

# **The 2015 Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference**

## **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Report**

### **Portland, Oregon, USA**

**2015 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports,  
Committee Reports, and Caucus Reports**  
**Sheraton Portland  
Airport Hotel**  
**August 5–9, 2015**

#### **Anonymity**

This report is provided to the delegates who attended the 2015 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 2016 Conference.

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## SECTION 1: CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF 2015 WSC MOTIONS

### General Service Board

- The motion was made to accept the 2015 WSC Convocation Agenda. Motion carried.
- The motion was made to accept the 2014 World Service Conference Minutes as written. Motion carried.

### Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No motions.

### Conference Committee

- That the 2014 motion to hold the 2016 WSC in Sacramento be modified to hold the 2016 WSC in Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area. Motion carried.
- That the Conference select the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro Area for the 2017 and 2018 WSC. Motion carried.
- The Conference acknowledges the right of the General Service Board, in consultation with the WSC Conference Committee, to change any conference location decided on by the conference, if the General Service Board deems it necessary and appropriate. Motion carried.
- That the Conference Committee, in consultation with the Technology Committee, conduct a trial of an “electronic (paperless) binder” for the 2016 WSC. Motion carried.

### Fellowship Communications Committee

No motions.

### International Committee

No motions.

### Internal Operations Committee

No motions.

### Hospitals, Prisons, and Institutions

- That the Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons mission statement be revised to read: “The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee carries the message of D.A. to the debtor who still suffers within hospital, institution and prison systems.” Motion carried.

### Literature Committee

- That the *Underearning* pamphlet (revised) be approved as written. Motion carried.
- That the Twelve Traditions (long form) be approved as written. Motion carried.
- That the Forward of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous* be approved as written. Motion carried.
- That the *Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous* (long form) be included in the publication of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous*, to be bound in a single volume. Motion carried.
- That the *A Word to Newcomers* document be revised to include the following change: From “...you have come to the right place and we can help you.” to “...you have come to the right place and Debtors Anonymous can help you.” Motion carried.

- That the *A Word to Newcomers* document be revised to include the following change: From “It is suggested that at first you attend at least six meetings over a period of two weeks to have time to identify with the speakers and absorb the D.A. concepts.” to “It is suggested that at first you attend at least six face to face, telephone or internet meetings to have time to identify with the speakers and absorb the D.A. concepts.” Motion recommitted.
- That Michalene R. be ratified to serve as a Class "B" trustee on the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. Motion carried.

### End of Section

## (WSC) Public information Committee

- On behalf of the Diversity Caucus, the WSC PI Committee moves that the Diversity Caucus’s mission statement be changed to the following: “The mission of the Diversity Caucus is to support the Fellowship in carrying the message of Debtors Anonymous to the debtor in underserved populations and locations. We coordinate with World Service Conference committees by developing best practices for doing service and sharing it with D.A. as a whole.” Motion carried.

## Resource Development Committee

No motions.

## Technology Committee

No motions.

## Motions to Ratify

- That Bill J. be ratified to serve a second term as a Class "A" trustee on the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. Motion carried.
- That Clay D. be ratified to serve as a Class "A" trustee on the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. Motion carried.
- That Bob D. be ratified to serve as a Class "B" trustee on the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. Motion carried.

## **Intentional Spacing**

## SECTION 2: CONVOCAATION MINUTES AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES

### CONVOCAATION OPENING

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by the General Service Board Chairperson, Eileen N. at 8:33 AM on Saturday, August 8, 2015, starting with the Serenity Prayer.

After announcements, volunteers were asked to read the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts for D.A. World Service, and the Debtors Anonymous Conference Charter

#### **Parliamentary procedure training with Michael Malamut**

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[Michael@michaelmalamut.com](mailto:Michael@michaelmalamut.com)}

The Chairperson introduced Michael Malamut, who is going to give an overview of motions, recommendations, and parliamentary procedure. Michael Malamut, the professional parliamentarian who has been assisting the Debtors Anonymous Fellowship since 1998, gave a brief overview of the purpose of parliamentary procedures and a brief discussion about the parliamentary procedures that would be used during the Convocation. Michael acknowledged the importance of the work of the D.A. Fellowship and that the purpose of the meeting procedures was also a way to support the spiritual aspects of the program. He mentioned that *Robert's Rules of Order*, which is the parliamentary reference used by D.A., helps determine how decisions are made, who will speak first, and how the fellowship can reach consensus. He said *Robert's Rules* is a guide and not a hard and fast rule. It's the most common and well-known parliamentary procedural handbook. It also provides a lot of protection for the minority viewpoint, which is in consistent with the spiritual outlay of the 12 concepts making it an appropriate guide for this meeting.

Michael discussed some of the most common concerns and tensions that can come up in the group dynamics of a large group:

- Efficiency vs. education: how quickly will we get the business done versus how much time will be spend educating ourselves?
- Majority rules vs. minority rights: if a simple majority, which can pass something and can pass something should the majority be able to do whatever they want? Or should a very strong and vocal minority have certain protections?
- Flexibility vs. finality: how easy should we make it to correct mistakes? On the other hand, how much time should be given to dot i's and crossing every t?
- Individual rights vs. group rights: when should the group stop business for one individual?

Michael reminded the Fellowship that the great purpose of all rules and forms is to serve the will of the assembly, to facilitate and not to obstruct. The rules are about getting business done. They are not to stop you from asking questions or introducing important changes. If you don't know the correct form to use, then it is the parliamentarian's job and the chairperson's job to help you adhere to procedure. Delegates can use the guide they've been provided as a reference. Michael explained that interrupting business is very rare and must be very important with a great amount of immediacy. A point of order is used to interrupt business based on a breach of parliamentary procedure.

Michael then discussed specific motions that come about time and time again:

- A motion is used to introduce business is a main motion using the language, "I move that..."
- Motions can only come through committee (this is very common at conventions); however, once a motion is on the floor anyone can amend a motion.
- Move to amend a motion can be used to change a motion that will garner support for the motion.
- Motions can be postponed to later in the same meeting, but not to the next year. Motions can be sent back to committee for continued work. If this body thinks there is something that needs work, then you send it to committee to study it and bring it back to the next meeting
- Previous question is used to end debate and amendments. The body can come to consensus about extending the time allotted for a movement, which takes a 2/3 vote to extend debate.

- Michael advised the Fellowship to not use the motion “To lay on the table” as it is confusing and rarely used correctly.
- Personal privilege is what this body calls a serenity moment. Anybody can call for a serenity moment. Use it wisely.
- Question of privilege is used to bring attention to environmental factors that need to be addressed.
- Motions to appeal can be used if a delegate thinks a motion was passed too quickly. There is a minority right to appeal and the delegate can express their reasoning for it, which can cause a motion to reconsider and re-open debate.

### Questions and Comments from Delegates:

1. What do the labels on the microphones mean?
  - a. The Pro label is to the right and the Con label is to the left. Pro means in favor and Con means against. If you want to ask a question, then you can call for a point of information.

Questions help delegates to understand motions better. Try and refrain from asking questions unless you feel they are very important and cannot come out during the debate. Either microphone can be used for a point of information. If you have an urgent point of order, then you can raise your hand in your chair for the Chair to call on you.

2. In my group, we use the term call the question to close the debate.
  - a. Call the question is the same phrase used to close debate requiring a 2/3 vote. But, if you can't do it by general consensus, then it requires a 2/3 vote. The chair must recognize delegates in order to call the question and if anyone objects, then it still requires a 2/3 vote.
3. If your point has already been made, then there is no need for others to bring the same idea to the microphone.
  - a. The most common reason this happens because people are formulating their own ideas as best they can and so they aren't listening to people at the microphone. Try to be judicious about your time and the time of the assembly.

### Quorum Established

87 delegates registered, thus a quorum of 58 was established for voting. A two-thirds vote is needed for substantial unanimity.

**The GSB Chair asked for a motion to accept the 2015 WSC Convocation Agenda. The motion was accepted without objection.**

**The GSB Chair asked for a motion to accept the 2014 World Service Report as posted on the D.A. website. A Motion to approve the 2014 WSC Report as posted was made and seconded. The motion was approved with no opposition to accept the 2014 report.**

The chair explained the Pro (For) and Con (Against) microphones. Delegates have 1 minute to state their position. Debate will continue until the allotted time is used or a consensus has been reached.

Please use them microphones for all debate.

### Summary of Recommendations

(Listed alphabetically, by committee, then by caucus)

#### Business Debtors Anonymous

We recommend that the GSB consider the creation of a caucus to address the underearning aspect of debting and business debting. (Referred by GSB to the Conference Committee)

#### Conference Committee

None

#### Fellowship Communications Committee

- FCC is recommending that the GSB consider a “Multi-Lingual Response Team” for newcomers whose first language is not English, so they can be helped in their own language to start their recovery process. The GSO could form a database of members fluent in two or more languages who could act as a point of contact when non-English speaking members or groups contact DA by phone or email. In order to start this database we encourage delegates to canvass their group and intergroup members who speak, read and write a second language and are willing to be contacted. Recommended solvency requirement of six months.



- FCC recommends the production of a customized click pen with rotating slogans to commemorate DA's 40th anniversary. This item could help carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering debtor--and debtors could do their numbers with it!

## Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee

None

## Internal Operations Committee

- That the GSB hire a contractor to provide complete installation, network, backup, data transfer, and ongoing technical support for the GSO.
- That the GSB establish a GSO relocation reserve fund.
- That the GSB establish a fund for the long-term expansion of staff in order for the GSO to meet the needs of the Fellowship.
- That the GSB employ a specialist in office space to improve the current GSO work environment.

## Literature Committee

None

## Public Information Committee

- The WSC PI Committee recommends that the GSB Information Technology Committee approve the concept of posting the speaker portions of WSC PI-sponsored Fellowship-Wide Calls on the PI Tab on the Debtors Anonymous website. The purpose of this is to strengthen D.A.'s ability to support the fellowship worldwide.
- The WSC PI Committee recommends that the WSC and the GSB maintain an open mind about: social media and its possibility for the growth of D.A. and outreach to the debtor who still suffers.

## Resource Development Committee

- We, the Resource Development Committee, recommend that every General Service Representative and Intergroup Service Representative consider contributing monthly to the General Service Office in the spirit of "Every Member, Every Month."
- We recommend that all GSRs upon returning home find a group in their area that does not have a GSR and explain the importance and joy of such service. We would love to hear about your successes at [lovethosegsrs@gmail.com](mailto:lovethosegsrs@gmail.com).

- We suggest that GSRs recommend to their group that the full 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition announcement in quotes on page 30 of the DAMS be read at every 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collection.

*"D.A. has no dues or fees. We are self-supporting through our own contributions, so we pass the basket. Please give as generously as you can. However, if you cannot, please keep coming back."*

*"Keep in mind that our group's monthly expenses are \$\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., rent, literature, prudent reserve, etc.). In addition, D.A. has a service structure which depends on contributions from our group. After our group's needs are met, we contribute the balance, 45% to the General Service Office, 45% to Intergroup and 10% to the Area GSR Group. The General Service Office expenses include staff, rent for the office, administration, website upgrades and maintenance, new literature, and literature translations. Please help us meet our responsibility for supporting the Fellowship as a whole."*

## Technology Committee

None

## Diversity Caucus

None

## Intergroup Caucus

None

## International Caucus

- Recruit ACMS from outside the US for the GSB International Committee.
- Video conferencing for international GSRs: Work with various committees to continue exploring the use of technology as a means of allowing international GSRs and ISRs to participate in the World Service Conference remotely.
- The conference committee will explore structures that would allow GSR's and ISR's outside of the USA, who cannot come to the World Service Conference, to participate in the WSC.

## End of Section

## **Intentional Spacing**

## WSC COMMITTEE & CAUCUS REPORTS

(Committee Reports are listed in their order of presentation at the Convocation)

### Intergroup Caucus

The Committee Chair introduced committee members.

#### Committee Officers

- Chair: Ellen B.
- Vice Chair: Alice K.
- Secretary: Maureen F.
- Treasurer: Jeannine W.

**Committee Members:** Jeanine W., Jackie D., Sandi L., Sierra P., Molly L., Bob A., Patrick C., Eileen N. (liaison), Alice K., Ellen B., Maureen F., Gail \_\_, Carolyn \_\_

Our Agenda for the year 2015 - 16 includes:

1. Continue updating the intergroup database
2. Collecting information and ideas on ways that Intergroups can do to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary
3. Reading the DAMS manual before each meeting
4. Distribute a copy of the DAMS manual to each intergroup that doesn't have one yet

### Tech Committee

The Committee Chair introduced committee members.

#### Committee Officers

- Chair: Arthur G.
- Vice Chair: Tom W.
- Secretary: Bernadette G.
- Treasurer: Ellen B.

**Committee Members:** Pat B. (liaison)

Our Agenda for the year 2015 - 16 includes:

1. Digital inventory of all the ways we can find the fellowship is using technology in order to share resources.
2. There were 3 items the Tech Committee was working on that have been passed off to other committees:

- a. E-literature
- b. Digital binder
- c. Video conferencing

Note: The tech committee will continue to give tech advice to other groups.

Fun fact: 40% of the visits to the D.A. website are done via phone; 50% done by computer; 10% done by tablet

Questions:

1. When will the new website be ready?
  - a. The official word is "any time now." There is a glitch that is being worked on. Hopefully it is the final glitch.
2. Are we going to continue phone meetings?
  - a. By looking at the use of the website, we are finding out that more and more use of the website is to get phone numbers for phone meetings. It looks like phone meetings are continuing to grow.
3. Is there a timeline for the website?
  - a. Early in the new conference year that begins now.

### Literature Committee (LIT)

The Committee Chair introduced committee members and then gave the Literature Committee Report to the Convocation.

#### Committee Officers

- Chair: Tom K.
- Vice Chair: Sharon S.
- Secretary: Deb R.
- Treasurer: Tom B.

**Committee Members:** Asha E, Carolyn A, Connie N, Debbie L, Ellen S, Evy R, Gisela S, Holly S, Jerome S, Lynne W, Maiya A, Matthew E, Rae T, Rona Z,

The LIT committee has read and reviewed:

1. Final draft of the revised underearning pamphlet,
2. Final draft of the proposed forward to the long awaited 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous, and
3. Final draft of the proposed 12 Traditions long form.

We have read aloud, done our due diligence, debated, and reached near unanimous conclusions.

All committee members were actively engaged in the process providing thoughtful feedback.

The LIT committee was assigned 20 issues and concerns from the wider Fellowship representing almost half of all issues and concerns. They formed a sub-committee to begin prepping the issues and concerns for the annual agenda. The committee was able to respond to one of the concerns in their face-to-face meeting. The remaining agenda items will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. The primary text of Debtors Anonymous, our own Big Book,
2. A format for beginner's, and
3. A new preamble for Debtors Anonymous.

One goal is for all committee members to read all 20 issues and concerns before the first conference call in September while also drafting a spiritual purpose statement to be read at the beginning of each conference call.

**Six (6) Motions** were proposed by the Literature Committee:

**LIT COM Motion #1:** The Literature Committee moves that the *Underearning* pamphlet (revised) be approved as written.

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: Can you please give a brief overview of the spirit of the revision?

A: The basic premise of the revision is to clarify that underearning is a common symptom of the disease and not a separate disease. It was revised because of a decision that was made at the 2012 World Service Conference. The committee gave a near unanimous approval to it

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #2:** The Literature Committee moves that the *Twelve Traditions* (long form) be approved as written.

**History:**

The concept of 12 and 12 was approved in 2008. The big missing piece is the 12 traditions. They've been written, re-written, and reviewed by the Board of Trustees, last year's service committee (who did approve them), and this year's service committee. Very careful consideration was given for each tradition. Everybody provided valuable feedback. We believe we've done our due diligence on this.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #3:** The Literature Committee moves that the Foreword of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* of Debtors Anonymous be approved as written.

**History:**

Review has been done thoroughly by this year's committee, last year's committee, and the Board.

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: When the promises were reviewed a couple of years ago, we got to see the text and substantial concerns were brought up for editing and debate. It was difficult, but the result was fabulous. Is there any reason why we don't see any of these texts presented so that we know what we are approving?

A: It is not part of convocation process to be seen. It goes through many, many committees. Once it is vetted and approved by the committees, then we ask that you rely on the trusted servants. Any issues and concerns can be brought in the future.

Q: Correction of spelling in the motion was brought to attention

A: It is correctly spelled in the actual document! It was only a misspelling on the Power Point Presentation.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #4:** The Literature Committee moves that the *Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous* (long form) be included in the publication of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* of Debtors Anonymous, to be bound in a single volume.

**History:**

This would make it a 12 and 12 and 12.

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: When do you think it will be published so that we can tell our group to expect it?

A: This year.

Q: Would this change the name of the publication?

A: The book has not been named and will be determined later.

PRO: I think this is great to have the 12 and 12 and 12. Let's be different than any other Fellowship. Let's get these principles out there because they're just as important as the steps. Thank you for all your hard work.

PRO: I belong to another fellowship that has a book with the 12 and 12 and 12 all in one place. As a sponsor and sponsee I love this book. I am very much in support of this motion.

PRO: I'm so moved by this. My first conference was in 1998 and it was brought up that we needed the 12 and 12 and 12 in 1998. This is such a powerful moment. Thank you.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #5:** The Literature Committee moves that the *A Word to Newcomers* document be revised to include the following changes: Changing "...you have come to the right place and we can help you" to "you have come to the right place and Debtors Anonymous can help you."

**History:**

Came to us through and issue and concern from a group in Salt Lake City, Utah with some very compelling points. We've had quite a bit of debate about this and this motion stood out as a very wise and doable motion.

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: Can you repeat where this occurs? Is this the forward?

A: This is *A Word to Newcomers* that is available on-line through the website and can be printed and distributed at meetings.

Q: Correction of spelling in the motion was brought to attention

A: It is correctly spelled in the actual document! It was only a misspelling on the Power Point Presentation.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #4:** The Literature Committee moves that the *Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous* (long form) be included in the publication of the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* of Debtors Anonymous, to be bound in a single volume.

**History:**

This would make it a 12 and 12 and 12.

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: When do you think it will be published so that we can tell our group to expect it?

A: This year.

Q: Would this change the name of the publication?

A: The book has not been named and will be determined later.

PRO: I think this is great to have the 12 and 12 and 12. Let's be different than any other Fellowship. Let's get these principles out there because they're just as important as the steps. Thank you for all your hard work.

PRO: I belong to another fellowship that has a book with the 12 and 12 and 12 all in one place. As a sponsor and sponsee I love this book. I am very much in support of this motion.

PRO: I'm so moved by this. My first conference was in 1998 and it was brought up that we needed the 12 and 12 and 12 in 1998. This is such a powerful moment. Thank you.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #5:** The Literature Committee moves that the *A Word to Newcomers* document be revised to include the following changes: Changing "...you have come to the right place and we can help you" to "you have come to the right place and Debtors Anonymous can help you."

**History:**

Came to us through and issue and concern from a group in Salt Lake City, Utah with some very compelling points. We've had quite a bit of debate about this and this motion stood out as a very wise and doable motion.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

**LIT COM Motion #6:** The Literature Committee moves that the *A Word to Newcomers* document be revised to include the following changes: Changing, “It is suggested that at first you attend at least six meetings over a period of two weeks to have time to identify with the speakers and absorb the D.A. concepts” to “It is suggested that at first you attend at least six face to face, telephone or internet meetings to have time to identify with the speakers and become familiar with the D.A. program.”

**Discussion Summary:**

Q: What was the thinking behind removing the time frame for attending the meetings?

A: For some debtors, it creates a hardship and pressure. What if a debtor loses phone access? The intention is to open the possibilities without pressure.

Q: I’m in favor of the motion, but please provide a printed copy so that we can take back to our group. Can we get a printed copy?

A: We can work on it, but I cannot promise. The website will definitely be updated shortly.

Q: Can you please repeat the first slide but wait to get to my seat so that I can type it?

A: Yes. Please do not take pictures of the Power Point. You can see a committee member for the text.

Pro: I’m on the literature committee and one of the reasons we proposed this change because we just talked about including the 12 concepts in the 12 and 12 and we thought it might be confusing particularly to newcomers. Therefore, we updated it to clarify we mean the entire program and not just the 12 concepts.

Con: I stand in opposition to this change because newcomers are a fairly confused lot to begin with and to have a reading that describes all the different types of meetings might confuse and distract newcomers from coming back and having a personal connection.

Pro: I speak in favor of this motion because the previous wording was dictatorial and demanding. The new wording just says you’ve got to get on with this and here’s some options.

Con: I am in opposition because of the omission. I do understand the reasoning that it could possibly put undue pressure on the newcomer, but it is a suggestion.

I support the strong suggestion and sense of urgency that the current language gives. It is important to get back and get back soon.

Pro: I am for this because when I came into the program there was a lot of vagueness. From working the steps, I found that I have lots of choices. It’s nice to see that I have lots of choices and to be reminded.

Con: I speak in opposition to this change because it unnecessarily complicates the matter. The term “meetings” includes all types of meetings. In the future, we might have additional ways of providing meetings. Newcomers can find out the kind of meetings available. I stress the importance of the power of in-person meetings with a personal connection that is the heart of our fellowship and am concerned about the elevation of the other types of meetings to the status of face-to-face meetings.

Con: In agreement of all the cons, but if someone were to offer an amendment to this that it was just to attend at least 6 meetings to have time to identify with the speakers and become familiar with the program, then I would vote pro on that.

**Amendment #1:**

“It is suggested that at first you attend at least six meetings to have time to identify with the speakers and become familiar with the D.A. program.”

Pro: I speak in favor of this amendment. We say six meetings at our meetings and people get it. We keep it simple. If people need to know more and explore, that’s what we’re there for.

Con: I like how informative and inclusive the former amendment was to let people know what options are. It lets people know there are other options other than face-to-face. It’s important and shows inclusivity. It lets people know the options are there.

Pro: I am in favor of the amendment because it achieves a double win. We take out the time pressure and the confusion. We can also add “as soon as possible” to incorporate the time element.

Con: This is a piece of literature that will be on our website and we have a responsibility to inform all people of what types of meetings could be available. A lot of people will see the meeting format. That being said, every group is autonomous and as long as it’s not a breach of tradition, then the group has the right to make the decision as to how they format their meetings.

Pro: I speak pro to the amendment as long as it includes the type of meetings. It's very easy to say 6 face-to-face meetings if you live in a city.

Chair: clarified to speaker that the amendment was to remove the type of meetings and the speaker realized she is a con to the amendment.

Con: I am against this amendment because it took me three years to embrace telephone meetings. I like the idea of being explicit on the type of meetings. D.A. is much larger than just one type of meeting and I want people to know that right off the bat.

Con: I am against the amendment because when I first came into the program, I didn't really know the options. Then I left because I moved to another city and there were no meetings. Had I been aware of the other types of meetings, then I might not have left.

**Vote:**

Amendment defeated

**Amendment #2:**

"It is suggested that at first you attend at least six face to face, telephone, or internet meetings as soon as possible to have time to identify with the speakers and become familiar with the D.A. program."

Pro: I speak in favor of the amendment. As a new member, I made up a habit of "once a week" and it was difficult to change this habit. I speak in favor of a gentle suggestion of immersion into the program.

Con: I'm on the committee and my criticism of the new literature is that the sentences are too long. They need to be at about an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level because that's where Bill Wilson started. Attention spans are limited and more than 2 to 3 lines are lost.

Procedural Question: Because this is a friendly amendment should it not require a second and does it require the vote of the committee?

Answer: This is a regular amendment because it wasn't moved as a 'friendly' amendment. It is not a friendly amendment. Debate will continue.

Con: When I first came to 12 step programs it was strongly recommended that I attend every meeting I could find in the small town I lived in. When I came to DA I thought, "This is cool, but these people are crazy!" It was recommended that I check out other meetings in the area and that it happen really quickly. I don't see a reason not to include that same verbiage because as we

all know when we first came into this program our time reference of as soon as possible could be anywhere from 6 – 8 months. I paid my bills as soon as possible!

Con: I do not care for 'as soon as possible' because if something is urgent, it probably isn't spiritual. The ASAP language gives an unwelcome urgency.

Pro: Set the idea that there is urgency without the pressure of a specific time range because depending on where you live that could be difficult. To do this quickly is to get more out of the program.

Con: As a newcomer, I would have felt some pressure. It's important to be sensitive and gentle. As soon as possible implies D.A. taking responsibility for someone else's action as opposed to letting newcomers be attracted and come on their own terms.

**Vote:**

Pro 40 votes; Con 44 votes. Amendment fails

**Amendment #3:**

"It is suggested that at first you attend at least six face to face, telephone or Internet meetings as soon as you can. This will give you time to identify with the speakers and become familiar with the D.A. program."

Pro: This is a very gentle way to invite people to come back and has simpler language for those not as literate.

Con: Although I like the spirit of the amendment, we are here to treat addiction. A lot of addicts don't like to be told what to do. It attracted me to the program because no one was telling me when, where, and how to do it.

**Vote:**

Amendment fails

**Discussion is back to the original motion:**

Con: I belong to an online group and correct wording for my group would be "to subscribe to an online group." In my group, we would say go to as many meetings as possible. Newcomers get confused. Subscribe to an online group is a more technical correct description. They really aren't meetings. They are more like a list serve. There has been confusion.

