

Issues & Concerns from the Fellowship for the 2011 D.A. World Service Conference, Detroit

11-01

Electronic Transfers for 7th Tradition Contributions to the WSO.

I would like to have my 7th tradition contribution wired directly to the WSO from my credit union monthly and have requested from the GSO the pertinent information (Name on the DA account, the DA American Banking Association (ABA) routing number, and address of your branch office) but despite two requests over six months have received no information. Please could the Board address the need for alternative ways of making 7th Tradition contributions to the WSO that do not involve writing a check or sending cash.

GSB Finance Committee Response: Thank you for your question. The GSB is actively exploring all eCommerce opportunities including accepting 7th Tradition contributions and Conference-approved literature sales all within the guidelines of D.A.'s Primary Purpose to stop debting one day at a time and help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt. We have been and are working to find the best ways to integrate today's technology into the principles of D.A. and will inform the fellowship as soon as this is accomplished.

11-02

Binder for DA Pamphlets

I would like to see the GSO produce 3 inch binders for members to collect and file their pamphlet collection. This would enable easy access to CAL and use of the vital tool - DA Literature.

WSC Literature Committee Response: This concept was proposed at the 2011 WSC but was not approved.

11-03

Not publishing the member, group name or number on issues and concerns

In years past the issues and concerns have been circulated to delegates to the WSC including the group and group number provided by the individual submitting the suggestion. Since some issues are submitted by groups (after a group conscience) and some are submitted by individuals (who are members of a group but whose item may not necessarily represent the group conscience) there can be confusion and misunderstanding, especially by GSRs. For the sake of Tradition 12, I request that the optional information (name, group name and group number) associated with issues and concerns submitted to the WSC simply ***not be published***.

GSB Conference Support Committee Response: The GSB Conference Support Committee is currently discussing the proposal to modify the information included in the published Issues & Concerns document. Full board approval will be required for any change to our current practice, and if approved, will not likely be in place until 2013.

11-04

I support, and strongly encourage the GSB to approve, the concept of a new DA brochure on the topic of Debtors with Health Issues. I am challenged by health concerns that affect my finances and ability to earn. Group #1176 has developed an outline for the concept of a DA and Health Issues pamphlet which the GSR is going to present to the GSB for approval. I have read all the material, which was written by someone who has written other DA pamphlets, and found it very helpful. This is an area of DA that has not received adequate attention and there are many DA's with similar challenges who could benefit from this type of literature. Thank you very much for your consideration.

WSC Literature Committee Response: [The WSC voted to approve this concept. Literature Services is looking for a writer.](#)

11-05

City: Global (Group 450 is an International D.A. Online Meeting.)

Group Name: SpendersDA

Group #: 450

Group Conscience vote: Currency of Hope (revised edition) to be offered on Kindle (and/or other e-readers)

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: [DA does not make a choice whether or not to make its literature available electronically. An electronic commerce company makes that decision, and that's an outside issue.](#)

11-06 GSB CSC

City: Global (Group 450 is an International D.A. Online Meeting.)

Group Name: SpendersDA

Group #: 450

Group Conscience vote: the JH Scholarship Fund recipients to meet suggested qualifications as outlined in the GSR/ISR pamphlet; to this end, we ask that the following information be requested of applicants on the application form to qualify: 1) .Abstinence/solvency date. 2) .How many PRMs applicant has received 3) .Details as to service given on personal, group, intergroup level. We would also like a line added referring to the GSR/ISR pamphlet. We believe that while Tradition 4 states: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or D.A. as a whole, the J H Scholarship Fund needs to be reserved for qualified GSRs because work done at the WSC affects D.A. as a whole.

GSB Conference Support Committee Response: [Thank you for submitting an issue and concern expressing your thoughts on the John H. Scholarship program. This has been a topic of discussion several times over the last several years. There are several things to consider around this issue:](#)

[1\) The Conference Charter of Debtors Anonymous \(found on page 74 of the 2011 D.A. Manual for Service\) grants every registered D.A. group \(and/or intergroup\) the right to send a GSR \(or ISR\) to the annual World Service Conference. There are D.A. groups in the world that for whatever reason have difficulty getting or keeping members who have one or more years of not incurring any unsecured debt. Even if they have members who meet this suggested guideline, those members may not be available to serve as the group's GSR. Though it is ideal that D.A. groups elect and send to WSC GSR's who meet](#)

the suggested qualifications listed in the GSR / ISR manual, the guidelines are suggested, not mandatory. The WSC should never turn away a GSR who has been voted GSR by their group even if the individual does not meet the suggested minimum qualifications.

2) It is commonly practiced that John H. Scholarships are awarded to the D.A. group, not the individual. If an award is granted and then the individual cannot attend the WSC for whatever reason, the group can send another group member (the elected alternate GSR) instead and the alternate GSR may use the scholarship funds as long as the funds are used for the group the scholarship was originally awarded to. Asking for the individual's qualifications on the application would not guarantee the alternate GSR had the same qualifications if they were to attend the WSC instead.

3) It is likely that several of the groups that apply for scholarships are small, struggling groups. These are the groups that are most likely to have a GSR who does not meet the suggested minimum guidelines but these same struggling groups are also the groups that stand to benefit the most from a GSR attending the WSC. Sending a GSR to the WSC often strengthens the home group.

