

# **The 2017 Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference**

## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Report Dallas, Texas USA**

**2017 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports,  
Committee Reports and Caucus Reports  
Airport Sheraton Hotel, Dallas, Texas USA  
August 23-27, 2017**

### **Anonymity**

This report contains names of delegates who attended the 2017 World Service Conference. The information in this report should be kept confidential to protect anonymity.

### **WSC Report Availability**

A version of this report is available to the Fellowship and other interested parties on the Debtors Anonymous website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

### **Accuracy**

Every effort has been made to publish an accurate and error-free version of the Conference proceedings. Please notify the General Service Office of any errors before the 2018 Conference.

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## SECTION 1: CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

### Internal Operations Committee

No motions.

### Conference Committee

That the 2018 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2018 in the Twin Cities area, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.; that the Host Committee be organized through the DA Intergroup of Minnesota; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion carried.***

That the 2019 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2019 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion carried.***

That the 2020 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2020 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through by the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion did not carry.***

The Conference Committee moves that the Conference Charter, Article 6, be amended after the first sentence by inserting the following two sentences: (Proposed new language is in italics. The entire Charter appears in the D.A. Manual for Service.)

6. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in a location selected by the Conference. ***The Conference may adopt a policy permitting some or all otherwise-eligible delegates who are unable to attend in person to participate remotely. The Board, in implementing the policy, may modify it if necessary to ensure its effectiveness.*** The site of the annual meeting will be selected yearly, at least two years in advance. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may render advisory opinions at any time by mail, email, or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services.

***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee moves that, should the amendment to Article 6 of the Conference Charter pass, the Conference hereby adopts the following policy for remote participation during the 2018 World Service Conference:

- a. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the Board's Conference Support Committee, shall arrange for up to eight GSRs or ISRs from meetings outside North America to participate as voting delegates to the 2018 WSC.
- b. All possible steps shall be taken to protect the anonymity of delegates, including requiring those participating remotely to certify that they can call in from a room or location that will remain free from entry by non-delegates while the delegate is online.
- c. Remote delegates will have the same duty to participate in a WSC committee as any other GSR or ISR, both during the Conference and throughout the year, and the same right to participate in a caucus.
- d. No images of participants in plenary sessions of the WSC will be transmitted to remote participants. If possible, remote participants should be enabled to see conference

materials that are projected on a screen for in-person delegates, as well as images of any handouts. Each committee and caucus may make its own decision whether to use video or audio-only communications with any remote participants.

- e. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and also with — if appropriate — the WSC International Caucus, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and/or the GSB International Committee, will have authority to work out and implement the details of this policy. In addition to the matters named above, due regard shall be given to appropriate credentialing of remote participants and ensuring their greatest possible ability to participate.

*Motion carried.*

### **Business Debtors Anonymous Committee**

No motions.

### **Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee**

No motions.

### **Fellowship Communications Committee**

No motions.

### **Public Information Committee**

The WSC Public Information Committee moves that our revised mission statement voted on at the 29th Annual D.A. World Service Conference in 2016 be changed back to the wording used before the motion was made with the addition of initial capping the "r," in "PI representatives" and adding "(PIRs)" after "PI Representatives" as follows:

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 (PIRs) as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous. *Motion carried.*

### **Resource Development Committee**

No motions.

## SECTION 2: ALPHABETICAL SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

### Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No motions.

### Conference Committee

That the 2018 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2018 in the Twin Cities area, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.; that the Host Committee be organized through the DA Intergroup of Minnesota; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. *Motion carried.*

That the 2019 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2019 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. *Motion carried.*

That the 2020 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2020 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through by the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. *Motion did not carry.*

The Conference Committee moves that the Conference Charter, Article 6, be amended after the first sentence by inserting the following two sentences: (Proposed new language is in italics. The entire Charter appears in the D.A. Manual for Service.)

6. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in a location selected by the Conference. *The Conference may adopt a policy permitting some or all otherwise-eligible delegates who are unable to attend in person to participate remotely. The Board, in implementing the policy, may modify it if necessary to ensure its effectiveness.* The site of the annual meeting will be selected yearly, at least two years in advance. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may render advisory opinions at any time by mail, email, or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services.

*Motion carried.*

Conference Committee moves that, should the amendment to Article 6 of the Conference Charter pass, the Conference hereby adopts the following policy for remote participation during the 2018 World Service Conference:

- a. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the Board's Conference Support Committee, shall arrange for up to eight GSRs or ISRs from meetings outside North America to participate as voting delegates to the 2018 WSC.
- b. All possible steps shall be taken to protect the anonymity of delegates, including requiring those participating remotely to certify that they can call in from a room or location that will remain free from entry by non-delegates while the delegate is online.
- c. Remote delegates will have the same duty to participate in a WSC committee as any other GSR or ISR, both during the Conference and throughout the year, and the same right to participate in a caucus.
- d. No images of participants in plenary sessions of the WSC will be transmitted to remote participants. If possible, remote participants should be enabled to see conference materials that

- are projected on a screen for in-person delegates, as well as images of any handouts. Each committee and caucus may make its own decision whether to use video or audio-only communications with any remote participants.
- e. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and also with — if appropriate — the WSC International Caucus, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and/or the GSB International Committee, will have authority to work out and implement the details of this policy. In addition to the matters named above, due regard shall be given to appropriate credentialing of remote participants and ensuring their greatest possible ability to participate.

*Motion carried.*

## Fellowship Communications Committee

No motions.

## Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

No motions.

## Internal Operations Committee

No motions.

## Literature Committee

Literature Committee moves to approve the “Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet. *Motion carried.*

Literature Committee moves to approve the concept for a “Diversity in Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet. *Motion carried.*

Literature Committee moves to approve the “Closing Statement.” *Motion carried, as amended below.*

In closing, we would like to remind you that in Debtors Anonymous we practice Tradition Twelve, which is the principle of anonymity. This assures us the freedom to express ourselves at meetings and in private conversation without fear that our comments will be repeated. We keep what is shared at meetings confidential. As we work the Steps and practice D.A.’s Traditions and Concepts, we are reminded that recovery is possible and that we are all here for a common purpose – to recover from compulsive debting one day at a time.

## Public Information Committee

The WSC Public Information Committee moves that our revised mission statement voted on at the 29th Annual D.A. World Service Conference in 2016 be changed back to the wording used before the motion was made with the addition of initial capping the "r," in "PI representatives" and adding "(PIRs)" after "PI Representatives" as follows:

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 (PIRs) as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous. *Motion carried.*

## **Resource Development Committee**

No motions.

## **Technology Committee**

No motions.

## SECTION 3: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Internal Operations Committee

1. The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2016-17 funding level for the “Salary and Hourly Wages” line item for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.
2. The IOC recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the Spending Plan to begin saving for an eventual relocation of the GSO.
3. The IOC recommends the installation of a dedicated hotline in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from still suffering debtors. The IOC is coordinating this item with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to move this forward.

### Intergroup Caucus

No recommendations.

### Conference Committee

1. With the intention of helping the World Service Conference Committees achieve better continuity of committee service and institutional memory, the Conference Committee recommends that delegates strongly consider serving for at least 2 years on a WSC committee, and that the GSB Conference Support Committee announce this recommendation during the yearly WSC orientation calls.
2. The World Service Committee Conference Committee recommends that the GSB Conference Support Committee liaison to the Host Committee ensure that special dietary needs are accommodated.

### Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No recommendations.

### Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

1. Recommend having a HIP representative at group, intergroup and regional levels.
2. Recommend gathering personal stories of DA members with experience in hospitals, institutions and prisons for publication in *Focus* and *Ways & Means*, and *Currency of Hope*.
3. Recommend holding a 2018 Fellowship-wide International HIP Awareness Day.
4. Recommend final approval of the HIP Starter Kit and publication on the DA website.

### Fellowship Communications Committee

No recommendations.

### Public Information Committee

No recommendations.

### Resource Development Committee

1. That DA General Service Board create an electronic binder in the cloud containing folders for each World Service Conference Committee within which each Committee’s records are stored.



2. That the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board implement the automatic online donation payment system on [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) by November 1, 2017 to support increased contributions.
3. The development of a dedicated toll-free hot-line in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from the still suffering debtor and increase service opportunities for the current member.

## Technology Committee

1. Benchmark DA USA online presence (website features, social media, search engine results) compared to online presence of other 12-step programs and DA regional area groups
2. Conduct an anonymous demographic survey of DA members by emailing an anonymous online survey to the 5,700 people on the eNews email mailing list
3. Reach out to other committees to ask what they need from the technology committee
4. Provide anonymous meeting contact information for each meeting listed on the DA USA website, leveraging Gmail and Google voicemail as a tool
5. Make group registration easier and automatically send annual reminder to re-register meetings via the DA website
6. Post "Ask the GSB" phone call recordings on the DA website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org))
7. Publish *A Currency of Hope* and 12 x 12 x 12 in electronic format to be available on or before the 2018 World Service Conference

## International Caucus

1. The International Caucus recommends review of the Treasurer's Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to include international transactions.
2. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate implementing diversified payment options that are inclusive of our international fellowship.
3. The International Caucus recommends establishment of an ACM with international finance expertise.

## Literature Committee

No recommendations.

## Diversity Caucus

No recommendations.

## Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

No recommendations.

# 31st Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference Dallas, Texas USA

August 23-27, 2017

## SECTION 4: CONVOCATION MINUTES

**AUGUST 27, 2017**

### CALL TO ORDER

At 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 27, 2017, the Convocation of the 31st Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC) was called to order by General Service Board (GSB) Chairperson, Allen T.

The Serenity Prayer was said by those present. The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts were read.

There are 72 registered voting members. There need to be 48 members present to establish a quorum and more than 48 members were present.

### INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

Allen introduced Michael Malamut, a professional parliamentarian, who provided parliamentary guidance during the Convocation. Mr. Malamut gave an explanation of the parliamentary procedures that would be used during the Convocation, including an overview of various motions and procedures.

### CONFERENCE VOTING PROCEDURES

Allen explained the credentialing and voting procedures that would be followed. Specifically, that each delegate would be required to display a unique numbered voting card to enter the Convocation and only delegates with a card would be allowed to vote or make motions.

Without objection, the Convocation Agenda, which

had been previously distributed, was accepted as presented.

The Seventh Tradition Announcement was made.

### MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2016 CONVOCATION MINUTES

*Motion:* A motion was made to accept the minutes of last year's Convocation as submitted. *Motion passed unanimously.*

### COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS REPORTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

#### 1. INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) Chair, Paul M., recognized the members of the committee and presented the report.

The IOC made no motions and had 3 recommendations.

#### *IOC Recommendations:*

1. The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2016-17 funding level for the "Salary and Hourly Wages" line item for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.
2. The IOC recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the Spending Plan to begin saving for an eventual relocation of the GSO.
3. The IOC recommends the installation of a dedicated hotline in order to facilitate a

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network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from still suffering debtors. The IOC is coordinating this item with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to move this forward.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the Internal Operations Committee would be received.

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## 2. INTERGROUP CAUCUS

The Intergroup Caucus Chair, Marcy J., introduced the committee and presented the report.

The IOC had no recommendations.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the Intergroup Caucus would be received.

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## 3. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (CC)

The Conference Committee (CC) Chair, Jessiline B., introduced the committee and presented the report.

The Conference Committee made 5 motions and had 2 recommendations.

That the 2018 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2018 in the Twin Cities area, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.; that the Host Committee be organized through the DA Intergroup of Minnesota; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion carried.***

That the 2019 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2019 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion carried.***

That the 2020 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference be held in August 2020 in the Greater Los Angeles, California, U.S.A. area; that the Host Committee be organized through by the Southern California DA Intergroup; that the specific dates of the Conference may be determined by the General Service Board; and, that the General Service Board, in consultation with the Host Committee, be authorized to select a specific location for the Conference and contract for services from the host location. ***Motion did not carry.***

The Conference Committee moves that the Conference Charter, Article 6, be amended after the first sentence by inserting the following two sentences: (Proposed new language is in italics. The entire Charter appears in the D.A. Manual for Service.)

6. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in a location selected by the Conference. ***The Conference may adopt a policy permitting some or all otherwise-eligible delegates who are unable to attend in person to participate remotely. The Board, in implementing the policy, may modify it if necessary to ensure its effectiveness.*** The site of the annual meeting will be selected yearly, at least two years in advance. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may render advisory opinions at any time by mail, email, or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services. ***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee moves that, should the amendment to Article 6 of the Conference Charter pass, the Conference hereby adopts the following policy for remote participation during the 2018 World Service Conference:

- a. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the Board's Conference Support Committee, shall arrange for up to eight GSRs or ISRs from meetings outside North America to participate as voting delegates to the 2018 WSC.
- b. All possible steps shall be taken to protect the anonymity of delegates, including requiring those participating remotely to certify that they can call in from a room or location that will remain free from

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entry by non-delegates while the delegate is online.

- c. Remote delegates will have the same duty to participate in a WSC committee as any other GSR or ISR, both during the Conference and throughout the year, and the same right to participate in a caucus.
- d. No images of participants in plenary sessions of the WSC will be transmitted to remote participants. If possible, remote participants should be enabled to see conference materials that are projected on a screen for in-person delegates, as well as images of any handouts. Each committee and caucus may make its own decision whether to use video or audio-only communications with any remote participants.
- e. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and also with — if appropriate — the WSC International Caucus, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and/or the GSB International Committee, will have authority to work out and implement the details of this policy. In addition to the matters named above, due regard shall be given to appropriate credentialing of remote participants and ensuring their greatest possible ability to participate.

***Motion referred back to Committee.***

At the pleasure of the Conference Committee, one Motion and two Recommendations were referred back to the committee for further work and for reconsideration on Sunday, August 27, 2017.

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

The Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) Committee Chair, Jeanine C., introduced the

Committee and presented the report.

The BDA Committee had no motions or recommendations.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the BDA Committee would be received.

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**5. HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS AND PRISONS (HIP) COMMITTEE**

The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee (HIP) chair, Sarah V., introduced the committee members and presented the report.

The HIP Committee had no motions and four Recommendations.

**Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) Recommendations:**

1. Recommend having a HIP representative at group, intergroup and regional levels.
2. Recommend gathering personal stories of DA members with experience in hospitals, institutions and prisons for publication in *Focus* and *Ways & Means*, and *Currency of Hope*.
3. Recommend holding a 2018 Fellowship-wide International HIP Awareness Day.
4. Recommend final approval of the HIP Starter Kit and publication on the DA website.

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

The Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) chair introduced the committee and presented the report.

The FCC had no motions or recommendations.

Allen stated without objection, the report from the Fellowship Communications Committee would be received.

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## 7. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PI)

The PI Committee Chair, Barb S., introduced the committee and presented the report.

The PI Committee had 1 motion and no recommendations.

### **PI Committee Motion:**

The WSC Public Information Committee moves that our revised mission statement voted on at the 29th Annual D.A. World Service Conference in 2016 be changed back to the wording used before the motion was made with the addition of initial capping the "r," in "PI representatives" and adding "(PIRs)" after "PI Representatives" as follows:

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 (PIRs) as guided by the 12 Traditions of Debtors Anonymous. *Motion carried.*

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the WSC PI Committee would be received.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the HIP Committee would be received.

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## 8. RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RDC)

The RDC Committee Chair, Brandi M., introduced the committee and presented the report.

The RDC had no motions and 3 recommendations.

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

1. That DA General Service Board create an electronic binder in the cloud containing

folders for each World Service Conference Committee within which each Committee's records are stored.

2. That the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board implement the automatic online donation payment system on [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) by November 1, 2017 to support increased contributions.
3. The development of a dedicated toll-free hot-line in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from the still suffering debtor and increase service opportunities for the current member.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from RDC would be received.

## RECESS

The Convocation was in recess until 8:30 a.m., August 27, 2017.

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**AUGUST 27, 2017**

## CALL TO ORDER

At 8:36 a.m., Sunday, August 27, 2017, the Convocation of the 31st Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by GSB Chairperson, Allen T.

The number of registered voting members was determined and a quorum was established.

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## 9. CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (CC) Conference Committee (business continued from August 26, 2017).

The Conference Committee Chair, Jessiline B., continued presentation of the motions and recommendations that were referred back to the committee for further consideration.

Conference Committee presented 1 motion and 2 recommendations.

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**CC Motion:**

The Conference Committee moves that the Conference Charter, Article 6, be amended after the first sentence by inserting the following two sentences: (Proposed new language is in italics. The entire Charter appears in the D.A. Manual for Service.)

6. The General Service Conference Meetings: The Conference will meet yearly in a location selected by the Conference. *The Conference may adopt a policy permitting some or all otherwise-eligible delegates who are unable to attend in person to participate remotely. The Board, in implementing the policy, may modify it if necessary to ensure its effectiveness.* The site of the annual meeting will be selected yearly, at least two years in advance. Special meetings may be called should there be a grave emergency. The Conference may render advisory opinions at any time by mail, email, or telephone poll in aid of the General Service Board or its related services. ***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee moves that, should the amendment to Article 6 of the Conference Charter pass, the Conference hereby adopts the following policy for remote participation during the 2018 World Service Conference:

- f. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the Board's Conference Support Committee, shall arrange for up to eight GSRs or ISRs from meetings outside North America to participate as voting delegates to the 2018 WSC.
- g. All possible steps shall be taken to protect the anonymity of delegates, including requiring those participating remotely to certify that they can call in from a room or location that will remain free from entry by non-delegates while the delegate is online.
- h. Remote delegates will have the same duty to participate in a WSC committee as any other GSR or ISR, both during the Conference and throughout the year, and the same right to participate in a caucus.

- i. No images of participants in plenary sessions of the WSC will be transmitted to remote participants. If possible, remote participants should be enabled to see conference materials that are projected on a screen for in-person delegates, as well as images of any handouts. Each committee and caucus may make its own decision whether to use video or audio-only communications with any remote participants.
- j. The Conference and Technology Committees, in consultation with the GSB Conference Support Committee and also with — if appropriate — the WSC International Caucus, the GSB Information Technology Committee, and/or the GSB International Committee, will have authority to work out and implement the details of this policy. In addition to the matters named above, due regard shall be given to appropriate credentialing of remote participants and ensuring their greatest possible ability to participate.

***Motion carried.***

**Conference Committee Recommendations:**

- 1. With the intention of helping the World Service Conference Committees achieve better continuity of committee service and institutional memory, the Conference Committee recommends that delegates strongly consider serving for at least 2 years on a WSC committee, and that the GSB Conference Support Committee announce this recommendation during the yearly WSC orientation calls.
- 2. The World Service Committee Conference Committee recommends that the GSB Conference Support Committee liaison to the Host Committee ensure that special dietary needs are accommodated.

Allen stated that that without objection, the report from the Conference Committee would be received.

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## 10. LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LIT)

The Literature Committee (LIT) Chair, Amy O., recognized the committee and presented the report.

The Literature Committee had 3 motions and no recommendations.

### Literature Committee (LIT) *Motions:*

Literature Committee moves to approve the “Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet.  
***Motion carried.***

Literature Committee moves to approve the concept for a “Diversity in Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet.  
***Motion carried.***

Literature Committee moves to approve the “Closing Statement.” ***Motion carried, as amended below.***

In closing, we would like to remind you that in Debtors Anonymous we practice Tradition Twelve, which is the principle of anonymity. This assures us the freedom to express ourselves at meetings and in private conversation without fear that our comments will be repeated. We keep what is shared at meetings confidential. As we work the Steps and practice D.A.’s Traditions and Concepts, we are reminded that recovery is possible and that we are all here for a common purpose – to recover from compulsive debting one day at a time.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the Literature Committee would be received.

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## 11. INTERNATIONAL CAUCUS

The International Caucus Chair, Susan L., recognized the committee and presented the report.

The International Caucus had 3 recommendations.

### International Caucus *Recommendations:*

1. The International Caucus recommends review of the Treasurer’s Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to include international transactions.

2. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate implementing diversified payment options that are inclusive of our international fellowship.
3. The International Caucus recommends establishment of an ACM with international finance expertise.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the International /caucus would be received.

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## 12. TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TECH)

The Technology (TECH) Committee Chair, Rosemary, introduced the committee and presented the report.

The Technology Committee had no motions and 7 recommendations.

