Literature Committee:	Dee C.

The Committee prioritized the status BDA literature to work on for 2008-2009.

Project Status of DA Literature:

Piece	Status
BDA Numbers Booklet	Continue writing draft two
The Annual BDA Business Plan pamphlet	Continue writing draft two (synthesize past documents into one draft)
BDA Newcomer's pamphlet	Submit to Literature Committee for "concept approval at 2008 DA WSC
BDA Signposts and Tools	Tabled
Clarity in Business Finance	Submit to Literature Committee for "concept approval at 2008 DA WSC
BDA Recovery Stories	Submit to Literature Committee for "concept approval at 2008 DA WSC
BDA Step Study Guide Supplement	Completed Step 3

August 14, 2008 / Evening Session / 6:15pm

BDA Priorities:

1. Increase the business content of BDA meetings

2. Official resolution that each new BDA member go through the 12 steps from the Big Book first. (Deferred until written resolution)
3. Outline for BDA Sponsors
4. Clarity re: BDA Solvency vs. Abstinence
5. BDA Subcommittee to match those needing BDA sponsors with BDA sponsees. To set up process
6. Sponsorship of BDA Groups
7. A business contract between GSR & BDA meeting parliamentarian as a position for BDA meeting formats
8. Format for Business PRGs
9. Business Plan Pamphlet.
10. Step Study Guide.
11. BDA Numbers Pamphlet

Azul A. moved to have Issues 5, 8, 13, 14 and 15 addressed by subcommittees. The vote: 18 in favor, 2 opposed. The motion carried with substantial unanimity.

Draft copies of the BDA Numbers Pamphlet, the Step Study Guide, and the Annual BDA Business Plan pamphlet were passed out for members to review.

Motions were made and seconded to move forward with the aforementioned three drafts and to form subcommittees, each headed by shepherds. The Committee approved the motion with substantial unanimity.

The following subcommittees and their members met to complete drafts for proposed BDA literature and BDA issues:

1. Annual BDA Business Plan pamphlet  
Chair - Tarra Y.  
Co-Chair - Brandi M.  
Secretary - Monica  
Shepherd - Michael C.  
Chris M.  
Adrienne L.
2. BDA Step Study Guide Supplement  
Chair - Allen L.  
Shepherd - Bill S.  
Secretary - Evelyn E.
3. BDA Numbers Booklet  
Chair - Christi S.  
Secretary - Elizabeth T.  
Douglas S.

- Tim G.
4. BDA Group Sponsorship  
Chair - Pete A.  
Treasurer - Russ V.  
Secretary - Lorraine P.
  5. BDA Matching Individuals for Sponsorship and PRGs  
Chair – Marla D.  
Secretary - Sam B.  
Liaison to PI Committee - Azul A.  
Barrington D.  
Adrienne L.

**August 15, 2008 / Morning Session / 8:45am**

The Chair reviewed the 2008-2009 WSC BDA Committee Goals and Action Items.

The Committee reviewed a draft of the BDA Committee Purpose and revised the statement to read:

“The BDA Committee’s purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering debtor and help them apply the Steps to all their affairs and not debt one day at a time.

The BDA Committee focuses on issues specific to the needs of DA members who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own or operate businesses or be self-employed. The BDA Committee is open to all GSRs and ISRs, not just those who represent BDA groups.”

A motion to approve the Purpose Statement, as revised by the Committee, was approved unanimously. The Committee reviewed “The 2008 Issues and Concerns submitted by DA Members, Groups and Intergroups to be addressed by the 2008 DA WSC”. Christy S. read from Item 1, which was to be addressed to the BDA Committee. Members discussed Issue 1 and drafted a response. The draft response was approved unanimously. The Committee agreed that the draft response will be given to Aishlin O’ to take to the full Board.

Committee Inventory

Christy S. stated that the Committee was asked by the GSB to conduct inventory to review the relevance of the Committee work to determine if the Committee’s current purpose and work is serving the needs of DA as a whole.

The Committee agreed unanimously to review the current five items for which subcommittees have been formed, and determine if the work we are doing serves the needs of DA as a whole.

1. BDA Matching Individuals for Sponsorship and PRGs
2. BDA Group Sponsorship:
3. Business Plan pamphlet.
4. BDA Step Study Guide

5. BDA Numbers booklet

The Committee unanimously agreed that the work of the five subcommittees are relevant to the Committees’ purpose and do serve the needs of DA as a whole.

Setting Monthly Meetings

The Committee voted to hold a monthly conference call on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 5:30pm PST. The conference call number for monthly meetings is (269) 320-8100, access code – 110205#

**August 15, 2008 / Afternoon Session / 1:15pm**

The Subcommittees met at the beginning of the Afternoon Session, and the whole Committee reconvened at 3:30pm. Each Subcommittee reported on their focus for the year, and stated their elected officers and spending plans for the year.

1. Group Sponsorship Subcommittee  
The primary purpose of the Subcommittee will be to create a Group Sponsorship Letter to let DA groups know that this tool is available to support new or fledgling groups.
2. The BDA Annual Business Plan Subcommittee  
The Subcommittee will draft an Annual Business Plan pamphlet for business owners to fulfill their visions and become abundant and prosperous with the help of their Higher Power. (See attachment 2)
3. The Subcommittee to Link BDA Members with BDA Sponsors  
The Subcommittee will focus on finding solutions to a shortage of BDA sponsorship in many areas of the world in a simple and non-bureaucratic manner.
4. BDA Numbers Booklet Subcommittee  
The Subcommittee will focus on editing the current draft of the BDA Numbers booklet with the goal of having a draft approved by the BDA Committee and then submitted to the Literature Committee.
5. BDA Step Study Guide Supplement Subcommittee  
The Subcommittee will continue to draft a BDA step study guide to supplement the draft DA Step Study Guide that is in progress.

**BDA SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ _____ x number of committee members <u>26</u>	886.32
<b>Total income</b>	<b>1136.32</b>
Expenses	
15 Calling cards	390.00
Copying	50.00
Mailing (Two in DA Focus)	250.00
Paper	60.00
3 Printer Cartridges	150.00
Pamphlets purchased	20.00
Prudent Reserve	67.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>987.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>149.32</b>

**BDA Subcommittee Reports****Group Sponsorship BDA Subcommittee**

Chair – Pete A.  
Treasurer – Russ V.  
Secretary – Lorraine P.

Suggested spending plan:  
\$150 – Mailing  
\$60 – Phone Card  
\$210 Total

We agreed to a monthly call: 2nd Wednesday each month at 6pm Pacific Time for 30 minutes. Pete will contact Lorraine and Russ with 3-way calling and will be the point person on the monthly BDA Committee call on the 3rd Monday at 5:30 pm Pacific time.

Our primary purpose with the Group Sponsorship Letter is to let DA groups know that this tool is available to support new or fledgling groups. We agreed to various forms of sharing the Group Sponsorship Letter to include:

- Posting to [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) and [www.ncdaweb.org](http://www.ncdaweb.org)
- Publishing in Ways and Means and Prosperity Times

- Determine which meetings from the Directory are BDA meetings and send a mailing to all contact persons by October 31st, 2008 (distribute meetings equally between the 3 members of our sub-committee)
- Following up with phone calls to all contact persons by December 15th, 2008
- Sending email blast to all contact persons in January 2009
- Posting to Yahoo Groups of various phone meetings
- Staying in contact with FCC about making this letter available to DA as a whole.

**BDA Annual Business Plan Subcommittee**

We did a check in and introduced ourselves  
We moved location and elected Officers:

Chair - Tarra  
Co-Chair - Brandi  
Shepherd - Michael C.  
Secretary - Monica  
Treasurer - Brandi

Statement of Intention (collectively decided)  
Discussion re actual purpose for the Subcommittee  
Motion to split the Statement of Intention into 2 parts unanimously. :)

We, the BDA Business Plan Subcommittee are having lots of fun creating our own 12 Step-Based Business Plans using our Experience, Strength and Hope to create a 12 Step-Based Business Plan Guide for Business Owners to fulfill their visions and become abundant and prosperous with the help of our Higher Power.

- Jill (Literature Liaison came to the Committee) at 2:20 p.m. Michael asked Jill about Literature procedure and availability. 214-321-8565 (Jill's number in Dallas). Michael asked about a "style guide" for Literature. Jill suggested we use existing pamphlets as a guide. She explained some of the history of this pamphlet (not 12-step based enough). Michael asked about info from the Literature Committee on why it was not passed earlier. Jill said somewhere in the Minutes. She then explained the rest of the process if it goes through. Michael asked about his role as a Shepherd with the Literature Service Committee (new people...Jill will find out). Jill said it's good to find out when the LS Committee calls are.
- Jill mentioned the Yahoo Group Subcommittee. To be set up by Monica. (Make sure it will be listed as a Subcommittee meeting). WSCBDA. Put it in Calendar.
- We will be using Skype to communicate (videoconferencing).

- We have agreed to meet as a Subcommittee on First Wednesday's at 4:00 p.m., beginning Sept. 3
- Brandi will make a digital copy of the both Versions. Monica to distribute.
- Goals for next meeting: We will each read the previous versions, comments and discuss. By Sunday, Sept. 1, 2008, we will all send each other our notes for the Sept. 3 meeting.

(Subcommittee) Meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.

### **Linking BDA Members With BDA Sponsors Subcommittee**

Chair: Marla, Secretary: Sam, Liaisons to PI: Azul, Adrienne, Barrington

Our sub-committee focused on finding solutions to a shortage of BDA sponsorship in many areas of the world in a simple and non-bureaucratic manner. We determined that there are two specific areas of focus in sponsorship:

1. to get the sponsee through all 12 Steps, and
2. having more experienced members available to their share experience, strength, and hope on matters of practicing recovery principles in business.

In our experience, Business Debtors Anonymous will benefit from our increasing our sense of the importance of those with experience quickly carrying the message to newcomers that they can stop debting one day at a time by getting a sponsor, working the Steps, then giving back. We propose that guiding members into sponsorship will be part of that solution and we believe it will be useful to refer to sponsors as "Step Sponsors" — promoting the idea the key role of sponsors is to guide others through the 12 Steps.

To begin to create a solution immediately we plan on using current technology to bring sponsees to long-time BDA members for ESH:

- Limited-enrollment Chat room 'ask it basket' with a long-timer as host and guest long-timers sharing ESH.
- Create a hosted contact site where members could find a list of old-timers or Step Sponsors. The host would keep the list and link the 2 people.
- Limited-enrollment regularly scheduled conference calls with a BDA long-time host and long-timer guests for Q & A;

In keeping with our proposals, our subcommittee will conduct the following experiments:

- One member will create two regularly scheduled, limited-enrollment conference calls in which
  - attendees will be guided to find a local member to take them through the 12 Steps.
  - If they can't find a local member, we will encourage them to find a long-distance member and assist them in this process.

- A host and guest long-timer will answer questions on carrying recovery principles into business
- One phone group will be from London BDA and one from several U.S. States.
- Another member will conduct a conference call leading two other subcommittee members through all 12 Steps with their commitment that they will then lead two other members through the 12 Steps.
- We will adopt a 'life or death' urgency to leading members into and through the 12 Steps.
- We will adopt and promote the following statement:

When someone asks "Will you sponsor me?" I will answer: "Yes, I'll take you through the 12 Steps so that you can take another member through the 12 Steps so that they can take another through the 12 Steps."

We will encourage our home groups to declare themselves "12 Step Sponsor Groups" or start new groups. These 12 Step Sponsor Groups will make their number one priority to quickly guide newcomers through the 12 Steps. We will ask other groups to make this commitment and ultimately ask the DA website to list groups this way when they request. We will keep this committee apprised of the results of our experimental groups

### **BDA Numbers Booklet Subcommittee**

- I. Opening with Serenity Prayer
- II. Selection of Officers
  - a. Christi S. - Chair
  - b. Elizabeth T – Secretary
  - c. Chris M, Douglas S, Tim G. – members
- III. Review of BDA Committee Comments
  - Subcommittee members reviewed the excellent comments developed by the BDA committee on draft 1.B of the Booklet that was revised from the Literature Services Committee.
  - Subcommittee members discussed the recommended edits and made revisions, as appropriate.
  - Some suggestions were made that have been decided/addressed by the General Service Board Trustees, for example, having materials available in electronic format for download. Other issues, for example, items that are tax-deductible, are not in a separate section, since this is not intended to be a tax document; it is a cash flow document.
- IV. Section on "How to Use This Booklet"

The subcommittee members then reviewed this section as well as the comments received from the

BDA Committee. Editorial revisions were made, and draft language was developed.

#### V. Close

Copies were made for BDA Committee members. The subcommittee meeting closed at 3:30 P.M. Notes taken by Elizabeth, transcribed by Douglas (smallda@gmail.com )

#### **BDA Step Study Subcommittee**

Agenda:

1. discuss responsibilities of each position
2. elect officers
3. decide on when we will meet

All officers need to attend each meeting

All members need to get the word out that they can be on the subcommittee if they sign a document that will not release this information to the public

Chair-Allen L.

- Facilitates meetings--advise date, time and place
- Evelyn will be backup if chair cannot do it
- Chair must know how to use yahoo group
- Makes agenda

Shepherd-Bill S

- Communicates with other groups that we are affected by
- Makes sure documents go through the literature process
- Keeps track of where the document is.
- Questions is our yahoo.group
- Writes up document, makes changes

Janet will help us keep track of revisions. Jill can help us keep revisions updated on yahoo.

Secretary--Evelyn E.

- Keeps track of minutes at our meetings
- Keeps and maintains roster
- Reports minutes to the group immediately after each meeting
- Checks email daily--notify members of any changes to the minutes

By invitation only--Jill P comments:

- To make sure the writing document not get out to the public-
- Its not conference approved.
- Use people who are working the program
- Have swearing in that this is a private document and not be released to the public

Allen will get a document written up from attorney people in BDA

Friday 8/15/08 afternoon

Agenda

1. Look at what's on yahoo and how to do it-Jill
2. What is literature doing with step work-Allen
3. Decide on what time we meet-evelyn
4. Review all docs we have on step work-Bill S.
5. Review what 2007-2008 committee has done-Bill S.
6. Complete that and decide what we are going to do this year-Allen

First, decide on when to meet:

- BDA committee meets on third monday 5:30 pm pt
- Allen--2nd Wednesday
- Evelyn-Wednesday
- Bill S-ok with Allen

Allen proposes 6:30 pm est 2nd wednesday

Second--set us up on yahoo.group

- Jill taught Evelyn how to post documents and how to access other files that are in process
- Spoke to Lela--she would like to be on the subcommittee
- We talked to her about why it was determined to be an addendum and not a separate pamphlet
- She said that Lit. Services decided at the last minute to make it an addendum. We spoke to Lit. Services today, they said they are not working on it currently

We discussed what format would we present this information? Would we continue with what's been done or use Jill's format of using a step study guide outline format?

Evelyn pointed out that some people are not comfortable writing essays in an answering questions format. Instead some would rather discuss these questions with their sponsor. Evelyn suggested that we change wording to this writing to add write or discuss with your sponsor.

Are going to keep the format? Yes, but change some of the wording to "relate or write" Evelyn is trying to point out that some people are not comfortable writing out Steps. If we wrote it up a little differently to say relate (promotes discussion) instead it would facilitate group discussion. Then it could be for groups and individuals.

Is this for individuals or groups?--Bill S

Next: what is the purpose of our sub committee?

