

**The 2009 Annual Debtors Anonymous  
World Service Conference  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report**

**Irving, Texas**

2009 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports,  
Committee Reports, Caucus Reports, and 2009 Issues and Concerns List

Sheraton Grand Hotel, DFW  
4440 W. John Carpenter Freeway  
Irving, TX 75063  
August 19 - 23, 2009

**Anonymity**

This report is provided to the delegates who attended the 2009 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 2010 Conference.

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P.O. Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492  
Email: [Office@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:Office@debtorsanonymous.org)



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## Chronological Summary of 2009 WSC Motions

1. **GSB MOTION:** To accept the 2008 minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**
2. **IOC MOTION:** The Internal Operations Committee moves that a member of the GSB Info Tech Committee, a member of the Internal Operations Committee, and the GSO Staff perform an onsite needs assessment and automation audit in order to develop a long-term technology plan for improving the overall functioning of the GSO. **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
3. **HIP MOTION:** To request to the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board to underwrite an extraordinary allocation in addition to our regular spending plan in order to purchase and distribute copies of *A Currency of Hope* to 129 U.S. Federal Prisons. We propose to purchase the books at a bulk rate of \$9 per book, and the estimated total costs of the project are not to exceed \$1,600 (see attached spending plan). Our committee will provide an in-office volunteer to package and mail the books to researched contact persons at each prison, and provide follow up confirmation that it was received. **The motion was adopted.**

<u>Proposed Spending Plan:</u>	
<i>A Currency of Hope</i>	\$9.00
Postage, 15 oz.	\$2.57
USPS media mail	
Cover letter	\$0.10
Sub total	<u>\$12.09</u>
For 129 at \$12.09 each	\$1,559.61
Misc.: tape/ mailing label	<u>\$1,584.61</u>
Approx. Total	\$1,600.00
4. **LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the WSC approve the concept of the pamphlet “BDA Signposts and Tools.” **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
5. **LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the WSC approve publication of the pamphlet “Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment.” **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
6. **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the World Service Conference in 2012 be held in Seattle, WA. **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
7. **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the profit from the World Service Conference be used to fully replenish the funds disbursed from the John Henderson Scholarship Fund in the same conference year. If the WSC profit is less than the amount disbursed from the Scholarship Fund, then 100% of the WSC profit will go to the Scholarship Fund. Discussion involved requests for more complete financial information. **The motion was not adopted.**
8. **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 3 [Motion to amend the Conference Charter]:** It is understood that Article Ten (10) of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous or in the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous may only be changed or amended by the consent of three-quarters (3/4) of responding registered DA groups to the official notification and issue of ballots. **Motion to approve the Charter amendment did not carry. For: 31. Opposed: 61. Abstentions: 2.**
9. **GSB MOTION 1:** The GSB moves that the WSC 2009 approve the proposed “Debtors Anonymous Five Year Plan 2009-2014.” **Motion was adopted.**
10. **GSB MOTION 2:** The GSB moves that the WSC establish a spiritual moratorium on consideration of any proposal to amend the last sentence of Article III of the Conference Charter for a period of three years (until the end of the 2012 WSC). **Motion did not carry. For: 45. Opposed: 51.**
11. **GSB MOTION 3:** A motion was made and seconded to ratify Alan K. as Secretary of the General Service Board. Willie administered the Office Pledge. **Motion was adopted.**

12. **BDA MOTION 1:** In order to serve our primary purpose of helping the debtor who still suffers, that DA establish an integrated database to include an easy way to provide data on the number of DA groups, locations, trends, meeting type. **Motion was adopted.**
13. **PI MOTION 1:** In alignment with the vision for the proposed Five Year Plan for the fellowship of DA, we move that all DA meetings, groups, and intergroups be encouraged to fill or create a Public Information Service position. **Motion was adopted. For: 71. Opposed: 13.**
14. **FCC MOTION 1:** FCC moves that the Adopt-a-Loner Program be discontinued, and that the following sentence be removed from the existing FCC Mission Statement: “This function includes administration of the ‘Adopt a Loner’ service.” One result of this motion is that the FCC Mission Statement will revert to the form in use before the 2008 WSC: “The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership and the debtor who still suffers. Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program.” **Motion was not adopted.**
15. **MOTION:** to ratify new General Service Board Class A Trustees, Marci W., Eileen N., and Jean C. and Class B Trustee Jeff Y. Each new Trustee was introduced. A motion was made and seconded to accept the four new Trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**
16. **MOTION:** to ratify returning General Service Board Class A Trustee, Jan S., and Class B Trustee, Peggy R. A motion was made and seconded to accept the returning Trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**
17. **MOTION TO ADJOURN:** A motion to adjourn was requested by Willie W. (LA), made, and seconded. **Motion carried by general consent.**

## Alphabetical Summary of 2009 WSC Motions

1. **BDA MOTION 1:** In order to serve our primary purpose of helping the debtor who still suffers, that DA establish an integrated database to include an easy way to provide data on the number of DA groups, locations, trends, meeting type. **Motion was adopted.**
2. **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the World Service Conference in 2012 be held in Seattle, WA. **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
3. **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the profit from the World Service Conference be used to fully replenish the funds disbursed from the John Henderson Scholarship Fund in the same conference year. If the WSC profit is less than the amount disbursed from the Scholarship Fund, then 100% of the WSC profit will go to the Scholarship Fund. Discussion involved requests for more complete financial information. **The motion was not adopted.**
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6. **GSB MOTION:** To accept the 2008 minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**
7. **GSB MOTION 1:** The GSB moves that the WSC 2009 approve the proposed "Debtors Anonymous Five Year Plan 2009-2014." **Motion was adopted.**
8. **GSB MOTION 2:** The GSB moves that the WSC establish a spiritual moratorium on consideration of any proposal to amend the last sentence of Article III of the Conference Charter for a period of three years (until the end of the 2012 WSC). **Motion did not carry. For: 45. Opposed: 51.**
9. **GSB MOTION 3:** A motion was made and seconded to ratify Alan K. as Secretary of the General Service Board. **Motion was adopted.**
10. **GSB MOTION:** to ratify new General Service Board Class A Trustees, Marci W., Eileen N., and Jean C. and Class B Trustee Jeff Y. Each new Trustee was introduced. A motion was made and seconded to accept the four new Trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**
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15. **LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the WSC approve the concept of the pamphlet “BDA Signposts and Tools.” **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
16. **LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the WSC approve publication of the pamphlet “Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment.” **Motion was adopted by general consent.**
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**23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference  
Irving, Texas, USA**

**August 19 - 23, 2009**

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

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**1. CONVOCATION OPENING**

**AUGUST 22, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by the Chairperson Willie W. (LA) 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 98 registered with 93 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 Malamut, 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 2008  
CONVOCATION MINUTES**

**GSB MOTION:** To accept the 2008 minutes. **The motion carried unanimously.**

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## 2. WSC COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (IOC)

Chair Erik E.  
 Vice Chair Roxanne K.  
 Secretary Lawanda C.  
 Treasurer Marian H.  
 Other members: Monica A., Ivy H., and Mary C.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**IOC MOTION:** The Internal Operations Committee moves that a member of the GSB Info Tech Committee, a member of the Internal Operations Committee, and the GSO Staff perform an onsite needs assessment and automation audit in order to develop a long-term technology plan for improving the overall functioning of the GSO.

**Motion was adopted by general consent.**

**IOC RECOMMENDATION 1:** IOC recommends that DA expand its GSO volunteer resources via social networking mechanisms.

**IOC RECOMMENDATION 2:** The IOC recommends that a calendar of DA local and regional groups' special events be made available to DA members on the DA website and/or the *Ways & Means*.

**IOC RECOMMENDATION 3:** The IOC recommends the use of fulfillment solutions for the distribution of DA literature.

The IOC stated the committee's resolutions to the issues that were assigned to IOC.

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

Chair Beth P.  
 Vice Chair Dani N.  
 Secretary Larry V.  
 Treasurer Julia A.  
 Other members: Pat B., Franklin P., Chuck H., Stefanos G., and Carmen M.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**HIP MOTION:** To request to the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board to underwrite an extraordinary allocation in addition to our regular spending plan in order to purchase and distribute copies of *A Currency of Hope* to 129 U.S. Federal Prisons. We propose to purchase the books at a bulk rate of \$9 per book, and the estimated total costs of the project are not to exceed \$1,600 (see attached spending plan). Our committee will provide an in-office volunteer to package and mail the books to researched contact persons at each prison, and provide follow up confirmation that it was received. **The motion was adopted.**

Proposed Spending Plan:	
<i>A Currency of Hope</i>	\$9.00
Postage, 15 oz.	\$2.57
USPS media mail	
Cover letter	\$0.10
Sub total	<u>\$12.09</u>
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Misc.: tape/ mailing label	<u>\$1,584.61</u>
Approx. Total	\$1,600.00

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### 3. LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LIT)

Chair Jennifer S.  
 Vice Chair Chris R.  
 Secretary Rachel A.  
 Treasurer Al W.  
 Other members: Lillie K., Lynda L., Faith M., Amanda M., Sharon S., Matt K., Marlena S., Roxy G.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the WSC approve the concept of the pamphlet "BDA Signposts and Tools." **Motion was adopted by general consent.**

**LITERATURE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the WSC approve publication of the pamphlet "Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment." **Motion was adopted by general consent.**

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**4. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (FCC)**

Chair John S.  
 Vice Chair Tarre B.  
 Secretary Peggy H.  
 Treasurer Mary P.  
 Other members: Keith C. and Michael C.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**FCC MOTIONS:** The committee had no motions.

**FCC RECOMMENDATION 1:** In an effort to help the still suffering compulsive debtor and to relieve the burden on GSO staff, the FCC recommends that there be a fellowship-wide 12<sup>th</sup> Step List. A 12<sup>th</sup> Step List is an up-to-date list of active DA members who are adequately trained to respond to newcomer calls. These DA members would function much like the hotline volunteers in other 12-step programs.

**FCC RECOMMENDATION 2:** The FCC is going to discontinue the Adopt-A-Loner program because it is no longer effective.

**FCC RECOMMENDATION 3:** The FCC recommends that the World Service website have a link for the Literature Grant Program on the “How to Start a Meeting” page. The purpose of the Literature Grant Program is to provide seed literature for new or challenged meetings.

**FCC RECOMMENDATION 4:** The FCC recommends that every group have a GSR, whether they can attend the Conference or not. In order to encourage the above, that each GSR here today visit neighboring groups and do the following:

- Make sure the group is registered.
- Explain the structure of DA and the role of the GSR.
- Explain how having a GSR will benefit the group, the recovery of the individual members of the group, and DA as a whole.
- That geographic areas set up Area GSR Groups.
- That existing Area GSR Groups be available to sponsor or mentor new Area GSR Groups.

**5. INTERGROUP CAUCUS**

Chair Peggy H.  
 Vice Chair Willie W. (Seattle)  
 Secretary Mary C.  
 Treasurer Monica A.  
 Other members: Rena S., Lawanda C., Kari G., Franklin P., and Mary S.

The caucus officers and members were introduced.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS RECOMMENDATION:**

The Intergroup Caucus recommends in order to address the service crisis within DA that intergroups worldwide promote working the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous under the guidance of a sponsor to encourage the development and growth of a service culture.

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER HIP MOTION 1**

A motion was made and seconded from the floor to reconsider the first motion presented by the HIP Committee. The motion was withdrawn. The original HIP motion stands as approved.

**6. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (CC)**

Chair Laurens A.  
 Vice Chair Christi S.  
 Secretary Stephanie A.  
 Treasurer Michele N.-H.  
 Other members: Audrey O., Breanne M., Dianne L., Kari G., and Paulette B.

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 1:** That the World Service Conference in 2012 be held in Seattle, WA. **Motion was adopted by general consent.**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 2:** That the profit from the World Service Conference be used to fully replenish the funds disbursed from the John Henderson Scholarship Fund in the same conference year. If the WSC profit is less than the amount disbursed from the Scholarship Fund, then 100% of the WSC profit will go to the Scholarship Fund.

Discussion involved requests for more complete financial information. **The motion was not adopted.**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MOTION 3:** It is understood that Article Ten (10) of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous or in the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous may only be changed or amended by the consent of three-quarters (3/4) of responding registered DA groups to the official notification and issue of ballots.

A motion to extend time for debate by 10 minutes did not carry.

**Motion to approve the Charter amendment did not carry. For: 31. Opposed: 61. Abstentions: 2.**

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## 7. GENERAL SERVICE BOARD (GSB)

**GSB MOTION 1:** The GSB moves that the WSC 2009 approve the proposed "Debtors Anonymous Five Year Plan 2009-2014." **Motion was adopted.**

**GSB MOTION 2:** The GSB moves that the WSC establish a spiritual moratorium on consideration of any proposal to amend the last sentence of Article III of the Conference Charter for a period of three years (until the end of the 2012 WSC). **Motion did not carry. For: 45. Opposed: 51.**

Motion was made, seconded, and adopted to extend the meeting time for 15 minutes.

**GSB MOTION 3:** A motion was made and seconded to ratify Alan K. as Secretary of the General Service Board. Willie administered the Office Pledge. **Motion was adopted.**

## RECESS

The meeting was recessed until Sunday, August 23 at 8:30 a.m.

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**August 23, 2009**

## CALL TO ORDER

At 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 23, 2009, GSB Chairperson Willie W. (LA) called the second session of the Convocation of the 23<sup>rd</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.

An announcement was made about the availability of a CD of the Five Year Plan document. Those who receive the CD were asked to keep the document confidential.

The agenda was adopted as presented. The quorum was verified. There was a quorum present for all voting. Committee reports continued.

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## 8. BUSINESS DEBTORS ANONYMOUS COMMITTEE (BDA)

Chair                    Ray Y.  
Vice Chair            Marianne G.  
Secretary             Jane P.  
Treasurer             Bill S.

Other members: Carolyn C., Elena H., Elizabeth T., Evelyn E., Janet Z., Jill P., Kimberly R., Laara I., Megan P., Rena S., Sierra P., Tom F., and Willie W. (Seattle).

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**BDA MOTION 1:** In order to serve our primary purpose of helping the debtor who still suffers, that DA establish an integrated database to include an easy way to provide data on the number of DA groups, locations, trends, meeting type. **Motion was adopted.**

**BDA RECOMMENDATION:** that the World Service Conference registration packet include a suggestion that WSC conference members may

want to bring Program literature with them for reference.

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## 9. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RDC)

Chair Michael M.  
 Vice Chair Timothy G.  
 Secretary Robert P.  
 Treasurer Rosemarie W.  
 Other members: Maya G., Mari.

The committee officers and members were introduced.

**RDC MOTION:** The committee had no motions.

**RDC RECOMMENDATION 1:** That the Fellowship Communications Committee publicizes the Literature Grant program for new and struggling meetings to the DA Fellowship through appropriate means.

**RDC RECOMMENDATION 2:** That the General Service Board post information about and a point of contact for the Literature Grant program on the DA website under the How to Start a Meeting web page.

**RDC RECOMMENDATION 3:** In conjunction with the Debtors Anonymous Five Year Plan, the Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board continue to explore ways to ensure that the Fellowship is financially secure through self-support and prudent financial management.

**RDC RECOMMENDATION 4:** That the Literature Committee include a section on the importance of the “7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Contribution” in ones spending plan, in the revision of the Pressure Relief Group/Pressure Relief Meeting pamphlet.

Questions to address during RDC meetings during the coming year:

1. Why should my group send money to the GSO?
2. Why don't prosperous members give more?
3. How do we encourage long-term members to stay as members and give back to the program?
4. How do we keep track of long-term members?

5. Why is AA literature cheaper than DA literature?
6. Is there more to DA than my meeting?
7. Why doesn't my meeting contribute to the Intergroup, the General Service Office?
8. Why do we want our meeting to be fully self-supporting?
9. Why isn't my group listed in the online DA meeting list?
10. How can our group increase our self-support for our meeting?
11. How can we generate money ourselves (as a group)?
  - a. Hold a PRG for your meeting
  - b. Develop clarity around your spending plan
12. What if my group does NOT have either a Treasurer or a bank account?

### Committee Action Items for Coming Year

1. Create a time line of actions for the 2009/2010 year.
2. Consult with GSO and GSB to distribute the new 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Statement through the following DA-based media: E-News, *DA Focus*, *Ways & Means*, website, indexed card added to envelope with GSO receipts for contributions.
3. Discussion of how to encourage contributions from all registered groups who have not contributed through a survey to gather information and other positive means.
4. Revision and distribution of John Henderson Scholarship letter.
5. Revision and distribution of World Service Month letter and flyer.
6. Create a 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition flyer.

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## 10. TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS

Chair Jerry K.  
 Secretary Deb S.  
 Other members: Chris R., Michael C., Darcy D.

### TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS

**RECOMMENDATION:** In order to better anticipate and meet the technical needs of the Conference committees, the Technology Caucus recommends that each committee or sub-committee designate one representative to become a member of the Technology Caucus.

The goal of the Tech Caucus is to support the technology vision of GSB and DA as a whole. We will look at available technology to find software and technical design to help DA achieve its technical vision.

There is a greater need for a long-term technology plan, needs assessment, and tri-directional dialogue between IOC, Howard, GSO Manager, and the Tech Caucus.

- We will work with the IOC to support the office manager to reduce the amount of time spent on paperwork.
- We will support the PI committee in their exploration of the viability and appropriateness of social media in carrying out DA’s primary purpose.
- We will explore alternatives to the ad-supporting software for online meetings.
- We will explore methods for groups to archive documents that are secure and ad free.

### 11. DIVERSITY CAUCUS

Chair Dani N.  
 Vice Chair John S.  
 Secretary Lynda L.  
 Treasurer Elena H.  
 Other members: Michael A. and Lillie K.

The caucus officers and members were introduced.

#### DIVERSITY CAUCUS RECOMMENDATION 1:

That the first sentence be eliminated from the caucus’ mission statement. [*Text of Diversity Caucus mission statement from GSR Manual: The Diversity Caucus is a new caucus, which began at the 2007 WSC. The mission of the Diversity Caucus is to carry the message of Debtors Anonymous to the debtor in underserved populations and locations.*]

#### DIVERSITY CAUCUS RECOMMENDATION 2:

That the Literature Committee approve the concept of Diversity pamphlet.

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the rules to eliminate the first sentence of the Caucus’ mission statement. **The motion was adopted unanimously.**

### 12. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PI)

Chair Laura P.  
 Vice Chair Susy I.  
 Secretary Shoshana R.  
 Treasurer Mary S.  
 Other members: Michael C., Deb S., Darcy D., Azul A., Leann G., Jerry K., Victoria D., Marcy E., Debi P., Eileen F., Virginia B., Michael A., and Tehilla N.

**PI MOTION 1:** In alignment with the vision for the proposed Five Year Plan for the fellowship of DA, we move that all DA meetings, groups, and intergroups be encouraged to fill or create a Public Information Service position.

A motion was made to end debate. The motion passed with clear two-thirds approval.

The vote was taken. **For: 56. Opposed: 29.** There were 90 voting members present.

A motion to reconsider the vote was made, seconded, and adopted.

The final vote on the PI motion was taken. **Motion was adopted. For: 71. Opposed: 13.**

A motion was made, seconded, and adopted to extend the time for the PI Report for 5 minutes.

A motion was made and seconded to extend the time for the PI Report for 5 minutes. **Motion to extend time was not adopted.**

**PI RECOMMENDATION 1:** New DA website should be programmed to include a media page with links for downloading press releases and PSAs.

**PI RECOMMENDATION 2:** In planning to increase GSO staff, consideration be given to assure that staff has skills and time to handle an increasing volume of media inquiries, and manage DA’s growing social media presence.

**PI RECOMMENDATION 3:** GSB should review existing DA PSAs to determine if it/they are still acceptable for distribution.

**PI RECOMMENDATION 4:** That the GSB fund the use of public relations wire service to help spread DA information to the debtors who still suffer. Such a service can distribute a press release to approximately 10,000 news outlets, including daily newspapers, radio and TV, and internet-based news outlets for about \$1,000. We urge the GSB to make this a line-item expense in the next year's budget.

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### 13. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE (FCC)

**FCC MOTION 1:** FCC moves that the Adopt-a-Loner Program be discontinued, and that the following sentence be removed from the existing FCC Mission Statement: "This function includes administration of the 'Adopt a Loner' service." One result of this motion is that the FCC Mission Statement will revert to the form in use before the 2008 WSC: "The Fellowship Communications Committee generates and facilitates communication among the General Service Board, the Debtors Anonymous membership and the debtor who still suffers. Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in the Program." **Motion was not adopted.**

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## 3. CLOSING BUSINESS

### TRANSFER OF GAVEL

Mickey thanked everyone for coming to Irving/Dallas. The official gavel was passed to Andrea of the Denver Host Committee.

### RATIFICATION OF NEW TRUSTEES

**GSB MOTION:** to ratify new General Service Board Class A Trustees, Marci W., Eileen N., and Jean C. and Class B Trustee Jeff Y. Each new Trustee was introduced. A motion was made and

seconded to accept the four new Trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### TRUSTEE PLEDGES

Pledges for Marci W., Eileen N., Jeff Y., and Jean C. were administered.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEPARTING TRUSTEES

The outgoing Trustees, Chris S., Jan J., and Aishlin O., were honored for their service.

### OFFICER PLEDGES

Pledges were administered for the following GSB officers:

Marci W.	Assistant Treasurer
Alan K.	Secretary
Peggy R.	Treasurer
Jan S.	Vice Chairperson
Willie W. (LA)	Chairperson

### RATIFICATION OF RETURNING TRUSTEES

**GSB MOTION:** to ratify returning General Service Board Class A Trustee, Jan S., and Class B Trustee, Peggy R. A motion was made and seconded to accept the returning Trustees. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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### ADJOURNMENT

**GSB MOTION TO ADJOURN:** A motion to adjourn was requested by Willie W. (LA), made, and seconded. **Motion carried by general consent.**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference closed at 11:45 a.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

## SECTION 2

### REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

I just want to thank the GSB and you the fellowship for allowing me the privilege of serving as your GSB Chairperson for this past year. It's been an eventful year. We started the year with trying to retrieve the minutes from the WSC 2008 because the recording secretary got sick and could not be located for about four months. Marci W., our Host Chairperson last year tried every means possible to locate her. I had all of the GSB and the WSC GSR Chairs reports but we did not have the convocation minutes. Well after about four months she contacted us and forwarded the minutes to us and tore up her check that we had paid her. That was her way of expressing her disappointment for not completing it sooner for us. Her minutes were great and accurate.

The WSC 2007 moved that the General Service Board prepare an Actual Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Debtors Anonymous World Service Conferences. We have in the past just reported the net results which were calculated from the check that we received after the Conference. The only problem with this motion was that we, the GSB, had no control over the WSC Host Committees record keeping. Therefore, we could not present an accurate report. So we could not comply with the WSC 2007 Motion at the WSC 2008.

With this situation at hand, the GSB decided that if we were going to be able make an accurate report for you, we needed bring more of the task of putting on the conference in house. We developed a very good working relationship with the WSC 2008 Host Committee especially the Chair and Treasurer. Secondly, we needed the assistance of the Office Manager who was gracious enough to lend his hand without hesitation. Thirdly, we brought all of the Registration process in house except the Hotel Registration & Local Fellowship Day Activity Fees. We asked the Host Committee for an accounting of the Seed money we extended to them as well as a detailed accounting of the On-Site Cash they received at On-Site Registration. We set up a WSC Account which we used to deposit all of the funds received from Mail-in Registrations and covered all of the Conference major expenses. Because of those efforts I am able to report to you the Revenue and Expense Statement from the 2008 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference. (See Attached)

Please note: The \$6,704.48 John Henderson Scholarship Fund was disbursed in the following manner: recipients' registration in the amount of \$3,990.40, meals in the amount of \$1, 179.41, and travel in the amount of \$1,534.67.

The second thing that I want you to pay attention to is the difference between the GSB Annual Actual Spending Plan (dated June 30, 2008) in the amount of \$52, 206.19 and the WSC 2008 Conference Income & Expense Plan amount of \$63, 632.39. The difference was due to the

John Henderson Fund being transferred to the WSC 2008 Host Committee from the GSB in the amount of \$6,704.48, contributions of \$3, 353.15 collected at the WSC2008, and the Net Cash collected by the WSC 2008 Host Committee of \$1,443.39 and a -\$74.82 difference in posting.

The next bit of activity for me was to put the Charter Amendment Motion together that had been submitted by the Conference Committee. I handled this motion with a lot of care and concern to assure the Fellowship and the Conference Committee that it was being handled according to the guidelines of the Conference Charter amendment process. I communicated with the Conference Committee and our Parliamentarian on a regular basis to assure that we were in agreement with the way I was handling the process. Once the documents were prepared for the motion they both agreed that it was being presented correctly. We did mail it out to the GSRs and ISRs of record prior to the 180-day deadline.

#### GSB Accomplishments this year

- We created an ACM Travel Policy as reported to you by the Nomination Committee.
- We began to post recovery stories on our Website from members exemplifying long term DA recovery.
- We reviewed and adjusted the Salary and Benefit package of the Office Manager.
- We updated several sections in our GSB Bylaws.
- After considering several proposals, we redrafted and approved the contract to hire a contract writer for our 12 & 12 Book. The contract language was reviewed and revised by a literary attorney at our request. I signed it a couple of weeks ago.
- We implemented a Conflict of Interest Policy to assure that we were in compliance with Internal Revenue Service new stringent policy regarding non profit organizations.
- We have moved all media contact in house to the GSO.
- We updated the 2009 GSR Manual.
- We prepared a Five-Year Plan based on a motion passed by the 2007 WSC. That was presented to you by the Long Range Planning Special *Ad Hoc* Committee assembled to perform this task. That committee noted that there are concerns as well as positive developments affecting Debtors Anonymous's future.
- We had two excellent GSR World Service Conference Training Sessions and I want to thank all who participated.
- We took an independent look at the Internal Operations Committee proposal on e-Commerce for the office and decided to appoint an *Ad Hoc* Committee to study it further.



- Literature Publications made several recommendations for literature that you heard in their report.
- We approved a Power Point Presentation for use in outreach to Professionals created by the WSC PI Committee. I hope you will enjoy their presentation.
- We revised and updated the credentialing process for participation in the Convocation and distributed the WSC Registration Packet via email earlier than ever before.
- We allocated \$10,000.00 from the profits of the 2008 WSC to reduce the cost of registration for the 2009 WSC
- We approved the printing of our first literature translation into Spanish.
- We reviewed, revised, and approved two pieces of service literature created by the RDC- a Guide to Special Events and a Treasurer's Manual.

As you can tell from the information in my report above, I had the privilege of working this year with some of the hardest working and most dedicated trustees that one could ask for. We began the year with eight Class A Trustees and three Class B Trustees. During the year life happened and some unexpected events and scheduling conflicts caused one of our Class B Trustees, Donna W. to resign. One of our Class A Trustees got ill and needed to take some time off to heal. At the end of this conference, three of our Class A trustees' terms end so they will be leaving, and I am sure going to miss them. They are Aishlin O., my classmate, Jan J., and Chris S. both of whom I recruited during my days on the Nominating Committee.

On the other side of the coin and thanks to a dedicated and hard working nominating committee we were fortunate enough to have two new Class A Trustees and one Class B join us mid-year and hit the floor running. You will be asked to ratify them at this conference. They are Eileen N., Marci W., and Jeff Y.