### Technology Committee *Recommendations:*

1. Benchmark DA USA online presence (website features, social media, search engine results) compared to online presence of other 12-step programs and DA regional area groups
2. Conduct an anonymous demographic survey of DA members by emailing an anonymous online survey to the 5,700 people on the eNews email mailing list
3. Reach out to other committees to ask what they need from the technology committee
4. Provide anonymous meeting contact information for each meeting listed on the DA USA website, leveraging Gmail and Google voicemail as a tool
5. Make group registration easier and automatically send annual reminder to re-register meetings via the DA website
6. Post “Ask the GSB” phone call recordings on the DA website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org))
7. Publish *A Currency of Hope* and 12 x 12 x 12 in electronic format to be available on or before the 2018 World Service Conference

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Allen stated that without objection, the report from the Technology Committee would be received.

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### **13. DIVERSITY CAUCUS REPORT**

The Diversity Caucus Chair, Diana G., introduced the caucus members, thanked the members for their hard work in making the caucus a reality and presented the report.

The Diversity Caucus had no recommendations.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the Diversity Caucus would be received.

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### **14. SPIRITUALLY SUSTAINABLE EARNING CAUCUS (SSEC) REPORT**

SSEC Caucus Chair, Lolly A., introduced the Caucus members, thanked them for their hard work and presented the report.

The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus had no recommendations.

Allen stated that without objection, the report from the SSEC would be received.

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## **SECTION 5: CLOSING BUSINESS**

### **PROCEDURAL CLOSING ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS**

#### **TRUSTEE AND OFFICER PLEDGES**

#### **RATIFICATION OF NEW TRUSTEES**

Allen introduced the following Trustees for ratification of their terms.

New Class A Trustee: Josie P.  
New Class B Trustee: Tom R.

Farewell from trustees rotating off the GB:  
Alexandra B-W and Pat B. were recognized and thanked for completion of their terms of service.

Officer pledges were administered for the following GSB members:

- Dayton L. – Assistant Treasurer
- Michalene R. - Treasurer
- Clay D. – Secretary
- Michael A. – Vice Chair
- Sharon S. – Vice Chair
- Allen T. - Chair

Oaths to uphold the duties of the trustee's roles were stated and accepted.

### **THANKS TO HOST COMMITTEE**

Allen T. recognized and thanked the leadership team of the 2017 Host Committee, including Annie, Craig, and Jill, and thanked all volunteers who helped throughout the conference.

### **TRANSFER OF THE GAVEL**

Annie, 2017 Host Committee Chair, thanked everyone for their service.

### **OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Allen formally thanked Michael Malamut, the GSB trustees, and all GSRs and ISRs for their work at the conference. He closed the convocation by encouraging all to stay in touch over the coming year.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn. *Motion carried.*

The meeting closed with the serenity prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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## 2017 D.A. World Service Conference Chairperson's Report

Good morning,

My name is Allen T. and I am a debtor and the chairperson of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board. It has been my pleasure to serve as your chairperson for the previous conference year. The board accomplished many things during the past twelve months—not everything that was on our plate—but many things. Thank you for having the confidence in me and the other trustees for allowing us to serve the Fellowship as your board. If you'd like to join us, there's room.

There are many elements of both the Fellowship and the General Service Board that I could talk about today. The board, specifically, is a non-profit business, an employer, a publisher, and many other things; too many, actually, for me to cover in ten minutes. Instead, after some prayer and meditation, I'm going to follow God's guidance, and talk about three related items:

- An explosion in literature complexity
- The board's financial deficit in the past fiscal year
- Our website

(Also, as a side note, if you'd like to get a better understanding of how the board relates to the Fellowship, and who is responsible for what, please refer to the Twelve Concepts of World Service, which are provided in your DAMS and in the Twelve and Twelve and Twelve.)

These are the three points I will address:

1. **Explosion in Literature Complexity.** In addition to serving as the board's chair for the past year, I've also served as the chairperson of the board's Literature Publications Committee for the past three years. (For those of you not familiar with the General Service Board's structure and operations, we do most of our detailed service in committees. There are twelve board committees, and Literature Publications is one of the twelve.)

From this perspective of serving on Lit Pub, as it's called, I've gotten very familiar with our literature and what it takes to maintain and expand our literature portfolio. While there have been successes, I've also labored and struggled, asking myself numerous times, "Why can't I get on top of this? Why aren't we making more progress here?" In the past three months or so, I've started gaining perspective on an answer to these questions, which is, I think we're going through an explosion in literature complexity. (And, I had to look up the work *explosion* in the dictionary, to make sure I was using

it correctly. One of the definitions of explosion is "a sudden and dramatic increase.") That's the kind of explosion that I'm talking about. That's the part of our literature process that's difficult to manage, that's so challenging and demanding.

From my view, this explosion, or expansion that I keep referring to, is happening on three levels: Content offerings (or the number of items we sell), media, and languages. To digress just a little further, we have many new pieces of literature in the development pipeline, not the least of which is a Basic Text (or "big book") and a Step Study Guide; we're preparing to venture into the realm of alternative media; and we've started producing professionally reviewed non-English translations of various pieces of existing D.A. literature—pieces that are now ready to go into the production process.

The very short story is that we have a lot going on, or wanting to go on, on all three levels, and my truth is that, for an organization with our relatively limited financial and people resources—we have one full-time employee, one part-time employee, and a volunteer board—handling any *one* of these three growth areas would be a difficult challenge. To be doing all three at once is, well, crazy-making, daunting, challenging, and demanding. It's a really big task.

There are a lot of additional details I could go into about our literature, and I'll cover some of them in my Literature Publications report that I'll provide later this morning, but for right now, I ask that you take my assessment on face value, and go along with the notion that having three existing books, twenty some existing pamphlets and other items, *plus* a good dozen or so new projects in the works, *plus* plans to go into e-books, electronic publications, audio books, *plus* adding literature offerings in multiple non-English languages, is a big, big task. These are the right kind of challenges, but it's not easy to make progress on all of them at once, and we're going to have to be very smart about how we approach this, so that our board and staff resources, our finances, and our storage space aren't overwhelmed.

2. **Financial Deficit.** Being that we're a fellowship that has at its core a focus on numbers, I feel it would be incomplete for me to not speak about the financial deficit that we experienced in our prior fiscal year and that we're projecting to continue for the new year. It's not all doom and gloom, but we did experience a deficit, and I want to put it into some perspective, tell you what actions the board has taken in response, and discuss how we can all contribute to not only getting back to a breakeven status, but going beyond that into financial abundance.

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First, some details. In the twelve-month fiscal year that ended June 30, 2017, the General Service Board, which, once again, is the non-profit corporation that supports the Fellowship, experienced a deficit, or loss, of roughly \$33,000.

Revenue, which includes the sale of literature, contributions from groups and individuals, plus interest on our savings, was approximately \$190,000, and expenses were approximately \$33,000 higher than that. The largest expense categories were, in order, salaries, bookkeeping and accounting fees, rent, and postage.

Now, for some perspective. First, the board did not debt. We had ample financial reserves to support periods of difficulty, and even if we didn't have those resources, we don't have any formal mechanisms for debting—we have no loans or lines of credit or anything else that would provide debt capital.

Second, the board fully realizes that operating at a loss is not sustainable long term, and that one way or another, either through increases in income and/or decreases in expenses, our financial equation will need to come back into balance at some point.

Third, the board invested significant time and effort into a very D.A.-like process of looking at many, many actions that the board and the Fellowship can take to bring us back into balance.

Fourth, and I'm not saying this to somehow let the board off the hook for the current deficit, but it's a fact that organizations of all types—for-profit businesses, non-profits like us, government entities, and many other types of organizations—sometimes go through difficult operational or financial periods. And, like many business entities, it's why we maintain a prudent reserve, so that when times are lean, we can continue operations without having to make drastic cuts in the services provided to the Fellowship.

While our deficit certainly has the attention of me as your chair and of the full board, I, for one, am not fearful. I've seen our board and our Fellowship respond to many challenges in the past, and I think there are many, many opportunities to put good, new actions into place that can improve our financial picture. I think great initiatives can come out of this conference, and as your board, we look forward to working with you during the conference and beyond to bring our finances back into balance.

3. **Website.** The third topic I want to address is our website, not the entire site, but one element of the site that I think has the potential to play a key role in

helping us right the ship financially. That specific element—which doesn't exist yet today—is the ability to make contributions to D.A. online, on our website.

For me, as I enter my last year of board service, I regard this as one of the most important things we can do to support the board's finances and our spiritual Fellowship. Let me explain what I see.

I won't try to be too philosophical here, but let's face it, we live in an instant, online, connected world. And, in the midst of this, the mechanism we use for receiving our revenue—requiring groups and members to write checks—is antiquated. I think that when we've implemented the functionality to allow people to contribute electronically on our website, contributions will increase.

Creating this capability, however, is a complex initiative, requiring attention to and connection between: the design of the website, our bank, our bookkeeper, the General Service Office, the board's Finance, Communications, and Information Technology committees, and the conference's Resource Development and Fellowship Communications committees. There are also issues of data security and privacy. The board has invested significant effort and focus into the project, and we are well along the way, but we're still working on it. Hopefully, this next year will see the completion of these efforts.

I'd like to digress on one point right here, and address the topic of individual contributions made directly to the board. Three or four years ago, while serving as the treasurer of the General Service Board, I started looking at the detailed data for individual contributions. What I learned then, and I just confirmed last week, is that only a small percentage of our membership makes direct contributions on a regular basis.

Looking at the data, in our past fiscal year, 48 members contributed nine or more times during the year. After making a few adjustments to the numbers, I was able to calculate that the average annual contribution from those 48 members was \$325 per member, per year, which works out to \$27 per month. After adjusting for a few outlying data points, the total contributed by those 48 members was approximately \$15,000.

And, if you can tolerate one more calculation, with a Fellowship that we believe has roughly 5,000 members, those 48 members who contributed nine or more times during the year constituted basically 1% of our total Fellowship.

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I go into these numbers because I think that of the many ideas that have been brought up about how to solve our financial situation, and the suggestions offered about how we can balance our books, the one that continues to jump out at me is increasing the number of D.A. members who contribute directly to D.A. every month.

This week, if this conference's Resource Development Committee and Fellowship Communications Committee could work together to develop the right messages and figure out how to communicate those messages to our Fellowship, I think we could, what, double or triple or quadruple the number of members who contribute monthly.

And, if this were to happen, it would make an enormous difference financially. 48 more members contributing an average of \$27 a month would be an additional \$15,000. Do that once, and we would nearly cut our projected deficit in half. Do it twice—only 96 members—and our books would be balanced. Do it three times—only 144 members—and we would be in a surplus, and could apply the additional funds to the literature challenges we face, as well as many other initiatives.

And, as a last point, as someone who does contribute monthly to our Fellowship, I will say that making these contributions somehow feels good, and that's the recovery piece for anyone who chooses to contribute monthly. Making these contributions feels abundant. It *is* abundant. As I've heard at many meetings over the years, God *is* in the numbers, and in my case, making a regular monthly contribution allows me to participate in our Seventh Promise, which states, "We will recognize that there is enough. Our resources will be generous, and we will share them with others and with D.A."

So, thank you for that digression . . . back to the main point I was making . . . I think that adding the capability to our website to contribute to D.A. electronically—which really means quickly and easily—is a key piece towards increasing the amount of contributions. And, when that happens, the board and the Fellowship benefit, and the members who contribute benefit—directly through the experience of contributing and indirectly through being part of a Fellowship that is thriving financially.

This brings me to the close of my formal remarks. Beyond the three topics of literature, our financial status, and our website, and my fourth topic of individual contributions, there are, of course, many, many other topics that you all—*we all*—will be

addressing over the next four days. I ask that you serve in the spirit of Unity, as expressed through our first Tradition, and that you serve in the spirit of Step Eleven, which encourages us to seek God's will for us, and of Step Twelve, which challenges us to carry the message of D.A. recovery to the debtor who still suffers.

On behalf of the entire D.A. Fellowship, I thank you all for your service at this World Service Conference; you *are* the collective voice of the Fellowship. I hope we have a good and productive conference that brings about good actions and meaningful change.

Thanks,

Allen T.

Chairperson  
Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

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## *GSB Committee Reports*

### **GSB Ad Hoc Committee Report**

Committee Members: Alexandra B.-W., Bob D., Michael A., Michalene R., Sharon S.

Brief synopsis of committee work to date:

Committee analyzed FY 17 spending plan and made suggestions to support Finance Committee in developing FY 18 spending plan

- Focused on Fellowship education: e-news on what services the GSO and GSB provide for the Fellowship; possible didactic session for GSRs/ISRs at WSC in Dallas
- Spoke about DA's current financial challenges and work of ad hoc committee to address them on All Chairs' Call on 30 April 2017
- Sent letter to former trustees asking for suggestions to remedy DA's financial situation
- Submitted article for DA Focus and may write article for Ways & Means
- Recommended Fellowship-wide call on work of ad hoc committee – 5 August 2017

### **GSB Audit Committee Report**

The 2016-2017 GSB Audit Committee included Sharon S., Pat B. and Clay D.

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the GSB and the annual review or audit of the GSB's financial statements. The Audit 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, 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.

#### **We completed the following actions this year:**

- Engaged Bailey, Carr, CPAs, an accounting firm located in New York State, to review our financial statements and to complete our tax returns. This will be the fifth year that we have used the services of Bailey, Carr.
- Reviewed the Audit Committee's Composition, Scope and Practice document, following guidelines for non-profits published by the State of New York.

#### **Actions for the 2017-2018 Audit Committee:**

- The Audit Committee developed a CPA retention policy, which requires that the GSB will seek competitive bids for CPA services every five years. Because this will be the fifth year the Board has retained the services of Bailey, Carr, CPAs, the Audit Committee will need to seek competitive bids for its CPA services. This process will need to begin in the early spring of 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

2016-2017 GSB Audit Committee

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## **GSB Communications Committee Report**

The members of the Communications Committee of the D.A. General Service Board were grateful to be of service to the Fellowship this conference year. Members were Michael A. (chair), Bill D. (secretary), and Bob D.

The Communications Committee or Com Com is responsible for providing to newcomers, to established members, and to new and existing groups information about the recovery program of Debtors Anonymous; listing face-to-face, internet, and telephone meetings; announcing service opportunities; and keeping the Fellowship informed of news and events happening in D.A.

Com Com also helps GSB committees and WSC committees and caucuses share news and information with the Fellowship via the D.A. Focus and our eNews announcements. We also help individual D.A. members share their experience, strength, and hope with other members through the Ways & Means.

### **2016-2017 Published Work:**

- o 2016 D.A. WSC Annual Report
- o Three issues of the D.A. Focus
- o One issue of Ways & Means
- o Numerous updates to the D.A. website
- o 95 eNews Announcements

### **Other Work:**

- o One member of the Communications Committee served as a liaison to this year's super-productive WSC Fellowship Communications Committee.
- o Committee members attended a remote participation website training
- o Created a Disclaimer Statement for use on the D.A. website and eNews announcements:
  - The opinions expressed by the speakers at D.A. meetings do not necessarily reflect the recovery program of Debtors Anonymous.
- o Added a new "slug" for all eNews announcements
  - To subscribe to D.A. eNews announcements, please visit the D.A. website and open this tab. Click on the link to subscribe.
- o Adopted of a Master Call-in Number & Access Code

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

- o Creation of Fellowship-wide Events Page:
  - 90-day calendar style
  - WSC and GSB-sponsored calls

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- WSC dates, Fellowship Day
  - Creation of Seventh Tradition educational flyers:
    - Printed flyers to include with literature orders
    - Pre-printed envelopes to include with literature orders
    - Additional information on the website
    - eNews announcement
  - Announcements at phone meetings
  - Creation of Open versus Closed Meetings statement:
  - Implementation of master call-in number & access code and creation of guideline for use
  - Revision of the D.A. Style Guide
  - Cross-check current website content to the D.A. Style Guide

### **GSB Conference Support Committee**

The members of the Conference Support Committee of the D.A. General Service Board were grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the Fellowship this conference year. Members were Michael A. (chair), Dayton (secretary), Jo M., and Bob D.

Jo M. served as our liaison to the WSC Conference Committee and Bob D. served as our liaison to the 2017 Dallas-Fort Worth Host Committee.

The Conference Support Committee or CSC is responsible for the planning of D.A.'s annual World Service Conference. Our annual general duties include creation of a spending plan for the WSC; hotel and vendor contract negotiation; publication of the Registration Packet; calculation of Registration Fees and associated deadlines; setting deadlines for John H. Scholarship Fund applications and awards; conducting pre-conference orientation and training for new GSRs and ISRs; compiling information for release at the conference; assisting the local Host Committee with their duties; and supporting the WSC Conference Committee.

#### **Unique Projects This Year:**

- Participated in the creation of and the conference-wide implementation of WSC electronic binders
- Initiated a call for Host Committee bids for the 2018 and 2019 WSCs
  - The DFW Host Committee has graciously and generously hosted D.A.'s two prior WSCs. The Host Committee has opted to not host the 2018 WSC, allowing other cities the opportunity for service.

#### **Other Special Projects This Year:**

- Analyzed data from the 2016 WSC exit survey

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- o Included some of the suggestions from the 2016 WSC attendees into this year's WSC
  - o Added a Sample Spending Plan to the 2017 Registration Packet
  - o Added How to Host an Upcoming WSC to the 2017 Registration Packet
  - o Researched alternate conference venues in the Dallas-Fort Worth area
  - o Provided administrative support to the Conference Committee and the proposed amendment to the D.A. Conference Charter
  - o Conducted Pre-Conference Orientation calls
  - o Created of a 2017 Post-Conference Survey
  - o Ongoing revision of the Host Committee Handbook

**Recommendations to the Incoming Committee:**

- o Explore ideas that may reduce WSC costs, including using a less-costly venue for the conference
- o Consider re-structuring the WSC schedule and reduce the number of conference days
- o Upgrade online conference registration to include online payment of registration fees

**GSB InfoTech Report**

The Information Technology Committee, created in 2000, is charged with recommending, implementing, and overseeing the use of technology in conducting the administrative business of D.A., keeping with the 12 Traditions and the 12 Concepts of World Service. InfoTech assists in the selection and purchasing of computer equipment and software for the office, implements all database handling procedures, oversees creation and maintenance of the website, handles online communications, and plans for future technology needs.

The committee consists of chair Bill D., Jo M. and Clay D.

The committee focused most of their efforts during this year on two projects: the digital binder that will be accessible to all GSB members at the World Service Convention and updating the D.A. Office's database of meetings.

Working with WSC Tech Com, Info Tech developed a "blind" page on the website where the two committees experimented with adding downloadable documents. Barring any unforeseen difficulties, the digital binder should be available for download by all WSC attendees on Wednesday, August 23. The file should be operable on any device that has a PDF reader and/or editor.

The Online Meeting Application project will enable the office to more easily and efficiently update its database of meetings. Info Tech is working with the Office Committee to determine the nature of the changes that need to be made to the system.

In addition, InfoTech is supporting the GSB Finance Committee in working on the capability to make donations and purchase literature via the website.

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InfoTech also performs updates to the website.

Gratefully,

The GSB InfoTech Committee

## **GSB International Committee Report**

### **Members**

The 2016-2017 GSB International Committee included Dayton L (chair), Michael A (secretary), and Pat B.

### **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 Great Britain 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 through the help of members of the WSC International Caucus, the Committee helped to connect lone D.A. members in Iran to other recovering debtors who spoke Farsi. We are also offering our support to newly-formed D.A. meetings in the Czech Republic, Iran, Romania, and Sweden, to name a few.

### **Translations**

The International Committee reviewed several pieces of D.A. literature that had been translated



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into Spanish. That literature is continuing to be reviewed before its passed on to the next stage of an established D.A. Translation Process.

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 WSC International Caucus and individual D.A. members who volunteered their assistance in reviewing translated D.A. Literature.

### **Recommendations**

- ▪  Draft a Committee Handbook
- ▪ Update the D.A. Literature Translation Spreadsheet
- ▪  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
- ▪  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 2016-2017 International Committee are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the D.A. Fellowship.