- Proposed by Allen: “to complete addendum to DA Step Study Guide for Business Owners’

Thank you for allowing me to be of service:  
Evelyn E

**2. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- Election of Officers: The following officers were elected: Chair – Michele N. Vice Chair – Dianne L, Secretary – Audrey, Treasurer – Patricia W.
- Proposal holding the World Service Conference the same week every year. Answer: No. Have it as close to August 15th as possible.
- Seek World Service Conference bids for 2010 and beyond. Answer: Put article once a year in DA Focus encouraging people to bid in 2012. Create a World Service Conference Site Recruiting Sub-Committee. Diane and Michele will be on this Committee.
- Help find less expensive venues. Answer: We will try our best conscious decision to make our accommodations more comfortable and abundant.
- Change name of Chair for Underearning Sub-Committee to Ivy H. instead of Judith C. Audrey volunteered to be on Committee. Right to recruit non-members.
- Discuss 3-city rotation. Answer: The Conference Committee as a whole discussed the pros and cons of having permanent rotating sites. One downside for cities to do it every three years is the same people may wind up doing it. The 2008 Host Committee reported on how much the GSB and GSO have been helping them by doing more of the work. Even if three cities were chosen to be permanent rotating sites, it might not wind up being the same hotel as hotels are constantly changing hands, and it might not even be the same hotel years later. It was suggested that an article about the Conference Committee looking for sites in 2011 and 2012 be put in the Spring and Fall issues of the DA Focus, as well as information posted on the DA website. Also, it was suggested that the last five host committee chairs be available to help with any issues around the conference. It was agreed that the regionalization of DA might be the answer in the future so that DA regions could host the Conference on a rotating basis.
- Clean up typos in Charter, add voting rights for Office Manager, resolve use of General Service Conference vs. World Service Conference. Answer: Check with Parliamentary. Can put into motion.

**CC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 6 x number of committee members \$36.93	221.78
<b>Total income</b>	<b>471.78</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	136.00
Copying	0.00
Postage	0.00
Mailing supplies	0.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>136.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>335.78</b>

- Discuss the idea of asking permission of the delegates to record Convocation for use in preparing the final Conference Report and for archival purposes. Answer: Single issue. Ad-Hoc Committee to specifically research audio cost of Conference Convocation. Patricia on this Committee.
- Discuss applying themes for Three Principles for DA’s future. Answer: Considered and rejected because of its limitations.
- By general consensus it was decided that it was too restricted for Host Committee.
- Review the World Service Conference Agenda with the goal of reducing the cost of the Conference. Answer: It was determined that the agenda was necessary to do the business of the World Service Conference.

**3. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Present: Debi P, Virginia B, Marcia H, Stephanie A, John Sohl, Marcy E, Richard H, Alan K (GSB Liaison), Mary P, Julia M

Excused: Juliet

I. World Service Conference 2007 Minutes were read and accepted.

II. New Business



We held elections and nominated new officers: Chair: Richard H., Vice Chair: Virginia B., Treasurer: Debi P., and Secretary: Marcia H.

We read over issues submitted by DA groups: chips, primary purpose (steps, tools, service), outside literature, John Henderson vs John H, couples, health & disability issues/costs, manage financial and physical issues in balance, medical debt repayment, mental health and debt, HP by name? Service (willingness of entire group), Debt repayment – how to do this, outside issues – how to address when it happens in a meeting, 50 + special issues and concerns (transitioning adult), phone meeting intergroup, how we identify ourselves (ie saying “I am a debtor” as opposed to “I am a recovering debtor” or “grateful”), secured debt (ie Home Equity Loan), principle of anonymity - Tradition 12, group inventory and rotation of service, principles/personalities. What do you do when a meeting is not working for you?

**FCC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$_36.93_ x number of committee members _10_	\$369.30
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$619.30</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	\$140
Copying	95.86
Postage	95.86
Mailing supplies	95.86
Travel	95.86
Other	95.86
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$619.30</b>
Difference	0.00

Virginia moved that an “Adopt a Loner” subcommittee be created was seconded by Stephanie and was voted on and accepted by the committee with 8 in favor. The Committee members are Julia, Debbie and Juliet.

Virginia made a motion to update the FCC Mission Statement: “The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership, and the debtor who still suffers. This function includes the administration of the

“Adopt a Loner” service. Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program.”

Debi seconded the motion. We voted and accepted it (6 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 absent)

We adjourned for dinner.

Part 2

We discussed responses to issues and resolutions, relationship/couple articles (Richard and Marcia committed to contributing some.) and started to address blogs: How can we incorporate blogs into our adopt a loner program? Once it is up and going how do we take it further. Can there be a DA blog?

We will present the minutes to the GSB on their report forms. We adjourned.

**4. HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND PRISONS (HIP) MINUTES**

Thursday, August 14, 2008

Present: Beth P., Jessica S., Starr H., Bill C., Teresa S., Pat B., Dani N. and GSB liaison Paul S.

Introductions

Elections were held. Positions are as follows:

Discussion

- Discussed rotation of leadership with terms ending; members will stay on the committee but be unable to vote at Conf if GSR position has expired.
- Treasurer’s Report: \$85 for literature and approximately \$25 for postage was spent. The former treasurer did not return to this year’s conference.
- A group conscience was made to avoid subcommittees.
- A request was made for Secretary to obtain and track all past and current documents. GSB liaison and new Chair helped obtain and present four current documents for review.
- Developed action plan for upcoming service year by reviewing ‘07’s report on action plan, mission and goals.
- Developed action plan for upcoming service year by reviewing ‘07’s report on action plan, mission and goals.

Motion made, seconded to accept new action plan, and motion carried.

Action plan as follows:

1. To connect and communicate within DA: for a liaison to all intergroups and GSR groups; send out request for letters, speakers, writers etc.
2. Produce existing literature and outreach goals: record conference-approved literature for those unable to read; develop HIP packet.
3. Respond to requests from confined individuals for information about DA (as obtained by GSO and dispersed throughout the committee as appropriate).
4. Inquire with existing 12-step HIP committees for assistance (for example, AA's Corrections and Facilities).
5. Connect with HIP facilities and create and/or follow up with existing HIP DA meetings.
6. Follow up with and move forward on literature already in process: FAQ, Letter to the Professional, Outreach Flyer, and Personal Story Pamphlet.

**HIP SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
$\$36.93 \times$ number of committee members <u>7</u>	258.51
<b>Total income</b>	<b>508.51</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	40.00
Copying	20.00
Postage	200.00
Mailing supplies	15.00
Literature	140.00
Transportation	42.66
Contingencies (10%)	50.85
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>508.51</b>
Difference	0

**Other HIP action items:**

- Developed recommendations for the GSB.
- Discussed #1 of Issues and Concerns of WSC '08.
- Developed Spending Plan (see report).
- Inventory was taken of committee relevance to DA's primary purpose, and was strongly and unanimously confirmed. The committee suggests that the Public Information 3/2006 manual (page 9) be updated to reflect the area of HIP focus to debtors.

Reviewed and revised the four outstanding literature items from previous committee and forwarded them to the appropriate committees.

- Discussed and revised long-term goals.
  - A – Have active, thriving HIP meetings in every region and meeting area throughout the world to conduct the important Step 12 work of bringing DA to debtors confined in HIP.
  - B – Have experienced, active liaisons supporting HIP outreach work within each intergroup and have established and regularly filled HIP service positions within each DA meeting.
  - C – Have an abundant and diverse array of easily available literature that addresses all confined debtors, and supports and encourages DA member involvement, in a wide variety of languages and formats.

**5. INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

The primary responsibility of the Internal Operations Committee (IOC) is to support the General Service Office (GSO) of Debtors Anonymous. The committee:

- Focuses on the overall office operations of the General Service Office.
- Interacts with the Board Office Liaison and the Office Manager to support the ongoing work of the GSO.

The meeting began with introductions, a report from Vanessa about previous IOC work, plus describing the three initiatives for 2007-2008.

Jan as liaison to the GSB gave an overview of the role of each officer, the criteria for Chair and Vice-Chair positions. He then facilitated elections: Chair is Julie F. from Fresno, Vice-chair is Eric R. of NYC, Roxanne K. of Annapolis, MD, as Secretary, and Erik E. of L.A. as Treasurer.

Each person shared a bit of personal experience and interest relevant to serving on this committee. Vanessa expressed interest in continuing work on the volunteer effort in the New England area.

Monthly phone meeting was established as second Monday 9:30 p.m. (Eastern Time). The concepts will be studied and presented by Sam at each meeting.

A list of ideas for this committee to take-on was generated as follows:

1. Help Howard
2. Learn from other offices
3. Help with Operations Manual
4. Learn cost of different aspects of the office

5. Sending thank you cards to volunteers from far off places
6. See what the LA office and other national 12-step offices are doing
7. Support technical online ordering of literature
8. Liaison with the Fellowship Communications Committee, e.g. a blog for the webmasters of DA websites
9. Take an interest in new technology
10. Make a helpful PowerPoint presentation.
11. Continue to operate the office in a smooth fashion
12. Best utilization of staff and volunteers
13. Assure maximum coverage of the voicemail messages that come in
14. Spending plan/budget for the office
15. Look into Blackberry or similar for Howard to get emails off-site
16. Peace and serenity around the database and group registration process
17. Address the group registration, re-registration requirement. This is unclear to some members.
18. Database – is it missing zip codes?
19. Link the payment schedule to the group registration
20. Database to have an online interface
21. Ease of use and meetings for this process
22. Database reports online that can be downloaded as PDFs, e.g. phone meeting schedule (SQL)
23. Calendar of events
24. Traditions linked to business operations
25. Time and talent, ESH networking
26. Automatic online services, ordering, instant downloadable pamphlets
27. Conference registration online (e.g. Member-clicks is one service provider)
28. Audio and video downloads of people's stories
29. Clearly documented process and procedures, so fellowship knows what to expect or what to do to make a suggestion.
30. Visioning how the office can operate to meet a greater demand, e.g. volunteers, not enough resources for more staff
31. Latest version of personnel manual is 2001, Howard's job description, and being revised
32. Database of translation services, not necessarily "authorized" but language capacities and how people could get a buddy
33. If new group registers, the Intergroup is notified and vice versa.
34. List of what services are needed at the office
35. Free Braille translation of materials, e.g. the Jewish Community Center in one person's community does free translation of materials into Braille
36. Vision list for items to be donated. Vision list for services to be done for the office
37. Hiring of second full-time employee allowing specialization of tasks and insuring continuity

We prioritized the list into:

- Hiring a second full-time employee allowing specialization and basic coverage of operations.
- Volunteer program enhancement which would include a list of things to do or items wanted at the national office
- Best utilization of staffing and volunteers
- Spending plan/budget of the office
- Visioning
- Web site content upgrade to include multi-media, member stories
- E-commerce for literature
- Translation
- Group database enhanced performance

The GSB requested each committee discuss issue #1 brought to the conference from Boulder, Colorado, regarding the high cost of conference. Perhaps there is some vagueness about the purpose of the conference, who is welcome to the conference and the distinction of the fellowship day. Intergroup caucus does plan to address this – it may or may not be something IOC is charged with doing. IOC offers the following suggestions but felt that the only item in their domain relates to registration packet and forms managed by the office.

- Clarity, who, and suggestions on how to raise money to send the GSR. Separate out the conference from the fellowship day.
- Housing option of local host member may be able to house the attendees who wish to reduce the costs.
- Registration form would have a cover page describing what happens, the purpose, the roles of who attends. Let the members know about major fellowship days, such as "share-a-day events" in NYC and the difference between WSC and fellowship days.
- Template of formal letter of participation or other method of participation from a distance.
- Review of materials and forms that are sent out to groups.
- The WSC Committee review the registration and information packet about the purpose of the World Service Conference, who is welcome, function/purpose
- Sam will chair a sub-committee on the e-commerce and online software upgrade options. Roxanne will assist.
- The IOC reviewed a list from the past IOC chair on what work he encourages the committee continue:
- Get one or more writers to support completion of the Office Operation Manual
- Transfer the responsibility of completing the project to the person/people who knows what these tasks are and that this accountability becomes part of the Office Manager's job description.

- This Operations Manual to be a working, dynamic documented used to train new staff and volunteer.

**IOC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$39.36 x number of committee members <u>7</u>	275.34
<b>Total income</b>	<b>525.34</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	\$140.00
Copying	0.00
Postage	\$20.00
Mailing supplies	0.00
Travel (mileage at \$.585/mile)	\$160.00
Ground Transportation	\$200.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$520.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$5.34</b>

The committee wants to acknowledge and thank Mitch of the Bay Area for spending considerable time on the Office Operations Manual and Procedure Guide.

The IOC unanimously approved the motion and 5 of 6 recommendations to put forth during the convocation. The sixth had no opposition.

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**6. LITERATURE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order on 8-14-08 at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes of last year’s conference and subsequent meetings were read and summarized.

**Officers Reports**

- Treasurer’s Report – Matt K. reported that the spending plan for 2007/2008 was \$678.52, of which \$45.00 was spent, leaving a balance of \$633.52.
- Rachel A. motions to accept Treasurer’s report, John C. seconded the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

- James Q. described the current WSC Literature committees and structure and the duties and responsibilities of each. We also reviewed the duties of the Literature Committee.
- James Q. presents the five ongoing literature items that need to go through the new approval process:
  1. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book
  2. Daily Meditation book
  3. BDA Clarity in Business Finances pamphlet
  4. BDA Newcomer’s pamphlet
  5. BDA Stories of Recovery book
  6. Rachel A. makes a motion to present the above five concepts separately for approval to the Convocation, Eileen N. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.

Jean C. volunteered to write out all five motions describing each concept for submission.

- Jean C. makes a motion to present the 12 and 12 book concept to the Convocation for approval, John C. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- Chris R. makes a motion to present the Daily Meditation book concept to the Convocation for approval, John C. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- Rachel A. volunteered to be Alternate Secretary.
- Chris R. will take the contact list and add everyone on the committee to the Yahoo Groups so we can stay in touch and share files throughout the year.
- Eileen N. makes a motion to submit the “How it Works” outline to the Literature Services Committee, Eric P. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- Rachel A. makes a motion to submit all materials for the Meditation book to the Literature Services Committee, Eileen N. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- Jill came in from the BDA committee to let us know that the three BDA concepts are ready for us to present for approval. Jean C. makes a motion to present the BDA Clarity in Business Finances pamphlet, the BDA Newcomer’s pamphlet, and BDA Stories of Recovery to the Convocation for approval, John C. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.

**New Business**

- James Q. brought to the committee recommendations from the GSB, as follows:
  - Become unpaid contract writers.
  - Help Literature Services assess all literature for needed revisions/corrections, create an index of literature.
  - Discuss the possibility that some pamphlets are distracting us from our primary

purpose/suggest possible revisions that could help refocus.

- Approve the concept of posting DA recovery stories on the DA website.
- Consider all requests for new literature in light of the broad needs of DA as a whole.
- Conduct an inventory to review the relevance of the Committee. Is their current mission statement serving the needs of DA as a whole?
- Address issue and concern #1 from the 2008 list of issues and concerns.
- Please remember that there is a literature approval process for recovery literature that should be observed by all committees.
- Eileen N. motions to provide conceptual approval for posting DA recovery stories on the DA website. Rachel H. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- James Q. said he would let us know how to go about become an unpaid contract writer. Discussion ensued about creating an index of published literature and conducting a review of published pamphlets.
- Chris R. motions to accept the recommendation for creating an index of published literature excluding "Currency of Hope." Discussion ensued. Jean C. made a friendly amendment to the motion to also exclude audio from the index, Matt K. seconds the motion, all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.
- John C. motions to not recommend any new pamphlets for one year from this date to the next conference, excepting ones already approved, Matt K. seconds the motion. Discussion ensues, motion is tabled until later this year.
- Issue and Concern #1 was discussed at length. Eileen N. motions to recommend to the board that they considering doing a face-to-face meeting in the Boulder, CO area to see if they can address this issue with the groups in the area, John C. seconds the motion. 6 in favor, 5 opposed, motion passes. Jean C. then invokes right of minority opinion, Eric P. seconds the motion. Sharon S. makes a motion to extend the meeting by 10 minutes, Eric P. seconds the motion. 9 in favor, 2 opposed, motion passes. Jean spoke in opposition to the original motion, Chris R. spoke in favor. A revote is taken, 5 in favor, 6 opposed, motion denied.
- Chris R. makes a motion for the board to consider the appropriateness of making a profit on conference registration fees, Rachel H. seconded the motion. Jean C. makes a motion to table the motion until tomorrow, John C. seconds the motion all in favor, no one opposed, motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Literature Committee minutes August 15, 2008

Meeting called to order at 8:55 a.m.