4) In the past, when this and similar topics of discussion have risen, the thought that has halted any John H Scholarship restructuring regarding restricting which individuals(groups) may be granted a scholarship is that the WSC should not attempt to dictate to a group who the group's GSR must be. We should not put a group in a position where they have to choose between electing the GSR the group desires, and electing a GSR who can meet the minimum selected guidelines in order to attend the WSC and / or get a John H. Scholarship.

5) All of the information provided in this response is based on the historical thoughts and attitudes of the WSC. The WSC convocation has the right to decide on new John H. Scholarship Program guidelines in the future. Any changes to the John H. Scholarship Program require the proposed changes to be brought as a motion before the WSC convocation. Though this issue was received and assigned to the correct committees for WSC 2011, there was not enough time to revise the scholarship program at WSC 2011. The WSC Conference Committee has worked throughout the year on a preliminary revised draft of the John H Scholarship Program guidelines but this draft will have to be reviewed by the WSC 2012 Conference Committee at the WSC. That committee will have the choice whether or not to bring the revised draft to the WSC 2012 convocation. Time will tell if the WSC 2012 Conference Committee and convocation will place further restrictions on who can be awarded a John H. Scholarship.

11-07

The Issues/Concerns Submissions Form:

Add lines indicating if this submission is:

Independent Submission

Group Conscience Submission

An idea can come from anywhere at any time. Yet, when an individual submits an issue/concern to the WSC indicating his/her Group Name and number, that misrepresents itself as that Group's Group Conscience.

Adding distinguishing lines would not diminish the Issue/Concern. The distinction merely would no longer misrepresent the Issue/Concern as being that Group's Conscience. Group Conscience vote: The WSC Issues/Concerns Submissions form add lines after "Optional Information" indicating whether the

issue/concern is: • An independent submission by a DA member; or • A Group Conscience submission and noting: D.A. welcomes all issues and treat all issues equally.

WSC Conference Committee Response: [Thank you for submitting your concerns. The conference committee recommends that the following be added to the optional information section of the issues and concerns form included in the registration packet for the DAWSC: An independent submission by a DA member or a group conscience submission \(check one\).](#)

11-08

City: Global (Group 450 is an International D.A. Online Meeting)

Group Name: SpendersDA

Group #: 450

Group Conscience vote: DA literature and books to be offered on CD

WSC Literature Committee Response: [The WSC Literature Committee has been discussing this with the Technology committee.](#)

11-09

City: Global (Group 450 is an International D.A. Online Meeting)

Group Name: SpendersDA

Group #: 450

Group Conscience vote: 7th Tradition for WSO - Please could the Board address the need for alternative ways of making 7th Tradition contributions to WSO that do not involve writing a check or sending cash. Perhaps posting wire transfer information so members can have 7th tradition wired.

GSB Finance Committee: [See response to 11-01](#)

11-10 WSC Conference Com

Thank you for clarifying the policy of the WSC on Visitors during Convocation. In my case, I would have to drive 10 hours round trip, and hearing committee reports is not too exciting to me. But seeing 100 members of DA in one room who are enacting the business of the Fellowship which is my life's blood and for which I have a great fondness is thrilling to me, and perhaps to others who are present at the WSC but are not designated ISR or GRS's. I'd like to suggest that DA establish a Visitors' Gallery or section in the Convocation room for non-participating, non-voting DA members. I don't know if we would want it open to the public, that is, an open meeting. That brings with it other issues, like media coverage. But, as a closed meeting, for DA members only, they would be allowed to observe the Convocation. As you can see, I do not like the present policy. I would like to know the reason behind the policy. It feels undemocratic, and excluding. I consider the WSC Convocation similar to Parliament or Congress where the public, who are actually the people involved in the organization, can view their elected representatives doing the work for the whole. How is the WSC different from that? I would ask that WSC reconsider this policy for this year and setup a small Visitors Gallery in the room where the Convocation is being held. Please let me know as soon as possible if this will occur because then I will attend the WSC. If not this year, I request that WSC reconsider its policy and establish a Visitor's Gallery in future WSC Convocation sessions.

WSC Conference Committee Response: Thank you for submitting your concerns. The Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference(WSC) brings together representatives of D.A.'s registered groups and intergroups each year to review the state of the Fellowship and make decisions about its future direction. There is not enough space to accommodate an unknown number of visitors. Committee work is critical for the full experience of the conference and we encourage you to participate as an ISR or a GSR from a registered group.

11-11

Group # 193

Tucson, AZ

How does a small meeting build itself up (experience, strength and hope)?

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee Response: Thank you for taking the time to submit your Group's issues to the DA World Service Conference. We appreciate your input and take your concerns seriously. There are many resources available for building up a small meeting. We suggest a 3-part initiative: 1) 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." In this spirit, some groups read the Recovery Stories from the DA website (<http://debtorsanonymous.org/stories.htm>) and use those stories as a basis for sharing. Similarly, you can use the DA pamphlets as a basis for sharing (<http://debtorsanonymous.org/literature/pamphlets.htm>). AA literature is also useful in this way. 2) Outreach: Encourage your Group's participation in the Arizona DA Intergroup (www.arizonada.org). Participate in Arizona area DA events (if available). Print the DA "12 Signs" posters (<http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/Signs%20outreach%20flyers.qxd.pdf>) and place them in locations as recommended in the "International Public Information Manual" (<http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/PIManual-2006.PDF>). Read the DA approved document "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive" (<http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/Keep%20Meeting%20Alive.pdf>) Send the "Outreach Letter To Professionals" (http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/public_information.htm) to helping professionals in your community. Your Group can submit your experiences to the "Ways and Means" DA Newsletter. Sharing your opinions with the Fellowship may clarify you Group's situation and may help others as well. For instructions on submitting to "Ways and Means," go to www.debtorsanonymous.org and open the most recent issue of "Ways and Means." You can also visit the Service Literature page on the DA website (<http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/service.htm>) for additional resources. 3) Group Sponsorship: For information on group sponsorship, email gsponsorship@gmail.com.