### **GSB Legal Committee Annual Report**

The Fiscal year 2017 Legal Committee was made up of Michalene R. as Chairperson and Dayton L. as Secretary. The GSB Legal Committee is mainly 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 material, whether in print or other media. However, the legal committee becomes involved in other legal issues for the Fellowship as requested.

During this year the committee has registered or re-registered 3 pieces of D.A. literature for Copyright protections. The Committee worked on the determination of whether the trademark for "BODA" should be extended by the GSB. As the Fellowship no longer uses the "BODA" trademark enough to justify Trademark Protection with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the Board determined they would have to let the Trademark expire.

Additionally, the committee developed both a Privacy policy and Refund Policy for use on the Debtors Anonymous Website as we transition to the ability to purchase literature on line as well as make donations.

Finally, the Legal Committee worked with the insurance company following the water damage issue in the literature storage room last August. Through an agreement with the landlord, we were able to make up for a small shortage in the reimbursement from the insurance company by a reduction in the rent for one month. The Board was made completely whole for this event.

Recommendations for Next Year's Committee:

- 
- Renewal of “D.A.” Trademark
  - Continue with Copyright registration for new literature or any substantially changed literature
  - Assist with legal issues that arise for the GSB including:
    - Insurance
    - Confidentiality Agreements
    - Protection of D.A. Literature, and
    - Other issues as they arise.

Submitted by: GSB Legal Committee

## **GSB Literature Publications Report**

### **Introduction**

My name is Allen T. and I’ve served as the chairperson of the GSB Literature Publications Committee this past conference year. This is my third year of serving in this capacity.

Also serving with me on the committee were trustees Bill D. and Bob D., and appointed committee members Janet S. and Rachel A.

The committee, also referred to as Lit Pub, is responsible for the development, publication, revision, and reprinting of D.A. literature, including books and pamphlets, and other items such as bookmarks and newcomer packets.

In terms of liaison assignments, Allen T. served as the General Service Board’s liaison to the WSC Literature Committee, and Bill D. served as the liaison to the BDA Committee.

### **Background on the Literature Development Process**

The development and approval of D.A. literature is governed by a conference-approved process that defines who does what at the various stages in the development cycle. The document that outlines the process, called the Literature Approval Process, is available for download or viewing from the Literature page of the D.A. website.

As specified in the Literature Approval Process, the development of new literature starts with the conference’s approval of a literature concept. It’s not the board, or the board’s Literature Publications committee, that decides what literature will be developed—it’s the conference. Concepts for new pieces of literature are considered and developed by the WSC Literature Committee, and brought to the convocation by that committee for possible conference approval.

If a concept is approved by the conference, it is then turned over to the board’s Literature Publications Committee, who guides the development and approval processes for the new concept.

Key steps in the development of an approved concept include:

- Development of an outline
- Identification of a writer
- Review, revision, and editing of draft manuscripts

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- Approvals by WSC Lit Com, Lit Pub, the full GSB, and the conference
  - Graphic design and layout
  - Final proofreading
  - Printing

### **Overall Status of D.A. Literature**

In describing D.A.'s literature—and the service efforts conducted by the Literature Publications Committee this past year—the key dynamic or reality that we would want to convey is that there many, many projects underway. Existing materials are constantly being refined and reprinted, new materials are being guided through the literature approval process, and the whole arena of alternative media, including eBooks, audio books, licensing, and other new distribution channels, is demanding attention. To summarize these overall comments, the literature space remains a rich area in the ongoing development of our Fellowship.

### **A Key Challenge to the Committee**

With so many efforts underway, the project management of this collection of initiatives is not trivial. Each project is on its own path for development and approval, and just keeping track of where each project is in the process is challenging. During the year, Literature Publications did its best efforts to stay on top of this. If the Fellowship were to become more abundant financially, Lit Pub would advocate that the board consider hiring a professional Publications Director. Having our projects be managed by a professional would help the overall process, including reducing development times.

### **Specific Projects**

Our committee directed effort towards these literature projects during the past conference year:

- **Reprints.** The following items were reprinted:
  - Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous (paperback version)
  - Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS)
  - “Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet
  - “Visions” pamphlet
  - “Spending Plan” pamphlet
  - “Deudores Anonimos” pamphlet (Spanish)
  - “Twelve Signs” card

(Reprinting may sound simple, but it is not. Given the board's commitments to quality and to respectfully replacing all instances of A.A. language in our literature with D.A. language, reprinting becomes an exercise in very careful editing and proofreading, plus layout, plus determining the correct quantity to print, plus working with the print vendor on the details.)

- **Literature projects ready for possible conference approval.** We moved the following pieces of literature through the earlier levels of the Literature Approval Process. They are now ready for possible conference approval:
  - “The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous” (new pamphlet)

- 
- “The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous” (new 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:
    - Health Issues (new pamphlet)
    - BDA Annual Business Plan (new pamphlet)
    - Newcomer/Beginner Meeting Format (new service literature)
  - **Literature projects just entering the writing process.** The content outlines for these literature projects were recently approved by WSC Lit Com, and will be addressed in the new conference year, in terms of identifying writers and starting the writing process:
    - Basic Text (our equivalent to Alcoholics Anonymous)
    - Step Study Guide
    - Meditation Book

### **Final Comments**

- **eBooks and other alternative media.** While knowing that this space is very important—every year we receive multiple requests to publish literature electronically—the board, and Literature Publications specifically, is limited in its resources. Keeping up with the development of new printed literature and maintenance of our existing offerings is, as described earlier, a daunting challenge—one that takes almost all our available time and resources. We’re trying to make progress in the e-space, but given our existing service load, our progress has been limited.
- **Third-party resellers.** One area in which we invested significant resources this year was approaching major book retailers with the desire of having them sell D.A. literature through their various distributions channels. We originally had three such vendors on our radar screen, but ultimately narrowed our focus down to two of the three vendors. We haven’t been able to bring anything to conclusion yet, but we remain hopeful that these efforts will ultimately bear fruit.
- **Meditation Book sourcing.** Regarding how to source the submissions for the Meditation Book, in other words, “Who is going to write it?” The decision has been made to source the writing from volunteer members of the D.A. Fellowship. A template for meditation submissions has been developed by WSC Lit Com, and a release form and other logistical elements of the project are being finalized by Lit Pub. Once all the pieces are put together, the board will announce to the Fellowship that we are seeking submissions. D.A. members can expect to be hear more about this in the new conference year.

## **GSB Long-Range Planning Committee Report**

### **Introduction**

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My name is Allen T. and I've served as the chairperson of the GSB Long Range Planning Committee this past conference year. This was my first year of serving in this capacity.

Also serving with me on the committee were trustees Jo M. and Pat B., and appointed committee member Bob R.

In terms of liaison assignments, Pat B. served as the General Service Board's liaison to the Intergroup Caucus.

The committee, also referred to as LRPC, is tasked with facilitating the GSB's long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to suffering compulsive debtors around the world. The committee develops strategies and action plans to help D.A. remain a prosperous, effective Fellowship, 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.

### **Primary Activities During the Conference Year**

During this conference year, the primary activities and projects towards with the committee directed efforts were:

- **Planning and execution of four “Ask-the-GSB” telephone forums.** The four calls addressed:
  - WSC 2016 recap
  - Sponsorship
  - The Traditions
  - D.A.'s financesWe believe the calls were well received, and valuable to the D.A. members that attended. We were particularly excited to conduct the call on Sponsorship, which was a new topic for this year. When our committee—comprised entirely of people new to the committee—looked at our charter to “establish a strong foundation for the future of D.A.,” we felt that nothing could be more important than increasing the amount and the quality of sponsoring that happens in our Fellowship.
- **Review and ultimate approval of two initiatives developed by the Intergroup Caucus.** Procedurally, each WSC committee and caucus is each aligned with one board committee. One of the purposes of this is to provide a way for the committees and caucuses to present initiatives to the board for review and possible approval. As stated earlier, LRPC is aligned with the Intergroup Caucus. On their behalf, we presented and received board approval for two caucus initiatives:
  - An open-forum pre-meeting, that would occur directly prior to the Intergroup Caucus meetings. The purpose of this is to provide a place for D.A. members to ask questions and learn about Intergroup issues, challenges, formation, etc.
  - The creation of an Intergroup page on the D.A. website.
- **In-depth review and editing of draft Intergroup Service Handbook,** also developed by the Intergroup Caucus. This project is exactly what its name suggests—a handbook that builds upon what is already written about Intergroups in the DAMS. The project is still in process, and may not be completed until the next conference year.

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- **Updating of the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS) for WSC 2017.**

Every year, as our Fellowship changes and evolves, various new items need to be reflected in the DAMS, and other existing material needs to be updated or corrected. Primary changes this year were the inclusion of:

- the new Introductory Statement
- the new “A Word to Newcomers”
- a description of and a link to the new Public Information Starter Kit
- a description of the new WSC caucus: the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

Our committee will likely have the same membership in the new conference year, and we look forward to a new round of Ask-the-GSB calls, as well as other initiatives from within and outside the committee.

### **GSB Nominations Committee Report**

The Nominations Committee consisted of Michalene R., Chair, Alexandra BF, Secretary, and Michael A. The Nominations Committee is concerned primarily with identifying, developing, and nominating potential trustee candidates to the D.A. GSB; the committee maintains a “watch list” of candidates.

Among the activities worked on by the Nominations Committee:

- Potential candidates for Trustee were notified to determine interest in general service at the Board or ACM level
- Watch list was updated following those contacts and other information
- CSP was updated
- Committee interviewed candidates for Class A and Class B Trustees upon receipt of their application and background information. A determination was made to bring both names forward to the Board for approval.
- Recommend continuing to update the Trustees Manual and refine the watch list, after contacting people on the list or observing at the Conference.
- Addressed an issue in the By-laws concerning votes on Board members and determined to add a section at 3.1: “Trustees must be elected either on a Board call or at a face-to-face meeting, not by an email vote.”
- Worked on Board Development Topics for Face-to-Face meetings.
- Recommendation to next committee: Have some coordination between Nom Com and the secretary, so that the most recent sets of the Bylaws and the Trustees' Manual come up in Google Docs, and the rosters of former trustees and ACMs (esp. their dates) are easy to find.

The committee had a full and prosperous year in addressing these topics.

Submitted by,  
Michalene R., Chair

### **GSB Office Committee Report**

Office Committee members: Clay D., Chair, Michalene R., Office Liaison, Sharon S., Secretary.

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The Office Committee's goal is to provide managerial and advisory support to the General Service Office, its employees and the environment in which they work. During the 2016-2017 conference year the Office Committee focused on the office manager and staff with emphasis on the most important work (processing donations, fulfilling literature orders and responding to calls from the fellowship) being efficiently and effectively completed on time.

As part of those efforts we invited the Office Manager to attend a portion of our committee meetings to provide his view of conditions that needed improvement and areas he was having difficulty in. We decided the Office Liaison would make biannual trips to the Office to evaluate procedures, provide guidance, and improve infrastructure. The Liaison did an incredible job of improving the office working conditions (despite flooding) and the working efficiency of the Office manager and staff. Turnaround times on donation processing, order fulfillment and responding to the fellowship has improved dramatically.

We continue to work with the WSC Internal Operations Committee (IOC) in their efforts to support the Office and produce an office procedures manual.

### **GSB Public Information Committee Report**

Hello, my name is Bob D., and I am a friend of D.A., a Class B trustee. I was the chair of the General Service Board Public Information Committee in the 2016-2017 Conference year. The other members of the committee were Alexandra BW, secretary; Sharon S.; and Siobhan K., our Appointed Committee Member.

I was the GSB liaison to the Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee, also known as "HIP." Sharon was the liaison to the WSC Public Information Committee, and Alexandra was the liaison to the Diversity Caucus.

The Public Information Committee works closely with the WSC PI Committee, the HIP Committee and the Diversity Caucus to carry the message of recovery in D.A. to those who are not aware of our Fellowship, both the debtors who still suffer and those who want to help them. GSB PI focuses on outreach at both national and international levels. The Committee also supports PI activities by ensuring that D.A. members, groups and intergroups have access to the materials necessary for PI outreach; for example, the PI Manual and PI Starter Kit, both on the website, and Media Contact Trainings.

GSB PI responds to media requests for information about D.A. or for interviews with D.A. members. To ensure that D.A. members can uphold the Twelve Traditions when contacted or interviewed by the media, GSB PI conducts Media Contact Training workshops.

GSB PI also reviews the PI content on the D.A. website and requests updates as necessary.

#### **Actions of the GSB PI Committee during the 2016-17 Conference year:**

GSB PI considered WSC PI's proposed revision of the "PI Manual" and concluded that the new document did not represent an improvement over the current version.

As the result of a GSB PI recommendation, the GSB Legal Affairs Committee developed a release-of-ownership form that gives committee and caucus work products to the fellowship as

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a whole, in the custody of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.

GSB PI facilitated a number of projects and initiatives, including:

- Supporting the Diversity Caucus in promoting their Fellowship-wide call celebrating diversity in D.A. and seeking ways to increase it.
- Reviewing the “HIP Starter Kit” and making recommendations to the committee.
- Reviewing and approving a flyer and e-News blast to promote "International HIP Awareness Day."
- Responding to media requests.
- Organizing a Media Contact Training for two European members, which Siobhan facilitated and the other GSB PI Members attended.
- Supporting three WSC PI requests for funding, which were approved by the Board:
  - First, participation of WSC PI members at a Debtors Anonymous booth at the National Council of Bankruptcy Judges (NCBJ) Conference in San Francisco in October 2016.
  - Second, creation of a 60-second “Whiteboard Video” project about D.A.
  - Third, distribution of contact cards to registered intergroups in order to jump-start outreach.
- GSB PI sent several updates and editorial changes to the current PI Manual to the GSB for approval.
- The Committee supported the WSC PI Media Subcommittee in developing and implementing Media Outreach Letters for the U.K. and North America.

**Recommendations for the 2017-18 GSB PI:**

- Update the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) as recommended by the 2014 Convocation.
- Review the description of GSB PI in the DAMS and update, as needed.
- Schedule a Media Contact Training workshop in October 2017.
- Continue training Intergroup members worldwide to conduct Media Contact Trainings.

This has been a dynamic year for GSB PI. The spirit of genuine collaboration between GSB PI, WSC PI, HIP and the Diversity Caucus continues to successfully spread the message of hope and recovery which is possible in Debtors Anonymous.

Respectfully submitted,

2016-2017 GSB PI Committee



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# WSC COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS MINUTES

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## WSC COMMITTEE MINUTES

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### Business Debtors Anonymous

#### Business Debtors Anonymous Minutes 8/24/17

Alexandra is our GSB Liaison and chairs until a new Chair is elected.

**Motion:** To continue the work from the 2016-2017 BDA Committee to do the fellowship wide conference calls. Passed unanimously.

**Motion:** 2 fellowship-wide calls per year. Passed unanimously.

Elected officers:

**Chair:** Jeanine C.

**Secretary:** Barbara H.

**Treasurer:** Carol M.

**Vice Chair:** Mary Jane

**Scribe:** Mike

**Timekeeper:** Juhlie

Alexandra turns meeting over to the new chair, Jeanine, along with thumb drive with roster, motions and recommendations.

The list of committee-approved motions and recommendations to be turned in by 6 pm on Friday for review by the WSC's Parliamentarian and GSB Chair using the blank form on the thumb drive in the presence of the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

**Motion:** Along with reading the tradition of the month in our monthly committee call, to read description of the concepts along with one concept each month. Passed unanimously.

Close with we version of the serenity prayer

Agenda items:

**Motion:** To have the committee call on the second Sunday of the month at 7am PST, 8 am CST, 9 am EST starting in September. The dates are: 9/10/17, 10/8/17, 11/12/17, 12/10/17, 1/14/18, 2/11/18, 3/11/18, 4/8/18, 5/13/18, 6/10/18 and 7/8/18. Passed unanimously.

Jeanine agrees to send agenda 1 week in advance with a reminder call each month.

Issues & Concerns:

**Action response to Issue and Concern:** To keep the Issue & Concern on Tab 4, 17-38 as an agenda item.

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**Motion:** Fred and Mike will draft a response to Issue & Concern on Tab 4, 17-39.  
Jeanine agrees to draft a response to Tab 4, 17-38 by the 1<sup>st</sup> phone meeting.

**Motion:** We will use Mary Jane's conference number from FreeConferenceCall.com, which we determine has a call recording option, which Mary Jane has offered to help us get set up with since it can be time consuming to learn and she's already learned it.

Tentative items to add to the agenda:

- 1) BDA starter kit: includes conference approved meeting formats, pamphlets, etc., be made available on the DA website along with links to audio speakers to be kept current as more audios become available.
- 2) G (group) sponsorship coordination
- 3) Coordinating speaker shares for experience, strength and hope by creating phone meetings with speakers, recording the meetings and then sharing them on the DA website

Close with Serenity prayer.

**8/25/17**

Present:

Ed, Julie, Kiprius, Jackie, Jeanine, Carol, Bill D, Barbara, Mary Jane, Fred

Opened with the Serenity prayer

**Overview**

Bill D presents the final draft of the "Tools of BDA" pamphlet proposed several years ago, which has passed been approved by the GSB for review by the BDA committee.

Will be published and available for distribution between Dec- 17 Feb 18

Committee gave this a thumbs up to be voted on at Convocation with three minor grammatical corrections.

Nothing substantive in terms of content.

Address issues and concerns 17-39 and concerns that mike and fred wrote and revised

Fred read draft response (response is below)

Approved with minor edits, as agreed upon by the committee in discussion.

10:46 am

**Scheduled monthly committed calls on the following dates:**

9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 12/10, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/13, 6/10, 7/8 and (unconfirmed) 8/12. All calls with start at 7 am PST, 8am CST, 9 am EST.

**Agenda and Action items moving forward:**

1. Form subcommittee to call for submissions for BDA-specific stories and to determine how to distribute those stories
2. Determine the dates of two or more fellowship-wide conference calls with a BDA focus
3. Create a BDA meeting starter kit based on the DA meeting starter kit with BDA specific readings and audios
4. Create succession plan. Jackie will take charge.
5. Clarify if readings, the BDA Tool Kit - 2001 edition, Business Debting Signals, BDA Recovery Issues, BDA and Fear of Success are conference approved

**Motion** to have a Facebook group meeting does not pass

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Julie: motion to communicate via email. Passes unanimously.

**8/25/17 11:40 pm**

Open with serenity prayer.

**Discussion:**

Reviewed last year’s committee procedure to schedule and coordinate the fellowship-wide conference call.

**Decision:**

Keep last year’s theme and these three new sub topics, one per speaker:

A Spiritual Approach to Building Your Business

1. How does self- care improve my business?
2. What happens when I put money before spirituality?
3. How does gratitude create an abundant business?

**Requested Date, in order of preference, for the first conference call:**

Nov 19, 12, or 5, 3-4:30 pm EST

Jeanine will submit to the board so we can lock in our date and begin planning in our first monthly committee call.

**Closed with the serenity prayer.**

**After meeting:**

**Logistics:**

Mary Jane provided Jeanine with Conference Call service info.

We will set up our number, access code and use this for our monthly committee meetings AND our fellowship wide calls.

**6. Committee Issues and Concerns Resolutions**

Issue number	Resolution
17-38	Dear Rob and all of our friends in the Phoenix BDA Group,  BDA has no organizational definition of what a business is or does. We believe that to define what a business is would violate the Tenth Tradition. You will need to find a definition that works for you. Also, it gives you, the individual BDA member, the flexibility to decide if it fits your needs.  Your second question is: Does it include management of personal stock portfolios, or self-directed investing?  Our answer is this: It could, but that is an answer for you to decide, perhaps with input from your attorney or accountant. DA and BDA do not decide what is a business and what isn’t. There are issues of corporate structure and taxation of the individual entity that go to the core of your question. Those are issues that are beyond the scope of BDA.