Point of information: So I think the changes have been misrepresented. "Become familiar with the D.A. program" is a change and needs to be underlined.

A: Yes, it is underlined.

### **Motion to recommit:**

Motion to recommit until tomorrow; passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition. The next day's agenda will also be adjusted to allow for time for the LIT committee.

## **Internal Operations Committee (IOC)**

### **Committee Officers**

- Chair: Don C.
- Vice Chair: Sara H.
- Secretary: Larry N.
- Treasurer: Steve S.

**Committee Members:** Alice K., Dayton L., Jane L., Marietta M., Martha L. – the committee does not yet have a GSB liaison assigned to them.

The Chair stated that the Committee has no motions and four recommendations at this time. He introduced the Committee.

Motto: GSO a model of DA service.

### **Motions**

The Internal Operations Committee proposed no motions.

### **Actions for 2015 – 2016:**

1. Support the GSO Office Manager in identifying needs and gathering information for the office to make its operation more efficient.
2. Work with the GSO Office Manager and the GSB Office Committee to revise the GSO Policies and Procedures Manual.
3. Send two representatives from the IOC to visit the GSO to gather information for the IOC subcommittees. One of the committee members lives 45 minutes away from the office minimizing travel expenses. Treasurers are meeting and discussing travel expenses.

### **IOC Subcommittees:**

**Office Vision:** Establish short-term and long-term goals in conjunction with the GSB Office Committee and the GSO Office Manager.

**Policies & Procedures Manual:** Work with GSB Office Committee and GSO Office Manager to update/develop a GSO Policies and Procedures Manual.

**Flow Chart:** Work with GSB Office Committee liaison and the GSO Office Manager to develop a calendar/flow sheet for project management.

**Meeting Detectives:** Work with Intergroup Caucus & GSO to help determine which intergroups and meetings are still active and have updated information.

### **Recommendations:**

1. That the GSB hire a contractor to provide complete installation, network, backup, data transfer, and ongoing technical support for the General Service Officer (GSO).
2. That the GSB establish a GSO relocation reserve fund. The lease is up in 2017.
3. That the GSB establish a fund for the long-term expansion of staff in order for the GSO to meet the needs of the Fellowship.
4. That the GSB employ a specialist in office space to improve the current GSO work environment

### **Discussion Summary:**

Q: Can the meeting detectives please work with international caucus?

A: Yes.

## **Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee (HIP)**

### **Committee Officers**

- Chair: Molly
- Vice Chair: Kieran K.
- Secretary: Bethany O.
- Treasurer: Krzysztof A.

**Committee Members:** Peter G., Doug P., Andrea B., Beverly S., Michael A., and Bob D. (liaison)

The Chair stated that the Committee has no motions and no recommendations at this time. She introduced the Committee.



### Action plan:

1. **Formation of a HIP Manual Subcommittee**
2. **Formation of Outreach to Youth and Shelters Subcommittee**
3. **Ongoing service:**
  - a. Doug will continue his service to individuals in Seattle in transition from prisons, including pre- and post-work release programs. Will submit receipts for reimbursement.
  - b. Bev will continue her service in Chicago women's transition centers (pre-release), CSACs (post-release), as well as reaching out to jails and parole officers.

### New Initiatives:

- Peter will begin outreach to shelters and community resources, including case managers, local to the Seattle area. He expressed some concerns about anonymity, as he is currently professionally involved with the community groups he'd like to engage. Andrea suggested he contextualize this in terms of being "facilitator" for other D.A. members to come in and present/speak. Will document his work via HIP Case Study Form.
- Andrea will serve in the area of communications and integration by consulting with the other HIP members and advising/connecting them to executives and decision makers in the non-profit sector (NY area and beyond). She will also serve to increase national awareness of D.A. across hospital institutions and prison systems through the distribution of best practices information documented by the committee.
- Molly's service will be focused in hospitals and the medical sector (including treatment centers).
- Bethany will focus on development and creation of the HIP Manual. Depending on the time-intensity of this project, she will also explore reaching out to mental health and social services organizations within the Los Angeles region.
- Kieran will explore service to homeless and at-risk youth in the Los Angeles area, as well as carrying on Rona's outreach to trans-individuals in the LA County Jail. Bethany will assist with the latter; Peter will assist the former. Doug suggested to Peter he reach out to Susan F. as a resource in Seattle (PSKS).

- Doug will have a conversation with his public defender friend to explore the idea of expanding awareness of D.A. to clients requiring public defense.
- Krzysztof will begin outreach to young adults (20s) with student's loan debt and collaborate with Andrea, as well as appropriate agencies, organizations and D.A. committees including P.I.

### HIP Motion #1

We move to change the HIP Mission Statement as it currently reads:

"The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee is composed of GSRs and ISRs who would like to focus service efforts on carrying the message of D.A. to debtors confined in hospitals, institutions and prisons" to now read: "The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee carries the message of D.A. to the debtor who still suffers within hospital, institution and prison systems."

### Motion to amend

To include women's shelter

No second; motion to amend failed.

Q: Where is this statement published?

A: Each committee and their description is on the website under world service conference tab.

Pro: It takes the service away from the GSRs and ISRs and brings it to all members of D.A.

Con: The focus should be on supporting the Fellowship and not the few people who are on the committee.

### Vote:

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

### Recommendations

The HIP Committee proposed no recommendations.

## Diversity Caucus

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Asha E.
- Vice Chair: Rae T.
- Secretary: Chris A.
- Treasurer: Kieran K.

**Committee Members:** Tim P. and Sue (liaison)

The Chair introduced the Committee.

### Motions

The Diversity Committee proposed no recommendations.

### Recommendations

The Diversity Committee proposed no recommendations.

### Action Plan:

- Research creating best practices for outreach work in underserved communities, and produce service literature to show others how to do outreach.
- Develop a home group diversity inventory, that addresses how safe we are for everybody

\*\*\*

Chair Eileen N. stated we have gone through all our committees today, and after announcements adjourned the Convocation without objection at 11:35 a.m., followed by the Serenity Prayer.

**CONVOCATION ADJOURNED at 11:35 a.m. UNTIL SUNDAY MORNING.**

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## CONVOCATION OPENING (DAY TWO)

**Convocation Day Two began at 8:32 a.m. on August 9, 2015**

Chair Eileen N. opened by leading the group in the Serenity Prayer followed by the readings. Volunteers were asked to read The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, and The Twelve Concepts for D.A. World Service.

Chair Eileen N. confirmed a quorum was present: 87 delegates registered, thus a quorum of 58 was established for voting. We have 80 credentialed delegates in the room.

The chair announced that the WSC LIT committee has decided to withdraw motion #6 from the prior day. They will take it back into committee and maybe bring it up again in the following year. There will be no vote this year.

## WSC Committee and Caucus Reports

(Committee Reports are listed in their order of presentation at the Convocation)

## Conference Committee (CC)

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Michael G.
- Vice Chair: Brandi M.
- Secretary: Carolyn L.
- Treasurer: Jackie D.

**Committee Members:** Jessiline, Jean Camille, Craig (chair of next year's host committee), Alexandra (GSC Liaison)

The Chair introduced the Committee.

**Motions:** The CC proposed three (3) motions.

### Conference Committee Motion #1:

That the motion adopted by the 2014 conference to hold the 2016 WSC in Sacramento be modified to hold the 2016 WSC in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area.

## Discussion Summary:

**History:** Last year's conference adopted a motion that next year's conference be held in Sacramento. After that motion was adopted, the Sacramento group discovered they were working under conditions they hadn't anticipated and had to withdraw. The committee is charged with selecting a site at least two years in advance. However, if the Board had waited until this meeting to select a site for next year, then there would not have been enough time to secure everything. Therefore, under its fiduciary duty, the Board selected a site in Dallas, Texas.

Q: Is the plan to have it for 3 years in Dallas?

Y: Yes, and the next motion deals with that.

Pro: Dallas/Ft Worth group stands in favor of the motion

Comment: The reason we are doing 3 years in Dallas/Ft. Worth is because we are saving money.

## Vote:

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

## Conference Committee Motion #2:

That the Conference selects the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area for the 2017 and 2018 WSCs. However, the Conference delegates to the General Service Board, in consultation with the WSC Conference Committee, the right to change the conference location if it deems it necessary and appropriate.

## History:

A prior conference committee was asked to research the possibility of holding the conference in the same location for 3 years. It has taken awhile for this to come about. However, now we are in a position to negotiate a contract with a site in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area that gives us the option for coming back for year 2 and year 3 with an option to back out if needed. This motion was written in a way that gives the board the power to make changes if need be.

Q: How much money will be saved if we do this?

A: We don't have those exact figures to share yet. It would lock the prices in to a certain percentage increase of the room rate rather than having to start the negotiation process over and having no control over the room rate.

Con: An important consideration is that unless Dallas has about 100 volunteers, then they will burn out very quickly over that time span. That should be a very important consideration when considering this motion.

PRO: As someone who has helped run this event before, I am totally in support of this because the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years will benefit from the information learned from the previous years.

CON: Airfare is another consideration as an expense. Being on the west coast, there is a burden for the east coast delegates to raise money to travel that far.

Comment: A 3-year plan can be very cost effective. Historically when we have a multiple year contract we usually have no more than a \$3 – 5 increase per room and the food and beverage expense is limited to a 5% increase.

PRO: I've been on the conference committee for three years when we thought we were going to have it in Philadelphia. In the past, intergroups were supposed to come together to get the bid for the next two years, but no one showed up or only one person showed up. Therefore, the conference committee took it upon themselves to figure out something – the 3 year plan – that the board could do to help secure venues so that we don't have to worry about who will take care of this. Regarding the burn out issue, Portland has done a great job and they have people helping that are not based in the host area. We're here for service. We can help too.

CON: the second half of this motion is my belief needs to be split because we've run into the need to have the board move the conference without the conference's approval for two years. We need to make a policy around this issue. The board needs this authority and shouldn't have to propose a motion each time.

### **Motion to divide:**

To consider this motion as two motions rather than one motion. Motion passed with general consensus.

Minority opinion was called. There was a request to reconsider a hasty action. However, based on parliamentary procedure it cannot be reconsidered.

Motion as divided:

### **Motion #2a:**

That the Conference selects the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area for the 2017 and 2018 WSCs.

### **Discussion:**

PRO: Houston will be supporting Dallas on every aspect of the conference whether it's for one year or three years.

CON: The conference contract for Dallas Ft. Worth should be for one year with a right to exercise for additional years.

- The chair explained that the contract has already been signed and does include options for additional years.

PRO: Dallas Ft. Worth stands in strong support of the three-year contract understanding if the body wants to move it is okay. We have a strong body of volunteers, 22 of which who have signed up to work on this year's conference. We have another 40 people who will be available to be of service. We think it will strengthen our Fellowship. We have 5 meetings plus 2 remote groups in the area that will be servicing this conference.

CON: The service of putting on the conference in our area united our group. I speak against this motion because everyone should have a turn to experience what this is like in your community.

PRO: I speak in favor of this not so much about saving money. It's about saving headache, hassle, and work. There are so many lessons to learn from a host committee. When we switch locations, they start over.

Let's try having it in one place for three years and see how it works. There are other programs that never vary their conference locations. In terms of airfare, the cost will balance out over the years. Everyone will pay approximately the same airfare.

CON: I'm opposed to the motion as written. I'm for the idea, but I don't think the motion as written reflects the flexibility in the contract. It says we are going to select Dallas/Ft. Worth. It doesn't say there is a contingent. If I were reading the minutes down the road, I wouldn't understand that there was an option to say no to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years.

### **Friendly amendment:**

That the Conference selects the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area for the 2017 and 2018 WSCs unless the board decides otherwise.

- The committee chair explained that the next motion would address this concern.
- The parliamentarian explained that the next conference can still change the location without the proposed friendly amendment.
- Friendly amendment withdrawn.

### **Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

### **Motion 2b:**

The Conference delegates to the General Service Board, in consultation with the WSC Conference Committee, the right to change any conference location decided on by the conference if it deems it necessary and appropriate.

CON: This changes the conference charter without following the procedure for changing the charter. The board already has the fiduciary responsibility to hold the conference.

PRO: The motion is helpful because while the charter gives this conference the power to decide the conference location. I agree the Board already has this power; however, there has been some misunderstanding and grumbling by members of the Fellowship or GSR's when the location was changed.

So it would be helpful for the conference to explicitly delegate that authority.

**Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

Minority opinion: I voted against it for the reasons stated above. The board already carries the responsibility – not just the right – but the responsibility on behalf of this fellowship in terms of our fiduciary care. We’ve faced this problem before and the board works in consultation with the committee. We understand we are working for you and with you, not in charge of you. The motion implies a change to the conference charter. We are already covered through our concepts and charter. This motion muddies the water. I speak in opposition and offer it as the minority voice.

Chair asked if anyone who voted in favor is willing to change their vote after hearing the minority opinion?

The Chair accepted the minority opinion as a motion to reconsider. There was a second.

The Chair explained we are out of time; there is no time for debate. The vote is about re-opening the prior decision.

Q: Is it too late to re-attach this to the original motion?

A: Yes, it’s too late.

**Vote:**

Motion to reconsider passes.

The CC chair recognized the objection in the minority opinion could be addressed by changing the wording from “delegating authority” to “acknowledging authority.” There would still be a record of work done at this conference. Instead of going to a vote on this motion; however, the CC chair suggests that we change the wording from “delegates” to “acknowledges.”

**Point of privilege:** I move to recommit this motion. Seconded. Motion withdrawn.

CC chair proposed an amended motion to see if it can pass by general consent. If not, then it will be re-referred to committee.

**Amendment:** The conference acknowledges the right of the General Service Board in consultation with the WSC conference committee, the right to change any conference location decided on by the conference if the GSB deems it necessary and appropriate.

Q: Who does “it” refer to in the statement “if it deems it necessary and appropriate?”

A: The CC chair clarified the “it” refers to the GSB.

Point of order: we’re wasting time. Can we please move on?

- Any objection? Yes, one objection; therefore, it is referred back to the committee.

**Vote:**

Another vote was not taken as the motion was referred back to the committee.

The Chair announced that the CC is out of time for their last motion; therefore, we will go on to the next committee. If there is extra time after the other committees, then we will bring the CC back up to present their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final motion.

**Recommendations:** The CC made no recommendations.

## International Caucus (INTL)

### Caucus Officers

- Chair: Jean Camille B.
- Vice Chair: Andrea B.
- Secretary: Joost L.
- Treasurer: Chris S.

**Caucus Members:** Josie P (liaison), Bruce B., and Carolyn A. (timekeeper)

The Chair introduced the Committee and stated that the Committee has no motions and three (3) recommendations at this time.

**Motions:** The INTL proposed no motions.

**Recommendations:** The INTL made three (3) recommendations.

**INTL Recommendation #1:** Recruiting ACM's from outside the US for International Board Committee.

**INTL Recommendation #2:** Video conferencing for international GSR's: Work with various committees to continue exploring the use of technology as a means of allowing international GSR's and ISR's to participate in the World Service Conference remotely.

**INTL Recommendation #3:** The conference committee will explore structures that would allow GSR's and ISR's outside of the USA, who cannot come to the World Service Conference, to participate in the WSC.

## Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Lolly A.
- Vice Chair: Teresa S.
- Secretary: Ellie H.
- Treasurer: Roz G.

**Committee Members:** Clay D. (GSB liaison), Nancy H., Joost L., Suzanne P., Carol Ann P., Kieran S.

The Chair stated that the Committee proposes no motions and two (2) recommendations at this time. She introduced the Committee.

**Action Plan:** Plans include the following:

- Fellowship wide conference calls on relevant topics like the benefit of service in DA fellowship.
- Host two chair calls: FCC will organize and facilitate two WSC Committee/Caucus Chair calls to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.
- G sponsorship: Sub-committee Kieran and Nancy - g=sponsorship response team ("The Debt Paramedics") - will confer with previous gsponsorship coordinator to take over management of the list, and to monitor and respond to all inquiries sent to the [gsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com) address.

- Ways and means: discuss possible topics for articles in 'Ways & Means'
  - Include "service as a key element to DA-recovery"
  - Include "anonymity and security online for groups and members," follow up with member who offered to write on his research.
- Attraction cards: discuss creative ways they could be used.
- Online groups: FCC will continue to discuss and explore the needs of online groups in regards to protocol or guidelines to help them most effectively communicate for the benefit of the recovery of all members.
- The FCC team offers our services to the work of other committees and caucuses. Please let us know if you need resources.

**Motions:** The FCC proposed no motions.

**Recommendations:** The FCC made two (2) recommendations.

### FCC Recommendation #1:

FCC is recommending that the GSB consider a "Multi-Lingual Response Team" for newcomers whose first language is not English, so they can be helped in their own language to start their recovery process. The GSO could form a database of members fluent in two or more languages who could act as a point of contact when non-English speaking members or groups contact DA by phone or email. In order to start this database we encourage delegates to canvass their group and intergroup members who speak, read and write a second language and are willing to be contacted. Recommended solvency requirement of six months.

### FCC Recommendation #2:

FCC recommends the production of a customized click pen with rotating slogans to commemorate DA's 40th anniversary. This item could help carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering debtor--and debtors could do their numbers with it!

## WSC Public Information Committee (PI)

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Siobhan K.
- Vice Chair: Claudia F.
- Secretary: Jill W.
- Treasurer: Maureen F.

**Committee Members:** Sue F. (board liaison), Bob A, Bruce B, Chris A, Patrick C, Ron T., Sandi L., Sierra P., Tim P.

The PI Chair introduced the Committee and stated that the Committee proposes one (1) motion and two (2) recommendations at this time.

### Plan:

Three subcommittees:

1. MEDIA,
2. P.I.P.E., (Public Information for Professional Events), and
3. Grow DA. Press release and accompanying story announcing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D.A. The intention is to create growth and awareness of D.A. outside of the fellowship. Professional events to sponsor booths. Grass roots outreach in areas like helping professionals brought to us by Seattle.

### WSC Public Information Committee Motion #1:

On behalf of the Diversity Caucus, the WSC PI Committee moves that the Diversity Caucus's mission statement be changed to the following: "The mission of the Diversity Caucus is to support the Fellowship in carrying the message of Debtors Anonymous to the debtor in underserved populations and locations. We coordinate with all World Service Conference committees and caucuses by developing best practices for doing that work and sharing it with D.A. as a whole."

### Discussion:

Q: Is there an easy place for us to see the previous mission statement

A: In the service manual on page 79

Point of information: is this motion misplaced? Should it come from the conference committee? I thought the role of committees and the structure of the WSC was in the prevue of the conference committee and not the PI committee.

A: This motion originally said that it was about working with the PI committee and the HIP committee. That is how it was approved with us and how we prepared it. We found out from the parliamentarian that a caucus always works with the committee as a whole and we couldn't specify. Committees can bring their own changes to their mission statement. It is etiquette to allow the conference committee to know of the change.

Point of clarification: I'm excited about this change, but there's one word that appears to be missing that I thought was included, which is "worldwide."

A: That term is for recommendation #1, which is to follow.

PRO: none

CON: none

### Vote:

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

### WSC Public Information Committee Recommendation #1:

The WSC PI Committee recommends that the GSB Information Technology Committee approve the concept of posting the speaker portions of WSC PI – sponsored Fellowship-Wide Calls on the PI Tab on the Debtors Anonymous website. The purpose of this is to strengthen D.A.'s ability to support the fellowship worldwide.

### WSC Public Information Committee Recommendation #2:

The WSC PI Committee recommends that the WSC and the GSB maintain an open mind about: social media and its possibility for the growth of D.A. and outreach to the debtor who still suffers.

## Resource Development Committee (RDC)

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Chris S.
- Vice Chair: Bill D.
- Secretary: Janet S.
- Treasurer: Jeannine W.

Committee Members: Gail D., Krista K., George (liaison)

The Chair introduced the Committee members and stated that the Committee proposes no motions and three (3) recommendations at this time.

### Action Plan:

1. Revise and update the John H. Scholarship letter and the Annual April Letter of Appeals to celebrate D.A.'s 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
2. Host 2 Fellowship-wide Conference calls: (tentatively titled)
  - a. "So you think you want to be a GSR? -- GSR and ISR Service Made Simple" and
  - b. "Spiritual Problem Solving – 40 Years on the D.A. Trail"
3. Announce and inform Fellowship of open service positions
4. Encourage all GSRs and ISRs to write personal service-related stories for Ways and Means
5. Coordinate with current GSB Treasurer by asking questions about the fiscal reports such as: How do we interpret the information for RDC use? How can we use the information to increase revenues? How much was raised for the John H. Scholarship? Do conference calls increase the individual contributions? Review individual contributions data collected by previous GSB Treasurer.
6. Write an article for the Ways and Means newsletter titled, "Every Member, Every Month," communicating the importance of giving back. This article will further promote the ideas laid forth at the 2013-2014 World Service Conference by Treasurer Allen T.
7. Work to increase the number of GSRs attending the WSC by:
  - a. Inspiring D.A. members to become GSRs
  - b. Encouraging every D.A. group to have a GSR
  - c. Educating D.A. groups in the many creative ways to fund their GSR's trip to the conference
8. Develop a project investigating debting behavior in youth.

**Motions:** The RDC proposed no motions.

**Recommendations: Three (3)** recommendations were made by the RDC

### RDC Recommendation #1:

We, the Resource Development Committee, recommend that every General Service Representative and Intergroup Service Representative consider contributing monthly to the General Service Office in the spirit of "Every Member, Every Month."

### RDC Recommendation #2:

We recommend that all GSRs upon returning home find a group in their area that does not have a GSR and explain the importance and joy of such service. We would love to hear about your successes at [lovethosegsrs@gmail.com](mailto:lovethosegsrs@gmail.com).

### RDC Recommendation #3:

We suggest that GSRs recommend to their group that the full 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition announcement in quotes on page 30 of the DAMS be read at every 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collection:

- *"D.A. has no dues or fees. We are self-supporting through our own contributions, so we pass the basket. Please give as generously as you can. However, if you cannot, please keep coming back. Keep in mind that our group's monthly expenses are \$\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., rent, literature, prudent reserve, etc.). In addition, D.A. has a service structure which depends on contributions from our group. After our group's needs are met, we contribute the balance, 45% to the General Service Office, 45% to Intergroup and 10% to the Area GSR Group. The General Service Office expenses include staff, rent for the office, administration, website upgrades and maintenance, new literature, and literature translations. Please help us meet our responsibility for supporting the Fellowship as a whole."*



## Business Debtors Anonymous Committee (BDA)

### Committee Officers

- Chair: Curt P.
- Vice Chair: Josie P.
- Secretary: Susan H.
- Treasurer: Tammy F.

Committee Members: no additional members

The BDA Chair introduced committee members. The Chair stated that the Committee proposes no motions and no recommendations at this time.

### BDA Mission:

Increase awareness and provide additional clarity to the DA Fellowship as to the elements of debting that are unique to business owners and require dedicated resources for their recovery.

### 2015 Mandate:

Facilitate the review and completion of previously approved BDA literature concepts in coordination with the Literature Committee and Lit/Pub:

- *BDA Signposts and Tools (Recommend BDA Tools Only)*
- *BDA Numbers (Focus on Newcomers and BDA Tool #1)*
- *Clarity in Business Finance (Needs More Clarity)*
- *Annual BDA Business Plan*
- *BDA Detaching from Difficult Personalities*

### 2015 Actions:

- *We recommended to LitCom that the BDA Signposts and Tools Brochure concept be amended to focus solely on BDA Tools*
- *We submitted a recommendation to the Conference Committee that an Underearning Caucus be created to deal with the underearning aspect of debting and business debting*
- *We will be forward a request to PI that the BDA pamphlet be included in Helping Professionals packets and will request funding from GSB for that purpose prior to November 1*

- *We will continue to work on the evaluation and completion of those BDA pamphlets already in process*

### Discussion:

Q: What was the committee's reason for taking up underearning?

A: Although I don't identify as an underearner, in my experience ½ - 2/3 of people who come to DA and BDA identify as underearners. We as a fellowship treat underearning as a symptom; however, we aren't addressing this symptom in any direct manner. We need to make sure that this issue comes to the forefront and directly address this as a part of D.A.

Q: Will there then be a clutterers' caucus or a self-debtor caucus?

A: I don't know, but we would like to give underearners a voice.

### Motions

The BDA Committee proposed no motions.

### Recommendations

The BDA Committee made no recommendations:

The Chair then announced that with time remaining that the Conference Committee (CC) would be brought back up:

### Conference Committee Motion #3:

That the Conference Committee, in consultation with the Technology Committee, conduct an optional trial of an "electronic (paperless) binder" for the 2016 WSC

### Discussion:

History: This was an initiative from the Technology committee who was advised to refer to the CC due to the structure of the conference. Tech committee would be doing most of the work. The proposal is to conduct a trial of volunteers only who are willing to test out getting the materials via electronic format only.

This would be entirely voluntary. As a back-up for this trial run, even those delegates would be given a paper binder.

Point of clarification: The actual motion voted on by the committee is missing a word. It should be to “conduct an optional trial.”