In closing, I would like to say: How lucky can a debtor like me get? I came into these rooms with a mass of debt to no end. I could not get credit even if I wanted to. You put out your hand and when I asked you to sponsor me you said come on and follow me. I will gently take you through those twelve steps. I will teach you how to keep your numbers but you must start writing them today. I will show you how to write those letters to the creditors. You said, after I am here for six weeks or so, if I trusted your experience and followed your suggestions, you would be willing to sit on my Pressure Relief Meeting. Now because I surrendered and took those twelve steps and sponsorship seriously, I have not had a vehicle repossessed or my bank account levied for almost seventeen years.

Now, as you see from my report, we got a lot done this year. However, none of it could have been accomplished without the efforts of many of you. Your willingness to get in the trenches when it may or may not have been the most convenient thing to do is what set you apart from others. While doing that, many of you developed as I did years ago what I call the "Three C's of Service." You developed a sense of Courage to speak-up when you felt it was the right thing to do. You began to have enough esteem to listen to others who may express a different point of view, and I call that Compassion. Lastly, when you mix the Courage you now have, and the Compassion you have learned, you have developed an extraordinary amount of Character. I know you will exhibit that this week. It is my belief that none of us gain that sense of being, as described above, without subscribing to the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts as laid out for us in our literature, and practicing these principles in all our affairs. Have a great conference.

Love in Service  
Willie W. (LA), 2009 GSB Chair Person  
August 2009

## 2008 World Service Conference Financial Report

### Page 1 of 2: Income

	<u>Jan - Dec 08</u>
<b>ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>GSR/ISR Meals-Income</b>	
Breakfast	6,940.39
Lunch	8,254.92
Dinner	5,514.42
Gala Meals	3,600.00
GSR/ISR Meals-Income - Other	0.00
<b>Total GSR/ISR Meals-Income</b>	<u>24,309.73</u>
<b>Registration-GSR/ISR</b>	
Early	32,725.00
Late	970.00
Fellowship Day	1,080.00
<b>Total Registration-GSR/ISR</b>	<u>34,775.00</u>
<b>Fellowship Day-Local Attendees</b>	
Early F-Day Registration	425.51
Fellowship Day-Lunch	115.00
<b>Total Fellowship Day-Local Attendees</b>	<u>540.51</u>
<b>Other-WSC 2008 Revenue</b>	
<b>Contributions-WSC 2008</b>	
Individual Contributions	1,291.65
Group Contributions	2,061.50
<b>Total Contributions-WSC 2008</b>	<u>3,353.15</u>
7th Tradition Fund-Registration	654.00
Hotel Lodging	0.00
Travel Fund	0.00
<b>Total Other-WSC 2008 Revenue</b>	<u>4,007.15</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>63,632.39</u></b>

## 2008 World Service Conference Financial Report

### Page 2 of 2: Expenses

EXPENSE	<u>Jan - Dec 08</u>
<b>GSR/ISR Meals Expense</b>	
Breakfast	6,620.05
Dinner	5,307.35
Lunch	7,479.75
Gala Meals	<u>2,720.04</u>
<b>Total GSR/ISR Meals Expense</b>	<b>22,127.19</b>
<b>General Service Board Expenses</b>	
Lodging Expense	2,539.20
Meals	3,019.05
Travel	<u>6,034.98</u>
<b>Total General Service Board Expenses</b>	<b>11,593.23</b>
<b>Host Committee Chairs</b>	
Lodging	846.40
Meals	<u>503.18</u>
<b>Total Host Committee Chairs</b>	<b>1,349.58</b>
<b>Parliamentarian Services</b>	
Convocation	1,254.00
Lodging	211.60
Meals	33.85
Travel Expenses	<u>658.00</u>
<b>Total Parliamentarian Services</b>	<b>2,157.45</b>
<b>Recording Secretary Services</b>	
Convocation Secretary	240.00
Meals	<u>38.09</u>
<b>Total Recording Secretary Services</b>	<b>278.09</b>
<b>Operations</b>	
<b>Host Committee Operations</b>	
AA Service Materials	268.80
Bank Charges	4.97
Binders	652.84
Index Tabs	104.94
Name Tags	413.91
Disc Jockey Services	650.00
Hospitality Room	680.05
<b>Office Supplies</b>	
Other Office Supplies	216.44
Copier Paper	<u>75.74</u>
<b>Total Office Supplies</b>	<b>292.18</b>
Photo Copies	136.31
Postage, Mailing Service	131.02
Table Dressings & Pipes	265.20
Web Site-Host Committee	<u>40.00</u>
<b>Total Host Committee Operations</b>	<b>3,640.22</b>
<b>Conference Site Operations</b>	
Audio Visual Cost	2,194.80
Computers	1,823.10
Copier Rental	1,300.00
Room Rental	1,286.66
Room Setup & Misc	<u>134.52</u>
<b>Total Conference Site Operations</b>	<b>6,739.08</b>
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>10,379.30</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>47,884.84</u></b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b><u>15,747.55</u></b>

## SECTION 3

### GENERAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1. GSB COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Jan S. (Chair), Alan K., James Q., Eileen N.

The General Service Board's Communications Committee oversees the internal communications within the DA Fellowship. This includes our traditional publications, such as *Ways & Means* and *The DA Focus*, and DA's growing and diverse presence on the Internet. Communications works closely with the Information Technology Committee on Internet and website issues, with "Com Com" generally handling content and Info Tech the technological side of things.

The most significant trend within DA communications for the past few years might be termed "the democratization of information" in DA. The World Service website [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) continues to grow and expand, making more information freely and easily available to the DA membership than ever before in our history. From 25-year-old archival documents to the latest up-to-the-minute announcements, our Fellowship has access to more information about our history, recovery program, and service activities than ever before. This is expected to increase even more dramatically in the years ahead. A Fellowship that is well informed about every aspect of its activities and structure can better grow and prosper.

Here are some of the highlights from the 2008-2009 Conference year:

**Ways & Means.** DA's quarterly recovery newsletter and "meeting in print" continues to expand. The first two issues for 2009 were the two longest issues in *Ways & Means'* 21-year history. A renewed emphasis on DA history, on the stories of long-time members of the Fellowship, and on honest and open debate over Fellowship issues has supplemented the many traditional recovery stories submitted by members. Committees of the WSC have contributed packets of stories by their members. An issue in the near future will feature a special section on the history of the General Service Office since its establishment in 1985.

**The DA Focus.** *The Focus*, also published quarterly, is the General Service Board's newsletter to the groups. Copies are sent to all registered DA groups, and are available to the membership electronically via the website. The GSB uses this forum to keep the Fellowship informed about many aspects of DA throughout the year, including financial statements, GSB

and WSC committee reports, the status of literature publication, and work on many current projects.

**The eNews.** The eNews, overseen jointly by Communications and Info Tech, is a free e-mail service available to all members of the Fellowship who wish to receive electronic notification of important DA issues and events. In just the past year, the subscriber list has grown from 3,000 to more than 5,000. Any member who wishes to receive regular communications via the eNews can do so by entering their e-mail address on the appropriate form on the home page of the DA website.

**Recovery Stories.** In response to many requests for more clarity on what constitutes strong recovery in Debtors Anonymous, the 2008 World Service Conference approved the creation of a "Recovery Stories" page on the website. During the past year, 15 stories by long-time members who have fulfilled DA's primary purpose of not debting one day at a time and working the 12 Steps of recovery have been written, edited, and approved for posting on the Recovery Stories section of the website. Several more stories are in preparation and will be added in the near future. The Communications Committee ultimately hopes to have between 30 and 40 high-quality recovery stories posted on the website. The committee is encouraged that many members are viewing and downloading the stories, and that some DA groups are using the stories for reading and discussion at meetings. The stories are intended as a supplement to DA's existing book of recovery stories, *A Currency of Hope*.

**Website Redesign.** Com Com is watching closely as the Info Tech Committee continues its major redesign of the website. Over the next year the committee intends to play a major role in the writing, editing, and expansion of many types of content on the website.

There have been a few disappointments during 2008-2009. Due to the loss of our long-time editor and some technical glitches, *The DA Focus* produced one fewer issue than normal. We hope to be back on track with a normal publishing schedule in 2009-2010.

The Communications Committee has long-term plans to work with DA's Literature Committees to create a unified literary style guide for all DA books, literature, periodicals, and website pages. Unfortunately, work on other projects prevented this from moving forward during 2008-2009. This remains a goal for future committee work.

## 2. GSB CONFERENCE SUPPORT COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Paul S. (Chair), Willie W. (LA), Peggy R., Allen A., Marci W., and Chris S.

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) is charged with assisting the World Service Conference (WSC) throughout the year. One of its major functions is overseeing the preparation and distribution of the Registration Packet for the WSC. This year, the Committee made several important recommendations in this area that were accepted by the General Service Board (GSB).

First, the CSC suggested distribution of the Registration Packet through DA's website, rather than through mailing to each registered group. Groups without access to the internet were provided the option of requesting physical delivery of the Registration Packet. This decision involved a savings to DA of several hundred dollars in reproduction and mailing costs. More important, it ensured the widest possible distribution of the Registration Packet. Second, the GSB accepted the Committee's recommendation that the sum of approximately \$10,000 from profits of the 2008 WSC be allocated to reduction of the cost of registration for the 2009 WSC. Third, the CSC engaged in further negotiation with the hotel, securing a substantial reduction in the cost of food. Finally, the CSC did all this in the shortest time framework to date, allowing distribution of the Registration Packet almost one month earlier than last year, thus giving groups more time to plan for the WSC.

Another major function of the Committee is preparation and revision of the GSR/ISR Service Manual. We updated the Manual to reflect changes in Committee functions approved by the 2008 WSC, as well as changes to the literature approval process made in 2008, and to incorporate changes to the FAQ's concerning Appointed Committee Members. The CSC has also approved and forwarded to the Board the credentialing procedures document (with attachments) that will be used by the Host Committee during the 2009 Conference. We also updated the list of motions and recommendations from past Conferences, to include those passed in 2008.

The CSC discussed the telephone training provided for new and returning GSR/ISR's, and decided to repeat last year's successful pattern. Two telephone conferences of substantially identical content were held, providing a broad introduction to the Conference, the Service Manual, and Committee work. Although this has proved successful in the past, the Committee also decided to expand this program for 2009-2010. Next year there will be a total of four telephones conference calls, over a

period of several months, which will deal with service generally. This will include information on the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts, as well as material directly related to the WSC. In addition, there will be information to help group officers.

Internally, the CSC also drafted a Composition, Scope and Procedures document to outline its mission and began discussion of a Procedures Guideline for future CSC Chairs.

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

2008-09 members: Peggy R. (Treasurer and Chair), James Q., Janet J., Marci W., and Willie W. (LA).

Not only the Finance Committee, but all of the trustees work very hard on your behalf to ensure that the fellowship's finances are managed wisely and prudently. We fully understand that Twelfth Step work, not finances, is the primary focus of the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous, however, at the same time, it is also true that good financial management is an integral part of good stewardship.

The Finance Committee's primary purpose is to see that our General Service Office, our General Service Board (GSB), and the World Service Conference (WSC) Committees remain financially sound in the use of our funds and in alignment with our spiritual purposes. The Finance Committee spiritually and conservatively creates our Income and Spending Plans. We keep a watchful eye on all Revenue and Expenditures and at midyear make adjustments, if necessary. When appropriate, the Finance Committee recommends that the GSB 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 full GSB for approval. We discuss motions, actions, recommendations, and other requests from both GSB and WSC Committees. We review the financial reports of the immediate past month to ensure we are in alignment with our Income and Spending Plans.

Summary of Finance Committee Actions this past year:

- The 2007 World Service Conference recommended that we publish Group Contributions. As was done last year, the annual publishing will be handed out at this conference.
- The 2007 WSC also voted that we give a full report on the World Service Conference Income and Expenses. The P&L statement for the 2008 WSC in

Salt Lake City, Utah, is included in this presentation.

- Due to the unexpected surplus of revenue from the 2008 WSC and at the urging of the GSB Finance Committee and GSB Conference Support Committee, the GSB approved the use of \$10,000.00 from the 2008 WSC surplus to defray the cost of registration for attendees of the 2009 WSC. Thus, we were able to reduce the registration cost by \$100.00 per person from the spending plan submitted by the 2009 WSC Host Committee.
- Additionally, the 2009 WSC Host Committee has been working very hard on all of our behalf to give us the best possible WSC experience at the most affordable cost. To that end, they suggested that as a 501 (c)(3) organization (which is a Federal distinction), we ask the State of Texas for a Sales Tax exemption. With the General Manager, Howard's assistance and the Host Committee's lead, we were granted the Sales Tax exemption and were able to further reduce the meal costs for this WSC. As a point of information, only those expenditures paid by the organization are tax

exempt so room charges paid by individuals are not tax exempt. So please allow me to thank again, the 2009 WSC Host Committee for this and all the outstanding work they've done for all of us this week.

- The Group Treasurers Manual originally produced by RDC has been approved by the Finance Committee and the GSB.
- We transferred the \$2151.28 John Henderson Fund that accrued from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009 for allocation by the 2009 WSC Host Committee.
- We created a new Finance Committee Composition, Scope, and Procedure document to serve as an internal guide for the scope and responsibility of the Finance Committee.
- In response to ramped up Federal guidelines for Form 990 reporting and to help maintain our not-for-profit status, we created a Conflict of Interest document that has been approved by the GSB and now signed by the 2009-2010 GSB members.
- We extended the 11-Month CD another 9 months.

**Statement of Financial Condition  
(Balance Sheet)  
June 30, 2009**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

Bank of America Checking	7,082.26	
BoA Checking #2	13,752.64	
Bank of America Savings	115,176.70	
Certificate of Deposit	68,884.82	
Office Petty Cash	100.00	
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>204,996.42</u>	204,996.42
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>		7,523.27
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		781.77
<b>Total Other Assets</b>		22,523.43

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>235,824.89</u></u>
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**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	13,810.88
<b>Total Equity</b>	222,014.01

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>235,824.89</u></u>
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**Notes**

The various Cash Accounts increased from \$168,634 in 2008 to \$204,996 in 2009; that represents a 21% increase. The increase was largely due to the depositing of Conference registration funds but also includes a 15% increase in Group and Individual Contributions.

The overall Total Assets increased from \$210,385 to \$235,825 for an overall increase in Assets of 12%. The Total Liabilities decreased from \$15,642 in 2008 to \$13,811 in 2009. The decrease is explained largely by a decrease in Accounts Payable. Both the WSC deposits and holding fund will be expended to cover the cost of the Conference, therefore, the total equity of our fellowship increased from \$194,743 in 2008 to \$222,014 in 2009.

**Statement of Financial Activity  
(Income and Spending Plan)  
2008-2009**

	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
	July08-June09 ANNUAL	JULY 2008- JUNE 2009	JULY 2007- JUNE 2008	2008/09 - 2007/08
	SPENDING PLAN	2008/09 ACTUAL	2007/08 ACTUAL	ACTUAL DIFFERENCE
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>				
Group	\$ 43,000	\$ 46,402	\$ 42,881	\$ 3,521
Individual	\$ 25,000	\$ 31,515	\$ 24,587	\$ 6,928
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
World Service Month	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,535	\$ 2,645	\$ (110)
12 & 12 Book Appeal	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,500</b>	<b>\$ 80,452</b>	<b>\$ 70,113</b>	<b>\$ 10,339</b>
<b>Interest</b>	<b>\$ 3,300</b>	<b>\$ 2,011</b>	<b>\$ 3,534</b>	<b>\$ (1,523)</b>
<b>Book Sales</b>	<b>\$ 25,800</b>	<b>\$ 22,157</b>	<b>\$ 25,800</b>	<b>\$ (3,643)</b>
<b>Pamphlets</b>	<b>\$ 42,200</b>	<b>\$ 40,129</b>	<b>\$ 42,237</b>	<b>\$ (2,108)</b>
<b>Shipping</b>	<b>\$ 11,900</b>	<b>\$ 11,735</b>	<b>\$ 11,863</b>	<b>\$ (128)</b>
<b>Other Sales</b>	<b>\$ 800</b>	<b>\$ 722</b>	<b>\$ 1,352</b>	<b>\$ (630)</b>
<b>John Henderson Fund</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,249</b>	<b>\$ 6,999</b>	<b>\$ (4,750)</b>
<b>Misc. Income</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>	<b>\$ 704</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>	<b>\$ 654</b>
<b>WSC Gross Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 52,650</b>	<b>\$ 6,031</b>	<b>\$ 46,619</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 168,600</b>	<b>\$ 212,809</b>	<b>\$ 167,979</b>	<b>\$ 44,830</b>
<b>Total CGS</b>	<b>\$ 38,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,982</b>	<b>\$ 35,903</b>	<b>\$ (4,921)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 130,600</b>	<b>\$ 181,827</b>	<b>\$ 132,076</b>	<b>\$ 49,751</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Total Board Expenses	\$ 26,650	\$ 19,026	\$ 20,118	\$ (1,092)
General Administrative	\$ 46,260	\$ 16,147	\$ 20,516	\$ (4,369)
Office Administrative:	\$ 14,475	\$ 8,329	\$ 7,511	\$ 818
Payroll Expense	\$ 53,500	\$ 43,813	\$ 53,336	\$ (9,523)
Tot. Otr Related Expenses	\$ 15,500	\$ 53,396	\$ 7,987	\$ 45,409
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 156,385</b>	<b>\$ 140,711</b>	<b>\$ 109,468</b>	<b>\$ 31,243</b>
<b>SURPLUS (Deficit) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ (25,785)</b>	<b>\$ 41,116</b>	<b>\$ 22,608</b>	<b>\$ 18,508</b>

(UNAUDITED - FOR INFORMATION ONLY)



## Notes

### INCOME

Group Contributions increased from \$42,881 to \$46,401, an 8% increase. Individual Contributions increased from \$24,587 to \$31,516, a 28% increase. World Service Month contributions were relatively flat from \$2,645 to \$2,535, a 4% decrease. Book Sales decreased from \$25,800 in 2008 to \$22,157 in 2009, a 14% decrease. Pamphlet Sales decreased from \$42,237 in 2008 to \$40,128 in 2009, a 5% decrease. John Henderson Fund decreased dramatically from \$6,999 to \$2,249, a 67% decrease. The WSC Gross Receipts line reflects the change in bringing the WSC registration process in-house and explains the extreme difference from \$9,307 in 2008 to \$52,650 in 2009.

To get a clearer picture, when the WSC income is removed from 2008 and 2009, total income figures show a modest increase from \$157,718 in 2008 to \$159,370 in 2009, a 1% increase.

The Cost of Goods Sold showed a 12.6% decrease from \$35,903 in 2008 to \$31,366 in 2009 due to several factors, including the carry over of inventory from 2008 to 2009 and the decline in sales, which resulted in lower printing and shipping charges. Overall, we realized a 12% increase in Gross Profit from \$131,122 in 2008 to \$180,653 in 2009. Again, factoring out the 2008 WSC Net and the 2009 WSC Gross, we see a Gross Profit of \$121,815 for 2008 and \$128,004 for 2009, which shows an increase of 5%.

### EXPENSES

The Total Board Expenses were slightly lower in 2009 than 2008, showing a decrease of \$1,092.

General Administrative Expenses were also down from 2008, showing a decrease of \$4,369. This decrease is due in large part to budgeted expenses not realized for Translation Fees and Website Redesign and Producer.

Office Administrative Expenses: In contrast to General Administrative Expenses, the Office Administrative Expenses were up slightly by \$818, from \$7,511 in 2008 to \$8,329 in 2009.

Payroll Expenses decreased by \$9,523 from \$53,336 in 2008 to \$42,813 in 2009, while Total Other Related Expenses, which include WSC Miscellaneous Expenses, WSC Committee Expenses, and John Henderson Scholarship Fund Distributions, were dramatically increased from \$7,987 in 2008 to \$53,396 in 2009. Again, this is due to the WSC management being handled by the GSO.

Total Expenses in 2008 were \$109,468 versus \$140,711 in 2009, an increase of \$31,243.

Surplus/Deficit : In summation, the Surplus from Operations was \$22,608 in 2008 and \$41,116 in 2009, producing an increase in our overall earnings for 2009 of \$18,508 and performance of \$66,901 better than the 2009 Spending Plan.

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

	<u>JUNE 30, 2008</u>	<u>JUNE 30, 2009</u>
CHECKING	\$15,583.00	\$20,834.90
LESS: PAYABLES	\$ - APPX.	\$ - APPX.
	<u>\$15,583.00</u>	<u>\$20,834.90</u>
11 Month CD	\$67,800.66	\$68,884.82
SAVINGS	\$85,249.67	\$115,176.70
	<u>\$ 153,050.33</u>	<u>\$184,061.52</u>
PRUDENT RESERVE:	* \$ 35,000.00	* \$ 35,000.00
LITERATURE RESERVE:	\$ 11,762.27	\$ 9,614.82
WSC SEED FUNDS	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2010)	\$ -	\$ 1,038.63
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2009)	\$ 942.10	\$ 2,151.28
SCHOLARSHIP RESERVE: (2008)	\$ 6,704.48	\$ -
12 & 12 PRINTING RESERVE:	* \$ 40,000.00	* \$ 61,000.00
UNRESTRICTED SAVINGS:	\$ 56,641.48	\$ 73,256.79
	<u>\$ 153,050.33</u>	<u>\$ 184,061.52</u>
<b>TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE:</b>	<b><u>\$ 72,224.48</u></b>	<b><u>\$94,091.69</u></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)

### Notes

Checking Account: Increased from \$15,583 in 2008 to \$20,834 in 2009.

Prudent Reserve: No change.

Literature Reserve: Decreased from \$11,762 in 2008 to \$9,615 in 2009.

WSC Seed Fund: No change.

Scholarship Reserve: 2009 and 2010 increased while 2008 decreased due to disbursement to Host Committee.

12 & 12 Reserve Fund: In consultation with the GSB Literature Publications Committee and the GSB, additional reserve funds were re-allocated to the 12 & 12 Reserve.

Therefore, we have \$20,835 in checking, \$68,885 in a CD, and \$115,177 in savings for a total of \$204,897, of which \$94,092 is available.

## Spending Plan Year-to-Year Comparison of Actuals 2007-2008 Compared to 2008-2009

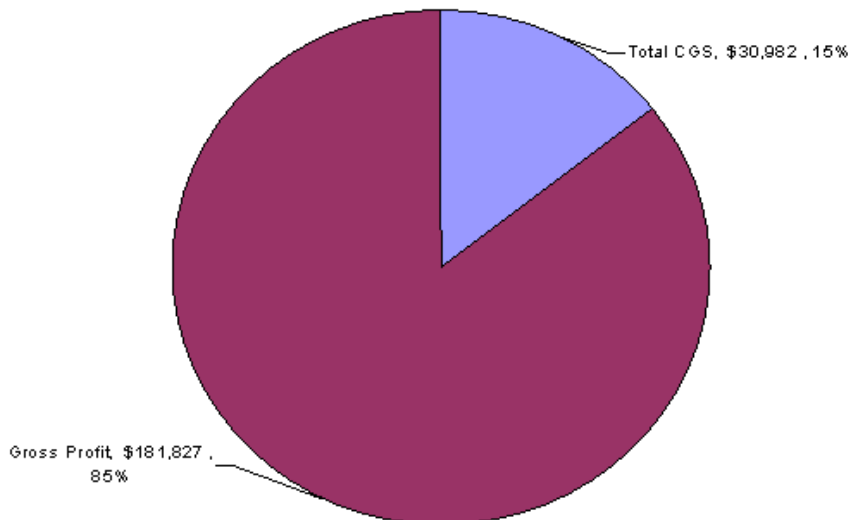
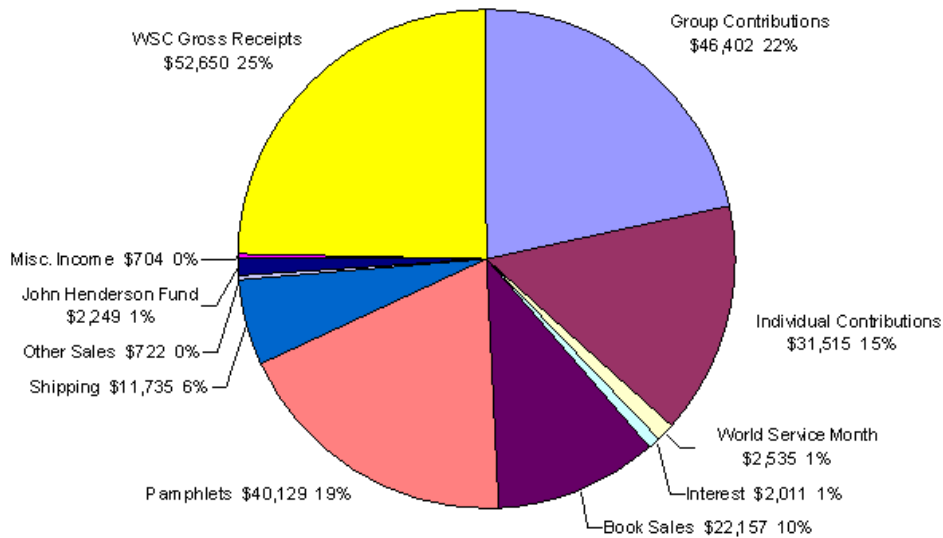
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)
	(July08-June09) ANNUAL	JUL-JUNE 2009	JUL-JUNE 2009	JUL-JUNE 2009
	SPENDING PLAN	SPENDING PLAN	ACTUAL	PLAN to ACTUAL
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>				
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>				
Group	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 46,402	\$ 3,402
Individual	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 31,515	\$ 6,515
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
World Service Month 12 & 12 Book Appeal	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,535	\$ 35
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,500</b>	<b>\$ 70,500</b>	<b>\$ 80,452</b>	<b>\$ 9,952</b>
<b>Interest</b>	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 2,011	\$ (1,289)
<b>Book Sales</b>	\$ 25,800	\$ 25,800	\$ 22,157	\$ (3,643)
<b>Pamphlets</b>	\$ 42,200	\$ 42,200	\$ 40,129	\$ (2,071)
<b>Shipping</b>	\$ 11,900	\$ 11,900	\$ 11,735	\$ (165)
<b>Other Sales</b>	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 722	\$ (78)
<b>John Henderson Fund</b>	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,249	\$ (4,751)
<b>Misc. Income</b>	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 704	\$ 604
<b>WSC Gross Receipts</b>	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 52,650	\$ 45,650
				\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 168,600</b>	<b>\$ 168,600</b>	<b>\$ 212,809</b>	<b>\$ 44,209</b>
<b>Total CGS</b>	<b>\$ 38,000</b>	<b>\$ 38,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,982</b>	<b>\$ (7,018)</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 130,600</b>	<b>\$ 130,600</b>	<b>\$ 181,827</b>	<b>\$ 51,227</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>				
Board Expenses	\$ 26,650	\$ 26,650	\$ 19,026	\$ (7,624)
General Administrative	\$ 46,260	\$ 46,260	\$ 16,147	\$ (30,113)
Office Administrative	\$ 14,475	\$ 14,475	\$ 8,329	\$ (6,146)
Payroll Expense	\$ 53,500	\$ 53,500	\$ 43,813	\$ (9,687)
Other Related Expenses	\$ 15,500	\$ 15,500	\$ 53,396	\$ 37,896
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 156,385</b>	<b>\$ 156,385</b>	<b>\$ 140,711</b>	<b>\$ (15,674)</b>
<b>SURPLUS (Deficit) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ (25,785)</b>	<b>\$ (25,785)</b>	<b>\$ 41,116</b>	<b>\$ 66,901</b>

## 2008-2009 Revenue

### Where do our Funds Come From?

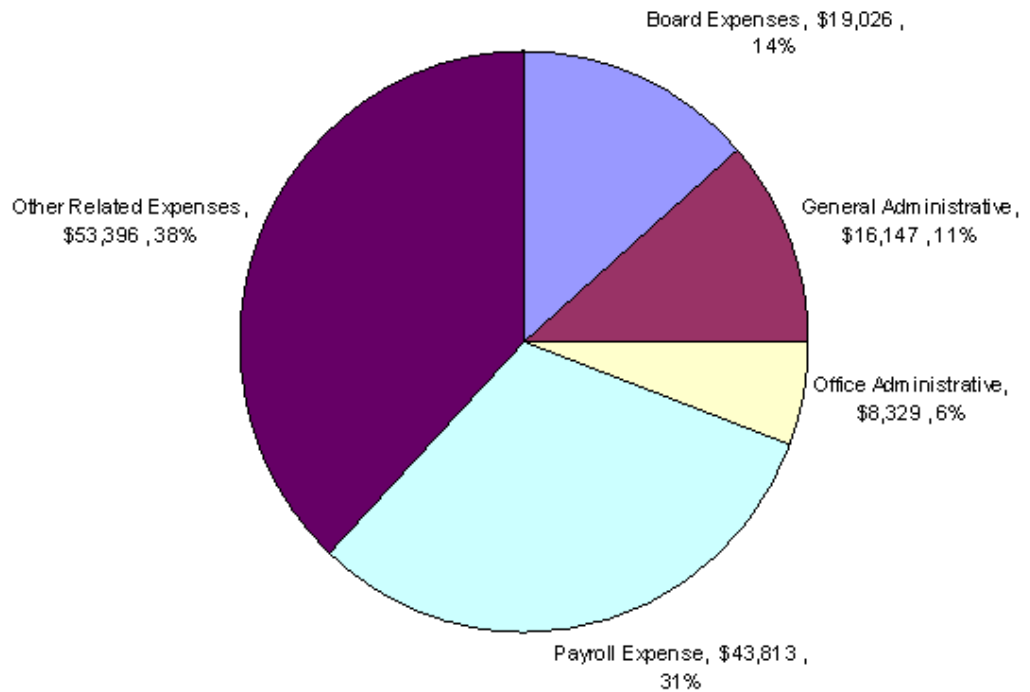
Group Contributions	22%	(Down from 25% in 2008)
Individual Contributions	15%	(Same as 2008)
World Service Month	1%	(Down from 2% in 2008)
Interest Income	1%	(Down from 3% in 2008)
Book Sales	10%	(Down from 15% in 2008)
Pamphlets Sales	19%	(Down from 25% in 2008)
Shipping Income	6%	(Same as 2008)
John Henderson Fund	1%	(Down from 4% in 2008)
Other Sales & Misc. Income	>1%	(Down from 1% in 2008)
WSC Net Income	25%	(Up from 5% in 2008)

As you can see from the charts, the Group and Individual Contributions make up 37% of our revenue and Books and Pamphlets generate 29% of our revenue.