11-12

Group # 193

Tucson, AZ

What support can meetings get who are distanced from regional groups?

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee Response: See response to 11-11

11-13

Group # 193

Tucson, AZ

Where can we find DA chips? It's so great to see the DA symbol on the few I've seen.

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: : The General Service Office has looked into costs for producing D.A. chips in the past and it found it prohibitive for a fellowship of our size. Chips have been produced by Intergroups before, but they are not D.A. conference-approved.

11-14

CITY: Los Angeles

GROUP NAME: Miracle Mile

GROUP NUMBER: 170

I'm a long time (13 years) D.A. member and recently moved to the West Coast. My concern is that I don't hear solvency mentioned or talked about in L.A. meetings – even when members are being elected to positions or volunteers are being solicited to step up as sponsors. Though I understand that meetings are self-supporting and self-governing, I also believe that solvency is a cornerstone of this program. Is there a statement, mandate or recommendation that GSB can make to all to D.A. meetings (worldwide) emphasizing the importance of focusing on solvency as the tool through which we monitor our ability “to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.”?

GSB Communications Committee Response: Thank you for your concern for the recovering debtor and the debtor who still suffers. In the spirit of Tradition Two, for the General Service Board to issue anything like a mandate would be an act of governance. The same Tradition, however, emphasizes the power of the group-conscience process, and awareness is one of our D.A. Tools. There are many actions that groups can take to support their primary purpose of carrying the message; when these are brought to a business meeting, extraordinary results can follow. It would be a great service to collect some of these actions and submit them to *Ways & Means*.

11-15

Please do a Statistics/Inventory Report of DA

- % of members who have 5 years or more

Of those...

- % who have stopped debting, including credit cards
- % who have increased earnings to sufficiently meet expenses and savings
- % who have 3 months prudent reserve
- % who have savings

GSB Long Range Planning Committee Response: In response to 11-15, LRP discussed the relative merits of a membership survey, the substantial labor involved and final use of the data. LRP will request, through their GSB liaison, that FCC consider this idea during the 2012-13 conference year.

11-16

- *Declare Credit Card use is debting*

GSB Communications Committee Response: Thank you for your concern for the recovering debtor and the debtor who still suffers. Tradition Two states: ". . . Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." For the General Service Board to declare credit-card use to be debting would be an act of governance.

There is great power when individual members share how they found recovery through surrender—that is, not debting—and groups that encourage awareness of the Steps, Traditions, and D.A. literature tend to be very effective in fulfilling the group's compassionate primary purpose: ". . . to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers."

11-17

For the past four years, the Annapolis Tuesday Night Meetings distributed a series of 12 bookmarks, one for each month bearing the DA Sign, Step, Tool, Tradition, Concept & Promise, and for business owners in DA, the BDA Signs, the Additional Tools, and Recovery for each month, plus the DA Primary purpose. We use them in the meetings, at home, and at work, to us to be aware and maintain all of the principles of the program on a daily basis, month by month. We submitted the concept (along with a couple of packets of 12 bookmarks and the electronic file) to a Literature Committee last year that was already overloaded with directives. The actual content of the monthly bookmarks is already word for word conference approved literature, but in a different format. If the committee (and ultimately the conference) decides that this format would benefit the suffering debtor, the process of bringing it to fruition should be relatively simple. We realize that relatively simple no way describe the work necessary by so many to make this happen. We are hopeful that the Literature Committee will ask the conference in Detroit 2011 to approve the concept of the monthly bookmarks. I will bring more samples to the Literature Committee this year when I come to the WSC. The two samples from last year and an electronic file are with the still current Chair of the Literature Committee. *Bill S GSR, cabmkrwbs@verizon.net*

WSC Literature Committee Response: The 2011 WSC approved this concept. Literature Services is working on its publication.

11-18

Please review and revise the whole John H Scholarship program and policy.

Some of the problems with the current scholarship process are:

1/ The host committees who make the award decisions do not have historical information regarding previous year's scholarship applicants and awardees. This means there's no conscious choice about giving a scholarship to the same individual or group several years in a row and there's no conscious choice about denying the same individual or group several years in a row.

2/ The current policy of first awarding **one** "most need" scholarship and then allocating the remainder of the funds to the "least need" applicants from there means **only one** GSR from an under-represented area is able to attend WSC and the rest of the

scholarship awards are given to applicants who often come from areas already sending many GSRs to conference (such as California).

3/ Some individuals apply for scholarships even though their group(s) can send them to WSC without scholarship assistance so they can have more elbow room in their spending plan or so that they don't have to do as much fundraising at their group / local area.

4/ Every year the PO Box that the applications are mailed to changes. Some year's there's been a typo in the registration packet of that year's local PO box.