The committee confirmed that the word “optional” should be in the motion. The committee chair acknowledged making a mistake in the wording and clarified that the trial will be done on a volunteer basis and no one has to take the trial. He also clarified that the trial will be conducted.

PRO: Dallas/Ft. Worth stands in support in motion and is excited to help with this.

PRO: Good idea and we can always do part paper and part electronic. It’s just a trial. We can keep an archive on the computer for a very long time and have ease of access. In the long-term it’s a great idea.

Point of clarification: the trial would consist of an option on your registration for you to be able to check if you’d like to get the electronic version as well as the paper. It’s not forced on everybody. You have the choice for paper or electronic.

PRO: I’m on the Tech committee. We’ve already done it. It works. Next year is about testing it while you have your paper one as well.

No CON views presented.

Q: The trial is not optional, so the language is incorrect. The trial will happen, but your ability to participate is optional. It is a self-selected trial.

A: If everyone knows what it means, then let’s move forward as is.

#### **Vote:**

Motion passed with substantial unanimity. No opposition.

#### **Farewell from Rotating Trustee: Jeff Y**

Chair Eileen N. said that it is time to say goodbye to trustee Jeff Y who was invited to speak and was given a standing ovation.

Jeff’s words:

*Thank you all for being here today and thank you for this chance to share. I’d like to share a short reading with you from my home fellowship, Alcoholics Anonymous. It’s from Chapter Seven - WORKING WITH OTHERS – in the Big Book:*

*PRACTICAL experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill. Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. We know you will not want to miss it. Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.*

*I thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime. For the past six years and seven World Service Conferences, it has been a privilege to work beside you as we strive to carry this message to the debtor who still suffers. In 2009, I had never heard of Debtors Anonymous. Now, this fellowship is very dear to my heart. More importantly, you have helped my life take on new meaning. I have watched many of you recover and become active in service. You have matured in that service and it has been my honor to serve alongside some of the best recovery in DA on your General Service Board. I have been witness to the birth of your own service manual, to the publication of a second edition of A Currency of Hope, the birth of your own 12 and 12, and so many other projects. As the reading from AA’s Big Book says, “to see a fellowship grow up about you...this is an experience you must not miss.”*

## **CONVOCATION CLOSING**

*That phrase took on new meaning for me as I worked with your board, because you invited me **to watch the DA fellowship grow up**. I wouldn't have missed that for the world. I've watched you help others and seen loneliness vanish. These yearly gatherings with each other were the bright spots of my year. I hope it has been a bright spot for you, too. Maintain that frequent contact with newcomers and with each other. It will insure immunity from our common disease as nothing else will. And remember, no one else can do this work for us. You are uniquely qualified to carry this message to the debtor. It would be easy and safe and comfortable to shut the door on the past. But we cannot and must not. For if sharing the experience of your own dark past wreckage can bridge the dark isolation of a new prospect and let them know that they are not alone and here is found hope, to that exact extent, we must carry this message, illuminating our dark past, for their sake as well as our own. That is our sole aim. **Our message** is the only "product" that we have to offer. Finally, the unity of your beloved fellowship must remain the pre-eminent priority for each of you. A recently deceased AA historian left us this message and so, slightly adapted, I leave it with you today: "Whenever, wherever, one debtor meets another debtor and sees in that person first and foremost **not** that he or she is male or female, or black or white, or Christian, Buddhist, Jew, or atheist, or gay or straight, or whatever, but sees... that he or she is a debtor and that therefore both of them need each other - there will continue to be not only a Debtors Anonymous, but there will be the Debtors Anonymous that you and I love so much and respect so deeply." Thank you.*

### **The transfer of the gavel:**

The chair invited Michael M. and Craig L to the podium.

*Michael: I'm Michael M. and I'm a debtor. Thank you for the privilege to be of service to you all during this week. There's so much to say in the way of thanksgiving. One of our clear intentions in forming this host committee and putting in this bid was to use the principles of DA throughout the entire process of developing this conference. I think we were successful. I know that because the bond we've experienced in our intergroup and our recovery has strengthened. I know that going forward it will be a testament to our accomplishment. I appreciate deeply the opportunity. In contrast to*

*opportunity, we have one of our favorite words at the conference which is "problem." Thank you also for making the opportunity for me dealing with my own recovery and making me aware of my own problem consciousness. When I look for problems, guess what shows up? When I live in the solution and I look for solutions, guess what shows up? So in that spirit – literally Spirit – I'd like to present a brand new gavel on behalf of the Portland host committee to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and to Craig L.*

### **Ratification of New Trustee**

Chair Eileen N. announced that there are 2 new class B trustees to be ratified. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is Michalene R. was she was approved by the Board on Friday so she obviously cannot fly in. She's actually flying somewhere at this time so I have a recording of her pledge. We ask you to ratify her along with Bob D. even though you won't get to meet her until next year.

Chair Eileen N. invited Bob D. up to the podium.

*Bob D.: One of the things that Jeff and I talked about is that I saw what DA did for Jeff's life and I wanted some of that. So when he invited me to put in an application, I did. This is all God stuff whether you believe it or not. A sponsee called to tell me about some trouble he got into at a gambling casino. I told him he needed to find some help and counseling. He did. He reported some good news of an additional fellowship to help with your recovery in this nonsense! For me, that answered the question about whether I needed to be here or not. The committee in my head was going around asking, 'Are you sure this is what you need to do?' Yes, because I was able to tell him about an option to help with his life. He has a choice to do something about it. I'm blessed to be here. I'm impressed with how everything has gone and the openness and willingness of everyone I've met since I arrived. Thank you for having me.*

Bob D., newly elected Class B Trustee, was introduced and sworn in. The motion was made and seconded to ratify him as a trustee. Vote was unanimous.

Michalene R., newly elected Class B Trustee, was introduced and sworn in via audio recording. The motion was made and seconded to ratify her as a trustee. Vote was unanimous.

Chair Eileen N. invited Clay D. up to the podium who was approved to the board during the conference year.

Clay D.: *I want to express my gratitude to you, D.A. and my higher power because I never thought I would ever be in this position. Ever. And I am humbled to be here. This is probably the most important task I've ever taken on in my life. Since May I've discovered that giving service at this level has made me happier, more fulfilled then I've ever been in my life. Thank you so much.*

Clay D., approved Class A Trustee, was introduced and sworn in. The motion was made and seconded to ratify him as a trustee. Vote was unanimous.

### **Renewal of Trustees to Second Term:**

Chair Eileen N. invited Bill J. up to the podium via telephone.

Bill J.: *I'm grateful to serve and glad to be in D.A. and glad to do another three years.*

Bill J., Class A Trustee, was renewed and sworn in for another three-year term as a Class A Trustee. The motion was made and seconded to ratify him as a trustee. Vote was unanimous.

### **Board elections:**

The Board had their officer elections and the following officers were approved by the GSB earlier in the week:

Sue F. is secretary

Clay D. is assistant secretary

George M. is treasurer

Alexandra B-W. is assistant treasurer

Pat B. is vice chair

Eileen N. is chair

Each officer was given the chance to say a few words.

Alexandra B.-W.: *I woke up the morning after I volunteered to serve as assistant treasurer. Wait. What?! I reminded myself that I have less responsibility than the treasurer; that I am an assistant. There are people to help. There is a beautiful system in place. But, at the same time each new person can see if there is some way to present it and brings something new to it. I'm very happy to be working with George on this. But, in a way, my thought was that don't have to think about it. It's a little bit of denial. I've accepted the position. I can do it with help. Like all service on the board, it will be incredibly interesting and gratifying. Somewhere out*

*there is the debtor who still suffers. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.*

George M.: *Hi everybody. I'm filling some big shoes. Allen T. has been very helpful in preparing me for this job. I look forward to filling it. There are contributions at the back of the room. You put money in the envelope. Send it back in. Take some with you back home. We will give you more if you run out. Service on this board has changed my life and I've been in my own recovery for quite a while, but it's really stepped up my game in my other recovery also.*

Sue F.: *This sounds like a Class A pledge! It has been my honor and privilege to serve for the last 5 years. I have one more year left to go and what Jeff said!*

Pat B.: *I'm overwhelmed. I appreciate the support I've had since being on the Board. I fell in love with the fellowship and members. Thank you for the honor.*

Eileen N.: *Thank you. Thank you very much for the wonderful welcome. About 2 months before conference I completely freaked out! Each day was a challenge. When I first got here I gave myself permission to make mistakes and to be fallible. I'm a perfect human being and I'm allowed to make mistakes. I'm very grateful to service this fellowship for another year.*

Chair Eileen N. asked if there were any objections to this slate of officers. Not hearing any objections, the slate of officers was approved.

**Corporate Officers** - The following slate of elected officers of D.A. GSB, Inc. for the 2015 – 2016 conference year ws sworn in. The officers are:

President: Eileen N.

Vice President: Pat B.

Second Vice President: Bob D.

Treasurer: George M.

Secretary: Sue F.

## **Adjournment**

The 2015 World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous was adjourned at 11:10 a.m., Sunday, August 9, 2015.

## **End of Section**

## **Intentional Spacing**

## SECTION 3: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Good morning. My name is Eileen N, and I am a compulsive debtor. I am honored to have served as a Class A debtor trustee for the past six years. I am humbled to have served this last year as the chair of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board (GSB). The Board currently consists of eleven hard working and dedicated men and women. We worked hard this year to carry out the will of the Conference under some very unusual circumstances.

Shortly after the 2014 World Service Conference (WSC) in Skokie, the Board received a letter of resignation from our office manager. After many years of service to the Fellowship, for which the Board is very grateful, it was time for him to move on. This wasn't a complete surprise, he had been discussing this possibility. It is one of the reasons the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board has been researching different locations for the office. Still, this left the office, the central hub of D.A., with one part timer. Thanks to our Office Committee, and our Office liaison, Joan R, a plan was put in place to keep the office functioning, even if only at a minimal level. Thanks also to the trustees who helped pick up the voicemails, and the former trustees, Allen A, Jan S, Jan J, and Marci W, who helped them return calls to newcomers so the message of D.A. was not lost.

An Ad hoc committee was formed whose task it was to hire a new office manager. This committee consisted of Bill J as chair, myself as secretary, two Appointed Committee Members (ACM), Bill B and Marcy E, and three former trustees, Jan S, Marci W, and Peggy R, although Peggy was unable to continue due to her schedule. We met via phone conference every Saturday, created a Call for Resumes, and received several applications from members spread out across the country. The Ad Hoc Committee interviewed 10 people, narrowing down the candidates to two equally qualified members. A final interview was conducted in the Needham office to give both candidates a chance to see where they would be working if chosen. A motion was brought to the Board and approved. You will meet our new office manager later this morning.

Another interesting fact, this was the first year there was no WSC Internal Operations Committee (IOC) to work with the GSB Office Committee. A

year when their help would have been much appreciated. If anyone is undecided about what World Service Conference Committee they would like to serve on this year, consider Internal Operations. There is still much work to be done.

With all the added duties, the trustees continued to work hard. According to the Twelve Concepts, you, the Conference, have given the board responsibility over the day-to-day fiduciary and administrative duties needed to keep the business of Debtors Anonymous running smoothly. With that responsibility comes accountability, so today in addition to my report, you will hear reports from the treasurer and the chairs of each of the Board committees. Copies of these reports are also available in your binder, as are most of the reports of the WSC committees that you heard last night. While I prefer that the chairs of the various committees let you know the work that has been accomplished, I would like to touch on some highlights:

- The Ad hoc Committee on Internet and Social Media was formed in January 2014 to address the concerns of anonymity on social media and also, whether D.A. should have an official presence on the internet. The Committee members were, Joan R as chair, myself as secretary, Bill J, Michael A, and two ACMs, Bill B and Chris R. Allen A also served on the committee until he rotated off the Board. They completed their work earlier this year. After much research and discussion, they recommended to the GSB that D.A. not have an official presence on any social media. The main concern was the inability for a member to protect their anonymity at that level. They also made two recommendations to the General Service Board Public Information Committee. First to appoint a member to correct the misinformation on Debtors Anonymous Wikipedia page, and a second to have the Traditions and Social Media statement updated. The current Statement can be found on page 16 of the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS).
- As you may already know, the D.A. Twelve Step portion of the Twelve and Twelve book was approved at last year's Conference and will be available for sale here at conference as a booklet. We are one step closer to having our very own Twelve and Twelve.

In combination with *A Currency of Hope, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, we will move a little closer to decreasing our dependency on AA literature in our meetings. A step closer to moving out of our parent's basement. Won't it be exciting to see a newcomer who has worked the Steps with his or her sponsor using the D.A. Twelve and Twelve? Won't it be exciting for a newcomer to learn about this disease through D.A. literature?

- We are also very close to having our new website, Debtorsanonymous.org ready to go live. The Information Technology Committee, which includes two dedicated Appointed Committee Members, Chris R and Jon L, and the WSC Technology Committee have worked tirelessly on the website throughout the year. The Communications Committee is now working to review the content on the website. Once it is live, it will be easier for us to make changes and to update the content and groups will be able to register online. It will also be easier for members and newcomers to navigate and find information on meetings, events, etc.

A very exciting time indeed. So what? We will have an updated website that is more intuitive, making it easier for newcomers to find us, and literature to teach them about the disease of compulsive debting and how they can recover from it one day at a time. But if no one knows of our existence, who is going to point the newcomer to our website or our literature? It's like we are having a party, but we didn't send out the invitations and here we sit wondering, where is everybody? Sure, we can do some PSAs and put our books in stores, hoping someone stumbles across them, but we've done that, and it's not working. It reminds me of the definition of insanity, doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results. D.A. is still the best kept secret in Twelve Step programs. I still get a blank stare whenever I mention Debtors Anonymous to anyone inside or outside the rooms. I want to change that. We need to change that.

Whenever a suffering debtor makes an appointment with their clergy, or lawyer, or psychiatrists and psychologists, I want those professionals to say, "I know where you can get some help for your debting. Go to Debtors Anonymous." We need D.A. to become a household name. How can we do this? By continuing the "one member, one action" initiative started by the WSC Public Information Committee. And these don't have to be big things, even leaving a pamphlet behind in the train station, something that simple, could introduce a suffering debtor to Debtors Anonymous. Talk about this in your groups.

Later today you will break up into committees. I would like each committee and caucus to ask one question: "What can we do to make D.A. a household name? What one action or initiative can we take to bring us one step closer to our goal of bringing D.A.'s name out of the shadows?" Every year funds are made available to the committees and caucuses of this conference. Seldom do they get used. Let's see if we can't use those funds to bring Debtors Anonymous out of obscurity. Even if we take some small baby steps this year, we will be moving forward.

I'm picturing in my head that final scene from *Horton Hears a Who*, where the whole town screams we're here, we're here! And that's what we should be doing. We make sure that our screams are loud enough so the world outside of our community discovers we are here. No debtor should die ignorant of our existence. So let us all work on ways to carry our message of hope to the sick and suffering debtors. That there is a way to arrest the compulsion. That this is a disease of the spirit.

When I first came on Board I heard more about the money. There never seemed to be enough and we clung to it like Scrooge. The message was always we don't have the money to do this, or we don't have the money to fund that. In my early years as a trustee, I've seen Board spending plans cut to the bone. Slowly we have been turning this around. We are moving from a place of clinging to our savings to a place where we are judiciously planning how or where to spend it. Weighing each project. What is becoming increasingly clear to me is that we do have the funds to do most of the recent projects that the Conference have asked of us. What we don't have is the bodies.

Earlier this year, the Long Range Planning Committee of the General Service Board hosted a call about the Seventh Tradition. We focused not only on the funds that are sent to support the work we do, but the service that is needed to do it. The Seventh tradition isn't just about the money. If a D.A. group collect fifty dollars a week in the basket, but no one steps up to serve as an officer, the group still won't survive. Who opens the door, chairs the meeting? Who will pay the rent? Who will attend this Conference and bring back the information?

I stated earlier that we have eleven Board members. According to our by-laws, we can have fifteen members. We currently have five Class B trustees, the limit allowed, but only six Class A's.

A full Board would consist of Five B's and ten A's. My first thought is, are we truly self-supporting if almost half of the Board is made up of non-debtors? We have little problem finding a non-debtor trustee. Even as one of our B's completes his service, we have elected a new class B to step into that vacancy. So the problem is clearly with us, the debtors. How is it we have no problems finding non-members who love this Fellowship enough to work tirelessly without recompense? Yet our own members, whose lives depend on this program, aren't stepping up? Why are we leaning so heavily on outsiders? There is no online store for trustees. What I ask of you is to look into your hearts, and look into your *DAMS*, page 102, and see if Board service is a possibility for you. If you think the answer may be yes, talk to your families. This service will ask a lot of you, but the rewards are tremendous. When I sat at my first conference, shy, unable to voice an opinion, I was impressed by the self-confidence and poise of the chair. Now, because of a little willingness to step outside my comfort zone, I can voice an opinion, and stand up here and do what I thought of as an impossibility. Am I nervous, you bet!

Besides the open trustee positions, there are also multiple open positions for Appointed Committee Members, page 88 in the *DAMS*. You would work on a Board Committee but the time demands would be much easier to manage. You would work on one committee and have one phone call a month. This also gives you a taste of what Board work is like.

And if you can't do either, that is okay too. You are all here giving your time to the fellowship. I believe that all service whether as chair of the Board or setting up chairs at a meeting is equally important. I thank all of you for being here.

If I am again approved to serve as your chair, what I would like to do next year is to report to you that D.A. is healthy and growing, and that we have a full Board and a plethora of Appointed Committee Members here to serve the Fellowship. It will be a great thing to announce at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2016.

Finally, let us all remember why we are here this week. We are here for the newcomer, and those who don't know of us, yet. We are here to serve our beloved fellowship, and not only here, but during the 2015-16

Conference year. Every year at least one of the conference committee starts out strong, then fizzles and dies over the year. Let us all remember the debtor who needs us, and commit to attending our calls

throughout the Conference year.

I am grateful and honored to have served this Fellowship at what I believe to be a very exciting—and significant-- time for D.A. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

## End of Section



## SECTION 4: GENERAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 2013–2014 General Service Board Members

Alexandra B.-W., Allen T., Bill J., Eileen N., George M., Jeff Y., Joan R., Lawanda C., Marci W., Maureen C., Michaline R., Michael A., Patricia B., Susan F.

### GSB Audit Committee

The Audit Committee of the General Service Board acts as a liaison to the organization's independent external reviewer, which is a CPA firm located in New York state. The Audit Committee also interacts with the board and its committees to implement and monitor the internal control structure and to take steps to mitigate possible risks of fraud or embezzlement. Additionally, the committee maintains the Whistle Blower Policy and acts as a point of contact for issues of policies, procedures, and practices. During this past conference year, your Audit Committee included Sue F. as Chair, George M., as Secretary, and Bill J.

During the fiscal year 2014, the audit committee:

- Selected and engaged the independent external reviewer for our finances.
- Reviewed D.A.'s annual financial statements and reports throughout the year and once with the reviewer.
- Considered the review letter from the CPA firm, and met with them independently, with no board financial management present.
- Verified that the federal and state tax filings were submitted in a timely manner.
- Verified that the full board received and had an opportunity to review the IRS form 990, prior to filing.

The Audit Committee discussion with the reviewer was open and candid. No items of concern were noted. Minor recommendations from the prior year have been implemented and are being refined. The CPA firm noted, and the Audit Committee concurs, that D.A. is indeed following appropriate and best accounting practices..

### GSB Communications Committee

The Communications Committee included Lawanda C., Michael A, and Jeff Y. this year. We also welcomed new trustee Clay D. in May this year to the committee. Jeff Y. was the liaison to the WSC Fellowship Communication Committee and appreciates their hard work. An update on the work of the GSB is provided to the committee on every call.

Since the conference, the committee has:

- Compiled the 2014 Conference Final Report and published that for delegates earlier than ever. ComCom has taken over responsibility for the timely publication of this report.
- Four issues of the D.A. Focus have been published.
- Four issues of the Ways & Means have been published.
- Published eNews announcements in the new eNews Weekly Digest format, allowing for a significant reduction in the amount of individual e-mails sent out to the Fellowship.
- 62 eNews have kept over 5,800 subscribers up-to-date on events in the Fellowship this year (about 40% fewer than last year). Open-rate, as measured by Constant Contact, reached a high of 18% in June, up from average of 12%.
- Published LRPC's "Long Timers in D.A." survey.
- Updated our committee handbook with procedures and policies in the hope of securing committee continuity and institutional knowledge and experience.
- Numerous updates to the D.A. website have been recommended and carried out.
- We updated the D.A. Style Guide used in all our communications and literature.
- Request for an Appointed Committee Member for editorial support remains unfilled.
- Committee considered and responded to a recommendation from the WSC BDA committee concerning the "Every Member, Every Month" Campaign.

We remain committed to improving the exchange of information and ideas within the fellowship and welcome your loving appraisal.

Jeff Y., chair

### **Recommendations to the 2015-16 Communications Committee:**

- In the D.A. Focus, continue publishing the essays on the Twelve Concepts from the D.A. Manual of Service, as space permits.
- Maintain the committee handbook and Style Guide
- Continue the call for an ACM
- Continue the calls for Ways & Means stories
  - from WSC committees
  - How D.A. groups celebrated/will be celebrating our 40th anniversary

### **GSB Conference Support Committee**

The Trustees on the Conference Support Committee (CSC) for the 2014-2015 Conference-Year were Jeff Y., committee chair, Alexandra BW, secretary, Marcy E. (ACM), and Eileen N. Trustee Michael A. (WSC 2015 Liaison) joined our monthly calls to discuss the details of the 2015 conference planning. Michael has been serving as the WSC 2016 liaison, as well. Alexandra also served as liaison to the WSC Conference Committee.

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) is primarily concerned with the planning and implementation of D.A.'s annual World Service Conferences. CSC works closely with the WSC Conference Committee, the local Host Committee, and the Board's Legal Affairs and Finance Committees to ensure all the behind-the-scenes work happens so that the conference can run smoothly each year.

The items CSC reviewed, discussed, and took action on during this conference year include:

- The feedback received from the WSC 2014 attendees as submitted in the post-conference survey.
- The feedback received from the WSC 2014 Host Committee in their post-conference "lessons learned" report.
- The 2014 WSC Issues and Concerns and committee recommendations that were assigned to CSC.
- Engaged a professional meeting planner and coordinated the search for the 2016-18 host committee and hotel site.

CSC also reviewed, updated, and created several internal documents related to the annual WSC, including

- The WSC post-conference survey
- The WSC Committee Starter Kit
- The WSC Host Committee Handbook

Other actions CSC conducted throughout the year included:

- Hosted two Pre-WSC 2015 GSR/ISR Orientation Telephone Trainings
- Led the development of the WSC 2015 registration packet, with input from the Portland Host Committee.

We were honored to serve the Debtors Anonymous fellowship during this conference year and we look forward to the possibilities ahead.

In service,

Jeff Your, chair

### **GSB Information Technology Committee**

Members of the GSB Information Technology Committee: Bill J. (Chair), Pat B. (Secretary), Joan R., Jon (ACM), Chris (ACM)

The Information Technology Committee continues to oversee the development of the new D.A. website, while also making needed corrections and updates to the existing site.

We were able to browse the new site at our face-to-face meeting in February 2015. It has been so exciting to see the new website coming together. We wish to express our appreciation to ACM Jon L. for not only his expertise in helping in developing the website, but all the hours he has worked in doing so.

We are updating the database so website visitors will be able to search for meetings using specific criteria. At the same time, we are designing a new meeting re-registration form so that the database will have a complete set of criteria for all registered meetings.

We prepared a comprehensive list of hardware and software requirements for the computer system in the General Service Office in Needham, Mass. as well as a recommended process for bringing the new system

online. We are contacting a vendor to get a quote for carrying out these recommendations.

We are grateful to the WSC Technology Committee for providing websites analytics (statistics) for the current site, which shows us detailed information about the site's visitors.

Our ACM Chris has also been monitoring analytics, such as the number of downloads of each piece of free literature (service literature, out-of-print pamphlets, and other resources such as the Steps, Tools, Promises, etc.). There were over 12,700 literature downloads in the first five months of 2015.

As the new site nears completion, the Info Tech Committee is working in conjunction with the Communications Committee to finalize the selection and wording of the content on the website.

## GSB International Committee

The 2014–15 International Committee was made up of Michael A. and me, Alexandra BW.

The International Committee was established at the 2013 World Service Conference in Phoenix.

The committee has two principal areas of activity, coordinating translations and providing support for the service structures of Debtors Anonymous outside the US. The committee works with other GSB committees and a member of the International Committee serves as a liaison to the International Caucus. We thank the Caucus for their service to the fellowship.

### Translations:

So far, on the international website, [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org), we have 7 Spanish-language texts. These have undergone the two-part process of translation and review. Spanish-language meetings are also listed on this “En Español” page.

In the 2014 Conference year, the International Committee has received translations from Germany, Italy, and Japan. Danish, Russian, and Spanish members are working on further translations.

Translations offer members an opportunity to be of service to the worldwide fellowship, but this has to be balanced with the International Committee's responsibility to the fellowship as a whole. That's part of the General Service Board's fiduciary responsibility. With that in mind, we approached a professional agency, but we weren't happy with the results.

### Ways & Means:

In this Conference year, the Ways & Means published its first bilingual story, in Spanish and English.