## 2008-2009 Expenses

### Where do our Funds Go?



**Total Expenses**  
**\$140,711**

Cost of Goods Sold  
The Cost of Goods Sold was 15% of Total Sales.  
Gross Profit was 85% of Total Sales.

Total Board Expenses	14%
General Administrative Expenses	11%
Office Administrative Expense	6%
Payroll Expense	31%
Other Related Expenses	38%

You will notice from the financial report that the Payroll Expense of 31%, General Administrative Expense of 11%, and Office Administrative of 6% represent 48% 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 Other Related Expenses of 38% largely includes expenses for the 2008 WSC. Total General Service Board Expenses make up the remaining 14%.

## Spending Plan July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

	(July09-June10) ANNUAL	JULY 2009	JULY 2009
	SPENDING PLAN	SPENDING PLAN	ACTUAL
<b><u>INCOME:</u></b>			
<b><u>Contributions:</u></b>			
Group	\$ 47,000	\$ -	\$ -
Individual	\$ 32,000	\$ -	\$ -
Inv. To Prosperity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
World Service Month	\$ 2,600	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 81,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Interest	\$ 2,050	\$ -	\$ -
Book Sales	\$ 22,200	\$ -	\$ -
Pamphlets	\$ 40,200	\$ -	\$ -
Shipping	\$ 11,800	\$ -	\$ -
Other Sales	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -
John Henderson Fund	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ -
Misc. Income	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ -
WSC Gross Receipts	\$ 52,000	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 213,800</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total CGS</b>	<b>\$ 36,710</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 177,090</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES:</u></b>			
Total Board Expenses	\$ 28,700	\$ -	\$ -
General Administrative	\$ 59,620	\$ -	\$ -
Office Administrative	\$ 13,430	\$ -	\$ -
Payroll Expense	\$ 45,500	\$ -	\$ -
Tot. Otr Related Expenses	\$ 54,500	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 201,750</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>SURPLUS (Deficit) FROM OPERATIONS</u></b>	<b>\$ (24,660)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>Other Revenue &amp; Expenses</u></b>			
Funds Transferred from Savings Account	\$ 24,660	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$ 24,660</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b><u>SURPLUS(Deficit)</u></b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

As you will note, although we have budgeted projected expenses above projected income, we will be able to make up the difference by transferring from our Savings. It is the goal of the Finance Committee to

remain pro-active in our efforts to provide for the financial needs of the Fellowship, yet be extremely cautious and prudent in our decisions to manage the funds of this vital organization.

#### 4. GSB INFO TECH COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Alan K. (Chair), Jan S., Janet J. and Jon L., Appointed Committee Member (ACM).

The Information Technology (InfoTech) 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 (GSO).

Info Tech determines which current technologies can be useful, and prepares spending plans and action plans for their implementation.

The committee’s most important project this year is aimed at making the DA website more user-friendly.

1. Website Redesign: The comprehensive rethinking and redesign of the website, that came from suggestions given to the GSO, with an eye toward making it more “newcomer friendly” and compartmentalized so that members can find specific types of information more easily is under way. InfoTech has developed a new design for the website and is in the process of fine tuning and testing the functionality of the redesign. It is a database-driven site utilizing content management as its backbone. To make sure that the new website is “newcomer friendly” InfoTech is taking the time to do the job correctly.

In addition to the redesign project, the committee continued working on several other items this year:

2. Searchable Meeting List (Find A Meeting): There have been small issues affecting the Find A Meeting

Here are the top 10 pages visited:

	<u>Pageviews</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. Home Page	158,952	15.62%
2. Admin Page for Find A Meeting (Howard or Alan)	138,491	13.61%
3. Find A Meeting Page	82,785	8.14%
4. Help Page – Questions	34,808	3.42%
5. Find A Meeting Page - City	33,767	3.32%
6. Find A Meeting Page – Phone Meeting	31,899	3.14%
7. Literature Main Page	31,745	3.12%
8. Help Page – Signs	25,495	2.51%
9. Help – Getting Started	24,674	2.43%
10. Help Page	23,826	2.34%
11. All Others	560,883	43.35%

(Searchable Meeting List) page that InfoTech and our contract programmers have worked to clean up. We are glad to hear from members about these issues, because it shows that the page is being used and allows us to create the best possible meeting list.

3. E-News: More than 5,220 DA individuals are now receiving regular communications from the GSO and GSB via 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).

4. GSO Computer Online Backups: The computers at the GSO continue to be backed up nightly. This means DA’s databases and other vital records can be easily reconstructed if an accident or disaster should take place at the office.

5. Website Statistics: 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. From July 31, 2008 through June 30, 2009 there were 159,492 visitors to the site [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org), with a daily average of 437. There were 107,707 unique visitors to the website.

There were 1,147,325 page views, (a page view is a request from a visitor’s browser for a page on the site) with a daily average of 2,787.

The average time a visitor spent on the website was 0:03:26 minutes.

Here are the top 10 documents downloaded:

	<u>Downloads</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1. DA 12 Steps Re-printable	9,454	9.62%
2. DA Tools	7,016	7.14%
3. DA 12 Concepts	4,966	5.05%
4. DA 12 Traditions	4,222	4.29%
5. DA Preamble	4,054	4.12%
6. Adopt A Loner Document	2,854	2.90%
7. 2008 - Literature Order Form	2,219	2.26%
8. DA-2007-WSC-Final Report	1,799	1.83%
9. <i>Ways &amp; Means</i> Quarter 4 2008	1,773	1.80%
10. 2009 - Literature Order Form	1,611	1.64%
11. All Others	58,336	59.35%

Projects for 2009 - 2010: The main focus of InfoTech for the coming year is to finalize the redesign of the DA website making it "newcomer friendly" and compartmentalized so that members can find specific types of information more easily. We hope to have the new site up and running by December 31, 2009.

InfoTech is always looking for qualified GSRs and ISRs with technology experience 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.

## 5. GSB LITERATURE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (LitPub)

2008-09 members: Allen A., Chris S., Eileen N., James Q., and Paul S.

### Translations of Existing DA Literature

#### Spanish Translation of the Debtors Anonymous Pamphlet

The Debtors Anonymous pamphlet has been translated to Spanish by a professional translator, and will be available for sale shortly after the 2009 WSC. This is a milestone in that it will be the first official non-English DA pamphlet that will be made available for sale by the DA General Service Office.

#### French Translations

A group of DA members in France has submitted French translations of several pieces of DA literature to the Literature Publications Committee to be made available to the fellowship. The committee has verified that these translations are accurate and are working with the people that submitted them to ensure that the proper release forms are signed and copyright issues are addressed.

#### German Translations

The committee received a volunteer submission of translations of the DA Preamble, Steps, Traditions, Tools, and Promises into German; and is currently in the process of determining the accuracy of the translations.

#### *A Currency of Hope*

The committee has been in communication with a DA member from Argentina who has translated *A Currency of Hope* to Spanish. We are now beginning the process of ensuring the accuracy of the translation, as well as working with an attorney to see to it that the applicable copyright laws are addressed.

#### Spanish Website

We have been working with a DA member who offered to sell to DA for \$1 a website the member created consisting of DA material and information translated to Spanish. The website in its current form contains both translations of DA Conference Approved material and non-DA Conference Approved material. Consequently the website in its current form must be modified before it can be endorsed by DA. Once the transfer of the website to the GSB is complete, we will take the steps necessary to ensure that all information contained therein is DA Conference Approved.

#### Creation of Standardized Contract/Release of Rights for Future Translations

Since great emphasis is now being placed upon the translation of DA literature to languages other than English, we have consulted with an attorney who is creating a standard contract/release for us to use that specifically addresses issues related to translations. This should help to expedite the process of future translations.



### **Discontinued Literature Made Available as Free Downloads on the DA Website**

As suggested by the WSC Literature Committee, the DA pamphlet titled *AA Literature*, which had been discontinued due to lack of sales, is now available as a free download at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). As also suggested by the WSC Literature Committee, the *GSR Pamphlet* will be made available as a stand alone free download in addition to it being available as part of the GSR/ISR Manual, which is already a free download.

### **DA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions Book**

A writer has been selected and a contract has been entered into between the writer and the GSB. The work on the first draft of the book has begun. The goal is to have the second draft of this book available to be presented to the WSC Literature Committee at the 2011 World Service Conference.

### **12 Steps and 12 Traditions Window Shades/Banners**

The committee obtained quotes and reviewed various pricing options. It has been determined that the fellowship is simply not large enough at this time to be able to purchase these in sufficient quantities such that they could be offered to the Fellowship at a reasonable price. In order to sell these at even a break-even price to our members based on a minimum quantity order, the GSO would have to charge well over \$100 per set, which did not seem to this committee to be a reasonable price. There are also storage concerns, as these would take up considerable space at the GSO. When the Fellowship grows in size and a larger quantity order from the vendor is possible, and storage for them is available, this may be revisited.

### **A Guide to Special Events (service literature)**

This piece of literature was originally submitted to the GSB by the WSC Resource Development Committee with the title 'A Service Guide to Events.' The Literature Publications Committee approved the final edit and the piece of literature has been approved as service literature by the GSB. The title has been

changed to 'A Guide to Special Events' and will soon be available to the Fellowship.

### **Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment Pamphlet**

We approved the third and final draft as was received from Literature Services. We then presented it to the GSB for approval, which it received. The next step is to present this for approval to the WSC Literature Committee at the 2009 WSC, and then for the WSC Literature Committee to present this for final approval by the delegates of the 2009 WSC.

### **Requests to Include DA Material in Outside Literature**

We have fielded numerous requests from various authors who want to include information about DA, sometimes including the Steps, Tools, etc. We have generally approved these requests with the stipulation that the proper disclaimers are in place and that credit to DA is given for use of such material. We have also responded to requests to have the DA website linked to outside websites. These requests are approved on a case-by-case basis. There have also been requests to use personal stories from either *A Currency of Hope* or the Recovery Stories section of the DA website. It has been determined by this committee that it would be inappropriate for these stories to be released outside of DA and, as such, requests such as this will not be approved.

### **Material Included in Beginners Kits**

Working closely with the GSO Office Manager, we have made minor revisions to the material that is included in the Beginners Kits that are available for sale by replacing items no longer in print with other DA Conference-Approved Literature.

### **Trademarks/Service Marks**

We have retained the services of an attorney who specializes in this area of law to ensure that DA's trademarks and service marks remain current and in force.

## 6. LITERATURE SERVICES

2008-09 members: James Q., Allen A., Carolyn C. (ACM), and Sherri H. (ACM).

### **BDA Literature**

Writers have been approved for and work has begun on the BDA Numbers Booklet, the Clarity in Business Finance pamphlet, and the Annual Business Plan pamphlet; all of which have been conceptually approved by the WSC. A writer has also been approved for and work had begun on the BDA Signposts and Tools pamphlet; however, this has been put on hold pending concept approval at the 2009 WSC. The BDA Newcomers Welcome booklet is being combined with the standard DA Newcomers Welcome booklet that is in process with the same writer.

One of the priorities of Literature Services in the 2008-2009 conference year was to clarify who would be working directly with Literature Services as the writers of these pieces. We are proud to announce that all of the "in process" BDA literature projects now have officially recognized writers who are communicating directly with their point persons on Literature Services. We are deeply grateful for the cooperation of the members of the BDA Committee as we have worked to assign these existing projects that were once worked on within the BDA Committee to individual writers. All of the writers who have been invited to apply and ultimately approved for the above projects are either current or former members of the BDA Committee and understand that their work on these pieces of literature is separate from the service they do on the BDA Committee.

### **Newcomers Welcome Booklet**

This is in process with the approved writer, who was also the approved writer for the BDA counterpart. The first draft is being rewritten to include the BDA information and will then be resubmitted to Literature Services.

### **Daily Meditation Book**

After much thoughtful discussion and review of the existing material, it is the opinion of Literature Services that a paid professional is needed to coordinate the completion of this book. There is much material that has been gathered over the years, some usable, some not, and it is simply too large of a project for a committee of

volunteers to continue spearheading. This recommendation has been forwarded to Literature Publications with a request to allocate funds in the upcoming year's spending plan.

### **How It Works/Basic Text**

Literature Services feels that a paid writer will be needed for a book of this scope and length, and the availability of resources to hire a writer will determine when this book is completed.

### **12 Steps and 12 Traditions Book**

We reviewed the proposals received from the second RFP that was sent out, and a writer was selected to recommend to the GSB for approval. The writer was approved and is now working on the first draft to be submitted to Literature Services for review.

### **Step Study Guide**

This is on hold pending completion of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book, as the Step Study Guide will be a complement to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book.

### **Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment Pamphlet**

This is the combination of two existing pamphlets into one new pamphlet. The third and final draft will be presented to the 2009-2010 WSC Literature Committee for approval prior to being presented to the delegates at the World Service Conference for final approval as DA Conference-Approved Literature.

### **Revision of the PRG/PRM Pamphlet**

A writer has applied and been approved, and was recently forwarded editorial comments on the existing pamphlet from both Literature Services and the WSC Literature Committee to use as a reference when creating the first draft.

### **How to Start an Intergroup (Service Literature)**

The final draft is being submitted to Literature Publications for approval at the 2009 WSC prior to being submitted to the GSB for final approval.

## LITERATURE STATUS CHART

### August 2009

Piece	Year Concept Approved	Last Phase/Step Completed of Lit Approval Process	Where in Process	Where Goes Next	Last Discussed by LS
12 & 12 book	2008	Phase 1, Step 2	Writer has been selected from 2 <sup>nd</sup> round of RFP responses	Writer to submit first draft	August 2009
12 Step Study Guide	2007	Phase 1, Step 1	On hold until 12x12 book is written	Writer to be selected	June 2009
Daily Meditation book	2008	Phase 1, Step 1	Lit Services recommends that a professional be hired to complete compiling, editing and writing	Lit Pub to request funds from GSB to continue this project, then RFP to be sent out to the fellowship	August 2009
DA Basic Text (How It Works)	2007	Phase 1, Step 1	Lit Services recommends a professional be hired to complete (DA Basics workshop materials to possibly be incorporated.)	Writer to be selected once resources are available	August 2009
Newcomer's Welcome Booklet	2007	Phase 1, Step 2	Writer reworking first draft to include BDA material	Writer to resubmit first draft	August 2009
Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment pamphlet (the combining of two existing pamphlets)	?	Phase 3, Step 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> draft approved by Lit Services, Lit Pub, and GSB.	To 2009 WSC Lit Com for approval, then to Convocation for approval.	August 2009
PRG/PRM pamphlet revision (with how to give a PRM)	2006	Phase 1, Step 2	Writer received comments/suggestions from WSC Lit Com and Lit Services as a reference	Writer to submit first draft of revised pamphlet.	August 2009
BDA Clarity in Business Finances pamphlet	2008	Phase 2, Step 5	Lit Services and WSC Lit Com have reviewed second draft and made comments/suggestions	To writer	August 2009
BDA Numbers booklet	2006	Phase 1, Step 2	With writer.	First draft to be submitted to Lit Services	August 2009
The Annual Business Plan pamphlet	2006	Phase 1, Step 4	Lit Services received first draft and made comments	To Literature Publications committee	August 2009
BDA Signposts & Tools pamphlet	Needs Approval	None. Writer selected and first draft exists, but concept needs approval.	Once concept approved, second draft to go to writer with comments	After revisions, back to Lit Services	August 2009
Beginners Meeting Format	2007	Service Literature*	Working with samples from WSC Lit Com	To Lit Pub and GSB for approval	July 2009
Business Meeting Format	2007	Service Literature*	Lit Services working with samples from WSC Lit Com	To Lit Pub and GSB for approval	July 2009
How to Start a DA Intergroup pamphlet	N/A	Service Literature*	Lit Services made final editorial comments	To Lit Pub and GSB for approval	August 2009
DA Service Manual	2005	Service Literature*	Not yet started		?
BDA Newcomer's pamphlet	2008	Material to be incorporated into DA Newcomer's pamphlet	See DA Newcomer's pamphlet	See DA Newcomer's pamphlet	See DA Newcomer's pamphlet

\*Note: Service literature differs from recovery literature in that it is approved by the GSB rather than the WSC, and is generally not required to go through the same steps of the Literature Approval Process as recovery literature. The GSB occasionally calls on Literature Services to help with service literature.

Lit Pub = GSB Literature Publications Committee  
 Lit Services = Literature Services Committee  
 WSC Lit Com = WSC Literature Committee

## 7. GSB LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Aishlin O. (Chair), Willie W. (LA), and Paul S.

In 2006 the DA World Service Conference requested that the General Service Board prepare a Five Year Plan “that shall include but not be limited to a vision for the DA fellowship, a mission statement, goals, objectives, capability analysis, trend analysis, action plan, and prosperity spending plan.”

While the World Service Conference (WSC) of Debtors Anonymous has, since the first Conference in 1987, provided yearly reports to the Fellowship, until recently there has been neither the personnel nor the finances to allow for a systematic collection of relevant statistical information.

The General Service Board has compiled this Five Year Plan with information gathered from 20 years of World Service Conference Reports, 10 years of verifiable financial records, sales records obtained from both the publishers of *A Currency of Hope* and the Debtors Anonymous pamphlets, plus literature inventories conducted by the staff of the General Service Office (GSO). In some instances, in the absence of collected statistical information, this analysis relies upon anecdotal observations from present and former Trustees.

The 2009 Long Range Planning (LRP) Committee members responsible for undertaking this work were Paul S., Willie W., and Aishlin O. LRP would like to thank all those who helped make this plan possible: the Trustee members for all the GSB subcommittees, Howard S., the Office Manager, Carol B., Michael A. for charts and graphs, and Carolyn C. and Sherri H., the ACMs from Literature Services for editorial review.

The vision of this Debtors Anonymous Board as stated in the Five Year Plan is that anyone who wants to attend a DA meeting be able to find one either in person, using a computer, by telephone, or as part of our “Adopt a Loner” outreach. Further, that throughout our communications channels, literature, publications, and website we reflect the strong, vibrant recovery available through working the Twelve Steps of the Debtors Anonymous program and not debting one day at a time.

The General Service Board has compiled an extensive Action Plan presuming that over the next five years the GSB will achieve its requirement of 15 serving Trustees and that our DA contributions and literature sales will sufficiently increase to fund these stated goals.

The Five Year Plan offers an opportunity to review the state of the DA Fellowship and the option to undertake the changes necessary for a dynamic DA community. The following taken from the Conclusion section of the Five Year Plan aptly summarizes our findings. While there is much to inspire the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous:

- A successful 33-year-old Twelve Step program offering recovery from the disease of compulsive debting.
- A worldwide Fellowship of approximately 500 groups with many members willing to contribute and serve.
- An abundance of literature, including the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous pamphlet, *A Currency of Hope*, and the many pamphlets which offer experience, strength, and hope to the still-suffering debtor; a writer for the upcoming DA Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book.
- The beginning of translation of DA literature into different languages.
- A stable Fellowship office staffed by a long-term paid employee.
- A growing web presence to serve the new and long-term member; Internet and telephone meetings for isolated and disabled members.
- A financial reserve for literature publications, seed money for the next WSC, and a prudent reserve of approximately six months of operating expenses.
- A small but dedicated group of Trustees willing to work to help the DA Fellowship.

There is also much to cause concern.

- In the last 10 years we see no significant increase in the number of registered DA meetings.
- We have evidence of a surprising lack of consensus even at the GSR level as to what constitutes debting and not debting. Even more alarming is the apparent lack of agreement on part of DA’s primary purpose of “not debting one day at a time.”
- There seems to be an overemphasis on mastering the Tools of DA as opposed to working the Twelve Steps. As stated in the Spirituality pamphlet, “for many of us, using the Tools of DA brought almost immediate relief. The pressure of our financial situation eased. We felt hope for the first time, the hope that things might be different for us in DA, that we might eventually pay off our creditors and learn to live an abundant joyful life. For a short period of time, there was enough. While the Tools gave us relief, however, we found that only by working the Twelve Steps were we able to begin to experience recovery.”
- After 33 years, we are unable to create a regional structure or in fact fill many of the program service

- positions, from the smallest of DA meetings to a Board three short of the necessary membership.
- Fifty percent of our registered DA groups are unable or unwilling to contribute to world level service, making it difficult to fund necessary and desired projects.
  - If we as a Fellowship cannot or will not focus on our primary spiritual purpose, we, like the individual DA member or DA group, will experience continued stagnation, loss of members, and an ongoing lack of service and support. Our shared recovery is too important to allow this to happen.

We find ourselves at an interesting juncture on this DA journey. We know that all genuine recovery comes from working the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous, which promise, "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to compulsive debtors, and to practice these principles in all our affairs." Anyone who has thoroughly worked these Twelve Steps will be compelled by that spiritual development to be of service to the debtor who still suffers. Therefore, we suggest that part of any long-range plan for this spiritual Fellowship include a return to and an intensive focus on DA's primary purpose to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.

## 8. GSB NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Jan J. (chair), Chris S., Eileen N., and Jan S.

The Nominations Committee (NomCom) interviewed and recommended two "Class A" (debtor) Trustees and one "Class B" (non-debtor) Trustee. All of the candidates were approved by the GSB and will be ratified at this Conference. The "Class A" Trustees are Eileen N. from Pennsylvania and Marci W. from Utah. The "Class B" Trustee is Jeff Y. from Ohio. Last year, Donna W. was ratified as a "Class B" Trustee, but she resigned from the Board at the end of March.

When considering a Trustee candidate, Nominations uses the list of attributes as described in the Trustee Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which can be found in your GSR/ISR manual and posted on the DA website.

Some of the attributes which the Nominations Committee considers to be crucial are:

- At least three years of not debting
- A working knowledge of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions

- GSR/ISR service work and length of time as a GSR/ISR
- Leadership and follow-through shown at the WSC and within committee work
- The ability to effectively and cooperatively work with others

One of our biggest projects was the restructuring of the DA regions. Our GSB by-laws state that only three trustees can serve from any given region. Mostly minor adjustments were made, but we removed various states from Region One which included California, and created one additional region. These changes will allow for more trustees to be chosen from more states. In addition, the Canadian meetings were consulted and the Canadian Provinces are now part of regions in alignment with adjoining states. You will find copies of the revised regions map and a list of the former and current regions in your packet.

Nominations also worked on many issues related to Appointed Committee Members (ACMs).

***What is an Appointed Committee Member? (from the ACM FAQs):*** Each committee of the General Service Board may choose to select one or more Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) to serve on the committee. These ACMs are recovering DA members who usually have needed experience or expertise in a particular field, such as computer technology, literature development, or public relations.

The Committee brought forth the following ACM recommendations to the GSB which were all approved:

1. To accept the newly created ACM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). These FAQs were compiled last year and explain the position of an ACM, suggested guidelines, and the process for applying to become an ACM. The FAQs now appear on the DA website and in the GSR/ISR Manual.
2. A clear policy for ACM travel.
3. A change in the length of term for ACMs. In keeping with the length of terms for GSRs, ISRs, and Trustees, Nominations recommended that the length of term for ACMs be changed from a maximum of one three-year term to a maximum of two three-year terms.
4. A clear election procedure for ACMs.

Other projects worked on by Nominations included:

- Helping with the Five Year Plan
- Putting together a slate of officers for 2009-2010
- Updating the list of all GSRs/ISRs that have attended the WSC from 2003-2008
- Updating the Trustee Manual

- Keeping an updated list of potential trustee candidates
- 

## 9. GSB OFFICE COMMITTEE REPORT

2008-09 members: Willie W. (LA) (Chair), Alan K., Jan S. (scribe), and Peggy R.

We had a wonderful committee and we got a lot done. Some of the accomplishments were as follows:

### Office Manager

The GSB Office Committee reviewed and adjusted the salary and benefits compensation of the office employee(s) and conducted job performance evaluations.

A 403(b) retirement plan was created for GSO employees, but DA will not contribute matching funds at this time.

The Office Committee proposed, and the full GSB approved, a proposal to have Howard join the committee on its monthly calls. This has been happening since April and has been invaluable to the work of the committee.

The Office Committee also participated in providing information for the Five Year Plan.