5/ Many scenarios are not covered by the current scholarship policy such as if someone who has already been awarded a scholarship is unable to attend, what happens with the scholarship award. The practice of recent years has been that if the group can send someone else from the same group the award can be transferred but if the group cannot find a replacement, the award goes back into the fund to be awarded to an applicant who was previously denied an award. I have no complaints about this current practice but it or some other method needs to be added into the scholarship policy.

Here are some ideas for possible changes to the John H Scholarship policy:

6/ Scholarships are to be awarded so that the most possible applicants from under-represented areas will be able to attend WSC. "Under-represented areas" could be defined as 1. less than or equal to four active registered groups or inter-groups within fifty miles of the applicant's home zip code and / or 2. less than or equal to three people within seventy-five miles of the applicant's home zip code attended WSC last year.

Once the pool of applicants from "under-represented areas" has been established, awards would then be based on whether or not a group is making an effort to contribute financially (ie more likely to give a scholarship award to a group that is requesting an 80% scholarship than giving a scholarship to a group requesting a 100% scholarship). Scholarships may also be awarded for an amount that is less than the amount requested on the application.

7/ The administration of the scholarship program would be best administered by the DA General Service Board. To increase the consistency of how scholarships are awarded from year to year, the Board would be the entity to review the applications and award the scholarships each year. The Board is in the best position to keep historical information regarding applicants while protecting the privacy and anonymity of the applicants / awardees.

8/ Grant the DA General Service Board the authority to update the scholarship policy in the future so policy and practice do not fall out of alignment.

WSC Conference Committee Response: [Thank you for submitting your concerns. We have made the review and revision of the scholarship fund policy an agenda item for 2011 – 2012 for the Conference Committee. The Conference has made this a priority for coming year and it is our goal to have a resolution by this time next year.](#)

11-19

Please consider replacing the John H Appeal letter and the World Service Month appeal letter with a standard appeal letter that automatically gets mailed every 3-4 months. This appeal can still allow funds to be designated for specific purposes (such as John H

donations) but could address a broader scope of DA's financial needs as well. A standardized form letter would bring consistency to DA's contribution appeal process and would negate the need for the WSC Resource Development Committee to revise the John H and the World Service Month appeal letters every year. Thank you for your service!

WSC Resource Development Committee Response: Thank you for your suggestion that World Service adopt a quarterly standard appeal letter as a potential solution to D.A.'s financial needs, as well as to lessen the workload of the RDC. The RDC is dedicated to its mission to increase 7th Tradition contributions, and as such gratefully welcomes new ideas and suggestions. The RDC has carefully considered the idea and concluded the John H. Scholarship Fund and World Service Month appeal letters currently best support the mission of the RDC.

11-20

Group #419

Why is postage so high to order literature? U.S. Post Office has reasonable rates

GSB Finance Committee Response: Our literature shipping fees are established to cover our direct shipping expenses. We use ranges, which provide shipping charges based on the value of the order. While this means we aren't setting the shipping charges for any specific order based on the true shipping costs for that order, we know that our ranges are close. The larger an order is, the heavier it is and thus the more it costs to ship the order.

Further, we know that on the whole, our shipping rates are accurate: our total annual income for shipping fees is only slightly larger than our total annual costs for postage and shipping supplies.

Finally, shipping charges, *as a percentage of the total order*, decrease on larger orders. Thus, your group might consider taking these actions to reduce shipping fees:

- ☐ When ordering A *Currency of Hope*, use the bulk rate pre-packs as the prices include postage.

- ☐ Work with one or more local groups to combine orders.☐ Have your D.A. Intergroup maintain a literature inventory, thus providing the opportunity for individual groups to benefit from the lower per-item shipping costs associated with larger orders.

11-21

Group #419

Has work begun on a DA Big Book?

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: The World Service Conference Literature Committee recommended making a D.A. Basic Text a priority and worked this year to define what it would include. There are other key projects in the works right now, such as the D.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and a new edition of A Currency of Hope. As per our limited resources, a D.A. Basic Text will be next in line.

11-22

group #419

What is the progress on the DA 12+12? Are there suggested retail prices for literature?

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: : A second draft of the Twelve Steps has been turned in to Literature Services by the writer, and much of the first draft of the Twelve Traditions have been turned back to the write for revision. Prices are determined by the groups that sell the literature.

11-23 WSC FCC

Group #419

What are the pitfalls of individual DA groups accepting candidates for service positions who do not fulfill requirements for the position?

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee Response: Thank you for taking the time to submit your Group's issue to the DA World Service Conference. We appreciate your input and take your concerns seriously. This is a concern shared by many groups. As a suggestion, members of your Group could submit their individual points of view to the "Ways and Means" DA Newsletter. Sharing your opinions with the Fellowship may clarify you Group's situation and may help others as well. For instructions on submitting to "Ways and Means," go to www.debtorsanonymous.org and open the most recent issue of "Ways and Means."

11-24 WSC Conference Committee

The WSC Host Committee Handbook (also known as the "Conference Planning Manual" and the "Host Committee Planning Manual") has not been updated since 2002. This document is vastly outdated. Policy changes over the years have made parts of this manual misleading and inaccurate. In recent years, this has caused distress and confusion for several host committees. Please ask the WSC Conference Committee to create an action plan for getting this manual updated by the end of this conference year. An accurate and up-to-date WSC Host Committee Handbook is critical to future Host Committees being able to successfully host a World Service Conference.