### Supporting the D.A. Worldwide Service Structure:

- The meeting registration forms now have a place to enter a meeting's language(s).
- Two “super” intergroups have formed, the Asia Pacific Regional Intergroup (APRI) and the European Regional Intergroup (ERI). In light of Tradition Four and of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Service Structure (2012), these intergroups emerged organically. The members of the International Committee and Eileen N., chair of the General Service Board, each attended a conference call of the APN. A member of the International Committee attended remotely what turned out to be the founding session of the ERI at the first European Convention, held the weekend of June 5, in Cannes 5.
- The GSB Finance Committee has opened a dedicated bank account in order to make Seventh Tradition contributions and literature payments less burdensome to groups and Intergroups outside the US.

### Recommendations to the 2015–16 International Committee:

- Continue to look for one or more professional translation agencies to perform the translation or review part of the translation process.
- Actively encourage members from outside the US to continue to contribute to the Ways & Means. This will allow our newsletter to reflect accurately the make-up of our community and create an opportunity for greater unity, in the light of Tradition One. In addition, the Ways & Means, historically, has been a vehicle for bringing recovery stories to the website and from there to future editions of A Currency of Hope.

Traveling members might also contribute stories of attending D.A. meetings other than their local ones.

- In particular, in anticipation of D.A.'s 40th anniversary, it would be wonderful to have assembled stories of the development of D.A. internationally.
- Attend (when invited) the calls of D.A.'s two new "super" Intergroups, the APRI and ERI, and encourage other trustees to attend.
- Continue to explore, with the General Service Board's Literature Publications, Legal Affairs, and Finance committees, licensing options that could allow literature to be published outside the US.
- That the "History of D.A." presently on the website be updated in time for the 40th anniversary.
- Continue to look for Appointed Committee Members to serve the fellowship by working with this committee.

Thank you for allowing us to serve the fellowship.

Alexandra BW

Chair, International Committee

## GSB Legal Affairs Committee

The Legal Affairs committee is involved in the registration, maintenance, and defense of D.A.'s intellectual property, copyrights, and trademarks. This includes all D.A. logos, literature, and service materials. It also helps in the preparation of work-for-hire agreements, translation licensures and other contract issues for D.A.

This year's committee members were: George M., Chair; Sue F, Secretary; and Maureen C.

### Specific actions:

- We drafted a consulting agreement with the past General Manager to provide for a smooth transfer of his responsibilities.
- We registered "BODA" as a DA trademark.
- We responded favorably to a request from an author writing a book on addiction to include our Twelve Signs in the book, with proper attribution to DA's copyright interest in the material.
- We responded to inquiries from the fellowship concerning our copyright policies.

- We requested Wikipedia to remove our registered trademark from its article on the program. Wikipedia declined to do so, citing the "fair use" doctrine. We took no further action on the matter.
- We participated in the drafting of the offer letter to the new General Manager.
- We worked with and received advice from our outside employment law firm on matters related to the General Service Office.
- We resolved questions that had arisen concerning our obligation to pay Massachusetts sales tax on literature shipped to customers in that state, and are now in full compliance.
- We reviewed the Food Service Contract for the 2015 GSC in Portland.
- We prepared an agreement for the provision of audio/visual services at the 2015 GSC.

Respectfully submitted,

George M., Chairperson

## GSB Literature Publications Committee

### Introduction:

My name is Allen T. and I had the pleasure of chairing the GSB Literature Publications Committee this conference year. The committee, also referred to as Lit Pub, oversees the creation, revision, and publication of D.A. literature, as directed by the World Service Conference.

Also serving with me on the committee were trustee Bill J., and appointed committee members Tom F., Caroline O., and Meg M. Caroline concluded her service partway through the year, and Meg came on shortly thereafter, meaning that for most of the year, it was me and Bill serving with two ACMS.

Regarding the ACMS on the committee, we could not have accomplished all that we did this year without their dedicated effort, and we thank them for their service. Also, in that me and Bill were new to the committee this year, we benefitted from the support of the Lit Pub trustees that preceded us, most notably Alex B.W. and Eileen N.

Finally, Allen T. served as the General Service Board's liaison to the WSC Literature Committee, and Bill J. served as the board's liaison to the BDA Committee.

### **List of Projects:**

We started the year by creating a new Project Status Sheet, which inventoried all the projects in the Lit Pub pipeline. It included 21 projects, 14 for the creation of new literature pieces and 7 for the revision and/or reprinting of existing pieces.

The individual items, explained in more detail later in this report, include:

- Four new books
- Two new guides
- Five new BDA pamphlets
- Three new regular D.A. pamphlets
- Three pamphlet revisions
- Four reprints

### **Additional Processes**

In addition to the Project Status Sheet, we created an Inventory Status Report several times throughout the year. This report showed us the on-hand inventory of each literature item at the General Service Office and the average monthly sales for each item for the previous six months. With this data, we could see which items were running low at the office, and thus prepare for various reprintings.

During the year, the committee also drafted and received approval for vendor contracts for copy-editing and graphic design services for new pieces of literature, and solicited quotes from printers for various projects. We interfaced with those vendors as they completed their work, and upon receipt of their goods or services, approved their invoices for payment.

It was a busy year.

### **Status of Projects - Reprints**

We completed reprints of the Spending Plan pamphlet, the Spirituality pamphlet, the “Just for This Day” Bookmark, and A Currency of Hope Second Edition. The Spending Plan, Bookmark, and A Currency of Hope reprints were relatively straightforward, and were accomplished after correcting grammar and minor content errors in their respective manuscripts. The Spirituality reprint, however, was more involved, because the prior version contained many references to and quotations from various pieces of AA literature, with little or no attribution to the corresponding AA

documents. In preparation for the reprint, all AA language was removed, replaced with D.A.-specific language, or properly attributed with a footnote.

### **Status of Projects – Books**

A key area of focus for the committee this year was preparing for: 1) publication of The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous, and 2) approval of the Twelve Traditions and a foreword for the not-yet-named Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book.

To provide some background on these efforts, the eventual goal of our Fellowship has always been—at least for the last fifteen years—to publish a single volume containing the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of our program—our version of a “12 and 12.” While keeping this eventual goal in mind, last year’s World Service Conference approved not only our Twelve Steps, but also approved publishing those Steps in a standalone book, in a format similar to the Manual for Service. The goal of this second motion was to get the newly approved Steps into the hands of the Fellowship as soon as possible, while allowing work to continue on the Traditions and the other elements of the more formal 12 and 12 book.

With these two objectives in minds, our committee invested much effort this year in, first, preparing to publish The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous, which should occur around the time of this conference; and second, preparing the Traditions and other elements of the full 12 and 12 for approval at this year’s conference, thus allowing publication of the 12 and 12 during the 2015-16 conference year.

Turning to the basic text of D.A., that project is still in the outline development stage, and that service is being led by the WSC Literature Committee. I expect you’ll hear more about this project in their report.

Finally, we took no action this year on the daily meditation book, due to our focus on the aforementioned higher-priority projects.

### **Status of Projects – BDA Pamphlets**

Five new BDA pamphlets are in development. The first, Clarity in Business Finance, is nearing completion, and only needs some relatively minor refinement before it

can go through the approval process. Two more pamphlets, the BDA Numbers Booklet and the BDA Signposts and Tools pamphlet, are substantially written, but need some additional writing or re-writing. The final two pamphlets, The BDA Annual Business Plan pamphlet and the Detaching from Difficult Personalities pamphlet, both need substantial writing or rewriting, and, due to bandwidth constraints of the BDA committee and the Literature Publications Committee, little effort was put into these two projects this year.

### **Status of Projects – New D.A. Pamphlets**

Three new D.A. pamphlets are in development. Two pamphlets, the Health Issues pamphlet and the Twelve Promises pamphlet, are both substantially written, and only need refinement prior to entering the approval process. No action was taken on the Symptoms of Debting pamphlet, because the Literature Committee believes this topic will be adequately addressed in the basic text book.

### **Status of Projects – Revised D.A. Pamphlets**

Three existing D.A. pamphlets have been identified as needing to be revised. The revisions for the first pamphlet, Underearning, are complete and the pamphlet is in the approval process. The other two pamphlets, Recovery from Compulsive Spending and Anonymity, are still in the revision process.

### **Status of Projects – New Guides**

Two new guides, a Step Study Guide and a Beginner's Meeting Format, did not receive attention this year, but will be points of focus in the new conference year.

## **GSB Long Range Planning Committee**

Committee members included [chair] Eileen N, [secretary] Sue F, Pat B and Appointed Committee Member Bill B.

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) focuses on the General Service Board's (GSB) long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering compulsive debtors around the world. It develops strategies and action plans so that D.A. as a whole can fulfill its primary purpose. It works through the GSB to help all levels of D.A.—the GSB, the GSO, the World

Service Conference, and the Fellowship—plan and work to establish a strong foundation for the future of D.A.

The committee meets monthly via conference call and in person at the two annual face-to-face meetings. It provides quarterly reports for the D.A. Focus.

### **The Committee:**

- Addressed one Issues and Concerns (I&C) from the 2014 WSC in Skokie.
- Reviewed its Committee Composition, Scope, and Procedure.
- Hosted a modified forum in Indianapolis, IN February 2015. We also broadcast the forum via a conference call for the first time. The committee plans to repeat this in January 2016 when the Board visits Atlanta.
- Hosted four "Ask the GSB" phone forums: October 12th, Recap of the WSC, January 4th, The Seventh Tradition: it's not just about the money. This was a change in the focus of the call. The presenters spoke about service in D.A. as well as our treasurer speaking on the finances of D.A. March 1st, D.A. Literature, Copyrights and website, and June 7th, D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts. (ask for a show of hands those who attended the calls)
- There was a recording of the presenters from these calls that were made available for those who could not attend the call.
- We developed an office move criteria and will use this to identify potential sites for the future location of GSO. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Office Committee.
- We continue to receive quarterly updates from D.A.'s archivist. We also received the funding needed to send him to an AA archives workshop in October, 2014. Among other things learned, it helps him to identify what truly belongs in the archives, and what is just stuff.
- Created an action plan from a GSB vision inventory and sent to the Board committees who are reviewing and working on actions to better serve our beloved fellowship.
- Developed a plan of action for celebrating D.A.'s 40th anniversary in 2016. If anyone here has any suggestions please email the committee at DA40@debtorsanonymous.org
- An updated version of the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS) has been given to each delegate and additional copies will be available for sale. In this version we have the updated the Literature Approval Process, updated the Mission Statement from WSC PI Committee, updated the



GSB by-laws, and added the Research and Survey Guidelines, developed by FCC and added a Glossary that will help shed light on the various acronyms you will hear tossed about this week.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

## GSB Nominations Committee

2014-15 Committee members were Pat B., chair, Alex B-W., secretary, and Allen T.

The Nominations Committee is responsible for recruiting, revising, selecting, and recommending nominations for both Class A and Class B trustees. The Committee maintains a record of past and current trustees. It also handles the election of GSB officers by receiving candidate's letters of intent and resumes and conducting officer elections at the GSB's face-to-face meeting before the World Service Conference. The committee maintains the GSB Trustee Manual, updating it as necessary, and distributing it to incoming trustees, and maintains the GSB Bylaws, including making minor housekeeping revisions as well as substantive revisions approved by the full Board.

The committee meets monthly via conference call and in person at the two annual face-to-face meetings.

The committee continues to search for both Class A and Class B trustees. They maintain a spreadsheet that allows it to keep clear, up-to-date information on potential trustee candidates. This has allowed the Committee to be more proactive in following up and encouraging candidates to apply.

The Committee recommended one Class A candidate and one Class B candidate whom the Board approved, and whose names will be brought to convocation for ratification at this Conference. The total number of trustees serving you is at eleven, with six being Class A's and five being Class B's. With that ratio, the true D.A. spiritual balance of Board leadership is not being realized. Your D.A. voice and participation is imperative to the growth and well-being of this Fellowship. There are now four Class A trustee positions open, so we are urging members, who are qualified and available, to

apply to serve the D.A. Fellowship. The committee also continues to recommend that the Board explore the financial and practical consequences of approving one or more candidates from outside the U.S. and Canada.

The Committee has revised the GSB Bylaws to include the pre-election of either a Class A or Class B trustee, when a currently serving trustee will be completing their term. This is only allowed if the slate of either Class A or Class B trustees is full, and it is known that a trustee will be rotating off. This allows the Board to realize its vision in preparing for rotation, without a gap in the number of sitting trustees. It also ensures that the trustees can continue to serve the Fellowship, as set forth in the Debtors Anonymous Conference Charter, and Bylaws.

The Committee discussed and recommended GSB trustee training topics for both of the Board's face-to-face meetings this year—which will include topics relating to Board Duty of Care, Duty of Loyalty, reviewing Conference Charter, and assessment of our prudent reserve.

It provides quarterly reports for the D.A. Focus.

The committee would like to recommend that the 2015-2016 NomCom consider the emerging super-Intergroups in discussions of D.A. regions.

Yours in service,  
Pat B., GSB Nominations Committee Chair

## GSB Office Committee

The members of the 2014-15 Committee are: Joan R. (chair), Pat B. (secretary), Clay D.

The General Service Board (GSB) Office Committee oversees the operation of the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham, MA and works with the GSO staff to ensure that the Fellowship is served in an efficient and effective manner. Joan R., served as the GSO Office Committee liaison to communicate needs to not only the office staff, but also to the Board. Joan R. also served as the GSB Liaison to the World Service Conference Committee's Internal Operations Committee (IOC), which has been inactive during the 2014-15 year.

The committee, with the diligent work of the Office Manager (OM) Search Ad Hoc committee, and the full Board, has now employed Allan C., as the GSO OM. He is being trained in all aspects of the operations and policies of the GSO, which will include his participation on our regular teleconference calls. Allan keeps the office committee informed about activities, issues and concerns at GSO. Discussion points and follow-up include new group registrations, fellowship mailings, accounting software and training, media information requests, part-time employee performance, volunteer needs, office processes, technology, and equipment.

The GSO now has a full time OM, and one part time employee. The committee will be working with OM to also hire the second part time employee. We feel confident that the hiring of a new OM, and the second part time staff member will, once again, serve the Fellowship's needs.

The committee is working together, with the GSB Info Tech, to develop and implement a more efficient and cost effective communication policy. This will include upgrading to a new computer system, which will also include new phone, internet and email services to better serve the D.A. Fellowship.

The committee is cooperating with Info Tech and Communication Committee in the development and integration of our new D.A. website. The new website promises to better serve not only the Fellowship, but also the newcomer or professional who may be seeking information about Debtors Anonymous. It will eventually support all factors relating to e-commerce which will include on-line contributions and literature sales, new and updated group registrations, and WSC registrations.

The GSO now has a plan in place, through the aid of the Finance committee, which helps ensure a more cost effective and timely procedure concerning international literature orders.

The committee would like to thank all the D.A. members for their patience during the transition of staff members over the past year. We realize the services to the groups, by virtual means and part-time office staff, and have been a challenge to all. We want

you to know that the service work during this transition was an effort by all trustees, past and present.

We will continue in our efforts to better serve the Debtors Anonymous Fellowship. It is an honor and privilege to do so. In closing, let us never forget our true purpose in the general service structure – to practice spiritual principles as we continue to strive to find the debtor who still suffers, and to ensure that the program of Debtors Anonymous is always available.

In grateful service,  
2014 – 2015 GSB Office Committee

## GSB Public Information Committee

This year's GSB Public Information Committee included Lawanda C., Allen T., and Michael A.

The Public Information Committee of the General Service Board held our second Media Contact Training (MCT) last January 31, 2015 over a conference call. We used our new (and improving) improvisation format to conduct the training. Our next MCT will be held in person at the World Service Conference in Portland, Oregon.

During the year, we tracked the number of times "debtors anonymous" appeared in a blog, internet posting, or newsletter. From August 2014 to mid-June 2015 there were 240 mentions! We sent out Letters of Acknowledgement to thank some of the authors for mentioning D.A. in their article or posting.

As always, GSB PI provided support to both the WSC PI and HIP Committees with their projects.

## Recommendations to the Incoming Committee:

- Develop best possible strategies for PI service work
- Work with PI Reps and area intergroups to develop best practices for establishing a D.A. presence at health fairs or professional conferences. (PI Booths)
- Work with the International Committee and the International Caucus to create a non-US PI Manual for Service



- Develop/maintain content for the PI tab on the new D.A. website
- Create/produce new PSAs

## **Intentional Spacing**

## 2015 WSC Annual Report from the Finance Committee

### 1. Introduction

My name is Allen T. and I'm a debtor in recovery. For the past six months, I've had the privilege of serving as the Treasurer of the General Service Board (GSB) and as the Chair of the board's Finance Committee. The other trustees serving on the Finance Committee this year were Eileen N., Jeff Y., George M., and Maureen C.

The Finance Committee's primary purpose is to manage the Fellowship's finances. The committee ensures that the GSB, the General Service Office (GSO), the World Service Conference (WSC) committees and caucuses, and the WSC Host Committees use the Fellowship's funds in a financially sound manner. The Committee tracks the Fellowship's revenues, pays its expenses, and manages our reserves. The Committee also reviews our financial processes and procedures, and when resources are available, develops documentation for those processes.

As stated in the Twelve Concepts of World Service, the GSB retains final fiduciary responsibility for the oversight of Fellowship resources. The Finance Committee supports the board in meeting this responsibility by ensuring that the trustees are fully informed about our overall financial standing and by bringing specific financial issues to the attention of the board for review and analysis.

### 2. Ongoing Finance Committee Activities

The ongoing actions completed by the Finance Committee during the past year included:

- Completing the monthly accounting cycle and creating monthly and year-end financial reports.
- Meeting monthly to address a variety of financial topics and to review the monthly financial reports.
- Paying various expenses.
- Reviewing and managing our bank accounts.
- Reviewing and providing input on all contracts.
- Providing guidance to the GSB trustees and to the WSC committees and caucuses regarding expenses and reimbursement.
- Creating the FY16 GSB spending plan and the WSC 2015 spending plan, and facilitating the board's review and approval of those plans.
- Traveling to the General Service Office to participate in the year-end physical inventory count.
- Working with the Portland host committee to address various financial elements of this year's conference.
- Administering the payment of John H. Scholarship awards.
- Working with an outside accounting firm to support their review of our annual financial statements and their preparation of our annual federal and New York State tax returns; and then reviewing and filing the returns.

### 3. Additional Actions and Projects Undertaken in FY15

In addition to the preceding actions, which could be considered the normal or standard actions for managing the board's finances, the following project-oriented actions were also completed this year:

#### **New bank account for international literature orders and contributions.**

To facilitate the payment for literature orders, contributions, and WSC registration fees from international D.A. groups and members, we opened a new bank account at our primary bank for the purpose of receiving incoming international wire transfers. Having this capability has been long requested by international D.A. members and groups, because wire transfers are fast and relatively inexpensive.

The good news is that we made progress towards achieving a workable solution, and we actually received wire-transfer payments for four transactions using the new account. The bad news is that it took an inordinate amount of email communication to get the payments to happen. What we don't have yet is a robust, documented process that can be used repeatedly and easily. One of our objectives for the upcoming year will be to fully develop the process for these payments, to allow this capability to be broadly available to non-US groups and members.

#### **Initiated payment of sales tax in the State of Massachusetts.**

We learned during the year that for as long as we have been selling literature out of our office in Massachusetts, we should have been collecting and paying Massachusetts state sales tax. Our failure to make such payments was not intentional, and we admitted this to the state's Department of Revenue. Working with our outside CPA firm, we applied to and were accepted by Massachusetts' voluntary disclosure program (VDP), which allowed us to admit the past errors and pay our back taxes from 2011 to the present without any penalties. We made the catch-up payment, our account is now current, and we now make regular quarterly payments for this tax.

#### **Increased John H. Scholarship funds.**

Knowing that our reserves were already healthy, the board made the policy decision to apply the surplus of any given WSC to the John H. Scholarship fund for the following year's conference. Looking back on last year's conference, WSC 2014 generated a surplus of \$5,602.39, which, when combined with the \$2,949.38 of John H. contributions received during the year, resulted in a total of \$8,551.77 being available for John H. awards for WSC 2015.

#### **Reduced WSC fees.**

Another decision made by the board was to start paying its own WSC expenses, including travel, food, lodging and registration. Previously, these expenses had been supported by conference registration fees, not the GSB spending plan. The result of this action was a \$265 reduction in the conference registration fee from WSC 2014 to WSC 2015. We are hoping this reduction made it possible for more groups to send a representative to the conference. It will be interesting to study the year-over-year registration numbers to see if there was an increase.

#### **Electronic payment for literature purchases and contributions.**

While we started the year with optimism about being able to offer debit-card-only payment capabilities for literature orders and contributions, we ended up terminating this initiative, at least for now. The solutions we were trying to implement just weren't workable, and were resulting in significant bank fees. Once the new D.A. website is up and running, we will likely make another attempt at developing this payment capability.

#### **4. FY15 Financial Analysis**

Looking back on the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015, I am able to report, as I did the last two years, that the Fellowship's finances are healthy and in good order. While revenue from literature sales and contributions declined slightly versus the prior year, it was sufficient to cover all regular operating expenses, and in general, those expenses occurred predictably. As has been the case in prior years, we continued to maintain adequate reserves and we incurred no debt.

The exception to business-as-usual during FY15 was that we substantially underspent in the category of salaries, due to the retirement last September of the manager of the Fellowship's General Service Office.

Our new office manager was just hired this past June, so we basically went for three fourths of our fiscal year without a manager and the corresponding salary expense. There were some additional expenses associated with keeping the office operations going, including higher bookkeeping costs and increased travel expenditures, but those additional costs came nowhere close to matching the reduced salaries. The end result was that our net income at year's end was roughly \$25,000 higher than we had expected it to be.

The table below shows summarizes our revenue, expenses, and net income for FY15 and the previous four years. These totals do not include the World Service Conference or the John H. Fund.

***Profit and Loss Summary FY11 – FY15***

	<b>FY11</b>	<b>FY12</b>	<b>FY13</b>	<b>FY14</b>	<b>FY15</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Literature Sales	\$ 65,298	\$ 63,105	\$ 50,874	\$ 55,155	\$ 74,035
Contributions	78,917	94,738	85,056	98,381	87,887
Interest and Other	848	1,138	304	539	873
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>145,064</b>	<b>158,980</b>	<b>136,234</b>	<b>154,075</b>	<b>162,795</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Cost of Literature Sold	34,862	30,028	25,649	26,893	20,736
Operating Expenses	118,251	111,680	113,733	120,301	117,219
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>153,112</b>	<b>141,708</b>	<b>139,382</b>	<b>147,194</b>	<b>137,956</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ (8,048)</b>	<b>\$ 17,272</b>	<b>\$ (3,149)</b>	<b>\$ 6,881</b>	<b>\$ 24,839</b>

5. FY16 Plan

The FY16 Spending Plan, which covers the twelve-month period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016, was approved by the GSB last month. The plan is provided as Attachment 3.

The plan shows a deficit of -\$28,562. The obvious question is: why are we planning on operating at a deficit? The answer: Knowing that our reserves are already healthy, and wanting to adhere to the spiritual principle of not maintaining excess reserves, the board has decided to reinvest the surplus generated in FY15 back into the Fellowship in FY16. There is no point in saving more; we have saved enough already.

Noteworthy and/or new items in the FY16 plan include:

- The publication of The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous, and the revenue associated with this.
- A full year of salaries for the General Service Office manager and a part time employee.
- A \$4,000 allocation for WSC committees and caucuses, including a fixed \$100 allocation for each committee and caucus, plus a \$3,000 reserve for major projects and initiatives.
- A \$3,000 allocation for the translation of existing D.A. literature into languages other than English.
- As previously mentioned, having the board pay its own World Service Conference expenses, which total roughly \$20,000.

6. Attached Financial Reports

The financial reports attached to this committee report are similar to the reports reviewed by the Finance Committee and the full board. Some reports have been condensed to fit in this report format.

Included are the following:

- Balance Sheet, June 30, 2015
- FY15 Profit and Loss Statement, Versus FY14
- FY16 Spending Plan
- WSC 2014 Plan vs. Actual Report
- WSC 2014 John H. Scholarship Report

The Finance Committee and the full board welcome your questions, feedback, and insights regarding the Fellowship's finances, both during and after the conference.

Also, for any members wanting to drill down into the details of our finances, the full set of year-end GSB financial reports are available upon request. Contact me during or after the conference to request these reports.