- Discussion on the above motion ensues. Chris R. withdraws the motion.
- James Q. suggests that we set some guidelines for our conference calls to be held after the conference such as:
  - What constitutes a quorum.
  - How the information will flow from the Committee to the GSB and Literature Services.
  - We have the opportunity to send out notices to the fellowship through the DA Focus, but all flyers need to be approved by the GSB.
  - We also have the opportunity to communicate to the fellowship through the E-News.
- James Q. explained the distinction between a motion and a recommendation.
  - If a motion is made then the GSB will act on it.
  - When a recommendation is made then the GSB takes it under consideration.
- Scheduling of the conference calls, which will be monthly for one hour. The conference Second Sunday of every month at the following time:
  - 6:00 p.m. EST, 5:00 p.m. CST, 4:00 p.m. MST, 3:00 p.m. PST.
  - Chris will coordinate the conference number and notify us through Yahoo Groups. The first call will occur Sunday, September 14th.
- Definition of a Quorum – GSR's who join the committee later on will not be voting members. DA members who are non-voting guests will be welcome on the calls. Even if your term as a GSR is up, then you are still expected to serve on the committee as a voting member until the next conference. Three people constitutes a quorum for the calls, and votes will be decided by at least a two-thirds majority. Also a two-thirds majority will be required to pass any motions that come before this committee from now on.
- Spending Plan – we are waiting for Willie to get back to us on the numbers.

Discuss Literature Issues and Concerns

PRG Meeting Format and response and use of Non-Conference Approved Literature ("non-CAL") for PRG's, Issues 36, 54, 57: Suggestion is made to call for all non-conference approved literature to consider it to be conference approved. Matt K. said that an E-News was put out 2-3 months ago stating that the GSB asking for all non-conference approved literature to be submitted to become conference approved literature. Jean C. suggested that when the non-CAL comes in then craft a response to the holders of the copyrights asking them to relinquish the copyrights so that it can become CAL. Susan S. suggests that the LC review all of these non-CAL pieces to see if DA could benefit

from that or something similar. Jennifer S. said we should not go after non-CAL pieces that other groups use, unless they offer them up to us as part of the process. John C. said he would like to read these non-CAL pamphlets to see what they are about, but it's not 100% necessary if we do our own revision of the PRG pamphlet we will be addressing that in our agreed-upon process. Eileen N. suggested we not look at this literature unless it is submitted so we don't get DA into any legal issues.

GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-CAL that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the LC to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. We welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

By group conscience we will use the above response for Issues # 36, 54 and 57.

Sponsorship, Issues #34, 37, 63, 64: Apparently the official Sponsorship pamphlet was discontinued in print and is now only available for .pdf download from the DA website.

Eileen N. informed the group that the DA Sponsorship pamphlet was discontinued in print due to poor sales and is now available online.

Proposed response to Issue #34: We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. Meanwhile, please see free download of Sponsorship pamphlet on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) which addresses the relationship between sponsors and sponsees which you may find helpful.

By group conscience we will use the above response for Issues # 34.

#63 The DA pamphlet on sponsorship is no longer available in print, however, there is a free downloadable version of the pamphlet available on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

By group conscience we will use the above response for Issue # 63.

We will be reviewing the Sponsorship pamphlet as part of the overall literature review process. We will also consider recommending that it be returned to print. Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

By group conscience we will use the above response for Issue # 64.

Jean C. makes a suggestion to divide into subcommittees to work on individual issues and will prepare responses during the break.

**LIT SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$36.93 x number of committee members 12	443.16
<b>Total income</b>	<b>693.16</b>
Expenses	
Telephone Calling cards	200.00
Copying	100.00
Postage	45.00
Indexing for Revision of Pamphlets	250.00
Prudent Reserve	98.16
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>693.16</b>
Difference	0

**7. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

PI Committee Minutes 8/14/08 2:15 pm

- Called to order at 2:15 p.m. with 12 people in attendance.
- Serenity Prayer
- Introductions
- Election of New Offices
  - Chair – Laurens A.
  - Vice-chair – Dionne H.
  - Treasurer – Laura P.
  - Secretary – Michael M.
- Committee read GSB 2008 Public Information Report and Public Information Report
- Discussion ensued and committee made decision to do the following:
  - Establish agenda items through brainstorming
  - Prioritize items for agenda
  - Establish time lines for each Agenda Item
- Brainstormed list of possible agenda items
  - Spending plan
  - Alerting media to contact appropriate people
  - Getting letters out to media including other letters
  - Follow through on existing items from 2007-08

- Job description, etc., for group level PI
  - Outreach to HS/College and Alateen outreach
  - Health and Human Services/outreach and seminars
  - EAPA chapter outreach
  - Armed Forces outreach
  - Foreclosure groups
  - Outreach to therapists
  - Diversity outreach LBG, Spanish
  - Spanish Language media outreach
  - Funneling process to media advising them of DA
  - Publicize group sponsorship
  - Promotion of phone meeting flyer
    - Liaison with PI other 12-step programs for experience
    - Disseminate credit counselor letters
    - State, regional, national conferences of helping professionals
    - Utilizing PSAs
    - Transitioning adults/senior outreach
    - Phone meeting-promote flyer
    - Literature grants
    - Job description, etc. for group PI
    - Fellowship speaker list
    - Transitioning elder letter
  - Carryover from 2007/2008 PI Committee
    - Fellowship speakers list
    - Group sponsorship flyer
    - Continuing Literature Grant
    - Outreach to Professionals
      - Therapists
      - Health and Human Services
      - EAPA
      - Universities
    - Update PI Manual
  - Committee discussed and consolidated original suggested agenda items to a more manageable and realistic list of agenda items
  - Committee agreed to begin the next meeting by prioritizing said list of agenda items.
- Closed with the serenity prayer at 4:45 p.m.

#### PI Committee Minutes 8/14/08 6:45 pm 2nd meeting

- Discussed and brainstormed the carry over items from the 2007/2008 PI Committee
- Prioritized Agenda Items
- Board Liaison gave the committee several suggested agenda items from the Board, as follows:
  - Conduct an inventory to review the relevance of the committee. Is our current mission statement serving the needs of DA as a whole?
  - Address Item #1 from the 2008 Meetings Issues and Concerns
  - Schedule several more PI training sessions over the next year. (Board Liaison to clarify.)
  - Consider creating Diversity caucus as a subcommittee.

- The committee prioritized agenda items, as follows:
  - Spending plan
  - Update PI Manual with new letters
  - Best practice from other 12-Step programs
  - Spanish language media outreach
  - Literature Grant
  - Older Adult Transition letter
  - More national, regional and local contact with professional community
    - Therapists
    - Health and Human Services
    - EAPA
    - Universities
    - Conventions and Conferences (funding from GSB)
  - Armed Services outreach
  - Foreclosure group
  - Group sponsorship flyer
  - College student outreach
  - Conduct an inventory to review the relevance of the committee. Is our current mission statement serving the needs of DA as a whole?
  - Address issue and concern No. 1 from the Meeting Issues and Concerns.
  - Schedule several more media training sessions over the next year.
- Follow up action:
  - Make motion to Board at convocation to update PI Manual by adding new letters.
    - Consumer credit counseling letter
    - Representatives of the media
    - College letter

#### PI Committee Minutes 8/15/08 8:45 am 3rd meeting

Opened with serenity prayer

Allen clarified that PI Training was incorrect and is meant to be Media training, which is already being taken care of.

- Discussion ensued about addressing the Board's suggested items.
  - Consider creating Diversity Caucus as a Public Information subcommittee
    - Discussed pros and cons
    - Motion passed that the Diversity caucus remain a caucus
  - Conduct an inventory to review the relevance of the committee. Is our current mission statement serving the needs of DA as a whole?
    - Discussion about mission statement of PI Committee
    - Motion to take PIR mission statement on page 12 in GSR Manual and replace the page 4 (PI Manual) PI statement with the PIR Mission Statement. Motion defeated.
    - Discussion and general agreement that PI is carrying the message to the still

- suffering debtor and the professionals who come in contact with the still suffering debtors.
- Address No. 1 from the Meeting Issues and Concerns List. Discussion ensued.
  - Motion made to recommend that board respond to No. #1 with information about other 12 step conference costs and our conference costs. Motion defeated.
  - After extensive discussion, the PI committee does not have a position on this item at this time.
- Schedule several more PI training sessions over the next year.
  - Two new media trainings have been scheduled. The trainings are two-part, two-day trainings.
  - Pete K. has agreed to facilitate two additional
  - 1st training: September 16, 2008, Tuesday, at 5:00 p.m., PST-Part I, September 18, 2008, Thursday, at 5:00 p.m., PST-Part II
  - 2nd training: October 1, 2008, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., PST – Part I, October 2, 2008, Thursday at 5:00 p.m., PST - Part II
- Motion made that committee spend two hours deciding action steps that we will take to accomplish Agenda items in the next year.
- Friendly amendment to original motion to spend 90 minutes and be mindful of being all inclusive of agenda items to decide action steps that we will take to accomplish these items in the next year. Amended motion passed.
  - Discussion and prioritize the agenda items listed below:
    - Spending Plan
    - Update PI Manual with new letters
    - Utilizing PSA
    - Best practice from other 12-Step programs
    - Spanish language media outreach
    - Literature Grant
    - Older adult transition letter
    - More national, regional and local contact with professional community
    - Armed Services outreach
    - Foreclosure group
    - College student outreach
- The following issues for each agenda item were discussed:
  - Utilizing PSA
    - Choose several test markets
    - Follow up calls
    - Work with intergroups
    - Notify meetings and coordinate
    - Poll intergroups
    - Target local radio stations/cable networks/public radio
  - Supporting Intergroup PI work
    - Tamara, Lynda, Maria, Laura, Dionne
  - Best practice from other 12-Step programs public information committees
    - Put together in one document a compilation of all other 12 step PI resources
    - Link to other 12 step program PI literature
    - Get permission to utilize?
    - Consult with Carol
    - Maria, Laura, Susy, Michael, Dionne
  - Spanish Language Media Outreach
    - Spanish Language PSAs
    - List of Spanish speaking members to be sponsors
    - Nationally syndicated Spanish language talk show about money
    - Check other best practice 12 step programs for Spanish outreach
    - Focus on one area like mid southern California as testing ground for Spanish speaking meetings
    - List of Spanish speaking members to be potential sponsors
    - Media letter translated into Spanish.
    - Spanish speaking phone meeting
    - Web site be translated into Spanish, make recommendation to tech committee
    - Susy, Suzanne, Tamara, Michael, Linda, Maria
  - Literature Grant (doesn't require any work.)
  - Older Adult Transition Letter
    - Contact all organizations who work with elders.
    - Review transitional adult letter
    - Michael, Tamara
  - More national, regional and local contact with professional community
    - Therapists
    - Health and Human Services
    - EAPA
    - Universities
    - Conventions and Conferences (funding from GSB)
    - Research pre-existing DA database (i.e., contacting previous PI Comm. Mbrs.): Laurens, Michael
  - Armed Services Outreach
    - Visit USO and VA
    - Armed Forces Radio
    - Call Voice of America
    - LCSW working on military bases
    - Local military organizations
    - Tamara, Charlotte, Lynda, Maria
  - Foreclosure Group
    - Information gathering and bankruptcy courts



- Mailing out credit counselor letter....can it be mailed
  - Develop targeted list of professionals for contact
  - Speak with DA members who have gone through foreclosure
  - Tamara, Maria, Laura
- College Outreach
  - Send letters to Frats/Sorority organization
  - Internet/intranet info about DA
  - Panels for college students
  - Letter of information to organizations reaching college students
  - Charlotte, Dionne, Susy
- The following topics to be discussed in the pm meeting 8/15/08
  - Spending Plan
  - Updating PI Manual
  - Literature Grant
  - Group Sponsorship Flyer

#### PI Committee Minutes 8/15/08 1:30 pm 3rd meeting

- Reconvened at 1:30 pm
- Picture taken
  - Discussion of how best to use the last three hours
  - Breaking up in sub groups
  - Agreed to break up in sub committees to meet on various topics
  - Agreed to compose motions prior to breaking into sub groups
- Motion made to spend a finite amount of time on writing the motions and do spending plan for convocation.
  - Board liaison reported the total of the PI spending plan.
    - \$250.00 Base
    - \$36.93 x 10 members = \$369.30
    - Total PI Spending Plan \$619.30
    - Original funding pool of \$3000.00 was set aside by GSB for PI outreach at conventions and conferences. GSB has currently approved \$2044.25 for a booth reservation at the 2008 AARP Convention in September in Washington, DC. A balance of \$955.75 remains available in that pool.
- Motion made that the Literature Grant be shifted to FCC Committee beginning in 2009. Motion approved.
- Discussion about Spanish speaking outreach, et al.
  - Motion and friendly amendment to invite FCC and Diversity caucus to collaborate with PI to develop a list of Spanish speakers in DA to serve as a resource for new Spanish speaking members to support our Spanish language outreach process. Any additional ideas regarding Spanish speaking outreach are

welcome and will be discussed. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed.

- Motion to ask that the FCC put the Literature Grant information on Web site. Motion approved.
  - Motion made that the Literature Grant be shifted to FCC Committee beginning in 2009. Motion approved.
- Motion that we ask the Convocation to approve the update of the PI Manual to include the consumer credit counseling letter, new media letter, and the college letter.

#### PI Committee Reconvened at 4:15 p.m.

- Discussion ensued about additional motions and Group Sponsorship flyer.
  - Motion that the PI Committee recommends to the Literature to consider doing a pamphlet on group sponsorship. Motion approved.
  - Group Sponsorship Flyer waiting on GSB approval.
- Discussed short subcommittee meetings held.
  - Armed Services
    - Chair – Tamara, Secy – TBD
    - Members: Charlotte, Lynda, Maria
    - Goals
      - Each committee member to begin info gathering from network and individual sources.
      - Local nonprofits
      - Community groups
      - Local/National Guard and or Bases
      - Liaison with fellow 12 step group members who have military experience
  - Other 12 Step program PI committee outreach
    - Chair – Dionne, Secy – Laura
    - Goals
      - Contact other PI 12 step programs for their experience, strength and hope
      - Gathering this info to help other subcommittees
    - Action Items
      - Develop a list of questions to ask.
      - Determine programs to approach
      - Assign contact of programs
      - Determine due date
      - Make calls by October 1, 2008
      - Information disseminated to PI committee by two weeks prior to October PI conference call
  - Hispanic Outreach
    - Chair – Suzanne, Secy – Maria; Members: Lynda, Tamara, Susy
    - Goals
      - Investigation
        - Check other 12 step meetings to see how they do outreach to Spanish speaking people

- Purchasing other 12 step literature
  - Check out on line DA meetings
- Developing Infrastructure to support outreach
  - Collaboration with FCC per motion
  - Start a phone meeting
- Targeted Outreach
  - CHRLA
  - LaRaza
  - Churches
  - Community Colleges
- Media Outlets
  - Free Newspapers
- Possibilities
  - Compose a dedicated letter
  - Translated PSA that will have 800 number and website
  - Local Outreach
- Distribution of Public Service Announcements
  - Chair – Laura, Secy – Dionne
  - Goals
    - Support local intergroup PI work
  - Action Items
    - Poll Intergroups for interest
    - Work with PI delegates/Intergroup PIs
    - Notify meetings/coordinate
    - Determine test market
    - Determine venues: Radio, Local Cable TV, Public Radio
    - Contact media
    - Send information
    - Follow up with Media
- Outreach to Population Affected by Foreclosure
  - Chair – Maria, Secy – Tamara
- College Student Outreach
  - Chair – Susy, Secy – Charlotte; Members: Dionne, Charlotte, Susy
  - Goals
    - Each member to contact Student Services to Carry the Message to Student Organizations, i.e., Sorority, Fraternity, Finance Management Association.
- Outreach to Professionals
  - Chair – Michael, Secy – Laurens; Members, Laura
  - Goals
    - Presentations and literature distribution to Employee Assistance Professionals Association chapters' brown-bag lunches.