WSC Conference Committee Response: Thank you for submitting your concerns. We have made the Host Committee Handbook an agenda item for the 2011-2012 Conference Committee. We have formed a sub-committee that has created the action plan for completing this task.

11-25

Group# 245

Concerns re: the DA Board Forums

We have substantial concerns about the Board Forums as reported in various DA communications. While the intent and concept seems laudable, are concerns are:

Can DA afford the costs (transportation/meals/lodging of Trustees, room rentals/refreshments) when the Fellowship has so many unmet needs?

Will the Board be sharing information about the costs with either the Fellowship or the Conference (institutional transparency).

How was it decided that this is a wise and appropriate use of the Fellowship's resources? Has approval ever been sought from the Conference?

We request a full report on all the Board Forums to date and ask that the concept be submitted to the Conference at the convocation before any new Forums are scheduled.

GSB Long Range Planning Committee Response: The trusted servants of the GSB take utmost care in deciding how to spend the funds donated by the fellowship. The Treasurer reports the breakdown of DA's finances at the WSC. There was also an Ask the GSB Phone Forum focused entirely on DA's finances. In the latter part of 2011 and early 2012 when funds were tight, the GSB suspended funding for the Regional Forums temporarily. This action is evidence of the Trustee's concern and stewardship of DA's finances.

Forum costs are included in the Forum summary report included in the LRP's annual report for this conference.

The Regional Forums are a result of a process brought forth by a motion from the Conference Committee and approved by the 2006 WSC. The full history of how the Conference initiated the actions leading to the Regional Forums is included in the Forum summary report included in the LRP's annual report for this conference.

A summary report of the Regional Forums presented to date is included in the LRP's annual report for this conference. As the report shows, the concept of the forums came from the 2006 Conference convocation. WSC committees are always free to present motions to modify or reverse previous actions of the WSC.

11-26

My concern that I want to bring to the conference is regarding texting in meetings. I've noticed a big trend in DA Mtgs that people are texting while others are speaking/sharing. Especially at business mtgs. I feel that the reason we come to these mtgs are to listen to our fellow members and everyone deserves our full attention. For me, Texting is like talking while someone is sharing. I'm looking forward to hearing what comes out of this

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee Response: Thank you for taking the time to submit your Group's issue to the DA World Service Conference. We appreciate your input and take your concerns seriously. Since each group is autonomous as stated in Tradition 4, we can only suggest that at your next Business Meeting you consider making a motion to add a statement to your meeting format that discourages texting at your meeting.

11-27

Recently, someone who served as treasurer for two NYC DA groups disappeared with both groups' financial reserves, after it was discovered that this individual had defaulted on rent payment for both groups (while reporting that the rent had been paid). I know from experience in another program that this is not a new problem for Twelve Step groups, and that the Traditions are "obedience to the unenforceable." However, it seems to me that DA is in the best position to articulate some guidance for dealing with financial challenges like this. I would like to suggest that the World Service Conference develop a written piece of service literature, to offer Traditions-based guidance for balancing the trust placed in trusted servants with accountability to, and protection of, the DA group as a whole where group finances are concerned. Ideally, this guidance would include both preventive measures and guidance for action after mishandling of finances is discovered. It could take the form of stories about how groups around the country have faced these challenges.

WSC Resource Development Committee Response: The Resource Development Committee of the 2011 World Service Conference appreciates the sensitivity of this money-related issue and the unsettling impact it may have on a DA group. Guidance pertaining to both theft prevention and post-discovery actions may be found in already-existing DA service literature.

With regard to theft prevention, the “D.A. Treasurer’s Manual: The Seventh Tradition in Action”^{*} provides relevant guidance concerning treasurer position requirements, term of service, and co-treasurer options (see “Electing a Treasurer” p. 2 and “What is the requirement to be the Treasurer...” p. 9), “Safeguarding Funds” (p. 6), and “Can a group have too much money?” (p. 10).

With regard to post-discovery actions, the D.A. Treasurer’s Manual addresses the challenge of missing or stolen funds (p. 8), suggesting that groups refrain from acting in a punitive way in observance of the 5th warranty of DA’s Concept 12, which states in part “There should be no room for punishment in D.A. Love and service should be our motto.” (The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service: 2011 edition, p. 142).

“Remember: There are always spiritual solutions” that may include praying for the still-suffering former treasurer. The financial challenge of rebuilding 7th tradition funds is similar to that encountered in starting a D.A. group, which is addressed on pp. 20-21 of the D.A. Manual for Service.

* The D.A. Treasurer’s Manual is replicated on pages 29-39 in The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service: 2011 edition.

11-28

City: San Francisco

Group Name: SF Wednesday BDA

Group # 604

Which is worth more to DA: \$1400 in a cash disbursement, or another GSR coming to the World Conference? If a group has some (or even all) of the funds needed but can’t line up a group member to commit to GSR service, then is it more valuable to DA to receive a disbursement for spending as is needed, or wait for the group to eventually send a new GSR for the first time?

GSB Finance Committee Response: The answer to this question can vary depending on the current circumstances of the group and the World Service. There is no blanket answer that applies to every group every time. Here are some things to consider when your group takes a group conscience on what to do:

The group’s circumstances would be the first consideration.