	<p>In general, we find this to be an interesting question that is rarely discussed in DA or BDA. Typically, people enter the rooms of DA suffering from financial distress. Many are well-versed in credit cards and loans. After some recovery in DA, we generally find ourselves in a much better financial position.</p> <p>Part of prudent fiduciary responsibility (both for personal and business) could involve investment of this wealth in different financial vehicles. Although neither DA nor BDA would offer specific financial advice, it is recommended to seek out the services of a professional with fiduciary responsibility to make investment decisions. Again, this area of recovery is seldom addressed in DA or BDA, but perhaps there is opportunity for the WSC to address this in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your question and best of luck as you go forward.</p>
17-39	The work on this issue was started by the 2016-17 BDA subcommittee and will continue with the 2017-18 BDA committee/subcommittee to be formed

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**WSC Conference Committee  
August 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Sessions – Combined Minutes**

Allen T. opened meeting as Board Liaison  
 Jessiline was nominated for, and accepted Chair position. This was approved unanimously.  
 Jeff self-nominated for Secretary, and was approved unanimously.  
 Mike self-nominated for Vice Chair, and was approved unanimously.  
 Jean Camille self-nominated for Treasurer, and was approved unanimously.

**Committee Procedure/Process**

Chair read recommended rules of etiquette from WSC Committee-Caucus Starter Kit; all 11 were adopted by the Committee.  
 Roberts Rules were discussed, but the Committee voted 1Y-2N-1A to not adopt these.  
 Consensus was also discussed, but ultimately dropped.

**Committee Agenda for 2017 WSC Conference**

Agenda items were proposed and prioritized to develop the agenda for the Committee’s 2017 WSC meetings:

1. Review last year’s Conference Committee report
2. Review Issues & Concerns
3. Receive, consider & recommend bids for 2018, 2019 WSC locations
4. Create proposal for policy implementing remote participation trial in 2018
5. Review requests from the Board
6. Create motions & recommendations to the Convocation; to be submitted to GSB by 6pm, Friday
7. Create Action List for the 2017/2018 Committee year
8. Respond to Issues & Concerns

1. Reviewed last year’s report including recommendations on bids, policy for remote participation trial (additional information included following minutes), Committee history. Created bid evaluation spreadsheet.

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2. Reviewed Issues & Concerns – two received:

- **I/C 17-23** requesting no remote trial be conducted
- **I/C 17-34** asking to repeal a prior passed motion regarding creation of Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus
  - Brief history of the “San Diego Statement” described

3. Received 3 bid presentations to host 2018 & 2019 WSC. Before presentations began, discussed whether to allow one of the presenters to sit through all the presentations to determine if she would like to join the Conference Committee. Voted 1Y-2N-1A, so she was not allowed. After presentations, discussed them and prior Conference Committee’s recommendations.

- **Mike moved, Jeff seconded to create Motion for Minneapolis Intergroup to host 2018 WSC:** passed 3-0-1. Language of Motion debated - Mike moved, Jean seconded: passed 4-0.
- **Mike moved, Jackie seconded to create Motion for Los Angeles to host 2019 WSC:** passed 4-0. Language of Motion debated - Mike moved, Jackie seconded: passed 4-0.
- **Mike moved, Jean seconded to create Motion for Los Angeles to host 2020 WSC:** passed 3-1. Language of Motion debated - Mike moved, Jackie seconded: passed 3-1.

4. Discussed language of motion for policy for remote participation trial - decided language was okay as recommended by prior Conference Committee, and anticipated that the Parliamentarian would rule on submission format.

5. Reviewed requests from GSB; mainly to consider adjusting WSC schedule by moving Fellowship Day to Sunday.

6. Created list of items to consider for Motions & Recommendations:

- A. Re-visited language for remote participation responsible parties, but found it clear after further review.
- B. Discussed continuity of Committee member participation. Jean moved, Jackie seconded that we recommend members stay on the same Committee for at least two years: passed using Chair tie-breaker 3-2. Jessiline moved, Jackie seconded to create Recommendation: passed 3-1.
- C. Discussed creating a census to help ensure all Committees are adequately staffed. Will add to our Action Item list for this year.
- D. Discussed issues at current Conference regarding special dietary needs not being met. Jessiline moved, Jackie seconded to create Recommendation: passed 4-0.
- E. Tabled topic of increasing participation of phone meetings at WSC. Will add to our Action Item list for this year.

7. **Action List for the year** (in no particular order):

- **Monthly Committee Call – 1<sup>st</sup> Mondays, 6pm, PST/8pm CST** (Sept. call, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday)
- Create an end-of-year staffing census of WSC committees
- Discuss creation of committee staffing census at time of WSC registration
- Address ways to increase phone meeting participation in WSC
- Review the WSC Charter
- Select liaison, identify duties, and prepare for 2018 WSC remote participation trial

8. No action to be taken this year on Issues & Concerns.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### **2018 WSC POLICY FOR REMOTE PARTICIPATION TRIAL**

## DRAFT – Remote Participation Trial Expense Comparison

	2016 WSC ConCom	Vendor – RAC	2018 WSC Venue
<b>Equipment Rentals</b>			
Laptops	10 @ \$100 = \$1000	10 @ \$125/pkg = \$1250	TBD
Cables/Connectors	10 @ \$8.50 = \$85	Wireless	TBD
Projection Screen	<i>assumes no additional cost</i>	\$600	TBD
LCD Projector	<i>assumes no additional cost</i>	\$450	TBD
<b>Equipment Purchase</b>			
Bluetooth Speakers	*2 for \$75	TBD	TBD
<b>Other Expenses</b>			
Venue Internet	4days @ \$350 = \$1400	4days @ \$350 = \$1400	**Complimentary
Conferencing Platform Subscription			
(1 month)	\$15	\$15	\$15
Setup/Delivery	<i>assumes no additional cost</i>	\$350	TBD
<b>10% Contingency</b>	<b>\$257.50</b>	<b>\$406.50</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2832.50</b>	<b>\$4471.50</b>	<b>TBD</b>

\* For 1-2 largest committee breakout room(s)

\*\* 1 of top 2 Twin Cities proposed venues offers complimentary internet access for meeting rooms

### POTENTIAL INCOME

Remote Participants	6 – 8 delegates
Conference Registration Fee	\$375 – \$575
<b>Total (6 participants)</b>	<b>\$2250 – \$3450</b>
<b>Total (8 participants)</b>	<b>\$3000 – \$4600</b>

### VOLUNTEER SUPPORT (Outside of North America)

- Firm commitment from the U.K. Intergroup to do “footwork on the ground”
- U.K Intergroup comprised of approx. 12-14 ISR/GSRs
- E.U. Intergroup is also available to support the U.K. Intergroup’s work
- E.U. Intergroup comprised of approx. 10 ISR/GSRs
- The Convention Committee of the U.K. Intergroup (comprised of approx. 13 volunteers) organized a successful convention in 2017
- Approx. 70 fellows attended the European Convention in July 2017 in the U.K.

Language/Translations Concerns – the proposed policy for the 2018 trial will be conducted in English, with English-speaking delegates. The Conference may move to amend the policy for future trials, if future trials are proposed. If it is the will of the Conference, future trials may involve incorporating non-English speaking delegates.

## 6. Committee/Caucus Issues and Concerns Resolutions

Committee: Conference

Issue number	Resolution
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17-23	The 2016 WSC voted with substantial unanimity to conduct a remote participation trial for a limited number of distant delegates at the 2018 WSC. In respect for Tradition 1 and Concept 12 of Debtors Anonymous, the 2017 Conference Committee will take no action.
17-34	The 2016 WSC voted with substantial unanimity to create the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus. In respect for Tradition 1 and Concept 12 of Debtors Anonymous, the 2017 Conference Committee will take no action.

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**Fellowship Communications Committee – Minutes 8/25/17**

Open with Serenity Prayer.

Meeting Minutes approved with amendment:

Last year’s worldwide fellowship conference calls are not currently available to the members. Jo Mc will attempt to locate the conference call numbers with recorded speakers to retrieve previous speaker content. Jo Mc said the focus of upgrading the DA website is being done outside of the FCC committee and the Board is addressing this issue.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:**

The Treasurer has \$100 that can be requested. She must submit a request for reimbursement, a spending plan is not required.

**WORLWIDE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE CALLS:**

Establish a theme for the worldwide fellowship conference calls and it was established to be VISIONS.

It was determined that the themes would be as follows:

- 1) Visions – Individual
- 2) Visions – Group
- 3) Visions – Fellowship

First choice amongst dates would be Sunday, October 29, 2017.

Second choice amongst dates would be Sunday, October 22, 2017.

Third choice amongst dates would be Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Start time agreed upon is 2:00pm EST. Length is to be 90 minutes. Therefore, 2:00pm – 3:30pm with 3 speakers at 10 minutes each.

Suggestion: Speakers review Visions pamphlet prior to speaking.

**COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS “QUARTERLY” CALLS**

To be suggested to the Committee/Caucus chairs to hold their 4 calls per year on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays, which include September 30, 2017, December 30, 2017, March 31, 2018, and June 30, 2018. (Bill did meet with the Chairs and the dates were approved.)

Suggestion: That our Vision series be announced in the E-News, Ways and Means, and DA Focus.

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## **G-SPONSORSHIP**

Tim checked on the DA website under Fellowship Services, Resources for Groups, Group Sponsorship. There was written information with an email address – no other information. Melissa F mentioned that the email address did have an auto response so it is functioning.

Suggestion: Have persons benefitted from G-Sponsorship be interviewed for an article in DA publications and submit information about G-Sponsorship to E-News to broadcast information out to Fellowship.

Suggestion: Lynn and Alexia suggested subcommittee for G-Sponsorship follow-up.

Suggestion: Spread the word about G-Sponsorship at our groups, intergroups, and GSR regional meetings.

### **GROUP SPONSORSHIP from the D.A. Website 8-25-2017**

Group sponsorship is a D.A. resource that:

- Provides new, less experienced or struggling DA groups with resources that can help to grow or strengthen their meetings.
- Assists new, less experienced or struggling DA groups meetings to find a Sponsor Group.
- Assists more established DA groups to become a Sponsor group for a less experienced meeting.

To get information on Group Sponsorship, send an email to: [gsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com)

Once you send your email, you will receive an auto-response containing resources and suggestions for potential Sponsor Groups, Sponsee Groups and new or struggling groups. If you require further information you can reply to the auto-response with your questions. Someone will reply to your questions as soon as possible.

8/25/17 – 1:15pm – 4:45pm

### **Chair:**

FCC takes primary responsibility for communication/coordination amongst committee and caucus chairs. The committee/caucus chairs agreed to 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month. Bill P (FCC Chair) is tasked with coordinating a mutually agreeable time of the meeting, format, agenda, and broadcasting out to all chairs. Previous chair from 2016 will continue as Vice Chair to help with continuity. Bill P will be attempting communication with committee and caucus chairs that did not attend chair meeting.

### **Discussion Topics – from Brainstorming:**

G-Sponsorship  
Articles for E-news, DA Focus, Ways and Means

Discussion had about priorities.

Clarification about responsibilities of the FCC and clarification about acronyms in reference to our group's tasks and brainstorming.

Worldwide Fellowship Conference Calls

- There will be a script/format



- 
- FCC will be suggesting Speaker Candidates

Discussion regarding clarify of calls and groups.

**FCC Tasks – Setting up Worldwide Conference Calls**

- 1) Getting Speakers – Alexia volunteered – and then Lynn volunteered
- 2) Lynn volunteered to speak and then Melissa D volunteered to speak and stated her topic including theme of “Inner Vision” incorporating Step 3 and Step 11.
- 3) Suggestion to look at format later.

**PROPOSAL TO BOARD FOR WORLDWIDE FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE CALLS**

**DATES:** 3 dates to submit to submit to board in priority order are as follows:

- 1) Sunday, October 29, 2017 at 2pm EST
- 2) Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 2pm EST
- 3) Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2pm EST

**MOTION:**

Speaker Qualifications – Qualifications to follow the GSR & ISU criteria as stated in the 2017 DAMS document on page 71.

Moved, seconded, no discussion.

VOTE RESULTS: Unanimous vote.

**MOTION SO PASSED.**

**ANNOUNCE:** When worldwide fellowship conference call(s) is/are established, announce/include in an E-news blast, DA Focus, Ways & Means, and all methods of communication, pertinent platforms to spread the message to the still suffering debtor.

Discussion: Tim raised the question/issue of whether to include the format in the proposal to the board. Lolli may have format from previous years.

**MOTION:**

Title of the first Worldwide Fellowship Conference Call: To call the first worldwide fellowship conference call “Inner Visions”.

No second. MOTION DIES IN COMMITTEE.

**CONCEPT: Vision – Individual**

**FORMAT:** Details to follow later. For now, subject, title and concept need to be submitted to Board for review and acceptance. Mary Jane, 2016 FCC Chair, will provide previous proposal.

**MOTION:** Alexia nominated to be our Speaker Seeker.

Moved, seconded, no discussion.

VOTE RESULTS: Unanimous vote.

**MOTION SO PASSED.**

Email read aloud from Alexia’s smartphone of previously submitted to Board for approval for the 2016-2017

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FCC sponsored Worldwide Fellowship Conference Calls.

MOTION: To have 3 Worldwide Fellowship Conference Calls in 2017-2018.

Moved, seconded, no discussion.

VOTE RESULTS: 3 YES / 1 NO

**MOTION SO PASSED.**

**MINORITY OPINION: To have a Vision: Business focus as a fourth conference call.**

Discussion had about Robert's Rules of Order and Parliamentary Procedure.

MOTION: To hold another vote regarding three (3) Worldwide Fellowship Conference Calls and to follow procedures. Moved, seconded, no discussion.

VOTE RESULTS: UNANIMOUS **MOTION SO**

**PASSED.**

MOTION:

To add a fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) Worldwide Fellowship Conference Call during 2017-2018 with the theme of Vision: Business Owners in DA.

Moved, seconded.

Discussion about BDA.

1 Pro: BDA is a recognized branch of DA

1 Con: The theme may not be approved by other committees.

1 Con: Issue of privilege to focus on business owners. Worldwide focus on those who suffer on many levels.

VOTE RESULTS: 3 YES / 2 NO / ABSTAIN 0

**MOTION SO PASSED.**

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## Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons

### HIP – 2017-2018 Committee Meeting Minutes – WSC Dallas 8/25/17

Chair	Sarah V.
Vice-chair	Seana A.
Secretary	Patricia D.
Treasurer	Marcy J.
Member	Yanick T.
GSB Liaison	Tom R.

Monthly Meeting date/time:

Second Sunday at 6 pm ET

Call in number is: US +1 712-770-4160, Access Code: 673562

Playback number: +1 712-770-4169, access code 673562

#### Suggested Agenda Items:

1. HIP Starter Kit – with the Board to get final approval. Tom to follow-up to see where it is at in the Board level.
2. HIP Awareness Day for 2018;
3. Get stories of DA members who have experience in hospitals, institutions, and/or prisons; 'HIP representatives' on the group/intergroup/regional levels;

- 
4. Individual members will work in their own communities, e.g. identify other venues to carry the message of DA, e.g. colleges, regional bankruptcy judge conventions, recovery houses.

**What individual members would like to do:**

1. **Yanick** – I like the thought of working with college students. Also, the homeless because I was homeless. (We are too busy with fear to be of service).
2. **Seana** – there is a homeless shelter a few blocks from where I live. Also, there is a homeless shelter for families close by. Would like flyers for clients of bankruptcy lawyers. Post flyers. Can also give letter to the professionals.
3. **Marcy** – continue to do outreach to the drug rehab, go back to ‘Prison Show’ (radio) maybe go to shelters, get DA listed on a newsletter for a national group for therapists, have a DA colleague who works in a hospital that is associated with a prison.
4. **Sarah** – continue visiting local institutions, several recovery houses, interested in bringing the DA message to college registration days – I will contact colleges and universities.
5. **Patricia** – will continue to work monthly with the women’s shelter, I will continue to work with my local DA meetings to educate on the activities of HIP, continue to collect old materials, work with the Herndon meeting on doing a mass-mailing, work with two other DA members. (page on website in Spanish).
6. **Tom** – (Board Liaison) – will follow-up with the starter kit.

**The PI Manual has resources for our committee. Such as:**

1. PI has a tear-off sheet with the website on it;
2. 12 signposts are displayed in 12 posters;
3. Downloadable literature.

**Where do I get money to use for my DA/HIP-related expenses?**

1. We have \$100 from the board;
2. Can get ‘flood-damage’ literature for the cost for shipping;
3. See our treasurer for questions about expense reimbursement. But they should check with the committee before they are spent.

We will use the ‘Case Study Summary’ form to document our individual efforts.

**Timeline for HIP Awareness Day Flyers:**

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Flyer – April – just date and mission
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Flyer – May – what can I do, give examples
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Flyer – June – are you ready, Are you ready
4. 4<sup>th</sup> Flyer – July – It’s Here.

HIP Awareness Day – We designed and completed four flyers to be sent to GSB/PI committee for approval.

**Discussion on Sunday report at the conference:**

1. Recommend having a HIP representative at group, intergroup and regional levels.
2. Recommend gathering personal stories of DA members with experience in hospitals, institutions and prisons for publication in *Focus*, *Ways & Means*, and *Currency of Hope*.
3. Recommend holding a 2018 Fellowship-wide International HIP Awareness Day.
4. Recommend final approval of the HIP Starter Kit and publication on the DA website.

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## **Internal Operations Committee**

**Internal Operations Committee Minutes:**

Attending: Paul, Chair & Treasurer; Jane, Secretary & Vice-Chair; Josie, Board Liaison; and Allan, Office Manager.

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The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Issues and Concerns item regarding discrepancies in meeting numbering.

Action: Jane met with Barb S. Barb will forward specific information on meeting number discrepancies to Jane, who will work with the Office Manager to resolve the issues.

2. Physical improvements to the GSO (General Service Office)

Discussion: painting and appropriate shelving are needed to improve the office. Allan suggested that the project might have to be delayed until November 1, 2017. It was agreed, however, that this should take priority.

Action: Paul will contact a local paint store to get names of local contractors. He will then get bids and make recommendations to the Board liaison regarding selection of a contractor.

Pat developed a detailed outline for refurbishing the GSO. Paul and Pat will review the photos and formulate plans in order to estimate expenses and time involved to complete this project. The IOC spending plan will incorporate estimated costs.

3. Long range planning with regard to possible office move in the future.

Discussion: The Intergroup Caucus has mapped locations of active Intergroups. Their expertise can be utilized by the IOC to provide guidance in developing RFPs for potential relocation.

Action: Pat B. forwarded this information to Jane. The IOC will coordinate with the GSB through Josie to plan potential office move.

4. Ongoing development of the GSO policy and procedure manual.

Action: Josie and Michalene will review the manual.

5. Registration and re-registration of meetings.

Discussion: Meetings need to update their registration information annually in order to maintain an accurate data base. It was suggested that a "tickler" or reminder be programmed into the process so that groups get an automatic message to re-register.

Action: Jane presented this idea to the Technology Committee, and they graciously agreed to study the possibility of doing this.

6. Begin the process of developing a network of volunteers to respond to a "Fellowship Information Line."

Discussion: Volunteers can be helpful respond to members, families, and other interested parties' inquiries. The process would involve training of volunteers and tracking types of calls received.

Action: This will be an ongoing activity for the IOC. A member of the RDC is interested in coordinating with the development of a "chat line" for calls. The cost of adding an additional hot line number and identifying it specifically as a DA hot line is approximately \$30.00 per month plus taxes and fees.

7. Schedule for monthly IOC calls.

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Pacific, 1:00 p.m. Central, 2:00 p.m. Eastern, 7:00 p.m. GMT

Call-In Number 515-604-9546 Code 330660# PIN for Chair 4018

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17-02	Upon receipt of detailed information from Great Lakes Area DA (GLADA) on the meeting number discrepancies, the IOC will coordinate with the office manager to resolve the issue.
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## **WSC Literature Committee**

### **Lit Com Minutes at WSC**

Submitted, 8/25/17

Board Liaison, Sharon S., starts the meeting.

Readings are done.