### Other Employees

Our regular part-time employee Ellen L. took a leave of absence for the summer months and was replaced by Meghan G., a long-time DA member from the Boston area.

The Office Committee has a long-term goal of hiring another full-time employee to perform a variety of duties to better serve the fellowship. The Office Volunteer program has not seemed to have taken off yet.

### Personnel Manual

A comprehensive revision of the Office Manager's job description was completed and approved by the full GSB. Jan S. is working on the task of updating the Personnel Manual.

### Archives

The Archives Chairperson, Jan S., continues to go through more than 20 boxes of historical materials, and to sort, catalogue, and properly store them in acid-free holders and containers with a goal of finishing this work by the end of 2009.

A number of groups, intergroups, and individuals made major contributions to the Archives, including the

Greater New York Intergroup, the Great Lakes Intergroup, of Chicago, the Wednesday night BDA Group of New York, and former GSB Chair Carol B. All were thanked for their valuable contributions.

I would again like to thank the other members of this committee, Alan K., Peggy R., and Jan S.

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## 2009 Report by DA Office Manager Howard S.

The past year has been one of consolidation and refinement for the General Service Office. We continue to serve the fellowship of DA and the newcomer by the timely fulfillment of literature orders, by processing and acknowledging 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions from groups and individuals, by registering new groups and re-registering and updating existing group information, and by providing information to groups, newcomers, helping professionals, and the media.

A concern noted in the office report a year ago was the downturn in sales of *A Currency of Hope*. This trend has continued at an accelerated pace; one of our major distributor partners reports a sales decline of 17% in the most recent 12 months compared to the previous year. Also, our largest distributor of DA literature, the Southern California Intergroup, recently closed its office in Los Angeles and will no longer offer a literature service. Groups in Southern California that formerly relied on the Intergroup for their literature needs will now need to order directly from our office. Whether this change will impact sales further remains to be seen.

In short, literature sales and in particular sales of *A Currency of Hope*, has been a major part of DA's income. While it is hoped that the forthcoming DA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book will be as successful as *A Currency of Hope*, it remains several years before a completed and conference-approved book will be ready for public sale. My concern is both personal and professional, as the DA Fellowship has not historically shown a willingness to support its office through 7<sup>th</sup> tradition contributions, instead relying upon literature sales.

The General Service Office continues to take on a larger role in administration of the World Service Conference. We process all registrations, communicating and updating weekly with the Host Committee, the General Service Board treasurer and bookkeeper, and the Board Chair on the status of registrations and related issues. This year we provided assistance to the Board in printing the Five Year Plan that will be distributed to the Conference delegates. As

directed and approved by the Treasurer, disbursements are made through the office to vendors who provide services to the conference. Looking to the future, I see the GSO taking on additional WSC oversight. I have forwarded a suggestion to the Board that beginning with next year's conference, a member of the GSO staff attend all telephone planning conferences involving the Host Committee and Board's conference liaison, and that the GSO review all written materials for accuracy and clarity prior to printing and/or dissemination.

At the suggestion of the GSO, this year we did not send conference registration packets to all registered groups. Instead, a one-page letter was mailed, alerting groups that the registration packet was posted on the DA website. This resulted in a saving of approximately \$500 in postage and printing costs. Only one group reported a problem in downloading the registration packet and the office provided that group with a printed copy. At some point in the future, perhaps we will be able to accept WSC registrations online. We will continue to look for opportunities to use technology where appropriate to save resources, time, and dollars.

Last year's office report also alluded to problems and shortcomings with both the DA website and the DA database. Unfortunately, there has been little change or improvement in the last twelve months. While the Find a Meeting function on our website is clearly a major improvement over the intergroup websites we linked to in the past, from the perspective of the newcomer, there are serious gaps. Questions that regularly come to the office include: 'How do I know the group still exists?'; 'How do I contact the group?'; 'Is the meeting open or closed?'; 'Can I bring a spouse or friend?' and 'There are no meetings in my area...what can I do?' As for the database, the information therein is more accurate and current than ever, due to the annual re-registration process administered through the GSO. However, as a tool, the database is unable to provide the detailed data one would expect an organization of our size to have available. It cannot answer basic questions such as 'How many registered DA groups are there currently?'; 'How many BDA groups are registered?'; 'How many groups are in California or New York or New Mexico?' and 'How many groups re-register by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline?'. It seems clear that we can't plan for where we want to be as a fellowship in five or ten years if we don't know where we are today.

Hopefully, these issues and challenges can and will be addressed beginning today. At this conference I plan to visit every committee and caucus to offer the GSO's input, assistance, and experience.

Have a great conference and thank you.

Howard S.  
Office Manager,  
Debtors Anonymous General Service Office

## 10. GSB PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

2008-09 members: Allen A. (Chair), Aishlin O., Marci W., and Donna W.

The General Service Board Public Information (PI) Committee works with both the WSC Public Information Committee and the fellowship's Media Contact Person (MCP) to ensure that, at the world service level, the fellowship fulfills part of DA's primary purpose to carry the message to the debtor who still suffers. This includes, with the help of the Media Contact Person, fielding requests from both the media and professionals for interviews and information on Debtors Anonymous. Also, the GSB PI Committee considers, within the directions of the Twelve Traditions, any new avenues to inform both the professional community and the media of the work of the DA Fellowship.

This year's committee included Allen A. (Chair), Aishlin O., and Marci W. (recording secretary) and Donna W. The Committee met monthly by phone conference and in person twice at both the annual January mid-term and the 2008 August WSC Board meetings. Kathy R., the 2008 Media Contact Person, was asked to continue that service for the 2009 conference year and attended the monthly telephone conference sessions. Allen, as chair of the committee, also attended the WSC PI telephone conference committee meetings as a non-voting member.

In 2008, at the direction of the Board PI Committee, an annual letter describing DA and our policy of anonymity was mailed by the GSO to newspapers in Canada and the U.S. with a circulation of 100,000 or more, as well as to a number of magazines and radio and television outlets.

In response to difficulties encountered by the WSC Hospital, Institutions, and Prisons Committee (HIP) in carrying the message to the incarcerated debtor, the Board PI Committee developed an outreach letter targeted to prisons and institutions, which was approved by the Board.

More recently, the Committee has chosen the Chicago area for an experiment in professional outreach. Forty-three professional offices will be targeted to receive the PI Manual Letter to Professionals and copies of the Twelve Signposts and the Twelve Questions.

This has been a challenging year for this PI committee. Both Donna W., a new class B committee member, and Kathy R., our Media Contact person, resigned their

service positions due to personal considerations. Unfortunately, no written Media Contact Reports for the 2008-2009 conference year have been submitted at this time, so it is only possible to paint a picture of the fellowship's media contacts anecdotally. Media contacts have averaged approximately 10 requests per month, with about 7 out of 10 successfully responded to. The Media Contact Person worked from a list of 15 volunteer media contact speakers from the DA fellowship. Kathy aspired to a turn-around time of about 48 hours for each media contact request.

Working with the Media Contact person, the PI Committee set two further goals for this conference year: first, a 24-hour response time to all media contact requests, and secondly, to increase to at least 30 a fellowship-wide pool of DA media contact volunteers. The Committee created a media contact questionnaire for volunteers, which included the requirement of

attendance at the Media Contact training phone sessions organized by the WSC PI committee. At this time, while some progress has been made, we have not fully succeeded at either of these two goals. Earlier in the year, the response time to media inquiries had improved to twenty-four hours and the numbers of trained media contact volunteers was increased by at least nine. However, with the resignation of the MCP and a subsequent loss of the complete media contact list, we have lost some ground.

Based on our experience and suggestions from the outgoing MCP from a previous year, it became apparent to the Committee that MCP work entailed more than could reasonably be expected of someone in a volunteer capacity. The WSC PI Committee recommended to the GSB—and got its approval—to move the work of maintaining media contacts to the GSO.



## SECTION 4

### WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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

Minutes – August 20, 2009

First task: Elect Officers

Chair - Ray

Co-Chair - Marianne

Secretary – Jane P.

Treasurer - Bill

Agenda for this session:

1. Define our primary purpose (15 minutes). Carry the message (as read from manual). Discussion: BDA is a part of DA. It's the debtor we're focused on. Any debtor who wants to apply these principles.

**Motion: Adopt primary purpose as written.**

Discussion: Include provision for people with financial responsibilities. Operate is the key word. **Motion carries to adopt primary purpose as written.**

#### 2. Goals and Objectives

Review all the projects from past committee

(Excerpted from *Ways & Means* report)

- Has completed two drafts of documents
- Business Plan and Numbers book (gone)
  - Have been assigned to writers and are now part of Literature Committee
- BDA Newcomers pamphlet: estimated time 2 years
- BDA 12 Step Study Guide Supplement: in process
- BDA Annual Business Plan (gone)
- BDA Group Sponsorship subcommittee:
  - Groups sponsoring other groups, provides BDA sponsorship
  - BDA matching sponsorship and numbers – bring them through a step process (?)
- Telephone step process completed. It developed more step sponsors coming forward.

Discussion for clarity. DA pamphlet has to be re-written to include BDA info. BDA wants to have a 12 Step Study written. DA has something underway. It is now owned by Literature Committee.

How do we arrive at issues we want in the addendum? Not submitted in form yet; consider as a group to resolve the addendum issue. Make a recommendation to

Lit Committee; you believe these issues should be included.

Adoption of Groups – 2 sponsorship activities. Group to group. BDA matching individuals for sponsorship and PRGs

**Motion: Consider working on the sponsorship group-to-group.** Seconded. Discussion:

- Continue to address the supplement issue – seconded.
  - 1 against – since LitPub refuses to move forward – feels like spinning our wheels
  - Table it and come back to it – Rena
- Whether or not to table
  - 2nd to table
  - in favor of tabling – 10
  - Motion tabled.

Committee put up list of 5 items from last time.

Suggestion to go through a brainstorming process first – 10 minutes. Then prioritize. Disagree – most important to take people through the Steps

**Motion: Spend 10 minutes to make brainstorming list before prioritizing.** For: majority. **Motion passes.**

#### 10-Minute Brainstorm

- BDA tools pamphlet – approval process
- define debting in business
- sponsorship in BDA
- growing BDA group
- too much discussion around business issues during meetings – more about Steps/spiritual nature of BDA
- too specific sharing about business (about acting careers)
- more emphasis on spiritual part of being a business owner
- Conduct BDA workshop on Fellowship Day as part of Conference (host committee issue)
- Pricing services, low-paying clients – repeated issues – how to help; step-grounded framework
- How to fund business – capital; solvent capitalization w/o debting; write a booklet on how to start a debt-free business (w/o incurring unsecured debt)
- How we keep people who become really successful
- 12-Step work for one year

Dominant goals and objectives:

1. Spiritual nature of DA

**Motion: Table all subcommittee activity for one year and get every recovering BDA'er to work through the Steps.**

Vote on motion to stop discussion – Yea – 5. Nay – 7.  
Continuing discussion approved.

Against: Big Book way doesn't work. Home group push back from message that was brought back: "This is God's meeting, not the Board's."

For: Big Book (BB) writing is for business people.

A friendly amendment: BB too vague and global.  
Recommendation to use Chuck C's book – A New Pair of Glasses.

Friendly Amendment (FA): Recommends any conference-approved literature (using 12 + 12 and other literature).

Sole function focus of committee should be 12 Steps through conference-approved literature taking business people through the 12 steps. With no other subcommittee work... [Secretary can't recall what the essence of this discussion was...Please add your thoughts.]

**Motion defeated to table all subcommittee activity for one year and get every recovering BDA to work through the steps.**

Focus on Steps, but not with a specific way of doing it. What's the method? If BB is deal breaker, proposer is willing to withdraw that piece.

Against: Has taken people through the steps through a variety of tools, literature. Shouldn't do this instead of other goals and objectives.

What committee will focus on since step work was defeated (20 minutes)

Spiritual Nature of BDA

- Written guidelines
- Checklist for BDA groups
- How to have healthy meetings
- What happens within groups, PRGs, etc.

Discussion: Has a problem with anything being spiritual or not spiritual. The ability to be present is of itself spiritual. Steps losing ground to the tools concern.  
Highlight the steps

Form subcommittee to figure out spiritual nature – whether it is or not spiritual is moot.

Confusion expressed about step study guide; difference between this and BB; are we not addressing that issue? How is this different?

**Motion: Form one subcommittee to carry the message to BDA owners through the steps.** Motion passes to form one subcommittee to carry the message to BDA owners through the steps.

**Motion: Collapse step study guide supplement into subcommittee that forms to carry the message thru the steps.** Motion passes to collapse step study guide supplement into subcommittee that forms to carry the message thru the steps. Note: 1 opposed. Discussion: The step-study guide is in the pipeline (which is plugged up). Concern about losing people.

**Motion: Form a committee for growing and sustaining BDA groups.** Discussion – program of attraction, not promotion; anti-tradition; doing our own work so it comes back to attraction (step work).

This may belong in Public Info. Info on the website that tells how to sustain a meeting.

FA – form a subcommittee on sustaining BDA (not growing). Defining debting – subcommittee of sustaining committee. Motion withdrawn.

Motion restated – Remove defining of debting from agenda – Motion withdrawn.

**Motion: Subcommittee to define how to be debt-free (FA) in business.** Motion passes to form subcommittee to define how to be debt-free in business

**Motion: Remove definition of debting from agenda.** We need to address it. Important to the work of this committee to address it. Discussion: needs to be discussed; not resolved, but discuss it. Product IS the process. Three remaining issues collapse into a subset of each other. Motion carries to remove definition of debting from agenda. Note – 2 opposed.

Discussion about Tools.

BDA tools are what make us different than DA.  
Holds us back from growing BDA.

**Motion: Ask Lit Committee to approve BDA Tools pamphlet.** Amendment – Keep alive issue of BDA Tools – conclusion in the report. Address it in a subcommittee. Doesn't belong in future groups. Archive it so they know what came up. Seconded. Motion withdrawn. Discussion - moratorium on new literature for two years. Everything that has been written is business related, not spiritual. Keep it coming up for the next several years (FA).

**Motion: Create a Sponsorship group to group and individual committee.** Motion passes to create a sponsorship subcommittee to work on a group to group and individual level.

Final details:

- Monthly conference call – 9 p.m. Eastern time
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month
- One hour meeting
- Chairperson of each subcommittee has to attend the meeting
- Still under discussion.

Meeting ended at 4:45pm (?)

Reconvened at 6:30 p.m. – broke into subcommittees who met in small groups.

#### Continuation of Notes 8/21/2009

- Timing for committee calls (10 minutes)
- Reports from subcommittees (15 minutes each)
- Motions to iron out (30 minutes)
- Recommendations (30 minutes)

#### Monthly Conference Call Info

#### **Motion to continue 3rd Monday night of month**

- Starting September 21
- (Find a substitute secretary for that night.) – Marianne may be able to
- 6 p.m. PST
- 9 p.m. EST
- Passed
- Conference call number: (308) 344-6400 password 618413#
- Cost of call can be reimbursed.
- (To be dedicated to Step Study calls)

#### Reports of Subcommittees

##### 12 Step Subcommittee

- Combined sustaining and sponsorship into one group
- Sustaining BDA Groups through Sponsorship
- Two new groups will start in October
- Sunday mornings, October 4, 2009 – 9 a.m. PST (noon eastern)
- Over 13 weeks – two different processes; phone meeting, one step a week, one tool a week
- Take 20 people through it
- Anyone can participate
- Will be announced at current phone groups
- Committee meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month.
- Continue going through the cycle
- Goal – Step Study starting every day of the week

- It will be a closed group once it begins. Listeners can join the call, but not participate.
- 4<sup>th</sup> step – two weeks on the 4<sup>th</sup>; write and share
- This will teach people how to use this tool. More instructional—how it works.

#### Debt-Free in Business Subcommittee

- See separate report
- Questions:
- Come up with all of these? Yes!
- Key idea – profile of the positive aspects of successful business ownership
- Suggestion: start with debting signals (conference approved) – take the opposite

#### Step Study Committee AKA Stepping Into Business

- Continuation of step study guide approved 2 years ago.
- On hold.
- We'll continue with this process so when the literature committee is ready, they'll have the info to transfer to the committee.
- Maintain same form, add introduction, series of questions to consider in doing a step study in business.
- No date yet to meet for monthly meetings.
- Discussed the process.
- Discussed continuation of road testing.
- Questions: what is verbiage?
- It will be an addendum to DA Step Study Guide.
- Trustee: You're actually writing literature, which will be redone by someone else. Concept has already been approved. Amplify concepts, but don't draft anything that Lit will be doing.
- Document that will give input for what BDA members would benefit from (not literature). Simply developing raw data to provide guidance/support.
- It's just an outline; no complete sentences.

#### Sustaining BDA Groups through Sponsorship

**Motion 1: The annual DA Group registration should allow individual groups to identify type of meeting format (e.g. Step Study, Literature Study, Visions, BDA) so newcomers and others seeking this information can find it on the DA searchable database. Anyone with a desire to stop debting is welcome at any BDA meeting.** Discussion – Howard doesn't have a way of telling us how many DA groups there are. There is strong general support for this. Suggestion: request FORMAT of meeting and that IT includes that in database. If someone passes this before us, we remove it. (Superseded by Motion 2)

**Motion 2: In order to serve our primary purpose of helping the debtor who still suffers, that DA establish an integrated database to include an easy**

**way to provide data on the number of DA groups, locations, trends, meeting type (including, but not limited to step, literature, visions, BDA) and other relevant information. And make all policy changes and decisions necessary to carry this out.** Discussion – add fields.

**FA – Make all policy changes to accommodate this.** Change wording to ‘including, but not limited to.’ Remove first motion? Continue to make clear that anyone with a desire to stop debting is welcome at any DA meeting. **Motion 2 – carried with this wording.**

Bring it to the conference. Approved.

**Motion 3: To help attract and retain the still suffering debtor, literature is critical. Due to the length of time for publications through the DA literature process pipeline, we humbly move to lift the moratorium on concepts for new literature.**

Discussion:

- To Paul – do we have the right to bring this up?
- Paul: Yes, but...
- We want opportunity to have things in the pipeline.
- LitPub – may feel like there’s too much coming at them. Suggested addendum – We recognize that this doesn’t mean they’ll be acted on.
- Paul: You can develop concepts. What have been presented in the past were rough drafts.
- History of BDA committee jumping the gun and writing pieces.
- You can make a recommendation instead of a motion. They are always considered by the Board. Motions get handled first.
- Board cannot change the moratorium declared by the Literature Committee of the WSC.
- We can make a recommendation to another committee.
- Suggestion to rewrite this motion as a recommendation.
- This recommendation may best go to the Lit Committee (Paul).
- Make language be very specific around research and language, not a fait accompli.
- Proposed as a recommendation, not a motion.

Against:

- Don’t think it will go far as a recommendation.
- It will have a higher priority. This is a very important issue.
- We have nothing to show for this.

Ask the Board: Could this be lifted and mandate an agreement? Conference could mandate the solution. This is a major problem.

Motion is dropped for subcommittee to re-work the motion/ recommendation.

**Motion: That the BDA committee has a liaison with the Literature committee to participate in discussion relating to BDA Literature.** Send this motion back to subcommittee.

**Motion: That the BDA committee has a liaison with the Literature committee to participate fully in discussions relating to BDA Literature.**

**Motion that both go back to the subcommittee.** Second?

Against – pick one or the other; softer gentler way is the approach, and not work on both. **Motion carried – both will go back to subcommittee for re-writing.**

Recommendations from Subcommittees

Recommendation: It is recommended that the WSC conference registration packet include a suggestion that WS Conference members may want to bring program literature with them for reference. Proposed, seconded. Unanimously accepted.

Clarification: difference between a motion and a recommendation—a motion is binding. Recommendation does not have to be carried out.

Recommendation that motion/recommendation process be explained.

After reconvening—

Reconsidered motion: Literature Committee was planning to introduce concept anyway. Motion is withdrawn.

**Motion: That the WSC Literature Committee include a BDA committee member to act as liaison in discussions relating to BDA Literature.**

- Language changes
- Omit “participate fully”
- Omit “fully”
- Method can be left open. Leave that loose.

Language approved. **Motion to be put to conference.**

Opposed: the conference would have to approve this with substantial support. Against: May irritate Lit Committee by making it so official. For: We’ll get to give background. Could we leave this to our chair to go to Lit Chair? Motion withdrawn.

Appoint Ray to talk to Lit Chair. Then motion can come from both committees next year after a year of working together.

Committee mandates Ray to develop relationship with Chair of Lit committee to work towards creating a liaison position – Unanimously approved.

Suggestion: In the spirit of fellowship and unity, we'll pause, pray, reflect for everyone involved in the Literature Committee. Ray noted that we have already put down our weapons.

#### Chairperson's Report:

- Address in a delicate, reconciliatory way the inclusion of BDA in DA.
- We focus on our businesses as well as our individual recovery.
- We're not different. We're the same.
- We are not successful without a strong DA program.
- We were delighted to reach a resolution among ourselves and look forward to a relationship with the Lit Committee.
- One of the big issues is [knowing] the number of meetings there actually are. We have taken on board that we are a big contributor to DA, but it's difficult to identify what's a BDA meeting. We're looking forward to continuing to be a part of the fellowship.

In his presentation to the Conference, Ray will go through the process we went through, how we made mistakes and reflect on how well this committee worked together, extraordinary inhibition of character defects to let the spiritual piece happen.

We ended our time together by sharing Best Practices from our home groups:

1. PRM for operating expenses of group;
  - a. How are we serving the primary purpose?
  - b. Are we on track with spending?
  - c. Make sure newcomers know who is open for phone calls, sponsors, outreach calls, phone list; ask if anyone is available for a PRM right after the meeting.
2. Creating a visions meeting. Stated at each meeting.
3. 130 people attend (Hancock Park) focused on newcomer
  - a. Interim sponsors are identified by standing
  - b. Old timers (27 years) attend
4. Focus on vision and underearning; 5 minutes on what visions are
5. End meeting after 45 minutes to work steps (others can continue meeting if they don't want to talk about steps)
6. Great deal of love and service; many sponsors with long-term recovery, pass around 'we care' book, availability for PRGs
7. Sponsees are asked to form an agreement to sponsor after they've worked the steps
8. Weekly: speaker, tools, steps, state one positive action we've taken for that week; 30 seconds per person to talk about upcoming action for the week; emphasis on service
9. God is a big part of BDA; talk about the Steps and talk about God;

10. SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) goals are shared with group at end of meeting and reported on at beginning of next meeting.
11. Conference call PRMs; step studies (facilitated),
12. Focus on the steps; majority of people have worked through the steps; workshop on first things first (time debting); Abundance and Prosperity, Business Plan, planning conference for next year
13. Business meetings are part of BDA meeting. Proposals must be submitted a week before.
14. PRMs happen immediately after the meeting. Play around with how speakers get selected for equality.
15. 3-minute meditation at beginning of each meeting
16. Use of space where meeting is held for PRM eliminates need to find another room
17. 10 minutes at end of the meeting held for newcomers to share (6 meetings or less)

First item on agenda for phone meeting will be approval of meeting minutes (as provided by Jane prior to the phone meeting). These will also be sent to the GSB. (Elizabeth will find out who I need to send them to.)

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane P.

#### **BDA SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 35.69 x number of committee members (18)	642.44
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 892.44</b>
Expenses	
Postage	0.00
Mailing supplies	150.00
Paper	60.00
2 Printer Cartridges	100.00
11 Conference Calls from Ireland	110.00
Pamphlets Purchased	20.00
Prudent Reserve	55.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 605.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 287.44</b>

## 2. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

GSB Liaison Willie W. (LA) started meeting with officer elections.

Chair	Laurens A.
Vice Chair	Christi S.
Secretary	Stephanie A.
Treasurer	Michele N-H.

Audrey O., Monica A., Andrea R., Christi S., Paulette B., Breanne M., Kari G., Dianne L., Michele N.-H., Stephanie A., Laurens A., and GSB Liaison Willie W. (LA) were present for this meeting.

Received copy of the Issues and Concerns that have been directed to the Conference Committee.

Topics for discussion in addition to the Issues and Concerns:

- Review bids for 2012 and future conferences.
- Schedule presentations from bidding cities (Orlando and Seattle).
- Determine how we can help Host Committee.
- Discuss change to primary purpose (carry over from last year).
- Assist Host Committee with guidance regarding food accommodations.
- Draft new amendment to Article 10 of Charter.
- Review guidelines for hosting the Conference.
- Create Yahoo! Group for ease of data archival and communication.
- Review Conference Board Resolution Panel issue.

Consideration of the Conference Board Resolution Panel is postponed – need additional information.

Discussed the current mandate of the CC.

Willie W. (Seattle) and Susy presented a bid to hold the 2012 WSC in Seattle, WA.

Tarre presented a bid to hold the 2012 WSC in Orlando, FL.

Motion: Christi S. moved and it was seconded that Seattle be designated to host the 2012 WSC. Motion carried.

Motion: Dianne L. moved and it was seconded that we convey to Tarre the Committee's interest in Florida hosting the WSC but also its concerns about the proposal, and its recommendation that Florida return next year with another proposal. Motion carried.

Motion: Paulette B. moved and it was seconded that the Committee refer issue 09-61 regarding a Virtual World Service Conference to the Technology Caucus for the

purpose of researching whether this is possible. Motion carried.

Motion: Audrey O. moved and it was seconded that the Committee respond to the inquiring group of issue 09-61 by informing them about scholarships and fundraising ideas and to encourage them to consider increasing their weekly contributions. Motion carried.

Motion: Christi S. moved and it was seconded that the Committee amend and update the GSR/ISR spending plan in the registration packet in response to issue 09-36. Motion carried.

Motion: Christi S. moved and it was seconded that the Committee refer issue 09-21 to the FCC with the recommendation that a reminder about the opportunity for GSRs to participate on WSC committees, even if they do not attend the WSC, be issued in one or more of these: *The DA Focus*, *Ways & Means*, E-News and flyer in mailings to GSRs. Motion carried.

Motion: Dianne L. moved and it was seconded that issue 09-20 be transferred to the FCC with the recommendations that (1) the FCC remind groups that they are autonomous except in decisions that affect the fellowship as a whole; (2) that GSRs who serve at the WSC are committed to one year of service ending the day before the next conference, whether or not their term as GSR expires during that year; and (3) that new GSRs have various ways of participating in world service before the next conference, including on-going WSC Committee work. Motion carried.

Motion: In response to issue 09-01, Michele moved and it was seconded that the Conference Committee move that the first paragraph of Section 7 of the Conference Charter of DA be changed to read "The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous shall be an incorporated trusteeship composed of debtors and nondebtors who elect their own successors by substantial unanimity, soliciting nominations from all interested parties when a vacancy occurs." (The change is underlined.) Motion carried. [The Committee must now follow the procedure for amending the Charter that is outlined in Section 9 of the Charter.]

Motion: Dianne moved and it was seconded that the Conference Committee move that the profit from the World Service Conference be used to fully refurbish the funds disbursed from the John Henderson Scholarship Fund in the same conference year. If the WSC profit is less than the amount disbursed from the Scholarship Fund, then 100% of the WSC profit will go to the Scholarship Fund. Motion carried.

The Conference Committee will meet by conference call on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 9 p.m. Eastern,

8 p.m. Central, 7 p.m. Mountain, 6 p.m. Pacific. The first meeting will be on Sunday, September 13, 2009.