Some groups have to save for several years in order to accumulate enough money to send a GSR to the World Service Conference. In that circumstance, if the year the group finally has enough in their GSR savings fund there isn’t a group member available to attend as a GSR, the group may want to consider retaining all or part of the savings for purpose of sending a GSR to WSC the following year.

If a group is consistently able to annually accumulate enough money to send a GSR to the World Service Conference but does not have a group member available to serve in a specific year, it would not violate any traditions if the group decided to send all or part of the money to the General Service Office as a group contribution or as a John H. scholarship fund contribution.

The circumstances at the World Service level would be a secondary consideration.

In a scenario where DA has money available for projects but not enough man power to implement them, another GSR attending the World Service Conference would be more beneficial than a group contribution.

In a scenario where DA has board committees and WSC committees with sufficient volunteers available but cannot implement some projects because of a lack of sufficient annual income, a group contribution to the General Service Office would be more beneficial than another GSR at WSC.

Ultimately, an informed group conscience is the best way for a group to make group financial decisions. It's likely the group will find that whatever is best for the group will also be best for DA as a whole.

11-29

DA Communication issues: DA needs a comprehensive, coherent and professional communications policy. All methods of communication in use currently have problems.

1. The e-news is seriously overused...I feel like I am bombarded with appeals for various service positions. Why can't it be used to send out the DA Focus (which seems to never get to the group/member level) or news of DA events.2. The web site has great information but it is so disorganized and ad-hoc that useful documents are extremely hard to find. We have heard talk for several years about a re-design of the web site...will it ever happen? There must be hundreds of competent web designers who could do the job at a reasonable cost. Also, much of the information on the web site is out of date (old discontinued pamphlets still listed), there is **never** any information on the Events page, and many of the links are broken. One needs to be either savvy or lucky to find the links to the regional web sites. Add a section to web site with information specifically for newcomers, perhaps have an FAQ section. Hire a professional or service to monitor the web site for broken links, viruses, etc.

GSB Communications Committee response: We are committed to not spamming our members with eNews. All attempts are made to limit eNews to once a week. Due to the overlap of some events, occasionally two go out in one week. The eNews now has a direct link to the DA Focus and Ways & Means newsletters. Only events related to D.A. as a whole are announced via eNews. We do not announce local events. We agree about the website. Some time back the site was analyzed and a plan was in place to update it, but the funds were not available to follow through with it in timely manner. Over time, two members who were doing service in this area were unable to continue. The web site redesign is a long-term plan. The WSC Fellowship Communications Committee has created a map of the web site with live links that will be useful to users of the site until the redesign is complete.

11-30 GSB Office

CITY: LONDON

GROUP NAME: UK INTERGROUP

GROUP NUMBER: 1269

Tech Committee - Can we have an update on technical issues re e-commerce, e.g. buying literature online

GSB Office Committee Response: [Please see response to 11-01](#)

11-31

CITY: LONDON

GROUP NAME: UK INTERGROUP

GROUP NUMBER: 1269

Parliamentary procedure is common in the US to run business meetings with. The UK would like to know more about these procedures. Could there be some literature or workshop, conference call or something?

GSB Conference Support Committee Response: [Parliamentary procedure refers to the rules of democracy—that is, the commonly accepted way in which a group of people come together, present and discuss possible courses of action, and make decisions. Parliamentary procedure is used by all types of decision-making bodies on a daily basis: school boards, homeowners' associations, city councils, and non-profit boards of directors, for example. Parliamentary procedure also defines what duties people typically have when they are elected the president, secretary, or treasurer of an organization.](#)

[Fundamentally, parliamentary procedure defines how groups of people, no matter how formal or informal, can most effectively meet and make decisions in a fair, consistent manner—and make good use of everyone's time. Even a basic background in parliamentary principles can help you and any organization hold more efficient meetings.](#)

[The National Association of Parliamentarians bases its opinions and instruction upon Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. The most widely used parliamentary authority in the United States, this book \(often abbreviated RONR\) was first published as the Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies in 1876. Since then, the book has been expanded and updated several times, incorporating solutions for countless meeting situations and acknowledging both societal and technological changes that affect the way business is conducted. The current edition of this book is Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 11th edition \(2011\).](#)

[From: National Association of Parliamentarians,
<http://parliamentarians.org/procedure.php>](#)

[To assist members of the Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference become familiar with parliamentary procedure and to help move business along in a productive and orderly manner, the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board hires a professional parliamentarian to assist at Convocation and additionally provides a brief booklet that outlines some basic parliamentary procedures to every Conference attendee.](#)

11-32

CITY: LONDON

GROUP NAME: UK INTERGROUP

GROUP NUMBER: 1269

Literature Committee - When will the DA 12 and 12 be ready for us to use, or what stage is it at?

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: See Issue 11-22. It's possible that it will be ready to present to the 2013 World Service Conference for its approval, but it depends on the pace of revisions and the Literature Approval Process.

11-33

CITY: LONDON

GROUP NAME: UK INTERGROUP

GROUP NUMBER: 1269

Issue of concern is of anonymity in reference to new media - LinkedIn, Facebook, etc

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee Response: Thank you for taking the time to submit your Group's issue to the DA World Service Conference. We appreciate your input and take your concerns seriously. The WSC Fellowship Communications Committee has created a statement called "The Traditions and Social Media" that has been approved by the DA General Service Board. In addition, other DA WSC committees are also addressing the widespread concern of anonymity in new media. The DA Anonymity pamphlet is also being revised to address this issue.