- A discussion ensued regarding the spending plan and the scheduled meeting times of the PI Committee
- A spending plan was developed

The PI committee will meet the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. PST, 11:30 a.m. EST beginning Saturday, September 6, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Closed with the serenity prayer.

**PI SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ <u>36.93</u> x number of committee members <u>10</u>	369.30
Total income	619.30
Expenses	
Outreach to other 12 step program Public Information Comm.	90.00
Public Service Announcements	130.00
Spanish Language Outreach	99.30
Outreach to Professionals	275.00
Outreach to Colleges and Universities	25.00
Total expenses	\$619.30
Difference	0.00

**8. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- Opened with a moment of silence. Said Serenity Prayer.
- Group introductions. Two returning members from 2007 committee: Maya, Andrea R.
- We then opened the floor to volunteers and nominations for Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. We didn't get very far. Someone suggested a serenity moment and then 3rd Step prayer. It worked. All four positions were immediately filled. The officers elected are as follows:
  - Chair – Andrea R.
  - Vice-Chair – Maya
  - Secretary – Larry V.
  - Treasurer – Ann E.

- Motion to create new service position, Yahoo! Group Moderator, carried. We elected Barbara B. to fill this position.
- Chose time and day for monthly RDC conference calls. 2nd Sunday of the month @ 11:30 a.m. PST.
- Read RDC Minutes from last year's WSC.
- Looked at, discussed and brainstormed suggestions, solutions and recommendations for 2008 Issues and Concerns directed to RDC.
- With regard to Issue 77, a motion carried to recommend that the Literature Committee create a standardized Newcomer Packet.
- Much discussion re: "Fundraising" on all levels of DA and its relationship to honoring the 12 Traditions of DA.
- Serenity moment and 3rd Step prayer.
- At 3:57 a five (5) minute break was taken to regroup.
- At 4:05 we resumed with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- Motion made and carried that increasing 7th Tradition contributions be a focus of RDC for the year.
- Continued addressing Issues and Concerns
- Lots of emphasis on Steps, Sponsorship and spirituality regarding solutions
- Here the group began addressing the concerns presented to committees by the GSB.
- At this point the RDC really began focusing on our mission statement and its relevance to DA as a whole.
- Discussion of specific wording of mission statement. General feeling that it is slightly vague and passive.
- Focus shifted to discussing what the needs of DA are to help better clarify the language of the mission statement.
- Motion to adopt new mission statement language carried.
- Group breaks and moves to bigger room with cushy chairs. The nicer surroundings never go to our heads.
- Lots of praying and talk about our spiritual aims as a committee.
- Work progresses on developing Action Plan for upcoming year. We assigned actions/topics that address each part of our proposed new mission statement and determined which actions/topics to focus on that will result in moving forward on our mission statement/primary purpose, and ultimately best serving DA as a whole.
- The three parts of the proposed new mission statement are: 1) Increasing 7th Tradition

contributions and clarifying the use of 7th Tradition Funds; 2) Encouraging member participation in service at all levels; 3) Increasing awareness about the concept of self-support in DA at the group, Intergroup and World Service levels.

- Actions/Goals for part 1: a) develop additional wording for 7th Tradition announcement; b) each DA member could give \$2 towards 2008-2009 shortfall of \$25,785; c) "what happens to my 7th Tradition money?"; d) increase DA membership.
- Actions/Goals for part 2: a) emphasize good things that DA is doing for the individual and the group, b) why people give to DA and how they give, c) service mentoring.
- Action/Goals for part 3: a) revise or add to 7th Tradition announcement and ensure that all groups are using the currently suggested 7th Tradition announcement; b) emphasize good things DA is doing; c) certificate for milestones and list of ways to celebrate and to give; d) distribute the AA pamphlet, "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix", to each DA meeting.
- We decided we'd each write our "service story" to be included in future Ways and Means articles and/or a future RDC column.
- Signed release forms.
- Meditated. Prayed.

**RDC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 57.93 x number of committee members 11	656.23
<b>Total income</b>	<b>906.23</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	
Copying	
Postage	
Mailing supplies	
<b>Total expenses</b>	
<b>Difference</b>	

## SECTION 5

### WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MINUTES

#### 1. DIVERSITY CAUCUS MINUTES

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

Attending: Lynda, Dani, Beth, Mickey

Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

A history of the caucus was given by Lynda.

- It was decided that the caucus be more focused
- It was decided that the caucus desires to be a resource to all committee by helping them to think about how they can approach/work with becoming more inclusive to the issue of diversity in DA

Officers were chosen:

- Chair – Lynda
- Vice Chair – Beth P
- Treasurer – Dani N
- Secretary – Mickey M

Things to do

- Streamline focus
- Act as resource for committees
- Ask committees to appoint liaisons to the Diversity Caucus
- Include board communication
- Make announcement to WSC 2008
- Goal is to establish linkages with committees
- Consider how to meet the needs of persons who are disabled
- Link to “adopt a loner” program
- Diversity flyer

Contact information was gathered. Closed with the Serenity Prayer.

Diversity Caucus Minutes Thursday, August 14, 2008

Attending: Lynda, Dani, Beth, Mickey, Marsha (visitor). Attending Board Members: Jan J, Allen, Paul

Opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Minutes were adopted as amended.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed for the following action plan:

- Lynda provided all communication from 2007-2008 caucus, including minutes and emails
- Link to these specific committees first

- Public Information
- Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons
- Conference
- Literature

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the following long term goals:

- For the Diversity Caucus to be a resource for all committees within the next year
- Encourage committees to use the Diversity Caucus as a resource

A suggestion was made for each committee member share at a later time their personal area of interest for the caucus.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer.

#### DIVERSITY CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
Total income	250.00
Expenses	
Calling cards	
Copying	
Postage	
Mailing supplies	
Total expenses	
Difference	

## 2. INTERGROUP CAUCUS MINUTES

Intergroup Caucus Meeting Minutes Wednesday,  
August 13, 2008

Meeting opened with the serenity prayer.

Members introduced themselves, then a short review of last year's caucus activities was given by last year's chair, Stephanie A.

After reviewing job descriptions and requirements, officers were elected:

- Chair - John S.
- Vice-Chair – Eric P.
- Secretary – Stephanie A.
- Treasurer – Mary C.

Trustee Liaison is James Q.

The meeting was attended by John S., Eric P., Stephanie A., Mary C., James Q., Jean C., Karen R., Chris M., Vanessa T., Heather H., Pete A., Evelyn E., Mary P., Jan J., Donna W., and Allen A.

The roster was created and last year's report and minutes were reviewed. Each member spoke briefly about the state of their intergroup and any issues they have.

John S., Southern California IG

The intergroup is very active and has 60 meetings with some located 4 hours away. They have a newsletter and meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month. They have an office that is open 2 days a week, where they sell literature and chips. There are monthly SCDA workshops on the 2nd Saturday. They hold 2 retreats annually that attract 50 people on average. They have a ½ day seminar each year as well. Three years ago the intergroup was incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit. They have a website, but it could use some work in keeping it up to date. The intergroup recently had some issues with their treasury. Only 8 of 12 positions are filled on the Service Board.

Evelyn, Austin, TX

This is the only intergroup in Texas, but only includes a handful of groups around the Austin area. For a long time one person put on all the workshops, but that seems to be changing as the intergroup has gotten more stable and has had monthly meetings for the past year.

Pete A., Ann Arbor, MI

They have resurrected their intergroup after 2 years of inactivity this past December. They have 3 meetings in Ann Arbor and 5 meetings in the Detroit metro area (80 miles between Detroit and Ann Arbor). They meet on the 2nd Saturday of the month by conference call, which has been attended by 4 – 8 people. Plans for the future: start a website for the intergroup, learn more about

starting new meetings – how to decide good locations and times, get the message out about DA. They are still in the process of getting set up.

Heather H., Cincinnati, OH

There are 5 meetings within 2 hours of each other and would like to start an intergroup to support the meetings and share resources (web, phone line, etc.)

Chris, San Diego, CA

Intergroup could benefit from more members doing service. Service positions are 6 months in length, and they often have trouble rotating service, so a person is either serving ongoing or the position doesn't get filled.

Vanessa, New England IG

They have 20 meetings from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont. They currently meet monthly face-to-face, but are discussing meeting by conference call every other month. They hold an annual Spring Conference with average attendance of 140 people. Monthly workshops have been held and are scheduled out through the end of the year. The suggested donation for workshop attendance is \$5.00 and this has been a good source of intergroup income. Their website is supported by a good webmaster. They have a phone line as well. Recently the intergroup received their first request to provide literature to someone in prison. A Big Book and all DA pamphlets and several intergroup members have agreed to speak at the meeting at the prison.

Donna W., GSB Trustee

Offered to share her ESH in starting Intergroups and dealing with other intergroup issues as she has worked with many Intergroups in OA.

Karen R., Capitol Area DA IG serving Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia

They have by-laws and are willing to share them as a resource for intergroups who don't yet have by-laws. Attendance at intergroup varies and seems to happen in clumps. They are currently in an upswing with service growing at intergroup. Last year the intergroup couldn't complete all business as they often did not have a quorum, but this year have not had that issue. She's looking for information on how other intergroups function and how they attract members to service at the intergroup level.

Jean C., Greater NY IG

They have a website, a phone line and a fledgling newsletter. They publish and sell their meeting list (of 68 meetings). They have an average attendance of 20 group representatives at intergroup meetings. The intergroup hosts 2 main events each year, a Share-a-Day in the fall with attendance of 250-300 people and PRG afternoons, where people can get PRGs. Occasionally

they host workshops, but they aren't regularly scheduled. They could use more service at the intergroup. Also is interested in the Regionalization idea as explored by the Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission and suggested this as an agenda item for the caucus this year.

Mary P., Southern CA

John gave a full report of the intergroup, but Mary participated in the Intergroup Caucus Conference calls this past year and had a great experience.

Eric P., San Diego IG

There are concerns about intergroup and local meetings. It seems groups are trying to save money by sending around a clipboard with one copy of a flyer and one copy of the phone list, instead of making copies to pass out to members. The website is out of date and it was hard to find a list of current meetings in the area.

Mary C., Great Lakes Area DA IG (IL, WI, IN)

The intergroup has been around for a while and is established with a website, phone line, but feels in decline, having a hard time getting people to do service. They've made lots of changes to try to get more participation (date, time, location, conference call, face to face meetings) but no changes. How do you keep the intergroup alive?

Stephanie A, Minnesota DA IG

There are 5 meetings in the Twin Cities and 2 meetings within 4 hours. The intergroup hosts a phone line and website and prints a meeting list that is given to groups and members for free. It is mailed out to any who request it via the phone line. In April, the intergroup hosted their first Fellowship Day, which was a full day of workshops. It was attended by 70 people and generated \$900 of income, which was totally unexpected as the goal was to enhance recovery in the area and break even financially. There are 2 – 3 workshops throughout the year as well.

Chair, John S, asked that every member write on the following questions and bring that to the next Intergroup Caucus:

1. What does an intergroup do? What should it do?
2. What problems has your intergroup encountered?
3. What kind of solutions has your intergroup found?
4. What is the agenda for this group? What subcommittees could we form?

Stephanie A. mentioned that last year the Intergroup Caucus was assigned some of the Issues and Concerns that were sent to the GSB prior to conference and some time may be needed to review those this year as well.

Meeting adjourned.

Intergroup Caucus Meeting Minutes Thursday, August 14, 2008

The meeting was attended by John S., Stephanie A., James Q., Mary C., Eric P., Chris M., Vanessa T., Heather H., Pete A., Evelyn E, and Mary P.

Meeting opened with the serenity prayer.

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed and read. Minutes were approved as corrected.

The GSB requested that all committees and caucuses:

1. Conduct an inventory to review the relevance of the committee or caucus. Is our current mission statement serving the needs of DA as a whole?
2. Address Issue and Concern #1 from the 2008 list of Issues and Concerns.
3. Please remember that there is a literature approval process for recovery literature that should be observed by all committees and caucuses.

Issue and Concern #1 was read and discussed with all caucus members contributing to the discussion. Pete A and Evelyn E will write a response to the Issue and Concern and bring that back to the next meeting for group approval.

It was moved and seconded to create a mission statement for the Intergroup Caucus. Motion failed to carry.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the following as our mission statement:

“The Intergroup Caucus is composed of primarily ISRs but also includes GSRs and Trustees who have experience with their local Intergroups. The main function of this caucus is to create tools, resource and a better understanding of the role of an Intergroup in the overall structure of DA. The Intergroup Caucus helps support both new and existing Intergroups.”  
Motion carried.

It was decided to conduct the inventory to review the relevance of the Intergroup Caucus at a later time.

John S asked if anyone answered the questions raised at the end of the last meeting. Several people have written out responses. It was decided to make copies of those responses and distribute them to the caucus members, so that they can be reviewed before the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Intergroup Caucus Meeting Minutes  
Friday, August 15, 2008

The meeting was attended by John S., Stephanie A., Eric P., Mary P., Jean C., Heather H., Pete A., James Q., Vanessa T., Evelyn E, Mary C.

Meeting opened with the serenity prayer.

Agendas item for this meeting:

- Issue and Concern #18 was referred to the Intergroup Caucus from the Fellowship Communications Committee
- Set time for our monthly conference call
- Recommendation from the GSB regarding our mission statement
- Inventory

Minutes from the last meeting were distributed and read. Minutes were approved as corrected.

James Q. informed us that anything that gets altered on the mission statement or job description needs to come before the WSC. Also, we are encouraged to leave Regionalization as part of our mission statement as we are the only committee or caucus that has it as part of their focus. Previous motion to change our mission statement was revoked by general consensus.

#### INTERGROUP CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
Total income	\$250.00
Expenses	
Calling cards	100.00
Copying	25.00
Postage	25.00
Mailing supplies	100.00
Total expenses	\$250.00
Difference	\$0.00

Jean shared that she feels that Regionalization is an important topic and is glad that we will keep that as part of our mission.

Our monthly conference call is scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 8:30 pm E/5:30 pm P. The first call will be on September 9, 2008. Stephanie will email out the call details as soon as possible and invite all members to join our Yahoo group.

Pete and Evelyn presented the statement they wrote in response to Issue and Concern 1. It was approved by the group.

Discussed Issue and Concern 18, which was referred to the Intergroup Caucus by the Fellowship Communications Committee. Decided to write a statement to send out via eNews letting the phone meetings know that they can form an intergroup if they want and letting them know that the Intergroup Caucus is available as a resource.

It was moved and seconded that the Intergroup Caucus conduct a group inventory and look at the assets and liabilities of the IG Caucus to see how they support our primary purpose. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

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### 3. TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS MINUTES

Agenda for the coming year

We will discuss the feasibility and desirability of the following issues in the coming year:

#### REGIONAL WEBSITES

- Standardized template for regional websites
- Creation of list of regional webmasters
- WC3 Consortium standards
- Liaison with regional webmasters
- Search engine optimization for regional websites

#### DEBTORSANONYMOUS.ORG

- Content and technical issues
- Making the website newcomer friendly
- Search engine optimization
- Online donation portal
- Online literature ordering portal
- Pod/broadcasts
- Website translation and handicapped accessibility

#### TELEPHONE MEETINGS

- Consistent dial-in number for all phone meetings
- Telephone meeting technical support

#### ADOPT-A-LONER

- Create an interactive form for loners to register themselves
- Password protected adopt-a-loner database

**TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$250.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Expenses	
Telephone Calling cards	
Copying	
Postage	
Indexing for Revision of Pamphlets	
Prudent Reserve	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
Difference	



## SECTION 6

### 2009 ISSUES AND CONCERNS REPORT

DA groups, Intergroups, and individual members sent the following items to the 2008 World Service Conference (WSC) to be considered by the WSC Committees, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board. Each item begins with the text of the issue, followed by a response from the committee or DA entity to which it was assigned. Some responses may be reported at the 2009 WSC.