Issue number	Resolution
09-01	Crafted Motion 2.
09-10	No action needed. Response will be prepared.
09-18	Need additional information from GSB. Will determine action needed, if any, when that information is received.
09-20	Issue referred to FCC with recommendations.
09-21	Issue referred to FCC with recommendations.
09-22	Need clarification from parliamentarian. Will determine action needed, if any, when that information is received.
09-23	Need additional information from GSB. Will determine action needed, if any, when that information is received.
09-38	Need additional information from GSB. Will determine action needed, if any, when that information is received.
09-35	Need additional information from GSB on the background of this issue. Will determine action needed, if any, when that information is received.
09-36	Will update the GSR/ISR Spending Plan template in the Registration Packet.
09-49	No action needed. Response was conveyed to inquirer, present at the WSC.
09-61	Referred issue to Technology Caucus to research feasibility of holding a Virtual Conference. The Conference Committee will craft a response to the group who submitted issue informing them about scholarships and fundraising ideas and encouraging them to consider increasing their weekly contributions.

**CC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 62.79 x number of committee members (10)	627.91
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 877.91</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	120.00
Copying	0.00
Postage	5.00
Mailing supplies	0.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 125.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 752.91</b>

**3. FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Events in first session

1. We reviewed the progress of the 2008 Committee from a PowerPoint demonstration prepared by Richard H., the previous chair.
2. Jan told a history of the Adopt-A-Loner program: It started as a pen-pal program 1980s-1990s which helped 60 people. Jim M. in New England started Adopt-a-Loner, which became a computer-bulletin-board-based system in the 1990s. Jim would forward information to debtors. In the 2000s the program died with him. It was resurrected by the PI Committee several years ago.
3. We discussed a possible agenda for work to be done during this conference and throughout the year. John suggested we might write service literature (or W&M article) about the security of email lists, email etiquette, and maintaining anonymity from a Google search. Michael C. described several communication methods used by Nicotine Anonymous, where almost half of the meetings are held by telephone or online. Someone suggested a 1-2 page "DA for Dummies" which would be a summation, directed to groups, like the current Service Board documents "Group Inventory: All Shapes and Sizes" and "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive."
4. We read and reviewed all four Issues and Concerns which were submitted to this committee.
5. One of the Issues suggested forming a "Think Tank" to encourage all groups to have a GSR. This was discussed favorably. Michael suggested that we might have PowerPoint presentations to email to GSRs. He also suggested that distant GSRs could call in to the Northern California Intergroup meetings which include speakerphones and conference calls.

Events in second session

1. We discussed the history and current status of the Adopt-a-Loner. It was moved that the Adopt-a-Loner program be canceled because it was not effective. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Discussion then focused on expanding the number of GSRs. Every group should have a GSR even if they do not attend WSC. Should there be a service manual for GSRs? It may already exist. GSRs should reach out to other groups in their area to explain why they should have a GSR and how that GSR could help the group, the GSR, and the fellowship.

Events in third session

1. Howard from the GSO visited. Howard visited and we took advantage of his presence to ask a lot of questions about how many cold calls he handles

routinely; the answer was perhaps 10 per week. After Howard left the meeting, we started to discuss an easier way to field cold calls.

2. Michael C. and Tarre suggested the method of "12<sup>th</sup> Step Lists" as used by AA and other fellowships. This involves a list of volunteer members who respond to calls from newcomers. It involves training for people on the list.
3. We discussed four recommendations to be made to the Convocation by this Committee and agreed on the precise wording.

Events in fourth session

1. Michael M. visited to explain the details of the Literature Grant Program, which she has run for two years. She now has to give up the Lit Grant since she is the new chairman of another committee; John and Mary volunteered to take over the job and the inventory.
2. We decided on actions to be taken for our four Issues and Concerns; the first three were decided and draft responses assigned to individual committee members, and the last was determined to require addition study by the Committee before a response was agreed upon.
3. We established a schedule for telephone meetings during the coming year and discussed what projects we plan to work on.

Issue number	Resolution
09-21	The issue of GSR participation is very important and has been dealt with by several responses by this Committee at this conference. This is within the scope of the responsibility of the FCC committee, and we accept that responsibility. No "think tank" will be formed. The IOC and Conference Committee may respond to this separately if they wish.
9-24	No. The Tech Caucus helps introduce new technology methods and hardware. The FCC committee deals with spiritual and practical issues of commutations within the fellowship.
9-25	The FCC committee will investigate the facts of this issue and respond later.
9-43	No advertising is allowed. This issue is discussed on page 8 of the Public Information Manual. Recommendations for attracting members are given on page 9 of the PI Manual and in the Service Publication "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive."

**FCC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 44.08 x number of committee members (6)	264.53
Total income	\$ 514.53
Expenses	
Calling cards	60.00
Copying	60.00
Postage	40.00
Mailing supplies	54.53
Total expenses	\$...514.53
Difference	\$ 0.00

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

One by one we staggered hopefully in. Chit chat and hellos. A volunteer from those present offers to record proceedings. A suggestion was made by Pat B. to go around the room and introduce ourselves.

HIP committee mission statement was read.

General discussion of what we'd like to work on this year. Committee also discussed focus of last year's (2008-2009) HIP Committees actions.

Member suggested creating a questionnaire to be sent to prisons re: debting. Another member shared personal experience about prison and how the disease of debting functions in the mind of the debtor.

General discussion of "what is debting?" Discussion of nominating officers and service positions. Position of easel discussed. Roster was sent around. A schedule of the day's events/actions was created.

Further discussion of HIP Committee actions over past year. We discussed member who in the last year helped to organize first DA prison meeting in state of Washington. Member was also responsible for 2<sup>nd</sup> DA Prison Meeting which occurred in a Women's



Correctional Facility in Wyoming. Group discussed how to spread DA information and pamphlets in prisons. Discussion also involved potential cost of getting books (*A Currency of Hope*) into 150 Federal prisons as well as the cover letter to be sent with books.

Conversation of group contributions to GSB. Further addressing of the day's agenda.

#### Election of officers

Nominated members shared experience, strength, and hope. A tie occurred in electing Treasurer. Member called for moment of silence followed by Serenity Prayer to help guide us. Tie was broken.

The following members were elected to service positions:

Chair	Beth P.
Vice Chair	Dani N.
Secretary	Larry V.
Treasurer	Julia A.

Other committee members are as follows: Carmen M., Franklin P., Stefanos G., Chuck H., and Pat B. GSB Liaison is Jeff Y.

Member suggested we discuss what our vision as a committee is. More conversation about "What is debting?"

Committee presented with issue from GSB to address. The issue is: "Why is HIP a committee in its own right? Why isn't it a subcommittee of PI (Public Information)?"

Liaison explained AA version of Hospitals and Institutions committees.

Motion to close meeting passed followed by the Serenity Prayer.

Day 2: Some chat about Fellowship Day. Group roster updated. Serenity Prayer. Round robin discussion about what brought each of us to this committee.

Franklin gave moving but altogether too short lecture on Salvador Dali and his love of said artist.

Secretary asks group to consider what goals and actions we can take both individually and collectively over the next year.

Dani presents service pamphlet she has been working on. Group is very enthused about pamphlet. Pamphlet is passed around for group perusal.

Formal discussion of Action Plan

Group interest in Dani's pamphlet is overwhelming. We put aside Action Plan and devoted half an hour to further discussing and brainstorming ideas about improving and simplifying said pamphlet.

7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch. Return to room. Serenity prayer. Discussion about "What is debting?" continued.

Member shared about "keeping it simple" and the idea that selfishness and self-centeredness is at the root of debting.

What occurs at convocation was discussed. Liaison left for board meeting.

Group discussed potential motion—a one-time appeal to GSB to underwrite cost of purchasing and distributing book and or pamphlets to prisons.

Here group again addressed and brainstormed ideas for our action plan and for setting time for our monthly committee phone calls. We decide on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month at 12 noon EST.

Phone call protocol was discussed. Redecorating of room and group decision to allow monthly calls to be extended by ½ hour maximum if necessary to complete day's agenda. Also decided that phone meeting minutes will be sent out to all group members immediately after phone call. Secretary rolled eyes, swallowed hard, and said prayers to self.

Establishing Yahoo! Group was decided upon. Also bookending an individuals committee actions through Yahoo! Group was discussed.

More brainstorming re: proposed HIP flyer, following up with other fellowships re: Hospitals and Institutions and mailing out books to prisons (and eventual follow up to mailings), a possible HIP newsletter, working with PI (Public Information) and perhaps creating a new service position (group liaison to PI) and following up with previous materials (from past years HIP Committee) including FAQ flyer, Carolyn (past member who oversaw Prison DA meetings in Washington and Wyoming)

Motion to take a break passed unanimously followed by Serenity Prayer.

Part 2 Day 2.  
Opened meeting with Serenity Prayer.

During break Beth communicated with member from PI Committee about working together. Our dreams are coming true.

GSB provided us with committee budget for the year. We began work on group spending plan. Perusal of 2008 spending plan for guidance. More work on wording of potential motion to GSB. Group read aloud HIP minutes from 2008 conference.

Group established finalized committee Action Plan. Members announced their individual action plans for the year. Much hoopla ensued.

Franklin who had been working diligently on wording of committee motion read it to group.

Group made suggestions. Decision was reached. Motion made to vote on wording of motion. Motion on motion passed unanimously.

Final review of Action Plan for the upcoming year.

Motion to close meeting. Passed.

Serenity Prayer.

Action Plan

1. Develop outreach flyer;
2. Follow up with other fellowships regarding outreach to HIP and to share and gain information on reaching those debtors;
3. Mail out books to federal prisons, including research and follow up;
4. Newsletter outreach – e.g., stories to Ways and Means;
5. Working with Public Information Committee on sharing and supporting each other’s HIP work;
6. Follow up with previous materials, e.g., FAQ publication and article with Carolyn (non-voting committee member who has organized prison meetings);
7. Each member committed to contacting and reaching out to at least two HIP facilities in the next year.

Issue number	Resolution
09-39	The HIP Committee is unique in spreading the DA message through meetings and outreach in order to sustain our own recovery and support the still-suffering debtor who is confined.

**HIP SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$37.79 x number of committee members (9)	\$ 340.12
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 590.12</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	30.00
Copying	34.12
Postage	33.00
Mailing supplies	33.00
Transportation	200.00
Contingency (10%)	60.00
Literature	200.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 590.12</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

**5. INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

This year’s committee voted to keep last year’s Mission Statement that read as follows:

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

Define the Quorum: 3 out of 5 for the WSC and throughout the year. The chair if necessary will break a tie. We will use Substantial Unanimity vs. Majority.

Monthly meetings for IOC:

Will occur the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month with the first meeting occurring September 10, 2009. Meeting times will be 6:15 p.m. PST, 7:15 p.m. CST, 9:15 p.m. EST.

Roxanne K. will set up the reminder notices to be sent a week before and a day before the meetings.

An online group was set up to facilitate communications between Committee Members.

Brainstorming Session

1. Help Howard
2. Define debting on the national website.
3. Define recovery on the national website.
4. Explain the difference between being solvent and being abstinent.
5. Update the data base in a timely manner.
6. Offer electronic self registration
7. Allow conference registrations online
8. Allow group registrations online
9. Update national and local websites
10. Revisit volunteer effort.
11. Streamline meeting registration process.
12. Make a list of what a volunteer would do.
13. Disseminate the GSO Pamphlet
14. When a new group registers refer them to their nearest intergroup.
15. Automation audit
16. Ask Howard if he has a list of volunteers.
17. Take a look at the office manual, how is it working?
18. Prosperous office vision
19. Hire another FT employee or PT employee
20. Downloadable window shades
21. Enhancing online meeting database.
22. Spend more money and invest more resources into the database.
23. Fulfillment center for literature.
24. Calendar of Events
25. Voicemail coverage
26. Invite Howard to IOC conference calls, perhaps he can attend quarterly.
27. Improve communications (let them be timely and accurate)
28. Send confirmation when a group has been registered.

Prioritize the Issues

1. Volunteer Process
2. Group Registration
3. Data Base functions
4. Fellowship Communications
5. Office Process

Howard sat in on our meeting. Regarding volunteers, he said he had a pile of "Volunteer" forms but they were vague as to what they could actually do for the GSO.

Howard was asked by the IOC if he could give us a "Wish List" of three items he would like to see in the GSO as a help to him. Top three wishes for the GSO per Howard were as follows:

1. The research of inventory software.
2. Major improvements to the website/data base.
3. Making the website more Newcomer friendly

Monica A. volunteered to chair a sub-committee on the researching of the inventory software.

The Chair and Co-Chair attended the Technology Caucus Thursday evening.

To facilitate the proposed Five Year Plan, we put forth the following motion and recommendations in support of the action items noted.

Marian H. made our motion. The motion was seconded by Roxanne K. and the motion passed. This supports the action items #1, #8, #12 and #14 of the Proposed GSB Five Year Plan.

Recommendation #1 references Action Plan Items #3, 4, 7, 16 and 17

Recommendation #2 references Action Plan Items #4, 16 and 17

Recommendation #3 references Action Plan Items #12, 14 and 18

Resolution:

Furthermore the IOC resolves to form a tri-lateral partnership with the Technology Caucus and the GSO to provide on-going support of the proposed Five Year Plan throughout the 2009-2010 years.

Motion to approve the Spending Plan of \$476.74 was passed by substantial unanimity.

Issue number	Resolution
09-24	Tech Caucus merge idea – TC voted remain a caucus, 2008 motion to be a committee did not pass and their role is to be of help to all committees. A more formal communication method was established including attending each other's calls on a quarterly basis, e-communication and possibly a face-to-face meeting at the WSO.
09-25	Wean DA off advertising supported Yahoo or Google groups, etc. The IOC response is that advertising is all around us, in many new and innovative forms. Also, one of our tools is to take notice of advertising.
09-31	Yes, when a new group registers it must re-register by June 30 <sup>th</sup> of the following year.
09-32	Yes, Howard prefers hard-copies as faxed copies are sometimes hard to read but he is very flexible and will accept emailed registrations
09-37	To have complaining member refer to the 12 Traditions and if possible find another meeting that better meets their needs.
09-52	This is an outside issue; however, we have answered this question through our online recovery stories.
09-54	To have complaining member refer to the 12 Traditions and if possible find another meeting that better meets their needs.
09-63	Do random audit of the phone meetings. Suggest a change to the meeting format to include a set time for Newcomers to share.

**IOC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$37.79 x number of committee members (6)	\$ 226.74
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 476.74</b>
Expenses	
Air Transportation	250.00
Incidentals	50.00
Ground Transportation	30.00
Contingency (10%)	33.00
Prudent Reserve	113.74
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 476.74</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

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**6. LITERATURE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

2.45-4.45 p.m. session

Allen – Board Liaison  
Aishlin – Board Observer

**A) Election of Officers 2009/2010**

Jennifer Chair  
Chris Vice Chair  
Rachel Recording secretary  
Amanda Alternate recording secretary  
Al W. Treasurer

(14 members –Faith, Lizzy, Matt, Marlena, Jean, Sharon, Lillie, Roxy, Linda)

**B) Organization of Agenda:**

1. Housekeeping – Literature Approval Process
2. Answer questions/concerns in issues packet – Issues sent into WSC for vote on the revised pamphlet “Communicating with Creditors/Debt Repayment.” – not conference-approved literature so **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE!!!**
3. Motion for concept of pamphlet on “abstinence – not debting”
4. Request to Literature Services – problems with *A Currency of Hope* – Primary Purpose, consistency, punctuation, and grammar, clarity,

relevance, diversity RE: gender, voice, and heterosexism.

C) 20 minutes organizing for small groups – break up issues packet by category

Issues Categories

1. Marlena 3- Non-Conference Approved Lit: (1, 2, 62, 41, 37) 57, 55
2. Sharon and Amanda 3 - Primary Purpose: 64, 56, 19
3. Lynda 4 - Gender Specific: 9-60, 59, 48, 15
4. Jean 4 - Definition of Debting: 56, 51, 50, 4
5. Chris and Matt 4 - Proposal for New Concept Approval: 40, 16, 15, 9 (DA & Health Issues)

The remainder of Thursday was spent in break-out groups, crafting answers to the issues that we were given by the GSB.

Friday, August 21

Agenda for the day:

1. Dealing with Creditors and Debt Repayment pamphlet review
2. BDA Signposts and Tools issue
3. Definition of debting
4. Possibility of a pamphlet on Abstinence
5. Focus for this year’s committee
6. Completion of responses to issues given to us by the GSB
7. Setting conference calls days and times
8. Spending plan for the committee
9. Training on Yahoo for group communication

**DISCUSSION OF PAMPHLET**

**“COMMUNICATING WITH CREDITORS AND DEBT REPAYMENT”**

Discussion and follow up centered on creating some minor editorial changes. The pamphlet was approved by the literature committee with changes to the section on “Debt Moratorium” as per our suggestions and agreement from the GSB to allow these changes. (See Motions section.)

**BDA SIGNPOSTS AND TOOLS**

Motion: That the WSC 2009 approve the concept of the pamphlet. This is just a housekeeping matter as this approval was overlooked last year. (See Motions section)

**DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

- A discussion and pooling of information on various understandings of our definitions.
- Highlights: The distinction between process and substance addictions, with debting being a process addiction.

- A three-part chart that began to sort out behaviors as: “Definitely debting”, “May/may not be debting”, and “Definitely not debting”
- A list of debting behaviors that had been put together previously was reviewed
- Bottom-line behaviors to be defined by HP, self, sponsor, and PRG members.

#### Action outcome

1. Follow through with this information in an article for *Ways & Means*, asking others to respond to it.
2. Make a recommendation that the *Ways & Means* produce an issue devoted to this definition.

#### POSSIBILITY OF A PAMPHLET ON ABSTINENCE

Motion to discuss concept approval was withdrawn in light of our discussion and action plan on “Definition of Debting”.

#### FOCUS FOR THIS YEAR

1. *A Currency of Hope* – decide how we will respond to GSB’s request for us to “look at it” by clarifying both our function and the function (future) of the book itself.
2. Creating a preamble for each pamphlet that could be printing on a sticker that would be pasted on the front of the pamphlet and says something like: “Recovery from debting begins when we stop incurring unsecured debt one day at a time.” We may be able to use some of our funds for this project.
3. DA Basic Text – create an action plan.
4. Compile DA slogans to put on the website.
5. Definition of abstinence article for *Ways & Means*.
6. Diversity in Recovery article for *Ways & Means*.
7. Explore ways to help GSB expedite publications.
8. Act on issues that required further investigation: i.e., #16 (Promises on a wallet-sized card) and 33 (Changing tool of ANONYMITY to tool of CONFIDENTIALITY).

We reviewed our mandate.

#### SPENDING PLAN FOR OUR COMMITTEE

Last year, we spent \$20.

This year we have \$703.49 available and have spent \$18.50 on a package of pamphlets.

The day wrapped up with downloading our responses to issues, creating a schedule for our conference calls, and training on YAHOO to facilitate our monthly conference calls.

Respectfully submitted in loving service,  
The Secretary Team  
Rachel, Lillie, Amanda, and Marlena

Issue number	Resolution
1, 2, 62, 41, 37, 57, 55	The use of non-conference approved literature, which is owned by an individual author, is a violation of Traditions 6 and 12. General Service Board does not endorse the use of non-conference approved literature at meetings. We recommend these meetings see the Board produced article, “Conference Approved Literature: Assuring Our Unity,” which is available as a free download in the service literature link on <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org">www.debtorsanonymous.org</a> This issue is being addressed both at the NY Intergroup and World Service Level.
56 (a), 51, 50, 47	Recovery from compulsive debting begins when we stop incurring new, unsecured debt, one day at a time. Unsecured debt is any debt that is not backed up by some form of collateral, such as a house or other asset. The value of the collateral ought to always be at least equal to the value of the indebtedness.
15, 48, 59 & 60	At the 2007 Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature: including literature in process, be written such 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 Steps and/or 12 Traditions would violate copyright.
64	Members of the Literature Committee feel that the current wording of DA’s primary purpose, as currently stated on the DA Website, is clear and sufficient. Individuals who disagree and wish to propose a restatement of our primary purpose should contact a DA Conference Committee member to propose a motion to change the existing wording. This motion will be considered by a future WSC.
56 (b)	DA has no official opinion on “debting that does not involve money.” “Time debting” and “self debting” are outside issues to DA’s primary purpose. We encourage your group to focus on the 12 Steps, Tools and Traditions of DA, as discussed in our literature. Also, the book, <i>A Currency of Hope</i> , was written some years ago. For more current stories from members with long term solvency, see our website.
19	DA acknowledges that Underearners Anonymous exists as a separate organization with its own literature and tools. DA also recognizes that underearning and debting are related, but that DA’s primary focus is on refraining from incurring unsecured debt, not on recovering from underearning.
3	DA acknowledges that Underearners Anonymous exists as a separate organization with its own literature and tools. DA also recognizes that underearning and debting are related, but that DA’s primary focus is on refraining from incurring unsecured debt, not on recovering from underearning. The literature committee of 2008-09 did a complete review of all pamphlets to make content consistent, as well as checking for focus on our primary purpose. We have proposed that underearning, etc., be discussed as symptoms of debting. Our recommendations will be forwarded to the General Service Board at the 2009 conference. The Underearning pamphlet is an original DA publication and there is no plan at this time to rewrite the pamphlet.”
34	The plan to create literature has been changed. Instead of giving times, the process is outlined in phases. To date, we have one piece of literature that has now passed through all three phases. All committees work within time and budget constraints, however all members of the literature creation committees do their utmost to keep these to a minimum.”
38	Thank you for your remarks. As far as production of the books that you mention, these are long, painstaking processes that are moving forward. We share your impatience to see them come to fruition.

Issue number	Resolution
13	Each group is autonomous and can, by group conscience, add whatever they consider useful to their format that is consistent with existing conference approved literature. (See PRG/PRM PAMPHLET for wording.)
14	Going to meetings and business meetings are two of our tools. It is a good idea, within the groups, to encourage newcomers to choose a home group. Because each group is autonomous, the business meetings are scheduled and handled differently by each group. Some groups schedule business meetings before, some after, and some during regular meetings. Although everyone is encouraged to attend, and any business meeting is a great learning experience and service opportunity, no one should be obligated to attend.
29	All pieces of literature were reviewed by the Literature Committee for consistency with our primary purpose. We agree with the GSB and previous conference resolutions, that abstinence is not a tool to achieve our primary purpose, abstinence IS our primary purpose. The tools exist to achieve abstinence. The Literature Committee is aware that the term 'Spending Plan' might not intrinsically include earning plans, debt payment plans, action plans, or savings plans. However, the paragraph that describes the tool does include different types of plan. In our review of the Spending Plan Pamphlet during the last year, we recommended that when the pamphlet is reprinted, it should clearly include other types of plans, however we did not include a recommendation to rename the pamphlet or the tool at this time
40	We understand the importance and urgency to provide assistance to debtors with health problems; however the Literature Committee cannot approve any new pamphlets at this time. This is due to the large number of pamphlets and three books already in process. We strongly encourage members with experience in recovering from debting while facing health issues to write articles for Ways and Means, and/or submit recovery stories to be posted online. Submissions to Ways and Means may be made by email to: <a href="mailto:waysandmeansda@hotmail.com">waysandmeansda@hotmail.com</a> , or by mail to: Ways and Means, C/O DA GSO, PO Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492. Recovery stories may be submitted by:
9	DA does not currently have any specific guidelines for how to handle catastrophic health costs, however there is a registered DA Phone Meeting which focuses on recovery for people with health issues. Details can be found on <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org">www.debtorsanonymous.org</a> .
16	The Literature committee has asked our Board Liaison to investigate whether this could be viable and cost-effective.
15, 48, 59, 60	At the 2007 Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written such 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 Steps and/or 12 Traditions would violate copyright.
55	Thanks for offering your adapted version of Steps 10 and 11. Although we understand the desire to adapt AA literature for Business Debtors Anonymous, unfortunately, it is an infringement of AA copyright. A DA Basic Text is in process, as indicated on our Literature Status Sheet.
57	The General Service Board does not endorse the use of non-conference approved literature at meetings. We recommend these meetings see the Board produced article, "Conference Approved Literature: Assuring Our Unity," which is available as a free download in the service literature link on <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org">www.debtorsanonymous.org</a>
33	The Literature committee will ask our Board Liaison to investigate whether this is viable.

**LIT SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$37.79 x number of committee members 12	\$ 453.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 703.49</b>
Expenses	
Calling cards	
Copying	
Postage	
Mailing supplies	
SET OF PAMPHLETS	18.50
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>

**7. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

2009 WSC PI Committee Meeting  
 First Meeting 8/20/09 2:30 p.m.

**ACTION ITEM:** We need clarification from the Board as to exactly what the \$3,000 is earmarked for.

**AGENDA and NOTES**

**I. Introductions:**

- Mari from NYC
- Leanne from Chicago, IL
- Susie from Seattle, WA
- Mary from Mountain View, CA
- Laura from Brookline, MA
- Darcy from Houston
- Eileen, Long Island, NY
- Deb from NYC
- James, Trustee, from Long Beach, CA, GSB Liaison
- Michael C. from CA
- Shoshana from Corte Madera, CA
- Debi, from New Jersey
- Marcy, from NYC
- Victoria, from London
- Tehilla, from Chicago
- Laura from San Diego
- Jerry K. from Minnesota

II. We said the Serenity Prayer

III. We read the Mission Statement for the PI committee: The PI Committee interfaces with the media, helping professionals, and the general public in person, on the telephone and through written information. The PI committee has:

- Produced a PI Manual
- Created sample Public Service Announcements.

Question: What is the difference between WSC PI Committee and local PI people/committees: it seems like for now each group at a local level functions individually. Did not discuss this question in detail.

IV. House keeping/announcements

- a) Review Robert's Rules
- b) Note rotation recommendations: suggested 3 years max

V. Overview of committee process and WSC

Convocation

- a) Recommendations vs. motions vs. resolutions
- b) Define # of members to create committee
- c) Define a quorum here at WSC and through the year

VI. How the GSB can help your committee accomplish the work

- a) Communicate w/ GSB through liaison: It should all go through James, our trustee from the GSB
- b) Note that any requests for action by the GAS or GSO such as mailing a letter or survey to DA groups must be approved by GSB before implementation
- c) Your liaison will help getting your work and reports into *The DA Focus*, *W&M*, DA website, and mailed to DA groups

VII. Elections of committee officers

- a) Read job description and recommended qualifications for each position
- b) Review term of service/commitment; report back at following WSC
- c) Elect chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer
  - Chairperson: Laura was voted in.
  - Secretary: Shoshana was voted in.
  - Vice Chair: Susy was voted in.
  - Treasurer: Mary was voted in.
- d) Secretary begins recording proceedings
- e) Roster. Michael passed around computer for people to enter their names, addresses, emails
- f) Pending Plan

VIII. Read Previous Committees Minutes and Reports  
Reviewed page 4 of the 2008 WSC report on PI Committee.

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

**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.

PI Recommendations:

1. That the Literature Committee consider doing a pamphlet on group sponsorship
2. To the GSB to put the Literature Grant information on Website.

IX. Went over the PI Manual (revised in 3/2006)

- Walked through the headings of the PI Manual
- How do we best utilize all the good information we've already got at hand?

