

The 2016 Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference

30th Annual Report Irvine, TX USA

2016 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports, Committee Reports, and Caucus Reports

Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel
August 10-14, 2016

Anonymity

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

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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2016 CONVOCATION MINUTES

Convocation Opening – Day 1

The 30th Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by the General Service Board (GSB) Chairperson, Eileen N. at 8:34 AM on Saturday, August 13, 2016, and the meeting was opened with the “we” version of the Serenity Prayer.

The 2016 World Service Conference Agenda was adopted unanimously.

The two-thirds vote established last year for the threshold of substantial unanimity was accepted for this year without objection.

Quorum was established with 80 registered, balloted members and 76 members in the room.

The minutes from the 2015 World Service Conference were accepted unanimously without correction.

The Twelve Steps of D.A., the Twelve Traditions of D.A., the Twelve Concepts for D.A. World Service, and the Debtors Anonymous Conference Charter were read by volunteer GSR and ISR conference attendees.

General announcements were made. Emphasis was on credentialing for accurate voting during the convocation.

Parliamentary Procedure Training

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. introduced Michael Malamut, who gave an overview of motions, recommendations, and parliamentary procedure. Michael Malamut, is a professional parliamentarian and has been assisting the Debtors Anonymous Fellowship since 1998.

He gave an introductory summary of the purpose of parliamentary procedure. He described it as a procedure for an organization to conduct business meetings with the most efficiency within the time constraints of a meeting. While, at the same time, listening for the best advice of the people in the room, so the most informed decisions can be made.

Thomas Jefferson is considered the father of parliamentary procedure and it is said that he thought it better to have a rule in advance rather than fighting about what the rules should be.

Robert's Rules of Order are rules to resolve inherent tensions between time constraints and listening to the majority and minority opinions of the people in the room. While the procedures are for business, the Twelve Concepts for World Service are the spiritual governance principles that are overlaid on the business meeting. This is a spiritual meeting. We do things looking for our Higher Power.

Michael said that motions are not as daunting as people think. Even though there are 83 motions in *Robert's Rules of Order*, there are only about 6 of them that come up often. He gave a brief discussion about the parliamentary procedure that would be used during the Convocation. He discussed the following topics:

- Efficiency vs. education
- Majority rule vs. minority rights
- Flexibility vs. finality
- Intensity vs. immediacy
- Main motion that introduces business
- Motion ranking
- Amendable vs. non-amendable motions
- Amendments by general consent
- Extending debate vs. closing debate
- Point of privilege (such as breaks or adjourning)
- Gordian knot motion to suspend the rules
- Substantial unanimity
- Specific considerations from the 12 Concepts:
 - Minority opinion
 - Right of decision
 - Right of participation

Delegate Questions for the Parliamentarian:

QUESTION: What are Friendly Amendments?

ANSWER: A friendly amendment is an amendment that is made at the beginning of discussion of an item before debate has started to improve the motion. The committee that made the motion can

agree to accept the friendly amendment. Friendly amendments are not going to take the time of the body because they will be so widely accepted. After debate has started, no friendly amendments can be made. If debate has started and an amendment is short, clear, likely to have been an oversight and likely to have wide support, in a similar way that a friendly amendment is, then it is typical, as a courtesy to ask the maker of the motion whether they are in agreement. If there is agreement, then the motion can try to be passed by general consent. This is not a friendly amendment because debate has been started.

Question: As a Secretary at a D.A. group, there have been debates on whether we need to “call the question” to end discussion of a motion and proceed to voting. Do we need to close discussion?

Answer: It depends on whether everything is said that needs to be said, or if a lot of people feel like everything has been said. Also, it should not come from someone at the front of the room. Typically, it is not necessary to make a motion for discussion to end. It ends when no one else is trying to say anything and debate closes automatically. You don't have to take a vote to take a vote. If people feel that debate needs to go on, then a motion to suspend the rules regarding the time constraints of discussion needs to be taken to extend debate which would take a two-thirds majority.

Seventh Tradition Announcement

Tradition 7 tells us that every D.A. group ought to be self-supporting declining outside contributions. Envelopes for the World Service Conference and the John H. Scholarship are available. These contributions help get more Delegates to Conference. The General Service Board spending plan for 2017 projects a shortfall of \$48,000. We will not debt no matter what, but to continue the work at the level that we have been, we do encourage you to take this information and envelopes back to your groups.

Chairperson Announcement

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. announced that motions on the agenda for two committees (Literature and Conference) will be presented today and

tomorrow due to information that the GSB Chair needs to discuss with them that could not be done earlier.

GSB Recommendation

The General Service Board recommends that the World Service Conference committee consider moving Fellowship Day to Sunday morning in 2017.

Background: The reason is for continuity to the Convocation and so that business can be concluded in one day. Also, so that all GSRs and ISRs can attend the full conference rather than leaving early on Sunday for flights home, especially for those on the coasts.

Summary of WSC Recommendations

(Listed alphabetically by committee, then by caucus)

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

BDA Committee recommends that the GSB consider giving the highest priority to publishing the three approved BDA literature concepts: *Business Numbers*, *BDA Tools* and *BDA Annual Business Plan* submitted to Lit Pub Committee in the 2015 program year.

Conference Committee

Regarding Issue & Concern No. 16-25, concerning gender-neutral “readings.” We recommend referring this to the WSC Literature Committee. We believe that the proponent was proposing that the published versions of materials typically read at meetings (Steps, Traditions, etc.), be revised.

Fellowship Communications Committee

None

Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

None

Internal Operations Committee

Recommendations were in the final report for this caucus but were not presented at the convocation. Including them as reference.

- Issue & Concern 16-20: DA Group 1585 - Solvencia Skype Spain asked - "How could we buy approved literature in Spanish from the DA world service in USA and what would be the procedure?" The requesting group would download the literature order form from the DA website and order the one pamphlet that is currently available in Spanish. GSO Office Manager, Allan C would then refer this matter to the International Committee.
- Support the General Service Office (GSO) in streamlining office efficiency.
- Complete writing a GSO policies and procedures manual to include a detailed flowchart.
- Help support GSO staff with local volunteers.
- Implement system for annual registration update and support on-line automation of this function.
- Continue to investigate moving the General Service Office from Needham, MA to a new centralized location.

Literature Committee

Two recommendations were announced at the convocation but none were presented. One recommendation was found in the final report for this caucus. Including this as reference.

- Explore development of language that will address current and future forms of media and public communication, including the Internet, in our 11th Tradition.

Public Information Committee

None

Resource Development Committee

None

Technology Committee

- The Technology Committee recommends to the Conference Committee to expand the Digital Binder trial to all delegates for the 2017 World Service Conference. The Technology Committee will be available for any assistance in implementing this recommendation.

Diversity Caucus

None

Intergroup Caucus

None

International Caucus

Recommendations were in the final report for this caucus but were not presented at the convocation. Including them as reference.

- That the GSB International Committee work with DA France to attain conference approved status for their already translated literature.
- That the GSB Information Technology Committee and the WSC Technology Committee continue to work together to identify, put in place and launch a solution that enables international GSRs and ISRs to attend the WSC remotely.
- That the appropriate WSC Committees (Internal Operations and Technology) collaborate with the appropriate GSB Committees (Information Technology, Finance and Legal) to identify, put in place and launch a solution that enables global financial transactions for Debtors Anonymous literature purchase and contributions.

End of Section

WSC Committee and Caucus Reports

(in order of presentation at the conference)

Intergroup Caucus

- Chair: Jackie D.
- Vice Chair: Amina Z.
- Secretary Maureen F.
- Treasurer: Jeannine W.
- Committee Members: Paul M., Bob A., Bill P., Kelly L. and Curt P.

Jackie D., Chair for the Intergroup Caucus, introduced the members of the caucus.

- They have continued the work from last year, on an Intergroup Handbook to help Intergroups stay strong. This is in the approval process.
- There will be an interactive training piece created to go with the handbook.
- Also, a monthly call for Intergroup reps will be created. The call will be approximately 30 minutes. Intergroup reps will be able to speak with the Intergroup Caucus and share best practices or experience, strength and hope for keeping Intergroups strong.

Technology Committee

- Chair: Tom W.
- Vice Chair: Kermie W.
- Secretary: Ivy B.
- Treasurer: Matt P.

Tom W., Chair for the Tech committee, announced three new members of the committee.

Recommendation: The Technology Committee recommends to the Conference Committee to expand the Digital Binder trial to all delegates for the 2017 World Service Conference. The Technology Committee will be available for any assistance in implementing this recommendation.

Background: There were 20 people who tested the digital binder. 12 people responded to a survey. Various types of devices such as Windows computers, Apple MACs, Android phones and iPhones were tested. There was 95% success for being able to open, view and use the files.

The Chair asked for questions from the delegates:

Question: Can PDFs be revised or add notes to them.

Answer: Items can be highlighted, colors can be changed and notes can be added using digital post-it type notes but the original text cannot be modified.

Question: What is the approximate cost savings for doing the digital binders?

Answer: The cost savings at this time will not be realized because both paper and digital binders are being used. Next year people will have the opportunity to choose a digital only binder and the cost savings could be significant. It currently costs approximately \$700 for the binders and another \$1000 for printing. Also, the volunteers time to assemble them could be used for other projects as well.

Literature Committee

- Chair: Tom B.
- Vice Chair: Lolly A.
- Secretary: Jeff H.
- Treasurer: Maiya A.
- Board Liaison: Allen T.
- Committee Members: Amy O., Andrea B., Brandi M., Debbie L., Diana G., Gisela S., John C., Kelly L., Marysia H., Rae T.

Tom B., Literature Committee Chair, introduced the committee members and acknowledged the board liaison for his work. The committee will be meeting on the third Sunday of every month.

There are six subcommittees working on the following projects for this year:

- A priority project is to develop an outline for a step study guide
- Develop an outline and a process for a daily meditation book
- Develop a D.A. closing statement
- Collect member stories for the basic text. Both international and local stories will be collected.
- Develop a beginner's meeting format
- Develop a concept for a diversity pamphlet
- Other projects will also be worked on this year

- Three motions and two recommendations will be presented by the committee today and tomorrow

Before the first motion from the Literature Committee was brought to the floor, the GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated that the motion comes from a committee and does not require a second.

Since this document was going to be conference approved, it has not followed the approved conference procedure regarding recovery literature. A motion to suspend the rules and not send this through the standard literature approval process was needed to allow this to be voted on. The motion to suspend the rules was made and seconded. The motion was passed with substantial unanimity.

Motion #1: Motion to approve the document “Welcome to Debtors Anonymous” to replace the A.A. Preamble:

Welcome to Debtors Anonymous

Debtors Anonymous offers hope for people whose use of unsecured debt causes problems and suffering. We come to learn that debting is a spiritual problem with a spiritual solution, and we find relief by working the D.A. recovery program based on the Twelve Step principles of Alcoholics Anonymous. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. Even if members are not in debt, they are welcome in D.A. Our Fellowship is supported solely through contributions made by members; there are no dues or fees.

Debtors Anonymous is not affiliated with any financial, legal, political or religious entities and we avoid controversy by not discussing outside issues. By sharing our experience, strength and hope and by carrying the message to those who still suffer, we find joy, clarity and serenity as we recover together.

Background: Alcoholics Anonymous asked D.A. to stop using the A.A. Preamble

- This is a statement that would be read at the beginning of a D.A. meeting
- It gives the newcomer information about what D.A. is about

- It is housekeeping for current members
- The first sentence is meant to remind members of what brings us together and why we are here
- The second sentence stresses the importance of spirituality at the forefront of new D.A. literature and how our disease requires a spiritual solution
- It also shows our gratitude to Alcoholics Anonymous
- The next several sentences are paraphrased from the D.A. Traditions and the existing preamble as well other fellowships preambles, most of them included that information
- The next sentence emphasizes that we discuss our experience, strength and hope but not outside issues
- The last sentence ends the statement with hope and that joy, clarity and serenity results from recovery

A friendly amendment was made before debate on the motion to remove the reference to Alcoholics Anonymous.

Background: The D.A. steps are used with permission from A.A. These are D.A.’s steps and A.A. does not need the credit. The amendment is to end the second sentence after the word principles.

The Literature Committee accepted the friendly amendment.

A second friendly amendment was made to add commas to the document but this amendment is not needed because the document will go through the style guide before being posted.

Discussion of the motion began after the GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked delegates to use the microphones on each side of the room, labeled Pro and Con.

Reminder to hold any clapping after comments during discussion and voting.

Pro: Other than the style changes, it is beautiful and I’m in favor of it

Con: This is great but the use of the words “unsecured debt” is not understood by many

people. Use the words “credit cards” or “if you want to get out of debt”

A motion to amend by general consent was then made. Motion to add the word compulsive before the word debting. The motion was seconded.

Background: It helps to identify it as a disease and something that makes us different from someone who can use unsecured debt.

There was an objection to passing the motion by general consent. Due to time constraints, one Pro and one Con discussion was allowed on the amendment.

Pro: It is congruent with our literature and I’m in support for the reason the maker of the amendment stated.

Con: Some debtors don’t identify as compulsive debtors and that doesn’t mean they are not admitting to powerlessness and unmanageability.

The vote on the amendment passed.

A second amendment was made and seconded to remove the word recovery in the first paragraph and to replace the A.A. language “experience, strength and hope” and “there are no dues or fees”. There was an objection to passing the amendment by general consent. One Pro and one Con for discussion was allowed.

Pro: We stopped using the A.A. Preamble because it was A.A. wording and a bit of plagiarism on our part so if we are creating a new preamble we probably don’t want to repeat the mistake we just made.

Con: This may have come from A.A. but don’t we have permission to use words like “experience, strength and hope”? This phrase is embedded in the recovery program.

It was determined that the maker of the motion wanted the A.A. language to be replaced by the Literature Committee. If this goes back to the committee, they can bring it back tomorrow for a vote.

The second motion to amend was withdrawn.

A motion to send the original motion as amended back to the Literature Committee was made and seconded.

The motion to recommit failed.

Discussion began again on the original motion as amended.

Pro: We should pass this motion. The words “experience, strength and hope are used by a lot of people. As debtors, we are always afraid to be clear or commit but here is a very clear commitment that is very well written and we should pass this motion, get on with life on this earth and recover.

Con: There is a phrase “If something is urgent then it probably isn’t spiritual”. There is a lot of discussion on this and it needs more work. The word problem used twice in the first paragraph as an example. This is not a problem it is a disease. Remove the moral judgement with the word problem and replace it with more emotionally neutral language such as a spiritual illness or a malady.

Question on parliamentary procedure:

The first amendment was voted on by the delegates as a whole, but the second amendment was voted on by the Literature committee and not all of the delegates in the room. Why was the friendly amendment only voted on by the Literature committee, while the second amendment was voted on by the larger group?

Answer: The parliamentarian explained that the friendly amendment was brought up before discussion. The second amendment was brought up after debate started. This can be brought back as a motion to restore the language to its original state if that needs to be done.

A third motion to amend was made to restore the language that was cut from the original motion and allow the group to vote on it. The motion was seconded. One Pro and one Con for discussion was allowed.

Pro: This is just a nod to the program that started us and it is very important that we leave it in there.

Con: This was a procedural thing and it is not needed to have the whole group vote on everything.

The third amendment failed 47 to 40

Discussion was restarted for the original motion as amended.

Con: I agree with suspending the rules but what is the urgency of making a decision on this today? Is there a pending lawsuit for this?

The GSB Chair Eileen N. stated that suspending the rules was not about urgency but about being able to vote on this today and there is no lawsuit pending.

Pro: Many of the sentences come from our own literature and they are already conference approved.

Con: If this is something newcomers are going to hear then it should go through the normal literature process and not one committee.

A motion to recommit to the Literature committee was made but this has already failed and cannot be brought to the floor again.

Pro: Is this perfect? It is better than having the A.A. Preamble for another year. Can this be changed in the future? Yes.

A fourth amendment was made and seconded to remove the word “recovery” in the first paragraph. Discussion was limited to One Pro and one Con for the amendment.

Pro: This makes it smoother and less repetitive without changing any of the feel or intention of the preamble itself.

Con: Why not say it is a recovery program if it is a recovery program and not just a program? Let’s commit and see what happens. We can fix it next year.

The fourth amendment failed.

Discussion was restarted for the original motion as amended.

Pro: Strongly in favor of the motion as amended. The committee has been working on this for a year. It is not right to send it back for another year. We do not have a preamble of our own. We tend to procrastinate and we often seek after perfection when a workable solution is right there. Let’s just do this and get on with it.

A fifth amendment was made and seconded to delete the words spiritual problem in the first paragraph and replace it with disease. Discussion was limited to One Pro and one Con for the amendment.

Pro: There is a spiritual solution. I may have other spiritual problems but that makes it vague. A disease is a very clear thing that I need spiritual help with.

Con: We have not been cleared by the American Medical Association as a disease.

The fifth amendment failed.

Discussion was restarted for the original motion as amended. Discussion was limited to One Pro and one Con due to time constraints.

Question for the parliamentarian: If we fail to get to the vote today, can the committee bring this back tomorrow? If we run out of time today, can it be recommitted to the Literature Committee?

Answer: If we run out of time, we take a vote and if the vote is negative, then the committee can reconsider this and bring back a new proposal next year.

Pro: As a history from the Literature Committee, every question that has been raised today and more were considered. It is not perfect, but it is progress not perfection.

Con: I agree with all of the comments on urgency. One more year when we have been without it for years, while skipping the process sets a precedent and it is not good for the fellowship as a whole.

Suggestion to change the word order in the last paragraph to clarity, serenity and joy rather than joy, clarity and serenity.

Background: I found clarity first in recovery then serenity and from there joy. I like that sequence.

There was an objection to the suggestion and there is no more time available for amendments to the current motion on the floor as amended which is:

Motion #1: Motion to approve the document *Welcome to Debtors Anonymous* to replace the A.A. Preamble:

Welcome to Debtors Anonymous

Debtors Anonymous offers hope for people whose use of unsecured debt causes problems and suffering. We come to learn that compulsive debting is a spiritual problem with a spiritual solution, and we find relief by working the D.A. recovery program based on the Twelve Step principles.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. Even if members are not in debt, they are welcome in D.A. Our Fellowship is supported solely through contributions made by members; there are no dues or fees.

Debtors Anonymous is not affiliated with any financial, legal, political or religious entities, and we avoid controversy by not discussing outside issues. By sharing our experience, strength, and hope and by carrying the message to those who still suffer, we find joy, clarity and serenity as we recover together.

Point of Information:

There is already a \$48,000 deficit. Whatever is decided today and is put on D.A. literature cannot be removed until all of that literature is exhausted. Think wisely and vote from the heart.

The motion passed by substantial unanimity.

Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons

- Chair: Beverly S.
- Vice Chair: Jane L.
- Secretary: Sarah V.
- Treasurer: Marcy J.

- Committee members: Patricia D., Kathleen I. and Naomi S. (time keeper)

Bev, the Chair of Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) committee reported the plans for the committee this year are to:

- Complete the edits of the HIP Starter Kit with the goal of sending to the GSB for approval as a Service document. The Starter Kit is a working document of resources, best practices how to's when reaching out to people in HIP systems. This was started in collaboration with the Public Information (PI) committee, special thanks to Bob A. and to last year's committee members: Doug, Andrea, Bethany and Amy for their work on the Starter Kit and continued support
- Working on expanding the HIP Service Manual
- Raising awareness of HIP worldwide, starting locally, this also includes the feasibility of holding a worldwide HIP Fellowship Day. We look forward to cooperating with all committees and caucuses, in particular, with the Diversity, International and Intergroup caucuses wherever our purposes intersect.
- The rest of our actions in service this year will be in our individual local areas:
 - Houston: Marcy will be working with shelters, students and half-way houses
 - Philadelphia: Sarah will be contacting bankers, other professionals, women's shelters and prisons
 - Los Angeles: Naomi is working with community leaders and mental health professionals
 - Chicago: Bev will continue working with hospitals and treatment centers
 - Annapolis: Jane will be working with clergy and veteran's organizations
 - Northern Virginia: Patricia will be working with women's prisons and homeless shelters
 - Los Angeles: Kathleen will be working with hospitals and treatment centers
- Thank you to GSB liaison Bob for his invaluable decade's long experience

Question: Can BDA Literature be included in your packet?

Answer: Yes, we will. Thank you.

Diversity Caucus

- Chair: Chris A.
- Vice Chair Kristen K-C.
- Secretary: Open
- Treasurer: Diana Gray
- Members: Chris A. Kristen K-C., Diana G., John C., Patrick C.

Chris, Chair for the Diversity Caucus introduced the members of the caucus.

- The mission of the Diversity Caucus is to support the fellowship in carrying the message of D.A. to the debtor in underserved populations and locations
- We coordinate with all WSC committees by developing best practices for doing service and sharing it with D.A. as a whole
- We hold that no two debtors are the same and that no two D.A. meetings are exactly the same, so therefore, we feel there is diversity in every D.A. meeting now
- We believe that diversity is relative
- We believe that exposure to other debtors who are different from us and who are like us is beneficial to individual and group recovery
- D.A. members already have exposure to diversity so it is not a foreign language and not a foreign word
- Our primary efforts in this service year are:
 - Look at our existing database of meetings to assess:
 - Who is represented
 - What is missing
 - Who is missing
 - What diversity we already have now
 - Working on diversity stories
 - Success stories
 - Stories about what might not be working so well. This will be done in two ways:
 - Through a fellowship wide call
 - Through the written form with the *Ways and Means*
 - Creation of a Diversity Starter Kit
 - This will be a piece of Service literature
 - It will have guidelines for doing service in underserved populations and locations
 - This will be in partnership with the HIP and the PI committees

- Additional partnership with the Literature committee for literature for underserved populations and locations
- Working with the Resource Development committee on two specific issues:
 - Finding ways for international GSRs and ISRs to attend this conference
 - Helping groups and individuals who want to do PI service but don't have the resources to do it

Conference Committee

- Chair: Mike L.
- Vice Chair: Jessiline B.
- Secretary: Michael G.
- Treasurer: Jean C. B.
- Committee members: Jessiline, Jean, Annie, Harmony, Anne and Michael

Mike, Chair for the Conference Committee introduced the committee members: There are five motions to be presented. Three of them will be presented today and two presented tomorrow.