## Attachment 1

### Balance Sheet Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc. As of June 30, 2015

	As of June 30, 2015	As of June 30, 2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Bank Accounts	\$ 251,779.19	\$ 237,615.89
Literature Inventory	18,629.61	22,539.0
Prepaid Expenses and Other	11,385.48	8,246.0
Equipment (Net)	571.73	733.7
Intellectual Property	3,937.90	4,684.6
Website Development Costs	12,494.00	0.0
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>298,797.91</b>	<b>273,819.2</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>		
Current Liabilities	12,643.11	21,081.3
Equity	286,154.80	252,738.0
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 298,797.91</b>	<b>\$ 273,819.24</b>

## Attachment 2

### Profit and Loss Statement, Versus Prior Year Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.

	FY15	FY14	Why FY15 is Higher or Lower
<b>Revenue</b>			
Literature Sales			
Audio Visual	\$ 104.00	\$ 88.00	
Books	32,384.32	10,813.00	Significant increase, due to ACOH2
Pamphlets	31,582.74	36,244.70	Down, but within range of last five years
Shipping	9,963.86	8,009.32	
<b>Total Literature Sales</b>	<b>74,034.92</b>	<b>55,155.02</b>	
Member Contributions			
Groups	48,502.03	46,549.33	
Individuals	39,197.18	50,705.39	Down, but within range of last five years
World Service Month	188.07	1,125.92	
<b>Total Member Contributions</b>	<b>87,887.28</b>	<b>98,380.64</b>	
Sales of Product Income	(65.75)		
z Interest	938.33	538.95	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>162,794.78</b>	<b>154,074.61</b>	
Cost of Literature Sold	20,736.27	26,893.10	
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>142,058.51</b>	<b>127,181.51</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Archival Expense	1,531.36	1,059.98	
Bank Charges	812.29	37.50	
Board Related Expenses	23,465.24	18,049.39	Extra trips to GSO, in absence of a GSO manager
Bookkeeping Services	10,648.75	2,317.50	Transferred GSO financial tasks to bookkeeper
CPA - Tax & Review Services	4,731.25	3,720.00	Resolution of MA tax issue; additional consultations
Legal Services	5,064.14	200.00	Employment-law services; BODA trademark search
Depreciation & Amortization	908.72	663.97	
Insurance	1,890.14	1,887.38	
Internet	225.89	1,288.47	
Licenses, Permits & Fees	400.00	60.00	
Office Expense	3,731.43	2,112.54	
Office Related Expenses			
Manager Search Expenses	5,317.17		Travel expenses for candidates and interviewers
Salary & Hourly Wages	25,819.48	62,902.43	Reduced payroll for nine months
Payroll Taxes	2,892.14	5,292.78	
Payroll Service Fees	1,040.51	1,571.78	
Rent & Real Estate Taxes	10,358.50	9,182.88	Included \$600 of snow removal
Utilities	603.89	698.65	
<b>Total Office Related Expenses</b>	<b>46,031.69</b>	<b>79,648.52</b>	
Outreach Expense	1,160.97	963.96	
Postage	12,208.95	2,984.08	Postage for literature orders now included here.
Printing and Copying	886.49	2,147.05	
Telecommunications	2,804.24	2,551.06	
Translation Services	240.00		
WSC Committee Expense	477.77	609.13	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>117,219.32</b>	<b>120,300.53</b>	
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 24,839.19</b>	<b>\$ 6,880.98</b>	

### Attachment 3

#### Approved FY16 GSB Spending Plan For the Fiscal Year Starting July 1, 2015

##### A. Regular Operations

###### Revenue

Literature Sales	
A Currency of Hope, Second Edition	\$ 20,000
The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous	36,000
Pamphlets	30,000
Shipping	13,776
Total Literature Sales	99,876
Member Contributions	86,000
Interest	900
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>186,776</b>

###### Expenses

Cost of Literature	24,355
Board-related Expenses (Travel, legal, bookkeeping, accounting)	63,975
Office-related Expenses (Salaries and benefits, rent, utilities, postage)	115,260
Fellowship Expenses (Committees/Caucuses, translations, outreach)	11,748
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>215,338</b>
<b>Operating Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ (28,562)</b>

##### B. World Service Conference and John H. Scholarship Fund

###### Revenue

World Service Conference	\$ 54,725
John H. Fund Contributions	4,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>58,725</b>

###### Expenses

World Service Conference	54,725
John H. Registration Credits and paid expenses	4,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>58,725</b>
<b>WSC and John H. Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## Attachment 4

### WSC 2014 — Skokie, Illinois, USA Plan Versus Actual Report

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<b>Revenue</b> (actual paid-in revenue)	<b>\$63,088.61</b>	<b>\$74,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Hotel: Banquet meals, meeting rooms, AV, and other	36,514.00	44,196.00
Board Travel	7,584.97	7,325.00
Hotel: Sleeping rooms for GSB trustees, GSO Mgr, Parliamentarian, HC chairs	4,840.16	6,888.00
Technology Rentals	2,217.00	2,400.00
Parliamentarian fees and travel	1,722.59	2,050.00
Host Committee: Notebooks, supplies, copying, etc.	1,183.33	2,687.00
WSC 2015 Host Committee Chair travel	755.37	450.00
Hospitality Room	659.85	700.00
Convocation: Recording secretary and audio recording	500.00	1,200.00
Gala DJ	420.00	500.00
Proofreading: Final WSC report	400.00	400.00
Office Manager Travel	392.01	550.00
Other	296.94	1,076.00
Contingency (5%)		3,521.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>57,486.22</b>	<b>73,943.00</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>5,602.39</b>	<b>57.00</b>



## Attachment 5

### WSC 2014 John H. Scholarship Report (Showing Applicants and Awards, by Region)

Region	# of Applicants	Amount Requested	# of Awards	Amount Awarded
1. Far West	7	\$4,703.78		
4. South	2	2,825.76		
5. Rocky Mountain/Intermountain West	3	2,087.89	2	\$ 779.62
6. Midwest	6	5,191.44	3	1,893.77
7. Mid-Atlantic	5	5,540.71	2	1,437.83
8. Northeast	3	2,654.04		
9. New England	4	3,728.29	1	1,402.11
11. Europe	2	3,857.17		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$30,589.08</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$5,513.33</b>

#### Regions:

1. **Far West:** California, Hawaii, Pacific Trust Territories, Guam, Wake
2. **Pacific Northwest:** Alaska, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Yukon Territory
3. **Southwest:** Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
4. **South:** Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands
5. **Rocky Mountain/Intermountain West:** Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan
6. **Midwest:** Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, West Virginia, Wisconsin
7. **Mid-Atlantic:** Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia
8. **Northeast:** New Jersey, New York, Nunavut, Ontario
9. **New England:** Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Quebec
10. **South Pacific, Australia, New Zealand**
11. **Europe**
12. **Asia**
13. **Africa**
14. **Latin America**

**End of Section**

## SECTION 5: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

*On Wednesday evening, August 5, 2015, each WSC Committee and Caucus was afforded an opportunity to present a report on the work of its committee/caucus during the 2014–15 conference year.*

### BDA

In 2014-15 the BDA Committee started with four subcommittees: Pamphlets, Taking Our Pulse, Accountability, and the Vocations/Visions Subcommittees. Unfortunately due to staffing issues the Accountability Subcommittee was folded into the Pamphlets Subcommittee at mid-year, and we finished the year with three subcommittees.

The **Taking Our Pulse Subcommittee** devised a 12-question survey to learn how individual BDA members complete 12 Step work. With the intention to share gathered information with the worldwide Fellowship, we surveyed 22 BDA groups (Northern and Southern California so far) via phone.

Some example findings: 17% of respondents completed Step work with a sponsor; 36% utilized the local question/answer format called “The Yellow Book (SoCal)”; 100% said they would use the upcoming DA 12 Steps for future Step work; and 73% believed that DA should have a Conference-approved Step Study Guide. Average recovery in DA was 9.4 years, 2 was the average number of sponsees, and the respondents gave a wide variety of extra comments!

They hope to continue this work in the upcoming new BDA Committee to include an electronic survey to gather even more results.

The **Pamphlets Subcommittee** continued to work on preparing BDA-themed pamphlets for publication and sale to the DA Fellowship. To that end they are in various stages of production, either within the BDA Committee or in collaboration with the Literature Committee, for pamphlets on Spiritual Marketing, Detaching from Difficult Personalities, Clarity in Business Finances, and a BDA Numbers Booklet. We will be handing these drafts to the next BDA Committee in hopes that they will continue this work to bring these publications to the Fellowship.

In addition, the Subcommittee worked on the concept of accountability. Recognizing that action groups often operate as excellent accountability tools, we submitted a survey form to several successful action group members to get more information on what makes them successful, and the results are encouraging. Furthermore, they created a survey to learn how action buddies, PRG's, bookending, sponsorship, and step work helps in maintaining accountability in working our programs and our lives. Our hope is to pass on this information to create an Accountability Pamphlet that spells out the many tools we can use to keep us accountable to ourselves and our Higher Power in achieving success in this Program.

The **Vocations and Visions Subcommittee** was a small subcommittee that focused on researching the stories of BDA members and how BDA has supported their visions and brought them success. They conducted interviews of members to collect stories that may be used in DA publications in the future.

### Conference Committee

#### Committee Officers and Members:

Chair: Don C.

Vice Chair: Alice K.

Secretary: Kaila Y.

Treasurer: Dayton L.

Carol Ann P.

Carolyn L.

Marietta M.

Michael G.

Peg M.

Priscilla M.

Sheffra W.

Steve S.

Tracy F.

Board Liaison: Alexandra B.

#### Accomplishments over the year:

During the 2014-2015 Service Year, the WSC Conference Committee:

1. Reviewed the John H. Scholarship application, instructions and guidelines, making edits where necessary, to:
  - (a) Ensure that these documents were all in alignment and ready for use by the Portland Host Committee in this year's scholarship distribution process.
  - (b) Ensure that these documents properly reflect the will of the D.A. Fellowship (including revisions that were approved at the 2013 D.A. WSC).

We also designated a member of our Committee to work with the 2015 WSC Portland Host Committee on the John H. Scholarship review and distribution process.

2. Interviewed a previous WSC Host Committee Chair and gathered a list of best practices, suggestions for improvement and lessons learned to be shared with the current and future WSC Host Committees.
3. Assisted the GSB Conference Support Committee with the 2016 WSC site re-selection process (Dallas/Ft. Worth is the confirmed WSC site for next year).
4. Examined the issue of understaffed WSC committees. For example, at last year's Conference, not enough delegates volunteered to fully staff the WSC Internal Operations Committee. We created a sub-committee to consider this issue and we developed recommendations for next year's Conference Committee to consider in the interest of avoiding the potential of understaffed WSC Committees / Caucuses in the future. **Note: This year, volunteers will check in on Committees' / Caucuses' first meetings and let the 2015 WSC delegates know if any are understaffed. If your Committee/Caucus appears to be understaffed, please wait until this check-in process is complete before leaving your meeting room.**
5. Researched and explored the potential of allowing non-delegate D.A. members to attend certain appropriate portions of D.A.'s annual World Service Conference.

6. Worked with the Conference Support Committee to help clarify the D.A. WSC Host Committee process and offered our assistance in the revision of the D.A. WSC Host Committee Handbook (the guide used by a Host Committee to prepare for a World Service Conference held in their regional area).
7. Worked with the WSC Technology Committee's Paperless Conference Sub-Committee on the concept of providing WSC delegates with conference materials via laptops, tablets, etc., to reduce the cost and other ramifications of producing the conference delegate binders.
8. Provided general support to the Portland Host Committee as they prepared to host the 2015 World Service Conference.
9. Addressed all WSC Issues and Concerns assigned to our Committee. From all of us on CC, thank you for the opportunity to be of service this year.

#### Recommendations to the incoming committee:

- 1) Recommends that the duties of the WSC Conference Committee be expanded to include the following task: At a short time after the beginning of the first meetings of the committees at the WSC, the Conference Committee will arrange for a volunteer (who may or may not be a member of the committee) to look in on each committee meeting and ask whether the committee feels adequately staffed. If any committee answers that it does not, the volunteer will immediately go around again and let the other committees know of the situation of any committee which considered itself understaffed.
- 2) Recommends that the text of the preceding paragraph be included in future WSC binders, at the beginning of the section entitled World Service Conference Committee Starter Kit.
- 3) Recommends that the incoming WSC Conference Committee work with the incoming WSC Technology Committee **at the 2015 Conference**, and then presents a motion **for 2015 Conference approval** "to prepare and conduct a test of the concept of providing an electronic version of the conference binder and any binder updates **at the 2016 World Service Conference.**"

- 4) Recommends that to the incoming WSC Conference Committee consider the proposal addressed in the 2014 WSC's Issue/Concern # **13-08** (see below). The 2014 Conference binder contained this Issue/Concern, proposing that Convocation be held at the beginning of the WSC and that outgoing committees bring their motions to the Convocation before they disband. There is much more detail in the Issue/Concern itself (see below, after Recommendations). In response to this Issue/Concern, the 2013-2014 Conference Committee noted that a subcommittee had been formed and its Final Report recommended further examination of WSC structure by the incoming 2014-2015 Conference Committee, and we did not address this Issue/Concern during our work together this past year.
- 5) Recommends that the incoming WSC Conference Committee study/research/explore the question of allowing delegates to attend the D.A. WSC remotely (via videoconference or the like).
- 6) Recommends that the incoming WSC Conference Committee work to clarify the duties of and the relationships between the WSC Conference Committee, the GSB's Conference Support Committee and the WSC Host Committee.

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**Reference material for Recommendation # 4:  
Issue 13-08**

WSC Conference Committee

CITY: Salt Lake City, UT

Submitted to 2013 WSC by a D.A. member

"This issue and concern is intended for the WSC Conference Committee.

In my opinion, the structure of D.A.'s World Service Conference is backwards. The incoming committees have less than 36 hours (less than 20 in-committee hours) to discuss and prepare their motions for convocation. If they have a project that requires more time than that, they never have the opportunity to bring the finished product to convocation. Having the finished product turned over to the incoming committee the following year has a handful of potential problems associated with it.

To fix the problems stated above, I would like to suggest that the WSC be restructured to have convocation at the beginning of the conference (instead of the end) and that the committees bringing motions to the convocation floor be the outgoing committees (instead of the incoming committees).

The one drawback I see to this suggestion is that the new process would have to have a contingency plan for what would happen if no members of an outgoing committee would be attending the following year's conference and thus would not be in attendance to present the motion at the convocation. I believe this could still be overcome by allowing the outgoing committee's motion(s) to be presented by someone the outgoing committee trusts (maybe a Board member such as their GSB liaison or the GSB chair).

If this was implemented, we could also consider implementing some other changes that could make convocation run more smoothly with hopefully less controversy. For example, motions and any supporting documentation could be submitted electronically in advance (maybe 10 weeks before the first day of the conference?) and electronically distributed to all registered attendees in advance (maybe 8 weeks before the first day of the conference?). Along with each motion and its supporting documentation, there could be a way for Groups, Intergroups, GSRs, ISRs, individual D.A. members, Board members, and/or GSO employees to give the motioning committee feedback on the motion in advance (maybe 4 weeks before the first day of the conference?). That way the committee can discuss any new information they encounter in the feedback process. Then if the committee felt the new information warranted revising the motion, they could have time to make the revisions before presenting the final revised version of the motion at convocation. Any motions that come to convocation but encounter problems so severe that the motion needs to be recommitted back to the committee could be given to the incoming committee to work on again (if the new committee was willing). Thank you for your service and for your thoughtful consideration of these ideas."

**2013-2014 WSC Conference Committee Response:**

"Developed a subcommittee to explore."

**Diversity Caucus**

**Members**

Jill W. (Chair)

Michael G. (Co-Chair)

Sara H. (Secretary)

Sue F. (GSB Liaison)

Toward the beginning of the conference year, the Diversity Caucus revised its goals to the following:

1. To refine our mission statement
2. To create “best practices” for reaching out
3. To decide whether or not to recommend the integration of the Diversity Caucus into a committee of the World Service Conference (WSC)

The focus of the Diversity Caucus’s work throughout the conference year was accomplishing the three goals above, defining the purpose of the Diversity Caucus and considering what is meant by “diversity,” especially as it relates to Debtors Anonymous. Through some fantastic research into the history of the Diversity Caucus by our GSB Liaison, we were able to understand what the caucus has worked on in the past and how we might want to move forward. We also looked at A.A.’s best practices around inclusiveness to guide us. The documents tracking the history of the caucus’s work gave us a new sense of historical continuity, and we’ve decided to preserve them and pass them on to next year’s caucus.

For goal one, the caucus created a draft of a refined mission statement, which included language about collaborating with both the Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) and Public Information (PI) Committees. This new language clarifies that the caucus is charged with supporting the Fellowship in reaching out to underserved communities, as opposed to focusing on the outreach the caucus itself can do. Both the HIP and PI Committees were amenable to the new language. The end goal was to have the PI Committee present the adoption of the revised mission statement, on behalf of the Diversity Caucus, as a motion to be considered by the 2015 WSC.

In the process of working toward the completion of our goals, we were able to collaborate on outreach with the PI Committee by participating in a fellowship-wide call on March 28: A Call to Action: Carrying the Message of Debtors Anonymous during World Service Month. The call was a joint effort of the PI Committee and the Diversity Caucus for the purpose of providing D.A. members with ideas for simple actions they could take on One Member, One Action Day, April 15, 2015.

On the call, our representative spoke about the history of inclusiveness in twelve-step programs as mentioned in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous. He also shared some of the insights learned from a meeting with a friend of his who is a member of D.A. and a

member of more than one underrepresented population. Having a Diversity Caucus member speak on the call also served as a way to encourage D.A. members to consider taking their own outreach action or actions in underserved areas and/or to underserved populations.

Another caucus member met with a bilingual Spanish/English-speaking D.A. member about her experience with D.A. In May, a D.A. member joined our call to offer her professional perspective and expertise on the subject of diversity.

We know more than we did at the start of the year about diversity and outreach from talking to as many people as possible as a way of working toward developing best practices. This goal is ongoing, and we recommend that the process continue with this year’s Diversity Caucus.

Through our liaison’s research, we learned that prior to 2007; the Diversity Caucus was a subcommittee of the PI Committee and became a caucus as a result of a motion that passed at the 2006 WSC. Based on this new knowledge and our work throughout the year, all Diversity Caucus members agreed that we were not in favor of recommending that the Diversity Caucus become a subcommittee of one of the WSC committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill W.

FCC

HIP

Intergroup Caucus

#### **Officers and Members**

Ellen B., Chair  
Dayton L., Vice-Chair  
Maureen F., Secretary  
Dan A., Treasurer  
Jeannine W., Member  
Eileen N., Board Liaison

#### **Actions:**

The Intergroup Caucus supports and helps clarify the purpose of the Intergroups in the DA program. Throughout the year our caucus has consulted with and supported many other Committees including the Conference comm, Tech Comm, International Comm, and the Host Conference comm.

## International Caucus

### Literature Committee

#### Roster:

Bill D, Vice Chair  
Gisela S  
Jeanne F  
Kathryn B  
Krzysztof K, Treasurer  
Marilyn Sue W  
Sharon S  
Suzanne M, Secretary  
Tom B  
Tom K, Chair  
Allen T (GSB Liaison)

#### Accomplishments over the Year:

- 1) We, the literature committee, responded to issue 14-06, a request to “create new and/or improve existing materials on Sponsorship in D.A.” Our response will post to the DA Website.
- 2) Our committee revised the DA Anonymity pamphlet. Although it’s currently out of print, and no longer orderable, the Anonymity pamphlet is available electronically on the DA website. Our revisions specifically address anonymity as it relates to social media.
- 3) We revised the pamphlet, Recovery from Compulsive Spending. The primary purpose of our revision was to emphasize that compulsive spending is a symptom of debting, not a separate disease from which to recover. We also voted to shorten the name of the pamphlet to Compulsive Spending.
- 4) We continued to work on the DA Twelve Promises pamphlet. We received a long form of the twelve promises, as a handoff from the previous year’s literature committee. However, each promise was written by a different author, and varied in length, content and style. We began rewriting them to improve the flow, evenness and connectivity. As of July 1, 2015 we haven’t completed the revisions. The Twelve Promises remain a work in progress.

1. Upon leaving the 2014WSC, our original ambitious agenda included assisting intergroups with more information, websites and phone numbers to help their DA home groups. Updating Howard’s list, contacts of current active Intergroups through the GSO was our first task. Following this we sought best practices for successful Intergroups to pass on to all. We found many Intergroup websites and phone listings were out of date and we were never able to update information, learn best practices, and encourage annual registration. We did learn that groups who held at least one DA Day or workshop with all their groups participating contributed to the growth and sharing of ESH from long time DA members.
2. Revisiting the information published in the DA Manual for Service was last. Unfortunately no new ideas for celebrating the Anniversary that were unique to Intergroups were forthcoming. We found the DAMS manual is somewhat confusing because it is worded like all groups do all the same things. For instance, reselling literature at a savings to small groups can only be done by larger Intergroups with the funds to purchase in bulk. We found a large disparity between programs and services offered from large Intergroups with many large groups supporting them and small Intergroups with small groups in their membership. With a small group it was less likely there were enough members to support a member attending the Intergroup meetings.

#### Recommendations to the Incoming Committee:

Our suggestion then to the new 2015 Intergroup Caucus is that they recommend to the 2015 Conference that the Tech Comm work with Intergroups on better website and referral information without compromising anonymity. Some groups suggested they could use help with Web pages-maybe a template for Intergroups through the Tech Comm. It is our suggestion this initiative continue in coordination with the new Office Manager as Intergroups annually register with the GSO. In addition request again that a Tab to locate Intergroups be on the first page of the website.

We have nothing but gratitude for our board liaison for our Caucus as well as the other committees we have worked with. They have helped us understand the bigger picture and grow in our programs with patience for the process.



- 5) Our committee has been creating a new outline for the primary text of DA. We received an existing outline, created by a Literature Committee from several years ago. The board had asked us to rework the outline or create a new one. As of July 1, 2015 we haven't completed the new outline. It remains a work in progress.
- 6) In the search for stories of recovery from diverse demographic groups, and stories of recovery from long time members and founders of DA, Literature Committee members reached out to speak with our fellowship archivist. We joined the dialogue in that search.
- 7) We voted to include the 12 Concepts in the publication of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of DA, essentially making the new book a "12 and 12 and 12." As of July 1, 2015, our committee is still in the process of reviewing the text of the new document, so that we might approve it.

#### **Summary:**

Our Literature Committee has responded dutifully to the requests of the Board, the World Service Conference and the wider fellowship of Debtors Anonymous. The revisions we've made are at the request of those we serve.

Attendance at conference calls remained strong throughout the year. We found it helpful to create subcommittees, each with its own point person. The point persons were essentially chairs of their respective subcommittees: Tom B for Anonymity, Sharon S for Compulsive Spending, Kathryn B for the Promises and Krzysztof K for the Primary Text of DA. This model facilitated participation and results.

#### **Recommendations to the Incoming Committee:**

- 1) Continue the process of developing and approving the Twelve Promises pamphlet.
- 2) Continue the process of developing and approving a new outline for the Primary Text of DA.

- 3) Continue to seek stories of recovery from diverse demographic groups and long timers and founding members.
- 4) Take any necessary actions on motions passed by previous conferences, but that haven't come to fruition:
  - a) Motion to approve a statement regarding conference approved literature (2006)
  - b) Motion to approve the concept of a DA 12 Step Study Guide
  - c) Motion to approve the concept of a DA Daily Meditations book
- 5) Address the following issues our committee discussed, but didn't act upon:
  - a) Health Issues Pamphlet (The concept was approved by WSC.)
  - b) Review new BDA Literature.
  - c) Submit a design idea for the 40th anniversary cover of the 2nd edition of A Currency of Hope.
  - d) Make special anniversary literature package recommendations to Lit Pub.

Tom K, Chair

### **WSC Public Information Committee**

#### **Committee Members:**

Siobhan K. (chair), Diane C. (vice chair), Carol A. (secretary), Maureen F. (treasurer), Chris A., Jerry B, Patrick C., Ellen S., Ron T., Bevin D., Esmerelda, Jill W.

#### **Board Liaisons:**

Lawanda C., Michael A.

The WSC Public Information Committee fulfilled its commitment to the Statement of Purpose adopted at the 2014 WSC, taking action in all areas described by that statement:

"The Public Information Committee works to carry the message of D.A. to the still suffering debtor by interfacing with the media, helping professionals, the general public, and the D.A Fellowship at large, in person, on the telephone, and through written information.

#### The Public Information Committee:

- Utilizes the Debtors Anonymous Public Information Manual and other D.A. service literature available to the entire Fellowship as a tool for outreach efforts
- Supports and trains PI Representatives
- Is guided by the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous”

This was an especially stimulating year for PI because of the fellowship-wide interest in public information service as we begin the celebration of DA's 40th anniversary. At monthly committee meetings, they reviewed and discussed five pages of the DA Public Information Manual. The lively discussions and deeper awareness of the riches in this manual informed the committee's work this year and renewed its commitment to help PI representatives at the meeting level take advantage of the manual. As they entered the home stretch of a wonderful year together, the committee was delighted to add their input to the GSB Public Information's discussion on long-range planning of PI work for Debtors Anonymous - "Vision" work about the future of DA that will lead "action and more action."