#### **Officer Elections:**

Chair – Amy O. (Chair took over the facilitation of the meeting at this point. Sharon passes off the jump drive to Amy)

Vice Chair – Marysia

Secretary – Kelly (Sharon passes off the jump drive to Kelly)

Timekeeper – Mary Jane

Scribe - Diana

#### **Issues and Concerns:**

Read issues & concerns assigned to Lit Com

Discussed the need to answer these by December 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **Board liaison update:**

Lit pub reviewing Basic Text and Step Study Guide

#### **Conference-Approved Literature Concepts in the Literature Approval Process:**

Health Issues Pamphlet

Compulsive Spending pamphlet revision

Twelve Promises pamphlet

Daily Meditation book

B.D.A. Business Plan

Basic Text Book Outline

D.A./B.D.A. Twelve Step Study Guide outline

Newcomer's Meeting Format

Anonymity pamphlet revision

#### **Motions for approval (before convocation):**

We move to approve the Tools of BDA pamphlet – Passed (unanimously)

We move to approve the Diversity in D.A. pamphlet – Concept for Proposal – Passed (unanimously)

We move to approve the Closing Statement – Passed (7 for, 2 against, 2 abstaining)

#### **Subcommittees:**

##### **Health Issues pamphlet**

Chair - Mary Jane

Members – Gail, Debbie

Issues & Concerns to address: 17-12, 17-35, 17-13 and pamphlet

##### **Compulsive Spending**

Chair - Cynthia

Members – Maiya

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Issues & Concerns to address: 17-08, 17-17

**Twelve Promises**

Chair - Andrea

Members – Diana, Amina, Marysia

Issues & Concerns to address: 17-27

**BDA Annual Business Plan**

Chair - Amina

Members – Lolly, Cynthia

**Basic Text Stories**

Chair - Kelly

Members – Andrea, Diana, Julie, Amos

Issues & Concerns to address: 17-25, 17-19, 17-22, 17-30

**Diversity in D.A. pamphlet**

Chair – Diana

Members – Andrea, Kelly

**Daily Meditation Book**

Chair - Amos

Members – Amy, Debbie

Issues & Concerns to address: 17-29

**Issues & Concerns Discussed:**

17-01 – recommendation for a pamphlet: “From Chaos to Clarity”

Passed (7 for, 3 against, 1 abstaining)

17-13 – recommendation to review CAL for any shaming language around healthcare, such as “...taking risks with health insurance.”

Passed (4 for, 3 against, 3 abstaining)

17-27 – recommendation to eliminate the repetitiveness of “When we work D.A.’s Steps...”

Passed (9 for, 1 against, 3 abstaining) – The 12 Promises pamphlet subcommittee will include this in their work.

Lit Com quorum = 60% of members

Discussion on whether or not chair votes - Motion for the chair to vote, but vote last – Passed (11 for, 1 against, 1 abstaining)

Lit Com monthly meetings will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 10pm E.S.T.

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## WSC PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

	9:00 am Brainstorming General Public Outreach Brochure HIP postpone waiting approval from Board.	
9:08 am History: Media previously had a (subcommittee) discussing option regarding outreach to Professionals within the general public		
Contact cards need updating from the WSC booklet pg. 8, Tab 7 – considering moving forward with a motion for completing changes.		
Goals outlined for the 2017-2018 PI Committee		
GOAL ITEMS	Person responsible	Deadline
#1 Review of Pamphlet as created by Jeanne _ debt@helping.com #2 Objective: Review of reason/options for generating growth within the fellowship of Debtor Anonymous as listed below  - lack of support for outreach  - Call-in to United Kingdom with emphasis on support to increase fellowship  - Strengthening bicoastal connection between both countries  - Suggestion to conduct each meeting every 2-3 months  "Title" Quarterly calls (UK)	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-8/26/17
Objective #3 use social media i.e., YouTube Text, Links, twitters, Instagram – Proposal: join efforts with WSC Tech Committee	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-8/26/17

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
#4 -E-blast/ E- News blurb to the DA website highlighting the "Whiteboard" video!!	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-8/26/17
- American Medical Assoc., or AMA.org outreach follow up by	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-

Barb with approval & funding from the GSB		8/26/17
Other consideration: - Health care - Gateway pride - Multi-level market Schemes		

Barb will follow up with GSB to complete recommendation #3 via email messaging.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Objective #5 – reach out to (1) Organization e.g., University or College conferences PI manual has a list of organizations to review Media training –Next training date Oct 2017 via telephone conference (tentative)	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-8/26/17
#6 Explore Talk Radio– Elita will research option. Jackie suggestion speaking with HIP’s Mary who previously gave an interview on PBS/radio(/)	All Committee Members	8/25/2017-8/26/17

<b>Conclusions</b>	All members will return tomorrow to drill down more in-depth on PI 2017-2018 goals.
Pray for approval of flier Spending Plan for 2-sided copy of the 12 signs and 15 questions if approved by board- funding amount \$ 527.00 Completed Action – Serenity Prayer & Persons for flier approval	

## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Resource Development Committee Meeting, August 24-25, 2017

1. Presentation by Michalene, GSB Liaison.
2. Officers Elected: Chair – Brandi M, VC – Diana B, Secretary – Joanne N, Treasurer - Linda Y.



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3. Brandi, Diana, Joanne and Linda take on elected responsibility. Diana accepted Secretary responsibility for this meeting only because of computer access.

4. Etiquette Guidelines discussed and voted as follows: 1. Each member is expected to have read the prior meeting's notes before a meeting. The full meeting notes from the prior meeting shall be read at the beginning of each meeting by the secretary after which the Chair shall ask Committee members for any corrections or modifications. PASSED. 2. The Tradition of the calendar month (one) shall be read following the Meeting Notes. PASSED. All other Etiquette Guidelines were accepted by affirmation.

5. Review of RDC Report of the last 16/17 Year, including, in particular, RDC's Purpose and Required & Recommended Actions for Fiscal Year 17/18.

8-24-2017 RDC Meeting Continued.

6. Michalene updated the group on the status of DA accepting online payments. Projected implementation by 12/31/17.

7. Possible Actions for the RDC this year.

A. Take debit card payments for DA's 43 phone meetings – if each contributed \$20/mo (>\$5/wk) it amounts to \$10,000.00 per year from DA. Ellen noted that there are several phone meetings that are already taking contributions. Talk to phone meeting treasurers about collecting 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donations.

B. Add a DONATE button on the DA site/home page.

C. Change the DA format treasurer's announcement to include a request for individual donations to the GSR. Liaise with GSB; Encourage groups to include new script.

D. Pass around a separate basket on the odd extra/5<sup>th</sup> week of the month specific to GSR.

E. Encourage DA Groups for an annual fundraiser for the GSR.

F. Encourage volunteerism to help the Needham office.

G. Fellowship Day (\$30 entrance is the fee structure in CA.)

H. DA Phone Workshop – possibly on the Steps (DA-athon.)

I. Increase WS Fellowship Day Fees from \$15 to \$20 per person.

J. Request LT Members to Write 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition Stories for publication in the DA Focus and Ways & Means (Focus – quarterly publication; WM – general). Also, submitted story as a meditation entry for the new meditation book. Liaise with the Lit Com.

K. Explore acceptance of bequests from DA members' estates or trusts. ACTION: see what other 12-step groups' policies.

L. Explore the acceptance of donations of greater than \$5,000 to DA from an active members, update DAMS.

M. Promote other ways or times to donate: Birthday Plan, Other anniversaries, Anonymous donations (issue with a tradition: based on "our own contributions", intergroup thermometer

N. Promote Group Service Generally including working with new international groups.

O. DA Treasurer Phone Conference – How to be a treasurer. Campaign to educate treasurers about the 45/45/10 split. DAMS Pgs. 46 – 49. How to contribute to our fellowship. Instruction sheet with addresses to send in contributions.

P. Promotion 12 steps, 12 months, \$12.00 – Support GSR (Individual); \$12, \$24, \$48

Q. Appeal for calendar year-end donations with Intergroup Communication. Liaise with other Committees.

R. Michalene, GSB liaison, offered to assist with liaises with GSB and the other GSR committees.

AFFIRMED AS COMPLETE, 8/25

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8/25/2017 9am continued

Diana B., Vice Chair, led beginning of meeting while Brandi presented to the GSB.  
Joanne N. Secretary.

Note: Need to confirm GSB phone/board meeting schedule for approval of updated content of John H. and Annual Appeal letters. Not yet finalized per Michalene.

1. INCREASE MONEY – ADDITIONAL IDEAS

1. Joanne: Second-hand Day, helps members declutter, proposed \$12.00 Entry Fee, no cost to take.
2. Susan: nothing new.
3. Linda: nothing new.
4. Beth: nothing new.
5. Cynthia – More Promotional Ideas.
6. Diana – Liaise with tech to create a live chat line resident on the DA website creating new/greater outreach to membership, new volunteer opportunities for people that are housebound (students, disabled) and new potential revenue from volunteers and membership, as well as serving new younger members and provide another opportunity to people to give serve.
7. Brandi – Hotline Via Telephone.

B. Add required items to Action Items

1. Revise and update the John H. Scholarship letter
2. Revise and update the annual letter of appeal to the DA Membership to celebrate DA's 42<sup>nd</sup>

Anniversary.

C. Suggestions Actions 16/17 Committee

1. 1-2 fellowship-wide conference calls focused on resource development.
2. Project Contributor liaises with GSB on chosen projects to inform fellowship.
3. Fellowship Day at WSC 2018 – have a Financial Statement Workshop.
4. Eblast to membership re RDC mission and summarize treasurer's role, responsibilities and samples of report.
5. Creating one-page flier explaining connection between service and recovery.
6. Every Member, Every Month – name of campaign. Communicate the tradition of service.
7. Communicate the facts related to the small % of members and groups that donate to DA.
8. Communicate the vision of the group and ways to lower costs.

C. Commit to clear financial goal for 2017/18 – Increase Individual and Group Donations by \$65,000. Specifically, an increase of \$36,000 of individual donations (\$88,304 total in individual donations or + 69%) and \$29,000 in (\$65,666 total in group donations or + 78%) above fiscal year 2016/17.

D. Prioritize Action Items.

REQUIRED TASKS: review and update annual John H and Annual Appeal letters.

Also, Create a Binder of the History of DA's RD Committee, including all notes/memos, history of the Committee's efforts.

1. Encourage donations from telephone meeting by using online financial transfers; add note of online donation button to the telephone treasurer's script. At the debtorsanonymous.org website, to make your 7<sup>th</sup> tradition donation, click here, for each phone meeting.
2. Campaign encouraging monthly individual and group donations to GSR with 12/12/12, Every Member/Every Month. Month campaign. Beth/Cynthia

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3. RD Education – Financial Information Day (like HIP Awareness Day) to inspire RD activities on the group level promoting service/giving back Financial Awareness Day, including eblasts.

Other Projects:

4. Writing projects: Ask DA elders to write/submit their 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition stories; create fliers connecting service and recovery. Publish in WM or Focus. Joanne
5. Year End 2017 Appeal Effort.
6. Subcommittee: Brandi - Telephone DA-athon workshop's focused fundraiser – 12- Steps.
5. The power of Vision Meetings – Vision Workshops on the local level.
6. RD Education – Financial Information Day (like HIP Awareness Day) to inspire RD activities on the group level promoting service/giving back Financial Awareness Day, including eblast communication.
7. Subcommittee: Diana - Personal contributions cap increase from \$5000 to another number.
  - a. Also, research a policy change accepting donations from not for profit entities, trusts and bequests from or controlled by or created by active members in DA. Confirm other Fellowships related or similar policies in accordance with the traditions.

E. Recommendations for WSC: implement the online donation button on the DA website.

F. Motions for WSC: Electronic binders with Committee history. See below phone hotline – additional service opportunity.

G. Jane, from the Internal Op Committee, stopped in to discuss the implementation of a DA telephone hotline. Jane 410-570-9538 (Annapolis, MD – Eastern.) See Recommendation #2.

H. Call schedule for RDC. Options: Sun 3pm EST, first week of the month, 9/3 first meeting, 90min., second meeting Oct. 4 at 5pm EST.

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## **TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

### **Committee Members and Officers:**

Chair: Rosemary, Vice Chair: Jeff H., Secretary: David L., Treasurer: Tim L., Member: Chris S.

The Technology Committee met beginning on Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 from 7 pm to 9 pm. During the meeting the committee members introduced themselves and volunteered to do service as committee members. The Technology Committee began to formulate the direction of the committee for the next year through consultation with a direct representative of the general service board. The meeting ended after use of whiteboard and visioning techniques to help map out the technology committee direction for the next year.

The Technology Committee met again on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9 am and laid out the basis for moving forward and eliminating ideas that were not practical for this committee to consider and or being considered by other members of the General Service Board.

The committee also narrowed down the directions and goals with a bias for action. For the next year, goals were derived and an action plan was developed to move forward with each goal as the committee used discussion and brainstorming to find direction and shared life experiences.

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## WSC CAUCUS MINUTES

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### Diversity Caucus

#### Diversity Caucus – Minutes

Thanks to everyone who express interest and curiosity about how best to carry the message of Debtors Anonymous to the debtor in underserved populations and locations.

Higher Power definitely has a sense of humor. On Saturday morning, there wasn't a Diversity Caucus formed. On Sunday morning, there are five (5) members who have agreed to serve on this caucus.

Our officers are Mike M. as Vice Chair, Mary Jane B. as secretary, Melissa D. as Treasurer. Jackie A is also a member and Clay D. is our Board Liaison.

I also want to thank the caucus members for a brief but very productive meeting. We reviewed the year-end summary from the previous conference committee and agreed to adopt these projects:

- Continue to collaborate with the Literature Committee on the concept for a Diversity in D.A. pamphlet
- Identify and complete next steps to publish service literature on "Best Practices for Outreach to Underserved Populations and Locations.
- Collaborate with Intergroup on their mapping project to identify meeting coverage by region and globally; determine what populations and locations are served and where we may have "deserts in D.A." and have not yet reached the debtor who still suffers.

#### Call Schedule

Will meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday @ 5pm PDT / 7pm CDT/ 8pm EDT

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### INTERGROUP CAUCUS – MEETING MINUTES

#### **Intergroup Caucus Minutes August 23, 2017 9:10-10:10pm**

Attended by Marcy J., Marysia H., Linda Y., Pat. B.

On our first meeting, we followed the starter kit in the manual and elected Marcy J. as chair.

#### **Intergroup Caucus Minutes August 24, 2017 2:15-3:15pm**

Attended by Marcy J., Marysia H., Linda Y., Pat B.

We chose the secretary and treasurer. We reviewed the recommendations from the Intergroup Caucus of the previous year. We were advised by Pat B. that our regular Trustee, Michael A., would be unavailable for a few months, and we would have a sub, Clay, to assist us until Michael is available.

#### **Intergroup Caucus Minutes August 25, 2017 5-6pm**

Attended by Marcy J, Marysia H., Linda Y., Pat B., and Debbie L.

Debbie L. joined our caucus. We decided to adopt the recommendations of the previous year as our agenda for the coming year. We asked Pat B. to forward some documents that the 2016 caucus was working on. We completed our roster, and wrote our report for the Convocation. We chose the day and time for our monthly phone meetings:

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 8pm CST.**

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**International Caucus**

**Thursday, August 24, 2017**

**Initial Meeting:**

Meeting Action Items:

- 1) Introductions by Committee Members
- 2) Elected Caucus positions as follows: Chair – Susan L., Vice Chair Andrea B., Secretary – Chris S., Treasurer – Susan V., Scribe – Juhli C., Time Keeper – Juhli C.
- 3) Adopted Procedure and Etiquette Guidelines – group voted for all examples as listed in the Tab 5, p. 3 of 2017 WSC Binder
- 4) Discuss Issues and Concerns:
  - A. 2 – 3 international stories this year (Iceland, Vancouver, UK)
  - B. Reconnect w/France – coordinate w/Lit Com
    - i. get them back in the Approval Pipeline
  - C. Spanish and German Translations
  - D. GSB Finance – international payments
  - E. Review Treasurer’s Manual in DAMS

**Friday, August 25, 2017**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting**

Recommendations:

- 1) Review Treas. Manual to include international transactions;
- 2) Recommendation to the GSB Finance implement diversified payment options that are inclusive of our International Fellowship
- 3) Establishment of ACM with international finance expertise

Agenda Items:

- 1) Develop written history of International DA;
- 2) France Intergroup became frustrated of waiting for GSB to approve and publish French their literature translations and proceeded with the translations and published and is therefore in copyright infringement
  - Contact French connections to open communication w/GSB Legal
- 3) 2 – 3 International stories for Ways and Means, Focus and Currency of Hope, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition
- 4) GSB to continue to investigate implementing diversified payment options for international fellowship members

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**SPIRITUALLY SUSTAINABLE EARNING CAUCUS – MEETING MINUTES**

Thurs 8-24-2017, WSC SSEC Meeting  
Lolly A., Caucus Chair, Called Meeting to Order 2:20 – 3:15pm

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A. Proposed agenda for WSC 2017 SSEC

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- B. Timer: Yanick, from LA, volunteers and affirmed.
  - C. Etiquette Guidelines Motions, outlined herein.
    - a. Etiquette Motion: Read Tradition Specific the Calendar Mo. of Each Phone Meeting. PASSED
    - b. Etiquette Motion: Time for Discussion determined during each meeting; timer to be used upon group conscience decision. PASSED
    - c. Balance of Etiquette Policies affirmed by the Caucus membership following discussion re definition of “leader leading the phone calls.”

C. Vision with 2 Minute Shares, Themes: Define Underearning v. SSE/Prosperity for Individuals and BDA, Connecting SSE to DA, how do we create tools to reach the DA membership as well as update current literature, income plan creation guide, create practical guidelines/tools to understand SSE and Debting, Article Submission in Ways & Means, Possibility of 2 working sub-committees (Definitions and Tools.)

D. Discussed possible development of Mission Statement – read Ad Hoc Mission Statement taken from 8/2016 WSC Caucus Creation notes.

Friday, 8-25-2017 WSC SSEC Meeting 5-6PM

*Present: Jessiline, Carol M., Yanick T., Ed K., Jacquie J., Beth T., Amina Z., Sharon S, Diana, Lolly, Barb, & Lynn.*

E. Call Schedule Defined

First Sat of the Mo., noon pacific: 9/9 (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend), 10/7 (first weekend), 11/4, 12/2, 1/6/18, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2, 7/7.

F. Read from DAMS pg 79 the paragraph on SSEC.

G. Discussed possible Action Plan, Fiscal Year 17/18, brainstorm session re actions to take in the next fiscal year:

Consider developing and drafting a new statement of purpose

Educate fellowship re underearning fits into the DA Fellowship.

Article, pamphlet, fellowship-wide call on the topic of cultivating prosperity through the 12 steps of DA as a tool to relief underearning.

Encourage collection of stories and testimony of underearners transformed by the steps to be included in the in-process meditation book.

Article in WM or Focus to announce our existence to the Fellowship and solicit suggestions from the Fellowship as to what they see the Caucus accomplishing, and liaise with Committee by creating subcommittees to accomplish these tasks.

Discussion leading to clarity within the Caucus as to the meaning of Prosperity/SSE for Business Owners.

Educational piece that SSE challenges are NOT a thing of shame; Eblast or Pamphlet focused on self-care.

Define what SSE is/draft more sensitive language and create action tools to better welcome underearners into the program.

Tie underearning and debting together as two sides of the same illness.

Definitions of prosperity, underearning, and SSE, and the importance of self-care. Include clarity around the idea that being an underearner is NOT the same as being a low earner.

H. Recommendations or Motions to submit to GSB (NONE)

All sessions opened and closed with Serenity Prayer.

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## RESPONSES TO 2017 RECOMMENDATIONS:

### Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No recommendations.

### Conference Committee

With the intention of helping the World Service Conference Committees achieve better continuity of committee service and institutional memory, the Conference Committee recommends that delegates strongly consider serving for at least 2 years on a WSC committee, and that the GSB Conference Support Committee announce this recommendation during the yearly WSC orientation calls.

*Understanding the Conference Committee's intention to create continuity for WSC committees, the board's Conference Support Committee included the suggested announcement in the two pre-conference orientation calls for WSC 2018.*

The World Service Committee Conference Committee recommends that the GSB Conference Support Committee liaison to the Host Committee ensure that special dietary needs are accommodated.