Motion #1: Census of Committees as They Form

There are two parts to this motion:

1) That the duties of the WSC Conference Committee be expanded to include the following task:

The Conference Committee will arrange for a volunteer (who may or may not be a member of the committee) to look in on each WSC committee meeting, shortly after the beginning of its initial 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.

and

2) 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."

Background: The Host committee implemented this at the current conference and would like to

formalize the practice and make it a duty of the Conference committee to do so in the future.

The motion came from committee and does not require a second.

A friendly amendment was proposed to recast the preceding paragraph. It is not clear as it stands. If this were in the WSC Starter Kit, it would not be clear to people.

A point of clarification was made that parts one and two are not separate and it was only that it was on two power point slides. The friendly amendment was withdrawn.

Debate was started for the motion.

Pro: This originated after the 2014 WSC when only two people showed up for the Internal Operations committee initial meeting and their liaison explained that two people was not enough for a committee so they went in other directions. In the meantime, some of our committees were a bit overstaffed and a little unwieldy. The GSB asked the Conference Committee to consider this issue. Our solution was to at least provide information to people especially while newcomers were shopping for different committees, so if anyone with a large number of members heard that some other committee considered itself understaffed. They could, if they wished, voluntarily make themselves available.

Con: My concern is basing this on feelings. We always feel like we don't have enough so I would rather see us set a minimum of four members per committee. We can then go around and say there are committees that have not met their minimum.

An amendment by general consent was made and seconded to change "ask whether the committee feels adequately staffed" to "verify that each committee has at least four members".

Question: Is there a consequence if the committees did not meet their minimum? Would they be wiped out?

Answer: Yes, the committee could not report as a committee. It does not mean that the committee would end, but they would not be able to report that year. If three people feel like there is an urgent topic and want to meet at a caucus, they can ask for

a motion to suspend the rules to present. The first consequence would be that members from larger committees would have to move so that minimums could be met.

Discussion was limited to One Pro and one Con for the amendment.

Pro: No one went to speak in favor

Con: The Chair clarified that they had considered adding numbers to the motion but it starts to sound like we are dictating that someone must move so they avoided putting numbers on purpose as a committee.

The vote was taken and the amendment failed with substantial unanimity.

Discussion was resumed on the original motion.

Pro: When you are in a room, you don't know who is in another room so you don't know that there are not enough people so it would be helpful to have someone come around to let you know.

Con: I like the concept but it seems like there is pressure to move. Something needs to be done but not sure what.

A second amendment was made to announce the specific committees by full name and have knowledge of the committee which needs members because announcing a committee by its initials is confusing.

This was determined to be information clarification for the Conference Committee and the motion does not need to be changed. The amendment was withdrawn.

The question was called and there were a few people in line at the microphones to speak. It was determined to allow them to speak before ending discussion.

Question: Has the Conference Committee ever considered appointing members to committees as they register in order to have more balance? Or ask them their preference when they register?

Answer: It was part of the paper registration this year to ask members their preference.

For: Two members both changed committees this year voluntarily and they loved it and it does work.

The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

Motion #2 Evaluating and Continuing Trial of Digital Binder

That the Tech and Conference Committees expand the digital binder trial during the 2017 WSC, making a digital version of the binder available to all delegates, after evaluating the results of this year's trial.

The motion comes from committee and does not require a motion.

Background: This motion is considered in conjunction with the Tech Committee and follows up with the Tech Committee's recommendation. The Tech Committee report gave the results of the trial this year. Twenty people tested, twelve filled out surveys that it worked well on multiple platforms.

A friendly amendment was made to add "registrants can indicate, if they are so moved, that they do not need a physical paper binder"

The Conference Committee would not be opposed to this, but does not think it necessary to be added to the language of this motion.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated that this can be done without adding to the motion.

The friendly amendment was withdrawn.

There was a difference between the motion that the Conference Committee Chair read and what was presented on the screen. The screen version of the original motion is:

The Conference Committee moves that the Technology and Conference committees be empowered to expand the digital binder trial during the 2017 WSC and take appropriate action after evaluating the result of this year's trial.

The Conference Committee Chair stated "so moved" to bring the updated motion to the floor of the conference.

Pro: This does not mean you will have to have a digital binder and that's it, it just means that the GSB Committee will have the ability because the motion passed, during the year, to study and possibly do it.

Pro: This is a trial. We just want to expand the trial to more people than 20.

The motion passed unanimously.

Background for Motion #4: There was an issue that generated a significant amount of discussion and a little bit of controversy. The 2015 outgoing committee spent most of last year discussing this issue, delivered significant research and survey results.

Over 1/3 of all of the issues and concerns submitted to the 2016 conference addressed this one issue and were roughly evenly divided. After significant debate and language considerations, the committee reworked it entirely until there was complete unanimity on the following motion:

Motion #4 Caucus on Spiritually Sustainable Earning

That the Convocation form a Caucus on Spiritually Sustainable Earning that will support the fellowship as a whole in gaining clarity, understanding, and tools to address the ways that underearning cripples debting sobriety and can be relieved through the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous.

The motion comes from the committee and does not require a second.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked that pictures of the screen not be taken. A copy of the power point can be made available if needed.

Question: What is meant by spiritually sustainable earning?

Answer from a Conference Committee member: In the spirit of the language, of spiritually sustainable earning, if you imagine debting as a stick, one end of the stick is how we spend money and the other end is how we earn money. The stick is debting. We can all benefit from spiritually sustainable earning. Maybe some of us don't identify as having a problem underearning but we all want support around spiritually sustainable earning, so that language is inclusive of all of us and that is the spirit behind this language.

The Committee Chair added: A year ago, this started as the Underearners Caucus and between that, the current year's committee work and three

re-writes, it changed each time and this was the name of the caucus that best described what we hope the caucus would achieve and was able to get unanimity within the committee.

Pro: The intent behind this caucus last year was to deal with this issue in a positive way. The BDA committee started this because our fellowship needs to have a conversation that affects at least half of the meetings that I need to go to regularly and half of the PRGs that I participate in. I think this is a wonderfully elegant way to start the conversation without invoking the name of another fellowship and by dealing with it in a positive and affirming manner.

Con: A new caucus when at the World Service Conference we have a significant problem with doing all of the work that we have on our plate now and adding another caucus means we need even more people to do another meeting and another caucus. It seems like we are already stretched pretty thin. I want to consider our own internal resources in terms of how many rooms we are going to have to have, how many rooms will we have to populate with people who are willing to do the work.

Con: My recovery is the stick. It is not outside of the stick. The issue is debting. I am seeking help with compulsive debting. These other issues I may or may not have. I came to Debtors Anonymous because it was about debting. I know there are a lot of people who come to D.A. and have underearning issues but I don't. I love this program. Tradition one talks about unity. We don't need to grow our fellowship by talking about outside issues. We have a lot to talk about with debting. We don't need to have another prettier name of spiritually sustainable earning for underearning to include it as an outside issue. A skunk is a skunk, a rat is a rat, a rose is a rose by any other name.

Pro: We have a spiritual duty to include suffering debtors no matter what is their problem. This is not an endorsement for another opinion. There are a lot of people who are unclear of their disease and need clarification. It is to offer clarification for the sponsor to realize there might be a solution through the program of Debtors Anonymous for people who are not earning enough money and as

a result, they debt. If they debt long enough, they may commit suicide. Let's be clear, we are not speaking of money or a choice of lifestyle. We are talking about people who do not find a sponsor who can hear a fourth step on their underearning. You asked the caucus to bring this forward so we can speak of it and offer a solution.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked that comments be kept to one minute because of the number of people who want to speak and if you have heard the point you were going to make, you do not need to state it again to allow as many people to speak on this topic.

Con: The problem I have with this is with the last part that says "that underearning cripples debting sobriety and can be relieved through the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous." We are relieving underearning with the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous which is not the purpose of Debtors Anonymous. It is to help Debtors and this is outside of our scope.

Pro: I have heard a lot of the things for the Pros. The name is beautiful. Our fellowship needs to discuss this. I am excited to be a part of this caucus. When I got here, I was in a lot of debt, suicidal debt and it was largely due to not having a spiritually sustainable earning level. I am a strong Pro.

Con: I have heard a lot of things I wanted to say as well but one thing I didn't hear is that we just changed a couple of pieces of literature to say that underearning and compulsive spending are symptoms of debting and they are not separate diseases and I would not be in favor of this.

Pro: Imagine Compulsive Cold Suffers Anonymous where some people present with sneezes and others present with coughs, some present with both. There were some people in that fellowship that said, we don't want those with coughs because there is another fellowship for that and coughs could be IBS or tuberculosis, you don't belong here. Imagine I am being told to leave this room because I have a cold with a cough and I am calling suicide hotlines because I don't have a place to go for help. This is not made up. This is happening. People are jumping off eleven story buildings because they cannot keep their debting sobriety because of their underearning.

Con: There is one ultimate authority. We have an employer. When we work the steps we will get there. For me, I debted because I didn't make enough money. And vice versa, I don't have enough money and I want what I want and I don't have the money, so I debt. To me, it is the same thing. Have we really applied the steps to our frustration?

Pro: There is a pamphlet on underearners in our fellowship. It is wonderful. It is part of our fellowship. We need more help with this. It is falling under debting. We are here one day at a time.

Con: My concern is this is a business conference and that is a recovery topic in my opinion. I love the idea at a DBA day, but I don't think it belongs here. We are here for the protection, growth and future of Debtors Anonymous so we can carry our message. If we want to create a caucus, perhaps we can create a caucus on our primary purpose because this is outside of it.

Pro: I want to share that I came to this program after college and have been solvent for eleven years. I would not have stayed if there was not some literature or some recognition of underearning. Two of my sisters joined for the same reason. One of the reasons we are here are to grow the fellowship. There are a lot of college age people who are not in a lot of debt but are in low paying jobs and we need to have an open mind and expand this. I also think spiritually sustainable earning as a pamphlet would be a good idea.

Con: The caucuses we have are Intergroup, Diversity and International. None of these are related to a particular manifestation of our disease. I don't see this as a caucus formation issue. In the literature, I read it is clear in *Currency of Hope* that when I am underearning, I am self-debting. I am definitely an underearner but in meetings I identify as a compulsive debtor because that is the umbrella our organization has, so compulsive debtors, compulsive spenders, underearners, vague about money, all of these things are ways my disease of compulsive debting expresses itself. We could use more literature on each of these topics but I don't believe we need a caucus for this topic.

Pro: I personally know people who have been shamed out of D.A. who identified as underearners. I came in not earning enough money but that was

because I did not understand contracts and standing up for myself. I think we need to talk more about it. There may be a reason D.A. has had 5,000 members for 20 years and has not grown. I don't want it to become a program of bleeding deacons until it runs out of blood.

Con: I appreciate the issue. There is the issue of practicality and the definition of caucuses. I want to raise the topic of two traditions. One is Tradition three, the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop debting. If you go a little further, anyone can be in a D.A. meeting and not identify as anything. If people are feeling excluded, it should be brought up in group inventories. I also want to bring up that if people in the conference are very moved by this, there are lots of vehicles for addressing it. To institute a separate caucus, it goes against the suggestion in Tradition one of unity and it can be addressed without disunity.

The Conference Chair addressed the statements regarding literature review. He said the committee reviewed all of the literature regarding underearning both as a symptom of the disease of compulsive debting and as the cause of the act of debting and they attempted to come up with something that was compliant with our literature. He then repeated the motion.

Motion #4 Caucus on Spiritually Sustainable Earning

That the Convocation form a Caucus on Spiritually Sustainable Earning that will support the fellowship as a whole in gaining clarity, understanding, and tools to address the ways that underearning cripples debting sobriety and can be relieved through the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for the vote. The motion passed by substantial unanimity.

General announcements were made. The Literature committee final Motion #1 will be available tomorrow for groups to begin using immediately.

The Saturday session recessed until Sunday morning.

The conference adjourned with the "we" version of the Serenity prayer.

Convocation Adjourned until Sunday morning.

Convocation Opening – Day Two

The Sunday morning session was called to order by the General Service Board (GSB) Chair, Eileen N. at 8:32 AM on Sunday, August 14, 2016. The Debtors Anonymous Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts were read by conference volunteers.

Conference Committee

- Chair: Mike L.
- Vice Chair: Jessiline B.
- Secretary: Michael G.
- Treasurer: Jean C. B.
- Committee members: Jessiline, Jean, Annie, Harmony, Anne and Michael

The Conference Committee Chair presented two motions.

Background information: Background for the first motion is that last year when he became the Chair of the committee, the outgoing Chair gave him a binder with all of the information from the previous year to provide continuity of the institutional knowledge. It is the committee's belief that the Conference should make the passing on of that institutional knowledge a job of each outgoing Chair of a committee and ultimately if we can do so, by way of a digital archive that is accessible by the new Chair, in a secure manner.

Motion #5 The committee moves that from now on committee and caucus Chairs are responsible for maintaining a binder to be passed on to the next Chair, containing current and past final committee reports, sub-committee reports or other documents for bringing the incoming committee up to speed on work carried on during the year but not completed and any other material that would assist the committee in carrying on its work in an effective way. If the appropriate bodies of the fellowship develop a centralized digital repository for all such reports accessible through www.debtorsanonymous.org that repository is to be used for this purpose. Committees may deem it advisable to keep a paper copy as well.

This is not part of the motion but the Conference requests of the GSB to include this information on Chair responsibilities in both the Committee

Starter Kit section of the WSC Delegates binder and in the DAMS.

Friendly amendment to the motion to change from "Chairs are responsible" to "Chairs be responsible" in the first sentence of the motion. Friendly amendment was accepted.

The motion came from the committee and does not require a second.

Question: If the archive was stored on the website, would this be available to the public?

Answer: The way the website is set up, it would only be available to the committees. An outsider or any D.A. member would not be able to get into the information.

Question regarding grammar in the motion. The motion was presented with the correct grammar but the slide on the screen is missing a period.

Question: How and when would the transmission of the physical binder be transferred? It has happened that no members of a committee return to the next conference.

Answer: The committee discussed this and discussed that at some point, this is going to end up in the back seat of some committee Chair's car. We cannot control and dictate everything. We are just saying that this Conference should make it a job of the Chair to pass on the information from year to year.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked if anyone was opposed to this motion and there were no responses. She then asked if there was anyone opposed to approving the motion by general consent and there were no responses. The motion passed by general consent.

The Conference Committee chair presented the final motion.

Background information: The request has been made by more than a few members, especially International members that they be able to participate in Conference as voting members remotely. The committee discussed the anonymity problems with that request. Also, items such as those he called the law of unintended consequences such as the opening of the

conference to remote participation because it is expensive to travel then why wouldn't a small group in Bowling Green, KY (he said that was the first city that popped in his head and was not in any way picking on this city) decide that they would rather participate remotely and eventually, it would become a non-personal conference. We would lose the person to person address. There is a perceived need and the committee believes it is an actual need for those abroad, outside North America to be able to participate remotely. The committee passed this motion for 2017 if it was technologically possible but after consulting with the GSB and the Parliamentarian, it was discovered that a Charter amendment may be necessary to give voting rights and it cannot be done by 2017.

Motion #6 The WSC Conference and Technology committees jointly conduct and evaluate a small scale trial of remote participation in the 2018 World Service Conference by delegates outside of North America.

The motion comes from a committed and does not require a second.

Friendly amendment to change the date back to 2017.

Pro: This has been around for a long time. The Conference has been trying to find a way for people outside of the United States since at least 2012. It is my understanding that the main reason for changing it to 2018 comes from paragraph six of the Charter which says that the General Service Conference meetings will meet yearly in a location selected by the Conference, the site of the annual meeting will be selected yearly. The typical meaning of the word "meeting" is understood in the corporate world and in the parliamentary world to mean a face-to-face meeting. This Charter was adopted in 1994 and was last revised in 2007. I don't believe they meant to exclude things that were not anticipated that would become technologically available later. In the same way that the First Amendment only refers to freedom of the press but TV reporters are covered. The Fourth Amendment only refers to being safe from unreasonable search of our homes, persons and papers but cell phones are protected. I don't think it is up to the GSB and the Parliamentarian to decide what its own Charter means. This is why I

am making the friendly amendment. The Concepts refer to the Board's overall administrative and operational authority. There is nothing that gives the Board or the Parliamentarian over the Charter.

Con: I speak against this amendment for two reasons. First, I want to address some of the speakers. We the Board do not change the Charter. You the Conference has that authority. If the Charter requires changes, this will happen in 2017 and that is going to have to be a momentous decision. Secondly, this is a work of incredible scope and is going to require some very serious consideration. I think two years is an adequate time but I think to try to rush that we are going to be in trouble. There are anonymity issues. We need to consider this. We are the trustees of this Fellowship and we are part of the business meeting that conducts it. We all have the need to protect our Fellowship.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked the Parliamentarian to explain the parliamentary issues.

He said he was in complete agreement that the Conference interprets the Conference Charter. He explained that his experience is not just as a Parliamentarian but also as an attorney working for non-profits. He is a certified non-profit governance trainer. He is the immediate past Chair of the Bar Association Non-Profits Committee. He was involved with supervising and updating the *Model Non-profit Corporation Act*. The background regarding the word "meeting". Granted, the Conference is not a legal body and not governed by legal, but should be aware that in every legal context it says that a meeting is face-to-face unless otherwise specifically provided and there are reasons provided because each organization really needs to think through the different available technologies that make sense for it. For instance, other organizations don't have the anonymity concern that D.A. might have. There is no one size fits all and that is why that term "meeting" can be expanded but it needs to be a very much thoughtful expansion at least according to all the legal definitions in the non-profit context.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote on the friendly amendment to change the date from 2018 back to 2017. The motion failed to obtain substantial unanimity.

Discussion resumed on the original motion.

An amendment was made to add the phrase that “if video conferencing is used, no images of faces are to be transmitted”.

Pro: Just to be clear, they would only use Power Point and voice.

Con: If we are to uphold the idea of face-to-face communication, it seems to me that faces should be communicated.

The vote for the amendment failed to obtain substantial unanimity.

Discussion on the original motion was resumed.

Pro: I am in favor of the motion. This Fellowship is growing through its international participation, telephone participation and Internet participation. To exclude members internationally is to cut our own throats essentially. There are means of including as well as protecting anonymity. It is incumbent on this organization to focus its efforts on identifying those means, testing them and then launching them fully.

Con: I am passionately against this motion. I called Alcoholics Anonymous and they do not use remote viewing. Do we know how much money this will cost? Each one of these rooms would have to have state of the art equipment. I do this for a living and it costs a lot of money. We allow people to call in for meetings and it is so confusing, people cannot hear us, it is non-personal. If our father 12- Step group is not doing it, why are we doing it? Anonymity and so forth...

Question: The Chair of the Technology Committee asked, will we try to have a remote delegate in 2018?

Answer: Yes

Pro: Actually, the research has been done, it is very clear. You need to realize that we are asking to do a trial. We are not asking the Fellowship to go upside down and to change everything. We are just asking to enter several GSRs from France and Asia who would like to participate. You need to realize that the Fellowship is losing voices. These people have valuable things to offer to the Fellowship. It is kind of refusing new members which is absurd.

Don't be afraid, there is nothing to lose. There is no need to break anonymity. Technologically, it is very inexpensive. We have GSRs burning to be a part of the Fellowship. We are losing a great opportunity to do a trial. We don't say bring them in, let's open the door. Let's do a trial so they can start to build their own structure over there.

Con: We don't have enough information. When it has been brought up before, people have said, “Oh we can just use Skype or we can just do this or do that” but I am not sure if the full extent of the technology and the costs have been presented. I do not have enough information to vote affirmatively on this motion. I think more research needs to be done and hard numbers need to be sought and applied. As fiduciary responsibility of the Board, we need to make sure we have those numbers in place.

Con: I agree that there needs to be more research but I like the concept of having the international participation. I was just wondering, if there is a way to have a category for scholarships for the international as an intermediate way to bridge that gap.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. pointed out that there would be a difference in the cost if they are participating as voting members vs. non-voting members.

Pro: A Conference committee member said that they were trying to address issues for members who wanted to participate on committees at the conference as opposed to voting during the convocation. Voting may be part of the future but this would be a small scale trial. If people want more information and research, that is the purpose of a trial. To speak to the issue of cost, it costs thousands of dollars for people to come here from outside of North America so for us to say to spend some amount of money to make it possible for those groups outside of North America to participate seems very selfish.

Con: I am a fellow who has had their anonymity broken. It is a very uncomfortable experience to have your anonymity broken. Right now there is nothing in place to ensure that if someone is sitting in Paris in their living room and their husband or significant other or child walks into the room and I end up having a business meeting with the non-D.A. member the next week and have to deal with them

and I would rather they not know that I am a member of an anonymous fellowship.

Pro: Any project that is proposed has to have a spending plan and in this particular case with two years, it allows time to create a real spending plan, it allows people to study the Charter, which has been rolling with the A.A. Warranties which is how much attention it has been receiving in the last several years and for people to consider criteria. For example, this is open to people in areas where it would cost more than “x” amount to attend so this can be studied in detail.