#### Public Information Representative Support:

The Public Information Representative Support Subcommittee was extremely productive, addressing all the items on its action plan for the conference year. Here is a list of the highlights:

#### The subcommittee:

1. Contacted all of the participants on the prior year WSC Public Information Committee's telephone workshop in spring 2014, inviting them to attend our upcoming events, reminding them about existing resources within the Public Information Manual, encouraging them to team up with a PI action partner to do PI service together, and offering general support.
2. Organized and hosted a PI-themed, fellowship-wide telephone workshop on January 10, 2015 called Carrying the Message: Simple Ways to Share D.A. Recovery. More than 55 callers attended.
3. Contributed multiple articles to the 1st Quarter 2015 Ways & Means including:
  - "Reflections on Carrying the Message: Beautiful Suggestions for Sharing D.A. Recovery
  - A Call to Action: A Fellowship-Wide Call March 28

- Five Simple Ways of Carrying the Message of D.A.
- One Member, One Action Day: Carrying the Message of D.A. on April 15

4. Organized and hosted a PI-themed, fellowship-wide telephone workshop on March 28, 2015 called A Call to Action: Carrying the Message of Debtors Anonymous during World Service Month. More than 30 callers attended.
5. Contributed PI-themed material for D.A. eNews messages
6. Contributed an article to the 2nd Quarter 2015 Ways & Means based on reflections on the March 28 workshop and One Member One Action Day
7. Proposed and designed a new piece of service literature, a "PI Starter Kit" which is for PI representatives and others interested in helping to carry the message of D.A. The kit is comprised of a cover letter to new PI reps, materials pulled from the Public Information Manual and the Public Information page/tab on [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) as well as our committee's "Five Simple Ways to Carry the Message of Debtors Anonymous" document.

#### PIPE (Public Information for Professional Events):

The bulk of PIPE's work this year centered around creating a system for identifying professional events across the country where D.A. could have a presence and streamlining a procedure for locating and helping place D.A. members who have taken the D.A. Media Contact Training at such events. This included writing and getting board approval for two outreach letters. One is an outreach letter inquiring about booth space at professional events and the other is an outreach letter to members who are media contact trained and live in an area where there is an upcoming event. The subcommittee also created a work in progress Google doc for the purpose of keeping track of the location and contact information for potential events and whether or not there is a media contact trained D.A. member near the event.

PIPE was also able to coordinate having a D.A. presence at an all-day event this year at which representatives from several recovery organizations and centers, as well as individuals from the general public interested in the services of those groups and centers, came together to share information and network. A table was set up for D.A. where D.A. members handed out D.A. and P.I. literature and answered questions.

#### Media Contact:

Many committee members took the Media Contact Training offered by the GSB PI committee at the August 2014 WSC in Skokie or on the January 31st, 2015 conference call. Most of the committee have taken the training at some point in the last year,



and for at least one member, January was her fourth time through this enlightening Twelve Traditions based training.

This committee member and a second volunteered to respond to a request brought to the GSO to be interviewed by a local New York City radio station about Debtors Anonymous. Those interviews reached a community in New York that currently has no active D.A. meetings. The committee members interviewed felt strongly that their Media Contact Training had helped them to follow the Twelve Traditions of DA well as to carry the message, our primary purpose on the Public Information committee.

#### **Recommendations for Incoming Committee:**

- PI Starter Kit: We recommend to the committee that they pursue ways to get the PI Starter Kit, if approved, to the fellowship both on the DA international website as a downloadable PDF and as printed material available through the General Service Office.
- That they continue to archive recordings of WSC PI's Fellowship Wide calls in a durable format that can be accessed by PI Representatives
- Make a formal recommendation to the 2015 WSC Technology Committee that they make recordings of recent Fellowship Wide calls available on the Public Information tab of the new [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) website
- That the P.I.P.E. sub-committee continue to develop and connect with a roster of Media Contact trained debtors who could man booths at local professional events
- Follow up with the committee's contact list of PI Reps and other conference call participants to support them in their PI efforts
- Continue to sponsor fellowship-wide calls regarding public information work with the theme "Carrying the Message"
- Continue exploring whether existing audio and visual public information resources are adequate or should be improved with the goal of having content on the new DA website
- Investigate writing a publishable article on Debtors Anonymous which could be used to increase awareness about DA outside the fellowship

- Develop initiatives to support Public Information Reps in celebrating the 40th anniversary of DA

#### **In Summary: Gratitude**

The committee is very grateful for our departing 2014 Board Liaison, Lawanda, who served their efforts with dedication, clarity and heart. The committee thanks her for her honesty, integrity and example.

All of the members of the P.I.P.E committee, several members of PI Rep Support and the current chair plan on returning to the 2015 WSC committee, which will help us continue to build initiatives over time.

This was a wonderful committee, a vibrant group that worked seamlessly, making it hard to tell where one member's efforts finished and the next began. The articles for the Ways and Means, D.A. Focus and the content of the two fellowship wide calls, the "One Member One Action" day campaign were truly a group effort. This talented group committed to showing up together in a true spirit of service building a foundation for the 2015 WSC PI. We look forward to the work of carrying the message in 2015.

For more information please contact  
[siobhanwithgratitude@gmail.com](mailto:siobhanwithgratitude@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted by  
Siobhan K. on behalf of the entire 2014-2015 WSC PI Committee

## **RDC**

### **Technology Committee**

#### **Technology Committee:**

Bob M, Chair; Pat B, Board Liaison; Matthew E, Arthur G, Clay D, Ellen B, Tom W, Mary Lea S, Jean-Camille B, Naomi S.

The Technology Committee supports the rest of the Conference committees and the Board committees. Whenever an idea is initiated in Tech Comm, we work with the responsible committees to bring it to fruition. Tech Comm devoted the 2014-2015 work session to three main project areas, through three sub-committees.

#### **1. E-Literature - Sub-committee:**

Matthew E, Arthur G, Clay D, Bob M.

The e-Lit subcommittee continued the work of the 2013-2014 Tech Committee pursuing the concept of publication of e-literature by Debtors Anonymous as an integral part of the literature sales program. This concept has long been accepted as a logical next step in the continuing evolution of DA; the questions revolve around the technological requirements and the financial impact. The e-Literature subcommittee has compiled a report detailing the process required to produce electronic versions of existing DA literature, the alternatives for distribution of the literature, including the establishment of a shopping cart facility on the new DA website vs. the contracting with outside vendors for sale and distribution, the issue of ensuring security vs. plagiarism, and the requirements for marketing through the website. Of equal importance is our review of the expense and potential revenue related to electronic versions of DA literature to ensure that potential e-Book sales do not cut into the profit realized from the sales of hard copies. The potential audiences are there: both members who rely heavily or entirely on electronic devices for all their literature needs, and members overseas or in remote domestic locations who do not have ready access to hard copy literature.

This initiative is ultimately the purview of the Literature Committee, working with Lit Pub, and the Internal Operations Committee, all of whom have considered and discussed electronic literature.

Our recommendation to the 2015 Literature Committee is to work with the Technology Committee at the Conference and to present a motion for Conference approval for DA to prepare, market, and distribute an electronic version of A Currency of Hope, Second Edition.

## 2. **Paperless Conference Sub-committee:**

Ellen B, Tom W, Mary Lea S.

The concept of a paperless WSC has been discussed before; we'd like to bring it to action. The Paperless Conference subcommittee has prepared the details of a test run of the concept involving a

small group of volunteers who will receive, in addition to their normal printed Conference

Binder, the contents of the Binder in electronic form for download to their laptops or other electronic devices. During the Conference, the test group would also receive, electronically, any updates to the Binder. The object is to ascertain whether the DA WSC can function effectively without the need for bulky, expensive hard-cover binders.

This initiative is the purview of the Conference Committee, working with the Conference Support Committee, and ultimately, the Host Committee. Tech Comm has been in discussion with the Conference Committee, and that committee will be making a parallel recommendation to the Conference.

Our recommendation to the 2015 Conference Committee is to work with the Technology Committee at the Conference and to present a motion for Conference approval to prepare and conduct a test of the Paperless concept at the 2016 World Service Conference.

## 3. **Video-conferencing Sub-committee:**

Jean-Camille B, Naomi S.

The Video-conferencing subcommittee continued the work presented at the 2014 WSC of the concept of expanding participation in the World Service Conference by enabling members from overseas, and ultimately the U.S., to attend via electronic video-conferencing means. The request was made by the International Caucus and the initial suggestion was to allow representatives from the six registered International Intergroups to share in the General Sessions, the committee meetings, and/or the Convocation through the use of Skype or other electronic means to be decided. The subcommittee has outlined the technical requirements for implementing this video-conferencing idea.

Upon further deliberation and discussion, it has become clear that the ramifications of this concept are very serious, going all the way to the Conference Charter itself. It would involve participation, on however a limited or controlled scope, of persons outside the physical bounds of the Conference meeting facilities, as well as broadcasting of Conference activities. The legal and structural implications of such proposals on anonymity and credentialing, for example, must be studied, deliberated, and approved at the highest levels.

This initiative is the purview of the Conference Committee, working with the Legal Committee, the Conference Support Committee, the International Caucus, and the Host Committee.

Our recommendation to the Conference Committee is to establish a joint working committee among the interested parties to identify and address the issues and the means of resolution during the 2015-2016 working session. The Technology Committee will assist and be available to address the technological issues.

**End of Section**

## SECTION 6: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

(Listed alphabetically)

### Business Debtors Anonymous Committee (BDA)

August 7, 2014

The BDA Committee's primary focus for 2015 will be to continue the process begun by the past BDA committees of creating BDA-specific literature in coordination with the Literature Conference Committee and the GSB Literature Publications Committee. We intend to move forward with the five pamphlet concepts currently in process, which are titled:

- Clarity in Business Finance
- BDA Numbers
- BDA Signposts and Tools
- Annual BDA Business Plan
- BDA Detaching from Difficult Personalities

Our understanding is that all of these potential publications are in draft form with the exception of BDA Detaching from Difficult Personalities versions which has not yet been drafted. Our role will be to review, recommend, provide guidance and assistance to the other committees involved in this process, as well as to create BDA concepts related to the topic of detaching from difficult personalities. We look forward to moving these publications ahead in their journey toward approval by the 2016 Conference.

No issues and concerns were formally assigned to the BDA Committee by the Conference.

We have planned our monthly meeting for the first Sunday of each month at 2PM Eastern Time.

Bill J, our Trustee Liaison joined by phone and provided clarity regarding the work at hand and the process by which we can accomplish.

Our BDA COM Mandate:

- Focus on the 5 pamphlets.
- Create concepts.
- Act as reviewer.
- Review and recommend.
- Assist LitPub to give outline to writer.
- Providing guidance, not authorship.

- Send drafts via email.
- Do Not Distribute Draft Materials Outside of WSC Committees and GSB!!!

We read through the following materials in preparation for our discussion:

- Report from Bill entitled, "BDA Literature in Process as of 5/2/15 = the 5 approved concepts currently on the Lit Pub Com of the GSB.

BDA Committee WSC Committee report to the 2014 WSC, in the Conference, Binder Section 1.

- BDA Com purpose statement in the DAMS, page 77.
- WSC Committee Starter Kit in the Conference Binder.
- The draft versions and notes for the 5 pamphlets in progress.

Thumb drive document contents were posted in Dropbox for each member to access.

Connie N from last year's BDA Com volunteered to assist us when needed.

#### Process for Initial Evaluation of Pamphlets

- We read through each of them to get a general idea, and discussed. Our process was to read first in silence, then discuss. We work by not rushing but being conscious of time and using a timer.
- The discussion focused on the target / scope / purpose of each brochure and yielded clarity as to who would use the materials and how they would be used.

We discussed with Bill where each of the 5 pamphlets are in the process. He will be invaluable in answering process/status questions.

Although several of the pamphlets will require a substantial amount of work, the committee feels confident that we will be able to address all five during the upcoming year were formed and the BDA Committee broke into four subcommittees (below) to discuss the topics that were assigned to them.

#### Notes on Pamphlets:

- A. Getting Started with Business Record Keeping (Monthly Business Record Keeper)

Past notes:

Insufficiently biz oriented.

Needs more business oriented work.

Action requested:

explicit instructions to writer thru LitPub.

After reading:

Target Audience

The target should be newcomers who are confused about Tool 1, separating business and personal financial records and bank accounts. The current draft version attempts to create a complex P&L statement as well as detailed record-keeping and could be overwhelming to newcomers who are simply concentrating on “keeping their numbers”. More experienced BDA members would most likely not use the spending record or P&L because of significant variances in accounting methods and business models, e.g. retail vs. consulting vs. restaurants, etc. We would eliminate the P&L portion and concentrate the record keeping pages on tracking business revenue and expenses separate from personal finances in keeping with BDA Tool 1.

Scope/Purpose:

- A. Clarify what BDA principles are involved in business record keeping
- B. Emphasize Tool 1
- C. Include record keeping pages for:
  - o Business Expenses (need to develop categories)
  - o Business Revenue (need to develop categories)

As part of the process for developing categories, we will seek the experience, strength and hope of experience BDA members.

**B. Clarity in Business Finances**

Draft - instructions to LitPub writer to make changes to more business oriented.

Action: recommendations to LitPub

After reading:

Target Audience

- Lit committee
- PRGs and Round Table
  - o Bookending projects with timer
  - o Bimonthly
  - o Round robin, interchangeable roles within group
- YouTube video example of a PRG
- Weekly Action Plan

Pamphlets

- Spiritual Business Plan
- Spiritual Marketing
- Sign Posts
- BDA “Tool 10”

Taking Our Pulse

- Research BDA groups for unique tools that may be shared with the Fellowship
- BDA Step Study
- Competition to BDA groups to solicit ideas

Vocations/Visions

- Blueprint for Visions
- Stories/Interviews

August 8, 2014

The Committee convened to vote on the Recommendations to the Conference. The following Recommendations were voted on and passed:

1. The BDA Committee recommends to the Tech Committee that future phases of the new website include functionality for a forum(s) on the new D.A. website to allow D.A. groups and/or BDA groups and members to submit questions to the Fellowship as a whole that may be answered by others in the Fellowship.
2. The BDA Committee recommends that the Board prepare and submit to the Fellowship a new 5-Year Plan as well as a procedure for an ongoing annual renewable 5-Year Plan.
3. The BDA Committee recommends to the Tech Committee that the new D.A. website include functionality to sort for BDA and other categories of meetings on the site meeting list.

## Conference Committee (CC)

Introductions:

Brandi (vice chair), Carolyn (secy.), Jackie (treas.), Jessiline, Craig, Jean Camille

Board Liaison: Alexandra

Motions:

1. That the motion adopted by the 2014 conference to hold the 2016 WSC in Sacramento be modified to hold the 2016 WSC in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area.

- Most know: Charter calls for us to decide. Sacto. decided on last year, but subsequently withdrew after conditions for doing the work were different than anticipated; GSB exercising fiduciary duty to make Conf. happen found willing and suitable substitute, consulting us. Seems appropriate to ratify.
- 2. That the Conference selects the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area for the 2017 and 2018 WSCs. However, the Conference delegates to the General Service Board, in consultation with the WSC Conference Committee, the right to change the conference location if it deems it necessary and appropriate.
  - A prior WSC asked GSB to explore 3 years in one location. Expect to have that option in DFW, but think selections for 2 years out from now on should be explicit about fallback if isn't working.
- 3. That the Conference Committee, in consultation with the Technology Committee, conduct a trial of an "electronic (paperless) binder" for the 2016 WSC.
  - Volunteers only
  - Will be given hard copy as fallback

#### Action Plan:

1. Proposal in Issue/Concern [not completely off the table]. Came quite close to presenting a different motion: That a representative from each committee established at the previous World Service Conference shall be allowed to present at convocation motions which their committee directed them to present.  
(Responds to a 2013 issue/concern.)

Background — all a Committee can do now is recommend successors take to convocation. Aimed at addressing:

- Things may get completely worked up by one com. during year but not presented at all by next Com. (We overlooked one and ran out of time, which can happen even if don't overlook. Predecessors overlooked this one — not handed off quite so clearly.)
- Stories of starting all over, re-examining in new committee, when other has done the work, developed the expertise. Shouldn't have to work on something all year, then hand off as a recommendation, where it may die, instead of seeing it through to let Conf. as a whole consider
- Duplication of effort, and things dragging on from one year to the next that could be resolved

- A group of trusted servants has come up with a solution, and concerned about formality of their no longer existing as a group prevents convocation from benefiting from their work
2. Clarify respective duties of and relationships between WSC Conf. Com., GSB CSC, and WSC Host Committee
  3. Consider recommendation we dropped: to bring a motion institutionalizing census of committees
  4. Consider from all angles proposals from Tech and International re a trial run of a few oversees groups participating remotely
  5. Consider whether to provide Host Committees and meeting planners written guidance in an ongoing way (e.g., Host Com. Manual) on seeking dietary options for attendees
  6. Consider whether it would be appropriate to encourage fellowship-wide fundraising on a larger scale than John H. Fund to lower WSC costs and increase participation
  7. [Clarify roles of parliamentarian and GSB chair as gatekeepers for motions.]
  8. Four issues and concerns referred to us, including an ongoing question of pros, cons, legality of non-delegate DA Members observing parts of our work at CSC
  9. A recommendation coming our way from another committee that the Conference create an Underearners' Caucus.

## Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

#### Introductions:

Brandi (vice chair), Carolyn (secy.), Jackie (treas.), Jessiline, Craig, Jean Camille

Board Liaison: Alexandra

#### Motions:

1. That the motion adopted by the 2014 conference to hold the 2016 WSC in Sacramento be modified to hold the 2016 WSC in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area.
  - Most know: Charter calls for us to decide. Sacto. decided on last year, but subsequently withdrew after conditions for doing the work were different than anticipated; GSB exercising fiduciary duty to make Conf. happen found willing and suitable substitute, consulting us. Seems appropriate to ratify.
2. That the Conference selects the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro area for the 2017 and 2018 WSCs. However, the Conference delegates to the General Service Board, in consultation with the WSC Conference Committee, the right to change the conference location if it deems it necessary and appropriate.

- A prior WSC asked GSB to explore 3 years in one location. Expect to have that option in DFW, but think selections for 2 years out from now on should be explicit about fallback if isn't working.
- 3. That the Conference Committee, in consultation with the Technology Committee, conduct a trial of an "electronic (paperless) binder" for the 2016 WSC.
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Action Plan:

1. Proposal in Issue/Concern [not completely off the table]. Came quite close to presenting a different motion: That a representative from each committee established at the previous World Service Conference shall be allowed to present at convocation motions which their committee directed them to present.  
(Responds to a 2013 issue/concern.)  
Background — all a Committee can do now is recommend successors take to convocation. Aimed at addressing:
  - Things may get completely worked up by one com. during year but not presented at all by next Com. (We overlooked one and ran out of time, which can happen even if don't overlook. Predecessors overlooked this one — not handed off quite so clearly.)
  - Stories of starting all over, re-examining in new committee, when other has done the work, developed the expertise. Shouldn't have to work on something all year, then hand off as a recommendation, where it may die, instead of seeing it through to let Conf. as a whole consider
  - Duplication of effort, and things dragging on from one year to the next that could be resolved
  - A group of trusted servants has come up with a solution, and concerned about formality of their no longer existing as a group prevents convocation from benefiting from their work
2. Clarify respective duties of and relationships between WSC Conf. Com., GSB CSC, and WSC Host Committee
3. Consider recommendation we dropped: to bring a motion institutionalizing census of committees
4. Consider from all angles proposals from Tech and International re a trial run of a few oversees groups participating remotely

5. Consider whether to provide Host Committees and meeting planners written guidance in an ongoing way (e.g., Host Com. Manual) on seeking dietary options for attendees
6. Consider whether it would be appropriate to encourage fellowship-wide fundraising on a larger scale than John H. Fund to lower WSC costs and increase participation
7. [Clarify roles of parliamentarian and GSB chair as gatekeepers for motions.]
8. Four issues and concerns referred to us, including an ongoing question of pros, cons, legality of non-delegate DA Members observing parts of our work at CSC
9. A recommendation coming our way from another committee that the Conference create an Underearners' Caucus.

Board Liaison Clay D. opened the meeting at 3:20 pm with the Serenity Prayer.

Committee's Statement of Purpose was reviewed.

Officers were selected: Lolly Allen, chair; Theresa, vice chair; Ellie Hynes, secretary; Roz, treasurer.

Procedure & etiquette guidelines were approved. In addition, committee members approved the procedure of reviewing one of the 12 Concepts at each meeting.

POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS:

From Issues and Concerns assigned to FCC:

15-23: Re: researching best practices for protecting member anonymity online: Motion to defer issue to action plan for monthly committee meetings. Carries.

15-26: Re: addressing burnout and/or lack of commitment to service on the part of members. Suggestions: check long-timers survey, promote group sponsorship, possible Ways & Means article, reading service literature at meetings. We will address this further during the weekend.

From previous FCC final committee report (presented this morning by Lolly):

1. That the FCC continue to publicize the group sponsorship service, to manage the list, and to monitor and respond to all inquiries sent to the gsponsorship@gmail.com address. Yes, committee will continue this project.
2. That the FCC organize and facilitate WSC Committee/Caucus Chair calls to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts. Yes, perhaps 2 this year.

3. That the FCC plan and host fellowship-wide telephone conference calls on relevant DA topics to promote communication and connection. (e.g. encouraging service): Yes.
4. That the FCC continue to explore the need for protocol or guidelines for online DA groups. Yes.
5. That the FCC offer to assist as a resource to the work of other WSC committees. Tabled till next meeting.

7:02 pm Meeting 2: Chair Lolly A. opened with Serenity Prayer.

Additional items for this year's agenda:

1. (Joost): Proposing multi-language (early) response system for international groups who contact the fellowship. Ideas: Ask this weekend for referrals of people who read and write various languages. Yes.
2. (Lolly): Slogan pens to carry the message, with DA logo, possibly as way to honor 40th anniversary. Yes, we will recommend that Board allocate funds. (We may need spending, revenue & distribution plan for this recommendation.)
3. Attraction cards: Recommend to DA members creative ways to use them. Yes.

Agenda prioritized:

Item 15-26, encouraging service

1. Caucus/committee chair calls: select dates, decide on number of calls
2. Gsponsorship: a) continue to publicize, etc. b) produce flyer for delegates to take back to their groups
3. Multi-language response: write blurb (including possible recommendation that auto response be available in other languages)
4. Slogan pens: recommend that Board discuss feasibility; include suggestions generated by FCC for various ways pens can be used, priced, etc.
5. DA attraction cards

Meeting closed at 8:45 pm with Serenity Prayer.

Friday, 8/7/15 Meeting convened at 9:02 am by Lolly Allen, chair.

Minutes: Approved

Agenda:

1. Prioritize action plan
2. Motions/recommendations to Board\*
3. Spending plan
4. Monthly call schedule
5. Start action plan priorities

FCC purpose (p. 78 of DAMS): reviewed by committee

Action Plan

1. Chair calls: Lolly will discuss facilitating one or two this year at the 11:30am chair meeting.
2. Gsponsorship:
  - o Subcommittee to make or tweak flyer (get done this am if possible): Lolly will locate the existing flyer
  - o Kieran and Nancy, new gsponsorship response team (the "debt paramedics") will confer with Carolyn, who responded to gsponsorship inquiries this past year
3. Multi-language Response Proposal: Recommend that board do a canvass of members who speak other languages and that a database of members who speak 2 or more languages be created. (Lolly will talk to cochairs of International Caucus, Josie & Jean-Camille. Joost created a draft of the recommendation and will print it out for us.)
4. Create recommendation for slogan pens
5. Issue & Concern 15-26 (encouraging service)
6. Attraction cards
7. Issue & Concern 15-23: Lolly will mention at the chair meeting to Jean-Camille (Lolly) and other members of the Caucus/Chair meeting to avoid duplication of efforts
8. Offering FCC as resource to other committees. Lolly will add to report recommendation that the FCC offer to assist as a resource to the work of caucuses and other WSC committees.

~break~

Discussion with Jean-Camille: Google, Yahoo collect info. J-C opened private email group for SoCal RAG group, no way to remain anonymous if you use "free" online service. Many different paid services, J-P pays \$4.00 per month. J-C has offered to write Ways & Means article on this topic within the next three months, we will follow up, then re-visit issue if necessary.

Re: gsponsorship: Keiran & Nancy (new response team) will coordinate with Carolyn (last year's responder).

Re: pens: Action-  
send e-mail to DA40@debtorsanonymous.org



Discussed possible wording of a recommendation: FCC recommends the production of a customized click pen with rotating slogans to commemorate DA's 40th anniversary. This item could help carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering debtor--and debtors could do their numbers with it!

Spending plan:

Could set aside full amount for phone call

Inventory of committee talent:

Ellie: professional writer, proofreader and editor; certified spiritual director

Nancy: Accountant financial analyst computer skills Excel Access & auditing of numbers. Proofread. Reiki practitioner. Humorist in training.

Kieran: edit, proofreading, creative writing, facilitating; good communication skills, public speaking.

Roz: special ed excellent communicator building rapport organizing fellowship interaction writer oral communication public speaker laughter

Suzanne: acupuncturist, sells natural products. Multitasking. Marketing, creative production & distribution; humor

Theresa: notetaker; loves laughter public speaking, excellent proofreader, facilitator, hugger (safe) creative problem solver

Joost: linear thinker gets things done keeps books loves numbers went to law school so can create first drafts. Numbers, Excel. Excellent sense of humor, bilingual

Carol Ann: nice handwriting & printing. Speaker on a regular basis. Writer Editor, creative with words. Good grammarian & proofreader.

Lolly: good at apps; legal secretary; musician and actor; word processing, multitasking, stick shift, piano, percussion, vibraphone, composition, improvisation, leadership, air guitar, slaying dragons (eg Gauntlet).