#### Committee assignment key:

<b>CC:</b>	Conference Committee	<b>LIT:</b>	Literature Committee
<b>GSB:</b>	General Service Board	<b>INTERGROUP:</b>	Intergroup Caucus
<b>FCC:</b>	Fellowship Communications Committee	<b>TECH:</b>	Technology Caucus
<b>IOC:</b>	Internal Operations Committee	<b>HIP:</b>	Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee
<b>PI:</b>	Public Information Committee	<b>RDC:</b>	Resource Development Committee

#### ISSUE 1: Cost of World Service Conference

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Look. I have to tell you something here folks. The Boulder Colorado DA groups have decided to not attend the WSC over the past 5 years because we think the costs for this conference are outrageous, irresponsible and completely not with keeping of the spirit and principles of any 12 step fellowship. We have brought this up at the state level and at our own conferences and group business meetings. I am not sure if any Colorado GSRs will attend. We also feel the exclusivity of this conference is off mission with the primary purpose; it is not inviting. Only certain people can attend... there is no sobriety, solvency or practicality with the yearly WSC of DA. We voted to not attend to send a letter of protest. Until you get the price down to multi level ranges, open up the conference we are never coming. We have heard the excuses, reasons etc by DA WSO...and quite frankly...we are not buying ..get it. We are not buying. Get the price down to \$50 to \$100 for reps and lower for daily attendees ...and open the damn thing up to the general fellowship. PS We are not stupid in boulder. We have put on conferences and are business people too...but we feel the WSC is so seriously out of touch with reality ...traditions, steps etc...that we boycott the WSC. PSS You need a pressure relief meeting with somebody besides your selves. ☺) Jann S. GSR for 2 years/ just a member now. (Anonymous.)

**IOC:** Review WSC registration packet to clearly indicate purpose and function of the conference, who can participate, distinguish the difference between service activities and fellowship days.

**BDA:** Thank you for taking the time to write to us. We are sad to hear that this is your experience of the World Service Conference in the last five years. We agree that a multi-range of costs could be considered for future conferences. For example, we could hold the conference at a lower-cost university or non-profit conference center, and those who wish to stay at nearby hotels could do so. Attached is a copy of the Conference Report from 2007, which provides information on the many activities during the WSC. There are many costs of the WSC, including ten meals for each attendee, use of

technology such as computers, printers, and copy machines as well as conference rooms for the many committees, caucus groups, and other activities, as well as the Parliamentarian services during the convocation. We hope that you will apply for the John Henderson scholarship, which funds groups to attend the conference. We hope to see you in Dallas in 2009.

**FCC:** We want you to be here. We need you here. Your input is valuable. The more people who attend the WSC, the more it represents DA issues as a whole. The issues you raised are very important to the survival of DA as a fellowship. We can assist you with fundraising ideas and service opportunities are available outside of the Conference. Thank you for communicating your issue and concern. We encourage further communication. Thank you.

**LIT:** Keep coming back. We suggest that the author(s) of this letter arrange a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference call with some board members to sort out the issues. A possible format for the call/meeting could be to put all the issues through the 12 steps.

**PI:** After extensive discussion, the PI committee does not have a position on this item at this time.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS:** 1. We suggest that the GSB contact the Colorado Intergroup to see if they know about this concern. Have they addressed it? 2. We suggest an outreach effort to the individual and discuss this issue one on one. 3. Let us be reminded of our suggested closing statement from our meeting format that "We talk to each other, reason things out with one another, let there be no gossip or criticism of one another, but only love, understanding and companionship."

#### ISSUE 2: JOHN H. FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can the John Henderson selection process be defined: Was prior attendance and committee work taken into consideration. What is considered an under-represented area? Who decided the formula for the scholarship? Are partial scholarships given or only entire scholarships? If scholarship selectees do not make it to Conference, what happens to that money? In love and service, (Andrea R. Front Range BDA 443, Denver.)

**CC:** Is John Henderson selection process defined: Yes. It was defined and provided to the 2008 Host Committee.

**CC:** Was prior attendance and committee work taken into consideration? No, it was not part of the selection criteria.

**CC:** What is considered an under-represented area? People from under-represented areas who are given preferential consideration are Middle America and International DA groups.

**CC:** Who decided the formula for the scholarship? Conference Committee recommended the criteria to the 2008 Host Committee.

**CC:** Are partial scholarships given or only entire scholarships? Only partial scholarships are given to allow more GSRs/ISRs to attend Conference and given to groups who have made an effort to raise the money.

**CC:** If scholarship selectees do not make it to Conference, what happens to that money? If they do not attend Conference, money remains in scholarship fund or is awarded to others who want to attend Conference.

### **ISSUE 3: UNDEREARNER'S CAUCUS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Form an Underearner's Caucus—more experience, strength and recovery about this issue is desperately needed in our fellowship. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**CC:** It has been explored in the past year in an Underearners subcommittee of the Conference Committee. In light of a creation of Under earners Anonymous, it may be determined that it is something is not needed, but the Conference Committee Underearners subcommittee will be considering it for another year.

### **DA CHIPS AND MEDALLIONS**

ISSUE 4 DA needs to have conference approved chips & annual medallions. (CADA Intergroup, 132)

ISSUE 5 DA needs to have Conference approved chips and annual medallions. (CADA Intergroup 132, Washington, D.C.)

**FCC:** FCC will respond to the group after the conference.

### **ISSUE 6: PRIMARY PURPOSE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: How as a fellowship are we focusing on DA's primary purpose? (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**FCC:** Our response will be to send a personal letter to the group and the FCC will publish an article in the Ways & Means. This is a core issue this year. It's so important that all the GSRs were surveyed this year to get a read on where we stand on this issue. It's not a simple answer. We are fully committed to gaining clarity around DA's primary purpose. It's a big part of the agenda this year, and our main focus as a Conference is Steps, Sponsorship and Service.

### **ISSUE 7: OUTSIDE LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: WSC position on mentioning outside financial books, videos, etc. in meetings. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**FCC:** FCC will respond to this after the Conference.

### **ISSUE 8: USE OF JOHN H NAME**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Refer to "John Henderson" as "John H" in the spirit of anonymity, similar to "Bill W" in AA. When we refer to John H. by his full last name, it creates confusion as to whether last names should be used. (South Minneapolis DA1101.)

**FCC:** FCC will respond to this question after the Conference.

### **ISSUE 9: COUPLES IN DA STORIES SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Stories of couples where one of the couple is not in recovery (from compulsive debting) (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**FCC:** FCC will submit article(s) about Love & Money in Ways & Means.

### **ISSUE 10: HEALTH CARE IN DA**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Health care is extremely expensive. Living with life threatening conditions affects my thinking. When I learned I could die from my infection in 1985, I stopped saving for retirement. In 1994, I participated in a clinical trial for a new class of drugs that were FDA approved in 1996. I resumed saving and was faced with changing my attitude from dying with a positive attitude to preparing to age as a productive baby boomer US citizen. This was very confusing. From 1994 to 2004, I had daily diarrhea - a side effect of the life saving medications. It was not until 2004, that I had solid stool, which I had often taken for granted before 1994. I am very grateful for the advances in medical science, however, the new drugs are costly. I applied for and received help from New York State with the stipulation that my income not exceed \$44,000 a year, modest for NYC living. During my first PRG, my PR man and woman asked me why my spending plan was so low and I told them I could lose my medical coverage if I earned more without earning such a great deal more that I could afford to pay medical and dental insurance premiums, annual deductible, medication co-payments in addition to the doctor and clinical test co-payments I already pay. New York State has GREAT patient rights laws so, even with my pre-existing conditions, I can get private insurance if I can afford it. My PRG people gave me the action of preparing a spending plan that matches my vision as if I had comprehensive private medical coverage. I want to do that and I need resources - other people who have addressed a similar concern. Health care is very expensive and, therefore, critical in probably for any DA spending plan and certainly for those of DA members living with life-threatening chronic medical conditions. (Health issues Telephone, Tuesday 3:00 p.m.)

**FCC:** The FCC is bringing a motion to the WSC to create a health care and Debt Caucus. The FCC has committed to writing a personal letter to this individual.

### **ISSUE 11: NAMING HIGHER POWER**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is it an "outside issue" to name your Higher Power in a meeting? For example when sharing about Step 3. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN)

**FCC:** Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

**ISSUE 12: HEALTH CARE IN DA**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** There has been a strong desire by the group to have some of the issues that the people in DA with health and disability issues to be heard at the WSC2008. We have started to put them in draft form at this time and were hoping that we could have a little more time to complete them. Medical Costs are incurred constantly with people with disabilities or like myself with cancer. It's not that we intentionally are trying to go into debt, but ever time we go to a doctor, hospital, treatments or medical tests there is another debt. Some of us are fortunate enough to have good health insurance and then it's not as bad. The other possibility is that we are able to negotiate a payment plan with any of these expenses. Most people, including our family and friends sometimes do not understand these issues as they haven't experience them. **THE LIMITS OF OUR BODIES:** We are often exhorted to deal with our 12-Step issues by being willing to, "go to any lengths." It is a hallmark of our PRG's, to accept and act upon "Action Steps," suggested to increase our earnings, reduce our expenses and be free of unsecured debt. Negotiating for what we need, teaching others to respect our disabilities, even as we gain tolerance for ourselves takes precious stamina. However, for people with health issues and disabilities, esp those not obvious to others, as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and some other illnesses, it is equally important to learn to listen carefully to our bodies, accept and work within our limits. **MEDICAL COSTS AND EARNINGS:** Finding a realistic balance between managing our finances and our physical limits is particularly true for those for whom medical and caretaking expenses are an issue. Those of us without adequate income, may be willing to press ourselves past a manageable balance, further endangering a fragile situation. Desperation to solve our problems and fear of failure, even bankruptcy can confront us with contradictory needs to take care of ourselves financially and physically. Sometimes, actions suggested by others in program are inappropriate or impossible. **RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS:** It may help us to remember to live in our recovery with loving forgiveness and detachment. Well-meaning program people may press us past our boundaries or trivialize our concerns. Family, friends and other program people may become impatient with us, unfairly judge our motives or confuse our concerns with resistance. It is important to our recovery to attain clarity about freedom from blaming either ourselves or others when this happens. Our realities can trigger old issues from our families of origin and feelings of rage, deprivation, shame, self-hate, self-pity, despair, suicidal hopelessness and panic. Even when we have empathetic people in our lives, at times, our health issues can be isolating and discouraging. Often this can mean accepting grief, when we realize what has been lost due to our disabilities. It is critical for us to separate grim realities we cannot control from those character defects we must release or only make a difficult situation worse. At such times, it is most useful to show up and work our program, accept what we cannot control, reach out when we can and open ourselves to our Higher Power for guidance. It is important to choose our battles. This is a gentle program. **HOPE:** In the worst of circumstances, our Higher Power can still give us opportunities for gratitude, love, service and hope towards a life of abundance. Despite our difficulties, many of us have found creative solutions to underearning and

other financial issues. It is important to work all 12 steps so that we can attain serenity with a loving Higher Power, as we negotiate to find solutions to our problems. Many of us have found working the relationship programs or professional counseling helpful. With the help of program and our Higher Power we can survive, thrive and our struggles can serve to inspire others. A lot of members have health insurance and therefore can handle the finances for their doctors, hospitals, medical tests (cat scans, MRIs, X-rays, etc.), and treatments with only having to pay their co-pays. A serious problem occurs when someone sustains a very serious illness or accident which causes them to be confined to a wheelchair or even worse paralyzed. In this situation a person goes through surgeries to save their life. There are needs for transplantations and hospitalization for longer periods of time. After these surgeries there is obvious needs for professional caregivers and even later more surgery. In this type of situation it has happened that insurance companies have informed the patient/patients that they have been informed that they have exceeded their yearly cap and they can no longer get any assistance from the insurance companies. Then it causes the patient/patients to try to fight the insurance companies so that they may live. I know that these hopefully are a minor amount of our DA family, but it does happen and it is unconscionable. This is a special and important problem for our DA family and will keep the WSC aware of the continuing issues as we address them. We are hoping that this work will and can become a pamphlet to help other DA members face the issues of health. We also realize that this is not only a problem in the United States, but since DA is a international program we also need the input from our members in these other areas. We do have three members that are international, therefore we will address how their health issues are handled also. (Tuesday afternoon DA Health Meeting 1176.)

**FCC:** The FCC is bringing a motion to the WSC to create a health care and Debt Caucus. The FCC has committed to writing a personal letter to this individual.

**ISSUE 13: GROUP SERVICE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** The above meeting has now closed. The reason is SERVICE. People seemingly are not effortful on service. Yes, I know we have a pamphlet on this. If DA is dwindling it's because of lack of service. Please help us. Why are not members stepping up to the plate and giving service. In AA, as well you know, one of the first things an AA sponsor is likely to do is give the sponsee marching orders for doing service work. If a new meeting starts for the first time in an area where there has been no previous meetings, the requirements for service positions are simply DO IT. I am a long timer—I got tired of carrying the load of the meeting's service positions. When I stepped down, Creating the Good Life meeting closed a couple of months later because of lack of willingness to do the service. Other meeting are also on the verge of closing because of this issue. Help. AND.... blessings on all JUNE 20, 2008. (Creating the Good Life 1028 Mill Creek Washington.)

**FCC:** Our response to this group will be that: FCC recommends to our fellow GSR and ISR delegates that each one of us identifies someone in our meeting to be their Alternate GSR

and to encourage our Alternate to participate in the committee work we are doing.

#### **ISSUE 14: PRESSURE TO REPAY DEBT**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Would like a rigorously honest discussion at W.S. level of the issue that in some groups and areas of DA there is "pressure" put on newcomers to pay off debt ASAP, and whether this is truly the spirit of DA Recovery-and that sometimes moratoriums are prudent. (Sunday Night Integrity Meeting 259.)

**FCC:** Please refer to pamphlet "Communicating with Creditors" and "Debt Repayment." Also refer to the "Numbers Booklet" in the order of spending categories noting that spirituality is first and debt repayment is last.

#### **ISSUE 15: PRIMARY PURPOSE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: How to stress doing the steps, getting and staying solvent and the record-keeping tools to newcomers. How to keep the main focus of all meetings, regardless of the topic, on the primary purpose, which is to stop incurring unsecured debt. (Creating Your Vision 303.)

**FCC:** Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

#### **ISSUE 16: OUTSIDE ISSUES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: What are "outside issues"? Also, what is a good way to address "outside issues" when they come up during a meeting? (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN)

**FCC:** Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

#### **ISSUE 17: OLDER DA MEMBERS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Members of the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous who are 50 years of age and older currently support one another in applying the D.A. principles and tools primarily through the use of the Wednesday night telephone meeting, individual use of the telephone and the internet outside the meeting environment and in PRG/PRM settings. The 50 Plus DA Wednesday Night Telephone Meeting (DA Group #1187) suggests that the DA 2008 WSC consider the special issues, needs and concerns of members of the DA Fellowship who are 50 years of age and older either within the framework of the existing Diversity Caucus OR through the creation of a new, unique caucus operating under one of the existing Conference Committees. (50 Plus DA 1187 Telephone Meeting.)

**FCC:** We referred this issue to the Diversity Caucus. The Diversity Caucus referred us to the PI Committee who indicated that are planning to address this issue.

How to stress doing the steps, getting and staying solvent and the record-keeping tools to newcomers. How to keep the main focus of all meetings, regardless of the topic, on the primary purpose, which is to stop incurring unsecured debt. (Creating Your Vision 303.)

#### **ISSUE 18: PHONE MEETINGS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is there a phone meeting intergroup? If not, would it be helpful to set one up? (Anonymous.)

**FCC:** We referred to the Intergroup Caucus.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS:** The Intergroup Caucus will craft a statement to send out via eNews, pending GSB approval, that it has been suggested that the phone meetings might benefit from forming an intergroup, and invite anyone who would be interested in that to contact the Intergroup Caucus for assistance.