11-34 WSC HIP Com

CITY: LONDON

GROUP NAME: UK INTERGROUP

GROUP NUMBER: 1269

HIP Committee - We understand that copies of the currency of hope were distributed to prisons; is it possible this could be done in the UK?

WSC Hospitals Institutions and Prisons Committee Response: We are unable to address international HIP suggestions at this time; we suggest that this be put forth to the London Intergroup.

Follow up: Several years ago, the Hospitals Institutions and Prisons (HIP) Committee sent one copy of *The Currency of Hope* to the library in each US Federal prison. This involved distribution of approximately 111 copies of the book, and the cost was paid for by a special allocation from the General Service Board (GSB).

A similar distribution could probably be done to all prisons in the United Kingdom, if the GSB were willing to pay for the books.

Before we make such a concrete proposal, we would need to do some research. How many prisons are in the UK? What is the procedure for donating books? Do we need to get approval on a prison-by-prison basis, or can a single person make an approval for the entire prison system?

Unfortunately, all members of the current HIP Committee are located in the United States, and we have no knowledge of the British prison system.

We suggest that the London Intergroup do some local research into the practical issues. Then the HIP Committee and the International Caucus could come up with a joint proposal for distribution of the books in the UK. If funding is approved by the GSB and the London Intergroup would take on the practical details of distribution,

we on the HIP Committee believe that this would be a worthy form of outreach to the debtors who still suffer.

11-35

I would like to see more translation of DA literature into different languages; Chinese for example.

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: The GSO has received numerous requests for permission to translate D.A. literature, and to approve translations that have already been completed, including Spanish, French, German, Italian, Icelandic, Portuguese, Japanese and more. The GSB Legal Affairs committee has produced the legal documents necessary to protect D.A.'s copyright in those materials and has been in contact with the parties making these requests.

11-36

City: Los Angeles

Group Name: Wake Up You Debtors

Group #: 1010

What has happened to the BDA Numbers book?

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: Unfortunately the BDA Numbers Pamphlet has had several writers who were unable to complete the project. Literature Services is currently looking for a new writer.

11-37

- *Declare Credit Card use is debting*

GSB Communications Committee Response: Thank you for your concern for the recovering debtor and the debtor who still suffers. Tradition Two states: ". . . Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern." For the General Service Board to declare credit-card use to be debting would be an act of governance. There is great power when individual members share how they found recovery through surrender—that is, not debting—and groups that encourage awareness of the Steps, Traditions, and D.A. literature tend to be very effective in fulfilling the group's compassionate primary purpose: ". . . to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers."

11-38

To mitigate the problem of some WSC committees having as few as 1-2 members while in the same conference year other WSC committees have as many as 25 members, I request that the WSC Conference Committee consider changing the procedure of how delegates choose their committee assignment. To even out the total number of delegates serving on any one WSC committee, no committee's roster should exceed 15% of the total number of registered GSRs & ISRs. I offer some potential solutions for the committee's consideration as a starting point for discussion. 1/ Provide a checkbox on the registration form which states "I wish to be of maximum service. Please assign

me to a committee as needed." 2/ Provide a bulletin board where delegates can sign up for committees on the first day of the WSC. When the roster is full, the committee is closed to additional members. Delegates may choose another committee with openings on which to serve. To facilitate an informed decision, the committee mission and all I&Cs assigned to each committee would be printed at the top of each sign-up sheet. 3/

Delegates specify three WSC committee preferences, in ranked order, at the time of registration for the WSC. When delegates register, each will be assigned to a committee based on their first choice unless that committee has already met its maximum size. The delegate will then be assigned to their second, or if necessary, to their third choice. Assignments would be made on a first-come, first-served basis to encourage GSRs and ISRs to register early. Should all of a delegate's preferred choices be filled, they will be asked to serve on an under-served committee by random assignment. 4/ Delegates are assigned on a random basis to committees by the GSO, taking into consideration diversity by regional distribution of delegates.

WSC Conference Committee Response: [We appreciate your submission. The conference committee refers you to page 73 of the DA Manual for Service 2011 edition which states "As part of their service commitment, GSR's and ISR's are expected to serve on a World Service Conference Committee of their choice."](#)

11-39

"Are we doing any work – nationally, regionally, or otherwise – to engage and cooperate with debt-related professionals? We're thinking of the AA model of working with doctors, treatment centers, and therapists to attract new members."

WSC Public Information Committee Response: [Following the 2010 World Service Conference the Helping Professions Subcommittee worked throughout the year, sending conference approved outreach letters to ministers, rehab and recovery centers, gay and lesbian centers, career centers, financial institutions, librarians, a domestic violence shelter, a recovery bookstore manager, directors of addiction study programs, and social service centers. Also the outreach effort included a DA booth at a conference in Salt Lake City for students and professionals in the field of addiction and substance abuse. Plans are in place for a DA booth at a conference for Employee Assistance Professionals in Denver in October of 2011. Over 1000 helping professionals are expected to attend.](#)

11-39

Is there anything we could do to emulate the AA-related model of having still-suffering debtors attracted to meetings via "court slips?"

Despite years of grumbling about the court slips in AA, the positive impact on the growth of AA's membership is undeniable.