Meeting 2 (after lunch):

Lolly has spoken with caucus/committee chairs. FCC will host two chair calls this year. Lolly will host the calls and will coordinate dates with committee/caucus chairs via e-mail.

Theresa spoke with someone from the Resource Development Committee during lunch. Encouraging member participation is incorporated into their charge.

We can collaborate with them regarding getting the message out, eg through Ways & Means articles.

Read-through of committee and caucus descriptions

Calendaring: Meeting day Sunday at 1 Pacific, 2 Mountain, 3 Central, 4 Eastern. Dates: Sept. 20 (Theresa will take minutes); October 18; November 15; December 13; January 10; February 21; March 13; April 10; May 15; June 12; July 10.

Carolyn was not available to meet with Nancy & Kieran. They will attempt to find a mutually agreeable time tomorrow.

Spending plan expenditures should be discussed in a group conscience before expenditures.

FCC is submitting no motions.

Action items:

Get the roster to everyone on the committee.

Board recommendation wording:

"FCC is recommending that the GSB consider a "Multi-Lingual Response Team" for newcomers whose first language is not English, so they can be helped in their own language to start their recovery process. The GSO could form a database of members fluent in two or more languages who could act as a point of contact when non-English speaking members or groups contact DA by phone or email. In order to start this database we encourage delegates to canvass their group and intergroup members who speak, read and write a second language and are willing to be contacted. Recommended solvency requirement of six months."

15-26

Refer them to RDC, then makes sure rest of fellowship is aware of RDC, send message did U know re gsponsorship, ask GSRs to announce at meetings, flyer, etc. Ways and Means communicate to groups that don't have a GSR that gsponsorship exists.

"#15-26 is an issue for Resource Development Committee in that their purpose includes encouraging member service at all levels. However FCC would like to offer the following:

- A struggling or small group can use Gsponsorship to get matched with a sponsor group that has a strong service tradition
- FCC facilitate a fellowship-wide conference call on the benefit of service in the DA fellowship
- An article in 'Ways & Means' on service as a key element to DA-recovery"

Committee reviewed Concept 1.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.  
Respectfully submitted,

Ellie H., Secretary

FCC Action Plan for 2015-2016

Fellowship-wide conference calls: organize and facilitate fellowship-wide conference calls on relevant topics.

- Include "the benefit of service in the DA fellowship" (15-26)

Chair calls: FCC will organize and facilitate two WSC Committee/Caucus Chair calls to promote collaboration and avoid duplication of efforts.

Gsponsorship: Sub-committee Kieran and Nancy - gsponsorship response team ("The Debt Paramedics") - will confer with previous gsponsorship coordinator to take over management of the list, and to monitor and respond to all inquiries sent to the gsponsorship@gmail.com address.

Ways and Means: discuss possible topics for articles in 'Ways & Means'

- Include "service as a key element to DA-recovery" (15-26)
- Include "anonymity and security online for groups and members" (15-23), follow up with member who offered to write on his research.

Attraction cards:

Discuss creative ways they could be used.

Online groups: FCC will continue to discuss and explore the needs of online groups in regards to protocol or guidelines to help them most effectively communicate for the benefit of the recovery of all members.

FCC as resource to other committees: The FCC would like to offer to be of service as a resource to assist the work of other WSC committees and caucuses.

## Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee (HIP)

Elections:

See Officer Roster on page 1. Bev volunteered to be HIP scribe over the next few days, and Andrea volunteered to keep time.

Meeting Etiquette Guidelines:

- Chair distributes an agenda ahead of the call
- Everyone agrees to read previous meeting minutes, agenda for current meeting and any supporting documents before the meeting
- Let the call leader lead the call
- Start and end each meeting with the Serenity Prayer
- Read aloud the committee's mission statement (p. 78 in the DAMS)
- Read aloud the Twelve Traditions at the beginning of every call
- Mute when not talking
- State name before speaking to be recognized by leader
- Don't repeat what's already been said
- Wait for others who haven't shared yet to speak before speaking again
- No more than three pro and three against for each motion, before the vote!

Review of Areas of HIP Work 2014/2015:

Local and/or national; Local service in transition from prisons including pre- and post-work release programs (Doug); Local prison transition, parole officers, jails (Bev); HIP Manual for Service and Case Study Form (Bev); Outreach to shelters and community resources, case managers.

Brainstorming HIP Work for 2015/2016:

Institutions, hospitals, mental health agencies; Treatment centers; Bankruptcy judges and attorneys; Local service; Best practices - national; Financial literacy at youth and counseling centers; Legal aid societies; City or county service agencies - vocational rehabilitation; Housing courts; Federal public defenders; Graduate programs.

#### Communications:

Andrea will research pros/cons of setting up a Yahoo vs. Google group and present her findings at our Sept 3 phone meeting. Michael A. set up an HIP Yahoo Group a few years back and will be adding Andrea so that the current committee can have access to the previous committees' activities. Andrea will also set up a conference call service and notify the groups of details via email. Calls will be recorded and recordings will be available for 30 days.

#### Call Schedule:

HIP COMM will meet at 6pm PST / 8pm CT / 9pm EST on the 1st Thursday of each month beginning SEPT 3, 2015 and continuing as follows: OCT 1; NOV 5; DEC 3; JAN 7, 2016; FEB 4; MAR 3; APR 7; MAY 5; JUN 2; JULY 7; and ending with AUG 4, 2016. (WSC 2016 = AUG 10-14)

#### 2015/2016 ACTION PLAN:

- Formation of a HIP Manual Subcommittee:  
Bethany (Chair) and Molly. Bev and Doug will be available for consult.
- Formation of Outreach to Youth and Shelters Subcommittee:  
Kieran (Chair) and Peter. Andrea will be available for consult.
- Ongoing service:
  - Doug will continue his service to individuals in Seattle in transition from prisons, including pre- and post-work release programs. Will submit receipts for reimbursement.
  - Bev will continue her service in Chicago women's transition centers (pre-release), CSACs (post-release), as well as reaching out to jails and parole officers. !
- New Initiatives:
  - Peter will begin outreach to shelters and community resources, including case managers, local to the Seattle area. He expressed some concerns about anonymity, as he is currently professionally involved with the community groups he'd like to engage. Andrea suggested he contextualize this in terms of being "facilitator" for other D.A. members to come in and present/speak. Will document his work via HIP Case Study Form.
  - -Andrea will serve in the area of communications and integration by consulting with the other HIP members and advising/connecting them to executives and decision makers in the non-profit sector (NY area and beyond).

She will also serve to increase national awareness of D.A. across hospital institutions and prison systems through the distribution of best practices information documented by the committee.

- -Molly's service will be focused in hospitals and the medical sector (including treatment centers).
- -Bethany will focus on development and creation of the HIP Manual. Depending on the time-intensity of this project, she will also explore reaching out to mental health and social services organizations within the Los Angeles region.
- Kieran will explore service to homeless and at-risk youth in the Los Angeles area, as well as carrying on Rona's outreach to trans individuals in the LA County Jail. Bethany will assist with the latter; Peter will assist the former. Doug suggested to Peter he reach out to Susan F. as a resource in Seattle (PSKS).
- Doug will have a conversation with his public defender friend to explore the idea of expanding awareness of D.A. to clients requiring public defense.
- Krzysztof will begin outreach to young adults (20s) with student loan debt and collaborate with Andrea, as well as appropriate agencies, organizations and D.A. committees including P.I.

#### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

##### Spending Plan:

At this time it was determined there is no need for a committee spending plan. We will revisit this if a large project is proposed by Nov 1 and approved by the Board. Jeff encouraged us to consider this - THINK BIG!

##### Discussion on Diversity Caucus Mission Statement Revision:

Andrea made a motion to make a formal recommendation to the WSB that the Diversity Caucus be allowed to change their mission statement to include language for collaboration between their caucus, P.I. and HIP. Motion does not pass (1 in favor / 5 against).

##### HIP File Transfer:

Michael A. has emailed all files from past HIP committees to Molly and Bethany. !

-Questions raised about Kieran's absence over the last few HIP sessions. When asked about this issue, he apologized and conceded to the group conscience. Kieran left, the group discussed and unanimously voted to keep him as Vice Chair.

## Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

### **Motto: “GSO – A Model of D.A. Service”**

We have, so far, identified three main actions for our committee to take this year:

- Support the GSO Office Manager in identifying needs and gathering information for the office to make its operation more efficient.
- Work with the GSO Office Manager and the GSB Office Committee to revise the GSO Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Send two representatives from the IOC to visit the GSO to gather information for the IOC subcommittees.

We have four subcommittees.

#### **Office Vision:**

Martha L. (chair), Sara H. (sec), Marietta M. (vice chair), Don C. (member)

Purpose: Establish short-term and long-term goals in conjunction with the GSB Office Committee and the GSO Office Manager.

Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 8:00 central, 9:00 eastern

#### **Policies & Procedures Manual:**

Steve S. (chair), Jane L. (sec), Alice K. (vice chair), Larry N. (member), Sara H. (member)

Purpose: Work with GSB Office Committee and GSO Office Manager to update/develop a GSO Policies and Procedures Manual.

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:00 central, 8:00 eastern

#### **Flow Chart:**

Dayton L. (chair), Marietta M. (sec), Martha L. (vice chair)

Purpose: Work with GSB Office Committee liaison and the GSO Office Manager to develop a calendar/flow sheet for GSO project management.

Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 7:00 central, 8:00 eastern

#### **Meeting Detectives:**

Alice K. (chair), Dayton L. (sec), Don C. (vice chair)

Purpose: Work with Intergroup Caucus and GSO to help determine which intergroups and meetings are still active and have updated information.

Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 5:00 central, 6:00 eastern

Our monthly committee meeting time has not been established definitively, since our GSB liaison has not been identified. Two provisional times have been chosen: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00 central and 9:00 eastern, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at 7:00 central and 8:00 eastern.

#### **Monthly Call Protocol:**

- Have time allotments for agenda items.
- Dayton will be timekeeper.
- Will start on time and end on time.
- Don will send reminder of call one week before the call.
- Subcommittees will submit reports to Don 72 hours before the call.
- Don will send agenda and reports two days before the call.
- There will be a 30-second check-in at the beginning of the call.

#### **Follow-up Items/Long-Range Concerns:**

- Scanner
- Distribute digital copy of current Policies & Procedures Manual to whole IOC committee.
- Ask IOC liaison to give us written report before monthly committee call if they can.
- Get floor plan for GSO from Allan when it is convenient for him to provide.
- Ask GSB/Office Committee if there is another (or bigger) space for the GSO available in its current building (in Needham, MA).
- Allan needs enough minutes on the GSO mobile phone (as a back-up telecommunications solution in case of emergencies).
- Remind Office Manager to bring “old-fashioned phone” from home to the office and test it (for use in the event of a power outage).
- Send monthly IOC conference call info to Allan.

#### **Phone call opening:**

Serenity prayer

Tradition 1 plus tradition of the month.

30-second committee member check-ins

(Note: Print the mission statement on the agenda.)

#### **Quorum:**

The quorum for the IOC is 5 out of 8 voting members

A simple majority is 5 out of 8 voting members

A substantial majority is 75% (6 out of 8 voting members)

## Literature Committee (LitCom)

Combined Sessions  
August 6, 2015

Present:  
Chair: Tom K  
Vice Chair: Sharon S  
Treasurer: Tom B  
Secretary: Deb R

Tech Angels: Connie N & Rae T

Scribe: Debbie L  
Timekeepers: Lynne

1. Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer.
2. Head count: 18 delegates plus liaison. Quorum = 12
3. Alan T. explained process of group formation and process.
4. Elections: noted above.
5. Meeting Time and Dates: Third Sunday each month at 5 PST, 7 CST, 8 EST
6. Roster: Connie provided set up and print out of electronic roster.
7. Agenda Items:
  - o Review of Issues and Concerns
  - o Review and decision on final drafts of 12 traditions, forward to 12 Steps and Underearning Pamphlet.
8. Motions: Underearning Pamphlet: After committee had reviewed, Debbie made a motion to approve the pamphlet as written. Asha seconded. Motion Passed.
  - o -12x12 Forward: Holly made a motion to approve the Forward as written. Deb seconded. Discussion. Matt offered amendment to change "leader" to "founder" in P.1. Maya seconded. Original motion with amendment carries.
  - o 12x12 Forward: Jerome offered amendment on P3: remove "all". Seconded by Sharon. Discussion. Vote: minority opinion: Doesn't seem that important for committee vote. Motion carries.
  - o 12x12 Forward: Holly offered an amendment on P.5.: "...that" a "12-step" remove "a" and replace with "AA's". Rona seconded. Discussion. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted: Deb R, Trusted Servant Secretary

Combined Sessions  
August 7, 2015

Present: All but Tom B. (ill), Jerome left briefly.  
Chair: Tom K  
Vice Chair: Sharon S  
Treasurer: Tom B  
Secretary: Deb R  
Scribe: Debbie L  
Tech Angels: Connie & Rae  
Timekeeper: Debbie & Ellen

1. Opened with Serenity Prayer.
2. Introductions
3. Reading of Traditions.
4. Motion: Connie moved p. 32, 2nd P, last sentence, "In our sharing...recovery goes primarily to our HP, fellowship and the spiritual principals..." Bold, underlined reversed in order to HP first. Ellen Seconded. Allen T. noted that having not done any word smithing (fine tuning) of the document prior to the 12th tradition, we should be consistent in adhering to the expectation from GSB that editing is not an option.
  - o Motion Withdrawn.
5. Motion: Connie moved to approve the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous. Matt seconded. Discussion.
  - o First vote: Motion passed 14 aye, 2 nay, 0 abstentions.
  - o Minority opinion: Reviewed, vote taken second time.
  - o Motion passed.
6. Motion: Holly moved that we approve the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts into one printed and bound single volume.
  - o Sharon seconded. Discussion.
  - o Motion carries.
7. Issues and Concerns: Subcommittee report from Shawn, Gesela, Tom B. reviewed all I&C's and brought #15-30 to the attention of the group.
  - o Motion: Deb motioned to accept the first two proposals as written. Lynn seconded. Amendment from Ellen: Add to #2 "face to face, telephone or internet meetings..."
  - o Amendment from Matt: Change in #2: "...to help you become familiar with the DA program."
  - o Amended Motion: "It is suggested you attend at least six face to face, telephone or internet meetings to have time to become familiar with the DA program."
  - o Motion passes.
8. Motion: Tom B motioned to change in paragraph #3 "Ask someone to be your sponsor to guide you through the DA program and help you prepare for your first pressure relief meeting." Holly seconded. Discussion. Vote and revote after minority opinion entertained.
  - o Motion Failed.

9. Agenda Proposals: (Active Projects)
- Issues and Concern: Due Dec. 1
  - Basic Text
  - Beginner's Format (outline from committee for writer)
  - Preamble (new opportunity)

**DIRECTIVES:**

- Please have all I & C's read by Sept 20 meeting.
- (From Deb) Please consider crafting a spiritual purpose statement for our group this year to be read at the beginning of each of our meetings.
- Based on other experience, format could be:
  - Gratitude statement
  - Vision statement for the year
  - Closing statement.

In HP's service:  
Deb

## Public Information Committee (PI)

GSB Liaison: Sue F.

Our Liaison, Sue F., started the meeting, following the WSC Starter Kit script. Siobhan was elected Chair and led the meeting from that point on.

**Officers Voted In:**

Chair: Siobhan K.  
Vice-Chair: Claudia F.  
Secretary: Jill W.  
Treasurer: Maureen F.

Committee will meet on second Sunday of each month.  
Call time will be 1 p.m. PT, 3 p.m. CT and 4 p.m. ET

- First call will be September 13, 2015
- Number is 605.562.0020, Code 674080596#

Committee discussed committee guidelines on page 3. Group conscience decided to conduct our meetings (including WSC) and calls in the spirit of Robert's Rules of Order.

**LIST OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS TO WORK ON IN COMING YEAR**

- No issues or concerns assigned to PI Committee this year
- Bruce B. read the PI Committee Final 2014 Report out loud to the group

## MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee agreed on one motion and two recommendations. The first motion and recommendation were voted in unanimously.

The second recommendation was passed with the following votes:

9 for, 2 against, 1 abstention

## MOTION

On behalf of The Diversity Caucus, the WSC PI Committee moves that the Diversity Caucus's mission be changed to the following:

"The mission of the Diversity Caucus is to support the Fellowship in carrying the message of Debtors Anonymous to the debtor in underserved populations and locations. We coordinate with the World Service Conference Public Information and Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committees by developing best practices for doing that work and sharing it with D.A. as a whole."

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The WSC PI Committee recommends that the GSB Information Technology Committee approve the concept of posting the speaker portions of WSC PI-sponsored Fellowship-Wide Calls on the PI Tab on the Debtors Anonymous website. The purpose of this is to strengthen D.A.'s ability to support the fellowship worldwide.
2. The WSC PI Committee recommends that the WSC and the GSB maintain an open mind about: social media and its possibility for the growth of D.A. and outreach to the debtor who still suffers.

## Action Items from Recommendations from 2014 WSC PI

Committee chose to bring forward the following items from recommendations from 2014 WSC PI

1. [PI Starter Kit](#)
2. Archive recordings of WSC PI's Fellowship Wide calls in a durable format that can be accessed by PI Representatives
3. Make a formal recommendation to the 2015 WSC Technology Committee that they make recordings of recent Fellowship Wide calls available on the Public Information tab of the new [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) website
4. P.I.P.E. committee continue with action plan from 2014
5. Follow up with the committee's contact list of PI Reps and conference call participants
6. Continue to sponsor fellowship-wide
7. Explore new audio and visual public information resources
8. Press release and follow up article highlighting DA's 40th anniversary to increase awareness about DA outside the fellowship



9. Develop initiatives to support Public Information Reps in celebrating the 40th anniversary of DA

Committee voted to have three subcommittees:

1. MEDIA
2. P.I.P.E. (Public Information for Professional Events)
3. Grow D.A.

Group discussed subcommittee names and then decided to each pick five topics from the 47 ideas which came out of their brainstorming session to narrow the list of topics and help decide names of and numbers of subcommittees.

### **SUBCOMMITTEES - Agenda Items**

#### **Media Subcommittee**

Monthly subcommittee meeting: 12pm PT/3pm ET, 2nd Sunday

Sub-committee members are Patrick C., chair, Bruce B., Sierra P.

Action Items:

1. Develop Media strategy with press release and backgrounder for 40 anniversary and April 15th birthday including an internal press release
2. Develop public service announcements concepts
  - o Transit - bus and train
  - o Audio
3. Enliven publications
  - o Graphics
  - o Language

#### **P.I.P.E. (Public Information for Professional Events)**

Monthly subcommittee meeting: 12:30pm PT/3:30pm ET, 2nd Sunday

Sub-committee members are Ron T., Chair Maureen F., Jill W.

Actions items:

Committee plans to Continue last year's work, including submitting a request for funds by the November deadline for PIPE activities.

1. Update list of professional events with 2016 dates
2. Submit request to fund events by September 6th to the GSB PI committee
3. Maintain accurate list of debtors who have taken the Media Contact Training

#### **Grow D.A.**

Monthly subcommittee meeting: 1pm PT/4pm ET 1st Sunday  
members: Bob A., chair, Chris A., vice-chair, Diane C., secretary, Claudia F., Sandi L., Tim P.

Focus of the committee is grassroots outreach

- The committee voted in certain ground rules:
- Etiquette guidelines for subcommittee work
- E-mail protocol, google drive for archival and file sharing
- Agreed on a response time for emails of 72 hours
- Grow D.A. will be part of the subject line in each email
- We stay positive

The committee agreed on the following Action Plan and made assignments for accountability and monthly reporting.

1. The PI Starter Kit (Diane C.)
2. Fellowship calls (Chris A.); 2 calls with one to occur around the 40th anniversary celebration
3. Material for sponsors in other programs (Tim P.)
4. PI Rep interactive training (Claudia F.)
5. Expanding helping professionals outreach at the grassroots level (Bob A.)
6. One Member One Action (Sandi L.)

## **Resource Development Committee (RDC)**

### **Session 1**

We opened the meeting by saying the Serenity prayer, and recited the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. The GSB liaison, George M., explained his role in our committee and some of the upcoming issues which the RDC will be addressing this year. George advised us that our motions and recommendations needed to be delivered to the Boardroom by 5:00 p.m. Friday. The committee members then introduced themselves. We read our Committee Statement of Purpose. George reminded us of the importance of following Roberts Rules of Order. We circulated the roster.

George then turned the meeting over to Chris, our new Chair.

Chris then led our selection of our other officers, as follows:

Bill D. is our Vice Chair  
Janet S. is our Recording Secretary  
Jeannine is our Treasurer

We decided that our monthly conference call meeting would be on the first Friday of the month at 5:00 Pacific Time and 8:00 Eastern time.

The monthly meeting format remains the same as last year's format. This year's RDC had no "old business" from last year. There were two projects that the RDC needed to complete immediately: the John H. Scholarship Letter and the second one is the April Annual Anniversary Appeal letter.

Our actions for the following year include:

1. Revise and update the John H. Scholarship letter and the Annual April Letter of Appeals to celebrate D.A.'s 40th Anniversary
2. Host 2 Fellowship-wide Conference calls: (tentatively titled)
  - o "So you think you want to be a GSR? -- GSR and ISR Service Made Simple"
  - o "Spiritual Problem Solving – 40 Years on the D.A. Trail"
3. Announce and inform Fellowship of open service positions
4. Encourage all GSRs and ISRs to write personal service-related stories for Ways and Means
5. Coordinate with current GSB Treasurer by asking questions about the fiscal reports such as: How do we interpret the information for RDC use? How can we use the information to increase revenues? How much was raised for the John H. Scholarship? Do conference calls increase the individual contributions? Review individual contributions data collected by previous GSB Treasurer.
6. Write an article for the Ways and Means newsletter titled, "Every Member, Every Month," communicating the importance of giving back. This article will further promote the ideas laid forth at the 2013-2014 World Service Conference by Treasurer Allen T.
7. Work to increase the number of GSRs attending the WSC by:
  - o Inspiring D.A. members to become GSRs
  - o Encouraging every D.A. group to have a GSR
  - o Educating D.A. groups in the many creative ways to fund their GSR's trip to the conference
8. Develop a project investigating debting behavior in youth.

We closed our first session by saying the Serenity prayer.

## Session 2

We started the meeting by saying the Serenity prayer. We then read the 12 steps and then the long form of A.A.'s Tradition 7 and, lastly, D.A.'s Tradition 8, from the 2015 RDC Meeting Agenda. We reviewed the RDC's conference call's ground rules and the RDC Purpose.

We then discussed the possibility of having two Fellowship-wide conference calls this year. We also talked about how best to increase the number of GSR's. We brainstormed about the importance of the concept of being self-supporting, both individually and as a Fellowship. Just increasing the amount of GSR's itself is a formidable project, which we will continue to work throughout the year. We plan to independently read a short selection of the DAMS and then start each monthly meeting with a five minute discussion of our thoughts about the DAMS reading.

We then took a five minute coffee break.

After our break, we decided to keep last year's recommendation. We decided that our work list was manageable and that our work could be done exclusively by our committee. We'll need to prepare two copies of the Roster, the Minutes, the Motions and Recommendation, for distribution to the Board.

We ended the meeting by saying the Serenity Prayer.

## Session 3

We opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer. Chris, our Chair, announced she would be leaving early, at 11:30, to attend a meeting. Vice Chair, Bill, then stepped up to assume her position. The Recording Secretary, Janet, also left the meeting at 11:00 to prepare the Minutes. In her absence, Jeannine recorded the remainder of the minutes.

The meeting developed two additional recommendations, for a total of three recommendations.

1. We, the Resource Development Committee, recommend that every General Service Representative and Intergroup Service Representative consider contributing monthly to the General Service Office in the spirit of "Every Member, Every Month."
2. We recommend that all GSRs upon returning home find a group in their area that does not have a GSR and explain the importance and joy of such service.  
We would love to hear about your successes at [lovethosegrs@gmail.com](mailto:lovethosegrs@gmail.com).
3. We suggest that GSRs recommend to their group that the full 7th Tradition announcement in quotes on page 30 of the DAMS be read at every 7th Tradition collection.



“D.A. has no dues or fees. We are self-supporting through our own contributions, so we pass the basket. Please give as generously as you can. However, if you cannot, please keep coming back.”

“Keep in mind that our group’s monthly expenses are \$\_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., rent, literature, prudent reserve, etc.). In addition, D.A. has a service structure which depends on contributions from our group. After our group’s needs are met, we contribute the balance, 45% to the General Service Office, 45% to Intergroup and 10% to the Area GSR Group. The General Service Office expenses include staff, rent for the office, administration, website upgrades and maintenance, new literature, and literature translations. Please help us meet our responsibility for supporting the Fellowship as a whole.”

Our Chair, Chis, concluded this session by briefing the RDC’s two new members regarding our work-related decisions, to date.

We closed the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

#### Session 4

We started the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

### Technology Committee (Tech)

Arthur voted in as new chair of the technology committee

Arthur does the analytics for the DA website

Pat Brooks is a liaison between the technology committee and the WSO Board.