Point of Order: In this conversation, the GSB Chair, Eileen N. said there was a vote or no vote if they come over. To be a member of the convocation, you must have a vote. Anyone on the screen would have to have a vote.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. said she was mistaken that there isn't anything in the motion about them having a vote or no vote. That will be part of the conversation.

Con: This causes me great pause. How do we decide who is the first person to do this? What country do we pick and choose from? Will we need a translator, which costs more money? That is all part of a spending plan. If we just say, we know someone who has been wanting to come that they are the ones that come, that is going to cause dissention. How do we do credentialing? This is very important for one man, one woman, one vote. This needs to happen but it needs to be done right the first time because if we do a trial, we will be doing it, if it all works. It is not like we can do a trial and a trial and a trial and a trial. Once we do a trial and it all works we will be doing it.

The time for discussion ended and The GSB Chair, Eileen N. called for a vote. The motion did not have substantial unanimity. 54 votes would be substantial unanimity and there were 52 votes.

Minority opinion was heard: All of the objections raised were valid, but I also think a two-year period can be used to work through the objections and to investigate this technology. If we don't investigate it then we will never have a clear opinion and/or a working knowledge to institute this. If you want to cut off any outside conference forever, that's fine, but if you think this might be a good idea and you

wish these committees to explore the idea, then let us explore it.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked if someone in the majority was willing to change their vote and if they would make a motion to reconsider. The motion was made and seconded. There was no more time for debate. A revote was taken on the original motion. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

International Caucus

- Chair: Andrea B.
- Vice Chair: Jean-Camille B.
- Secretary: Chris S.
- Treasurer: Susan L.
- Board Liaison: Dayton L.
- Members: Martha B-W., Jeanne F., Kelly L.

Andrea, the International Caucus Chair introduced the committee members.

The International Caucus was created by a 2011 WSC action. The caucus mission is to exchange information and develop initiatives to support the growth of D.A. internationally.

In pursuit of that mission, this year, we voted to focus our efforts on three areas where we see tremendous need:

- Translation of literature – spreading the message of D.A. is a critical way to grow a healthy and sustainable fellowship. The lack of conference approved literature in French, Spanish, Italian, Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese and other languages is a stark reminder of D.A.s youth as a 12-Step fellowship. Our global fellows want what we and English speaking countries have and are ready to collaborate in order to have it. Yesterday, during the conference call portion of Fellowship Day, those of us on the phones heard Jorge from Spain share that his group hired a translator and are listening as a group to the event. He went on to plead for literature translations in Spanish because and I quote, “our members are desperate to work the program and have solvency”.
- Remote access for GSRs and ISRs to the World Service Conference - Supporting the launch of remote access to the conference in order to

enable broader participation is critical for our global fellowship as well as our domestic fellowship to survive and thrive.

- New methods of sending payment and making 7th Tradition contributions - The International Caucus understands that those wishing to purchase literature or wishing to make a 7th Tradition contribution need better options than what is currently available. We intend to support existing efforts to identify the appropriate methods for transferring funds that no longer place additional burdens on our fellows

One additional special project we will pursue is the collection of stories from around the globe in order to expand awareness of the global recovery that this program is making possible.

All of these initiatives require working across committees. We look forward to partnering with BDA, Conference, Fellowship, Literature, HIP and Technology Committees as well as the Diversity Caucus and the Board committees throughout the coming year.

Fellowship Communications

- Chair: Mary Jane W.
- Vice Chair: D.V. "Bill" P.
- Secretary: Frances A.
- Treasurer: D.V. "Bill" P.
- Board Liaison: Michael A.
- Members: Ellie H.

Mary Jane, Chair of the Fellowship Communications committee gave the report. The four things we are focusing on are:

- Organizing 4 quarterly calls for the committee and caucus Chairs to promote excellent communication between the committees and caucuses. There will be a format for the quarterly conversations over the phone to ensure that we can connect with each other and the chair will be creating communication between the chairs
- Hosting a minimum of two world-wide conference calls. The first one is a ready-to-go call in the pipeline titled "Service Pays Well" and there are three dates submitted for

November. The second one will possibly on Sponsorship in January.

- There will be a continuation of last year's work for partnering stronger groups with groups that need support
- Address and create a survey among the phone meeting community to see what is needed to create strength and more 7th Tradition support of the greater community

Internal Operations Committee

- Chair: Alice K.
- Vice Chair: Ellen B.
- Secretary: Paul M.
- Treasurer: Franklin P.
- Board Liaison: Michalene R.,

Alice, the Chair of the Internal Operations (IOC) committee gave the report. She wished a Happy 40th anniversary to her D.A. family and stated that this is where it all happens. This is the history of D.A. in this room. This Internal Operations committee works with the office in Needham, MA. She introduced the committee members. She thanked those who came into the room and gave input even though they did not stay on the committee. They helped which was important.

Allen is the new manager and is the heart of the office. He came to the committee meetings and really wanted what the committee wants to do for him. She also thanked the board liaison Michalene.

The office may possibly move. They don't know where at this time. In October of 2017, the lease for the office is up. They may have a painting party at the office in October or November. They will work with the Board and the Board committees on the items in their binder for this year. A Policies and Procedures manual was started last year and will be continued this year.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated it was time for a 10-minute break and there were also general announcements.

If you don't need your Parliamentary books, please leave them for next year. They cost \$1.33 plus shipping.

Michael A. will email the motions to anyone who emails him.

Literature Committee

- Chair: Tom B.
- Vice Chair: Lolly A.
- Secretary: Jeff H.
- Treasurer: Maiya A.
- Board Liaison: Allen T.
- Committee Members: Amy O., Andrea B., Brandi M., Debbie L., Diana G., Gisela S., John C., Kelly L., Marysia H., Rae T.

Tom, the Literature Committee Chair brought forward a motion from the committee.

Background on this motion: This was an issue and concern that has come up several years regarding:

- The parentheses are incorrect grammar
- People have asked to remove the phrase “however humble”

The committee looked at these and decided that some corrections did need to be made but decided to leave the phrase “however humble” because people expressed that it helped them with their savings.

The current version of Tool 5 reads:

The spending plan puts our needs first and gives us clarity and balance in our spending. It includes categories for income, spending, debt payment and savings to help us build cash reserves, however humble. The income plan helps us focus on increasing our income. The debt payment category guides us in making realistic payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. Savings can include prudent reserve, retirement and special purchases.

The proposed version of Tool 5 is:

Motion #5

Motion to revise Tool 5: Spending Plan from *The Twelve Tools of Debtors Anonymous*
The spending plan puts our needs first and gives us clarity and balance to live within our means. It includes categories for income, spending, debt payment and savings. The income category helps us determine our resources and focus on increasing our income, as needed. The debt payment category guides us in making realistic

payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. The savings category helps us build cash reserves, however humble, and can include prudent reserve, retirement and special purchases.

There were a few changes made in the motion to revise Tool 5:

- The second reference to spending was removed from the first sentence. There is a nod to the third promise because a spending plan also includes income and spending.
- The text in parenthesis was deleted and moved to the last sentence so this would be easier to read aloud in meetings.
- The words “income plan” were replaced with “income category” because most of us had not heard “income plan” talked about in this program.
- Wording for increasing income was revised because not everyone who has a PRG needs to increase their income.
- The last sentence was rephrased for better grammar and easier reading.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated this is a change to recovery literature and normally follows a literature approval process so there would need to be a motion to set aside this process.

The normal process followed is:

- The Literature committee would bring a concept to this convocation to approve these changes
- Then they would work on an outline for a year
- This would go to Literature Publications to hire a writer
- There would be a series of drafts going back and forth between Lit Com, Lit Serv, and Lit Pub

A motion to set aside the normal process for recovery literature was made and seconded. There was an objection to the request for consensus. A vote was taken with clear substantial unanimity to set aside the normal recovery literature approval process.

The original motion to revise Tool 5 came from the Literature committee and does not require a second.

A request for a friendly amendment was made to change “as needed” to “if needed”. The friendly amendment was accepted.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for questions and discussion but there was none. The motion passed by general consensus.

The next motion regarding *A Word to Newcomers* was an issue and concern for many years that was brought to convocation last year and was amended to change “We” to “Debtors Anonymous” in the first sentence. The motion was then recommitted to the Literature committee and they worked on this again for a year. They were asked to look at the following:

- Specifying a time deadline put pressure on people and there are not always meetings available
- Drop the mention of a pressure relief group meeting in this statement

The current version of *A Word to Newcomers*:

If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place and Debtors Anonymous can help you. 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. If you then think D.A. is for you, you can arrange to have your first pressure relief meeting.

The proposed version of *A Word to Newcomers* is:

If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place and Debtors Anonymous can help you. We offer face-to-face, telephone, and internet meetings, and we suggest attending at least six meetings to have an opportunity to identify with the speakers and become familiar with D.A. before deciding if this program is for you. If you identify with some or all aspects of compulsive debting, we hope you will join us on the path of recovery and find the peace, joy and love that we have found in Debtors Anonymous.

- Adding that we offer face-to-face, telephone, and internet meetings informs the newcomers that we have a variety of meetings. Some of the

committee members stressed that face-to-face meetings should be emphasized over the other meetings but people who depend on phone meetings felt they should be equally stressed.

- The time deadline was removed because not only does it place a sense of urgency but it also places a sense of failure because most newcomers do not come back within two weeks, it seems we are setting them up for failure. We have had newcomers return a year later apologizing that they couldn’t meet the six meetings in two weeks’ suggestion.
- The reference to D.A. concepts was replaced because we have the D.A. Twelve Concepts for World Service.
- The reference to the pressure relief meeting was removed. Our experience, strength and hope is that the newcomer gets their first pressure relief meeting and leave. We are not a financial services program. Our purpose is not to provide financial advice.
- Adding a suggestion to get a sponsor and work the steps was considered but there is already a reference to these in the *12 Tools of Debtors Anonymous*.
- The last sentence was added and comes from the first edition Forward of *Currency of Hope*

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked if anyone had questions or discussion

Friendly amendment requested to change the following:

From: If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place. Debtors Anonymous can help you.

To: If you are having problems with money and/or debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place. Debtors Anonymous can help you.

The committee did not support the and/or amendment and does support the change to add a period at the end of place.

Also, a friendly amendment was made to change the following:

From: ...path of recovery to find the peace, love...

To: ... path of recovery and find the peace, love...

The committee did not support this friendly amendment.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. opened discussion on the motion as amended which reads as follows:

A Word to Newcomers

If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place. Debtors Anonymous can help you. We offer face-to-face, telephone, and internet meetings, and we suggest attending at least six meetings to have an opportunity to identify with the speakers and become familiar with D.A. before deciding if this program is for you. If you identify with some or all aspects of compulsive debting, we hope you will join us on the path of recovery and find the peace, joy and love that we have found in Debtors Anonymous.

Pro: The first speaker was at the Con microphone.

Con: I am no longer a debtor but I have problems with money and I am in support of including the amendment that was requested that states money and/or debt. I am included when the 'and/or' is in the statement. I am excluded with it removed. A person may have money addiction issues, vagueness around money and not be a debtor, but they belong in this program. I would like to make a motion to change the wording that was not supported by the Literature committee regarding money and/or debt. I don't know the parliamentary procedure for this.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated that discussion has started so a motion can be made now to amend.

A motion was made and seconded to change the following:

From: If you are having problems with money and debt...

To: If you are having problems with money and/or debt...

Pro: I think it is always better to be clear. Saying 'and/or' is inclusive and is also more clear. Some people have problems with money, some people

have problems with debt and they are all welcome in Debtors Anonymous.

Con: I appreciate the inclusivity but then we are drifting away from the primary purpose because we are excluding the debtor part and that is our unity and our primary purpose.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote on the amendment. The majority voted against. Motion did not pass.

Question: If there are grammatical or syntax errors, can the board correct them without the vote?

Answer: The statement would be compared to the style guide and any grammatical changes or anything that goes against the style guide would be changed without a vote.

Discussion was resumed on the original motion as amended.

There was concern that there were two different messages in the *Welcome to Debtors Anonymous vs. A Word to Newcomers*. A motion was made and seconded to have both statements read joy, clarity and serenity.

Second Motion to change the following:

From: ...find the peace, joy and love that we have found in Debtors Anonymous.

To: ...find the joy, clarity and serenity that we have found in Debtors Anonymous.

Pro: The words peace, joy and love speaks to me more like a wedding ceremony while joy, clarity and serenity speaks to my experience in Debtors Anonymous. This could become our "happy, joyous and free" if we get congruent and use the phrase over and over. I am for this change.

Con: Another word needs to be added. I am against the motion as it sits.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote on the amendment. The motion passed by substantial unanimity.

Discussion was resumed on the motion as amended.

A third motion to amend was made and seconded to change the following:

From: If you identify with some or all aspects of compulsive debting...

To: If you identify with some or all aspects of compulsive debting or money problems...

Pro: I am for it. I need qualifiers and I don't appreciate exclusion in any form. I know people who come into the program with plenty of money and have huge money problems. I think it would be an asset to include it so people don't feel left out.

Con: I am against this. It was said before in a previous motion that adding a lot of extra qualifiers distracts us from our primary purpose and I don't want to distract from our primary purpose.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote. The motion failed by substantial unanimity.

Discussion was resumed on the motion as amended.

A fourth motion to amend was made and seconded to change the following:

From: ...path of recovery and find the joy, clarity and serenity that we have found in Debtors Anonymous

To: ...path of recovery and find the joy, clarity, serenity and hope that we have found in Debtors Anonymous

Pro: I believe when we are speaking to newcomers our language can be a little bit different than when we are speaking to the fellowship as a whole. The thing I had the least when I came into D.A. was hope and I think this is relevant.

Con: I am against this because we just voted to change this to joy, clarity and serenity to align with the other reading so we already aligned those two things and if we change it, we have to go back again to that issue.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote. The motion failed by substantial unanimity.

Discussion was resumed on the motion as amended.

There is concern that face-to-face meetings are not emphasized enough in this new statement. There is a potential that numbers could drop. There are face-to-face meetings in New York that have closed, not necessarily due to internet or phone meetings but 7th Tradition contributions could be affected.

A fifth motion to amend was made and seconded to change the following:

From: We offer face-to-face, telephone, and internet meetings, and we suggest attending at least six meetings to have an opportunity to identify with the speakers and become familiar with D.A. before deciding if this program is for you.

To: We offer face-to-face meetings as well as telephone, and internet meetings for those without or limited access to face-to-face meetings. We suggest attending at least six meetings to have an opportunity to identify with the speakers and become familiar with D.A. before deciding if this program is for you.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote without discussion because of time constraints. The motion failed by substantial unanimity.

Discussion was resumed on the motion as amended.

Pro: I speak in favor of this motion as amended. The Literature committee spent countless hours on this. All of the suggestions are appreciated. This is going to be read at every meeting. Our main purpose was making the newcomer feel welcome. This is why we have the wording "if you identify with some or all". We want anyone walking into these rooms with our problem to feel included without offending or excluding anyone.

We realize there are many symptoms of this disease. An editorial comment. We wanted to make the last sentence different but the fellowship felt differently.

Con: I have a comment but not a motion. On that motion on the first sentence that if you are having problems with money and debt and the suggested amendment was if you have problems with aspects of compulsive debting or money problems was not

part of D.A. Money issues and debt are very closely tied together.

Pro: No others speaking in favor of the motion

Con: I don't know what the technical issues are that prevent the motion with all of the amendments from being show on the screen is today but we should be able to see it as amended.

There was a request to call the question.

The motion was read as amended:

A Word to Newcomers

If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place. Debtors Anonymous can help you. We offer face-to-face, telephone and internet meetings and we suggest attending at least six meetings to have an opportunity to identify with the speakers and become familiar with D.A. before deciding if this program is for you. If you identify some or all aspects of compulsive debting we hope you will join us on the path to recovery and find the joy, clarity and serenity that we have found in Debtors Anonymous.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote. The motion passed with substantial unanimity.

A request was made to have the changes made to meeting materials sent in digital format to the GSRs so they can get them to their groups.

Send an email to Michael A. and he will send them when we have them printed. They will be included in the report.

Public Information Committee

- Chair: Bob A.
- Vice Chair: Jill W.
- Secretary: Doug P.
- Treasurer: Barb S.

Bob introduced the PI Committee by sub-committee:

General Public sub-committee members are: Margi, Doug, Ed, Loretta, Dwight, Kristen, Jackie and Tim is their Chair.

Helping Professionals sub-committee members are: Doug, Jeanne, Maureen and Jill is their Chair

Media sub-committee members are: Janet, Susan, Sierra, Claudia and Patrick is their Chair

Together we make up our Fellowship at Large committee.

The PI Chair, Bob gave some highlights from the written committee report handed out to the delegates.

- The email address pi@debtorsanonymous.org now goes to Bob and to Bob D. the GSB PI Chair
- Also as a friendly cooperation, the email address for HIP hip@debtorsanonymous.org now goes to Bob and to Bev our World Service Chair.
- He thanked Sue F. who generously worked with the PI committee last year.

Background on the motion being presented is:

- To reflect changes being made to the PI manual such as change the word manual to handbook.
- Also, to assist Intergroups with creating PI Committees like the WSC has, the word regional in our statement of purpose was added.

Motion:

The WSC Public Information Committee (PI) moves that our statement of purpose be amended as follows:

From: 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 D.A. Fellowship as a tool for outreach efforts, and supports and trains PI representatives as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous.

To: 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 Handbook and other D.A. Service Literature available to the entire D.A. Fellowship as a tool for outreach efforts, and supports and trains regional PI Committees (PICs) and PI Representatives (PIRs) as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous.

The motion comes from the committee and does not require a seconded. The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked if anyone was opposed to approving this by general consensus. There were people opposed.

Con: A grammatical change from 12 Tradition to 12 Traditions.

Con: The Handbook is not yet approved by the board. I feel like that was left out.

Bob stated that the slide shows 12 Tradition and is a typo but the motion should read 12 Traditions. He also stated that this is a service material and they are six months into the process of approval which can take between 6 months and two years for approval. Recovery literature changes take up to 5 years. They have already been through multiple revisions and are hoping to get this out in the middle of the service year. That is why they are asking for this now, rather than waiting a full year.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a vote and the motion passed by substantial unanimity.

Bob asked that we trust our leaders here and throughout the service year to come and allow the leaders their voices as well. We had a difficult conversation in our PI committee. As the Chair, I was asked several times to just let it go. I would like to suggest that we allow our leaders to lead us. Ask them more questions rather than shutting them down if we don't like the details they are presenting. Let's be leaders among leaders and let's trust one another.

Resource Development Committee

- Chair: Amina Z.
- Vice Chair: Craig L.
- Secretary: Jeannine W.
- Treasurer: Linda Y.
- Members: Susan F., Chris S., Gail D., Chris A.

Amina, The RDC Chair, introduced the committee members.

We don't have any motions but we want to talk about what our mission is and what we are inspired to do this upcoming year. First and foremost, we recognize that there are significant problems with the fellowship as a whole receiving donations. I understand we are going to have a deficit of \$48,000 this upcoming year in 2017.

We want to make a clear connection for people to donate more and inspire people to give more service. We want to really make the connection that giving more and doing more service is going to save your life. I don't mean to sound dramatic, but how many of you feel like D.A. saved your life? This is a unanimous hand raising here. We don't see that fully. We want to make it very clear that when we give outside of our comfort zone, within our spending plan, and we step up to the plate and do service and focus on being self-supporting, it saves our lives. We want to create a culture and a dynamic that makes that very clear. That is our biggest mission. We are on fire to make that happen.

We have four main focuses.

- Revise the John H. scholarship letter. The goal is to have people donate more to that specific scholarship so we can bring more participants to the World Service Conference.
- Revise the annual appeal letter. Celebrating the birth of D.A. and offering people all sorts of opportunities to do service whether it is to give a PRG, donate, go to more meetings, call a newcomer
- Every Member Every Month, we want to triple the number of members giving every month. It is currently at 39. We can talk to our sponsors, look at our spending plans, use the electronic bill pay option. On page 40 in the Debtors Anonymous Manual of Service, there are instructions for setting up bill pay. The process is easy.
- Encourage members to become Appointed Committee Members (ACM) to help the Board of Directors. We need the volunteers.

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

- Chair: Curtis P.
- Vice Chair: Dechen L-L.
- Secretary: TBD
- Treasurer: Arthur G.

- Committee Members: Carol M., Cynthia B., Martha L., Jeanine C., Kieran K., Laura L., Martha B-W., Ellen S., Rob E., Susan A., Ellen S.

BDA committee chair Curt, owns a business. He introduced the committee members.

BDA reports to the Lit Pub committee. We focus on issues specific to members of D.A. who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own, operate businesses or to be self-employed. We also increase awareness and provide additional clarity to the D.A. fellowship as a whole as to the elements of debting that are unique to business owners and require dedicated resources for their recoveries.

Our 2016 mandate to facilitate the review and completion of previously approved BDA literature concepts in coordination with the Literature Committee and Lit Pub have two concepts that exist from last year. There were five originally and three were brought forward in the process and two that carry over to this year. The topics are:

- Clarity in business finance
- BDA - Detaching from difficult personalities

In our new mandate, we are going to develop new concepts for approval with the next World Service Conference and respond to our issues and concerns.

We have one recommendation. BDA Committee recommends that the GSB consider giving the highest priority to publishing the three approved BDA literature concepts: *Business Numbers*, *BDA Tools* and *BDA Annual Business Plan* submitted to Lit Pub Committee in the 2015 program year.