#### **ISSUE 19: QUALIFYING AT MEETINGS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: When someone qualifies by saying "I am a debtor" they are confirming the negative. Can DA encourage people to say "I am a recovering Debtor"? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

**FCC:** We will respond back to this group and there will be an article about this issue in the Ways & Means.

#### **ISSUE 20: SECURED DEBT ISSUES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Secured debt: DA says that secured debt is 'okay', in that the creditor is protected. But many of us find secured debt (like home equity loans) to be just as dangerous as unsecured. Should DA address this issue, by pointing out that although secured debt protects the lender, it does nothing to protect us from our debting selves? (Anonymous.)

**FCC:** We will write a letter to this group indicating that "FCC recommends that the Literature Committee considers creating a pamphlet that defines unsecured debt in relation to DA and also looks at the risks and problems of secured debt."

#### **ISSUE 21: KEEPING A MEETING ALIVE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I will make reference to two different meetings that are located in Los Angeles. I would like to remain anonymous. But I will say that there are many meetings which have somehow worked their way out of twelve step format (especially with regard to the traditions) in Saturday am 9:00 in Brentwood and at Sunday night in Silverlake. I will tell you that property prestige and religious faiths infiltrate those meetings. I had some childhood success which seems to haunt me at these meetings. It happened that I was on the cover of a magazine many years ago. But when the Sunday group organized the DA visions board day, I was left out. There is intimidation and competitiveness like no tomorrow. At the Saturday the same people hold service positions and share over and over again. This really applies to the Saturday morning BDA meeting in Brentwood, 9:00. I am talking over a 10 year period the same people raise their hands, make up a core click and are elected to service positions. My father was born in Brentwood and he is very much a debtor and still I feel unwelcome at that meeting over and over again. People mention the names of the companies, their occupations, names of famous producers and what have you. The people at meeting are very focused on competing against others. When they are threatened by someone because of their god given gifts they do not call on them. There is little rotation in leadership and meeting in Los Angeles are very clicky. The focus becomes on who is in which movie/commercial and they get the attention. One meeting in

Brentwood at 900am sat in particular. I have been attending off and on for 10 years plus and I have never gotten called on. People need to take their issues of jealousy and narcissism outside of meetings. There is lots of gossip. The traditions are a necessity not just to be read but studied and analyzed and discussed at length. Herb Kaigan teaches a class on the traditions. Please keep this note anonymous. Thank you. (Anonymous.)

**FCC:** FCC recommends that you refer to the pamphlets "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive" and "Group Inventory" in the Service Literature Section of the DA Website. FCC will respond to this after the Conference.

#### **ISSUE 22: DA 12 & 12**

TEXT OF ISSUE: When is the DA Big Book/12&12 going to be published? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 23: DA WORKBOOK**

TEXT OF ISSUE: What's happened to the DA Workbook? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 24: ELECTRONIC PURCHASE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Can it be made easier to order DA literature from the US (by UK) by debit card or PayPal? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 25: FUNDING OPERATIONS FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: That the DA General Service Board commit to making a five year transition to becoming fully self-supporting for its operations and services from funds raised by Seventh Tradition contributions and other fundraising pricing DA literature at actual cost to encourage more DA members to purchase more at a more affordable cost. (NJPADA)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 26: TRADITION REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I request we ask for AA's permission to modify the printing of the 12 Traditions to gender neutral language (see enclosed). Let's get with reality—both genders need honor, not just men, when we conceptualize God. Thank you! [Note: attachment offers alternative language for Tradition 2: Four our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Etc.] (Seattle, WA.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 27: DA 12 & 12 EDITOR PROCESS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: It is confusing to me why an editor for the 12 and 12 has not been selected. I know viable candidates applied and yet it appears that they are STILL looking for an editor. Can you explain what the process is for selecting the editor, and what, specifically you need in such a person, if none of the candidates so far have been suitable. (CADA 132.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 28: FUNDING OF GSB TO WSC**

TEXT OF ISSUE: It is my understanding that a portion of the funds paid by GSR's/IGR's is used to pay the way of the

Trustees. If the Trustees were to create a category in the GSO's spending plan, the funds could be diverted to there and the price of the conference would make it more affordable for groups to send a representative. (Anonymous.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 29: USE OF DA NAME BY OUTSIDE ENTITIES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: If you Google "Debtors Anonymous" some of the responses include the words "debtors anonymous" in their ad, but they appear to be paid debt relief services. (Technically, these appear to be Sponsored Listings that use dynamic linking to include your search term in the ad). Is there a way to stop this? (Anonymous.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 30: PROMISES ON LITERATURE WEB PAGE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Add the Promises of DA on the literature page of the DA website:

<http://debtorsanonymous.org/literature/literature.htm> and on the "Start a Meeting" page.

[http://debtorsanonymous.org/start\\_meeting/start.htm](http://debtorsanonymous.org/start_meeting/start.htm) The Steps, Tools, Traditions, and Concepts are there, but not the Promises. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 31: SEARCHABLE MEETING LIST**

TEXT OF ISSUE: This item is regarding the "Find a Meeting" page and the searchable meeting database on the DA website. Many of the meetings were not registered with zip codes (i.e., just the street address, city, and state). So when someone searches for a meeting using a zip code for example "within 50 miles of 55455", the meetings that were registered without zip codes do not appear in the search results. Two part solution: 1) add a line on the meeting registration form that stresses the importance of including the correct zip code. 2) if a meeting sends in a form without a zip code, have the person who is maintaining the database look up the zip code on the USPS website <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/> and enter it into the database. (This service could be done by one of the "virtual volunteers" to the General Service Office) Helping people find a DA meeting is the most simple and important way to "carry the message to the still-suffering debtor". Let's get it right. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 32: ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Making DA more electronically more accessible: Can't we make DA pamphlets downloadable for a fee instead of making people fill out a form, and mail it with a check, so pamphlets can be snail-mailed? We could still use them to generate income, and if necessary, we could set pdf security options so they could not be copied/pasted. We could even set them so they could not be printed, if we thought we needed to be that protective of the copyright. (Anonymous)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 33: DA WEBSITE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Clean up the DA website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org)). It is messy, many of the links

are broken, and it is hard to find documents because they are not grouped in an order that makes sense. Also, the main navigational links in the far left column are not consistent. For instance, when clicking on the "News Media" link, the BDA link goes away. This is rudimentary web design and is not that hard to fix, but makes a huge difference when trying to navigate the site. The quality of the website tells a lot about an organization. It doesn't have to have fancy bells and whistles, but let's make it clean, well-organized, and easy to navigate. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 34: SPONSEE PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create a pamphlet on how to be a good sponsee (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. Meanwhile, please see free download of Sponsorship pamphlet on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) which addresses the relationship between sponsors and sponsees.

#### **ISSUE 35: CREDIT RATING PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create literature on how to build a credit rating while remaining solvent/debt free (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** In the program of Debtors Anonymous, our primary purpose is to stop incurring new unsecured debt one day at a time. Therefore, DA has no opinion on credit ratings and how to build a good credit rating because these are outside issues.

#### **ISSUE 36: PRM FORMAT SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create national level literature with a pressure relief meeting format (LA has a regional publication for this) (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature Committee to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. We welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

#### **ISSUE 37: DA STEP STUDY GUIDE SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** The Dallas Texas Prosperity Group desires a single unified DA guide to taking the steps in DA and then applying the DA tools to those 12 spiritual steps. The problem: the canon of DA approved literature is fragments, parts and pamphlet pieces that were originally developed to use as companion pieces to the Alcoholics Anonymous Basic Text. DA as a whole fellowship seems to have pulled away from supporting that model as a way for beginners to work the 12-step program, as well as the template from which to sponsor. DA has even ceased publication of its own pamphlet on the tool of 'AA literature,' which was a vital document illustrating ways that the DA founders applied the principles to recovery from compulsive debt. Several intergroups, individuals and other fellowships publish non-DA -approved step guides; i.e. outlines, assignments or an order to follow. Some of these guides even tie the AA text to the corresponding DA pamphlets. DA

members have also published non-DA approved books. But there is no one unified DA approved step guide for use DA fellowship-wide. Out of desperation, individual DA members are using these "varied" non-approved 12 step guides. DA members get into "opinion" about weather is it is better to follow the 'Mundis' book, the 'So Cal' guide, an 'OA' guide or a plethora of other NON DA materials. Dallas DA Prosperity Group feels this is the most divisive and the most under addressed issue facing DA today. DA fellowships that self-publish or recommend non-DA guides & books see no urgency in addressing this issue as they have fallen into a pattern of settling for these pieces. Fellowships that hold copyrights on self published pieces of non-DA lit also have a financial incentive to continue this tradition-violating policy. Much of this sold material is not pure 12-step, but a hybrid of self- help, therapy, pop psychology & intellectualization. The original AA 12-step program was a document of the experience strength and hope of addicted alcoholics...that 10-20% of the population for whom self-help, therapy, pop psychology & intellectualization will not work...that is, the compulsive person who is beyond human aid and who must have a spiritual solution. DA is a 12 step fellowship but many members only ever read, if anything, a few of the DA tools pamphlets, have a PRG, and get temporary "relief." These individuals never actually work the spiritual program at all, and never have the spiritual awakening necessary to have mental obsession to compulsively debt removed. **THE SOLUTION:** Dallas Prosperity Group strongly recommends that the unified DA 12-step guide be a simple outline connecting the directions for taking the 12 steps as outlined in Text Book of Alcoholics Anonymous to the existing DA pamphlets. Our group further recommends that DA WSC give this vital document its undivided attention and take a moratorium from developing any additional literature, either new or in current process, until this unified DA step guide is complete, published and available to all DA members. This moratorium would extend to temporarily tabling the proposed "How it works in DA" and DA 12& 12 books. (Prosperity 364 Dallas)

**LIT:** Regarding the Step Study Guide, the concept of this was approved in 2007 and the Lit Com at that time turned it over to Literature Services as called for in the Literature Approval Process. The next step is for Literature Services to find a writer (or writers) to move the piece forward. That writer would then write the first draft and that document would go through all the steps of the Literature Approval Process.

#### **ISSUE 38: SPENDING PLAN SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please approve attached vacation/conference spending plan as Conference approved literature for all our members. [Worksheet shows Planned and Actual columns for Funds Available and for Conference Expense categories: registration, lodging, transportation, meals, miscellaneous, contingency, and Total] (Simple Abundance 496, Lima, PA.)

**LIT:** The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your suggestion into consideration.

**ISSUE 39: DA TRADITIONS PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please write a pamphlet on DA Traditions like "12 Steps of Debtors Anonymous" pamphlet. (CADA 132, Washington, D.C.)

LIT: D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

**ISSUE 40: DEFINITION OF DEBT SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please make a piece of information about forms of unsecured debt and forms of secured debt. (CADA 132.)

LIT: The General Service Board has considered preparing guidelines to clarify what constitutes "debting" and at this time, has declined to adopt such guidelines. It is suggested to consult with your sponsor, your Pressure Relief Group persons, and other members of the fellowship for their experience, strength and hope.

**ISSUE 41: SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to have suggestions for abstinence requirements and qualifications for performing service at the group and intergroup levels. (Empire State Intergroup 608, Upstate New York.)

LIT: This information is contained in the Meetings pamphlet.

**ISSUE 42: STEP STUDY BOOK SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Literature (book?) Step Study for DA where we do not have to substitute DA for AA. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

LIT: D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

**ISSUE 43: SPEAKER AUDIO FILES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Can we have online downloads of speakers. I would as a consumer pay for it. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

LIT: The issue is being discussed by the Technology Caucus.

**ISSUE 44: AA LITERATURE PAMPHLET REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Revisit publishing the pamphlet "AA Literature." I don't see it on the website available to order or download. It is really helpful in guiding a new DA through the AA lit, especially the Big Book. (Prosperity 364, Dallas.)

LIT: Although the General Service Board decided not to make this pamphlet available as a free download, the Literature Committee will recommend to the General Service Board that the pamphlet be made available as a temporary free download until we have a our basic text.

**ISSUE 45: DA 12 & 12 BOOK**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Instead of DA 12&12, to use the same 12&12 but replacing with DA words where appropriate. (419 California.)

LIT: D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A. To prepare D.A. literature by modifying A.A literature by substituting 'debt' for 'alcohol' and 'debting' for 'drinking' would constitute copyright infringement.

**ISSUE 46: DA 12 & 12 BOOK**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved 12 & 12 book, similar to AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. (On Prosperous Ground 226, Miami FL.)

LIT: D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

**ISSUE 47: FOCUS ON PRIMARY PURPOSE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please cease literature writing projects (even close to completion) that do not deal with our primary purpose of not debting one day at a time. procrastination and issues with time are, as the primary purpose statement clearly articulates 6th addressed in steps 6-9. (CADA 132.)

LIT: All printed and online pamphlets are being reviewed by the Literature Committee for updating, upon suggestion from our D.A. Board of Trustees at the 2008 World Service Conference. One of the guidelines we are using is: Does this pamphlet align with our primary purpose? D.A. projects and pamphlets in process are being reviewed by Literature Services using the same criterion.

**ISSUE 48: CURRENCY OF HOPE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please begin work on A Currency of Hope II incorporating stories of long timers, business owners. (CADA 132.)

LIT: The concept of posting stories- including those about long-timers and business owners- on the DA website was approved at the 2008 WSC. There are no plans to produce a book titled Currency of Hope II.

**ISSUE 49: DAILY MEDITATION BOOK**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved Daily Meditation Reader, with a page for each day of the year, similar to those produced by other 12-step fellowships. (On Prosperous Ground 226, Miami, FL.)

LIT: A D.A. Daily Meditation book is in progress.

**ISSUE 50: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA 12 STEPS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please consider degenderizing the 12 Steps to remove the pronoun Him and to not use any pronoun at all. (Providence Hope and Prosperity, Providence.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

**ISSUE 51: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Replace "God" and "his & her" with Higher Power and "his or her" and "he or she" in our DA literature. If not "God", then at least de-genderize the pronouns. It's high time we go "with the program" so to speak. (NOTE: I will explain to this member who hasn't been to meetings in a while, that we are working on that with all new literature). (California 419.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any

changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

**ISSUE 52: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I agree with the de-gendering God – instead of “him”, just replace with God – or “Goddess” – or it? (California 419.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

**ISSUE 53: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: When will DA become God gender neutral? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

**ISSUE 54: NON-CONF. APPROVED LIT SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: If approved, please edit the Fear of Success Pamphlet for grammar. (Sunday Night Integrity Meeting 259 New York City. )

LIT: GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature Committee to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. We welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

**ISSUE 55: NEWCOMER'S PACKET**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved Newcomer's Packet, similar to those produced by other 12-step fellowships. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

LIT: This literature concept is currently in process.

**ISSUE 56: COUPLES IN DA PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please write a pamphlet along the lines of the family afterward, or working DA as a couple. (CADA 132.)

LIT: We suggest that Literature services include a chapter on Relationships in the DA How it Works Book.

**ISSUE 57: PRG GUIDE SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved PRG Guide book, similar to the blue pamphlet produced by Southern California DA. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

LIT: GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature Committee to go through the normal approval process for

consideration. We are undertaking a thorough review of all DA pamphlets and we welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

**ISSUE 58: PROMISES REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Our 7<sup>th</sup> DA Promise states: “We will recognize that there is enough; our resources will be generous and we will share them with others and with D.A.” I have always been uncomfortable with the last part “share them with DA”.

This does not seem like a promise of what I will experience in recovery. It seems more like an attempt to sneak in a request for money into the Promises. Of course, I am not saying we should not share our resources with DA, I'm just uncomfortable with that request appearing in the Promises. (Anonymous.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral.

**ISSUE 59: PROMISES REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I respectfully propose the following change to the text at the end of the “12 Promises”: Replace: “Are these extravagant promises? We think not; they are well within our means....” With: “Are these reasonable promises? We agree they are; they are well within our means....” Discussion: I believe affirming the positive (instead of denying the negative) is more direct and powerful. I think it is a clearer expression of the spirit and true meaning of this statement. (California 419)

LIT: Review of all literature is in process

**ISSUE 60: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

TEXT OF ISSUE: A suggested responsibility pledge: I want to be a DA asset. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of DA to be there. If that hand is mind, then I am a DA asset. (Anonymous.)