James Q. gave report on Questions and Requests that came from Board PI committee (not mandates, just ideas)

- Respond to the issue of concern: Why is HIP not a PI subcommittee? (Mandated to respond)
- The GSB PI Committee wants the PI committee to do follow-up calls on the 45-50 letters that were sent to mental health professionals on August 10, 2009 (suggested not mandated)
- Provide GSB with 100 radio station managers and GSB will send them the PSAs, including college radio stations
- \$3,000 for trade show: which one do we recommend?

Group Brainstorm for Activities this year:

- Social media to carry the word
- College students
- Senior citizens
- Internet radio
- Get listed on talk show websites
- Employee Assistance Programs
- Marriage and Family therapists (MFCC)
- Treatment Centers mandate meetings daily: many treatment centers don't know about DA
- Faces Conferences
- American Psychiatric Association
- NADAC (Nat. Assoc. of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counselors)
- Starting local and regional PI committees
- The courts and lawyers
- Foreclosures
- CLC: consolidated legal services
- WSC for Dummies (FCC)
- Listings in Phone Books
- Webinars

- Blogs
- What is debting?
- Change PI Mission Statement, to include anonymity: this would require a motion to the conference
- Carry forward the Hispanic flyer; do Hispanic outreach
- 12-signs posters that can be widely distributed
- Carry message to under-earners
- Create video for the website

Buckets of Our Ideas

REMEMBER ANONYMITY: As an overarching focus.

1. Board Mandated/Strongly Suggested:
  - a) Respond to the issue of concern: Why is HIP not a PI subcommittee? (Mandated to respond)
  - b) The GSB PI Committee wants the PI committee to do follow-up calls on the 45-50 letters that were sent to mental health professionals on August 10, 2009 (suggested, not mandated)
  - c) Provide GSB with 100 radio station managers and GSB will send them the PSAs, including college radio stations
  - d) \$3,000 for trade show: which one do we recommend?
2. Social media: Blog, Webinar, Internet radio, Twitter
3. Audiences
  - EAPs
  - USO
  - MFT
  - Courts and lawyers
  - Faces Conferences
  - Treatment Centers
  - Am Psych Association
  - Graduate Schools
  - 211 and Crisis Lines
  - Chaplains
  - NADAC
  - Seniors
  - College Students
  - Under-earners
  - Unemployment Office
  - Financial Aid Offices
3. Un-bucketed
  - Local & Regional PI Committees; 12-signs posters; Listings in phonebooks
  - Foreclosures
  - What is Debting

Recommendations to FCC: WSC for Dummies  
 We want to use the existing yahoo group for this committee. We need to un-invite last year's committee members and invite this year's members.

**Motion: We decided to postpone deciding on the final categories and subgroups for the coming year.**

When we come back we'll talk more specifically about each idea, to help us get clearer and narrow it down.

Evening Session 8/20/09 7:00 p.m.

Opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer

Additional Buckets:

- Service to DA
- HIP-PI Question
- Follow-up Calls
- PSA Contacts – local and college radio
- Guidelines for Anonymity in PI work
- Service to local/regional PI Groups
  - 12- signpost posters
  - Phone directory listings
  - Etc.
- Media Contact Training
- WSC for Dummies – recommend to FCC
- Influencer/Helping Professionals
  - Counselors
  - Chaplains & clergy
  - Health professionals
  - Lawyers
  - Etc.

VOTING

Everyone has two votes on which of these groups they want to serve this year as public audience of our message:

Serve Debtors who are:

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| a) Spanish speakers/Asians:      | 6 |
| b) Students (18-24 year olds):   | 8 |
| c) Senior Citizens:              | 4 |
| d) Military:                     | 0 |
| e) Chronically or Extremely Ill: | 2 |
| f) Unemployed:                   | 5 |
| g) Foreclosed:                   | 1 |
| h) "Normal" adults:              | 0 |
| i) Underearners:                 | 0 |

Top Populations:

1. Students
2. Spanish Speakers/Asians
3. Unemployed

Once we know what populations we want to address, then we can decide.

"We have a PSA CD that's underutilized" Howard



**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That we choose our top three demographics to focus on for the year: 11 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstentions.**

**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That we have three subcommittees and that they be the three different demographics that we just voted on. (Spanish/Asian, Students, Unemployed).**

Friendly amendment: We create the 3 subcommittees, and before we start work on these subcommittees, as a group we do our required service to DA as requested by the [Sentence unfinished]. **VOTE: 6 yes; 6 no; 1 abstention. Chair broke the tie with a “no.”**

Friendly amendment: We have 4 subcommittees, 3 for the demographics and one for service to DA. This friendly amendment was not accepted.

**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That we have 4 subcommittees, students, Spanish speakers/Asians, unemployed and the service obligations to DA, including everything on the DA service sheet. VOTE: Yes: 2; No: 8; Abstentions: 3. Motion does not carry.**

**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That we make the three demographics subcommittees and attend to the GSB mandates/recommendations first.**

Very long discussion....Chair: We need to do the 3 for and 3 against and then vote. We took 3 comments for We took 3 comments against. **VOTE: In Favor: 7; Against: 5; Abstention: 4. With four abstentions we don't have unanimity.**

We have 16 voting members.

**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That half of the qualified voting members present on the roster constitutes a quorum for the year so we can hold a vote (half is currently 8, at this moment). This means we have to have at least 8 at any meeting in order to conduct a vote. YES: 15; NO: 0; Abstention: 1.**

Service to the local PI groups is not checked and is not part of the GSB mandate.

BREAK

GROUP Conscience: All in favor of doing the group calls as requested by GSB, with these questions:

- Have you gotten the letter?
- Do you have any questions about it?
- Do you need any more information? (Thanks for your interest and we will get back to you.)

**VOTE: Yes: 16 (unanimous);**

Timing: discussion about us taking 30 days before we make the calls. What kind of information is available and do they pay for it.

Agenda Items for Tomorrow Friday 8/21:  
Role play/training to prepare for the follow-up calls

Friday August 21, 2009 meeting minutes

Agenda Items

**Motion: Decide on day and time for our regular meeting.** The PI committee call will be a 1-hour once a month at the following time: 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time on the first Sunday of the month; 11:00 a.m. Central Time; Noon Eastern time; 5:00 GMT. **VOTE on the time: 15 Yes, 0 No; 0 Abstentions.**

In September we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, 9/13/09; October 4, Nov 8, Dec 6, Jan 3, Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, July 4.

Paltalk: possible website that we could use for our calls. You can see who's on the call; has functions where you can virtually raise a hand to get recognized; you can do some text messages. We could experiment with this for our conference calls. [www.paltalk.com](http://www.paltalk.com)

**MOTION: To change the amount of members that we need for a quorum such that 5 people constitutes a quorum. VOTE: Yes – 15; No: 0; Abstention: 1. Motion Passes.** Quorum is changed to 5. James: it's good to have a quorum set to avoid controversy in the future. This means that if 4 or less people are on a call we can't vote.

**MOTION: That we have simple majority of voting members to pass a motion. VOTE: Yes: 16; Unanimous; No: 0; Abstentions: 0.**

What we need to do today:

1. Address the GSB issue
2. Respond to the follow-up calls to the letter
3. Set priorities
4. Form subcommittees
5. Get minutes, motions, and/or recommendations to Willie (LA) by 6:00 today

**MOTION: That we do the following things before Noon today:**

1. Address HIP PI Question
2. Divvy up the f/up calls
3. And begin working on the list of recommendations and motions we'd like to give to Willie (LA), but not have a time limit on it. **VOTE: Yes: 11; No: 2; Abstentions: 3.**

Friendly amendment #1: that it be the recommendations and the motions to Willie (LA): accepted.

Friendly amendment #2: that we take the f/up calls off the list: not accepted.

Friendly amendment #3: Add the word “begin” to working on the recommendations: accepted.

### 1. HIP PI ISSUE

Why is the HIP committee a committee in its own right and not part of the PI committee?

**MOTION: To draft our response to this issue: We respect the member’s need for clarity about the separation of HIP from PI. In looking to the definition of the 2 committees we noted that HIP is focused on reaching debtors who are confined in institutions while PI is focused on reaching professionals and the general public.**

**On paper it looks as though HIP can fall under PI, but on closer look we recognize that the issues of HIP are so extensive that they require special attention and could possibly get lost in the PI committee and fall through the cracks. We look to AA’s example to learn that these two committees are kept separate because HIP is a very defined area that takes a great deal of expertise and training to address.** VOTE: Yes: 16; Unanimous; No: 0.

We can speak to this in our verbal report: As an example, it has taken AA all these years to come up with *The Grapevine* without staples in them so that they can be taken to prisons.

MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: All PI and written information and media are available to HIP upon their request. Motion withdrawn because it’s understood.

### 2. Divvy up the f/up calls

We will take the list and assign our names. We can then copy it and pass it around to everyone. We should call no more than two times if they don’t answer.

**MOTION: We create a 3-4 line script for the phone calls.** VOTE: Yes: 13; No: 1; Abstentions:

If we come up with a simple script, it’s okay to say, “I don’t know, let me get back to you.”

Draft Voicemail Script: Have a copy of the letter and the Public Information Manual in front of you.

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I’m with the Public Information committee of the 12-Step fellowship Debtors Anonymous. I’m following with up on an outreach letter along with some informational materials we recently sent to you. If you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please call our General Service Office at 781.453.2743 or visit the website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

Draft Live Script:

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I’m with the Public Information committee of the 12-Step fellowship Debtors Anonymous. I’m following with up on an outreach letter along with some informational materials we recently sent to you. Did you receive that?

IF YES:

IF NO:

How we will track our results? Jerry has offered to have everyone send their results to him and he will put together a spreadsheet.

3. Begin working on the list of recommendations and motions we’d like to give to Willie, but not have a time limit on it.

Motion = action must be taken

Recommendation = it’s the Board’s option about whether they take action on it.

The subcommittees determine the recommendations and motions

There will be a media training on Aug 24 & 25 or 25/26 done by Peter K. These calls will train people on how to deal with the media. 4:30-5:30 EST ?? Needs to be confirmed. Laura will send the information out and ask members of our committee to disseminate it.

Responsibility to the Board: We have been asked to provide a list of 100 local and college radio stations and get them back to the GSB so that the GSO can send out the PSA on disk to these stations.

**MOTION: with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: That we move forward and take care of the business requested by the board to find 100 PSA contacts in radio.** VOTE: Yes: 13; No: 1; Abstentions: 1. Motion Passes

A member thinks this is something one person can do on the web with a couple of clicks. Another member likes the idea of splitting it up. See who’s interested in this and divide it up by the number of people interested.

Question: What does “local” mean?

Not all radio contacts will do PSAs. Typically commercial radio does not do PSAs. Every radio station has to give a certain amount of air time to airing public announcements by law. It’s mandated by the FCC. Idea: can each of us find 7 contacts in our communities?

**MOTION: Michael retrieves that list of 100 college radio stations and we send them to James as a**

**response to the Board request today.** VOTE: YES:

14; NO: 1; Abstentions: 0. Motion passes.

**MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: Postpone discussing the guidelines for anonymity until we've read the entire service manual, the other materials on anonymity and the anonymity pamphlet from AA.** VOTE: YES: 14; NO: 0; Abstentions: 1. Motion passes

MOTION: with a 2<sup>nd</sup> – Withdrawn. That we create 4 subcommittees -- PI Groups, Spanish/Asian, Students, Unemployed.

MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: We form three subcommittees:

1. Regional PI
2. Helping Professionals
3. Media

Each subcommittee would then focus on all the three demographics of Spanish/Asian, Students, Unemployed. VOTE: YES: 14; NO: 2; Abstentions: 0.

#### SUBCOMMITTEES:

Group 1: Local/Regional Public Information Groups

- Tehilla
- Susie
- Eileen
- Jerry
- Shoshana
- Debi

Group 2: Helping Professionals

- Deb
- Michael A
- Virginia
- Leann
- Mary

Group 3: Media

1. Azul
2. Victoria
3. Darcy
4. Mad Media Michael
5. Marcy
6. Leann
7. Shoshana

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM the THREE SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Service to Local and Regional PI Groups
2. Helping Professionals
3. Media

##### 1. Service to Local and Regional PI Groups

- A kit for how to start a PI committee
- A training for local PI people
- Recommendation: That WSC suggest that every local group have a PI person.

Each committee member is going to visit the other groups in their area to explain the benefits of having a PI person and hoping to attract them to create a PI position

##### Three Motions for the Board:

1. We move that the GSB create a Spanish language PSA
2. In alignment with the vision for the proposed Five Year Plan for the fellowship of DA, we move that all DA meetings, groups and intergroups fill or create a Public Information Service position.
3. We move to create a Public Information Kit from the following resources (take from page 6 of the PI Manual, except for #1 should be a listing of the traditions) and make it available for sale through the GSO literature sales office.

##### 2. Helping Professionals

- Focused on the 3 subgroups
- Think globally, act locally principle
  - Go to job fairs for the EAPA – Employee Assistance Professional Association
  - Hispanic Dental Association Convention
  - Will probably make a recommendation for Freshman Orientation Day: have a booth. Send out a letter from WSO to all college campuses and make a request. That requires PI to be trained and go from different areas to service this opportunity.

##### Downscale Version

Local Activities:

- Each member will pick a campus in their local area and send a letter requesting to do a public information event, a speaking event or included in freshman orientation.
- Might start with a pilot group from the Helping Professionals subcommittee.
- Write a letter to the Catholic Charities of Orange County offering a Public Information Night for Vietnamese and Hispanic communities and whoever else would like to attend. We would like to express interest in serving underserved communities.
- Public information outreach to non-profit transition/helping groups. Homeless transition groups, single mothers
- We recommend that ALL groups elect a PI person.

##### 3. Media

Five Year Plan – Goal #1: Attract New Members to DA

Anyone will be able to find a meeting...using a computer

Big Audacious Goals

1. Pitch stories to major media – English and Spanish (All demographics)
2. Develop a new DA Press Kit: Press releases and Public Service Announcements
3. Develop a presence in New and social media (All demographics, especially students) and find the means, with the guidance of the GSO board, for someone to manage DA’s social media presence:
  - a. Facebook
  - b. Twitter
  - c. YouTube – English and Spanish
  - d. Wikipedia – Monitor and update with existing conference approved content.
  - e. Increase links to DA website on other websites, including recovery, self-help, and governmental websites.
4. Take first steps towards translating press kit into Chinese and other Asian languages.

Recommendations:

1. New DA website should be programmed to include a media page with links for downloading press releases and PSAs.
2. In planning to increase GSO staff, consideration be given to assure that staff has skills and time to handle an increasing volume of media inquiries, as well as manage social media presence.
3. GSB should review existing DA PSAs to determine if it/they are still acceptable for distribution.
4. We recommend that the GSB fund the use of a public relations wire service to help spread DA information to the debtors who still suffer. Such a service can distribute a press release to approximately 10,000 news outlets, including daily newspapers, radio and TV, and internet-based news outlets for about \$1,000. We urge the GSB to make this a line-item expense in next year’s budget.

MOTIONS to accept the Media Subcommittee’s recommendation

MEDIA Subcommittee Recommendation #1 to the Board to review Line Item Budget for PR Wire Service. YES: 14; NO: 0; ABST: 1.

MEDIA Subcommittee Recommendation #2 to the GSB: GSB should review existing DA PSAs to determine if they are still acceptable for distribution. Amendment: And subsequently create a Spanish language PSA. (i.e., are they timely?). YES: 12; NO: 0; ABST: 0. Motion carries.

Amendment: YES: 15; NO: 1; ABST: 0; Motion carries.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATION #3 to the GSB: In planning to increase GSO staff, consideration be

given to assure that staff has skills and time to handle an increasing volume of media inquiries, as well as manage social media presence. YES: 13; NO: 0; ABST: 1.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATION #4 to the GSB: New DA website should be programmed to include a media page with links for downloading press releases and PSAs. YES: 14; NO: 2; ABST: 0.

ACTION ITEM: We need clarification from the Board as to exactly what the \$3,000 is earmarked for.

MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: To accept the spending plan as stated. Expenses: \$845; Contingencies \$47.44; Total: \$892.44. YES: 16 Unanimous. NO: 0; ABST: 0.

MOTION: Please accept these amendments to the spending plan. YES: 15; NO: 0. Abstention: 1. The spending plan is accepted as amended.

MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: To extend this meeting for 15 minutes until 5:00. YES: 15 Unanimous. Passes unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OUTREACH TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL PI’S

Three Motions for the Board that we have to vote on.

MOTION: 1. In alignment with the vision for the proposed Five Year Plan for the fellowship of DA, we move that all DA meetings, groups and intergroups be encouraged to fill or create a Public Information Service position. YES: 16 unanimous. Motion carries unanimously.

3. We move that a Public Information Kit be created from the following resources (see 6 of the PI Manual, except for #1 should be a listing of the traditions) and make it available for sale through the GSO literature sales process. MOTION WITHDRAWN by the subcommittee.

MOTION with a 2<sup>nd</sup>: To extend the meeting until we complete our votes on the proposed motions and recommendations. YES: 12; NO: 1. ABST: 0. Motion to extend the meeting carries.

1 MOTION: 1. In alignment with the vision for the proposed 5 year plan for the fellowship of DA, we move that all DA meetings, groups and intergroups be encouraged to fill or create a Public Information Service position. YES: 16 unanimous. Motion carries unanimously.

Recommendations (continued)

5. New DA website should be programmed to include a media page with links for downloading press releases and PSAs.
6. In planning to increase GSO staff, consideration be given to assure that staff has skills and time to handle an increasing volume of media inquiries, and manage DA’s growing social media presence.
7. GSB should review existing DA PSAs to determine if it/they are still acceptable for distribution.
8. We recommend that the GSB fund the use of a public relations wire service to help spread DA information to the debtors who still suffer. Such a service can distribute a press release to approximately 10,000 news outlets, including daily newspapers, radio and TV, and internet-based news outlets for about \$1,000. We urge the GSB to make this a line-item expense in next year’s budget.

MEDIA Subcommittee Recommendation #1 to the Board to review Line Item Budget for PR Wire Service

#2 to the GSB: GSB should review existing DA PSAs to determine if they are still acceptable for distribution. Amendment: And subsequently create a Spanish language PSA. (i.e., are they timely?).

#3 to the GSB: In planning to increase GSO staff, consideration be given to assure that staff has skills and time to handle an increasing volume of media inquiries, as well as manage social media presence.

#4 to the GSB: New DA website should be programmed to include a media page with links for downloading press releases and PSAs.

Issue number	Resolution
09-39 HIP and PI	<p>We respect the member’s need for clarity about the separation of HIP from PI. In looking to the definition of the 2 committees we noted that HIP is focused on reaching debtors who are confined in institutions while PI is focused on reaching professionals and the general public.</p> <p>On paper it looks as though HIP can fall under PI, but on closer look we recognize that the issues of HIP are so extensive that they require special attention and could possibly get lost in the PI committee and fall through the cracks. We look to AA’s example to learn that these two committees are kept separate because HIP is a very defined area that takes a great deal of expertise and training to address.</p>

**PI SPENDING PLAN**

Income			
Spending plan allocation		\$ 250.00	
\$37.79 x number of committee members (17)		\$ 642.44	
Total income		\$ 892.44	
Expenses			
Subcommittees	Media	Helping Profs.	Local PI
Calling cards	50.00		20.00
Copying			100.00
Postage			
Mailing supplies	150.00	75.00	
Wire Service for press releases			
500 Business Cards		50.00	
100 Spanish Pamphlets		100.00	
Travel to do PI outreach to college campuses		125.00	
General Literature Supplies (postage included)		75.00	100.00
	200.00	425.00	220.00
Total expenses		\$ 845.00	
Contingency		47.44	
Difference		\$ 0.00	

**8. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Resource Development Committee convened at 2:30 pm, Thursday, August 20.

We reviewed past issues, new issues from the Fellowship, and issues raised by the Committee members.

Election of Officers:

**Motion: Megan P. moved to reduce from 12 months to 8 months of abstinence the requirement to serve as Chair for the current year.** Seconded by Tim G. Approved by 5 in favor and 2 abstentions.

- Michael M. was nominated by Megan as Chair and Tim seconded. Nomination was approved by unanimous vote.

- Tim G. volunteered to serve as Vice Chair and was approved unanimously.
- Robert P. volunteered to serve as Secretary and was approved unanimously.
- Rosemarie volunteered to serve as Treasurer and was approved unanimously.

Other initial members: Maya, Mari, Megan P., Michael C., Michael A., and Mary.

2008 Issues Discussion: There was a thorough review and discussion of Issues 76-86 raised at the 2008 WSC. Summary of 2008 Issues to be addressed by 2009 Committee:

- Opening a group bank account process. Peggy R., GSB Liaison, to determine whether already addressed.
- Key Theme: Increasing 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions from meetings.
- Defining 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions by members
- Quantifying what contributions are used for by GSO to clarify for members and answer their questions.

**Motion: Robert moved to make as a 2009 Committee priority clarifying the uses of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition and discussing how to quantify dollar amounts and ways to communicate that information to the Fellowship.** Michael A. seconded. Approved unanimously.

Discussion of issues from the Fellowship continued.

**Motion: At 5:00 p.m., Tim G. moved to extend the meeting to 5:15 p.m.** Robert seconded. Vote shows no substantial unanimity so meeting went into recess until 6:45 p.m.

SESSION #2, 6:55 p.m. Called to order by Michael M., Chair.

Discussed issues given to GSB by the Fellowship and issues raised by Committee members.

**Motion: Robert moved that the Committee address Fellowship-raised issues numbers 1, 2, and 3 with short paragraph responses.** Tim G. seconded. Approved unanimously.

1. DA as a whole does not support DA does (sic) sponsored events, why? My group sponsored an event to raise funds to send our GSR to the WSC. The event was heavily advertised through DA venues and only six people showed up.
  1. After thorough discussion, Maya agreed to draft a response paragraph, as follows:
    - i. According to Tradition Six, "A DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our

primary purpose." Hence DA as a whole cannot endorse a special event. However, since individual DA groups sometimes have a special event outside of the normal meeting time, a new piece of DA service literature, A Guide to Special Events, was created and is now available as a free download on the DA website. This document provides guidance for DA groups that hold special events, on how to do so in alignment with the 12 Traditions of DA. The pamphlet also gives practical guidance on how to use the 12 Steps and the 12 Tools of DA to have a successful event.

2. Why do larger, established DA groups not offer support to smaller groups that are struggling?
  - a) After thorough discussion, Mari agreed to draft a response paragraph to be discussed Friday morning. During Friday morning's session, Mari's draft was reviewed and revised. Mari moved to accept the amended response as stated below. Rosemarie seconded. Approved unanimously.
    - i. The Resource Development Committee (RDC) recognizes that this concern takes on a broad range of interpretations. The RDC suggests the following resources for consideration:
      1. The Intergroup Caucus is currently considering the development of a mentoring program wherein an established meeting group can mentor a fledgling or struggling group.
      2. Additionally, DA has a "Literature Grant" program which can provide a one-time grant of literature to struggling or new DA groups.
3. Issue concerned DA adopting PayPal as one payment option for online 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions and literature orders at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).
  - a. After thorough discussion, Robert agreed to draft a response, as follows:
    - i. The General Service Board has appointed an ad hoc Committee to work with the General Service Office to develop and conduct a pilot program for E-commerce-based contributions and transactions. After review on Friday a.m., Tim G. moved to accept. Robert seconded. Approved unanimously.

Committee recessed at 9 p.m. to reconvene at 8:45 a.m., Friday, August 21.

Session 3: Committee reconvened at 8:55 a.m., Friday, August 21. Attendees on Final Roster: Michael M., Tim G., Robert P., Rosemarie W., Maya G., Mari, and GSB Liaison Peggy R.

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and corrected. Tim G. moved to accept the minutes as revised. Mari seconded. Accepted unanimously.

2009 Meeting Calendar: Meetings will be held by conference calls on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 8 p.m., EST., 5 p.m. PST.

Formal Response to issue relating to Board service and burnout: Rosemarie drafted the response presented in Issue #4 below and the committee discussed and revised it. Tim G. moved to accept the formal response to the issue relating to the Board service and potential for burnout. Mari seconded. Unanimously approved.

Issue #4: "Forbid the Board from carrying out ANY service until ALL trustee positions are filled...The fellowship as a whole must stop promoting overworking at the Board level."

Response: "Based on the Conference Charter of DA and Concepts VI, VII, and VIII of DA World Service, the GSB is authorized to take appropriate action if the quorum requirement is met: There is no specific minimum number of Trustees required for the GSB to conduct its business.

"The Resource Development Committee acknowledges the concerns of the writer who, in part, appears to address the issue of service and potential for service burnout. An aspect of the RDC's mission is to increase and strengthen membership and re-emphasize the importance and necessity of individual and group service. It reads: "Encouraging member participation in service at all levels."

**Motion: 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Flyer Distribution at WSC: Maya moved to distribute to all GSRs at the WSC a small flyer with the new 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition announcement and a short preamble discussing the announcement.** Mari seconded. Approved unanimously. Maya volunteered to prepare the wording and Mari volunteered to design the flyer. They will present the flyer to the afternoon session.

Specific Responses to Question on Why Groups Should Send Money to the GSO: After thorough discussion, Rosemarie moved that the Committee address specific responses to the question "Why should my group send money to the GSO?" during the coming year. Maya seconded. Motion carried 4-1.

#### Questions to Address during Committee Meetings during the Coming Year:

1. Why should my groups send money to the GSO?
2. Why don't prosperous members give more?
3. How do we encourage long-term members to stay as members and give back to the program?
4. How do we keep track of long-term members?
5. Why is AA literature cheaper than DA literature?
6. Is there more to DA than my meeting?

7. Why doesn't my meeting contribute to the Intergroup, the General Service Office?
8. Why do we want our meeting to be fully self-supporting?
9. Why isn't my group listed in the online DA meeting list?
10. How can our group increase our self-support for our meeting?
11. How can we generate money ourselves (as a group)?
  - a. Hold a PRG for your meeting
  - b. Develop clarity around your spending plan
12. What if my group does NOT have either a Treasurer or a bank account?

#### Committee Action Items for Coming Year

- Discussion of methods to increase 7th Tradition contributions through the following DA-based media: E-News, *The DA Focus*, *Ways & Means*, Website, and index-sized card added to envelope with GSO receipts for contributions.
- Discussion of how to encourage contributions from all registered groups who have not contributed through a survey to gather information and other positive means.
- Revision and distribution of John Henderson Scholarship letter by January or earlier.
- Revision and distribution of World Service Month letter and flyer by February or earlier.

Afternoon Session, Friday, August 21, 2009

**Motion: Maya moved to distribute a small flyer with the new 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition statement and a short preamble to all GSRs present at the World Service Conference.** Mari seconded. Approved unanimously.

Flyer draft submitted to the Board for review and approval. Flyer approved by the GSB with minor changes, revisions made, and copies made for distribution during Convocation.

Question Recommendations Considered: In partial response to the question about "why larger groups do not support smaller groups," the RDC considered two recommendations to present in its Conference Report. Mari moved to accept two recommendations stated as follows. Rosemarie seconded. After discussion, Tim G. moved to accept friendly amendments and revised wording. Mari seconded. Approved unanimously:

1. [That] The Fellowship Communication Committee publicizes the Literature Grant program for new and struggling meetings to the DA Fellowship through appropriate means.
2. [That] The General Service Board posts information about and a point of contact for the Literature Grant program on the DA website under the How to Start a Meeting web page.