Tom Winkler is voted in as vice chair of committee and committee scribe

Bernadette voted in as recording secretary

Ellen Brooks voted in as treasurer

Gail D visiting committee

We agreed to skip Roberts Rules to have a free and open exchange of ideas

Members:

Ellen Brooks

Arthur Goodman

Tom Winkler

Bernadette Giblin

Review of recommendations:

Recommendations #1:

E literature carries over

Recommendation # 2:  
Paperless Conference

Recommendation #3:

Skype conferencing in collaboration with the international caucus and the conference committee on this. Possibility of making a sharing presentation during Fellowship Day to start the process.

Recommendation #4:

Digital Inventory of all existing DA meetings digital presence with the goal of interconnecting the groups more digitally, include phone meetings in this research

One of the things coming up in the analytics is that the search of the phone #

Recommendation #5:

Arthur continue with the Analytics. Connect John L to Arthur re: Analytics

We want the Conference committee to come up with a motion for paperless conference test

Matthew E. will bring up the motion in the literature committee for e literature

Conference committee is going to bring up motion for paperless conference test run next year

RECOMMENDATION OF A MOTION:

A test of a digital binder be done at the 2016 DA WSO Conference

ANNOUNCE @ CONVOCATION DIGITAL INVENTORY

A number of different meetings have developed websites, step study groups have websites, and other regional intergroup websites. We want catalogue any use of new technology, apps and additional media that’s related to DA as a whole.

ARTHUR WILL PRINT OUT GOOGLE ANALYTICS: Arthur committee chair requests a status report from Chris R on analytics

WEBSITE: We need a status report from our liaison Pat if we’ll have a preview before it’s launched online. Pat will get us together with John L ACM from InfoTech. Con Comm is active in the website content. Complete new website model. Pat reports that when it comes online a test the Technology Cmtee will have access to it as well as communication from John L, who is very deeply committed to the website.

Can address any concerns about the website via issues and concerns.

Efron is the vendor for the website.

#### ANNOUNCE @ CONVOCATION

Carry over our commitment to video conferencing in association with the conference committee who is currently considering pick up the project this year. Clear demand from the fellowship to connect people to carry the message to people via video conferencing. Groups oversees are making it up as they go. Conference committee going to figure out the charter concerns around members being present. Currently GSR precedence already exists that allows reps to vote via phone. Tech committee will make recommendation to the conference committee will explore it.

#### YOUTUBE HAND DRAWN ANIMATION PSA FOR DA

Arthur committee chair will meet and or committee chair of PI Sioban TODAY @ 11:30 and every month.

#### ANALYTICS ANALYSIS

40% mobile users  
61% length of engagement 0-10 seconds  
17% find a D.A. meeting  
11% find a phone meeting  
23% once they found the phone meeting info left the page  
40% urban  
60% suburban, outside of cities  
Chrome most used  
25% referrals coming from within the fellowship  
DA NY largest referrals come from this source

Suzie Orman, xa.speakers.com and other referrals possible connection for PI cmtee

#### TWITTER

Bernadette brought up use of Twitter as a possible social media platform that would protect anonymity more than others

#### CONFERENCE CALL SCHEDULE

2ND WED OF EACH MONTH @ 5-6PM PCT

We expanded and explored the actions agreed-upon in the previous meetings.

We concluded the meeting by saying the Serenity Prayer.

### End of Section

## SECTION 7: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MINUTES

### Diversity Caucus (DIV)

The Diversity Caucus met. We are all new to the Diversity Caucus. Our members are Asha E., Chris A., Kieran K., Rae T., and Tim P. Our Board Liaison is Sue F.

One Issue or Concern was assigned to our committee; we have deferred action on this pending further discussion.

The previous Diversity Caucus suggested language for a new mission statement; with one simple change, we proposed adoption of this new Mission Statement.

As a caucus, we cannot make a motion to Convocation, so we asked WSC – Public Information to do this for us.

At this point we have a two-point action plan:

- Research creating best practices for outreach work in underserved communities, and produce service literature to show others how to do outreach.
- Develop a home group diversity inventory, that addresses how safe we are for everybody
  - Everyone agrees to read previous meeting minutes, agenda for current meeting and any supporting documents before meeting.
  - Let the chair lead the call.
  - Start and end each meeting with the Serenity Prayer.
  - Read aloud the committee's statement of purpose at the beginning of each call.
  - Read the Third Tradition and the tradition of the month at the beginning of every call.
  - Mute when not talking.
  - State name before speaking.
  - Don't repeat what's already been said.
  - Chair is empowered to say "I'm ready to end discussion unless anyone has something to say that has not been said already."

No issues and concerns assigned to the caucus.

### Intergroup Caucus (IG)

**1st Meeting** - Wednesday 8/5 (after secretary chosen)

In Attendance:

Jeannine W., Jackie D., Sandi L., Sierra P., Molly L., Bob A., Patrick C., Eileen N., Dayton L., Alice K., Ellen B., Maureen F.

Position Nominations:

Dayton L. nominated for position of vice chair by Alice K and seconded by Patrick C. – Approved

Jeannine W. nominated for position of Treasurer by Bob A. and seconded by Alice K. – Approved

Bob A. nominated himself for Timekeeper and seconded by Sierra P. – Approved

Discussion over Etiquette & Procedures for future meetings:

- We'll have a call in meeting once a month.
- Ellen requested that anyone who cannot continue with their service on the caucus notify her. Committees are an ISR's/GSR's primary obligation.
- Jeanine suggested that we start each telephone meeting by reading a few pages from the DAMS (any part of the DAMS, not just the portion pertaining to intergroups) and discuss. She put forth an official motion to spend five minutes at the beginning of each meeting discussing a portion of the DAMS which was seconded by Molly.
- This has been helpful to her in other calls because it's a short collaborative activity and a spiritual exercise.
- One member sees this as a distraction from the main focus, intergroup work.
- While this is not the primary focus of the caucus, it's part of our training as ISRs and GSRs.
- It was mentioned that we want to be careful about requiring too much work for caucus members and causing burn-out. While caucus work is important an ISR's/GSR's primary obligation is committee work.
- Bob requested that the motion be amended to say "5 one-minute shares" instead of "5 minutes of discussion" so that one or two members don't monopolize the discussion. This was accepted by Jeannine.
- After Discussion the amended motion was voted on: 7 in favor / 1 opposed / 2 abstained

It was suggested that the minutes to previous call-in meetings not only be e-mailed but read aloud at the beginning of each call-in meeting.

Another suggestion was made that we make sure that time for reading the minutes and traditions is allocated in the agenda for each call in meeting.

It was suggested that we go into the details of etiquette by reading each of the suggestions from #12 on page 3.

The seventh suggestion was for all callers to mute unless sharing. It was decided that we would only implement this if background noise became a problem on the calls.

## **2nd Meeting - Thursday 8/6**

In Attendance:

Bob A., Molly L., Eileen N., Ellen B., Maureen F., Jackie D., Alice K., Dayton L., Sierra P., Gayle \_\_, Jeannine W., Carolyn L.

Opened with the Serenity Prayer

### **Short Introductions**

Ellen described last year's tasks to see if the caucus wanted to pursue them.

- Update the contact info. for intergroups. - We were not successful because many of the websites had bad info. Continuing to work on this might help the new manager so that small intergroups can get support.
- Create a Best Practices for intergroups. - Since we couldn't get accurate contact information for most groups, we couldn't get the input from intergroups and were not successful.
- Revise the Intergroup portion of the DAMS. - The information currently in the DAMS is more applicable to larger intergroups. However most DA intergroups are small. Should we provide them with more applicable info.?

Ellen described last year's recommendations to see if the caucus wanted to pursue them.

- Make the Intergroup link on the DA website more intuitive. Currently it's on the "Find a Meeting" page. (According to Eileen this will be fixed on the new website.)

- Develop a template for intergroup sites which has more contact information than an e-mail address. Something more personal that provides an opportunity for one-on-one contact, such as a phone number, would be more helpful.

Discussion:

### **Purpose of an Intergroup & Fundraising -**

- Should we have a tab for GSRs? How do we help with fundraising? Are there any additional issues that we should address?
- There is a guide to fundraising within the traditions. "Guide to Special Events" is under service literature and was also provided in our conference binders.
- Her intergroup had success raising funds for their ISR requesting \$25 from some members.
- The primary goal of an intergroup is not to raise money to send an ISR (or GSR), but to gather groups and help them start out.
- In her area, ISRs receive less focus than GSRs and larger scale service is difficult to get. How do we drum up intergroup participation?
- The intergroup provides a focus on service which can be a gentle, easy way to get comfortable with the program and take bigger steps in the program. Also, seeing people step up to that level of service can inspire them.

### **Intergroup/Group Registration -**

- It was recommended to the Communications Committee that they request that a reminder to re-register be mailed/e-mailed to each group/intergroup each year.
- It was suggested that we could create a flyer to send with the e-news bulletins to encourage groups/intergroups to re-register. Sierra and Alice volunteered for this position.
- It was mentioned that people mistakenly assume that an intergroup, not an individual group is responsible for re-registering.

Ellen's Recap of Caucus's Tentative Plan: (We'll need two subcommittees.)

- We will continue to work on updating the contact information for intergroups.
- We will rewrite the intergroup portion of the DAMS manual so that it's more applicable to smaller intergroups.

It was suggested that suggested that instead of focusing on rewriting instructions to apply to smaller intergroups, we reinforce the fellowships goal of not being the best kept secret and focus on how we can grow the intergroups.

We will read the intergroup portion of the DAMS (p. 56 – 60) before the next telephone meeting. At this point we will decide which path we want to take: rewriting the DAMS to apply to small intergroups or find ways to support intergroups and help them grow.

(It was decided that we would do this before the next face to face meeting.)

#### The Need for Guidance from the DAMS -

- Just like we consult conference approved literature to aid our recovery from debting, service reps need to consult the DAMS to help them grow in service.
- If they don't have the finances to go to conference, smaller groups and intergroups don't receive the DAMS because many don't order them. Consequently, they don't receive the guidance they need to succeed. We should send literature and DAMS to new groups/intergroups.
- The caucus has \$100 to spend as they see fit and can request approval for more as needed. This could be applied to sending DAMS to intergroups.
- We need to ask the Board who gets copies of DAMS.
- She mentioned that another way to help groups get needed copies was to put it in the spending plan for sending an ISR to conference.

#### Miscellaneous Discussion -

It was suggested that intergroups use generic e-mails such as \_\_ISR@\_\_ so that communications won't be lost when people change positions.

It was also suggested that a service sponsor would be a very helpful position.

It was asked if intergroups donate regularly to the Board?

Closed with the Serenity Prayer

#### **3rd Meeting** - Friday 8/7

In Attendance:

Molly L., Bob A., Maureen F., Ellen B., Sierra P., Sandi L., Alice K.

Opened with the Serenity Prayer

Ellen started by going over potential meeting times and action items for the year. We will meet at 6:30 PT on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We will eventually incorporate some time before or after the call for an "Ask the Caucus" intergroup call-in discussion. Details to be determined.

#### Action Items:

The focus of our work this year will be to our DA membership through intergroups while helping those intergroups to grow bigger and stronger.

- Update the contact data. – Jackie, Alice and Bob volunteered to undertake this task. They will consider using the list of intergroups from the previous office manager and the DATIG as a starting point. In this phase, only contact info and basic questions such as whether or not they have a DAMS, need to re-register, or if they have a PI rep (if permitted).
- After updating contact information, we will gather information from the intergroups to help determine best practices and how we can help struggling intergroups.
- We will collect ideas for how intergroups can celebrate the 40th anniversary on a separate phone call. We will commit to reading a chapter from the DAMS before each meeting and discussing it during the first five minutes of each call, limiting shares to a minute max.
- We will reach out to intergroups and distribute the DAMS to intergroups that need them.

#### Items that will be tabled:

- Ask the Technology Committee to develop a template for intergroup websites. – More discussion is needed as to whether or not this is something that we even feel is necessary. If it's deemed necessary, we need to take some time to consult intergroups and see what has been successful for them.
- Determine if a mail-out that encourages intergroups (and the groups under them) to re-register will be created and sent to intergroups. Another option is to simply remind them when we contact them to update their information.

#### Discussion

40th Anniversary – We can provide ideas for celebrations. Afterwards, we can close the loop and possibly provide a write-up for the Ways and Means regarding the celebrations.

Alice motioned to leave the portion of the DAMS that pertains to intergroups as is. Seconded by Sierra. Passed unanimously.

Molly nominated Jackie for vice chair, but she declined.

Jackie motioned to nominate Alice for vice chair. Seconded by Molly. Passed unanimously.

Closed with the Serenity Prayer.

## International Caucus (INTL)

### Attendance:

Chris S (treasurer), Josie P (liaison at large), Jean Camille (chair), Joost L. (secretary), Martha, Bruce, Andrea (vice chair).

### Board Liaison:

Michael A.

Reading the focus of the International caucus pg 79  
DAMS

Exchange info, generate initiatives for growing international DA membership.

We do not bring motions; we are a think tank.

Hearing the report from previous caucus & int Board committee (tab 1 last page).

Do we want to continue with these recommendations?  
And if yes, in which priority?

### Priorities:

- Recruiting ACM's for Int Board committee is voted as highest priority.
  - Several optional candidates are rolling around.
- Video conferencing for int GSRs: Work with various committees to continue exploring the use of technology as a means of allowing international GSRs and ISRs to participate in the World Service Conference remotely.
- We recommend that the conference committee studies a structure to include GSRs and ISRs outside of the USA, who cannot come to the worldservice, can be part of the Worldservice Conference.

### Other concerns:

- No issues & concerns;
- Immediate payment (literature, donations, etc) by debit card (Gift card/ Transfer-wise). Not necessarily our primary concern right now. But the caucus recommends that this issue be explored further;
- Literature/translation;
- What do GSR's & ISR's oversea's need ?
- Compile a list of current intergroup electronic contact information to facilitate communications between the board & the international intergroups;
- Create a structure for international new members/groups to find DA support, including Group Sponsorship.

Monthly meetings 2nd Thursday of the month @ 9pm Eastern,  
7 pm Mountain, 6 pm Pacific Time.

Protocol from starter kit read & agreed upon, with the following remarks.

Up to 3 pro's and con's per issue.

Chair recognizes the speaker.

Keep sense of humor

Final roll call

## End of Section

## SECTION 8: RESPONSES TO 2014 WSC RECOMMENDATIONS

(Listed alphabetically, by committee, then by caucus)

### WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

#### Recommendation 1:

The BDA Committee recommends to the Tech Committee that future phases of the new website include functionality for a forum(s) on the new DA website to allow DA groups and/or BDA groups and members to submit questions to the Fellowship as a whole that may be answered by others in the Fellowship.

#### Assigned to:

GSB Information Technology Committee

#### Response:

This feature is not in Phase 1 of the website release. Future releases and functionality will be addressed by the DA-GSB IT Committee, DA-GSB Communications Committee, and the full Board.

#### Recommendation 2:

The BDA Committee recommends that the Board prepare and submit to the Fellowship a new 5-Year Plan as well as a procedure for an ongoing annual renewable 5-Year Plan.

#### Assigned to:

GSB Long-Range Planning Committee

#### Response:

Thank you for your suggestion. At the 2009 World Service Conference, the D.A. Five-Year Plan as presented by the Board was approved by the Conference. There were considerable hours spent in creating this plan. As you know, the General Service Board is an all-volunteer board. We have little office staff to support us with the various projects approved by Conference. We agree that long-term planning is beneficial, but it is our belief that our time would best be spent on overseeing these projects, so they can be completed in a timely manner.

#### Recommendation 3:

The BDA Committee recommends to the Tech Committee that the new DA website include functionality to sort for BDA and other categories of meetings on the site meeting list.

#### Assigned to:

GSB Information Technology Committee

#### Response:

This functionality will be added to the meetings database and the search functionality in two phases. In the initial release of the new website, the format has been updated to collect all such search information. The new meetings database will then be rolled out in Phase II, slated for the 2015-2016 Conference Year.

### WSC Conference Committee

#### Recommendation 1:

The Conference Committee recommends that the GSB use the services of the conference organizer, Book My Group, for future World Service Conferences.

#### Assigned to:

GSB Conference Support Committee

#### Response:

CSC is committed to finding the most cost-effective means of securing appropriate hotel sites for the WSC. CSC has recommended, and the Board agrees, that the continued use of a conference planner is warranted.

#### Recommendation 2:

The Conference Committee recommends that the awarding of John H. Scholarships be done by the Host Committee in collaboration with a WSC Conference Committee designee.

#### Assigned to:

GSB Conference Support Committee

#### Response:

The 2015 Host Committee collaborated with the Conference Committee to award John H funds this year.



**Recommendation 3:**

Recommendation that Conference Committee to make corrections to the John H. Scholarship application form to gather the necessary information for the current Suggested Qualifications that were adopted at the 2013 WSC.

**Assigned to:**

GSB Conference Support Committee

**Response:**

The Conference Committee made indicated updates to the 2015 John H. application to reflect current John H. Scholarship Suggested Qualifications. The new application form was used in 2015.

**WSC Literature Committee****Recommendation:**

The Literature Committee recommends that DA publish the inaugural hard copy of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions in time for the 40th Anniversary of DA in April 2016.

**Assigned to:**

GSB Literature Publications Committee

**Response:**

The GSB Literature Publications Committee understands the desirability of this objective, and will try to achieve it. However, numerous pieces of the literature approval and publishing processes must fall into place first, including the review and approval of the Twelve Traditions and the writing, review and approval of a Foreword. Our committee is striving to complete these actions as soon as possible, and may meet the target embodied in the recommendation.

**WSC Public Information Committee****Recommendation 1:**

The Public Information Committee recommends that the PI tab on the Debtors Anonymous website be changed from 'Public Information' to 'Carrying the Message.'

**Assigned to:**

GSB Information Technology Committee

**Response:**

This has been implemented in Phase I of the new website, to be released in Spring/Summer 2015.

**Recommendation 2:**

The Public Information Committee recommends that a pamphlet on Public Information with the theme of 'Carrying the Message' be developed.

**Assigned to:**

WSC Literature Committee

**Response:**

The Literature Committee requests that the Public Information Committee elaborate upon their vision for a Public Information pamphlet. Before the Literature Committee takes further action, our members would like to see a proposed outline.

**Recommendation 3:**

The Public Information Committee recommends that D.A.'s existing audio PSAs be amended to reflect current information and prepared for distribution through social media and radio.

**Assigned to:**

GSB Public Information Committee

**Response:** For some time now, D.A.'s three existing PSAs have had two somewhat minor issues:

1. The General Service Office (GSO) is referred to as the national office instead of international office.
2. D.A.'s toll-free number is not included in the announcements.

For over five years, the various iterations of both the WSC and GSB PI Committees have been trying to dub-over the national office part of the PSAs. That project, however, has never been completed. For that reason, recordings of our existing PSAs on CDs are no longer included on D.A.'s Literature Order Form.

It seems that the creation of brand new, professionally-produced PSAs ought to be the next right step for the General Service Board. Once created and prepared, PI reps, local groups, and area intergroups would be responsible for the distribution of the PSAs to radio stations and social media.



## WSC Resource Development Committee

### Recommendation:

We, the Resource Development Committee, recommend that every General Service Representative and Intergroup Service Representative considers contributing monthly to the General Service Office in the spirit of “Every Member, Every Month.”

### Assigned to:

GSB Communications Committee

### Response:

The “Every Member, Every Month” Campaign was developed and presented by RDC at 2014 WSC. The GSB Communications Committee would be happy to assist RDC in publicizing the idea that every General Service Representative and Intergroup Service Representative considers contributing monthly to the General Service Office in the spirit of “Every Member, Every Month.” Given that the idea originated with RDC, ComComm would not presume to develop promotional literature and other materials without RDC’s input. We suggest that RDC recommend the “Every Member, Every Month” theme to the incoming RDC for development of fellowship-internal publicity. Your *D.A. Focus* and the *Ways & Means* are always available to help publicize these ideas via a submitted article/editorial or reproduction of artwork. Keeping in mind also our Seventh Tradition, which states that D.A. is self-supporting through the voluntary contributions of its members, every D.A. member is welcome to contribute according to their means. Tradition Three reminds us that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt; there are no dues or fees.

## WSC Technology Committee

### Recommendation 1:

Recommendation to the Literature Publication Committee to make *A Currency of Hope*, Second Edition, available for sale on the Debtors Anonymous website in PDF format.

### Assigned to:

GSB Literature Publications Committee

### Response:

The General Service Board is continuing to consider and analyze alternative delivery methods for our literature, and will consider this recommendation as part of that process.

### Recommendation 2:

Recommendation to the Conference Committee to cut the cost of the 2015 WSC binder by providing a paperless option.

### Assigned to:

GSB Conference Support Committee

### Response:

While we are all for economizing and sustainability, the CSC doesn’t have the sole authority to change the method of transmission of binder materials. The suggestion of the Technology Committee was referred to the Conference Committee. Tech and Conference committees are now collaborating in recommending that the incoming 2015-16 Conference Committee make a motion to allow a test of Paperless Conference at the 2016 WSC. Tech has given the specific plan that can be done for this, and is willing to also help in the testing process, if the WSC approves it.

### Recommendation 3:

Recommendation to the Conference Committee that the 2015 WSC include video conferencing to enable the six registered International Intergroups to participate.

### Assigned to:

GSB Conference Support Committee

### Response:

The GSB was advised by our parliamentarian that bringing delegates into the Conference process remotely goes against our Conference Charter. The Board has asked the parliamentarian to educate us further on the subject at the next Board-development session, which will take place at the 2015 WSC. The GSB continues to study the question.

## WSC International Caucus

### Recommendation 1:

Recommend that the Intergroup Caucus introduce the position of Meeting Coordinator for each Intergroup to keep track of meetings, contacts and disbanded meetings. In addition, work with the GSO to remind groups to re-register their meetings annually.

**Assigned to:**

GSB Office Committee

**Response:**

Members, groups and Intergroups may use the following link to register and re-register their meetings:

<http://debtorsanonymous.org/meeting-registration/>.

**Recommendation 2:**

Recommend adding an easier to find link/button to the Debtors Anonymous website for members who want to find an Intergroup.

**Assigned to:**

GSB Information Technology Committee

**Response:**

This functionality will be added to the meetings database and the search functionality in two phases. In the initial release of the new website, the format has been updated to collect all such search information. The new meetings database will then be rolled out in Phase II, slated for the 2015-2016 Conference Year.

**End of Section**

## SECTION 9: GSB, COMMITTEE, and CAUCUS ROSTERS

(This information is provided for the use of Conference delegates. Please respect our anonymity. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should this list be used for solicitation or advertisement of goods & services.)

### General Service Board

#### Class A Trustees

Alexandra B.W.  
Allen T.  
Bill J.  
Clay D.  
Eileen N.  
Michael A.

#### Class B Trustees

Bob D.  
George M.  
Jeff Y.  
Michalene  
Sue F.  
Pat B.

### BDA Committee

Curt P.  
Josie P.  
Susan H.  
Tammy F.

### Conference Committee

Jessiline B.  
Jean Camille B.  
Jackie D.  
Michael G.\*\*  
Carolyn L.  
Craig L.  
Brandi M.

### Fellowship Communications

Lolly A\*\*  
Clay D.\*  
Roz G.  
Nancy H.  
Ellie H.  
Joost L.  
Suzanne P.  
Carol Ann P.  
Teresa S.  
Kieran S.

### Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee

Andrea B.  
Bethany O.  
Bev S.  
Bob D.\*  
Doug P.  
Krzysztof A.  
Sue F.\*  
Molly L.  
Peter G.  
Michael A.

### Internal Operations Committee

Alice K.  
Dayton L.  
Don C.\*\*  
Jane L.

Larry N.  
Marietta M.

Martha L.  
Sara H.  
Steve S.

### Literature Committee

Allen T.\*  
Asha E.  
Carolyn AR  
Connie N.  
Debbie L.  
Debbie R.  
Ellen S.  
Evy R.  
Gisela S.  
Holly S.  
Jerome S.  
Krista K.  
Lynne W.  
Maiya A.  
Matthew E.  
Rae T.  
Rona Z.  
Sharon S.  
Tom B.  
Tom K.\*\*

### Public Information Committee

Bob A.  
Bruce B.  
Chris A.

Claudia F.  
Diane C.  
Jill W.  
Maureen F.

Patrick C.  
Ron T.  
Sandi L.  
Sierra P.  
Siobhan K.\*\*  
Tim P.

### Resource Development Committee

Christine S.  
Bill D.  
Janet S.  
Jeannine W.  
Gail D.  
Krista K.

### Technology Committee

Arthur G.  
Ellen B.  
Tom W.  
Bernadette G.

### Diversity Caucus

Andrew D.  
Jill W.  
Michael G.  
Patricia S.  
Priscilla M.

Sara H.  
Sue F.\*

### Intergroup Caucus

Alice K.  
Bob A.  
Ellen B.  
Gail  
Jackie D.  
Jeannine W.  
Maureen F.  
Molly L.  
Patrick C.  
Sandi L.  
Sierra P.  
Eileen N.\*

### International Caucus

Jean Camille B.\*\*  
Joost L.  
Christine S.  
Josie P.  
Carolyn AR  
Andrea B.\*\*  
Michael A.\*

\* GSB Liaison  
\*\* Chairperson