*For WSC 2018, the board's Conference Support Committee (CSC), in conjunction with members of the Host Committee, will be meeting directly with the hotel regarding menu planning and the hotel's ability to accommodate special dietary needs. This is a standard activity prior to every conference. CSC expects the hotel to be able to accommodate most special requirements, and will define with the hotel the mechanism for communicating such needs to the hotel's dining staff.*

*As always, at any given conference, there may be some unique needs that go beyond what the hotel can do, given the financial contract between the board and the hotel. For this reason, the General Service Board will continue to provide the following guidance in the Registration Packet for each conference: "**Special Dietary Needs.** Meals will be served buffet style. There will be vegetarian and vegan selections at each meal. If you have special dietary needs that may not be met by the conference meals, you may want to include extra meal funds in your spending plan."*

### Fellowship Communications Committee

No recommendations.

### Internal Operations Committee

The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2016-17 funding level for the "Salary and Hourly Wages" line item for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

*The General Service Board appreciates the IOC's concern with adequate office staffing. However, sacrifices were made in many areas of the spending plan to reduce expenditure. The Board determined that by reducing the part time person from 30 hours to 20 hours we could maintain adequate coverage for the office while insuring that response time to the Fellowship was still adequate.*

The IOC recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the Spending Plan to begin saving for an eventual relocation of the GSO.

*The General Service Board agrees that the idea of establishing a reserve to allow the office to relocate is an excellent idea. Unfortunately, as the Board is having difficulty maintaining basic services, those needs have to be met before such a reserve can be established. The Office Committee has forwarded this concept to the Board for further discussion on the feasibility of establishing a moving reserve.*

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The IOC recommends the installation of a dedicated hotline in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from still suffering debtors. The IOC is coordinating this item with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to move this forward.

*The Office committee will continue to support IOC as they explore this worthwhile idea. It should be noted however that there are significant hurdles that must be discussed and worked out before such a system can be put into motion.*

## **Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee**

Recommend having a HIP representative at group, intergroup and regional levels.

*We continue to recommend an HIP representative at the group, Intergroup and regional levels.*

Recommend gathering personal stories of DA members with experience in hospitals, institutions and prisons for publication in *Focus* and *Ways & Means*, and *Currency of Hope*.

*This year, one story was published from Sidney, who was solicited from Seana A., a HIP Committee member. We continue to solicit stories from individuals with experience in hospitals, institutions and prisons.*

Recommend holding a 2018 Fellowship-wide International HIP Awareness Day.

*An International HIP Awareness Day has been authorized to be held July 14, 2018, and fellowship-wide news has been sent out twice to remind the fellowship of the event.*

Recommend final approval of the HIP Starter Kit and publication on the DA website.

*The HIP Starter Kit has been approved and published on the DA website, as well as eNews announcing the publication.*

## **Literature Committee**

No recommendations.

## **Public Information Committee**

No recommendations.

## **Resource Development Committee**

That DA General Service Board create an electronic binder in the cloud containing folders for each World Service Conference Committee within which each Committee's records are stored.

*Thank you to RDC for this recommendation. It is the Board's understanding that RDC took the initiative to create an electronic binder repository and therefore the Board took no action on this recommendation.*

That the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board implement the automatic online donation payment system on [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) by November 1, 2017 to support increased contributions.

*The Board thanks the RDC for this recommendation. Although the online donation capability was not completed by November 1, 2017, the Board has been working diligently on testing a system that will be launched shortly (target: July 2018). The need for testing and insuring that the system would meet the requirements of Fellowship were upmost in the Board's mind as we proceeded with the development.*

The development of a dedicated toll-free hot-line in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from the still suffering debtor and increase service opportunities for the current member.

*Both the Internal Operations Committee and the RDC have worked on this project and the Board*



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*appreciates their initiative. Work will continue into the coming year if the committees wish to proceed with it. Funding of such a hotline and smooth transition between volunteers are all issues that must be addressed before the project can reach fruition.*

## **Technology Committee**

Benchmark DA USA online presence (website features, social media, search engine results) compared to online presence of other 12-step programs and DA regional area groups

*The committee is working on this project.*

Conduct an anonymous demographic survey of DA members by emailing an anonymous online survey to the 5,700 people on the eNews email mailing list

*The committee has been working with WSC RDC and GSB Info Tech to develop the prototype survey. They will pass it on to next year's Tech Com for continuing development.*

Reach out to other committees to ask what they need from the technology committee

*The committee did reach out to other committees and received several responses which they were able to fulfill.*

Provide anonymous meeting contact information for each meeting listed on the DA USA website, leveraging Gmail and Google voicemail as a tool

*There are several areas of limitation to this project, but the committee continues to work on it.*

Make group registration easier and automatically send annual reminder to re-register meetings via the DA website

*The committee has worked with their GSB liaison and the GSO manager on this project and continues to make progress.*

Post "Ask the GSB" phone call recordings on the DA website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org))

*GSB Info Tech and ComCom have been working on developing this capability with Tech Com's support.*

Publish *A Currency of Hope* and 12 x 12 x 12 in electronic format to be available on or before the 2018 World Service Conference

*Tech Com has provided support to GSB Lit Pub, and the project is ongoing.*

## **Diversity Caucus**

No recommendations.

## **Intergroup Caucus**

No recommendations.

## **International Caucus**

No recommendations.

## **Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus**

No recommendations.

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**Rosters – 2017-2018**  
**WSC Committees and Caucuses**  
\*GSB Liaison, \*\*Chairperson

**Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA)**

Bill D. \*  
Jeanine C. \*\*  
Mary Jane W.  
Barbara H.  
Carol M.  
Mike M.  
Juhli C.  
Fred B.  
Ed K.  
Kypris D.  
Jacquelyn J.

**Conference Committee (CC)**

Allen T \*  
Jessiline B. \*\*  
Jackie A.  
Jean C.  
Jeff H.  
Mike L.

**Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)**

Jo Mc \*  
Bill P. \*\*  
Tim P.  
Melissa F.  
Lynn S.  
Alexia B.  
Melissa D.

**Internal Operations Committee (IOC)**

Josie P. \*  
Paul M. \*\*  
Jane L.  
Patricia T.

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

Tom R. \*  
Sarah V. \*\*  
Marcy J.  
Patricia D.  
Seana A.  
Yanick T.

**Literature Committee (LIT)**

Sharon S. \*  
Amy O. \*\*  
Marysia H.  
Kelly L.  
Andrea B.  
Gail D.  
Maiya A.  
Diana G.  
Debbie L.  
Mary Jane B.  
Cynthia S.  
Lolly A.  
Amos P.  
Julie C.  
Amina Z.

**Public Information Committee (PI)**

Bob D. \*  
Barb S. \*\*  
Jeanne G. \*\*  
Elita R.  
Gerry L.  
Sierra P.  
Susan L.  
Ellen S.  
Gidalia R.

**Resource Development Committee (RDC)**

Michalene R. \*  
Brandi M. \*\*  
Diana B.  
Susan A.  
Joanne N.  
Cynthia B.  
Linda Y.  
Beth T.

**Technology Committee (TECH)**

Bill D. \*  
Rosemary H. \*\*  
Chris S.  
Dave L.  
Jeff H.  
Tim L.

**Diversity Caucus**

Dayton L. \*  
Diana G. \*\*  
Mike M.  
Melissa D.  
Jackie A.

**Intergroup Caucus**

Michael A. \*  
Marcy J. \*\*  
Linda Y.  
Marysia H.  
Debbie L.

**International Caucus**

Dayton L. \*  
Susan L. \*\*  
Chris  
Andrea B.  
Juhli C.  
Patricia D.  
Sarah V.  
Sierra P.

**Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus**

Michael A. \*  
Lolly A. \*\*  
Lynn S.  
Diana B.  
Barb S.  
Jessiline B.  
Carol H.  
Kelly L.  
Yanick T.  
Fred B.  
Ed K.  
Jacquie J.  
Jeanine C.  
Beth T.  
Amina Z.

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# Issues & Concerns

## 2017 World Service Conference

Irving, Texas USA

The Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC) addresses the issues and concerns of D.A. groups that affect D.A. as a whole. Members, groups and Intergroups have submitted the Issues & Concerns listed below during the past year via the [debtorsanonymous.org](http://debtorsanonymous.org) website or by mailing them to the General Service Office. The receiving and processing of Issues and Concerns (I&C) from the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous (D.A.) is an important communication vehicle aiding the health, unity, and growth of D.A. as a whole.

After the Conference, the committees of the General Service Board (GSB) and the World Service Conference committees and caucuses consider these Issues & Concerns as possible items for motions and recommendations at Convocation or as potential topics to discuss during their service throughout the year. Direct responses to each Issue & Concern are published in the WSC Final Conference Report (if they are submitted at the Conference) or on the D.A. website (if they are submitted by December 1 following the Conference.)

Each Issue & Concern has been assigned a number. Please include this number AND the original text of the Issue & Concern in any response submitted for publication.

*NOTE: Any responses to Issues & Concerns submitted after July 22, 2017 will not be included in the final document posted on the D.A. website by January 1, 2018.*

<b>General Service Board Committees</b>	<b>World Service Conference Committees &amp; Caucuses</b>
GSB: 17-04, 17-06, 17-33	WSC Business Debtors Anonymous: 17-38, 17-39
GSB Communications: 17-05, 17-20	WSC Conference: 17-23, 17-34
GSB Conference Support: 17-26	WSC Diversity Caucus: none
GSB Finance: 17-10, 17-15, 17-16	WSC Fellowship Communications: 17-21, 17-32
GSB Information Technology: none	WSC Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons: none
GSB International: none	WSC Intergroup Caucus: none
GSB Legal: none	WSC Internal Operations: 17-02
GSB Literature Publications: none	WSC International Caucus: none
GSB Long Range Planning: 17-11, 17-14, 17-18, 17-28, 17-36	WSC Literature: 17-01, 17-08, 17-12, 17-13, 17-17, 17-19, 17-22, 17-25, 17-27, 17-29, 17-30, 17-35
GSB Nominations: none	WSC Public Information: 17-37
GSB Office: 17-03, 17-07	WSC Resource Development: none
GSB Public Information: 17-31	WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus: none
	WSC Technology: 17-24

ID	Assigned Committee	Issues & Concerns	Response
17-01	WSC Literature Committee	<p>As the GSR for Friday DA Clearway meeting #1374, members of our group ask the GSO literature committee to please create a pamphlet focused on debtors who suffer from debting that is perpetuated and worsened by symptoms of chronic disorganization</p> <p>We suggest this pamphlet be called:</p> <p>FROM CHAOS TO CLARITY</p> <p>We suggest providing specific guidance about ways recovering debtors move from confusion and chaos in our financial affairs and life to clarity, organization &amp; solvency in all of our affairs. Specifically we would like this pamphlet to reference DA's Promise 2, Promise 10 and Step 11.</p> <p>Attached are draft documents related to this pamphlet that we would like to see created.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Melissa D. GSR Meeting #1374</p> <p><b><u>From Chaos to Clarity in Debtors Anonymous</u></b></p> <p>How do chaos and disorganization impact our debting problems, and how can DA principles be applied to finding clarity?</p> <p>Here are some connected patterns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being unable to find your past due or current bills in the piles of mail everywhere.</li> <li>• Being late to work because you couldn't find your shoes, keys, watch, or phone.</li> </ul>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-01 to the 2017-18 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>The request for a pamphlet titled, "From Chaos to Clarity," starts with the conference's approval of a literature concept. For more information on the literature approval process, please look at page 95 of the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service, found on:  <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/getting-started/free-literature/">http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/getting-started/free-literature/</a></p> <p>This year's Literature Committee has formed a sub-committee focused on developing a proposal for the concept of a pamphlet on this topic. Once the sub-committee has completed their proposal, they will bring it to the larger 2017-18 World Service Conference Literature Committee for review and approval. If Literature Committee approves of the proposed concept, it would then be brought as a motion to convocation at the 2018 World Service Conference. If approved at the World Service Conference, the literature committee could then begin work on this pamphlet.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spending money on renting storage space, instead of saving money for your Visions.</li><li>• Spending money to replace what you've lost in the clutter.</li><li>• Buying new socks or dishes -- because your current ones are dirty.</li><li>• A general feeling of terminal vagueness.</li><li>• Difficulty keeping your DA numbers because of losing your numbers notebook -- or because of lack of skills in organizing your receipts.</li><li>• A desk too messy to use for financial paperwork.</li><li>• Loss of income from your spare room – you cannot rent it out to a tenant, nor can you use the room as an office for your business – because this room is too full of stuff. The clutter becomes like a tenant who takes residence in your home but doesn't pay rent.</li><li>• Being unable to have work clients into your home because you're embarrassed about the mess.</li><li>• The cost of fixing things that broke when they fell off an unstable pile.</li><li>• Allowing mental chaos to distract you from financial responsibilities.</li><li>• Allowing avoidance to enable you to be busy doing everything but working on your solvency.</li></ul>	
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- A lack of clarity as to what financial papers must be kept for financial or legal reasons, and what can be shredded -- so therefore you keep all of it.
- Allowing "compulsive shopping" to cause you to overspend ... and to accumulate too much stuff.
- Not getting the full value out of the home you are paying for (regardless of whether via mortgage or rent) ... because parts of it feel chaotic due to the clutter.
- Chaos!!! Unmanageability!!!

Here are some connected solutions:

- In DA, we let our Pressure Relief Group people "in" to see our numbers.  
Practicing these principles in all our affairs would be:  
Letting someone into our homes and offices to help us to clear the chaos.
- In DA, we have a prudent reserve of money (instead of having it all spent with no room for emergencies).  
Practicing these principles in all our affairs would be:  
Having a prudent reserve of empty space (instead of having a stuffed room with no room for changes).

And now a Statement of Hope: We believe the path to reversing these patterns of chaos is a spiritual path, by working the 12 steps and living the 12 promises, with a Higher Power of our own understanding. For this spiritual relationship breathes vitality, zest, and hope back into our lives.

Step 11 and working the DA program lead us to find the joy of Promises #2 and #10

Promise 2:

		<p>Clarity will replace vagueness. Confidence and intuition will replace confusion and chaos. We will live engaged lives, make decisions that best meet our needs, and become the people we were meant to be.</p> <p>Promise 10: We will no longer fear the truth; we will move from hiding in denial to living in reality.</p>	
<b>17-02</b>	<b>WSC Internal Operations Committee</b>	<p>Subject: Numbering System</p> <p>As the Chair of GLADA group 72800, our Intergroup has noted discrepancies in the numbering system used to identify groups.</p> <p>I will write a more detailed description of the issue in the next few days, but wanted to enter this as a placeholder submitted in time for the deadline.</p> <p>Barb, GLADA</p>	<p>Meeting Re-Registration Process. Meetings of Debtors Anonymous are expected to re-register each year on the DA website. There are some meetings on the website that clearly have not updated their information for several years. We are working with the Technology Committee to come up with a system for reminding the groups to re-register each year, following up to confirm that re-registration has been completed, and removing groups that are not responsive.</p> <p>Resolution of the Issue and Concern in Item 1 above can be included in this re-registration process.</p>
<b>17-03</b>	<b>GSB Office/GSO</b>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>This meeting has been closed for at least 2 years, but it remains on the DA website Find a Meeting page as an active meeting.</p> <p>Strength in Solvency Thursday 7-8 pm Bolingbrook IL 60490 Group #1211</p> <p>The GSO has been notified, yet it remains active.</p> <p>Thank you for your assistance in removing this meeting. Barb</p>	<p>Thank you, Barb, for submitting your concern. Too many of us in Debtors Anonymous have had the experience of planning to attend a face-to-face meeting and then discovering that the meeting has moved or has folded. This frustrating experience affects newcomers, long-timers, local members, and members from out of town.</p> <p>In the spirit of unity, the GSB Office Committee would like to share with you the process of removing a D.A. meeting from our online list. The Annual Meeting Re-Registration Form is currently the only avenue available for a D.A. group to update its status. If a meeting moves or if it closes, the Office Manager must verify the updated</p>

		<p>Barb  <a href="mailto:barbindyda@aol.com">barbindyda@aol.com</a>          GLADA Chair</p>	<p>information with both the Primary and Alternate Contact Persons. Once verified, the Office Manager will update the group information on the D.A. website.</p> <p>Modernization and increased staffing of the General Service Office would very likely reduce the time it takes to remove a group from the D.A. meeting list. However, that type of growth is limited by our spending plan.</p> <p>In the meantime, the GSB Office Committee will direct our Office Manager to remove the Strength in Solvency meeting (Group #1211) from our meeting list.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.</p>
<p><b>17-04</b></p>	<p>GSB</p>	<p>Earlier this year the Board voted to remove a member from a WSC Committee. Besides violating the Traditions and Concepts, in my humble opinion, the Board also bypassed the Conference. I do not believe it is up to the Board alone to make these decisions that can affect the work of the WSC committees. It states in the Committee starter kit that GSRs and ISRs shall continue as members of the WSC committees until the following conference, even if their terms are up before that time. If this policy is to change, it should be with the approval of the Conference.</p> <p>Eileen N          Prospect Park, PA</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concerns, which involve an Intergroup's decision to remove a member from serving as their Intergroup Service Representative and the question of that member's subsequent eligibility to continue to participate in service on a World Service Conference Committee and/or Caucus.</p> <p>The D.A. General Service Board considered D.A.'s Second and Fourth Traditions when assessing this particular situation. Our Second Tradition suggests that the GSB is not the governing body of Debtors Anonymous and our Fourth Tradition reminds the GSB that every group should be autonomous. The decision of this Intergroup was to remove a</p>



			<p>particular member as their representative, so they were certainly autonomous in that decision.</p> <p>It is important to note that this involved removal of a representative from service – not an expiration of a service term before the completion of a WSC conference year. If a member is removed from service by an informed group conscience and insists on their “right” to continue to serve, it would seem clear that the individual member would be putting their own desires ahead of the common welfare and unity of that Intergroup, and by extension, would affect D.A. as a whole, which is contrary to Tradition One.</p> <p>After careful consideration of the Traditions, the GSB looked at the concept of D.A.’s “inverted triangle for service.” Ultimately, it was the concept of the “inverted triangle” which was relied upon for a determination of next steps in this situation.</p> <p>As you may know, the GSB occupies the lowest position of that triangle. Just above the GSB is the World Service Conference, GSRs, and ISRs. At the top are intergroups and groups. The GSB exists to serve the needs of the membership of the Fellowship, in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for Service.</p> <p>The question then was: how could the GSB best respect the determination of the Intergroup that no longer wanted a particular member to serve as their representative? How should the GSB balance their decision with the desire of the member who was removed who wished to remain in service on their WSC committee?</p>
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			<p>The GSB determined that to truly respect the concept “inverted triangle,” the only reasonable outcome was that this member, having been removed by an informed group conscience of the Intergroup, was no longer eligible to participate on WSC Committees or Caucuses. That individual no longer represented a group or intergroup; therefore, they were no longer a “registered GSR or ISR.” To allow that member to continue to serve would undermine the group conscience of the Intergroup who had removed that individual as their representative in service to the Fellowship.</p> <p>With that said, it is important to remember that neither the GSB nor the Intergroup relieved the former-ISR of their D.A. membership. A member who is dismissed from service from one Intergroup would be welcome to offer to be of service as a registered representative of another group or intergroup. In doing so, that member would again be eligible to participate in World Service.</p> <p>Recovery in D.A. is available to anyone who has the desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. However, many groups have requirements for service positions with each group determining their own criteria. In order to support the autonomy of each group or intergroup to make a decision about representation for their group, the WSC and GSB must take every reasonable step to ensure that the group’s determination of representation, or removal from service, be respected.</p> <p>Based on the above criteria, the GSB unanimously determined that a member who had been removed from service by their group would no longer a “registered GSR or ISR,” and therefore,</p>
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			would not be eligible to continue to attend or vote at WSC committee or caucus meetings.
17-05	GSB Communications Committee	<p>Several eNews' were sent out this year with an addition to the 2013 Conference approved Statement of Purpose:  <b>The Statement of Purpose of Debtors Anonymous reads:</b>  <i>In D.A., our purpose is threefold: to stop incurring unsecured debt, to share our experience with the newcomer, and to reach out to other debtors.</i></p> <p><i>Any member of D.A. can provide service and aid in reaching the debtor who still suffers. Our communication and service within the Fellowship is a means of growing spiritually and doing important service in and for Debtors Anonymous.</i></p> <p>The second paragraph does not exist in the Conference approved version. It took several emails before this change was addressed. I was told that it was a formatting issue. I don't believe this, nor do I think anyone else looking at the statement as copied above would either. This was the Board ignoring the group conscience and creating their own statement.</p> <p>It took a few tries, and the Statement was finally corrected. There was, however, no retraction. There are groups out there with little or no connection to the Conference that may consider the above version to be the correct one. The Board needs to send out an eNews correcting this error.</p> <p>Eileen N, Prospect Park, PA</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting an Issue &amp; Concern and bringing this matter to the attention of the Communications Committee. We regret the error and will publish a retraction in the D.A. Focus in early 2018 stating as follows:</p> <p><i>Retraction:</i>  <i>The following Statement of Purpose was approved at the 2013 World Service Conference:</i>  <i>"In D.A., our purpose is threefold: to stop incurring unsecured debt, to share our experience with the newcomer, and to reach out to other debtors."</i>  <i>An error in formatting in a series of eNews announcements for a fellowship-wide call in early 2017 might have given the wrong impression that there was a second sentence, but this is the only Conference-approved version. Ever since its adoption, it has been published in its entirety on the Debtors Anonymous website in the Fellowship Services section under Resources for Groups at <a href="http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/">http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/</a></i></p> <p>Thank you again for your service to our Fellowship in pointing out the error, and for giving us the opportunity to correct our mistake and to widely and enthusiastically share the Conference-approved version of our Statement of Purpose.</p> <p>GSB Communications Committee</p>
17-06	GSB	<p>Subject: Deadline confusion</p> <p>Can you please clarify the deadline for DA members to submit 'issues and concerns' in time to be addressed at our 2017</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting this topic. The board's Conference Support Committee has redoubled its efforts this year to ensure that all topics submitted by the July deadline do in fact make it to WSC 2018. The board's actions will include</p>