Our 2016 Actions:

- Provide guidance and content for GSB approved Clarity in business finance and BDA - Detaching from difficult personalities and move those concepts forward to Lit Pub.
 - We are also going to pilot a process using fellowship-wide conference calls to generate input from members on topics for development, articles and potential publications for BDA. We will do this by having our first fellowship-wide BDA conference call on a single topic with three BDA speakers with different backgrounds such as artists, people who have employees, international or others

like this. We will gather Q and A's during the conference call. We will also have a response mechanism for email response. We will put it on the web and solicit further input on that topic by email. Based on that input, we will decide if we want to do an article for the *D.A. Focus*. Based on that article and responses to it, we will examine whether it is worth a publication. We sincerely look forward to your questions, feedback and support.

Convocation Closes

End of Section

Report from The Chair

General Service Board Committee Reports

Audit Committee

Introduction

My name is Pat B., and I served as the Chairperson of the GSB Audit Committee during the past conference year. Also, serving with me on the committee was Allen T.

The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is overseeing: 1) the accounting and financial reporting processes of the GSB, and 2) the annual review or audit of the board's financial statements. In addition to these primary responsibilities, the committee also has oversight responsibility for selected GSB policies and internal controls, including, for example, the GSB's Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policies.

Regarding the annual financial statement review or audit, the committee is responsible for:

- *Engaging an independent Certified Public Accountant ("CPA") to perform the annual financial statement review or audit and to complete the board's federal and New York state tax returns.*
- *Ensuring that the Finance Committee and the CPA firm have developed a schedule that will allow the tax returns to be filed by our November 15 deadline.*
- *Reviewing all significant findings resulting from the review or audit with the CPA and the full Board.*

Specific Committee Actions

- *Based on the aforementioned charter, we completed the following actions during the year:*
- *Engaged Bailey, Carr, CPAs, an accounting firm located in New York State, to review our financial statements and complete our tax returns. This is the fourth year that we have used the services of this firm.*

- *Created an electronic Audit Committee Handbook, comprised of online storage of all policies and procedures for which the committee is responsible.*
- *Developed a CPA retention policy. Under the new policy, which was approved by the full board, the board will be required to seek competitive bids for CPA services every five years. In more simple terms, what this policy means is that at least every five years, the board will go back out to bid for its CPA services.*
- *Started an in-depth review of the board's insurance policies and coverages.*
- *Updated the committee's Composition, Scope, and Procedure document, following guidelines for non-profits published by the State of New York.*

2015-16 Audit Committee

Communications Committee (Com Com)

Members:

The 2015-2016 GSB Communications Committee included Michael A. (chair), Clay D. (secretary), Bob D., and Bill D.

Activities:

The Communications Committee (Com Com) facilitates information exchange between the General Service Board (GSB), the World Services Conference committees & caucuses, and the D.A. Fellowship. They oversee the content of the website and are also responsible for the approval and release of any eNews going out to the fellowship. The members are also responsible for both of D.A.'s publications, the Ways & Means®, The D.A. Focus, and for any updates to the D.A. Style Guide. The Communications Committee also publishes the WSC Final Report which includes that year's Issues & Concerns. One Com Com member is also liaison to the WSC Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC).

Liaison to FCC:

The Fellowship Communications Committee facilitates communication and promotes collaboration among the debtor who still suffers, the Debtors Anonymous membership, the World Service Conference committees and caucuses, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board.

A member of Com Com is of direct service to FCC for the entire conference year.

The D.A. Focus:

The D.A. Focus allows the GSB to directly share information with the D.A. Fellowship. By the 2016 WSC, the Committee will have published two issues of that newsletter.

Ways & Means:

The Ways & Means is the Fellowship's recovery newsletter with stories contributed by D.A. members around the world. The Committee did not publish an issue for 2015-2016.

eNews:

The eNews announcements help to connect the GSB and the WSC committees and caucuses to D.A. members. By the 2016 WSC, the Committee will have sent out ninety-seven eNews announcements and two on-line surveys. The announcements reached over 5,900 subscribers.

2015 WSC Final Report

The Committee compiled the following information from the 2015 WSC held in Portland, OR: 2014 WSC motions; convocation minutes; 2015 WSC motions and recommendations; reports from 2014-2015 WSC committees and caucuses; report from the GSB Chair; 2014-2015 GSB committee reports; the Finance Committee's annual report (2014-2015); 2015 WSC committee and caucus annual reports; 2015 WSC committee and caucus minutes; and responses to 2013 WSC recommendations.

The report was published in April 2016 and can be found here:

<http://debtorsanonymous.org/download/2015-wsc-report/?wpdmdl=1303>

Initial Content New Website:

D.A.'s new website debuted in January 2016. Com Com helped the Information Technology Committee transfer content from our previous website to the new one. Some content came up

missing or incomplete; the Committee helped replace the missing information.

Visit the D.A. website here:

<http://debtorsanonymous.org/>

Website Updates:

The Committee is responsible for the continuous upkeep of content on the D.A. website, including uploading, updating, and removing information. The Committee is also responsible for keeping the website format consistent by using the D.A. Style Guide.

In the short time since its debut, Com Com has made numerous changes and additions to the website.

Recommendations to the In-Coming Committee:

- Draft a Committee Handbook
- Access the full potential of the website:
- Conduct ink-on-paper tutorial for individual GSB members
- Create e-mail accounts for GSB members or GSB committees (name2017@debtorsanonymous.org)
- Add specialized pages for individual committees
- Add audio files of recovery stories or recordings of Fellowship-wide calls
- Consider adding an event page for local recovery events
- Maintain regular schedule for publishing newsletters

Gratitude

The members of the 2014-2015 Communications Committee are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the D.A. Fellowship.

Conference Support Committee (CSC)

The trustees on the 2015–16 Conference Support Committee (CSC) were Alexandra BW, chair; Sue F., secretary and techmaster extraordinaire; Eileen N.; and two of our newest trustees, Dayton L. and Jo Mc. The committee received reports on our monthly calls from Michael A., the liaison to the 2015 and 2016 Host Committees, and from Bob D., liaison to the 2017 Host Committee. Marcy E. served a three-year (plus) term as Appointed

Committee Member (ACM), and we thank her for her service to the committee and the Fellowship. A member of the CSC serves as liaison to the World Service Conference (WSC) Conference Committee.

The Conference Committee is primarily concerned with the planning and implementation of D.A.'s annual World Service Conference. CSC works closely with the WSC Conference Committee and supports the local Host Committee. In producing the WSC, CSC also works with other GSB committees, especially Legal Affairs, Finance, and Office.

First, I'd like to make an amend to the WSC Technology Committee. WSC Tech and the WSC Conference Committee collaborated on the "paperless binder" test, but only the Conference Committee is acknowledged in the registration packet.

Over the last several years, one of the priorities of the Conference Support Committee has been to look for ways to reduce costs to the delegates to the Conference in order to increase attendance. One of the lessons learned from a professional organizer was to identify locations that don't have their peak tourist season and prices in August, when we have the Conference. In addition, a multi-year commitment may reduce the increase in costs. The Committee also looks for a local D.A. community willing to be of service. We thank the Prosperity Intergroup and all the local D.A. members who have collaborated on the 2016 World Service Conference.

Here are some of the highlights of the Committee's 2015–16 Conference year:

- In response to the 2016 Host Committee's request, CSC cancelled a contract with one hotel and negotiated another contract, with this hotel, which is closer to the majority of Dallas-area meetings. Coincidentally, this hotel is where the 2009 WSC was held.
- In response to the 2015 WSC evaluations, CSC revised the Conference menu to reflect the range of delegates' dietary regimens. CSC thanks the Conference Committee for its contribution to this improvement.

- CSC restored on-line registrations.
- Collated the evaluations of the 2015 WSC. This year's survey will be on-line again, but last year's was on paper. The Committee thanks Marcy E. and Michael A. for their heavy lifting.

The Committee and the WSC Conference Committee are in the process of reconciling the language of the Conference Charter with the language of D.A.'s current service structure, for example, replacing "World Service Office" with "General Service Office." In addition, some of the language of the Charter's Warranties is still A.A.'s, rather than the D.A. version, adapted with permission, in the short form of Concept Twelve.

Information Technology Committee (IT)

Info Tech members: Bill J. (chair), Clay D., Jo Mc., Pat B. (secretary), (ACMs Jon L. and Chris R.)

In the 2015-2016 conference year we worked together with the Communications Committee, the GSO staff, and external vendors to complete and launch the new D.A. website.

We received much positive feedback, even as we were still adding content to the site. As of May 31, 2016, our website analytics revealed that since the new site went live, there have been more than 50,000 downloads, with the most popular being the 12 Steps downloaded over 2500 times. As well, 36,000 people in 149 countries have visited the site 75,000 times, creating almost 195,000 page views.

Plans for the second phase of the website include auto-update of group registrations, the expansion of search fields in "Find A Meeting" tab, and other items the GSB has identified. The two top future goals for the website are accepting debit card payments, and the electronic distribution of literature.

With our two ACMs rotating off the committee, we took special steps to ensure adequate knowledge transfer and to create a repository of information

so that future committee members can continue the work and address future issues. We are actively seeking new ACMs to join the Info Tech committee.

International Committee

Members

The 2015-2016 GSB International Committee included Michael A. (chair), Alexandra BW (secretary), and Dayton L.

Activities

Created in 2012, the GSB International Committee is charged with the outreach to and communication with D.A. groups and Intergroups outside the US. The International Committee has two principal areas of activity, coordinating translations and providing support for the service structures of Debtors Anonymous outside the US. The Committee occasionally works with other GSB committees and, through their GSB liaisons, WSC committees.

International Caucus Liaison

Created by action of the 2011 WSC, the International Caucus' mission is to exchange information and develop initiatives to support the growth of D.A. internationally.

A member of the International Committee is of direct service to the International Caucus for the entire conference year.

Supporting Service Structures outside the US

The International Committee offered its support to the blossoming service structures existing outside the US. The Committee members offered their experience, strength, and hope to the European Regional Intergroup (ERI) and the Asia-Pacific Intergroup (API) by attending their meetings via conference call. This year, conventions were held in Northern Italy and Bali, Indonesia.

The Committee is currently researching alternate payments systems for our Fellows outside the US for their Seventh Tradition contributions and literature order payments; the possibility of electronic literature to remove costly shipping fees for orders coming from outside the US; and the

feasibility of international licensing of D.A. literature to service structures outside the US.

With the help of Allan C. at the GSO and Peter G. (GSR), the Committee helped to connect a lone D.A. member in Costa Rica to other recovering debtors through the Group Sponsorship Program. We are also offering our support to a newly-formed D.A. meeting in Warsaw, Poland.

Translations

The International Committee finalized several pieces of D.A. literature that had been translated into Italian. That literature is now posted on the D.A. website. Other Italian translations and literature translated into Japanese are close to being finalized.

The Committee also worked on improving the logistics of translating our literature into languages other than English. The Committee gratefully accepted the assistance of the International Caucus.

Recommendations

- Draft a Committee Handbook
- Update D.A. History to include international growth
- Start the translation process of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts and the second edition of A currency of Hope
- Put Translation Policy in DAMS
- Continue in-process translations
- Continue outreach to international groups and Intergroups
- Continue supporting international groups and Intergroups
- Request recovery stories from international members for publishing in the Ways & Means

Gratitude

The members of the 2015-2016 International Committee are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the D.A. Fellowship.

Legal Committee

These year's committee members were: Eileen N, Chair; Michalene R, Secretary

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.

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:

- Responded to three Issues and Concerns. The result of one of these was a motion brought to the Board to remove the closing statement from our website and our literature. The statement was a plagiarized version of Al-Anon's closing statement. A eNews was sent to the groups, asking that they also discontinue using it and suggested they could replace it with a reading of the Tradition Twelve and the Twelve Promises. A letter of amends was also sent to the chair of Al-Anon's Board of Trustees.
- Received notice that we have retained the B.O.D.A. trademark. There is no plan to use the trademark, it simply allows us to protect the D.A. trademark.
- Completed the registration of Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc as a foreign corporation in MA.
- Responded negatively to requests for use of the D.A. logo. The first requester was referred to the PI manual for an approved announcement. The second requester was for translations that did not go through our translations process. They were referred to the GSB International Committee.
- Created a spreadsheet to more accurately track and protect our copyrights and trademarks.
- Applied for a copyright for the Twelve & Twelve & Twelve
- Applied for a copyright for the newly revised Underearners pamphlet.

- Updated the copyrights on exiting pamphlets where major revisions were made during the reprint process.
- Will be working with the Finance Committee to create a Privacy Policy for our Debit Card Only option for contributions and sales.

If you are interested, we are looking for an Appointed Committee Member to assist in our work. You can find more information about this on Debtorsanonymous.org under the "Open Service Positions" tab.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Respectfully submitted,
GSB Legal Affairs Committee

Literature Publications Committee (Lit Pub)

Introduction

My name is Allen T. and I had the pleasure of chairing the GSB Literature Publications Committee this past conference year. The committee, also referred to as Lit Pub, is responsible for the publication, revision, and reprinting of D.A. literature, including books and pamphlets, and other items such as bookmarks and newcomer packets.

Also, serving with me on the committee were trustees Bill J., Bill D., and Bob D., and appointed committee member Janet S., who joined the committee earlier this year.

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.

New Book—12&12&12

In terms of projects addressed this year, none could be more important than the publication of our Fellowship's new book, The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous. It is a huge accomplishment for any twelve-step fellowship to publish a "Twelve and Twelve," and I think our Fellowship has taken a big step forward with the release of this book.

The final conference approvals for the book occurred last year, when WSC 2015 approved the Traditions and the Foreword (the Steps had

previously been approved). With those approvals in hand, our committee then set about the tasks of identifying and interfacing with: a graphic designer who would create the layout for the book; two proofreaders, who would carefully review the approved text and the final print-ready layouts; and a printer.

We ended up using the same designer and printer that had worked on A Currency of Hope, Second Edition (ACOH2). We wanted the design and printing of the new book to be completed without any major problems, and felt that working with these known vendors was the best way to go. The board was very pleased with the work they had done on ACOH2, and we wanted the same level of quality for the 12&12&12. Additionally, from a financial standpoint, their quoted fees were reasonable and fit within our allocated reserves.

We worked through the design, proofreading, printing, and shipping processes, and the book was delivered to the General Service Office this past May. An announcement was posted on the D.A. website and several eNews announcements were immediately sent out. Sales began shortly thereafter.

Other Projects

In addition to our service efforts on the 12&12&12, our committee also addressed these literature projects during the past year:

- **Reprints.** We completed the following 11 pamphlet reprints:
 - Awareness
 - Business Debtors Anonymous
 - Debtors Anonymous
 - Monthly Recordkeeper
 - Pressure Relief Groups and Pressure Relief Meetings
 - Record Keeping
 - Recovery from Compulsive Spending
 - Spirituality
 - The Numbers: One Approach
 - The Twelve Steps of D.A.
 - Underearning

- **Literature projects ready for possible conference approval.** We moved the following pieces of literature through the conference-approved Literature Approval

Process. They are now ready for possible conference approval:

- BDA Signposts and Tool (new pamphlet)
- Recovery from Compulsive Spending (revision of existing pamphlet)

- **Literature projects still in the earlier stages of writing and editing.** These literature projects are in active development, but are not yet ready for conference approval:
 - Twelve Promises (new pamphlet)
 - BDA Numbers booklet (new pamphlet)
 - Anonymity (revision of existing pamphlet)

- **Literature projects that received no attention this year.** Due to the combined service load related to the above projects, we were not able to invest any time in the following projects:
 - Health Issues (new pamphlet)
 - Daily meditation book (new book).

Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

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

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 Recommendation the 2015-16 WSC PI Committee.

- Reviewed our Committee Composition, Scope, and Procedure.
- Acted as a liaison between the Board and the members of the local groups in Atlanta, GA. We attended the morning session of their Share a Day. Trustees acted as speakers for them and also participated in Q&A sessions for the members. This took place during the Board's winter Face-to-Face in January 2016.
- We are currently working with the Brookline, MA Intergroup to host a "Meet your GSB" when the GSB meets there in January 2017.
- Hosted four "Ask the GSB" phone forums: November 1st, Recap of the WSC, January 10th, The Seventh Tradition: it's not just about the money, March 13th, D.A. Literature, Copyrights and website, and May 22nd, D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts. There was a recording of the presenters from these calls that were made available for those who could not attend the call.
- We developed and dispersed a long timers survey. We can compare the information gathered to a previous survey to see how D.A. is changing.
- We supported the Intergroup Caucus' efforts to create a survey that was also approved and dispersed. This survey gathered information on the fellowships knowledge of Intergroups and also the best practices of existing Intergroups. We will also be examining the information obtained in the coming year to see how we can work with the Intergroup Caucus to grow regional Intergroups.
- We continue to receive quarterly reports from D.A.'s archivist. We also received the funding needed to bring him to the WSC this year to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Along with the archivist, there is a display of some of the items currently in our archives.
- 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 updated the Mission Statements from WSC HIP Committee and Diversity Caucus. There was a section of the GSB by-laws that was inadvertently left out of the 2015 version, this has been corrected. A reminder, there is a glossary at the end to help you make sense of the various acronyms you will hear tossed around this week.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Nominations Committee (Nom Com)

2015-16 Committee members were Pat B., chair, Alex B-W., and Michael A. secretary,

The GSB's Nominations Committee is normally composed of three or more voting members, Class A and Class B trustees appointed by the chairperson of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board (D.A. GSB). The committee meets monthly via conference calls, on Sundays assigned by the GSB chair, and in person at the two annual face-to-face meetings. The chairperson of the D.A. GSB is also an ex-officio (voting) member, if necessary.

The Nominations Committee is concerned primarily with identifying, developing, and nominating potential trustee candidates to the D.A. General Service Board (D.A. GSB), 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 candidates' letters of intent and materials and conducts officer elections at the GSB's face-to-face meeting before each 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 of the Corporation, including making minor housekeeping revisions as well as substantive revisions approved by the full Board.

The Nominations Committee wants to sincerely thank everyone who has worked so diligently to strengthen the General Service Board. The committee can only do so much, and it is because of the Fellowship's efforts, and willingness to serve, that Nom Com was able to recommend two Class A candidates, and one Class B candidate, which the GSB approved. Their names will be brought to Convocation for ratification at this Conference. The total number of trustees now serving you is at thirteen, with eight being Class A's and five being Class B's, with two Class A's and Class B rotating after the 2016 WSC. The committee continues to encourage applications from both Class A and Class B potential trustees, and to come up with best practices for recommending candidates for the Board. The committee also recommends that the Board continue to explore the financial and

practical consequences of approving one or more candidates from outside the U.S., pertaining to the international D.A. fellowship.

The committee discusses and recommends GSB trustee-training topics for both of the Board's face-to-face meetings, with the most current training session related to Risk Management. This topic addressed several areas, relating to the operations of the General Service Office and Board, plus sufficient insurance coverage to protect the assets of the D.A. Fellowship.

The committee reviews the NomCom "Composition, Scope, and Procedure" document annually, and makes modifications, as needed. If substantive changes are made, the revised document is forwarded to the GSB for approval. The committee also collects the "Composition, Scope, and Procedure" documents of all the GSB committees and retains them in the Trustee Manual.

Yours in service,

Pat Basinger, 2015–16 GSB Nominations
Committee Chair

Office Committee

Office Committee members: Bill J., Clay D. Michalene R.

During the 2015-2016 conference year, the Office Committee focused on supporting the office manager and ensuring that the most important work (processing donations and fulfilling literature orders) could be done more efficiently and effectively.

As part of those efforts we voted to combine the two approved part-time office positions into one, so that someone is onsite five days a week to assist the office manager. We oversaw the recruitment, interviewing, and hiring of that person.

We are also working with the WSC Internal Operations Committee (IOC) to make it easier for volunteers to support the office manager outside of regular business hours.

We supported the IOC's work of revising the office manual and flow chart of tasks, and assisted them to send E-News Blasts requesting that all D.A. groups, Intergroups and GSR area groups register with the General Service Office to ensure the database is complete and up to date.

Public Information Committee (PI)

The General Service Board (GSB) Public Information Committee (PI) focuses on public information outreach at national and international levels. The Committee also supports local PI activities, by ensuring that D.A. members, groups, and Intergroups have access to the materials necessary for PI outreach at the local and regional level. GSB PI ensures that media requests for information about D.A. or for interviews with D.A. members are responded to in a timely manner. When media coverage on D.A. does occur, GSB PI sends an acknowledgement to the media source that mentions D.A.

Serving on the committee this past conference year were: Sue F., Chairperson, Allen T., Secretary, and Bob D. Also, serving on GSB PI was Appointed Committee Member (ACM) Siobhan K., who joined the committee in June.

On the international PI front, the GSB approved the global distribution of a press release announcing the 40th Anniversary of Debtors Anonymous. On April 2nd, the press release was circulated worldwide in 18 languages. Within three days, the press release was picked up by 485 print, broadcast, and online media outlets. In addition to the U.S. and Canada, our release was viewed in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway, the UK, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece, Cameroon, South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand, China, Malaysia, and Japan. It's not clear how many still-suffering debtors were reached as a result of this initiative, but the board took the strongest action possible, in terms of press-release distribution.

Other activities addressed by GSB PI this year included:

- We reviewed and modified our committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure document.
- We organized and conducted a Media Contact

refresher training session prior to the distribution of the 40th anniversary press release. The intent of this training was to ensure that we had in place a core group of D.A. members trained to respond to media requests at the time of D.A.'s anniversary.