Financial Recommendation: Robert moved and Rosemarie seconded a motion to approve a

recommendation to the GSB. After thorough discussion, the motion was carried by a 4-1 vote. The recommendation is as follows:

- In conjunction with the Debtors Anonymous Five Year Plan, the Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board continues to explore ways to ensure that the Fellowship is financially secure through self-support and prudent financial management.

**Spending Plan Approval:** After consultation with the GSB Liaison, the Committee discussed its spending plan. The draft spending plan exceeded the amount allocated by the GSB totaling \$476.74. A motion was made by Mari and seconded by Maya to request that the Board allocate an additional \$65 for the 2009 RDC Spending Plan. Motion was approved unanimously. Then, Maya moved to approve and Tim seconded the 2009 RDC Spending Plan. Approved unanimously.

GSB Liaison encouraged RDC to ensure its Spending Plan remained within the allocated amount.

Meeting recessed at 5 p.m. to reconvene at 6:45 a.m., Saturday, August 22.

Issue number	Resolution
1	<p>According to Tradition Six, "A D.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the D.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." Hence D.A. as a whole cannot endorse a special event.</p> <p>However, since individual D.A. groups sometimes have a special event outside of the normal meeting time, a new piece of D.A. service literature, <i>A Guide to Special Events</i>, was created and is now available as a free download on the D.A. website. This document provides guidance for D.A. groups that hold special events, on how to do so in alignment with the 12 Traditions of D.A. The pamphlet also gives practical guidance on how to use the 12 Steps and the 12 Tools of D.A. to have a successful event.</p>

Issue number	Resolution
2	<p>The Resource Development Committee (RDC) recognizes that this concern takes on a broad range of interpretations. The RDC suggests the following resources for consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Intergroup Caucus is currently considering the development of a mentoring program wherein an established meeting group can mentor a fledgling or struggling group.</li> <li>2. Additionally, DA has a "Literature Grant" program which can provide a one-time grant of literature to struggling or new D.A. groups.</li> </ol>
3	<p>The General Service Board has appointed an ad hoc Committee to work with the General Service Office to develop and conduct a pilot program for E-commerce-based contributions and transactions.</p>
4	<p>Based on the Conference Charter of DA and Concepts VI, VII, and VIII of DA World Service, the GSB is authorized to take appropriate action if the quorum requirement is met: There is no specific minimum number of Trustees required for the GSB to conduct its business.</p> <p>The Resource Development Committee acknowledges the concerns of the writer who, in part, appears to address the issue of service and potential for service burnout. An aspect of the RDC's mission is to increase and strengthen membership and re-emphasize the importance and necessity of individual and group service. It reads: "Encouraging member participation in service at all levels."</p>

**RDC SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
\$ 37.79 x number of committee members (6)	226.74
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 476.74</b>
Expenses	
Copying	171.87
Postage	304.87
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 476.74</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>



## SECTION 5

### WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MINUTES

#### 1. DIVERSITY CAUCUS MINUTES

Diversity Caucus Minutes—August 20, 2009

People in attendance: Dani (Chair), Lynda (Secretary), Elena (Treasurer), John, Michael, Lillie, and James Q. (GSB Liaison)

Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer. Introductions of new and returning caucus members made. Lynda recounted brief history of Diversity Caucus to the group, and projects caucus worked during the year. She passed out emails pertaining to those projects.

Each caucus member stated why they joined the caucus and talked about diversity related issues:

Lillie—talked about refining what diversity is.

Michael—lives in San Francisco but says meetings there don't reflect the diversity of the city.

Elena—says predominantly LGBT community attends the BDA meeting in Arizona.

Dani—lives in Oakland—says meetings have some diversity but generally don't reflect the true diversity of the city.

John—talked about Japanese community and cultural mores.

Conversation turned to possible populations to outreach, such as the following:

- Populations reflecting surrounding communities
- Populations with English as second language
- People with disabilities
- Immigrant communities
- Young people (Michael said the PI Committee is reaching out to colleges this year)
- Single/young parents (issues related to this population include difficulties with childcare, financial issues, kids at meetings that may not be welcome, sharing daycare.)
- Orthodox Jewish communities
- Ethnic groups and other insular communities that don't feel comfortable sharing at meetings

It was mentioned that the caucus ought to be a resource to the various DA committees.

**Motion was made by Lynda that caucus work on diversity-related questions brought up earlier in the year and submit those questions to the GSB for approval.** Motion passed.

**Motion was made by to set up a monthly call schedule.** Motion passed.

Lynda recommended that the caucus target different demographic groups based on the conversation the caucus just had.

Elena mentioned spending plan—said we need to come up with plan by tomorrow. James Q. mentioned that caucus will get 250.00 for plan. **John made a motion to submit a plausible spending plan.** Motion passed.

Motion was made to close meeting. Motion passed. Meeting closed with Serenity Prayer.

Minutes—August 22, 2009

People in attendance: Dani, Lynda, John, Michael, and James Q.

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer.

Lynda passed around minutes from August 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Caucus read minutes and approved them with some minor revisions.

Elena said she submitted caucus spending plan to GSB Treasurer (see attached plan.)

Dani mentioned that Beth P. had to step down as Vice Chair. Elena made motion to nominate John as Vice Chair—motion seconded—John was voted in as Vice Chair.

John S. suggested that first sentence of Caucus mission statement be eliminated since Caucus has been in existence since 2007 and is no longer a new one. James Q. said that a committee would need to make a motion to eliminate sentence. After much discussion, **John made motion that Caucus recommends the first sentence be eliminated from the Caucus' mission statement.** Motion passed.

Caucus then discussed next action steps to take as a group and individually—group discussed scheduling conference calls throughout the year. Caucus passed a motion to have a conference call on a Tuesday 6:30PM PST pending availability—also that most of the communication would be by email.

Dani and Elena mentioned idea of diversity webpage. There are currently recovery stories on the DA website—the Caucus could submit individual stories for site. James Q. mentioned that the GSB is looking for long term recovery stories for website. Elena mentioned that a possible webpage may be a violation of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Caucus is taking idea under further advisement.

John said he would research AA diversity-related literature and attend a gay/lesbian meeting. Dani will investigate a letter of intent about Braille literature and send it to James Q.; she will also research meeting formats in Spanish. Michael said that PI Committee is going to schools and job fairs and will reach out to underserved populations and locations. Lynda will talk to Denise B. (former chair of PI’s Diversity Subcommittee) about getting DA diversity stories from her since Denise did do some interviews in the past with diverse DA members.

Motion made to close meeting. Motion passed. Members closed meeting with Serenity Prayer.

**DIVERSITY CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Expenses	
Copying	45.00
Postage	45.00
Literature	160.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 250.00</b>
Difference	\$ 0.00

**2. INTERGROUP CAUCUS MINUTES**

Minutes of WSC Intergroup Caucus Meeting  
Initial Meeting August 19, 2009, 9:30 – 10:20 PM

Each member introduced themselves, said where they’re from and a little about their intergroup and experience.

Officers Elected

Chair Peggy H  
Vice Chair John S

Secretary Mary C  
Treasurer Monica A  
GSB Liaison Jan S

Motion made and passed by general consent: to extend meeting by 20 minutes since we started late.

Sign-in sheet was passed around to create Caucus roster for 2009-10.

Discussion of Yahoo Groups and how to use them while honoring the Traditions.

Discussion of what our group priorities will be for coming year.

Motion made and passed by general consent:  
Homework assigned: Each member to bring their top three agenda items for what they want to accomplish as a group in the coming year.

Motion to adjourn passed by consent.  
Meeting closed with Serenity Prayer at 10:20 pm

Minutes of WSC Intergroup Caucus Meeting  
August 20, 2009, 9:00 – 10:00 PM

Attended by: Peggy H., Mary C., Monica A., Mary S., Willie W. (Seattle), Lawanda, Rena, Franklin, and GSB Liaison Jan S.

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer

Motion made and passed by general consent: Willie W. (Seattle) was elected as Vice Chairman to replace John S. who resigned.

Both Monica and Willie W. (Seattle) know how to use Yahoo Groups and are available to help set up the Intergroup Caucus Yahoo Group for file sharing during the coming year.

Each member shared their top three agenda items for what they want to accomplish as a group in the coming year. Items suggested included:

1. Doing more Intergroup Caucus surveys
2. Sharing information and interaction between Intergroups (4 votes)
3. Localization: stronger meetings support struggling meetings, need for intergroups to offer internal support among meetings. (3 votes)
4. Help to resolve power struggles
5. How to instill commitment, responsibility and leadership skills in DA and Intergroup members
6. Start new meetings
7. Create piece of service literature entitled “How to Run an Intergroup” if it is not part of the article

- soon to be on the DA website entitled “How to Start an Intergroup.”
8. Do a “Best Practices” for an Intergroup (see #7)
  9. Mentor Groups (see #3 and #7 above)
  10. Promote group inventories of both intergroups and DA meetings.
  11. How can we serve DA as a whole? How can we serve the needs of DA and support our Primary Purpose? What’s our role? (see #7)
  12. How can we help smaller intergroups grow?

Discussion of above topics led to acknowledgment that DA lacks a service culture. Too many debtors come in the program, use the Tools, feel better when their situation improves, and leave the program without working the Steps. Working the Steps of DA through Step 12 leads to doing service as a result of having a spiritual awakening. Service is giving back with gratitude what we have been given.

Jan S. stated that we as a WSC Caucus are capable of submitting recommendations to the GSB.

A motion was made to make the following recommendation to the GSB in the WSC Convocation: The Intergroup Caucus supports working the 12 Steps of DA under the guidance of a sponsor to encourage the development and growth of a service culture as the result of having had a spiritual awakening.

Motion was postponed until meeting again August 21, 2009. Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Serenity Prayer

Minutes of WSC Intergroup Caucus Meeting  
August 21, 2009, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Attended by: Peggy H., Mary C., Monica A., Willie W. (Seattle), Lawanda, Franklin, Rena, Kari, Jan S.,

The two Issues assigned to us will be answered during the coming year during our monthly meetings as their “answers” fall within the topics we have already identified for our coming agenda.

09-11 is answered by 5, 7, 11 below  
09-58 is answered by

- Part 1: 4,8,10
- Part 2: 2, 4,7,8,10
- Part 3: 15
- Part 4: 2, 3, 11 listed below.

Our monthly calls during the 2009-10 year will include discussion of the following:

1. Doing more Intergroup Caucus surveys
2. Sharing information and interaction between Intergroups. (4 votes)

3. Localization: stronger meetings support struggling meetings, need for intergroups to offer internal support among meetings. (3 votes)
4. Help to resolve power struggles
5. How to instill commitment, responsibility and leadership skills in DA and intergroup members
6. Start new meetings
7. Create piece of service literature entitled “How to Run an Intergroup” if it is not part of the article soon to be on the DA website entitled “How to Start an Intergroup.”
8. Do a “Best Practices” for an intergroup (see #7)
9. Mentor Groups (see #3 and #7 above)
10. Promote group inventories of both intergroups and DA meetings.
11. How can we serve DA as a whole? How can we serve the needs of DA and support our Primary Purpose? What’s our role? (see #7)
12. How can we help smaller intergroups grow?
13. Develop a template for how to run a telephone intergroup meeting
14. Develop a template on How to Run a face to face intergroup meeting
15. Robert’s Rules as applied to telephone intergroup meetings

A motion was made to make the following recommendation to the GSB in the WSC Convocation: The Intergroup Caucus recommends in order to address the service crisis within DA that intergroups worldwide promote working the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous under the guidance of a sponsor to encourage the development and growth of a service culture.

Monthly meeting will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month starting September 22, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Serenity Prayer.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN**

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
Total income	\$ 250.00
Expenses	
Calling cards	20.00
Total expenses	\$ 20.00
Difference	\$ 230.00

### 3. TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS MINUTES

Thursday 8/20/09

Attending:

Alan K., Michael C., Jerry K., Deb S., Chris R., Sierra P.

Visiting: IOC Erik E., Roxanne K.

Issues & recommendations sent in by delegates to WSO:

1) Have Tech Caucus merge with FCC or IOC or divide responsibilities. Visiting FCC member said item 1 was discussed and FCC said no to item 1.

Visiting members of IOC said they found they needed tech help in IOC.

**Tech Caucus Motion: We respectfully decline the offer to merge with either or both FCC or IOC committees.** 4 yes, 0 no. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2) DA needs a spending plan that includes full web hosting with a closed DA website, DA's own newsgroups, and even DA's own anonymous user ID's and email boxes for all GSB & WSC committee members, all supported by our own contributions. The benefit would also be that all files of the committees could be stored on these DA-owned newsgroups, assuring continuity of the work. We have known we needed to do this for a while... it is coming.. It is unavoidable. Let us initiate the process before commercial advertisers co-opt our agenda and irrevocably damage DA.

Response: The Tech Caucus supports the intention of this proposal, however at this time our income is not sufficient. Discussion: There is a greater need for a long-term technology plan and needs assessment and tri-directional dialogue between IOC, Howard, GSO manager, and the Tech Caucus.

Discussion: Free software available from [www.paltalk.com](http://www.paltalk.com). to hold voice-enabled meetings. (There exists software to block ads). Can get a \$40/year membership and have video option. There is a training admin video.

- Roxanne will upload last nights minutes
- Deb will upload tonight's minutes

Agenda for Friday:

1) Chris will bring a draft of a response to the request.

Tech Caucus

Friday 8/21/09

Michael C., Jerry K., Deb S., Darcy D.

Serenity prayer.

Call time monthly except September on the first Sunday of every month.

Agenda:

To explore alternatives to ad-supported software for online meetings and non-online meetings.

Recommendation: In order to better anticipate and meet the technical needs of the Conference committees, the Technology Caucus recommends that each committee or each of its sub-committees designate one representative to become a member of the Technology Caucus.

Discussion: We are supporting PI committee in their exploration of the viability and appropriateness of social media in carrying out DA's primary purpose.

#### TECHNOLOGY CAUCUS SPENDING PLAN

Income	
Spending plan allocation	\$ 250.00
Total income	\$ 250.00
Expenses	
Telephone Calling cards	
Copying	
Postage	
Indexing for Revision of Pamphlets	
Prudent Reserve	
Total expenses	\$ 250.00
Difference	\$ 0.00

## SECTION 6

### 2009 ISSUES AND CONCERNS REPORT

DA groups, Intergroups, and individual members sent the following items to the 2009 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 the DA entity to which it was assigned. Some responses may be reported at the 2010 WSC.

#### Committee assignment key:

CC: Conference Committee

GSB: General Service Board

FCC: Fellowship Communications Committee

IOC: Internal Operations Committee

PI: Public Information Committee

LIT: Literature Committee

INTERGROUP: Intergroup Caucus

TECH: Technology Caucus

HIP: Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee

RDC: Resource Development Committee

**09-01. TEXT OF ISSUE:** The DA Board of Trustees must be fully self-supporting. For the last eight years the DA Board of Trustees consistently has had unfilled positions and has been in violation of Traditions Two, Five, Seven, and Twelve. For the good of the still suffering debtor, to restore unity and to re-align itself with all twelve traditions, the conference is asked to consider the following: 1) Meetings with unfilled service positions are not fully self-supporting; 2) Meetings in which a few members do more than their share of the work promote overworking, which according to our literature, is a sign on the road to compulsive debting; 3) Meetings that find it difficult to maintain membership levels and find themselves engaged in promotional efforts usually benefit from individuals working the 12 Steps of DA and the group carrying out an inventory. These groups often discover that fear has diverted them from their primary purpose and the message they are carrying is not one of DA recovery. 4) The Board of Trustees is a meeting. While it is true that in DA there continue to be few members who have not incurred new unsecured debt for more than three years, fewer who have worked all twelve steps in DA and even fewer who have done World service, this is only a PART of the problem faced by DA with regard to the consistently incomplete Board. The Conference and the Board must do everything possible to immediately rectify this situation. Please vote to: 1) Eliminate any selection criteria involving unanimous approval of Board members. This practice disqualifies viable trustees with a desire for recovery through service and goes against our primary purpose. Requiring anything more than substantial unanimity undermines the authority of our loving God, flies in the face of Tradition Two and contradicts the DA Conference Charter! The minority opinion should not be ignored, but fear cannot continue to guide the Board's decisions with regard to filling service positions. 2) Forbid the Board from carrying out ANY service until ALL Trustee positions are filled. Give GSRs and ISRs at Dallas who say they want to stop incurring new unsecured debt and help another compulsive debtor the opportunity to do so by actually carrying out the will of God as expressed in the own group conscience at Convocation. The fellowship as a whole must stop promoting overworking at the Board level—it is inhumane, unattractive, and puts the fellowship as whole at risk of developing serious resentments and acting on them. Washington. **GSB FINANCE.**

**09-02. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Adopt PayPal as one payment option for online 7th contributions and literature orders at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). PayPal is an industry standard for safely purchasing goods and services online and making tax deductible contributions internationally using a debit card or bank transfer. A number of registered groups use the PayPal service to collect 7th Tradition contributions, raise funds for GSR travel, and take special contributions as requested by the WSO itself. Those who fear that using PayPal DA means that the WSO cannot monitor credit card use by consumers or donors, or confirm whether donors are actual members of the fellowship may find useful experience, strength, and hope from reading the Chapter to Wives and Working with Others in Alcoholics Anonymous. It may be worthwhile to note that: 1) DA has no opinion about credit cards; 2) With the current system the WSO may already receive contributions from individuals who are not DA members (7th Tradition issue) and bad checks (debting issue); 3) Many DA members have recovered from issues of control and codependence by attending CODA and AI-Anon meetings. Just as more and more newcomers find DA via the Internet, more and more members do their banking online, not even using checks anymore. Refusing to adopt an online payment or contribution option is one way that the DA fellowship itself is engaging in underearning! Those at the conference who are not interested in increasing literature sales and 7th Tradition contributions may find reading the Underearners pamphlet published by DA useful, in addition to investigating UA before voting on this issue. Finally anyone concerned about the service fee charged by PayPal, currently a small percent of each transaction which is automatically deducted at the time of transfer, may find working Steps 4-9 in DA on "Getting Something for Nothing" before voting on this issue. Washington. **RDC.**

**09-03. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Underearning is an outside issue with its own fellowship. DA's literature committee is respectfully requested to cease writing any new literature until it has dedicated all the time necessary to carry out a complete review of all pamphlets, to: 1) Make content and experience consistent across the canon of literature; 2) Eliminate references to, or suggestions for recovery from underearning, Clutter, Overworking/Time Management, to name just three outside issues with their own fellowships (UA, CLA, WA). Washington. **LITCOM.**

**09-04. TEXT OF ISSUE:** New process for creating new literature does not seem to be taking the amount of time initially planned. Does the plan to create literature need to be revised again? Courage to Change group, Basking Ridge, NJ. **LITCOM.**

**09-05. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Status on 12 & 12: When is it coming out? Courage to Change group, Basking Ridge, NJ. **GSB LITPUB.**

**09-06. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Status on Meditation Daily Book: When is it coming out? Courage to Change group, Basking Ridge, NJ. **GSB LITPUB.**

**09-07. TEXT OF ISSUE:** What are the rules and regulations about posting on Craigslist? – It's free, isn't it? And what about Facebook, can we be on that? DA Tuesday Night 123, Chicago. **PI.**

**09-08. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Given the crash in our economy, please re-visit just why secured debt isn't debt –it easily can be. Saturday Vision, San Diego, CA. **FINANCE.**

**09-09. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Guidelines for catastrophic healthcare cost. Saturday Vision, San Diego, CA. **LITCOM.**

**09-10. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Should the local groups continue the practice of shouldering the entire burden of sending the GSRs on an all-expenses paid trip to the international conference? Saturday Vision, San Diego, CA. **CC.**

**09-11. TEXT OF ISSUE:** What does an area do with an intergroup that isn't meeting or getting the word out??? Saturday Vision, San Diego, CA. **INTERGROUP.**

**09-12. TEXT OF ISSUE:** The issue is mentioning a person's name or even full name and the book that he wrote as a "guru" on D.A. specifically. [Name omitted] who wrote the book on debting back in the 1980s. I object to this. Number 1 – we are an anonymous program. Number 2 – principals over personalities. Number 3 – no one is more qualified than another. Number 4 – this book is not conference approved. Please add this to your agenda. His name and book is quite frequently mentioned at this meeting. Monday D.A. Abundance group E 76 St between First and Second Ave. Friday, Self Employed. 12 St @ 5th Ave. NY, NY. **GSB LITPUB.**

**09-13. TEXT OF ISSUE:** In the standard DA meeting preamble suggested for all DA meetings in "a word to newcomers" the language to the newcomers could also say "you can arrange to have a pressure relief meeting and you do this by asking anyone at the meeting who has 90 days solvency and 2 pressure relief meetings themselves. Friday Self Employed 12 W12th NYC. **LITCOM.**

**09-14. TEXT OF ISSUE:** 1. In AA one of the strongest tools is to have a home group. This is emphasized from Day 1 when you come in as a newcomer. It rarely comes up in DA. And it is a core tool for recovery and fellowship. 2. Having a home group, business meetings are hold at the end of the meetings and people attend because it is their home group and they care. It seems unnecessary to have to sit through a bunch of business meetings every 1st week of the month. Especially when it might not be your home group. This is especially a turn off for many newcomers, some who don't come back to DA for that reason. I am not sure how this would be handled at the group level or larger but I think it

should be addressed. Most importantly for the newcomer. Friday Self Employed 12 W12th NYC. **LITCOM & GSB LITPUB.**

**09-15. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Requesting a Big Book and/or 12+12 with non-gender use i.e. use "one" "they" "a person" "the debtor." The Big Book could contain all pamphlets + DA literature. The non-gender specific language is important for the younger generations. "He" is archaic! Most school systems, governments, and colleges have long-since abandoned sexist language (I wish the 12 Step programs would catch up!). Friday Self Employed 12 W12th NYC. **LITCOM.**

**09-16. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Would like DA promises and would like them printed on a wallet size card. Friday Self Employed 12 W12th NYC. **LITCOM.**

**09-17. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Fear of success literature shouldn't be handed out at non fear of success meetings. Friday Self Employed 12 W12th NYC. **GSB LITPUB.**

**09-18. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Allocation of WSC Scholarship Funds & WSC Registration Fee Transparency: DA makes a profit on WSC registration fees. Part of the fee is for expenses but part is profit that goes back to DA. When a scholarship is requested and granted, DA member-donated money is going FROM the scholarship fund into the DA general fund. I question whether donors would be as willing to contribute if they knew that scholarship money they were donating was just being reshuffled from the scholarship fund into the general DA treasury. In order to assure that the maximum number of GSRs can attend conference, please waive the profit portion of the registration fee for scholarship GSRs and save the cash for things like food & hotel for more applicants. At the least, tell scholarship donors their money may end up in the DA general fund, and what portion of the registration fee is for conference expenses and what portion is profit for DA. Anonymous, Prosperity 364, Dallas, TX. **CC & GSB CSC.**

**09-19. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Officially declare underearning, clutter, and workaholism as outside issues and begin the process of removing all mention of these from DA literature. Debtors and the assorted stragglers we have accumulated have lost sight of the fact that DA is NOT a "support group" for generic "money trouble." This is especially problematic for debtors trying to recover in fellowship with underearners. I have a lot of friends in my DA community who went to DA for years but never really debted, just under earned & lived in poverty. They worked and worked DA but did not progress very much. Then UNDEREARNERS ANONYMOUS was founded. It is still pretty small and most meetings are on the phone. Here is the thing: DA friends of mine who spun their wheels in DA for years started working the 12 steps from the Big Book, but for under earning. These UAs began using their UA tool of keeping a TIME record rather than a SPENDING record. All of them had DRAMATIC transformations as a result of working the steps specifically on under earning; SEPARATE from Debtors Anonymous, with fellow under earners. I did not want to see my under earner friends in my DA community go away from DA...As a debtor given to grandiosity; I wanted a BIG EXPANSIVE FELLOWSHIP. I sure did not want to be alone with this disease. But I was a total failure as a sponsor to an underearner. WHY? Because of Step 1. That thing that I do, even when I know better, even when I see all the trouble it causes, and even when I want to stop, but can't, THAT IS THE THING I AM powerless over. For me that is compulsive debt. But when I

exhibit underearning symptoms, I notice them and just quit doing them. I have the will power to stop. I lack the needed empathy to be helpful because compulsive underearning is not my disease. So, no UA should ever settle for debtor-me; any more than they should settle for less money than needed. Here is how I have seen the DA fellowship shoot itself in the foot: The real grandiose debtors tend to bite off more than they can chew. In that vein, we debtors took on the attempt to help the still suffering underearner, even though we are not underearners ourselves. WE DEBTORS give in to the false thinking that we are just trying to be inclusive and expand the fellowship. But we do not understand the UA disease, and we over-obligate the DA agenda to a problem where we can never be helpful, the same way us debtors incur debt we can never repay. The underearner's pamphlet is a well meaning but wrong-headed distraction from compulsive debt recovery. What I have heard in my own fellowship is, many UAs share they just do not relate to the shopping, spending, debt accumulation, and other acting out shared by debtors. But the raw poverty of the UA is not a safe space for the wealthy grandiose debtor to share the shameful compulsion for conspicuous consumption, any more than the UA needs to be in the rather intimidating environment of those high spenders. And many debtors share, after the meeting, that they feel MORE shame listening to the impoverished UAs, so much so that a lot of them go out and binge spend right after the meeting. Many real debtors wind up at a "DA" meeting where the purpose has been co-opted by the underearners' agenda. The real compulsive under earner, in my experience, is typically not compulsively debting at all, but, just like they settle for less money than needed, they settle for DA. (If the underearner is not debting, how can he or she have a desire to stop debting?) The REAL Compulsive Debtor does hear his or her symptoms and does not stay. The still suffering debtor does not see hope and the DA primary purpose is lost. THE THING IS, BOTH addictions result in a circumstance: "MONEY TROUBLE." But the addiction that CAUSED the money trouble is very different, as I witness it. But we both have a common circumstance to commiserate about and so our addictive minds get distracted and deceived. What happens in meetings when these two addicts collide is there is a lot of commiserative sharing about crappy circumstances, but no clear defining of what the compulsion IS or the solution to stopping it. The cunning baffling powerful thing is, anyone can benefit by recording expenses, compiling numbers in columns and categories, and planning spending. So many who wind up at DA find our pamphlets beneficial. But that does not mean necessarily that they are addicted compulsive debtors who MUST take the 12 Steps. The way this appears to me is: BOTH DIS-EASES are valid, but unique.... The "admitting," the sharing, the confessing of one is significantly different from the other. WE BOTH DESERVE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT to share the exact nature of wrongs committed. We both need to be off the hook for the expectation that we are 100 % helpful to each other. We each have DIFFERENT ESH and that it OK. The two groups cannot be expected to fully empathize with each other and that is OK. Both need to own that limitation and reclaim their own fellowships. Each of us must explore what we may be most powerless over. What belongs in the phrase in Step 1: "We admitted we were powerless over "\_\_\_\_\_." If it is not compulsive debt, underearners may be struggling in DA because DA is not the treatment and tool kit they really need. It is time for Debtors Anonymous to reclaim its primary purpose for suffering DEBTORS and let go of other agendas. DA, it is time to release the underearning agenda and underearning literature to a

separate fellowship –from Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. LITCOM.