		<p>WSO conference?</p> <p>On the DA website, there is contradictory info about the deadline. On the registration section regarding the WSO on page 18 a deadline is stated to be July 7th.</p> <p>However, most members are not going to be 'registering' for WSO and so may be more likely to scroll to the bottom of the WSO page where submissions are said to be 'all year round and to be considered for the current year's conference, 30 days prior to the conference.</p> <p>Since I am the rep for our group I want to be giving accurate information. Thanks,</p> <p>Melissa D.</p>	<p>better communication with the General Service Office, as well as ongoing monitoring of the email address set up for the receipt of topics. We will do our best to include all Issues &amp; Concerns that are submitted by the July 7<sup>th</sup> date.</p> <p>It may be that there is confusing information in the WSC Registration Packet. We will try improve clarity about the deadlines in the future. Having said that, we will try to include all Issues and Concerns that are submitted before the WSC Conference materials are sent to the printer.</p>
<b>17-07</b>	GSB Office Committee	<p>Hi all,</p> <p>I have been a member of DA for 9 years now. When I arrived, I purchased all of the literature and pamphlets. Since then I have not thought to update them until I heard someone with a different copyright date reading on a telephone meeting. My face-to-face meetings do not carry this updated literature. This information is not available anywhere on the D.A. website.</p> <p>Here is my request:</p> <p>Please consider listing each literature item's copyright date on the literature form next to its name. This way, I can download and print it and compare it against my current literature to make sure I have the most updated ones.</p> <p>Thank you, ~Amy</p>	<p>Thank you, Amy, for submitting your concern. Informing the Fellowship of substantive changes to one of our pamphlets or books is important, allowing D.A. members to stand unified in the spirit of our First Tradition.</p> <p>During the upcoming months, the GSB Office Committee hopes to list the last copyright date next to the title of each of our pamphlets and books. That information will likely be posted on a stand-alone page on the D.A. website.</p>
<b>17-08</b>	WSC Literature Committee	<p>Subject: Issue for GSB/ Conference discussion</p> <p>Thank you for your service!</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-08 to the 2017-18 Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of</p>

		<p>To improve the experience of those of us in the program, as well as the debtor who still suffers, there is an issue believe would be helpful for the Board and a literature committee to discuss.</p> <p>The Numbers booklet lists categories, I in a general order something like this: spirituality, transportation, then health.</p> <p>After 7 years of practicing the DA program and getting much relief, I became physically ill (&amp; spiritually ill) for a year and was unable to work. One day, working on my spending plan as I was healing, I realized that the Health-related categories must come before transportation. It didn't matter if I had a car I couldn't pay for without exhausting my prudent reserve if I could not drive it. Or worse, it didn't matter if i had a car if I could have died.</p> <p>Once I realized I was putting my car before my life, I blamed myself for putting my priorities out of order. Months later I saw that our DA literature goes in this order, so I was only following the program I love so dearly and aim to live by! It took me 9 years of working with my numbers in the program, a terrible illness and new eyes to see that health must come before transportation! Surprisingly, once I changed the order on my spending plan, I experienced a slow psychic shift in how I saw my healing process: I went from hopelessness to hope, just as I had experienced about my debting when I was a newcomer. That shift also made its way into my belief that I could overcome all of the emotional blockages of entering the working world again.</p> <p>Perhaps changing the order could prevent someone else from becoming ill or adding spiritual illness to a physical misfortune.</p> <p>That said, I believe it's worthwhile to change our literature to reflect the order of Health related categories being listed before Transportation.</p>	<p>our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>The Literature Committee reviewed this issue during the 2017 World Service Conference and after discussion, our group conscience decided that an update to “The Numbers: One Approach” booklet was not needed.</p> <p>As stated on the 4<sup>th</sup> page of the booklet, it “is designed to provide specific assistance to D.A. Members seeking ideas about how to set up financial records. It is not a replacement for sponsorship for participating in Pressure Relief Groups or for working the 12 steps of D.A. ...category choices are very personal, the categories included in this booklet are only suggestions.”</p> <p>We are glad you were able to personalize the categories, to work with your spending plan.</p>
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		<p>Thank you Have a great conference this year!</p> <p>Blessings, JudiAhavah D</p>	
<p><b>17-09</b></p>	<p>GSB Long-Range Planning Committee</p>	<p>Dear Fellows in DA,</p> <p>I would like to bring in a concern regarding the DA Meeting Format, which is suggested on the website in the part of resources for groups (link: <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/download/meeting-format-2/?wpdmdl=1428">http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/download/meeting-format-2/?wpdmdl=1428</a>):</p> <p>The concern regards the DA meeting format, which is suggested on the website in the part of resources for groups. In the closing statement, I would suggest to put in also a hint on the 12th tradition since it is our spiritual foundation and I would not feel comfortable in a meeting which does not have that. Right now, there is none.</p> <p>Best, Karina in Germany, gratefully solvent today</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concern.</p> <p>For some time, members and meetings were using materials from other fellowships and had not received permission to do so.</p> <p><b>From the 2017 DAMS:</b> “The General Service Board (GSB) is deeply committed to the removal of all language that has been borrowed from other Fellowships, and make our literature, original D.A. literature. Therefore, the GSB has removed the closing statement from the Meeting Format for D.A. and B.D.A. meetings.”</p> <p>To respond to this issue, the WSC Literature Committee created a new Closing Statement to replace a writing which was “borrowed” from another fellowship. The World Service Conference delegates approved this new Closing Statement which can be found on the Debtors Anonymous website and reads as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CLOSING STATEMENT</b></p> <p>In closing, we would like to remind you that in Debtors Anonymous we practice Tradition Twelve, which is the principle of anonymity. This assures us the freedom to express ourselves at meetings and in private conversations without fear that our comments will be repeated. We keep what is shared at meetings confidential. As</p>

			<p>we work the Steps and practice D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts, we are reminded that recovery is possible and that we are all here for a common purpose – to recover from compulsive debting one day at a time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">*****</p> <p>The new Closing Statement can also be found on the D.A. website.</p>
17-10	GSB Finance	<p>BDA GROUP #156 Menlo Park, CA USA</p> <p>Set up an easy way for DA phone meetings to make a 7<sup>th</sup> tradition electronically.</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Thank you for your question to the Board. The GSB is working on implementing the online contribution feature of the debtorsanonymous.org website. We will apprise the Fellowship when this is available.</p>
17-11	GSB Long Range Planning	<p>South Minneapolis D.A. Group 1101</p> <p>Minneapolis, MN USA</p> <p>Clarification re: D.A.'s position re: Underearning</p> <p>Speaker on abstinence/definitions/examples</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concern.</p> <p>The Debtors Anonymous Conference-Approved pamphlet, <i>Underearning</i>, copyright 2015, defines "underearning" as follows:</p> <p><b>"What is Underearning?</b></p> <p>In Debtors Anonymous, underearning is a symptom of the disease of compulsive debting, where we do not generate enough income to take care of important present and future needs without debting.If our income is not sufficient to fulfill our essential needs, we are in grave danger of incurring new unsecured debt."</p>

			<p>From the <u>Underearning</u> pamphlet, copyright 2015, page 1.</p> <p>Please refer to this pamphlet for further discussion of the symptom of underearning.</p> <p>To address the second part of your question: “Speaker on abstinence/definition/examples”</p> <p>We would refer you to the Conference-approved literature and to information on the debtorsanonymous.org website.</p> <p>A description can be found on the Debtors Anonymous website, under “FAQ” section, “What is Solvency?”</p> <p>“Solvency, the primary purpose of Debtors Anonymous, is the practice of not incurring any new unsecured one day at a time. Unsecured debt is any form of debt that is not backed up by collateral.”</p> <p>You may find further clarity and examples in other Debtors Anonymous Conference-Approved literature resources, including the <i>Twelve Steps</i>, <i>Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous</i>, and in the <i>Debtors Anonymous</i> and <i>Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous</i> pamphlets. Additionally, the <i>Currency of Hope</i> and the <i>Ways &amp; Means</i> have members’ stories which may provide examples of how those individuals live their program of recovery.</p>
17-12	WSC Literature Committee	<p>CITY and COUNTRY: Seattle, WA U.S.A.</p> <p><b>Issue or Concern for the 2017 D.A. World Service Conference:</b></p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-12 to the 2017-2018 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address</p>



		<p>Medical matters are an outside issue. There is a difference between a debtor’s act of self-will and medical necessity. Medical debt for American DA members needs to be differentiated from the abstinence of unsecured debt applicable to the DA fellowship worldwide.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. In AA, medical matters are considered an outside issue. A physician may prescribe a potentially addictive medication to an alcoholic, and AA has no opinion on whether or not the patient takes this medical advice. Because giving advice on medical matters can have life or death consequences, I suggest DA follow the lead of the mother program and view medical matters pertaining to DA members as an outside issue.</li> <li>II. This means that incurring debt for medical expenses, including emergency care, should be an outside issue. There are several reasons for this: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>Difficult if not impossible to ascertain accurate charges in advance</i> Making a decision to pay for medical care in the U.S. is not like making a decision to pay for any other consumer good or service, because finding out in advance the cost of healthcare services ranges from difficult to impossible. For example, the health insurance company Premera states, “Exact benefits will be determined when a claim is received.” This means the cost to the consumer will be determined not by the care provider, but by the biller after the expense is incurred.</li> <li>b) <i>DA members in U.S. can’t control costs, just as Al-anon members cannot control alcoholics’ behavior</i> Navigating medical debt in the U.S. is an Al-anon issue, not a DA issue. As in an alcoholic home, the rules change on the whim of the alcoholic; the alcoholic acts and others react to her drinking and its consequences. An Al-anon member’s sobriety is not dependent on</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p>your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>At the 2011 World Service Conference, by substantial unanimity, the membership voted to approve the concept of a health issues pamphlet. Following our group conscience, we have decided not to make a motion around differentiating solvency between American debtors and those worldwide.</p>
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whether or not the alcoholic in his life is still drinking. The U.S. medical insurance system is on the business equivalent of an alcoholic rampage and DA members should not be penalized for systemic dysfunction (see member account below).

c) *Importance of developing guidelines that apply worldwide* DA members in U.S. are penalized by the state of American healthcare, one of our country's most controversial and politically embattled systems. The prospect of incurring medical debt does not typically threaten the solvency and serenity of individuals living in countries with national healthcare systems. Do we want different guidelines for solvency for American DA members than we do for members from other developed nations? How can we care for and protect the solvency and serenity of our DA members worldwide?

d) *Access to medical care is a human rights issue, not a DA issue.* Tradition Ten states DA has no opinion on outside issues. The fact that this situation applies only to American DA members underscores it is an outside issue.

*A DA member in good standing, with health care insurance and a growing savings account, tells this story:*

When I learned I had to have immediate surgery on a recent visit to the emergency room, I tried to get information about the costs of the procedure from every medical professional who walked into my room. I continued asking about costs after the surgery and no one could tell me.

The price of the surgery and an overnight hospital stay was \$43,000. Later, I spoke with a hospital patient financial advocate who explained how the billing works. Here's the breakdown:

Hospital bill \$43,000  
My family's deductible/ my portion of bill -\$10,500  
Insurance company portion of bill \$32,500  
I learned the hospital then wrote off \$23,000 of the insurance company's portion of the bill so my insurance actually paid for \$8,500 of the cost.

Additionally, the insurance company considers my out of pocket deductible (\$10,500) as part of their payment, so they claim they are paying \$19,000 of the \$43,000 bill. A call to the Washington State Insurance Commissioner revealed that the insurance company negotiates a discounted amount for their portion of the bill. If the hospitals don't discount their bills, the insurance company will funnel patients away from their hospital. The bills are artificially inflated because medical providers know they will have to discount their services to the insurance companies. The commissioner also said the industry does not have a standardized cost range, and that if we had gone across the street for the same care it could have been \$10,000 more or less from another health care provider.

In DA, I have learned how to fill out financial paperwork. I applied for and was turned down for financial aid for my portion of the bill. In DA, I have learned to talk about money and practice curiosity when I feel fear. I called the patient financial advocate and told her that though disappointed with the outcome of my request, I was very appreciative of her help. I also asked if she could tell me why my claim had been rejected. She talked to her manager, resubmitted my paperwork, and my bill was reduced to \$5,000. Then she worked with me to set up a payment plan. I have just discovered that the hospital (which I double checked was an "in-network provider" on my way to the emergency room) sent my lab work to an "out-of-network" provider. There are separate rules (\$21,000 deductible, followed by 50% copay when deductible is met, with no out of pocket maximum) for out-of-network providers with my insurance carrier. My surgery was 4 months ago and I still have not received a bill for the lab work. I recently called the lab's billing department and was told they don't yet know what they will be billing me.

		<p>Update: my insurance company, in accordance with recent changes in the industry no longer has a cap on out of pocket expenses after the deductible is met. This means an American DA member can no longer out-save the costs of a medical emergency.</p> <p>I am grateful I received emergency medical care. I am grateful to be a member of DA. I need these two lifesaving resources to be free of conflict with one another.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Terrell L.</p>	
<p><b>17-13</b></p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>It is common knowledge that the current healthcare system in our country has made decent, quality healthcare less and less affordable for millions of Americans. In many cases it's driven people to financial ruin.</p> <p>This system is in no way the fault of members of DA or BDA. Despite that fact, several pieces of Conference approved literature include language that is potentially shaming of members of our programs. One such example is in Twelve Signs of Compulsive Debtors, #8: "...taking risks with health insurance."</p> <p>We believe WSC must address this by reviewing our literature and either modifying or eliminating that content. We thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.</p> <p>Sincerely, Group #997 Dunedin DA/BDA: Learning and Earning Group</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-13 to the 2017-2018 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>The Literature Committee took a group conscience at the World Service Conference and did not think the language was considered shaming.</p> <p>The Twelve Signs of Compulsive Debting #8 reads: A tendency to live on the edge: Living paycheck to paycheck; taking risks with health and car insurance coverage; writing checks hoping money will appear to cover them.</p> <p>The sign refers to taking risks and living on the edge by not planning for necessary bills including health insurance. Since the United States healthcare system is an outside issue, according to DA's Twelve traditions, DA has no opinion.</p> <p>At the 2011 World Service Conference, by substantial unanimity, the membership voted to</p>

			approve the creation of a DA Health Issues pamphlet and the 2017 Literature Committee has formed a subcommittee to work on it. Following our group conscience, we have decided not to change the wording of our DA conference approved literature at this time.
17-14	GSB Long-Range Planning Committee	<p>Group Name: A Spiritual Solution Group Number: 1112</p> <p>Your First Name/Last Initial: Susan F City, State/Province, Country: Seattle, WA USA Issue or Concern for the 2017 World Service Conference: Our group is concerned about vagueness of the WSC conference finances. One of our members stated that vagueness makes it difficult for them to trust GSO and diminishes their enthusiasm to donate. Specifically, last year it was reported at the WSC that there was a \$60K “glitch” that was never fully explained to our group’s satisfaction. With the news that the WSC is \$48K in the red for 2017-18, our group has questions as to whether the WSC Board of Directors is following Concept 6 from the 12x12x12 DA literature, page 132:</p> <p>“This tells us that we should not use our wills to beat a recalcitrant reality into submission. If time, personnel or money for a program is not available, we should accept that fact or, if possible, change it <i>by making the time, money or personnel available through contributions to the GSO</i> in kind, in cash or by volunteering. We should not rely on ad hoc, under-supported service structures that are all too likely to collapse in order to impose our viewpoints upon the Fellowship”.</p> <p>The primary focus of the RDC is revenue generation. While this committee is doing excellent work in terms of communicating about and encouraging Appointed Committee Members and sending out the John H and Annual Appeal letters, it seems that the RDC could use some support from the Fellowship in raising more money. The Finance committee is doing a great job in cutting expenses. Given that we are \$48K in the red, a primary focus on revenue generation should be undertaken by the entire Fellowship</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concern.</p> <p>The General Service Board and the GSB Finance Committee take your concerns and our fiduciary responsibilities very seriously. As members of the GSB, we are committed ensuring the financial health and stability of the Fellowship to the best of our abilities. To this end, we continue to have an ongoing dialogue regarding the issues you have articulated above, and we share our concerns, as well as our progress, with the Fellowship.</p> <p>You state that, “There seems to be an unwillingness by the Fellowship to discuss ‘money’, as if a discussion would <u>force</u> people to give when in actuality a discussion of money gives the fellowship an opportunity to learn more about DA’s finances.” Actually, the finances of the Fellowship are discussed in detail at the World Service Conference, we place updates in the publications of the GSB, and we have an annual “Ask the GSB” Finance call to try to inform the fellowship. Unfortunately, when we hear quotes of a \$60,000 “glitch”, the Board has to be concerned that the Fellowship is not understanding the message that it provided. The Board is trying new and more comprehensive ways to get out the message and we hope that information is understandable. But unless the Fellowship signs comes to the calls and reads the articles, our hands are somewhat tied. The fact is</p>