- Provided liaisons to the WSC PI Committee, the WSC Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Committee, and the Diversity Caucus.
- Sue F. served as the GSB PI liaison to the WSC PI committee. GSB PI reviewed and approved a number of World Service Conference (WSC) PI Committee initiatives, including:
 - The development of the 40th anniversary press release.
 - Revising the PI Contact Card.
 - Development of a Glossary of Terms.
 - Finalizing and placing online, the PI Starter Kit.
 - Hosting a PI booth at the Mental Health America annual conference.
 - Presenting two fellowship-wide conference calls on how to grow D.A.
- Bob D. served as liaison to the WSC HIP committee. GSB PI addressed one initiative of the WSC HIP Committee, the development of a HIP Starter Kit.
- We responded to two media requests for D.A. member participation. One request was from a TV talent manager in California, and the other was from a podcast producer in New York.
- We responded to an anonymity break of a member by a magazine.
- We welcomed Siobhan K. to the committee as an ACM.

This has been a tremendously dynamic and successful year for Debtors Anonymous Public Information. The achievements realized this year are a direct result of strong communication, the spirit of cooperation and genuine collaboration between the GSB PI committee, and the WSC PI and HIP committees.

Respectfully submitted,
2015-2016 GSB PI Committee

Report from the Finance Committee

My name is Alexandra BW, and I'm the chair of the Finance Committee and treasurer of Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc. The members of the Finance Committee are Michalene R., assistant treasurer, Eileen N., secretary, and I. DAGSB, Inc., is the not-for-profit corporation that

has the legal and fiduciary responsibility for the spiritual fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

By law, the treasurer of the corporation must give a financial report to its Board of Directors. (In the light of Tradition Two, we prefer to call ourselves trustees.) The annual World Service Conference is the occasion for this, and for all the trustees to present reports of our activities to the Fellowship, through all of you here today. This is also where we receive advice and guidance from the beloved Fellowship.

"It's about the money, and it's not about the money." That's what Eileen said when the Finance Committee was discussing the content of this report.

The Finance Committee meets monthly by teleconference and face-to-face twice a year. In this past Conference year, the treasurer and assistant treasurer have usually met by phone twice a month as well.

The committee provides regular financial reports to the General Service Board throughout the year.

A member of the committee serves as liaison between the World Service Conference (WSC) Resource Development Committee (RDC) and Finance.

A member of Finance goes to the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham and conducts an inventory of the literature. This is reconciled with the electronic inventory kept by our paid-professional accountant.

Finance answers questions from the Fellowship that are forwarded from the General Service Office.

The Committee works with the GSB Audit Committee to prepare and keep to a timetable necessary for meeting our tax obligations.

Finance collects the proposed expenditures of the GSB committees and prepares the yearly spending plan, which is presented to the General Service Board.

The treasurer and assistant treasurer pay the bills and taxes, watch over the bank accounts, and work with a bookkeeper and accountant.

The treasurer and assistant treasurer also administer the John H. Scholarship awards, which

are determined by a Host Committee subcommittee, with the participation of a member of the WSC Conference Committee.

The following are the major actions taken by Finance in this last Conference year:

- This was the first year of a Board project to receive longer-term WSC committee and caucus proposals and consider funding them. Finance reviewed one proposal from the Internal Operations Committee, which was funded, and three from Public Information, one of which was funded with WSC project money. Finance felt, and the Board agreed, that a second project, a worldwide press release announcing D.A.'s 40th anniversary, more appropriately came from the Board.
- We revived the debit-card-only project, working with the Legal Committee, which is preparing the necessary privacy and refund policies. This is part of a larger project to get our legal and fiduciary ducks in a row.
- Transfers between US and non-US banks can be very costly, adding to the burden carried by groups and Intergroups outside the US. With the help of international members, Finance has identified alternate payment methods to reduce these costs. The Board's part in communicating this information has to be guided by Traditions of non-affiliation.
- Finance prepared a document, "Guidelines for Financial Contributions," which provides guidance on the maximum acceptable contribution or bequest. This is \$5,000 per year from any one member of Debtors Anonymous and a single bequest for that amount, also from a D.A. member. In the spirit of Tradition Seven, the D.A. GSB don't accept outside contributions.

Before we go to the numbers, I'd like to share our vision, which is to have two Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). One would help prepare the reports, and the other might help determine the financial picture of licensing Intergroups outside the US to publish literature.

Finance Report continues on the next page.

INCOME		
	2016	2015
GROUPS	\$38,408.71	\$48,502.03
INDIVIDUALS	\$43,479.16	\$39,197.18
LITERATURE NET PROFIT	\$75,158.54	\$53,252.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$157,046.41	\$140,951.71

Notes:

Contributions:

Group contributions are down about \$10,000 relative to last year. This could be due to either smaller groups or the release of new literature producing a dip in contributions.

Individual contributions are up about \$4,200. This continues a trend of increasing individual contributions.

Literature:

In the past three years, we've published three books: *A Currency of Hope*, second edition; *The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous*; and "The Twelves." It's too soon to evaluate the sales of "The Twelves," but we can assume a cumulative effect of sales of the first two.

MAJOR EXPENSES		
	2016	2015
OFFICE	\$80,670.93	\$46,031.69
BOARD	\$22,506.62	\$24,996.60
OTHER	\$61,316.96	\$46,191.03
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$164,494.51	\$117,219.32

Notes

Office:

The new Office Manager began working at the end of FY15, so the increase in the office expense is due to a year's salary. A part-time employee began work at the office in May, and her salary will be more evident in FY 17.

Board:

The Board's expenses, primarily for face-to-face meetings, remained nearly the same.

Other:

The bulk of the increase was made up of \$9,000, a one-time expenditure for the 40th Anniversary worldwide press release.

The table below doesn't show World Service Conference or John H. Scholarship figures. These are pass-through costs: any "profit" goes into the John H. Scholarship Fund, while any loss is absorbed by the GSB.

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.		
Profit and Loss		
July 2015 - June 2016		
	Total	
	Jul 2015 - Jun 2016	Jul 2014 - Jun 2015 (PY)
Income		
Conference Related Income	953.00	
Literature Sales	(24.00)	
Audio Visual	82.00	104.00
Books	55,826.91	32,384.32
Pamphlets	30,264.81	31,582.74
Shipping	12,779.35	9,963.86
Total Literature Sales	\$99,882.07	\$74,034.92
Member Contributions		
Groups	38,408.71	48,502.03
Individuals	43,479.16	39,197.18
World Service Month	375.00	188.07
Total Member Contributions	\$82,262.87	\$87,887.28
Sales of Product Income		(65.75)
z Interest	853.85	938.33
Total Income	\$183,951.79	\$162,794.78
Cost of Goods Sold		
Audio Visual Duplication	343.17	46.15
Book Production and Printing	8,328.60	4,647.73
Inventory Shrinkage	29.43	150.49
Pamphlet Production and Printing	13,008.67	14,486.74
Shipping & Postage	1,426.00	1,201.77
Shipping Supplies	301.49	203.39
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$23,437.36	\$20,736.27
Gross Profit	\$160,514.43	\$142,058.51
Expenses		
Archival Expense	1,318.14	1,531.36
Bank Charges	385.69	812.29
Board Related Expenses	103.14	
Lodging	4,055.15	8,959.67
Per Diem & Meals	6,144.29	6,595.56
Travel	10,878.75	7,910.01
Z. Other	7.15	
Total Board Related Expenses	\$21,188.48	\$23,465.24
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	555.20	
Bookkeeping Services	15,181.25	10,648.75
CPA - Tax and Review Services	3,850.00	4,731.25
Legal Services	290.00	5,064.14
Total Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	\$19,876.45	\$20,444.14
Depreciation & Amortization	908.72	908.72
Equipment Purchases	559.95	

Fraudulent Charges	34.99	
Insurance	1,698.98	1,890.14
Internet	230.87	225.89
John H. Scholarship Expense	3,592.29	
Licenses, Permits & Regulatory Fees	560.00	400.00
Office Expense	3,334.95	3,731.43
Office Related Expenses		
Manager Search Expenses		5,317.17
Payroll		
Salary & Hourly Wages	61,569.00	25,819.48
Taxes - Soc Sec Medicare Futa Suta	5,534.66	2,892.14
Total Payroll	\$67,103.66	\$28,711.62
Payroll Service Fees	1,285.64	1,040.51
Rent & Real Estate Taxes	11,224.26	10,358.50
Training and Development	329.55	
Utilities	727.82	603.89
Total Office Related Expenses	\$80,670.93	\$46,031.69
Outreach Expense	9,890.62	1,160.97
Postage	13,742.15	12,208.95
Printing and Copying	410.94	886.49
Telecommunications	3,318.01	2,804.24
To Be Coded	49.99	
Trademark Registration & Renewal	465.00	
Translation Services		240.00
Uncategorized Expense	91.91	
Uncategorized Expenses	(88.74)	
WSC Committee & Caucus Expense	2,254.19	477.77
Total Expenses	\$164,494.51	\$117,219.32
Net Operating Income	\$(3,980.08)	\$24,839.19

End of Section

World Service Conference Committee Minutes

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee (BDA)

August 11, 2016

BDA-is covered in Lit Pub BSB Committee

- Matthew
- Carol
- Ellen
- Arthur
- Kieran
- Curt
- Jeanine
- Rob
- Cynthia
- Dechen
- Bill Durham GSB Liason
- Susan
- Laura

Chair Curtis reelected chair for next year

Vice-Chair-Arthur

Secretary-TBD

Treasurer-Martha L.

Scribe-Cynthia

Laura-Time Keeper-Ad Hoc

Literature Concepts that have been approved by
GSB

Dealing with Difficult Personalities

Clarity in Business Finance

Literature Concepts We'd Like to Work On

Spiritual Marketing

Artist Literature

Other Priorities

BDA Fellowship Conference Call

Typical Agenda for Monthly Calls

Curt referred to Tab 5-Page 1 to 3 from Binder

Arthur made a Motion to Not read the BDA

Statement of Purpose at our monthly at our

monthly committee meeting. Matt Second. 4 in

favor-8 against; Motion Defeated

Arthur made a motion to read only the tradition of

the month and not all of the traditions. Jeanine

second. Motion passed: 8-2

Dechen made a motion to that we read Tradition 1
& Tradition of the Month. Ellen second. 6-6 Curt
broke the tie and motion was defeated.

Issues & Concerns 2016

16-12 BDA Stories-Rob, Martha, Jeanine

16-13 Definition of Business-Matt, Laura, Pat

A Dropbox Link will be sent for literature in the
works, minutes and agendas.

Clarity in Business-There is a very rough working
draft and Arthur will be point person

Dealing with Difficult Personalities – There are
only a few notes. This will need to be written.

We changed Spiritual Marketing to:

Spiritual Approach to Growing Your Business

That means: practice principles in our business,
find moral compass, it's for both BDA Beginner's
and BDA members, practice these principles in all
your affairs.

Growing your business, the BDA way

Spiritual checks and balances

Support and Integrity

We recommend the following process be followed
by the BDA Committee for all new literature
concepts in development:

Step 1. BDA conference calls 3 - 10 min speakers
(variety of BDA backgrounds, followed by Q&A

-How can BDA Com help members understand the
spiritual aspect? Is it worthy of writing an article?

Step 2. From the info gathered in the phone call
we would then write an article in DA Focus. Was

the article sufficient or should we initiate the
concept for a pamphlet and have approved at next
WSC?

Step 3. Write up the concept for the pamphlet as a
motion with member input and committee input
attached.

Try approach in early in year

Committee motion to have a fellowship wide BDA
conference call about spiritual approaches to
growing your business: Arthur second Unanimous
9 in Favor.

Committee Minutes from 8/12/16

- Laura
- Sue
- Curtis-Chair
- Jeanine
- Kiernan
- Martha L

- Martha B
- Carol
- Rob
- Arthur
- Dechen-Vice-Chair
- Cynthia
- Ellen

13 people- Bill-Trustee

Curt asked each individual to give their name, what group they were from and asked each person what they want from being on the BDA committee.

Matt stepped down as Vice-Chair and Dechen was unanimously accepted as Vice-Chair

Timing for Monthly Committee Call
Committee telephone call-3rd Sunday of the Month; 1pm Pacific Time, 2pm Mountain Time, 3pm Central Time 4pm EST-Looking at whether the call can be recorded or not for those who miss the call or want to listen to it again.
September 18th is the first meeting. Dechen will not be able to make September 18th

Review of Goals for Year:
Initiate the process for Spiritual Approaches toward Growing Your Business Conference Call with possible follow up opportunities to be assessed after the first call.
Step 1: BDA Conference Call/s Fellowship wide
Step 2: Article in DA Focus-
Step 3: Pamphlet

Recommendation to Prioritize Approved Literature Concepts

Bill Trustee said Signposts & Tools; Numbers Approach; Spiritual Business Plan are in the works.

Touch base about closing statement; Discussion of closing statement; Is there a need for a BDA closing statement? After Curt touched base with other committee chairs, this action was deferred.

Other Possible Topics for Future Conference Calls/Literature Development
Discussion of self-employment and streams of income;
Lateness and procrastination;
Time management;
Multiple/variable streams of income;
Transition to self-employment;

We should use the word “Resources” instead of “Plans”
BDA Sponsorship

Overview of 2015-2016 Literature submitted by BDA Committee
Curt explained how last year’s committee framed their approach to writing the literature and read the 3 pamphlets to the group-BDA Numbers, BDA Annual Business Plan and BDA Tools

Issues and Concerns: 16-12 – assigned to subcommittee of Rob, Martha & Jeannine
Subcommittee members will read stories in the current edition of “Currency of Hope” and determine which ones incorporate BDA focus and concepts. They will then write up a recommended response for the September meeting that the group will review and/or approve

Issue and Concern 16-13 Definition of “Business”
We discussed BDA Tool 1 -Keep Separate Professional Personal Finance Records
Sub-committee members working on this issue to report back September Committee Meeting: Lara and Kieran

Prioritizing Future Topics for the Phone Conference(s)-there was a vote and Arthur tallied the vote-the lowest number actually was the top selected topic to work on.

- Multiple Streams of Income 44 votes
- Time Management Tools-Time Spending/Resources 53 Votes
- Transition to Self-Employment 52
- Self-Deprivation/Self-care 52
- BDA Sponsorship 56
- Artist Literature 64
- Spiritual Approaches to Growing Your Business 20 – Highest priority

September 18 Agenda will include:

Serenity Prayer

Tradition of the Month

Issues and Concerns-Report from Subcommittees
Discussing Conference Call with the idea of trying to have our Conference call about Approaches to Growing Your Business during the 1st quarter of 2018

Meeting Adjourned.

Conference Committee

August 11, 2016

Afternoon Meeting

Present: Michael, Mike, Jessiline, Harmony, Anne, Annie, Jean Camille, Michael, JoAnne (liaison), and Sue F. (liaison trainer)

Officers chosen: Mike L., chair; Jessiline, vice chair; Jean-Camille, treasurer.

Agreements on Procedures/Etiquette

Order of meeting: serenity prayer at beginning and end of meeting, reading of one tradition or all (chair's discretion, based on length of agenda), approval or revision of minutes. The chair will print agreements on what the Committee Starter Kit calls procedure and etiquette, as well as the Conference Committee statement of purpose, in the agenda.

Agreements for phone meetings:

- The chair will distribute the agenda ahead of the call
- Members agree to read previous meeting minutes, agenda for current meeting, and any supporting documents before the meeting
- Members will wait for recognition by the chair before speaking
- Mute when not talking
- State name before speaking
- Don't repeat what's already been said
- We will have clear motions and votes but not strictly follow Robert's Rules in handling discussion, in an effort to seek consensus. The chair will generally go around the virtual room for opinions from all in turn.

Evening Meeting

Present: As above, minus Anne, plus Kathleen (shopping). Kathleen participated in part of our discussions but did not stay through the meeting or sign the roster.

Decision-Making on Motions

A motion was made to take to Convocation motions that pass our committee by simple majority. We will solicit an expression of minority opinion after the committee vote. Passed 3-1.

Recommendations of 2015-16 Committee

1. Census of Committees as They Form

Motion to bring the following motion to Convocation:

1) That the duties of the WSC Conference Committee be expanded to include the following task:

The Conference Committee will arrange for a volunteer (who may or may not be a member of the committee) to look in on each WSC committee meeting, shortly after the beginning of its initial 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.

and

2) 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."

Motion carried 4-0, with 1 abstention.

2. Evaluating and Continuing Trial of Digital Binder
Motion to bring the following motion to Convocation:

For the Tech and Conference Committee to continue and expand the digital binder trial up to no more than 50 participants during the 2017 WSC, after evaluating the results of this year's trial.

Passed unanimously.

Noted during discussion: some people didn't sign up to try it because it wasn't clear they would receive a paper copy as well.

3. Archiving of Committee Work

Motion to bring the following motion to Convocation:

That from now on, committee and caucus chairs are responsible for maintaining a binder, to be passed on to the next chair, containing current and past final committee reports, subcommittee reports (or other documents for bringing the incoming committee up to speed on work carried on during the year but not completed), and any other material that would assist the committee in carrying on its work in an effective way.

If the appropriate bodies of the Fellowship develop a centralized digital repository for all such reports, accessible through DebtorsAnonymous.org, that repository is to be used for this purpose. Committees may consider it advisable to maintain a paper copy as well.

The Conference requests the Board to include this information on chairs' responsibilities in both the "Committee Starter Kit" section of the WSC delegates' binder and the DAMS.
Passed unanimously.

4. Further Study of Committees' Ability to Bring Work to Fruition
Passed over for now as requiring no further action before Convocation.

Regular Meeting Time
Second Thursday of the month, 7:00 Central/5:00 Pacific
Plan for tomorrow:
Take up, in this order, proposals for: caucus on underearning, trial of remote participation, and action plan for the year.

Liaison Item
Sue informed us that the GSB would be making a recommendation, to be referred to the CC, that Convocation be held all day Saturday and Fellowship Day be held on Sunday. She explained that the committee would have authority to make this change on its own because Fellowship Day is not actually a part of the WSC.

August 12, 2016

Morning Meeting
Present: Mike, Jessiline, Harmony, Annie, Jean Camille, Michael, JoAnne (liaison) (for part of meeting)
Yesterday's minutes approved as corrected

Continued Discussion of Motions Recommended by 2015-16 Committee

5. Caucus on Healthy Earning
Motion to present a motion to Convocation (as first amended):

That the Convocation form a Caucus on Healthy Earning that will support the fellowship as a whole in gaining clarity, understanding, and tools to address the ways that underearning cripples debting sobriety and that the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous make possible sustainable sobriety through healthy earning.
Motion carried 3–2.
Mo. to reconsider made. Motion carried.
Friendly amendment accepted. Motion carried 4-1 as amended:

That the Convocation form a Caucus on Spiritually Sustainable Earning that will support the fellowship as a whole in gaining clarity, understanding, and tools to address the ways that underearning cripples debting sobriety and can be relieved through the 12 steps of Debtors Anonymous.

Afternoon Session

Present: Jean-Camille, Harmony, Annie, Jessiline, Mike, Michael, Anne

6. Trial of Remote Participation by Distant Delegates
Motion to present a motion to Convocation:

That the WSC Conference and Technology Committees jointly conduct and evaluate a small-scale trial of remote participation in the 2017 World Service Conference by delegates from outside North America. This is to be done in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and, if appropriate, the WSC International Caucus, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and/or the GSB International Committee, and with due regard for issues such as protecting attendees' anonymity, credentialing of remote participants, ensuring their greatest possible participation, and any need that might be determined to exist to amend the charter. If video conferencing technology is used, no images of faces are to be transmitted.

Passed 5-0, 1 abstention.
Reconsidering Motion Regarding Digital Binder
A representative from the WSC Tech Committee joined us to tell us that Tech is recommending that the digital version of the conference binder be available to all who request it next year.
Motion to reconsider the motion passed previously concerning this issue. Passed unanimously.
New version:

For the Tech and Conference Committees to expand the digital binder trial during the 2017 WSC, making a digital version of the binder available to all delegates, after evaluating the results of this year's trial.
Passed unanimously.
Board Liaison please note: Anne (Host Committee liaison): It would be helpful if CSC puts on the registration form boxes to indicate not only whether people want digital binders, but whether or not they also want hard copy. That will permit preparing only the necessary number of binders.

Resumed Discussion on Remote Participation

Motion offered: The chair may, if necessary, state to the Conference Chair and the parliamentarian that we are willing to work with them during the year on any perceived need to propose a charter amendment.

Motion carried 4-0, with one abstention.

Other recommendations from the previous CC will be taken up during the year.

Issue and Concern That Might Call for Attention Before Convocation

We took up I/C 16–11, a recommendation that, for continuity of committee work, GSRs and ISRs who are unable to attend a WSC but are willing to continue working on a committee on which they have been working be permitted to do so.

Motion to defer action until we can discuss it during the year.

Motion carries 3-1, with one abstention.

I/C 16-25, concerning gender-neutral “readings.”

Motion:

Seek to have this referred to Literature Committee, not us. Passed 4-0, 1 abstention.

Unprioritized Action List

- Recommendation #4 from last year’s CC
- Respond to all Issues and Concerns referred to us
- Study how to better integrate phone and intergroup meetings into the WSC
- Continue exploring solutions to better staffing committees of the conference
- Work with CSC on making sure that problems with making online WSC registration payments continue to be addressed
- Study the advisability and practicality of sending final committee reports to incoming delegates in advance of the WSC
- Recommendation #7 from last year’s CC

We agreed to hold off prioritizing these until after Convocation.