LIT: The concept of a Responsibility Pledge will be considered by the Literature Committee; however, the wording you suggest might require the permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services..

**ISSUE 61: COUPLES IN DA PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We ask the WSC & GSB to create literature addressing Couples DA issues. (New Visions 317 Woodstock, NY.)

LIT: The Literature Committee has suggested to Literature Services that a chapter on relationships be included in the DA How it Works Book.

**ISSUE 62: EARNING AND SPENDING REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: In all DA literature, especially, but not limited to the Tools: insert the words “Earning and Spending Plan” for the words “Spending Plan.” Too often we focus on spending/expenses and not enough on earning/income and they are both equally important!!! (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

LIT: All of the D.A. Literature is being reviewed this year by the Literature Committee and your concern will be considered carefully.



**ISSUE 63: SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce formal guidelines for sponsorship containing DA Frequently Asked Questions, written assignments, advice to help with newcomers, etc. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

LIT: The DA pamphlet on sponsorship is no longer available in print, however, there is a free downloadable version of the pamphlet available on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

**ISSUE 64: SPONSORSHIP PAMPHLET REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Revise the sponsorship pamphlet text that is on the website (ie: make it better) and resume printing it as a pamphlet for sale. Very few people know it is on the website. Not having it on display for sale with the other pamphlets at a meeting makes it easy to overlook. This is one of the most important aspects of our program and people have many questions about it (especially those who don't have previous 12 Step experience). (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

LIT: We will be reviewing the Sponsorship pamphlet as part of the overall literature review process. We will also consider recommending that it be returned to print. Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

**ISSUE 65: STUDENT LOAN PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: A pamphlet on student loans would be helpful. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

LIT: At present, there is no DA literature that specifically addresses student loans. However, as stated in "The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous (p. 1) "Our debting may have manifested in our lives in the form of unpaid credit card debt or student loans." As educational loans are generally not secured by any collateral, obtaining such loans is considered debting..

**ISSUE 66: TOOLS REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: In regards to DA Tool #2 about Using the Telephone and the Internet: Please expand the tool to include "answering the phone" and "returning calls and emails from other DA members". So many times I call people in my group for support and no one answers their phone. Also, I leave messages on their voicemail and I'm lucky if one person returns my call. This is very discouraging. I have heard this concern from many members of the fellowship, both from my area and from other parts of the country. Current: 7. The Telephone and the Internet We maintain frequent contact with other D.A. members by using the telephone, e-mail, and other forms of communication. We make a point of talking to other D.A. members before and after taking difficult steps in our recovery. Proposed: 7. The Telephone and the Internet We maintain frequent contact with other D.A. members by using the telephone, e-mail, and other forms of communication. We make a point of talking to other D.A. members before and after taking difficult steps in our recovery. We also make an effort to answer the phone and return calls and emails from other D.A. members in a timely manner. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

LIT: All pamphlets are under revision at this time and this suggestion will be taken into consideration.

**ISSUE 67: DA TOOLS REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Rewrite DA Tool #5. The current wording is awkward and it is obvious that the portions regarding income and savings were added as an afterthought. Current: 5.  
**Spending Plan** The spending plan puts our needs first and gives us clarity and balance in our spending. It includes categories for income, spending, debt payment and savings (to help us build cash reserves, however humble). The income plan helps us focus on increasing our income. The debt payment category guides us in making realistic payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. Savings can include prudent reserve, retirement and special purchases. Proposed: 5.  
**Earning and Spending Plan** The earning and spending plan puts our needs first and It helps us focus on increasing our income and gives us clarity and balance in our spending. The debt payment category guides us in making realistic payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. The savings category helps us build cash reserves, however humble, and can include prudent reserve, retirement, and special purchases. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

LIT: All pamphlets are under revision for content, grammar and for adherence to DA's primary purpose at this time and your point will be taken into consideration

**ISSUE 68: DA TOOLS REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Reformatting DA tools: Solvency is part of the description of the program instead of a tool so when tools are discussed, it ends up that there's no discussion of solvency. Is there some way to re-word the tools, so tools meetings meet and discuss the importance of solvency? The way it is worded now does not lead to a discussion about solvency when discussing each of the tools at tools meetings. We would like to re-word it so that solvency is discussed when discussing the tools at our tools meetings. (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307 New York. )

LIT: Solvency isn't a tool, just as sobriety or abstinence aren't tools, but are supported by the tools of each program. It IS important to have discussions about solvency, but not under the heading of tools. In the 2005 Conference, solvency was changed from a "tool" to a "starting point".

**ISSUE 69: TRADITION REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Tradition two suggested wording "A loving higher power as expressed in our group conscience" (California 419.)

LIT: The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your concern into consideration.

**ISSUE 70: UNDEREARNING MATERIALS SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: More formal education materials on Underearning. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

LIT: Although we don't offer formal educational materials, only experience, strength and hope, we assume you are asking for more literature on underearning (in addition to the pamphlet we currently have). The Literature Committee is beginning a process of re-evaluating our selection of pamphlets, and we will

consider your request for additional literature on underearning. However many DA long-timers feel that the key to long-term recovery is to focus on our Primary Purpose: to stop debting one day at a time. When we don't debt, we are forced to increase our income.

#### **ISSUE 71: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We would like to see DA create, implement and use a statement similar to the examples below to inspire, guide, and unify the DA fellowship world wide. AA Responsibility Statement: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." Al-Anon Declaration: "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help - let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and Let It Begin With Me." The OA Promise: "I put my hand in yours, and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady willpower. We are all together now, reaching out our hands for power and strength greater than ours, and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams." (Paths to Prosperity 338 Salt Lake City.)

**LIT:** The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your suggestion into consideration.

#### **ISSUE 72: OUTSIDE ISSUE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Issue and the reason We as a Group decided to send a GSR to Utah for the first time in our 8 year history. We felt strongly about Judith C. of NYC FOS/underearning ideas and how closely We as a group Identify. We heard she was a few votes short of being able to introduce her literature. We had the chance to go to Clutters Anonymous way but felt that topic did not serve our group beliefs whereas DA's ideas and principles hit the mark. The basic premise for our group is that "Clutter" is a physical, mental, emotional and spiritual manifestation of the debting disease. Its about how we self-debt. We lack love of self in the various forms. Whether its overspending, hoarding, pauperism, underearning or fearing success its all clutter. That we could not manage our own lives that GOD could and would if sought. By focusing on HP, GOD(Group of Debtors) etc.. we can reach out and start the process of de-cluttering our minds, souls and homes. By clearing the way via staying solvent in DA, we are able to find bills and checks and pay them on time. Thus paving the way to abundance and prosperity. Clutter builds walls that protects/prevents us from dealing with the outside world thus keeping us in terminal vagueness and lacking clarity in all our affairs. It also keeps us debting by neglecting self-love. Or not taking the time for ourselves because we are too busy caring or doing for others. Once again debting to ourselves and our welfare. Our clutter whatever form it takes, your choice, keeps us from being happy, joyous and free and being rocketed into the fourth dimension. Having too much, too little hinders our growth not only as individuals but as loving and giving members of society. Working the DA 12 steps and practicing these principles in all our affairs helps us to remove the clutter from our eyes and see clearly that we are not alone. Thank you very much for

helping my group Clearing the Way in NYC to be heard at the 2008 WSC in Utah. Clutter is an outer manifestation of our inner turmoil. Clutter due to the disorganization of our homes and minds is a form of underearning. It deprives us of self-care, the best example neglecting health insurance or retirement account because we cannot focus due to our clutter. Focusing on Solvency is the first step towards de-cluttering. Please introduce this topic somehow, someway into the 2008 WSC. My group worked really hard to raise money to send me to Utah to represent this IDEA of clearing the way in relation to DA. (Clearing the Way in NYC 1213, NY.)

#### **ISSUE 73: PUBLIC INFO SERVICE POSITION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create a standard job description for group level public information: procedures, publications, brochures and letters available. Only three people participate in the monthly national conference call for this. Instructions are too vague (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**PI:** No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 74: OUTREACH**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can we provide outreach to high school and college kids and maybe even youngsters? For example, DA can have literature (you know like the I can read easy children's book series or Love Shouldn't Hurt pamphlets...) explaining how to write a check, what a debt is, the difference between a secured debt and an unsecured debt, living solvently, student loans, campus credit card recruiter tables, basic, beginner topics like that for the financially isolated or beginner. It could detail hands-on bookkeeping for novices. In addition to the literature, there can be outreach to schools and community or religious youth organizations including Alateen discussing these topics, and they can be presented along with the literature. You know, like for the grace of God there goes I. (John H 7:30pm Prosperity Meeting 307, New York.)

**PI:** No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 75: OUTREACH**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** For seniors, can we print literature and outreach explaining and referring them to programs and case management agencies that provide housing, transportation, food, senior centers, and case management assistance? (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307 New York.)

**PI:** No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 76: GROUP BANK ACCOUNT**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create formal instructions on how to set up a group bank account (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**RDC:** This concern is addressed in the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval, under "OPENING A GROUP CHECKING ACCOUNT".

#### **ISSUE 77: NEWCOMERS' PACKETS**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Newcomers packets that meetings can gift to newcomers? Perhaps encourage meetings to fund a minimum "newcomer gift" of their local where and whens and include it as part of the regular meeting expense. (CADA Intergroup 132)

**RDC:** RDC recommends that the Literature Committee create a standardized Newcomer Packet. Each group may decide by group conscience if their group spending plan should include providing literature such as free Newcomer Packets to newcomers.

#### **ISSUES 78, 79, 81: PURPOSE OF 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION FUNDS**

**ISSUE 78:** TEXT OF ISSUE: World Service needs to specify why they need \$37,000. It makes them seem greedy and out of touch with other debtors, especially when newcomers see the flyer. The only reason I know what it is about is because I attended CADA. (Grace of God/CADA Intergroup 132)

**ISSUE 79:** TEXT OF ISSUE: It just does not make sense to me all this asking for money and such large amounts. Not only do I think it is totally wrong not to state specifically what this money is earmarked for, I think it unacceptable to put a Flyer out which also does not state what the money is used for. And in the mother fellowship of AA, if we dont have enough we do without. Your comparison to a "non-profit" is especially disturbing. While we are a non-profit, we should not be "fundraising, period, and the Traditions tell us that emphatically. We are here to serve the Fellowship not to fund raise. We must live within our means, i.e. D.A. must be ok with literature funds and group donations. If groups dont give, there is something wrong with the Fellowship as a whole, which I believe there is. People in this program are obsessed with money and I see this play out in Intergroup and at World level in a big way. My own Intergroup tries to charge \$175 per person to be in a step study! This is pure nonsense and a distortion of DA principles. I would appreciate you passing this sentiment on at World. We want clarity, you dont just send out a Flyer asking for \$32,000 and not say what it is for? It is astonishing that the World level would be so vague about something so big, but on the other hand, from what I have seen in my short time of 2 years in DA, not surprising. Sometimes I wonder if recovery can be had with so much greed. Many Thanks. (Marla L.)

**RDC:** Future appeal letters and flyers will include specifics (numbers) and/or pie charts.

#### **ISSUE 80: 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** At its regular monthly meeting held on Sunday, June 29, 2008, the New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup of Debtors Anonymous passed the following resolution by unanimous voice vote: The New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup of Debtors Anonymous recommend to the General Service Board and the 2008 World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous that the General Service Board begin within the six months to plan and implement a five year strategic campaign to stimulate the number and amount of Seventh Tradition contributions to be made at least quarterly from registered DA groups internationally. The purpose of this campaign is two-fold: (1) to increase the funds available for services to the membership, and (2) to reduce the GSB's reliance on profit from the sale of literature to provide for services. (New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup.)

**RDC:** RDC moved to make increasing 7th Tradition contributions the focus of the committee in the upcoming year.

#### **ISSUE 81: 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** World service needs to specify WHY they need \$37,000. It makes them seem greedy and out of touch with other debtors, especially when newcomers see the flyer. The only reason I know what it is about is because I attended CADA. (Grace of God/CADA Intergroup 132, WDC.)

**RDC:** Future appeal letters and flyers will include specifics (numbers) and/or pie charts.

#### **ISSUE 82: OUTSIDE ISSUE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** How will the US economic collapse change attitudes in DA? (Such as how much money people think they deserve?) Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, (San Francisco, CA.)

**RDC:** RDC concludes that the "economic collapse" of U.S. is an outside issue. According to Tradition 10, DA has no opinion on outside issues, but suggests that as individuals we use the Twelve Steps, Sponsorship and Service as the way to guide our attitudes and actions around money.

#### **ISSUE 83: USE OF DEBIT CARDS**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Creating literature about "How Debit Cards are Used" explaining how to avoid fees when using ATM machines or keeping minimum balances, using debit cards on line, i.e. booking airline tickets, are there times when debit cards can not replace a credit card, using cash or travelers checks, money orders and being mindful of new features and credit lines. (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307, New York.)

**RDC:** Refer concern to Literature Committee.

#### **ISSUE 84: ELECTRONIC DONATIONS**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can we set up some way for DA to receive donations electronically? What about Paypal? This could be set up so as not to violate the 7th Tradition. (Anonymous.)

**RDC:** This concern is addressed in the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval, under "ELECTRONIC or ONLINE BILL PAY" and in the "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" section.

#### **ISSUE 85: GSR FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** It would be helpful to have DA guidance on what is appropriate for GSR fundraising events. I have heard some say that all fundraising events are considered outside events. If this was the case, then wouldn't a group be violating the 7th Tradition by using the donations from the fundraising event to send their GSR to the WSC? (Serenity on Sunday 157 Mountain View, CA.)

**RDC:** This concern is addressed in both the Service Guide for Events and the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval.

#### **ISSUE 86: EARNING & SAVING**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** How can we get on and stay on the path to earning more money, saving it and distributing it wisely. (Sunday Creating Your Vision NY, NY.)

**RDC:** The 12 Steps, Sponsorship, and Service form the foundation of our recovery in DA. Additionally, the 12 Tools of DA provide guidance on earning, saving, and spending money.

**ISSUE 87: WEBSITE MAINTENANCE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Pay someone to clean up and maintain the DA website. This is too time-consuming of a job for someone to do on a volunteer basis. It is obvious from the current state of the website that it is not getting the time and attention that it needs. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

**TECH CAUCUS:** No response given at WSC.

**ISSUE 88: KEEPING MEETING INFORMATION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is there a better way to keep meeting information (especially phone meeting information) up-to-date on our website. I've heard from several people that can't get on several of the phone meetings. (Anonymous)

**TECH CAUCUS:** No response given at WSC.

**ISSUE 89: SERVICE POSITIONS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We are having a concern in some meetings that our service positions are not being filled. Meetings are actually folding due to lack of members offering to do service. We welcome any suggestions on how to attract more members to service positions to allow for more rotation of leadership (SCGSR Regional Area Group).