WSC Public Information Committee Response: [DA is not in a position to create a "court slip" program, or to encourage any government office to demand a certain behavior from a debtor, without running the risk of violating Tradition Six, that is, having no opinion on outside issues. In order for DA to "emulate the AA model," debtors would first have to be ordered to attend a DA meeting, by court order. It would appear to be a violation of the Traditions for DA to actively encourage judges in Bankruptcy Court, for example, to order debtors to DA as a condition of the court-ordered relief they seek from their debts. While DA literature discusses a moratorium on debt repayment, courts that oversee debt collection cases are interested in a debtor paying their debts in full](#)

and on time. Thus, the issues raised in a debt collection lawsuit, as opposed to a bankruptcy proceeding, are inherently different from the issues addressed in recovery, and are also "outside" of the DA program. Although the debtor's suffering is very much a DA concern, the conditions for relief imposed by a court, and the terms of any court's order, are clearly an outside issue to our primary purpose of helping the debtor who still suffers.

The WSC's Public Information Committee, and other WSC committees, are constantly working to attract new members to the fellowship, and to spread the word of recovery through solvency to the still suffering debtor. We have discussed developing a new DA pamphlet, at some point in the future, to reach out to the Helping Professionals, and carry the message in that fashion. That pamphlet is now on the drawing board.

11-41

Higher Visions (Group #349) Seattle, WA

We should re-consider our policy of not paying for advertising to attract suffering debtors from our communities (referring to page 10 of the PI Manual). We are concerned with the lack of growth, and rumored shrinkage, of the DA fellowship. Other 12 Step fellowships pay for advertising with success in terms of both membership and public awareness. Why aren't we willing and able to pay for advertising in appropriate venues and publications?

WSC Public Information Committee Response: Our Seventh Tradition talks about the self-supporting nature of our Fellowship: every DA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. DA, as a whole, ought to be fully self-supporting and independent, both financially and in its service work. We are self-supporting financially; paying our way through the voluntary contributions of our members. We are also self-supporting in terms of service; we carry DA's message to the still suffering debtor ourselves, through the service of our members. This type of service is an integral part of our recovery from compulsive debting. Allowing another entity, such as a paid advertising company, to do this important work for us may compromise the DA Fellowship as a whole, as we may become spiritually detached from our Primary Purpose. Securing paid advertising is a valuable practice for many businesses and corporations hoping to increase their revenue by increasing their public awareness. Debtors Anonymous is a spiritual fellowship, guided by the spiritual principles laid out by our Twelve Traditions. Advertising practices of other businesses or even of other 12-Step groups are not necessarily a good spiritual fit for DA. We ought not to allow others to do our work for us. In DA we learn that self-seeking and self-promoting behavior ought to be replaced by humility, especially on the group level. DA's Eleventh Tradition says that our Public Relations Policy is based on that humility: attraction rather than promotion. Using paid advertising to make the public aware of the wonderful merits of Debtors Anonymous is considered promotional in nature, diminishing the spiritual aspects of our Fellowship. Using paid advertising to notify the public of a DA Meeting or a DA Event is considered promotional in nature, diminishing the spiritual aspects of the meeting or event. DA's *International Public Information Manual* offers guidelines and recommended activities for attracting members. As you have noted, on page 10 of the *Manual* there are listed activities not recommended for attracting members. Please refer to DA's *A Guide To Special Events (Service Literature 2009)* for an elaborated discussion on the promotion of group Fundraisers and Special Events. Both the *International PI Manual* and *A Guide To Special Events* are available on the DA website

as a free download. The spiritual mission of the WSC Public Information Committee is to interface with the media, helping professionals and the general public in person, on the telephone and through written information. We welcome and encourage individual DA Members or individual DA Groups to get involved in PI service work. For example, official DA Public Service Announcements (PSAs) are currently available. They are intended for play on radio stations. Members of the WSC PI Committee, local group or intergroup PI Representatives, and individual DA Members or individual DA Groups can distribute these PSAs to radio stations. Please refer to the *PI Manual* for guidelines for their distribution. Growth of our beloved Fellowship depends on each individual member's commitment to applying DA's Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to their lives. From this commitment to Recovery, Unity & Service, the groups can grow stronger and increase in number.

Thank you for your query. I hope this information is helpful.

11-00

CITY: Seattle, WA, GROUP NAME: Higher Visions, GROUP NUMBER: 349

We would appreciate an update and ongoing progress reports on the DA 12 & 12. Why hasn't it been completed and published yet?

GSB Literature Publications Committee Response: [The DA 12x12 is in publication. The writer has completed a final draft of all the Steps and a first draft of all the Traditions. It is being editorially reviewed. Progress reports have appeared in the DA Focus.](#)

Statement On The Traditions And Social Media

Adopted by The D.A. General Service Board 2011

Our Tradition Eleven states that "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." This implies all forms of public media—including social media. Our Tradition Twelve states, "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities." Anonymity provides protection for every member from identification as a debtor—an important safeguard, especially for newcomers.

The growing popularity of social media brings with it the increasing need for us to maintain personal anonymity. When using a Web site or any social media platform where D.A. members and non-D.A.s mingle, we should be aware that it is a form of public media. If we reveal our membership in D.A., along with our full name and/or photograph, this would be in conflict with the spirit of Traditions Eleven and Twelve.