6. Committee/Caucus Issues and Concerns Resolutions

Most committees and caucuses receive some agenda items from the fellowship to work on at Conference. Here is where you will record the outcome of your discussion about those agenda items. Some items may be outside issues, or have no resolution at this time. It’s OK to put “no action taken” or “action deferred until further discussion after conference,” if your committee thinks that is

appropriate. This information will be published and sent to the groups, so please think about the groups and members who may have sent in these items. Add more lines and pages as needed. Please put only one item per line.

Committee:

Issue Number & Resolution

16-03	action deferred for further discussion
16-04	action deferred for further discussion
16-05	action deferred for further discussion
16-06	action deferred for further discussion
16-07	action deferred for further discussion
16-09	action deferred for further discussion
16-11	action deferred for further discussion
16-14	action deferred for further discussion
16-15	action deferred for further discussion
16-16	action deferred for further discussion
16-24	action deferred for further discussion
16-25	recommend referring to LitCom
16-29	action deferred for further discussion
16-30	action deferred for further discussion
16-31	action deferred for further discussion

Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

First order of business:

Elected committee officers

Agreed to work on the following recommendations from last year:

- Continue to organize and facilitate WSC Committee/Caucus Chair calls.
- Continue to host fellowship-wide calls. Including “Service Pays Well” call
- Continue to publicize Group Sponsorship service
- Elect a member to serve as G-Sponsorship Coordinator
- Continue to build a list of D.A. groups or intergroups that are willing to sponsor newer, less experienced groups or intergroups.
- Work with Intergroup Committee to encourage intergroups to create a new service position of G-sponsorship coordinator
- Continue to discuss and explore the needs of phone and online groups in regard to protocol, communications, and 7th Traditions.

Agreed to work on the following concerns for 2016 – 2017:

- Get proposed dates for “Service Pays Well” conference call to Michael (Board Liaison)
- Work on creating a worldwide conference call (workshop) regarding Sponsorship
- Select dates for Committee Chair calls
- Work on board recommendation of events page on the D.A. Website

August 11 and August 12, 2016

Opened the meeting at 3:30 PM with the Serenity Prayer.

Chair: Mary Jane W.

Vice Chair & Treasurer: D.V. “Bill” P.

Secretary: Frances A.

Member: Ellie H.

Board Liason: Michael A.

As an FCC group, we acknowledge the great work that was done by the previous Fellowship Communication Committee.

We reviewed all past year’s recommendations along with issues and concerns from 2015-2016 as a reference.

We decided to move forward on the following actions for FCC 2016-2017 in order of the most pressing issues.

- We are organizing 4 quarterly calls for committee and caucus chairs. Our focus is to have chairs of committees connect with each other, stay informed of work in process, avoid duplication, and optimize energy. One of our focuses is to create an efficient format so that each chair has the resources they need in order to move forward with their project.
- We will host a minimum of two world-wide conference calls. The first call is ready to go, “Service Pays Well; the hidden benefits of taking on a service commitment in DA”. It’s a conference call with three speakers which will happen in November and will be publicized in E-Blasts and as an event on the D.A. Webpage. The second world-wide conference call will be on the topic of Sponsorship with the hope of hosting that call-in January 2017.
- The FCC is committed to increasing the awareness of G-Sponsorship. So that smaller, struggling groups can gain strength from larger groups & D.A. can be strengthened.

- We have on our agenda to address phone meetings and discuss how to strengthen their participation including 7th Step Tradition participation. We discussed using a survey to get more information from the phone meeting community.

During our meeting time, we submitted to the GSB, dates for the upcoming world-wide conference call, Service Pays Well.

Also, Ellie agreed to be G-Sponsorship Coordinator for the FCC committee.

Issue 16-32 a set policy for “companion pets” at DA Meetings. The FCC discussed this issue and decided that it is an outside issue. Specifically relating to Tradition Ten which states that “D.A. has no opinion on outside issues...”

The board had one request of the FCC which was to create guidelines for an events page on the D.A. Webpage where local groups can post events. FCC voted against working on this issue. Stating that we felt it is more of an intergroup issue, wherein intergroups can post their events on their individual websites to promote support.

Our meeting schedule is to meet the second Sunday of every month with the exclusion of January which will meet on the third Sunday (1/15/2017) at the following time at 1:00 PM Central Time Zone (11:00 AM Pacific Time Zone, 12:00 PM Mountain Time Zone)

Our group worked well together. And I’m looking forward to the 2016-2017 FCC year and excited for upcoming projects.

Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons

Committee (HIP)

8/12/16

The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Conference Committee had no Issues or Concerns, Recommendations or Motions this year.

Our plans for the coming year include completing the edits of the HIP Starter Kit with the goal of sending it to the board for approval as a service document. The Starter Kit is a working document of resources, best practices, and “how to’s” when reaching out to people in HIP systems. It was

started last year in collaboration with the Public Information committee, particularly Bob A. Thank you, Bob A.! We look forward to continued collaboration with PI on this wonderful service tool! We want to thank last year's Committee members for their work on the Starter Kit and their continued support.

Other items in our action plan for the year include:

- Working on expanding the HIP Service Manual
- Raising awareness of HIP service worldwide, starting locally. This includes looking into the feasibility of holding a DA-wide HIP Fellowship day. We look forward to cooperating with all committees and caucuses, in particular with the Diversity and International Caucuses wherever our purposes intersect.

The rest of our actions and service will be in our individual geographic areas:

- Houston area: Marcy: (treasurer) women's shelters, students, half- way houses
- Philadelphia area: Sarah: (secretary) contacting bankers, other professionals, women's shelters and prisons
- Los Angeles area: Naomi: (timer) community leaders and mental health professionals
- Chicago area: Bev: (chair) hospitals and treatment centers
- Annapolis: Jane: (co-chair) clergy, veterans' organizations
- Northern Virginia: Patricia: women's prisons, homeless shelters
- Los Angeles area: Kathleen: hospitals, treatment centers

We also want thank our Board Liaison, Bob D, for his invaluable experience.

Other discussion: We will meet the first Thursday of each month for one hour beginning at 9pm Eastern.

Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Call to order 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Alice K
Paul M
Franklin P
Martha
Sue

Janet
Allan C (Office Manager)
Michalene – Board Liaison

Opening - Serenity prayer.

1. Michalene read the WSC Committee Starter Kit to section B on page 2.
2. Elected officers
 - a. Alice – Chair
 - b. Paul - Vice Chair
 - c. Martha – Secretary
 - d. Franklin – Treasurer
 - e. Spiritual time keeper – Sue
3. Chair asked for volunteer to be committee scribe, Paul volunteered.
4. Discussion about time keeping and chose to have a time keeper, Sue volunteered.
5. Discussion about use of procedures and etiquette guidelines at Tab 5, page 3. We agreed to all examples but one (“mute when not talking” changed to “mute at request of Chair”)
6. Issues and Concerns
 - a. Issue & Concern 16-20: How could we buy approved literature in Spanish from the DA world service in USA and what would be the procedure? This came from Group # 1585 DA Solvencia Skype Spain. After discussion and input from Allan C we developed the following recommendation: The requesting group would download the order form from the DA website and order the one pamphlet that is currently available in Spanish. Allan C would then refer this matter to the International Committee.
7. Reviewed 7 recommendations from IOC 2015-2016 in Tab 1, page 14b.
 - a. Combined recommendations 1 and 5 and revised # 5.
 - b. Combined recommendations 2 and 4

Motion to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. seconded and passed, and ended with Serenity Prayer.

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Call to order 6:45 p.m.

Attendees:

Alice K - Chair
Paul M – Vice Chair
Franklin P - Treasurer
Martha - Secretary
Ellen B

Michalene R – Board Liaison

Opening - Serenity prayer.

1. Worked more on recommendations from IOC 2015-2016.
2. Discussed issue from one committee member about on-line payment capability on DA website. This is in process with Board Finance Committee. Decided that Michalene and concerned member would discuss this outside the committee meeting.
3. Decided to keep all recommendations from IOC 2015-2016 and decided to combine some and re-word some.
4. Set priorities for all recommendations.
5. Chair asked if there were any other issues and concerns from committee members to be placed on agenda. Members said no additional agenda items needed.

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed at 8:45 p.m. Closed with serenity prayer.

Friday, August 12, 2016

Call to order 8:45 a.m.,

Attendees: (Martha resigned her position as Secretary. Paul volunteered to replace Martha as secretary and Ellen volunteered to be Vice Chair)

Alice – Chair

Ellen B – Vice Chair

Paul M – Secretary

Franklin P - Treasurer

Michalene – Board Liaison

Opening - Serenity prayer.

1. Support the GSO committee in streamlining office efficiency:
 - a. Schedule DA volunteers and IOC committee members to complete a makeover of the General Service Office in Needham, MA
 - i. Spending plan + action plan1.
Measure existing office and create as-built floor plan
 - ii. Create publicity flyer to recruit volunteers from New England area for weekend duty – include request for professional office organizer
 - iii. Move furniture and equipment out
 - iv. Clean
 - v. Paint
 - vi. Professional carpet cleaning

vii. Move furniture and equipment back in – re-assemble and re-organize for office efficiency

2. Complete writing a GSO policies and procedures manual to include a detailed flowchart of:
 - a. Activities
 - b. Key milestone dates
 - c. Completion dates
3. Help support GSO staff with local volunteers
4. Implement system for annual registration update and support on-line automation of this function
 - a. Encourage all DA meetings to register with GS
 - i. Telephone
 - ii. Internet
 - iii. Face-to-Face
 - iv. Hybrid (combination)
5. Continue to investigate moving the General Service Office from Needham, MA to a new centralized location.

Motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 12:00 noon. Closed with serenity prayer.

Friday, August 12, 2016

Call to order 1:15 p.m.

Attendees:

Alice – Chair

Ellen B – Vice Chair

Paul M – Secretary

Franklin P - Treasurer

Michalene – Board Liaison (absent)

Opening - Serenity prayer.

1. Reviewed and worked on final draft of priorities for upcoming year.
2. Reviewed and edited minutes for previous sessions of this committee.
3. Set time for monthly meeting.
 - a. IOC committee meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 5:45-6:45 p.m. pacific time
 - b. IOC task meeting will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month 5:45-6:45 p.m. pacific time
 - c. Call in number: 605-475-4120 code 8762746
 - d. Confirmed meeting time with Michalene.
4. Discussed with Michalene:

- a. Requested a copy of the GSO lease in Needham, MA.

Motion to adjourn seconded and passed at 3:07 p.

Literature Committee (LIT)

Board Liaison Allen T. opened meeting.
Tom B. elected Chair unanimously.
Lolly A. elected co-chair unanimously.
Jeff H. elected Recording Secretary unanimously.
Maiya A. elected Treasurer unanimously.
Other members present: Amy O., Andrea B., Brandi M., Debbie L., Diana G., Gisela S., John C., Kelly L., Marysia H., Rae T.

Issues & Concerns

16-08: Must create Step Study first.
16-18: Consensus that Committee doesn't support removing underearning – must respond by 12/1/16.
16-27: Created Basic Text last year as a guide – Board now has it.

LITCOM Motions & Recommendations

“Outside Issues”: Kelly moved, Marysia seconded, friendly amendment by Maiya. Passed 12-0-0.

“Incurring Unsecured Debt”: Marysia moved, Maiya seconded, friendly amendment by Andrea. Passed 10-0-2.

“Welcome to D.A.”: Gisela moved, Kelly seconded. Passed 11-0-1.

“A Word to Newcomers”: Kelly moved, Debbie seconded. Passed 8-3-1, but after minority opinion given re-vote failed 3-9-1. After discussion, Maiya moved, Kelly seconded, friendly amendments by Diana, Maiya, Andrea. Passed 11-0-0.

“Compulsive Spending Pamphlet”: Kelly moved, Gisela seconded. Passed 7-3-2, but after minority opinion given re-vote failed 7-6 on tie breaker from Chair.

“Revise Tool 5: Spending Plan”: Kelly moved, Amy seconded. Passed 11-0-0.

“Tradition 11 Update”: Maiya moved, Brandi seconded. Passed 7-5-0, but after much discussion to change wording re-vote passed 10-1-1.

New Projects

Master List of all ideas and results of interest vote:

Step Study Guide 12-0-0
Compulsive Spending Pamphlet 10-0-2
Daily Meditations 10-1-1
Closing Statement 10-1-1
Stories for Basic Text 9-0-3
Beginners Format 9-0-3
Diversity Pamphlet 8-2-2
Tradition 11 Update 5-2-5 re-vote 8-0-4
Slogan Pamphlet 6-0-6
Sponsorship Made Simple 6-4-2
3rd & 7th Step Prayer Bookmark 5-1-6
Newcomer Booklet & BDA 4-2-6
Daily Journal with Quotes 3-2-7
Deprivation Pamphlet 3-2-7
Money & Shame 3-4-5
Fixed Income Pamphlet 2-3-7
Social Roles & Debting 2-4-6
Long Timers & Success Pamphlet 2-7-3
4th Step add Financial Inventory 1-4-7
Prayers Literature 1-5-6

Projects assigned to Sub-Committees:

Step Study Guide: Point: Brandi, Members: Marysia, Tom, Amy, Kelly, Gisela, Lolly
Compulsive Spending Pamphlet: Keep in Committee
Daily Meditations: Point: Rae, Members: Lolly, John, Maiya, Debbie, Kelly
Closing Statement: Point: Maiya, Members: Andrea, John, Marysia, Jeff
Stories for Basic Text: Point (intl): Andrea, Point (dem): Kelly, Members: Diana, Brandi
Beginners Meeting Format: Point: Amy, Members: Tom, Debbie
Diversity Pamphlet: Point: Diana, Members: John, Rae
Tradition 11 Update: Keep in Committee

Recurring Meeting

Beginning in September, the full Committee will call in at 5pm Pacific, 6pm Mountain, 7pm Central, 8pm Eastern time on the third Sunday of every month. Sub-Committee Points will set up times for their separate calls.

Public Information Committee (PI)

Thursday, August 11, 2016 — 3:30pm to 5pm

Board liaison, Sharon S, started the meeting and we elected committee officers.

Reviewed chair's proposed agenda together, will decide to accept or not after dinner.

Discussed pros and cons of two approaches to developing action plans and subcommittees —

- Brainstorm possible action items as a full committee, decide on priorities or importance, cluster into logical groupings, and develop subcommittees based on the selected action items. This is the way we chose subcommittees in 2015.
- Create three subcommittees based directly on the WSC PI statement of purpose and develop action plans accordingly:
 - Helping professionals (with PIPE included)
 - Media (traditional and social)
 - General public
 - ...in this model Fellowship at large would be handled by the full committee and led by the chair.

Will decide on subcommittee report after dinner.

Thursday, August 11, 2016 — 6:45pm to 8:45pm

Committee accepted proposed agenda for this and the next two sessions.

Created three subcommittees based directly on the WSC PI statement of purpose:

- Helping professionals (including PIPE) — Jill (Chair), Maureen, Doug, Jeanne, and Barb
- Media (traditional and social) — Patrick (Chair), Sierra, Claudia, Janet, and Susan
- General public — Tim (Chair), Ed (Vice Chair), Loretta (Secretary), Kristen, Dwight, Margi, Jackie
- ...Fellowship at large will be handled by the full WSC PI committee and led by Bob.

Broke into subcommittees to brainstorm subcommittee action plans for the year. The actions we propose and select should lead us to answers to the following questions related to each of the subcommittees above. As a committee, our overall goal this year is to investigate:

- Who, exactly, are we trying to carry the message to in each of our audiences and the organizations within them?
- What, exactly, do we need to provide or contribute toward each of our audiences' needs to become a trusted and well-remembered resource?
- Where, exactly, is the best place to start our outreach in each of these audiences and the organizations within them?
- When, exactly, is the best time to reach these audiences — time of day, time of week, time of month, time of year — and the organizations within them?
- Why, exactly, should these audiences be interested in our message and the voluntary services we provide to compulsive debtors like us?
- How, exactly, can we reach the still-suffering debtor through each of these audiences?

Re-joined as a full committee to answer the following questions:

- How is the brainstorming going? **Very well.**
- Do we need to re-frame any or all of our subcommittees? **No.**
- Any problems we need to address sooner rather than later? **No.**

One minute check ins from all committee members focused on supporting 1st year GSRs and ISRs.

- 1st years — How are you feeling?
- 2nd year or more — What do you know now, that you wish you had known at this point in your first year at WSC?

Friday, August 12, 2016 — 1:15pm to 4:45pm

Created our motion for convocation regarding minor changes to the PI Committee statement of purpose:

The WSC Public Information Committee (PI) moves that our statement of purpose be amended from:

- "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 D.A. Fellowship as a tool for outreach efforts, and supports and trains PI representatives as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous.”

To:

“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 Handbook and other D.A. Service Literature available to the entire D.A. Fellowship as a tool for outreach efforts, and supports and trains regional PI Committees (PICs) and PI Representatives (PIRs) as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous.”

Finalized subcommittee action plans for this year:

General Public, with individual areas of passion or interest

- Jackie, 12 step meetings, places, locations, bulletin boards, making connections
- Loretta, create interfacing with other 12-step members
- Kristen, research hospitals, collaborative 12 step events, display D.A. literature at community colleges
- Margi, contact Libraries-Librarians as a resource and expand into other public places
- Dwight, Atlanta treatment centers and V.A. in eastern U.S.
- Ed, contact churches and inter faith alliances supply literature explaining what D.A. is and how it can help their members
- Tim, places of last resort, pawn shops, payday lenders

Friday, August 12, 2016 — 1:15pm to 4:45pm — continued

Helping professionals

- Create a spending plan for subcommittee’s first choice national PIPE event and present for review and approval on our September call

- Submit a spending plan to GSB for \$500 to print 20,000 contact cards at GSO’s cost (via Vistaprint) and work with GSO to get bundles of 500 or 1,000 free cards sent to every North American intergroup. Provide Intergroups with info on how to best use the cards, including suggestions for where, when, and to whom to distribute them.
- Regional outreach and presentations within individual areas of passion or interest:
 - Jill, Therapists
 - Maureen, Clergy
 - Jeanne, Banking and credit counseling centers
 - Barb, helping organizations and associations
 - Doug, V.A. in western U.S.
- Send conference approved letter from PI manual to Indiana Medical Association, United way, Indiana Psychological Association
- Possible collaboration with Media subcommittee producing a short video

Media

- #1 Patrick, Susan, and Janet — Invite other websites to link to D.A. North America and to D.A. U.K.
- #2 Claudia and Sierra — Create a spending plan for an animated short film, 3-5 minutes, that best depicts D.A. to the masses. (Likely collaboration with Helping Professionals subcommittee.)
- #3 Sierra and Patrick — Explore pathway to guidelines for safe social media as it relates to D.A.

Friday, August 12, 2016 — 1:15pm to 4:45pm — continued

Finalized full committee action plans for this year:

Fellowship at Large

- Complete planning, preparation, and execution of PI interactive training sessions for all D.A. members.
- Continue to maintain the online storage account started by the 2015 WSC PI Committee for record keeping and sharing of documents within the WSC PI Committee, including subcommittees. Bob will get everyone setup,

and Jill will manage / monitor dropbox for this year.

- Complete work related to the approval of the PI Tear-Off Flyers.
- Complete work on new D.A. Public Information Handbook following guidance of GSB PI. The title of the document is “Sharing Debtors Anonymous: Public Information Handbook for D.A. Members.”

Set conference call guidelines based on tab 5 of our WSC binders:

- Chair distributes an agenda five days ahead of the call (and needs input from subcommittee chairs a day or two before that)
- Everyone agrees to read previous meeting minutes, agenda for current meeting and any supporting documents (for example, motions to be voted on) before the meeting
- Let the call leader lead the call
- Start and end each meeting with the Serenity Prayer
- Read aloud the committee’s statement of purpose at the beginning of every call
- Read aloud the introduction to the Twelve Traditions, the Tradition of the month, the introduction to the Twelve Concepts, and the Concept 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
- Wait for others who haven’t shared yet to speak before speaking again
- No more than two pro and two against for each motion, before the vote
- Stay positive

Friday, August 12, 2016 — 1:15pm to 4:45pm — continued

Agreed to use a group email address hosted by Puget Sound Intergroup — wscpi@pugetsoundda.org. Subcommittees will let Bob know if they want their own group email addresses.

Set a few email guidelines:

- When using the email address above, every committee member (18 plus our board liaison) will receive every email. Please consider if

that’s really the audience you need to reach before hitting send.

- Everyone will try to remember to use “WSC PI –” in the subject lines of all emails sent to the full committee.
- Everyone will try to respond to all WSC PI emails within one week. This is intended to help all of us avoid procrastination.

We had a lengthy, energetic, and passionate discussion about the potential to create a vision or slogan or war cry for presentation to the fellowship at convocation, such as:

- “20,000 D.A. Members by WSC 2020”
- “Vision 20/20” (and “Vision 20/20: 20,000 by 2020”)
- “If We Share It, They Will Come”
- “Dial Up D.A.”
- “Double D.A.!”
- ... and a possible motivational phrase for our members: “We invite the Fellowship to join us in setting an intention of 20,000 D.A. members by 2020.”
- After our own mini-convocation, including expression of a minority opinion and a re-vote rescinding a popular decision — WSC PI declined the idea of creating a vision or slogan or war cry for this year. (“Let’s Grow D.A.!” didn’t fly last year either. Maybe third time will be the charm ... ?)

Discussed individual commitments to make direct outreach contacts based on passion areas, regional locations, and time availability. 10 of us committed to making one PI-related outreach call each week.

- A commitment of one PI/outreach call per week = 50 per year x 10 WSC PI members
 - = 500 direct PI/outreach contacts committed between now and WSC 2017
 - We will work to help and support one another in this effort.