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 90: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We must define the debting problem as an addictive compulsive behavior, not a circumstance. In Dallas, we get many newcomers in the debting "circumstance," who are actually addicted to other things: substance abuse, sex, underearing, etc. We must get clarity on this and cease publishing literature addressing other bad habits that result in debt "circumstance." I am once again suggesting a moratorium on publishing anything new until DA has a 12-Step Study Guide, preferably for studying the AA Big Book and taking the Steps according to the original directions. (Prosperity 364, Dallas.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 91: QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We are concerned about the number of members who do service at the Conference level who do not meet the qualifications suggested on page 7 of the Debtors Anonymous Service Manual for GSRs and ISRs. (Empire State Intergroup 608, Upstate New York.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 92 DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: As far as I know, Debtors Anonymous does not have a definition of debt. Isn't that odd? We have defined 'secured' and 'unsecured', but I've never seen a DA definition of debt. And since our definition of abstinence is "not incurring unsecured debt one day at a time", that means we do not have

a common definition of abstinence. (For example, many people regard bounced checks as a break of abstinence, but many others do not.) Should we have a standard DA definition of debt and/or abstinence? If so, how should it be arrived at, given the huge variation in the definitions individual members have given to those terms? Or should we instead have a DA pamphlet on Debt/Abstinence that discusses the various definitions that different members have adopted, and encourages members to discuss these with their sponsor and other DA members to arrive at their own definitions? (Anonymous)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 93: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I would like to see an official DA list of what is debting and what is not. I attend face-to-face meeting, and phone meetings, and e-mail meetings: I see consistently that members (both long-time and new) seem to think that debting means only debting on credit cards. (Cincinnati 618.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 94: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Discussion point: Are student loans in forbearance considered debting? For example, the loan is in forbearance and no payment is being made, but the loan is accruing interest, which is being added to the principal balance. So the amount of unsecured debt is continuing to grow. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 95: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is paying a bill past the due date considered an unsecured debt? Is it equal to using a credit card? Should you lose a service position because of it? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 96: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We ask the WSC & GSB to create guidelines regarding solvency and the following issues: 1.) Library book and video rental late returns; 2.) Bounced checks; 3.) Late payment of bills; 4.) Rent or other bills not paid on due date but within "grace period"; 5.) Bank overdrafts; 6.) Paying taxes late; 7.) Accepting money in advance for services not yet rendered. (New Visions 317 Woodstock, NY.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**SECTION 7**  
**GSB, COMMITTEE, & CAUCUS ROSTERS**

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**2008-09 Committee and Caucus Rosters**

(This information is available in the report mailed to Conference delegates.)

**SECTION 8**  
**2008 COMMITTEE & CAUCUS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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(This information is available in the report mailed to Conference delegates.)

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## Is Group Representation at the DA World Service Conference Too Low? Can Technology Help Expand Group Representation?

GSB Conference Support Committee

Response to 2007 Issues 2 and 4

Presented at the 2008 World Service Conference

A DA member asked a perplexing question of the 2007 World Service Conference (WSC): “Given that only about 20% of the DA groups send delegates, does the Conference truly represent DA as a whole, or does it just represent the prosperous groups?” This question was fielded by both the WSC Conference Committee and Conference Support Committee (CSC) of the DA General Service Board (GSB). Here is the response from the CSC.

Conference, which increased dramatically in 2004 when the Conference made the move from college venue to hotel.

**WSC Costs.** The chart shows the basic registration, room and board, and gala fees that delegates paid for the 2002-2007 Conferences. One fact to note: The registration fee, which covers among other things the GSB trustees, the parliamentarian, and the host

committee chairs (current and next year’s), and rents computers, a copier, and pays for a multitude of other items needed to produce a conference—as well as provides seed money for not only next year’s WSC, but also the year after that... considering all these expenses, it’s remarkable the registration fee has remained relatively stable from 2002 to

Cost of WSC (excluding airfare, transportation, and incidentals)						
Date	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Location	New York	Minneapolis	Sacramento	Mt Laurel	San Diego	Sturbridge
Venue type	college	college	hotel	hotel	hotel	hotel
Reg fee	\$ 250	\$ 357	\$ 355	\$ 290	\$ 290	\$ 310
R&B (double)	\$ 315	\$ 195	\$ 395	\$ 435	\$ 566	\$ 485
Gala	\$ 50	\$ 35	\$ 50	\$ 45	\$ 50	\$ 40
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$ 615</b>	<b>\$ 587</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>	<b>\$ 770</b>	<b>\$ 906</b>	<b>\$ 835</b>
<b>Percent +/-</b>		-5%	36%	-4%	18%	-8%
Number of WSC Participants						
East	43	28	36	38	27	33
Central	13	12	7	11	9	15
West	52	42	53	44	53	47
International	2	3	0	1	1	2
<b>Total attendance</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Percent +/-</b>		-23%	13%	-2%	-4%	8%

### What determines WSC attendance?

Increasing group participation at the WSC ranks high on the list of discussion topics in the CSC. The quoted figure of 20% is an accurate reflection of current group participation. The number of registered DA groups has remained relatively flat at about 500 groups and intergroups worldwide, while WSC attendance has averaged fewer than 96 delegates. However, it is not possible from the information collected by the GSB to know which of these delegates represent “prosperous” groups, even if we were able to agree on the definition of the word “prosperous.”

We debtors naturally assume that if WSC attendance is low, the cost must be too high; and this may indeed be the case for many groups. It is possible, however, that WSC attendance is also a reflection of the fact that the number of DA groups is not growing, and that when there are more DA groups, there will be increased attendance. Only time will be able to answer that question. For now, working with the data that we have, the CSC looked for other factors that could affect group attendance. The obvious one is the cost of the

2007. What has increased are the costs associated with housing and feeding the conference delegates, costs that are to some extent beyond DA’s control.

**Attendance and Costs.** Does attendance decrease when costs increase? We would assume the answer to this question is “yes.” However, the data seem to indicate the real answer is “sometimes yes, sometimes no.” In 2003, the cost of the WSC went down 5%; attendance did not go up—in fact, it decreased 23%. The following year, when the WSC cost went up 36%, attendance actually rose 13%. In only two years, 2006 and 2007, did cost seem to influence attendance in the direction we would have assumed. The graph shows the unclear relationship between cost and attendance.

**WSC Location.** The numbers suggest that the location of the WSC—East, West, or Central—may have an influence on attendance, but again the relationship is not clear. The 2004 WSC saw an increase in attendance despite a large increase in cost, but that could be due to the fact that the 2004 Sacramento WSC was held in California, home to a large DA community. On the other

hand, San Diego in 2006, the most expensive WSC thus far, saw a 4% decrease from the preceding year. Despite being in California, home to over 100 groups, it is possible that the high cost kept even some local groups away.

**WSC Venue.** The New York and Minneapolis venues were both university settings. Based on feedback from Conference participants (i.e., “this is too much like a dorm! Where’s the hot water? Can’t we have a more prosperous location?”), a hotel setting was selected for Sacramento in 2004, and since then all the conferences have been held in hotels that are experienced at handling small conferences. While it is true that universities and retreat centers charge less, there appears to be little in

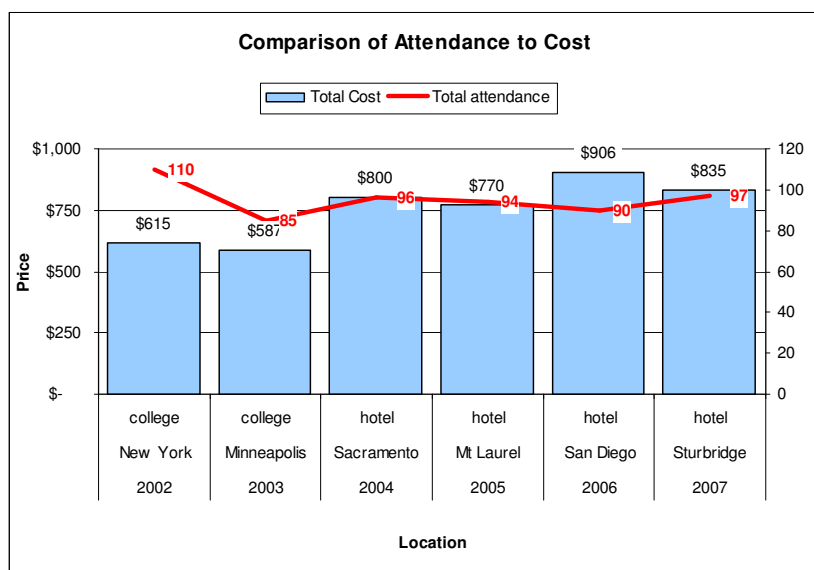
Trustees noted that, while there are differences in the two service structures, AA’s group representation at the regional level is on par with DA’s 20%. This suggests that a 20% representation rate isn’t unique to Debtors Anonymous.

But again, should 20% be considered “low”? How much participation is enough? If every group and intergroup sent a representative, for a total of 500 participants, we would quickly find the conference unworkable. Each committee and caucus would have fifty people. The Convocation would need to be housed in a huge hall—speaking and being heard would be a daunting challenge. With 500+ delegates in one hotel, it would quickly become clear that the time for establishing

regional representation has come. So, to have representation from every group and intergroup might not be the ideal solution. Would 30% or 50% representation be workable? If there were 150 or 250 delegates at the WSC, would that be “enough representation”? Perhaps it is time to enlist the assistance of the Intergroup Caucus and any other world service entity that is focused on strengthening our intergroups; regionalization may be the path to increasing group participation.

**The role of technology in WSC participation**

A concerned group in Southern California wondered what role technology could play in increasing participation in the World Service Conference. Their suggestion aimed



the numbers to suggest that lower cost will always translate into higher attendance, and the services provided by the hotels have been superior to those of the universities and retreat centers. DA service work is challenging enough without a struggle to obtain basic amenities. However, the CSC is hoping to enlist the assistance of the WSC Conference Committee in a search for less expensive venues for future conferences.

**How many groups should send representatives to the WSC?**

Should we be concerned that only 20% of registered DA groups are represented at the Conference? This percentage is misleading—we actually have no idea how many groups are truly represented at the Conference because many GSRs represent more than one group. However, assuming that the percentage is really about 20%, should we be concerned? To get a sense of the seriousness of this percentage, the GSB asked the Class B (non-debtor) Trustees what percentage of AA groups are represented at the AA Convention. The Class B

to increase participation and reduce travel costs. The group suggested that a speakerphone be set up at the head table while the assembly is in session, so that DA members who are unable to attend the Conference could hear the opening session, Board reports, and Open Forum. Similarly, the group thought that GSRs and ISRs could participate on WSC committees and caucuses by speakerphone, and vote by voice during Convocation, thereby representing their groups and intergroups in the WSC decision making process.

This suggestion was assigned to both the General Service Board and the WSC Conference Committee, the committee that is involved in the various aspects of producing the Conference. The WSC Conference Committee recommended that the Board investigate how to maintain anonymity while broadcasting the Open Forum of the WSC to the Fellowship via speakerphone. The issue was assigned to the GSB Conference Support Committee (CSC) to review and make recommendations for further action.



The California group pointed out that this kind of “faceless” meeting is a common occurrence in the business world. In the process of discussing this idea, the CSC recognized that while the technology to conduct a DA Conference over speakerphone is readily available, there are serious questions of credentialing and anonymity that would need to be explored before this idea could be implemented. Further, even in the corporate world, stockholder meetings are conducted as physical meetings; as yet, there is no satisfactory substitute for face-to-face personal interaction.

The CSC thought it might be helpful to think about the Conference sessions as being either closed or open—closed sessions require credentialing and voting while open sessions do not. To guide us in our discussion, the CSC turned to the DA Conference Charter and the Twelve Concepts for World Service, which are founded on the Twelve Traditions.

**Orientation, Board Reports, and Open Forum.** The Orientation session, Board reports, and Open Forum require no credentialing or voting, and would therefore be considered “open” sessions. The DA Conference Charter does not prohibit non-delegates from attending these sessions, although few if any do. Opening these open sessions to phone participants would be like conducting a business meeting for a telephone group. It would be a fairly simple matter (time zone differences aside) to publish the Conference agenda to the groups and invite them to dial in to a conference call number and listen to the proceedings. Taking it one step further and giving them the capability to participate might require some meeting management skills, but is definitely possible.

- **Advantages.** Broadcasting the open sessions to any interested members, groups, and intergroups would benefit DA by connecting groups and intergroups to DA world service. The benefit of allowing any DA member to speak and be heard in a World Service Conference would be substantial. Anyone with a desire to stop debting would be welcome to attend.
- **Disadvantages.** 1) The issue of anonymity is a potential drawback. Anyone with the dial-in information could conceivably “attend” the DA Conference; just like with phone meetings, no attendance records are kept and no membership credentials are checked. In theory, anyone would be able to attend, including credit counselors and loan sharks. 2) the opportunity to have face-to-face, one-on-one discussions with GSRs from across the country over the course of the five days of the Conference would be lost. These informal individual or small group discussions over lunch or dinner are very helpful in clarifying issues and promoting an exchange of fresh ideas. 3) physical

difficulties would still exist in having GSRs (or up to 15,000 DA members) meet on the telephone over a period of ten hours per day for four days. How many people can spare this amount of time, and how could a Chair be expected to conduct such a meeting?

**Committee and caucus meetings.** The second type of Conference proceeding is of the “closed” type—committee and caucus meetings, where voting takes place. By tradition, the committee and caucus meetings at the face-to-face Conference are made up of GSRs and ISRs elected by their groups and intergroups. Logistically it would be possible to set up speakerphones in each breakout room, so that DA members could participate via telephone from anywhere in the world. However, it would be impossible to verify with certainty a telephone headcount. As the committees’ spending plans are allocated partly according headcount, this would impact the committee’s finances. Also, one of the premises of serving on a WSC committee or caucus is a strongly encouraged commitment to follow through on the work of the committee during the subsequent year, i.e., attending telephone conference calls and accomplishing assignments. Managing a committee of indeterminate size could be a challenge for the committee chairs. The advantages of having input from DA members outside the physical Conference would need to be weighed against the logistical and administrative challenges.

**Convocation.** Finally, the formal Convocation—the ultimate “closed” session of the DA World Service Conference. The DA Conference Charter spells out the relationship between the Conference, the groups and intergroups, and the General Service Board. The purpose of the Conference of Debtors Anonymous, according to the Charter, is to act as “the guardian of the world services and the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous and addresses matters affecting Debtors Anonymous as a whole.” To carry out this function, the groups and intergroups elect representatives who attend the Conference, participate on committees, and vote in the Convocation.

The DA World Service Conference is expected to “afford a reliable cross section of Debtors Anonymous opinion,” an expectation that goes back to the original concern sent in by the member who asked “does the Conference truly represent DA as a whole, or just the prosperous groups?” Allowing Conference delegates to participate by telephone would certainly increase the odds of achieving a “reliable cross-section of Debtors Anonymous opinion”; on the other hand, even if there were a method of determining if a caller is the properly elected representative of a registered group, there is no guarantee that all groups would choose to “send” a rep to the Conference, or that if a GSR was chosen, that that

person would indeed call in as many times over the Conference week as would be required to truly “participate” in the Conference.

The DA Conference Charter requires that the Conference meet yearly “in a location selected by the Conference,” so to suspend a physical meeting altogether is not an option at this time; however, since the Charter was crafted before the days of free Web-based telephone conference calling, there is no specific prohibition against allowing delegates to participate by phone. Delegates who attend the Convocation are required to be “credentialed”—that is, their names are checked against a list of registered conference attendees. Only registered members who represent registered groups are allowed to attend the Convocation. While, technologically speaking, delegates could participate in the Convocation by telephone, it would be impossible to verify by voice that each caller was an elected representative of a registered group. Of course, it is conceivable that an “impostor” could also make up a group name, elect him or herself the GSR, and attend the Convocation in person. DA is not a program of enforcement—it is a spiritual program based on spiritual principles, among them trust, respect, and honesty.

From a parliamentary procedure point of view, DA members attending a telephone meeting where voting is to take place must be able to see and hear all the materials that are being given to the delegates who are physically present. In addition, the telephone participants must be able to hear and adequately identify all the Convocation participants, including all their individual remarks and votes, in order for the decision making process to be truly democratic.

Ultimately, the CSC discussion always turns to the topic of motivating DA members to do service. Giving groups the option of “phoning in their vote” may not be a step in the right direction; some intergroups and indeed, some WSC committees and caucuses, have discovered that inviting members to participate by phone is no guarantee of participation. Until DA members recognize that service is vital to recovery, service participation at every level will remain stagnant, whether participating by telephone is an option or not.

In conclusion, the Conference Support Committee recommends that 1) the Conference continue as a physical meeting in order to gain the spiritual benefits of face-to-face interaction and avoid the problems associated with credentialing and anonymity, and 2) rather than seeking to increase group representation by means of new technology, that the WSC committees and caucuses work together to explore how creating a new regionalized structure might strengthen groups and intergroups and allow more representation at the World Service Conference from all groups and intergroups who wish to participate, “prosperous” or not.