**09-20. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Suggest or strongly recommend that GSR terms begin & end in July. Even if a new GSR is elected in January, and may want a bit of time to get up to speed by meeting with the exiting GSR, have the official term begin in July, right before yearly conference. That way the incoming GSR knows they are attending conference & can plan, but start actual work on the conference –year calendar. Each conference we form committees in August. Certain committees I have served on loose a half to a third of the members due to GSR terms ending at the first of the following year. This reduces the work that gets finished and the 3rd & 6th year GSRs have valuable experience that is lost for 8 months of the subsequent conference year. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. CONFERENCE COM:

**09-21. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Form a think tank of FCC, IOC, & Conference Committee members to find ways to encourage all groups to have an acting GSR even if they do not send them to conference. Encourage year round participation in committee work via phone & e-mail. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. FCC/IOC/CC.

**09-22. TEXT OF ISSUE:** For the purposes of observing our preamble statement that we do not engage in controversy, to conserve precious business meeting time from debate on divisive issues, and for the upholding of tradition one, group unity: Have a moratorium on conference charter issues that have been proposed and defeated by 3 or more conferences: Any thrice-defeated issue may not be re introduced for at least six years from the last defeat. Also recommend that no individual committee member who worked on the drafting of a thrice defeated conference charter measure participate in any manner in its reintroduction. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. CC.

**09-23. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Amend the last phrase of the 7th Tradition to read: "...self supporting declining outside contributions including both cash and in-kind." Stop the use, online, of commercial web hosting venues for DA online activities that carry advertising. These are not 'free.' They are supported by outside advertisers. Request DA members' postings online not have a business signature at the end of such e mails. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. CC

**09-24. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Have the Tech Caucus merge with either FCC Committee or Internal Operations Committee or divide their responsibilities between the two. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. FCC/TECH/IOC.

**09-25. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Have the Tech Caucus, FCC Committee, Internal Operations Committee and the corresponding DA GS board members begin the process of "weaning" DA of commercial advertising-supported web hosting services. Examples would be conference committees or registered online DA meetings utilizing Yahoo or Google news groups that carry advertising. These are not 'free.' They are supported by outside advertisers. Although the membership lists are supposed to be anonymous they really are not. Commercial hosting providers use the interests on these news groups to market to advertisers. Increasingly, both on the home pages AND in the postings of DA newsgroups, commercial services are advertising paid debt retirement counseling and other types of services to debtors. Many of our newcomers have their first contact with DA online. If

that online meeting is full of ads, it is as if they walked into a meeting room plastered with posters for payday loans, credit card consolidation and bankruptcy companies, AND members passed out business cards soliciting such services. DA, more than other addiction fellowships, needs better vigilance about breaches of 7th tradition: getting 'something for nothing' is TOXIC for the debtor. Using Yahoo & Google groups because 'everyone does it' is a 'fudging' of our guidelines that is sick debtor brain candy and must be avoided. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **TECH/FCC/IOC/GSB COMCOM.**

**09-26. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Request DA members' postings for online groups observe the 11th tradition not have a business signature at the end of such emails. Especially if the individual is in a debt service related business, this is just another debtor "flavor of fudge." We must never appear to the new, suffering debtor as if we charge for our services. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **GSB COMCOM.**

**09-27. TEXT OF ISSUE:** DA needs a spending plan that includes full web hosting with a closed DA website, DA's own newsgroups and even DA's own anonymous user ID's and email boxes for all GSB Board & WSC committee members, all supported by our own contributions. The benefit would also be that all files of the committees could be stored on these DA owned newsgroups, assuring continuity of the work. We have known we needed to do this for a while...it is coming... it is unavoidable. Let us initiate the process before commercial advertisers co-opt our agenda and irrevocably damage DA. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **TECH.**

**09-28. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Amend the last sentence of the 11th Tradition to read: "at the level of press, radio, films television, internet and all other current and future forms of media communication. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **CC.**

**09-29. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Change the words of the tools of DA: Add back to the tools: The tool of: Abstinence from incurring new unsecured debt. We are here to abstain from new unsecured compulsive debting. Deleting that tool was INSANE. Bring it back. Change 'Spending Plan.' All plans for: spending, debt repayment, action, earning, & savings can just combine into a single tool named PLANNING. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **LITCOM.**

**09-30. TEXT OF ISSUE:** First of all dear board members, thank you for your amazing service. Next, here is your official intervention: all of you best go to "over workers anonymous." Something's gotta change. The General Service Board must do what ever it takes to have all board positions filled. It is debting the fellowship to have board members on double committees, over working & martyring themselves. Projects get bottlenecked with too few taking on too much...can you say "Debtor?" Also certain parts of the country are underrepresented. Spreading your sweet selves too thin is a bad example for the fellowship and BAD for all of you, although I fear you all are so "in it" that this is like explaining water to a fish. The policy of unanimous approval is detrimental when substantial unanimity would suffice. No more excuses, change what ever has to be changed for a full board. PS I LOVE YOU ALL. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **GSB NOMCOM.**

**09-31. TEXT OF ISSUE:** When a new DA group registers for the first time, do they have to re register again in that same year at yearly registration time? Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **IOC.**

**09-32. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Is it possible to register or renew a group registration via e mail? Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **IOC.**

**09-33. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Suggest that THE TOOL OF ANONYMITY be changed to 'confidentiality'. We already have a TRADITION of anonymity. In the tools, emphasize the confidentiality of shared info, thereby making it safe to disclose sensitive information with rigorous honesty. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **LITCOM.**

**09-34. TEXT OF ISSUE:** To THE LITERATURE SERVICES COMMITTEE: First thanks for your ABSOLUTELY amazing service. NOW, the intervention. You must do what ever it takes to get a committee large enough so that concept approved literature projects do not stall in this committee. The 12 + 12 has languished since 2006, the Meditation Book for a year now, and the desperately needed Step Study Guide is stalled completely behind the 12+12. Well meaning but wrong headed choices, all! Mean while there was interest in continuing work on these projects. Please say what support you need & what was the snafu that so much lit is stalled. You have DA members waiting at the ready to help if you will just let the membership know what is needed. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **LITCOM/GSB LIT SERVICES.**

**09-35. TEXT OF ISSUE:** COMMITTEE SPENDING PLANS: In 2007 the Meditation book subcommittee, feeling it had got as far as possible with volunteer help, desired to use its spending plan to a professional in data management services. The individual in question been doing this service as a volunteer successfully, and had the appropriate skill set & professional credentials. But the committee was told, AFTER putting together a detailed proposal, that WSC committee spending plan funds could not be used to hire services. The meditation book assets were then handed off to lit services where they sat for a year. FIRST-As I understand it, WS committee funds have been traditionally used for copies, postage & phone cards. With the availability of e mail & cheap long distance, there is less need for this type of reimbursement. SECOND-a functioning subcommittee with a project that was moving forward was stopped by a procedural snafu. PLEASE CHANGE POLICY & BROADEN THE ABILITY OF WSC COMMITTEES TO HAVE DISCRETION OVER THEIR SPENDING PLANS. Please don't explain why you can't...find a way to support committees who are getting work done. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. **CC.**

**09-36. TEXT OF ISSUE:** The survey of conference attendance and relationship to conference expenses was flawed and dropped out significant expenses that should have been considered. 1) Ground transportation for airport to venue & Friday night dinner: in the five conferences I have attended the cost for this has ranged from an included shuttle where the driver was just tipped to \$40 per ride in San Diego & Sturbridge, I think. Variance: \$0-160. 2) Availability of flights that arrive Wednesday am & leave Sunday PM in time to attend all events of conference: An extra night before or after can add 100+ per night. The highest was San Diego where I was there 2 extra nights, plus meals. 100 x2 for room + 60x2 for an extra day's modest meals =an extra 320. 3) Availability of nice inexpensive dining: I spent as much as 60 and as little as 9.00 on Friday eve dinner. Up to extra 40+? (This is real discretionary I realize) 4) Hotel nickel-diming. Things like in-room WIFI & parking can add \$50-100 to a 5-day stay if not negotiated as part of the room package. (as a business owner



WIFI is essential for me). When the guest has to pay: Variance up to \$100. 5) My five conference trips have varied, with extras, as much as \$600. 6) More variable cost details need to be considered and better hotel perks need to be negotiated. Conference planners need to be educated that these perks are easily negotiated for groups as a convention industry standard. Anonymous. Group 364 Dallas, TX. CC/GSB CSC.

**09-37. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Dear General Service: I am very uncomfortable that this meeting and also Group #1335 are listed with you as Debtors Anonymous meetings because they are centered on a pamphlet called Underearning Fear of Success and Visions Issues written and copyrighted by a woman named [name omitted] and each pamphlet says words to the effect that its against the law to print or resell this without the express permission of the author. The meetings are very popular with lots of DA members. But I think it is a strong violation of our traditions to permit these meetings to be called DA meetings. [Name omitted] EARNS HER LIVING as a fear of success coach to sports teams and other business enterprises. I do not think she should be able to create these meetings, and have printed on the pamphlet "Non-conference approved literature, approved for reading at meeting by Group Conscience" I believe that if a group did approve non-conference approved literature to be read as the central part of the meeting, there could be no group conscience because it would cease to be a DA Meeting. My example is that if the TV personality, [Name omitted], who talks about personal finance and debt issues decided she needed a spiritual foundation to her life, joined DA, then wrote a pamphlet based on her experience as a financial counselor and TV speaker and copyrighted it [name omitted]. Read the 12 steps and got the meeting listed with you as a DA meeting. That would be a blatant violation, but because its "good old [name omitted] from DA" people are going along with it...although a lot of people are staying away...but there is a large core group who consider her meetings their home meeting. I have no problem with what she says...I have a problem with non-conference approved literature being read at meetings. Let her form her own groups, rent her own space and read whatever she wants....not use DA and World Service to promote herself. Please do something about this to help protect our recovery. Thank you, [name omitted.] Underearning, Fear of Success and Visions Issues, New York, NY. IOC/LITCOM/GSB LITPUB.

**09-38. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Hi there, you asked for issues for conference. We are interested in a DA 12&12, BDA literature and a DA step book. Thanks, [Name omitted.] London Hyde Park Crescent. LITCOM/GSB LITPUB.

**09-39. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Why is the Hospitals, Institutions, & Prisons Committee a committee in its own right? Why isn't it a sub-committee of the Public Information Committee? Hospitals, institutions, and prisons are clearly a type of public outreach, and therefore should be handled by the Public Information Committee. [No group name or number supplied.] HIP/PI.

**09-40. TEXT OF ISSUE:** To Our Representatives at the DA World Service Conference, the Members of the Literature Committee, and the Board of Trustees: We are writing to request that you make it a high priority to create a DA pamphlet on DA and Health Issues. We believe that this pamphlet is urgently needed in order to address DA's primary purpose: to stop debting and to help the debtor who still suffers. As many longtime DA members can

attest, DA members who have health issues have a very, very difficult time achieving abstinence from debting. We believe that our lack of abstinence affects our local DA groups and DA as a whole. It affects DA because some of us have been in DA for years yet have been unable to achieve or sustain solvency. As a result, we are poor role models for DA success. At the same time, we feel shame and may even withdraw from DA because of lack of understanding of our struggles. For this reason, we believe that, even though we are a minority in DA, we urgently need your attention. (In fact, we seldom can achieve enough solvency and health to be able to attend a DA conference in order to address this issue, so we must rely on this letter instead.) We recognize that the Literature Committee and the Board have several other pressing items of literature before them, such as the 12&12 book. Therefore, we are providing you with a first draft, which is attached. Thank for your service. Sincerely, the Tuesday DA & Health Issues Telephone Meeting (Group #1176) LITCOM.

**09-41. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Duplicate of issue 37. IOC/LITCOM/GSB LITPUB.

**09-42. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Why do larger, established DA groups not offer support to smaller groups that are struggling? [No group name or number supplied] RDC

**09-43. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Why are DA groups not allowed to advertise? What does it mean when it's said that we are based on attraction rather than promotion. If smaller groups that struggle to survive were allowed to advertise, perhaps they could get more people to attend. [No group name or number supplied] FCC.

**09-44. TEXT OF ISSUE:** DA as a whole does not support DA does sponsored events, why? My group sponsored an event to raise funds to send our GSR to the WSC. The event was heavily advertised through DA venues and only six people showed up. [No group name or number supplied] RDC.

**09-45. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Why does DA charge for its literature? [no group name or number supplied] LITCOM/GSB LITPUB.

**09-46. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Why are children not welcome in DA meetings? If addiction is a family disease that affects the entire family why would a person with children not be welcomed in the meeting? [no group name or number supplied] GSB.

**09-47. TEXT OF ISSUE:** The phrase "Not incurring any new unsecured debt" still leaves DA members vulnerable to other types of detrimental debt (such as: home equity lines of credit, car title loans, loans secured with a piece of jewelry, etc.). It also allows for vagueness around purchases that could result in being upside-down in a loan (such as a car loan or mortgage). Salt Lake City, UT. LITCOM.

**09-48. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please degender God. Women's Monday Night Meeting 147, Santa Monica, Los Angeles. LITCOM.

**09-49. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please amend the Charter. Women's Monday Night Meeting 147, Santa Monica, Los Angeles. CC

**09-50. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please declare that using a credit card is debting no matter how much money you have in your bank or if you pay your bill on time. Women's Monday Night Meeting 147, Santa Monica, Los Angeles. LITCOM/GSB FINANCE.

**09-51. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Is not incurring unsecured debt the only purpose of DA? If I'm not debting but continue to live in

deprivation is this an outside issue? Women's Monday Night Meeting 147, Santa Monica, Los Angeles.

**LITCOM/GSB FINANCE.**

**09-52. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Is there a way to do an international survey/inventory to determine how well the program is working? What percentages have stayed for 5 years, 10 years 15 years or more? What percentages have not incurred unsecured debt in 5 years, 10 years, etc. Have a hard look at the real numbers around recovery in the program? Isn't it time for an inventory to see the reality of recovery in the program? Women's Monday Night Meeting 147, Santa Monica, Los Angeles. **IOC.**

**09-53. TEXT OF ISSUE:** DA needs its own step book. When will we get a DA step book? Where is the DA step book in the process? Have a version of the 12 and 12 that has DA wording instead of A.A. wording. Creating Your Vision 303, NYC. **GSB LITPUB.**

**09-54. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Vote that the "Fear of Success" meetings should be a separate 12-step program. Creating Your Vision 303, NYC. **IOC/GSB OFFICE COM.**

**09-55. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please forward this to your literature committee for consideration. It is serving us very well in the small 10th-11th step group in Los Angeles. I had wanted to re-write the whole big book...but needed to start somewhere that would help my BDA group so I adapted steps 10&11. And it has. It is not conference approved as of yet but I believe it could serve others in our program. I deeply believe it came thru the HP...and my 23+ years of recovery in many programs including over 13 in BDA. Sincerely yours, [name and telephone number omitted.]. **LITCOM.**

**09-56. TEXT OF ISSUE:** I have been trying to submit the issues that 2 members have given me for WSC 09 without making the connection. I pray I'm not too late...I am just submitting them as received from individuals in the fellowship here in Toronto, without editing. 1) What is DA's official position on debting that doesn't involve money? (i.e., time debting, self debting, etc)? There is a lot of sharing in Toronto meetings on these things. *A Currency of Hope* also has stories that talk about these subjects. I'm confused and feel those subjects are outside issues that distract me from recovering in DA. Toronto. **LITCOM/GSB FINANCE.**

**09-57. TEXT OF ISSUE:** I noticed in the [name omitted] book that he devoted quite a few pages to reinforce the idea that we were worth more than our debt - that we are not required to suffer because we are in debt because we have embraced recovery through Debtors Anonymous. That we may have wonderful qualities that we are ignoring because we are sick with shame and guilt over our debt. It is time to give up beating ourselves up as we have embarked on recovery through DA. We are more than just a number on a page. E.g. Mary can be described as a woman who is \$40,000 in debt. It sounds absurd. Anyway, I think this would be a good pamphlet for the beginner's package and would love to see this is writing for newcomers. Also the beginning of the [name omitted] book helped me tremendously when I was full of shame and self-disgust. It helped me from considering suicide and provided me with lots of hope. Actually, if I had my druthers, I would like to see [name omitted] as approved DA literature. So if it's alright, I would appreciate your bringing this up at the World Service Conference... Toronto. **LITCOM.**

**09-58. TEXT OF ISSUE:** [name omitted], who is going to the WSC next month, suggested I forward a number of these issues (even though we know that it is past the due date): The possibility of providing a educational workshop at next year's WSC on any of the following topics: 1. Tips for conducting effective intergroup (IG) business meetings (including activities before, during, after); 2. Tips for conducting effective IG telephone business meetings; 3. Tips for using Roberts Rules and Parliamentary Procedure to conduct effective IG business meetings. 4. Tips for using technology at the IG level (e.g., phone meetings, Yahoo groups, Excel, email, group mail, websites, attachments, etc.) to enhance IG communications. Thank you in advance for your service.

[Name omitted; no group name or number submitted]

**INTERGROUP.**

**09-59. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Thanks for following up on this. I'm including [name omitted], GSR from San Francisco as well. If both of you could raise this issue, that might give it more impact. This issue is the DA's Steps and Traditions referring to God and Higher Power in male-gender terms (i.e., "Him" in Steps 3 and 7, "Him" and "His" in Step 11; and "He" and "Himself" in Tradition 2. I and many other members see these terms as discriminatory toward women and triggering to anyone who has suffered from abuse from male dominance or patriarchy. These terms are quite outdated as several other 12-Step fellowships have changed the references. The male-gender references undercut the spirit of finding one's own Higher Power as they suggest that any concept of a Higher Power must be in the form of a male being. In a program focused on valuing ourselves, it is important for everyone to be valued equally and the male-references in the Steps and Traditions preclude this. One proposed solution would be to make the following changes: Step 3- Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to God as we understood [God]; Step 7- Humbly asked [God] to remove our shortcomings. Step 11- Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood [God], praying only for knowledge of [God's] will for us and the power to carry that out. Tradition 2- For our group purpose there is one ultimate authority, a loving God [as may be expressed] in our group conscience. Thank you for letting me raise this and let me know if you have any questions. Menlo Park BDA 156. **LITCOM.**

**09-60. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Continuation of Issue 09-59.

**09-61. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Dear Debtors Anonymous, General Service Office, We are sending a formal request to GSO to petition change to the current conference structure, which makes it impossible for Hawaii groups to attend without debting. A typical group in Hawaii is collecting approximately \$5 per week therefore a total of \$250 to \$300 in one year. Even if we devoted all our contributions to participation in the conference this would leave a shortfall of \$1700 not including transportation. With the additional cost of transportation the shortfall would be closer to \$3000. Concept 4 states: Throughout our Conference structure, we maintain at all levels a traditional "Right of Participation," ensuring a voting representation. We are eager to see Debtors Anonymous, General Service Office come up with a solution for groups like ours in Hawaii to participate virtually. By doing so this would ensure a voting representation for all 4 of the meetings currently held in Hawaii and any future meetings formed. Please consider this petition strongly, so we can be ensured a voting representation at future conferences. Thank you and Aloha,

[Name omitted], Secretary for DA Hawai'i Intergroup. Debtors Anonymous Hawai'i Intergroup 1171, Puunene, HI. CC

**09-62. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Dear fellow debtors: I wasn't clear on where I should e-mail my comments for "issue for the DA World Service Conference." I emailed two letters to dawsc2009@gmail.com, but then read the small print which made me think that email address might only be for the conference: rooms, food, transportation, etc. and not the proper place to send comments.. so I am mailing this to you! Enclosed please find: 1) my typed comments about Groups 1201 and 1335 using non-conference approved literature; 2) a note I wrote with a few more comments on the subject; 3) The pamphlet being used by those meetings. I am sending you the one I purchased at the meeting, and I did not make a copy to send to you because I do not wish to violate the law as stated on the front: "Copyright [Name omitted]. 2005, 2008, 2009. The copying, canning, uploading, and distribution of this brochure without the permission of the author is illegal and punishable by law. For reprints, contact [Name and email address omitted]. I am concerned that if you permit these groups to be listed as Debtors Anonymous group, some other person might write a pamphlet with his name on it called "Retirement issues for the middle-aged debtor." And have Retirement Issues groups using the pamphlet and his name. It's a slippery slope. Thanks for reading and listening to my concerns. [Name omitted; no group name or number submitted.].  
**LITCOM/IOC/GSB OFFICE COM.**

**09-63. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Dear Sir or Madam: A. Problem at one phone meeting. I am a DA member and I want to report a problem at the Sunday 9:00 am Eastern Time phone meeting. July 5, 2009 is the first time I heard this problem but it sounded to me like the same problem has been ongoing at this meeting for at least a few weeks. I am asking that leaders in the national and international DA organization listen to the meeting in the coming weeks, and recommend and take some action. It looks as if the situation will not improved unless there is some intervention by parties outside the meeting. Among the things I heard at last week's meeting (July 5) were: 1) Arguments. 2) One individual promoting his/her own religion as the religion upon which DA was founded, and by implication, the most appropriate religion for guiding the group's actions. 3) Another individual felt very hurt and said he/she would not return to the meeting again if things did not improve at upcoming July 12 meeting. Upon hearing this, another individual said "nobody cares" if this person does not return. 4) More than one individual, joining with together with others, was supporting this arguing behavior, and this denigrating behavior putting down another member. The above is not appropriate to a DA meeting. However, I don't think that those engaged in the above behavior will return to appropriate DA behavior unless there is some outside intervention. These individuals used the kind of arguing style where "there's an answer for everything." That is, others at the meeting spoke up and said we should keep it to "principles not personalities" and "this is a spiritual program." But the arguers continued to keep on arguing in support of their own position. It appears likely they will continue to defend themselves no matter what anyone else says. In other words, this meeting was NOT a DA meeting—it was instead some other kind of meeting designed to serve the needs of this small group. This small group does not represent DA. If this behavior continues, this small group should not be allowed to list this meeting with other DA phone meetings on DA websites. This small group should not use the DA name and resources to bring in newcomers, when what this small group

is offering is NOT a DA meeting. B) General problem, observed at live DA meetings: Individual DA leaders are using their own social skills to reward their personal friends by calling on them at meetings, as opposed to making time for newcomers to speak. C) General problem observed at DA phone meetings. Individuals are using their own social skills to act in a controlling and/or subtly denigrating manner towards newcomers. The newcomer may not realize what is happening for quite some time. But ultimately, this prevents the sharing of the DA message to those who need it. These newcomers (or former newcomers, who later became older and wiser) end up leaving DA, because of this negative experience. D. Another organization in which a small group led the others in a direction contrary to the group's mission. This small group ended up embarrassing the organization as a whole, on a national and international scale. This could happen to DA—during phone meetings, or even the live meetings, which could be attended by literally anyone across the country and around the world, including news reporters. This group that embarrassed itself was the Los Angeles area [Name omitted], back in the 1990s. [Name omitted] membership is open to those scoring in approximately the top 5th percentile on intelligence/aptitude tests. In one LA [Name omitted] publication, the author suggested that people lacking in intelligence had less value than those with greater intelligence. This was quite a stupid thing to do ...for an organization that is supposed to be composed of people with high intelligence! I recall an article in [Name omitted] on this scandalous embarrassment by [Name omitted]. In their defense, the local leaders claimed "[Name omitted] has no opinions" and "[Name omitted] rules require freedom of speech." These two precepts are indeed among [Name omitted]'s rules. But, these rules were twisted into allowing an extremely offensive action, which had nothing to do with [Name omitted]'s real mission. Last Sunday the small group of arguers in the DA phone meeting of Sunday July 5 meeting did the same thing. They quoted the letter of DA principles. And yet they twisted those words into something that was the opposite of the DA mission—which is a mission that welcomes everyone who needs to hear the DA message. DA is a spiritual program. And yet, the small group at that meeting hurt DA, by acting contrary to spiritual principles. To the nation and international leaders of DA: Please listen to this Sunday 9:00 am Eastern meeting. Please take some action to help for the sake of those in the meeting who wish to participate in it, according to DA principles. Please develop a long range strategy to address the above "general problem" at other phone and live meetings. This could include reminders that leaders must be "trusted servants" and leadership positions must be rotated. In the 12 by 12 book, it indicates that those in a DA (AA) position of leadership could end up misusing their power-- just like leaders in other types of organization do-- unless vigilance is exercised to ensure this does not happen. Thank you. Anonymous. **IOC/GSB.**

**09-64. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Restore primary purpose to original (pre 2003) stating: "Our primary purpose is to achieve solvency and help other compulsive debtors to achieve solvency." San Diego BDA 216. **LITCOM.**

**09-65. TEXT OF ISSUE:** Duplicate issue 37 regarding Underearning, Fear of Success, and Visions Issues 1201, New York, NY. PS. I think that the use of non-conference approved literature being used as the centerpiece of a meeting violates: Tradition Four: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or DA as whole." I think using [name omitted]'s pamphlet DOES affect DA as a whole. Tradition

Six: "A DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose." By permitting a group which endorses [name omitted]'s writing to call itself a Debtors Anonymous meeting I think we are violating this tradition. Tradition Eight: "Debtors Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers." [Name omitted] earns her living coaching people with fear of success issues, so she is using her professional credentials to persuade the group to use her pamphlet with her name on it. Traditions Ten and Twelve: I believe are also being discarded by the groups who use this pamphlet. Do you agree? Remember, I like [Name omitted]! She is a nice lady. I just think the DA Traditions are being violated here! [Name omitted] [Attached letter] Dear General Service: I am not the DA Police so please take my thought with principles above personalities in mind: The attached note comments on my discomfort with the NYC meetings #1201 and 1335 which are using non-conference approved literature written and copyrighted by [Name omitted]. After I wrote the attached, I thought: Are

these two meetings sending GSRs to the Texas meeting next month? If so, how can a person who knowingly breaks our Traditions by reading Non-Conference Approved Literature at the meeting be allowed to make decisions comments, etc at a Debtors Anonymous Meeting? I am not suggesting that you impeach or unseat these people, but I do see it as a problem. There is a Thursday night meeting using [name omitted] material which has no GSR and \$1,000 in its GSR fund. How could you accept a GSR from such a meeting? I won't even chair any of those meetings. I am talking to others about trying to get the group at the Business Meetings to drop the non conference approved material. We don't throw out people. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop debting" but don't we require that to be called a DA meeting, the group must abide by our Traditions? Have a good weekend, and thank you. [Name omitted] [sample of non-conference approved pamphlet attached]. LITCOM/IOC/GSB OFFICE.

## SECTION 7

### GSB, COMMITTEE, & CAUCUS ROSTERS

#### 2009-2010 Committee and Caucus Rosters

(This information is provided for the use of Conference delegates. Please respect our anonymity.)

##### **Business Debtors**

##### **Anonymous Committee**

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Elizabeth T.  
Evelyn E.  
Jane P.  
Janet Z.  
Jill P.  
Josephine  
Kimberly R.  
Laara I.  
Marianne G.  
Megan P.  
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GSB Liaison: Paul S.

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Christi S.  
Dianne L.  
Kari G.  
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Keith C.  
Mary P.  
Michael C.  
Peggy H.  
Tarre B.  
GSB Liaison: Jan S.

##### **Hospitals, Institutions, and**

##### **Prisons**

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Carmen M.-H.  
Chuck H.  
Dani N.  
Franklin P.  
Julia A.  
Larry V.  
Pat B.  
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GSB Liaison: Jeff Y.

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Ivy H.  
Lawanda C.  
Marian H.  
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Monica A.  
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GSB Liaison: Eileen N.

##### **Office Manager**

Howard S.

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Mary P.  
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