Brief (one-minute) personal check ins at wrap-up. Yay, us!

Resource Development Committee (RDC)

Our first order of business was to nominate and elect the following, to serve as trusted servants, of the RDC:

Chairwoman: Amina
Vice Chairman: Craig L.
Secretary: Jeannine W.
Treasurer: Linda Y.

We initially discussed how to procedurally conduct our monthly phone meetings. We'll devote our first five minutes of the call to discussing the assigned chapter of the DAMS.

Regular work RDC projects are twofold: we update the John H. letter for groups to annually apply for the John H. scholarships and updating the April Annual Appeal letter. In the past, updating these two letters basically consists of only changing the dates to reflect the current year's deadlines. Chris A. proposed the intriguing idea of possibly expanding on the John H. letter, by having a second John H. letter which would be for international use. The RDC will have to "run this idea" by the Board for possible discussion. He also suggested that the RDC might want to partner with PI to develop spending plans.

Susan suggested that the RDC try to find out how much money the Annual Appeal letter generates. Perhaps Alexandra can approach the Board for more clarification. She also led some interesting discussion about the need to have clarity around having financial goals, citing that only 39 out of about 5000 people in D.A. make regular financial contributions (totaling \$5,000 to \$10,000) every month. Craig said we should develop ways to increase the amount of people who contribute.

We will want to do more special work about developing a vision to create more revenue raising. Emphasizing the spiritual principal of giving out of one's abundance, rather than being in scarcity, may result in developing regular pledges. Maybe we could do something as simple as passing around the basket, not once but twice, during a meeting to raise funds.

We'd like to continue using the "Every Member, Every Month," and the "Double Your Dollar and Thrive with Five" slogans, which were successfully implemented in the past. Maybe we could prepare paper "tent-like" configurations, to place on our meeting tables. Our model is similar to what the

Alanon people do at their meetings. On these "tents," we'd type the above slogans to encourage people to give more, during the 7th tradition.

Our RDC members all agreed to commit to making monthly contributions to the WSO fund. We can then suggest, at meetings, that folks consider doing the same. Maybe, at some point, every conference attendee could also commit to making monthly contributions. There has been a lot of talk at recent conferences about D.A. creating and generating a debit pay system. Eventually, this debit payment form will, hopefully, be put into place, for our use.

We could also read some language from page 29 of the DAMS during our meetings, to increase revenue. We ask that people consider the fact that the individual member needs D.A. more than D.A. needs any particular person, to motivate folks to be more generous. Speaking of the DAMS, why don't we urge meetings to perhaps read from the DAMS at every meeting and possibly have meeting topics include DAMS-related text.

We discussed about developing some creative ways to encourage individuals to serve. How about going around the room, at a meeting, and asking people what type of service they can do, and would be willing to perform. Jeannine suggested the time-honored practice of D.A. sponsors encouraging their sponsees to take on D.A. related work.

We could also incorporate a "We Care" list, to circulate around the meeting room. People could write in their names, contact information, and check the appropriate "boxes" on the form, if they would be willing to be sponsors and/or to give PRG's.

We then ambitiously tackled a common problem: how to delicately encourage people to stay at the business meetings. Changing the time of the monthly business meeting to either being at the beginning at the meeting, or during half time, were mentioned.

Chris S. noted that earlier in the conference, there was much talk about ACM's. Evidentially, not much is actually known about, first of all, what an ACM actually is, and what are their functions. How about possibly having a Fellowship-wide phone call, to discuss this? We could ask participating ACM's to give their ESH during the call. (Last year, the RDC hosted two very successful Fellowship-

wide phone calls.) Please see page 150 of the DAMS for more information about ACM's.

One of the last items of business was to discuss production of an RDC skit during Fellowship Day on Saturday night.

Does the RDC want to make any motions to the Fellowship, as a whole? We will probably pass on this idea, as we've never done so in the past. However, at last year's conference, the RDC did make three recommendations.

We then discussed which ones of us on the RDC signed up to establish the bank information, for donation purposes. Because time is so important for us, as D.A. members who are challenged by time debting, we, as a Committee, commit to being precise about time, during our work together. As it relates to some other agenda items, we'll now again discuss Tab 5, page 3. Chris A. suggests that we consider asking any other committee or caucus for possible mutual collaboration. He is on the Diversity Caucus and, specifically, wonders how the RDC can incorporate any topics addressing diversity issues. Amina mentions possible collaboration with the PI to encourage diversity. Susan asked how we can increase diversity. Specifically, she quoted the percentage of 20% of our D.A. conference is male. Therefore, how can we possibly encourage more men to join D.A.? Let's explore that issue!

There was discussion surrounding the financial review: is this review available to the membership at large? Will it be appropriate to have this information included in the annual treasurer's report to the Conference? We will then discuss this with Alexandra, our Board liaison, to determine any and all further steps to be taken.

Gail mentioned that she was excited that there are more RDC members this year, than in the preceding year. Can we, as a Fellowship, "keep up this pace" and continue to help increase the number of D.A.'ers? We are hoping to do so!

We can make the recommendation Here's the work we'll be doing during the upcoming year:

- Review and update the John H. scholarship letter (deadline driven project).
- Review and update the April annual appeal letter (deadline driven project). We are the primary committee that inspires our D.A.

members to give more generously to help the still suffering debtors.

- "Every member, every month." This committee will be making it very clear to the entire membership, through various methods (to be created) how your individual to D.A. relates to your individual recovery.
- Encourage more D.A. members to become ACM's to support Board committee work.
- Use some catchy slogans, such as "Every Member, Every Month" and "Double Your Dollar" and "Thrive with Five." Creating and distributing a one page flyer, or a "tent" with language designed to encourage people to be financially generous with contributions. All of the RDC members have already committed to make our own monthly financial contributions.
- Group solvency service development and encouraging more people to consider becoming an ACM.
- We will produce one or more Fellowship wide phone calls. One possible topic would be ACM's giving their experience, strength and hope.
- More coordination with our treasurer and the PI committee to help them fund their respective activities.
- Suggest all GSR's and ISR's make monthly financial contributions in your spending plans.
- Ask the GSO to send out copies of the John H. letter and the Annual Appeals letter with all literature orders.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jeannine W.
(202) 483-6676.

Technology Committee (TECH)

8/11/16 6:45pm

Attendance: Tom W (chair), Kermie, Ivy (secretary), Matt P (treasurer/scribe), Clayton (Trustee/advisor)

Positions

- Chair: Tom W
- Treasurer/scribe: Matt P
- Secretary: Ivy
- Vice Chair: TBD

Monthly calls

- Chair distributes an agenda ahead of the call
- In the body of the email and attached as a PDF

- Everyone agrees to read previous meeting minutes, agenda for current meeting and any supporting documents (for example, motions to be voted on) before the meeting.
 - Let the call leader lead the call
 - Start and end each meeting with the Serenity Prayer
 - Read aloud the committee's statement of purpose at the beginning of every call
 - p 77 of Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service
 - Read aloud the Twelve Traditions at the beginning of every call
 - Mute when not talking
 - State name before speaking
 - Chair acknowledges member speaking
 - Don't repeat what's already been said
 - Wait for others who haven't shared yet to speak before speaking again
 - No more than two pro and two against for each motion, before the vote
 - No swearing during meetings

Agenda Items for 2016-2017 year

Electronic Binders

- Benefits
 - Searchable
 - Efficient
 - Sustainable
 - Easy to transport/light weight
 - Can use on multiple devices (smart phones, tablets, laptops)
 - Saves money
 - Easier for archive purposes
 - Easier to read (can increase font size)
 - Easier to correct mistakes
 - Better for last minute changes
- Testimonials

8/12/16 8:45am

Attendance: Tom W (chair), Kermie (vice chair), Ivy (secretary), Matt P (treasurer), Clayton (Trustee/advisor)

- Recommendation(s) to conference to be motioned
 - Initial motion:
"We make a motion to recommend to the conference that the digital binder be available in PDF form on DA website with

- print copies available by request on registration form."
- Kermie makes a motion that we make the following recommendation
"The Technology Committee recommends to the Conference Committee that the 2017 World Service Digital Binder be available to all delegates for the 2017 World Service Conference. The Technology Committee will be available to offer assistance in implementing this recommendation."
- Matt P seconded the motion
- No objections so motion carried
- Secretary reread motion on as written on Technology WSC-2016 Committee Caucus Report
- Matt made a motion to send recommendation to COM COM
- Motion seconded by Kermie
- Motion passed unanimously
- Concepts of the motion
- Make digital binder available to all attendees of 2017 WSC
- Via email or download
- Issues can't go public because of security issues
- 2017 World Service Conference digital binder be available to all conference delegates via conference server in technology room at the Annual World Service Conference.
- The chair (Tom W) will present the recommendation to the conference committee
- Informally will present recommendation verbally to the chair as a courtesy
- Kermie feels the chair can make decision on own if so chooses
- Chair will make an informal recommendation prior to convocation

Meeting conduct

- Cross talk in meetings
- When you respond address the committee as a whole not the individual
- Meeting Day and time
- 3rd Wednesdays of month at 8pm with first meeting being September 21
- Phone number: and code:

8/12/16 1:15pm

Attendance: Tom W (chair), Kermie (vice chair), Ivy (secretary), Matt P (treasurer), Clayton

(Trustee/advisor)

- Survey
 - Completed surveys: 12
 - Q1 Devices used:
 - Laptops: apple (4), windows (2)
 - Smartphones : iPhone (6), android (2)
 - Tablets: Android (1), iPad (3), Kindle (1)
 - Q2 Were files openable: 12 yes
 - Q3 Were all materials viewable: 12 yes
 - Q4 Useful tool: 8 yes and 1 no
 - Q5 Digital only option: 8 responded as yes
- Changes to recommendation based on Conference Committee meeting
 - Background: Need to change wordage to suggest that this is a trial not a permanent change
 - Conference committee first wanted the digital binder to be limited to 50 delegates
 - Conference committee upon seeing survey results
 - Tom W revised the recommendation as follows
“The Technology Committee recommends to the Conference Committee to expand the Digital Binder trial to all delegates at the 2017 World Service Conference. The Technology Committee will be available to offer assistance in implementing this recommendation.”
 - Ivy made a motion to accept the change to recommendation
 - Motion seconded
 - Motion passed unanimously

New Business

- Technology Committee’s availability to help the Conference Committee implement International delegates participation virtually
 - Kermie suggested that we need to know the guidelines proposed from the Conference Committee before the Technology Committee agrees to helping the Conference Committee
 - Due to issues with anonymity and the history of kick back this might not be the best use of the technology committee’s time (Matt)
 - Motion made to support CON COM for teleconferencing for international delegates
 - Motion passed

Prospective projects for 2016/2017 year
DA apps
Translation tools and devices for conference
Possible languages: Spanish, French, German
Possibly responsibility of International Caucus
Possible DA bulletin board with info, employment info, etc
International translation of website and/or separate landing pages
Links to international intergroup
Tech Comm have its own computer
Digital numbers pamphlet file and/or digital spending plan
Survey of technology usage by fellowship

End of Section

World Service Conference Caucus Minutes

Diversity Caucus

- The Diversity Caucus will continue to research and create guidelines on best practices to foster diversity. In an effort to maintain consistent formats and congruency, the Diversity Caucus will actively collaborate with both the Public Information and Hospitals, Institutions, and Prison committees to leverage the work they have done in developing a starter kit.
 - Develop a starter kit
- Diversity stories – call for member stories
 - Fellowship-wide calls
 - Written stories for local newsletters
 - Group sponsorship meetings
 - Phone and online meetings
 - Hybrid meetings
 - Men
 - LGBT
 - Earners (high/med/low)
 - HIV+ / AIDS
 - Health Status
- Partner with the Literature Committee to explore opportunities to for literature related to diversity, which includes men and artists

- Research/update DA meetings/membership database information
 - Who's represented? Who's missing?

Intergroup Caucus

Wednesday (9:00 – 10:00)

In Attendance: Paul, Bob, Amina, Bill, Jeannine, Kelly, Curt, Jackie, and Mary Jane

- Opened with the serenity prayer and a reading of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
- We voted on positions. (See p. 1)
- Unfinished Business – We mentioned the following topics.
- Last year's caucus' recommendations:
 1. Continue to monitor and turn over to the new IG Caucus the release and promotion of the IG Service Handbook. This fantastic resource for Intergroups will help IGs from large to small to reach their fullest potential. Planning is already in place that the first 10 pages be included in the DAMS 2017. This recommendation includes the use of the Interactive Training materials that accompany the Handbook.
 2. Recommend the GSB share the IG Caucus survey results and how we can grow IGs and DA with other Committees and Caucuses. There may be new ideas to grow DA that develop from answers to the survey.
 3. Support the development of a webpage for the Intergroup Caucus for awareness and distribution of this literature. This will also facilitate the location of Intergroups. As requested last year, a button or reference to this location on the DA page is needed.
 4. It has been suggested several times we have a Q&A session 30 minutes before or after the IG Caucus meeting. It was also recommended individual IGs implement this.
- Suggestions from current members:
 1. Provide 6 fellowship wide interactive training calls over the Intergroup Handbook.
 2. Discuss the transition from a caucus to a committee.

3. Obtain results from the Intergroup survey from 5 years ago and compare the results to this year's survey results. (NOTE: This year's survey was composed from scratch and there might not be similar questions to compare. Is it more appropriate to explore how we create institutional memory and the archiving process?)
4. Explore growth of DA, particularly as it pertains to intergroups. How do we define growth for intergroups? That is, how do we know which regional intergroup a particular group should join, if there is one? (Some intergroups cover a state or several states. Sometimes a state has several intergroups. Could we get or create a map of territories?) What do the bylaws say?

Thursday (2:15 – 3:15)

In Attendance: Jackie, Curt, Bob, Maureen, Franklin, Paul, Jeannine, Amina, and Mary Jane
Opened with the serenity prayer.

Action Plan (Unfinished Business)

1. Intergroup Service Handbook
 - a. Intergroup Training Materials/Sessions (from Intergroup Service Handbook)
2. Results from 2016 Intergroup Caucus Survey
 - a. Compare the previous Intergroup Caucus Survey (from previous years)
3. Intergroup Caucus page on the DebtorsAnonymous.org website
4. Intergroup Rep monthly call (for worldwide fellowship) scheduled before or after the Intergroup Caucus monthly phone call (on a separate line)
5. Convert the Intergroup Caucus to an Intergroup Committee
6. Regional Maps of DA/BDA meetings
7. Archive of Intergroup Caucus to keep institutional knowledge

Suggested edits to the action plan:

- #5 – Investigate converting the intergroup caucus to a committee
- #6 – Add “intergroups” to the list of meetings on the regional map.

Discussion over current and potential action items:
Assisting ISRS with contact information:

- Curt – How does an ISR identify and contact orphan groups?

- Bob – Instead of asking the office for contact information for each group, he has had success asking them to pass his contact information onto the group and requesting that they get in touch with him.
- Jackie – Could an ISR post an announcement on the intergroup website?
It was decided that this is not needed as an action item.

Took a break from discussion of action items to do group introductions.

Growing intergroups:

- Jackie – Is growing intergroups an action item?
- Bob – The Board is opposed to “growing” the fellowship because it’s in conflict with the traditions. However, if we do the work, growth will naturally happen.
- Maureen – Would intergroup sponsorship be a specific action item that would fit in with this? (Mentioned by Paul earlier.)
- Paul – Focus on the work in front of us and growth will happen. Also, the traditions require attraction rather than promotion.
- Jackie – Is intergroup sponsorship addressed in the monthly call ins before/after the meeting (open to fellowship)?
- Do we need to narrow down the list of action items? A good goal would be 3 or 4 subcommittees.
- Franklin – Unless we have a list of specific tasks, do we need subcommittees?
- Jackie – Let’s see what pans out.
- Jeanine – Let’s consider growing the number of intergroups.

We took a moment to focus on grouping the tasks and assigning “point people”. Bob reminded us that even though we might not all be able to participate at the same level, it’s important for all of us to participate. Work at you own level of availability.

Point People are as follows:

1. Intergroup Service Handbook - Bob
 - a. Intergroup Training Materials/Sessions (from Intergroup Service Handbook) - Bob
2. Results from 2016 Intergroup Caucus Survey - Bob
 - a. Compare the previous Intergroup Caucus Survey (from previous years) – Bob (with assistance from Curt)
3. Intergroup Caucus page on the DebtorsAnonymous.org website – Bill
Bob – What do we have, and what do we want?

Jackie – More investigation is needed.

It was agreed that we’d make a list of our local intergroup sites to see different formats.

4. Intergroup Rep monthly call (for worldwide fellowship) scheduled before or after the Intergroup Caucus monthly phone call (on a separate line) – Jackie (with assistance from Amina)
5. Investigate converting the Intergroup Caucus to an Intergroup Committee - Paul
6. Regional Maps of DA/BDA/Intergroup meetings – Jeannine (with assistance from Bob after he completes his tasks)
Jeannine – This fluctuates as groups and intergroups do. A map would be helpful.
Mary Jane – This would be beneficial to her New Orleans group.

Discussion of the fluctuating number of groups and intergroups brought up the topic of “growing groups”. Bob reminded us that as we commit to PI, the number of groups will naturally increase.

Amina – What is the value of the map?

Curt – There are “awareness issues” that the map will address. Local groups are not aware of intergroups that they can be a part of. Also, intergroups are unsure of their territories.

Jeannine – It will encourage participation in intergroups.

Paul – A visual is important. Although groups are constantly changing, the intergroup piece can be relatively consistent.

Discussion of changing groups led to discussion of how an intergroup can help the still suffering debtor. It was mentioned that hotlines and websites with current information have helped.

7. Archive of Intergroup Caucus to keep institutional knowledge (in Drop Box) - Maureen

Bob suggested that we continue as follows:

- Pick a time for monthly calls.
- Get a formal roster in place.
- Discuss recommendations for the convocation.
- Formally approve the list of action items.

Franklin – Suggested that we wait awhile before formally confirming the list to let the ideas sink in.

Mary Jane – Would like clarification on what from the caucus we can and cannot share with our groups.

We can't share documents or potential fellowship calls until they are approved.

We decided to table ground rules until the 9:00 meeting.

(9:00-10:00)

In Attendance: Jackie, Amina, Paul, Dwight, Pat, Jeanine, Bill, Bob, Maureen, Mary Jane, and Franklin
Opened with the serenity prayer.

Confirmed the point people for each of the action items. (See the 2:00 notes for specifics.)

- Bob – 1, 1a, 2, & 2a
- Bill – 3
- Jackie & Amina – 4
- Paul – 5
- Jeannine – 6
- Maureen – 7

There were no objections to the action list.

Monthly Meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month
(8pm ET/ 7pm CST / 5pm PT) – No objection

We discussed etiquette guidelines for calls (from Tab 5, p. 3 item 12 in the conference book):

- Receive meeting agenda ahead of time. (It was decided one week ahead of time)
- Read the previous meetings minutes and any pertinent 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 statement of purpose at the beginning of every call.
- Read aloud the Twelve Traditions at the beginning of every call. – Modified to the intro. To the traditions, the tradition of the month, the intro. To the concepts, and the short version of the concept of the month.
- Mute when not talking. Modified to mute when asked by the chair.
- State name before speaking.
- Don't repeat what's already been said.
- Wait for others who haven't shared to speak before speaking again.
- No more than two pros or cons for each motion before the vote. Modified so that the chair can

be flexible, asking if we are done with discussion.

- Added - Stay positive

All previous guidelines were accepted as is unless modifications were specified. The new guideline was accepted.

E-mail etiquette was discussed.

- A forwarding address would be used to protect anonymity and allow others to automatically reply all. (wscig@pugetsoundda.org)
- We would have 7 days to respond to an e-mail.
- Include "WSC IG" in the subject line.
- E-mail threads will pertain to the original subject.
- Fewer rather than more e-mails.
- If there is an issue or conflict, it will be discussed one-on-one over the phone, not through e-mail.

The priority of action items was adjusted. (1, 1a, 7, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Friday (5:00 – 6:00)

In attendance: Mary Jane, Dwight, Bob, Jeannine, Bill, Maureen, Jackie, and Amina
Opened with the serenity prayer.

We had no issues and concerns to address in the report.

We had no recommendations to make to other committees.

We went around the room for comments on the week.

Closed with the serenity prayer.

International Caucus
August 9, 2016

Dayton started us out by going through the starter kit.

Andrea was elected as chair,
Jean-Camille vice chair
Susan as treasurer
Chris as Secretary

Martha as Scribe

We started with the Serenity Prayer and the 12 steps and 12 traditions were read.

JC was timekeeper for tonight.

Etiquette was established, we chose all of them from the binder plus one we made up.

We read last year's recommendations to this committee.

#4 was already accomplished by Susan from UK joining IC this year.

Andrea asks us to read the IC responses for 2015 so we all are aware of what the other committees are thinking.

August 10, 2016
2:15 - 3:15 pm

We read the steps and traditions.

Andrea chaired. New members added their names and contact info to the roster.

Everyone introduced themselves.

Service positions were fully filled yesterday, except for time keeper. Kelly will be timekeeper, Jeanne is back up.

Guidelines for meeting were read by Andrea.

Statement of purpose was read by JC.

JC gave a recap of what IC did last year. We tried to put in place a structure so that good communication between the international groups and the DA Board is possible. We want to be a conduit for int'l groups to be in touch with DA in the US.

Andrea went over the final report of last year's IC. She explained that we cannot do motions, just recommendations and that as a caucus we work across committees, facilitating action between our group and the other committees and caucuses.

Last year's recommendations were read.

IC member Jeanne carried the 55 books to Italy that we paid for last year. We should write this as a

story for Ways and Means newsletter. She showed us a picture of some of the members that received the books. All members in the picture had agreed that it could be showed to other DA members.

DA France must take off the DA logo from their website due to fact that their literature is not yet translated by approved translators. IC hopes to take actions that will facilitate their literature being approved by the official DA translation process.

We will record all of our meetings. Everyone can think of int'l people they know who might want to listen in on our meetings.

We will focus on France first but we need to think about a pipeline of other countries we could help.

Danny in Bali is the contact for the Asia Pacific Intergroup. Michael has info for him, Jeanne and Susan who were just in Italy at the conference have info for all these people as well.

We can provide links on our national website to DA International websites. We should all report any int'l websites that are not linked so we can have them linked (hot links). This will make our website more useful and it addresses the last year's issue and concern from Danny from Asia Pacific.

16-08 is asking to create a step guide - assigned to lit com.

16-09 they ask for remote access to the conference - assigned to WSC Conference

Other ICs we can help with:

16-19

16-20

16-21

16-22

16-23

We need to liaison with the committees to which these issues and concerns were assigned.

Andrea explained the parking lot idea.

We all agree to reach out to all committees that were assigned the Issues and concerns.

BDA remote access - we agreed we will work on this as well.

Next meeting, we can discuss if any of this is too much and if we need to shorten the list.

We have an email for this group which is

**Thursday
9-10 PM**

Serenity Prayer recited, traditions and steps read

We started by getting clear on where we will be collaborating with other committees.

Actions:

1. Contact DA France for list of translated literature and prove it to the Int. Committee
2. Article for Ways and Means
3. Facilitate process of French translation (FR DA/LIT/GSB)
4. Invite people from other countries to participate in caucus meetings/access meeting recordings
5. Develop contacts with those countries who already have translations of material
6. Look at international info on website to see if things can be made more complete

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Issues from DA France (assigned to Int. com.)

- 1) request for translation of step guide
- 2) remote access to WSC

Spain

- 1) How to contribute to 7th tradition (ways of payment)
- 2) Would like to know if there is literature already in Spanish
- 3) Contact with Literature Committee

BDA access to WSC (remote) (committee working on this)

Outreach to committees for issues and concerns.

This committee needs to understand literature translation process. Dayton will send them out to us.

3 buckets that we'll work with throughout the year:

- 1) translation
- 2) facilitating participation through technology
- 3) payments
- 4) Ways and Means

Andrea will write up our list of things we'll do next year which gets presented at the Convocation.

Our meeting will be the 1st Sunday of month at 1:00 pm ET.

**Friday
5-6 PM**

We started with the serenity prayer, the mission statement, and the steps and traditions.

We read our etiquette guidelines.

Chris read the recommendations that we intend to put forth at the conference for all members to hear and minimal edits were made. We talked about what happens at Convocation - that it is a legal binding meeting, how the credential happens, etc.

For motions, it's good to sit together for committee members. For us with just recommendations still important to sit together to support Andrea.

She went over her report with us.

The address for Ways and Means in the DAMS is wrong. Below is correct address.

editor.waysandmeans@gmail.com is correct address to submit stories for Ways and Means newsletter.

Our email for IC is in our report published in the WSC report. It is wso.intcaucus@gmail.com We may ask all these international people to send their stories directly to our IC email and then submit them all together to Ways and Means. Dayton tells us that this publication has not gone out for 1 1/2 years due to lack of board members to put it out. But board has said that they could maybe do a special one with a bunch of these int'l stories.

End of Section

Responses To 2015 WSC Recommendations

Listed alphabetically, by committee,
then by caucus

Fellowship Communications Committee Recommendation 1:

Assigned to Office Committee

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 D.A. by phone or email.

Response:

In order to start this database, we encourage delegates to canvas 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.

Fellowship Communications Committee Recommendation 2:

Assigned to Long Range Planning
Committee

FCC recommends the production of a customized click pen with rotating slogans to commemorate D.A.’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!

Response:

This recommendation was submitted to the General Service Board (GSB) Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) for consideration. The committee held a thorough and thoughtful discussion. Following the discussion, the committee decided to take no action for the following reasons:

1. In order to protect our trademarks and logos, and to preserve our primary purpose, the GSB has previously denied requests to print the D.A. name or trademarks on items that might be considered mementos or memorabilia.
2. Seventh Tradition donations are designated to carry the message of D.A. to the still suffering debtor. This includes maintenance of our General Service Office, maintaining our website, publication of literature, and other services that make carrying the message possible.
3. In reference to slogans—the committee was not able to determine what slogans are unique to D.A. as a whole (and not regional colloquialisms) and would not be ‘borrowed’ from other fellowships.
4. Research into rotating slogan pens revealed two opposing options: a) low cost, poor quality pens, that could be ordered in relatively small quantities, and b) higher cost, better quality items, that required large orders, and therefore a significant expenditure. Again, even if this were a small expenditure, it would be an inappropriate use of D.A. Seventh Tradition funds, and against our policy regarding use of trademarks.

WSC Public Information Committee Recommendation 1:

Assigned to Communications Committee

That the GSB Communications 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.

Response:

The Communications spent part of our conference year discussing the possibility of posting the speaker portions of the Fellowship-wide calls sponsored by GSB Committees and WSC Committees and Caucuses. The Committee unanimously approved of the concept. A summary of our discussion is found below:

- Anonymity & D.A.'s Twelfth Tradition

A big concern with any type of D.A. outreach is anonymity. When posting speaker recordings to the website, we must adhere to the very same standards of anonymity protection that we require of the media. We may need to protect our speakers' anonymity by voice modulation prior to posting and review each recording for any information identifying the speaker.

- Our Primary Purpose & D.A.'s Fifth Tradition

We envision that by posting recordings of speakers on our website, Debtors Anonymous will be able to carry our message of recovery on a very broad scale. Additionally, this would allow the still-suffering compulsive debtor, a new member, or a member in isolation to have access to D.A. speakers at any time.

- Logistics & Technological Concerns

Our committee members strongly suggest that the speaker sign a media release form and that the signed form be filed with the GSO prior to posting of the recording.

It may be prudent to allow the GSB Information Technology and the WSC Information Committees to create a technical plan of action.

WSC Public Information Committee Recommendation 2:

Assigned to Communications Committee

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.

Response:

In 2014-2015, the GSB took an in depth look at social media and the possible Fifth Tradition applications for Debtors Anonymous. The GSB felt that the risk of Twelfth Tradition violations was too numerous when using social media.

Please know that our decision may change as the world's technology changes. D.A.'s Second Tradition reminds the GSB to keep an open mind to

new and previously-discussed ideas, allowing for the guidance of D.A.'s ultimate authority.

Resource Development Committee Recommendation 1:

Assigned to Intergroup Caucus

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."

Response:

No response.

Resource Development Committee Recommendation 2:

Assigned to Communications Committee

That all GSR's 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 lovethosegdrs@gmail.com.

Response:

The D.A. GSB publishes a report of what transpired at the World Service Conference (WSC). The report is typically posted on the D.A. website shortly after the conference ends and is available for any member or group to review. Admittedly, the report cannot hope to capture the unique experience of actually being there and being of service.

D.A.'s Second Tradition reminds the GSB and the WSC Committees that we are but trusted servants and that we do not govern. We can only suggest returning GSRs and ISRs to reach out to un-represented groups and intergroups upon their return home.

The GSB tries to fill the gap by hosting annual pre-conference orientation calls and many committee-based Fellowship-wide calls throughout the Conference year. GSRs, ISRs, and board members share their experience, strength, and hope on these live calls. Any member can attend these calls; if you are not able to attend, recordings of the calls are available.

Some components of the WSC are actually recorded (the recordings are available through a third-party vendor) or can be even be accessed live via conference call. The Fellowship's newsletter, *Ways & Means*, is an additional a source of a representative's unique experience at the WSC.

Resource Development Committee

Recommendation 3:

Assigned to Communications Committee

That GSRs recommend to their group that the full Seventh Tradition announcement, found in quotes on page 30 of the *DAMS*, be read at every Seventh Tradition collection.

Response:

The full Seventh Tradition announcement states:

"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."

D.A.'s Second Tradition reminds the GSB and the WSC Committees that we are but trusted servants and that we do not govern. We can only suggest returning GSRs and ISRs to ask their groups and intergroups to include the statement in their meeting format.

International Caucus Recommendation 1:

Assigned to International Committee

Recruiting ACM's for International Board Committee.

Response:

In response to the Issue and Concern regarding the International Caucus's Recommendation to recruit ACM's for the GSB International Committee, as the Board Liaison for the WSC International Caucus, I can say that a recommendation from the 2015-16 IC to continue searching for an ACM has been forwarded to the 2016-17 incoming International Caucus as a number one priority. I can further say that as the incoming Chair of the International Committee, the first recommendation I will make as chair is to initialize a request for an eNews announcement seeking an ACM to serve during the next 3 years on the International Committee. Appointed Committee Member(ACM) Service Requirements and application information can be found in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service also known as the DAMS.

International Caucus Recommendation 2:

Assigned to GSB Conference Support Committee & WSC Conference Committee

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.

Response of the GSB Conference Support Committee:

The D.A. General Service Board, at the request of CSC, asked Michael Malamut, the parliamentarian who has worked with the World Service Conference and the GSB since the late 1990s, to review the Conference Charter and advise on the present possibility to use videoconferencing to bring delegates from outside the US to the WSC. Michael made the following observations:

- Unmodified, the common-law meaning of "meeting" (and "quorum"), according to Robert's Rules, is "face-to-face." This comes from a common-sense/intuitive experience that face-to-face meetings are more effective than by telephone, for example.

- The meeting is more than just participation in the business meeting; it includes exchanges between delegates on site. If you're not in these exchanges, you're not fully informed. (This is why face-to-face participation is considered the optimal method.)
- The credentialing process is face to face.
- The GSB engages in teleconferences; per the parliamentarian, our number (15) is the upper limit of effectiveness.
- There are logistical questions to be addressed: How does the chair recognize participants?
- There are anonymity concerns.
- Delegates vote their conscience. There are concerns about the possibility of influence on delegates that doesn't occur within the enclosed space of Convocation.

Response of the WSC Conference Committee:

The 2015–16 Conference Committee made the following recommendation to the 2016–17 Conference Committee:

That the WSC Conference and Technology Committees jointly conduct and evaluate a small-scale trial of remote participation in the 2017 World Service Conference by delegates from outside North America. This is to be done in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and, if appropriate, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and with due regard for issues such as protecting attendees' anonymity, credentialing of remote participants, and ensuring their greatest possible participation. If video conferencing technology is used, no images of faces are to be transmitted.

International Caucus Recommendation 3: Assigned to Conference Support Committee

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, to participate in the World Service Conference.

Response of the WSC Conference Committee:

The Conference Committee did not explore structures other than remote participation through teleconferencing (see the Conference Committee's response to recommendation 1, above).

End of Section

Post-Convocation

GSB Chair Closing Address

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. asked for a round of applause for all of the Committees and Caucuses who worked so hard this conference.

Question: Can there be an immediate publication of those items that are available right now that we can present to our groups.

Answer: Send an email to Michael A. and he will send them to you. You can report what you have to your groups. The official D.A. versions have to go through style guide first.

We have two Trustees rotating off the board. It is time for goodbyes.

Sue: Seven and a half years ago, a friend of mine in service came up to me and said, "would you ever consider serving on the General Service Board of D.A.?" I said, "what's D.A.?" Six years ago in Denver, I walked into the Red Lion hotel not knowing a soul, felling alone and isolated. I saw two gentlemen sitting off the lobby and they were laughing and smiling and leaning into together and talking and I recognized recovery. Those two gentlemen were Willie W., former board Chair and Jan S., soon to become board Chair. I approached them, introduced myself and I was welcomed with hugs. By the end of that week, I had fallen in love. My friend Alexandra says I got all googly-eyed and I only thought I had fallen in love that week. Over these last six years, you have had every bit of my heart. When I say that I love you, that's not lip service. When I say that I've been changed, some people who are dear to me in recovery have noticed the change, it's visible. You have made me a gentler

and softer lady. Today, if somebody asks me, “what’s D.A”? I will tell them it is a fellowship of men and women who are energized and dynamic, brilliant, creative, giving, open, caring, with the most generous spirits of any people I have met in any fellowship, including my own home fellowship. You guys have been so open and welcoming to me and been so generous of spirit. You touched me right down to my soul. I am so sad that I won’t be with you anymore. A lot of you have my number. Know that I love you. Thank you.

Eileen: Seven years ago, I walked into this hotel. I found out I had to stand up here and say a few words and I was like “Oh No”. When I was a GSR, I couldn’t ask my group what the qualifications were because I was too scared. Now I have done this and I am definitely a changed person. I kept meaning to write a closing, a goodbye statement and I thought I’ll just do it at conference. I’ll have plenty of free time. I won’t be a liaison, so I will have all this free time and then all this stuff came up and late nights with the finance stuff. We had late nights with Michael but it wasn’t just me and Michael so no rumors. I didn’t get a chance to write it. Maybe the God’s of my understanding were saying to speak from the heart. I walked into that board room. I don’t think most of you were here then, maybe some of you were there. The feelings between the board and service conference were horrible. It was contentious. They really didn’t trust each other. They didn’t get along. I don’t know exactly what happened to cause that but I didn’t know if I was going to do this. This was going to be too hard but the Delegates worked hard and the board worked hard and we came together. We remembered why we were here. We are here for the debtor who is still suffering, who are like me who can’t ask for help. We put the focus on that person and to see the change, the bond and the love we have for each other now is so different from what we had before. It has been an incredible experience to watch us grow up. I came in D.A. and we didn’t have a 12 Step book. We had a *Currency of Hope* which was fair at best and we have a *Currency of Hope* which is strong. We are really committed to our primary purpose. All the language that we have changed, we stopped copying from A.A.

We have made all of this language our own. We have officially moved out of the basement. We are officially living on our own. It might only be an apartment but we are out of the basement. It has been a pleasure to be a part of that. Last night, Michalene came to me because we had 25 plus

DAMS. Even after I announced it was going to be available for free, they sold out because you guys are so committed to service. We talk about encouraging a service culture in D.A. and it is there. It is growing. It is much better than it was before and it has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of that and to see that happen. So, I will go to my home group and become a regular home group member again and I don’t know what service I will do but I will still be of service. My heart will always be here for you. My spirit will be on this gavel so when Allan picks it up next year, all of the people who touched this gavel, Jan, Allen A., Carla, Carol and Willie were all with me at this podium and I think it will continue. My first year, I was like, gotta get the gavel there. My spirit will always be with you guys. I may not always miss the work that was required but I am definitely going to miss talking and laughing with you guys. Thank you again for trusting me to do this job when I couldn’t trust myself to do it. Thank you.

Transfer of the Gavel

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. invited Craig and Anne to come to the podium for the transfer of the Host Committee gavel and to say a few words.

Craig: Hi everybody, Craig, grateful recovering debtor. I would like to introduce Anne M., the 2017 Host Chair for the 2017 Host Committee. Thank you. It’s my honor to hand the Host Chair’s gavel. It was new last year, I don’t know what happened to the previous one but Michael M. in Portland wrote “every conference is God’s conference” and so to carry the tradition I wrote “maybe this will work” and so I turn the Host’s gavel over to Anne.

Anne: Thank you very much for trusting me to put on a good conference next year. Just a few weeks ago, Craig asked me on a phone call, “would you step up” and I said, “I don’t know” and I still don’t know but the answer was “yes” and I know that it is God’s conference and I am not able to do it on my own. It’s not my job to do it on my own. It’s all of you, it’s all the volunteers, it’s all the service. Thank you. At this time, we don’t have tentative dates for the conference next year but that will be communicated out as soon as we pick some dates. Thank you.

Ratification of New Trustees

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. invited Joe M. to the podium to take a pledge to serve D.A. as a Class B

Trustee for the D.A. General Service Board and say a few words.

Joe M.: *Joe M., like I said earlier, in the first session we had, you've changed me. All my other recovery served me when it served me but you have put me into a place that I have never been before and it's scary. I'm afraid of failure, that all comes back but Sue F. is now my Service Sponsor from my old program, well, still my program and D.A. and what she told me when I hugged her (and she also sponsors Michalene) and she said, "Michalene can tell on you and you can tell on Michalene. We're doomed. We won't get away with a thing but that protects D.A., you know, so I just want to thank you for putting me into that fourth dimension and I love you all. Thank you.*

Renewal of Trustees

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. invited Bill, Sharon and Dayton to the podium to take a pledge to serve D.A. and say a few words.

Bill D.: *Hi everybody my name is Bill D. and I'm a debtor. When I think about D.A., the word that comes to my mind is life. D.A. is not an adjunct to my life, it's inextricable from my life. The first day that I walked into a D.A. meeting in April of 1991, I found what I'd been looking for my whole life, which was a community of people who loved me, accepted me as I was and were willing to help me become the person I always wanted to be and knew that I could be. I am still in that process after 25 years. I am becoming the person that I always knew that I could be but was kind of told I wasn't and it's helped me become that person that I wanted to be even when I was 4 or 5 years old and to achieve the dreams and have the sensations that I always knew were there in the world. Thank you.*

Dayton L.: *Hi I'm Dayton, I'm a compulsive buyer spender. I came into D.A. straight from everyday life and I'm so glad I did. I'm doing service and I'm doing it for you. I'm doing it for all of D.A. and if you have any questions throughout the year, write Michael. Thank you.*

Sharon S.: *Hi, my name is Sharon and I'm a compulsive debtor. Hi, everybody. Note to self, waterproof mascara next year. I came by way of another fellowship. After being in that fellowship for 28 years, members of that fellowship 12-stepped me. I was a debtor in deep denial. When I finally came in, I heard a wise woman say one time, "relapse is not a requirement", well, it was for me. I am back and I*

was able, just with every ounce of higher power's help, able to stay alive by returning to debtors anonymous. This program saved my life. I am humbled and honored to serve this fellowship. Thank you.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. invited Michael A. to the podium

Michael A.: *So, I'm happy to do this for you guys. I know I complain a little bit, but it truly is out of love for all of you and out of love for myself. I will gladly serve this fellowship until I get kicked out, screaming and kicking but thank you, anyway, thank you.*

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. invited Michalene, Alexandra, Clay D., Dayton L., Michael A. and Allan T. to the podium to take a pledge to serve D.A. and to say a few words.

General Service Board Officers

Allan T. - President

Michael A. – Vice President

Clay D. – Secretary

Dayton L. – Assistant Secretary

Alexandra B. W. – Treasurer

Michalene R. – Assistant Treasurer

Michalene R.: *Last year I didn't get...I'm Michalene R., friend of D.A. and Class B Trustee. My understanding was a phone was put in a glass last year so you could hear me being sworn in and so this has been my first experience with the conference but for those of you who don't know, Sue and I have a pretty close connection from the last sixteen years, she has been my sponsor in another fellowship. Now you know how I got here and I am tremendously grateful to her for bringing me here. You are a wonderful group of dedicated, honest, enthusiastic people. The one thing I know for sure and for certain is that my life is always a 100% better when it's involved in service. So working with other people who understand the importance of service brings me tremendous joy and gratitude and thank you very much.*

Alexandra B. W.: *I'm Alexandra B.W. I'm the Treasurer. I have elected not to take the pledge but to introduce myself to some of you who don't know me, so my pledge is that I intend to bring my best willingness to this, my love of the fellowship and to remember always the people who are out there suffering the way I was suffering before I knew about*

D.A. Our 3rd Step prayer, our D.A. 3rd Step prayer, talks about the readiness to be transformed and I think if there is one ability, capacity, whatever that has been a gift of this service and continues to be is the increasing willingness, readiness to be transformed, to let the walls down and I thank you for my recovery.

The GSB Chair, Eileen N. stated that a motion was needed to ratify Joe M. as a Class B Trustee. Motion was made, seconded. Also, a motion was made, seconded to ratify Bill, Sharon and Dayton as Class A Trustees. Both votes were unanimous.

A motion was made and seconded to ratify Michael A. for a seconded term. Motion passed unanimously.

Dayton L.: *I know everyone's gotta get out of here so ditto and again if you got any questions, ask Michael.*

Clay D. – *Thank you to everyone here for being here. I have two comments. The first one about being Secretary is "what was I thinking" but Sue tricked me into it, so, and secondly, when she started reading the Secretary's pledge to Dayton, I said, "I'm off the hook, I'm off the hook". I love you people and I look forward to serving you.*

Michael A. – *I'm pledging my support to everyone here, everyone up here and to our board president and chair. Thank you.*

Allan T. – *So, I guess this is the point of no return. Well, no, this is the point of no return. My comments will be brief. I love this fellowship. I came in 21 years ago, and it changed my life. As other trustees have said, my commitment is to bring...is to just do the best I can to bring my best, to listen, to keep myself in check in various times, in various ways and just try to serve our fellowship, so thank you very much.*

A motion was made and seconded to ratify the General Service Board Officers. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chair asked if there were any final announcements?

Craig asked that if the notebook binder or the parliamentary procedure booklet is not needed, take advantage of the clips in the back so these items can be used for next conference.

Bob introduced Sharon S., the GSB liaison. She has been a great help this week.

Literature will be for sale after the close of the conference.

The Chair thanked Marie H. for keeping the minutes and our honorary D.A. member, Michael Malamut.

Motion was made, seconded and passed with substantial unanimity to adjourn.

The 2016 World Service Conference was adjourned until August, 2017 in Dallas, TX.

The conference was closed with the Serenity Prayer.

End of Report