		<p>starting with the GSB. This needs to be a Fellowship wide concern, not just one committee's concern.</p> <p>There seems to be an unwillingness by the Fellowship to discuss "money", as if a discussion would "force" people to give when in actuality a discussion of money gives the fellowship an opportunity to learn more about DA's finances. A donation of \$1.00 in the basket today is the equivalent of \$.35 in 1935 when AA started the 12 steps. Without sufficient funds to run the organization, we are limited in our ability to fulfill our primary purpose: to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers.</p> <p>We encourage the GSB to make a transparent discussion of money and revenue generation a primary goal in 2018 for the GSB and each Conference Committee.</p>	<p>that while expenses have gone up (increases in rent, utilities, postage, and other office related expenses) donations have not kept pace and totals contributions have gone down since 2014 when donations reached \$98,000. I would note that donations for this fiscal year are better than last year (to date) and we hope to see that continue. All criteria for evaluation of our current financial status indicate that we are headed in the "right direction." Again, it is important to remember that we are self-supporting through our own contributions and we can only estimate what those eventual resources will be.</p> <p>We are all dedicated to the financial stability and solvency of our beloved Fellowship. Please know that we hear and appreciate your concerns and are doing everything we can to maintain the financial and spiritual health of Debtors Anonymous and to keep the Fellowship apprised of our efforts and results. Encourage your group members to attend Fellowship wide calls and use the information in the eNews to inform your group of the issues discussed. And finally, discuss the Seventh Tradition periodically during your meetings. Read the Tradition out of the 12 &amp; 12 &amp; 12 and help fellow members become informed of the concept of self-support.</p>
17-15	GSB Finance Committee	<p>Group Name: A Spiritual Solution  Group Number: 1112  City, State/Province, Country: Seattle, WA USA  Issue or Concern for the 2017 D.A. World Service Conference:</p> <p>Our group would like the GSB to create a simplified way to donate when on a DA phone meeting.  One DA phone meeting asked a recent group member to send a check to the "individual" chairing the meeting. So, our group member did not feel comfortable sending a check to someone</p>	<p><b>Response:</b> Thank you for your question to the General Service Board. The Board is currently working on implementing an online donation capability on the D.A. website. However, according to the Traditions, each group is autonomous and therefore the Board has no opinion on how individual groups handle 7<sup>th</sup> tradition issues. If an individual phone meeting cannot successfully work out a suitable method to collect 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition contributions, the meeting</p>

		they did not know. Phone meetings should have bank accounts and/or a method of collecting funds that is easy and in line with our policies. It is so difficult now, that we are certain, DA phone meetings are leaving money on the table.	may suggest that individual members send in their contributions directly to the General Service Office
<b>17-16</b>	GSB Finance Committee	Group Submission: Group Name: Brooklyn Tools for Abundance Group Number: #296 Issue or Concern for the 2017 D.A. World Service Conference:  Allow DA literature to be ordered online with a debit card of via PayPal.	<b>Response:</b> Thank you for your question to the General Service Board. The Board is currently working on a method to allow for online donations on the D.A. website. When that is complete and functioning smoothly, the board will direct its attention to online literature orders. There are many more complexities regarding online literature orders than there are with online contributions. This includes insuring that orders are received by the office properly, developing a proper way to determine shipping costs, and many other details. However, regardless of the challenges, this topic is a priority for the Board and we will continue to move forward as quickly as we can.
<b>17-17</b>	WSC Literature Committee	Group Submission: Group Name: Brooklyn Tools for Abundance Group Number: #296 Issue or Concern for the 2017 D.A. World Service Conference: (Please type or write your issue below.)  Expand on the definition of solvency with examples either in a new pamphlet or expanding an existing pamphlet. Members are confused as to how solvency is defined and whether they are solvent or not in lots of different instances. It would be especially helpful for those members who do not have sponsors.	Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-17 to the 2017-18 Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.  We appreciate your concern and agree that an enhanced definition of solvency is needed. D.A.'s forthcoming Basic Text will include a clear definition of solvency.
<b>17-19</b>	WSC Literature Committee	I noticed that the list of Tools on the D.A website uses the term Record Maintenance for one of the tools, but the pamphlet about this tool is called Record Keeping. The other tools that have corresponding pamphlets (e.g., Sponsorship, Service, Spending Plan), use the same term in both places.	Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-19 to the 2017-18 Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving

		<p>I propose changing the Tool Record Maintenance to Record Keeping, updating the Tools list on the website and sending out notice of the change through our communications email distribution list.</p> <p>Thanks!</p> <p>Jill W. Chicago, IL</p>	<p>Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>We thank you for submitting the Issue of the need to 1) change the Tool, Record Maintenance, to Record Keeping, 2) to update the Tools list to reflect this same change on the website and 3) inform the fellowship of these changes using the fellowship's existing email distribution list.</p> <p>After comparing what is currently on the Debtorsanonymous.org website against printed literature and other sources, we agree that updating the website to provide consistent and accurate information is warranted. We will submit a recommendation to the General Service Board during the current conference year.</p>
<b>17-20</b>	GSB Communications Committee	<p>CITY: New York GROUP NAME: NY Intergroup GROUP NUMBER: 38500 Why isn't the WELCOME TO DEBTORS ANONYMOUS statement- (which the Literature Committee worked so hard composing)--- not placed prominently on the <a href="http://debtorsanonymous.org">debtorsanonymous.org</a> website? Or, is it there and I have missed?? Thanks, Ellen S. ISR</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting an Issue &amp; Concern and bringing this matter to the attention of the Communications Committee. The GSB Communications Committee placed the "Welcome to Debtors Anonymous" statement in what we thought would be the most prominent link on the D.A Website, the Resources for Groups page under Fellowship Services. We're trying to figure out how to put a link for it on the Home page, but we have run into problems. Hopefully, soon we will have figured out the kinks in the website.</p>
<b>17-21</b>	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<p><b>From:</b> Darla P Surrey, BC</p> <p>Hello, I have been going to Debtors anonymous for only 8 weeks have a come along financially huge in just a short period of time.. THANKYOU !!! JUST A TERRIFIC PROGRAM !! However I went last week and they decided to turn a normal meeting into a business meeting which I think was totally</p>	<p>Darla, thank you for taking the time to write and send your concern to the General Service Office of DA about a regular DA meeting being replaced by a business meeting once a month. In DA, business meetings generally take place during the regular DA meeting time, customarily once a month. Some DA groups decide to hold business meetings after the regular meeting. This</p>



	<p>wrong. They voted to replace a normal meeting once a month into a business meeting. Now, if that was My first meeting I never would have returned and never gotten solvent.....Is this what Debtors anonymous is there for ? If it is then it should not be allowed to use the AA name!!!</p> <p>I have been a sober member of AA for over 22 years by the Grace of God and never once would they have pulled something like this ~ I have gone to thousands of meetings.</p> <p>I just don't know what my step should be... Should I report them to AA New York Central Office? Instead I thought better report them to you first.</p> <p>Please write me something Formal back that I can present the debtors anonymous group with when I go back next week ~</p> <p>Sorry but we voiced at this last meeting that " what if we have a newcomer " they didn't seem to care, the more I think about this the more furious I get as I know it is totally wrong from the AA Program that they supposedly follow.</p> <p>Thank You for your prompt attention to this matter !!</p>	<p>is up to the group conscience of each meeting's members.</p> <p>Attendance at business meetings is one of DA's tools, and is an integral part of recovery. The Business Meeting Pamphlet describes how we can overcome our reluctance to participate in our group's business, and become productive members. Below are excerpts taken from the pamphlet which underscore the importance of Business Meetings to DA Recovery:</p> <p>"We attend business meetings that are held monthly. Many of us have long harbored feelings that "business" was not a part of our lives, but for "others" more qualified. Yet participation in running our own program teaches us how our organization operates, and also helps us to become responsible for our own recovery." ~ One of DA's "12 Tools of Recovery"</p> <p><b>What Is a Business Meeting?</b>  Generally, a business meeting is a forum for discussing and developing solutions regarding anything that might affect the Debtors Anonymous group as a whole. Such items as upcoming D.A. events, the meeting format, election of officers and reports of officers are dealt with during a D.A. business meeting. Usually, these meetings are held once a month during a portion of the regular meeting that is specifically set aside for this purpose, or after the regular meeting.</p> <p><b>Why Do We Attend Business Meetings?</b>  Attending business meetings is an important part of our D.A. recovery. As debtors we often ignored our personal business and sometimes our</p>
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			<p>professional business. By participating in D.A. business meetings, we learn important tools for taking care of our personal or professional business, or both. The group’s regular meetings are also an important tool of recovery. At business meetings we address issues that ensure that our group will continue. Just by participating we provide a service to our group which helps us practice that principle of the twelfth step.</p> <p>To access the complete Business Meeting Pamphlet:  <a href="http://debtorsanonymous.org">debtorsanonymous.org</a> &gt; Getting Started &gt; Free Literature &gt; <a href="#">Business Meeting Pamphlet</a>.</p> <p>Below are links to additional literature related to business meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <a href="#">DA’s The Twelve Tools of Recovery</a> Tool #10 is Business Meetings</li> <li>2) <a href="#">The 12 Traditions</a> of DA</li> <li>3) Search “Business Meetings” within <a href="#">The (DAMS) Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service</a>.  2017 version available online under “Getting Started” – then, “Free Literature.”</li> </ol>
<p><b>17-22</b></p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Subject: Consideration by the Lit Pub Com</p> <p>For several years now one of DA’s tools is ACTION PLAN.</p> <p>I request that the Literature Publications Committee prepare a pamphlet on this topic. Two of the groups I attend study the literature, and one group sets aside one meeting a month to study a tool of the month. We do this by reading the pamphlet on that</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-22 to the 2017-18 Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p>

		<p>topic and sharing our experience, strength, &amp; hope about using that tool. But when we get to the tool of Action Plan there is no tool. Sometimes we read “Communicating with Creditors,” but that does not cover the topic fully.</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request.</p> <p>Jane L. GSR, Group #108</p>	<p>We appreciate your concern and agree that more information regarding Action Plans is needed. This will be addressed in the forthcoming Basic Text.</p>
<p><b>17-23</b></p>	<p>WSC Conference Committee</p>	<p>Individual Submission: Your First Name/Last Initial: Jill P City, State/Province, Country: Dallas TX USA</p> <p>Issue or Concern for the 2017D.A. World Service Conference</p> <p>CHANGE IN By- LAWS - I am <b>not</b> in favor of allowing conference delegates to participate remotely. It is a choice that looks good in theory in the short term but is not working in the long term.</p> <p>Imagine if convocation took place in a big long party Winnebago - in between discussing and voting on decisions that affect the fabric of DA you had delegates driving, walking dogs, eating, flushing toilets doing dishes, texting, chasing kids, were with non DA members and doing all sorts of other multitasking. That will give you a sense of what phone meetings are like, EVEN THE ONES WITH STRINGENT GUIDELINES. DEBTORS TO NOT FOLLOW GUIDELINES VERY WELL ON THE PHONE!</p> <p>Our experience in our Host committee community is, at first, having service bodies meet via conference call seemed practical, but in our group and in the report from Portland Host committee, we see attendance diminish over time, not increase. We have 3-4 attend on a call but 10-11 when we meet face to face, even with a long drive.</p> <p>Nothing replaces human contact Nothing replaces the sacred sanctity and focus of the live convocation room</p>	<p>The 2016 WSC voted with substantial unanimity to conduct a remote participation trial for a limited number of distant delegates at the 2018 WSC. In respect for Tradition 1 and Concept 12 of Debtors Anonymous, the 2017 Conference Committee will take no action.</p>

Nothing replaces fellowship in person

I am willing to fundraise and help European groups get steps and recovery under their belts, help them be abundant and COME to conference live.

"Can't afford it" is a terrible reason to vote in any policy.

Please do not do this

**RE techno - remote participation in conference**

A longer letter to Mike L, our GSR and chairperson of the conference committee. First, THANKS SO MUCH for all you do! I loved world service but also remember the frustrations as well:) RE Saturday Prosperity groups' vote and discussion on the CHANGE IN BY- LAWS - allowing WS Conference delegates to participate remotely.

We were 4-4 except I was chair so I had to abstain, so officially 4-3 in favor of the change, unofficially evenly divided. We then voted to recommend you vote your conscience since your group did not find substantial unanimity.

Next, I wanted to convey some *experiences* explaining why I am not in favor of allowing conference delegates to participate remotely. It is a choice that looked really good to me in theory in the short term.

But in the phone groups where I lead workshops, as well my teleconferenced service committees, *is not working in the long term.*

Besides being a 28 year member of the Dallas DA community I have 13 years as member of several phone communities all of which formed, expanded, caught on for a while, and then went defunct.

Be they service committees or meetings, here are the pitfalls of phone groups: Imagine if WSC convocation took place in a big long party Winnebago - a moving vehicle - in between discussing and

voting on decisions that affect the fabric of DA you had delegates driving, walking dogs, eating, flushing toilets, doing dishes, texting, chasing kids, you were shouting down train and road noise coming in the windows, there were non DA members present and delegates doing all sorts of other multi tasking. That will give you a sense of what phone meetings are like, how chaotic they are, EVEN THE ONES WITH STRINGENT GUIDELINES.

IN MY EXPERIENCE, even with very friendly and frequent reminders, DEBTORS DO NOT EVER FOLLOW GUIDELINES VERY WELL ON THE PHONE!

MY experience using technology as a tool to involve more participation in service: Our experience in our Dallas Host committee community is, at first, having service bodies meet via conference call seemed practical, but in our group and in the report from Portland Host committee, we see phone attendance diminish over time, not increase. We have 3-4 attend on a conference call but 10-15 when we meet face to face, even with a long drive to the meeting location.

RESULT: Planning Conference 2009 we met mainly face to face and had 12-15 regular attendees, all of whom followed through and worked as agreed on conference. We only occasionally had our board member call in from LA on a speaker phone. We also had some fellowship and a traditions or service speaker at each planning session, and emphasized the recovery experience over just gathering to discuss business. We had plenty of bodies, a very cohesive group and all ran smoothly.

Conference 2016, Dallas had a report with recommendations from our Portland predecessors. The number ONE adamant recommendation was that planning meetings be face to face. For what ever reason it was brought up in Dallas and not acted upon. We also experimented with online committee sign-ups and got ZERO response. We met, for 2016, almost completely by phone with 3-4 average attending and 6-7 being a stellar turnout. At conference time several key committee heads were doing their work alone, far fewer bodies, and seemingly far more stress for those few who were participating.

For 2017 again, against experienced advice we in WSC planning are meeting mainly by conference call and the numbers for both intergroup and WSC planning are shrinking not growing. \*We only hit double digit attendance at an intergroup activity when we met face to face and that was in Keller, TX - a considerable drive from Dallas for most of us.

MY EXPERIENCE: If the goal is increasing D A membership and service participation, long term, ***tech is not the way to accomplish it.***

My experience, on most phone activities I have been involved in, after an initial bump in attendance, (maybe because of the novelty,) most electronic activities shrink and eventually disband. The majority of attendees are not engaged and treat it like "books on tape" while they multitask. Only a minority are engaged, attentive and really working the program. There is no way to monitor distraction or safeguard anonymity and privacy while on a call EVEN WITH STRINGENT GUIDELINES.

Technology is not where I see us really growing, used as it has been so far. Although DA phone meetings are the fastest growing segment of DA, it is also the lowest, in terms of 7th tradition contribution - almost non existent. It is also the DA population that is the least engaged and the most distracted. BUT it is only a matter of time before small groups stateside start pleading to be included 'cause they are small and can't afford travel. If we allow it for one, why not all?

WHY LIVE CONFERENCE? Nothing replaces human contact to increase dedication and group unity.

The shared meal, the impromptu PRG, the workshops in the room with the long timers.

Nothing replaces the sacred sanctity and focus of the live CLOSED convocation room.

Nothing replaces fellowship in person with the primary purpose of carrying this message to others with our addiction.

"Can't afford travel" is a terrible reason to vote in any policy. In our Dallas group, in the time I have been paying attention, (Since 2003) we have had as high as an average 40 people per Saturday meeting and as low as 8-10. I have seen the GSR spending plan vary from 1050.00 to 1950.00. And yet, some way, with greatly fluxuating attendance and expenses, our group has always raised the full GSR spending plan. ***Dedication to recovery, and setting an intention to do the funding, matter more, I believe, than group location or size.***

OTHER SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE INCLUSION.

Would we be willing to ask all our members who like pretty worlds like "inclusion" to get some skin in the game? If France or any European group needs 2000-2500 to get to the states, and we have 5000 members, could we ask each member give a dollar - \$5000.00 - that would be 2 European Scholarships.

Would any GSR, board member or delegate be willing to give \$20? If all at conference (approx 120) each gave \$20 that would be 2400.00 - another scholarship for a live delegate.

I would ask anyone planning to vote for this...If you do not have \$20 you can donate to a cause you believe in, would you be willing to get spiritually fit, refocus your step work and uncover why you are not growing financially abundant? Recovery and spiritual growth is what grows groups, in attracting membership and in improving finances.

Personally I am willing to hold workshops to fundraise and help European groups form step studies and PRG's and get some recovery under their belts, help them be abundant and COME to conference live. I am willing to find mentors for groups in Europe (through a Step Study workshop) and also to share how we in Dallas raise the money for our GSR travel without ever applying for scholarships.

Warts and all I love my phone meetings... BUT there are other better ways to promote "inclusion," and while doing it, grow in recovery ourselves. If that is the goal? Please DO NOT vote for

		technology at the world service level. <i>I see no evidence long term that it will ever work.</i>	
<b>17-24</b>	WSC Information Technology Committee	There currently exist several recordings of past “Ask the GSB” calls, plus some Fellowship-wide calls. I suggest we create a page on the website and make these calls readily available.  Eileen N. Prospect Park, PA	Thank you for submitting an Issue & Concern and bringing this matter to the attention of the WSC Technology Committee. The GSB Information Technology Committee is actively working on making all fellowship-wide calls available for listening via the website.
<b>17-25</b>	WSC Literature Committee	Repeal the approval of the Twelve bookmarks. We currently have the Just for Today bookmark which is more than adequate. As ebooks become more and more popular, I believe the expense of creating this set of bookmarks versus sales would cost the Fellowship.  Eileen N. Prospect Park, PA	Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-25 to the 2017-2018 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.  The Twelve Bookmark concept approved in 2012 was rescinded in 2017.
<b>17-26</b>	GSB Conference Support Committee	Research what can be done when Issues and Concerns are submitted on time, but not included in the binder. Members and groups that submitted on time should not be forced to wait another year before these issues are addressed.  Eileen N. Prospect Park, PA	Thank you for submitting this topic. We apologize if one or more prior Issues and Concerns that were submitted on a timely basis were not brought to the respective World Service Conference(s). The board’s Conference Support Committee has redoubled its efforts this year to ensure that all topics submitted by the <b>July 1</b> deadline do in fact make it to WSC 2018. The board’s actions will include better communication with the General Service Office, as well as ongoing monitoring of the email address set up for the receipt of topics.
<b>17-27</b>	WSC Literature Committee	Please review the opening paragraph of the Twelve Promises of D.A. Is there a way to eliminate the repetitiveness of “When we work D.A.’s Steps....”  Eileen N. Prospect Park, PA	Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-27 to the 2017-18 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee are honored to do the work of the fellowship and take our responsibility seriously. It is our duty to inform you in a timely manner of any and all action taken or not taken



			<p>on your submissions. We will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>Your request to review the opening paragraph of the Twelve Promises of D.A. and to eliminate the repetitiveness of “When we work D.A.’s steps...” is being reviewed.</p> <p>This year's Literature Committee will work to revise the introductory paragraph of the Twelve Promises to remove repetitive language and review existing D.A. literature – online and printed – that includes this content.</p> <p>We will bring a recommendation of changes to the 2018 World Service Conference for review and approval. If the World Service Conference approves this recommendation, we can make changes to D.A. literature available online immediately. However, for future <u>printed</u> literature, these changes will need to be approved as a separate motion during convocation at the 2018 World Service Conference.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be of service and we wish you all the best in your recovery.</p>
<p><b>17-28</b></p>	<p>GSB Long-range Planning Committee</p>	<p>Group Name: Elmhurst Serenity in Solvency  Group Number: #642  Elmhurst, IL  Holding the WSC every year is too expensive and there is disruption to the service of attendees by not being able to participate in their committee if they’re not able to attend the WSC every year. In addition, it’s very expensive for the groups to attend and support the WSC on an annual basis.  Recommend holding the WSC for DA every 3 to 5 years.</p>	<p>Debtors Anonymous is a not-for-profit Corporation and, as such, needs to meet certain requirements. One of those requirements is that we hold an Annual Meeting (see: <i>The Bylaws of Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.</i>). Section 4.5, <u>Annual and Regular Meetings</u>, provides the following guidance regarding annual meetings:</p> <p>“Annual meetings of the General Service Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference</p>

			<p>Convocation, at which the election of officers and consideration of other matters takes place, shall be held within 90 days of the end of our fiscal year, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, or as determined by the General Service Board of Trustees and specified in the notice of a meeting as provided in section 4.7 of these bylaws. Regular meetings of the General Service Board of Trustees may be held without notice at such time and places as the General Service Board determines.”</p> <p>The GSB recognizes that there are often occasions where a group is not able to provide the resources for their GSR or ISR to attend the WSC. We continue to look for ways in which we can ensure that the voices of as many groups and members as possible are represented and heard at the WSCs. At this time, however, we have no plan to reevaluate or propose a change to the requirement in the bylaws, and will continue to hold an annual World Service Conference.</p>
<p><b>17-29</b></p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY:Dallas TX  GROUP NAME:  GROUP NUMBER:  Issue or Concern for the D.A. World Service Conference 2017</p> <p><b>LITERATURE CONSISTENCY</b>  Form a joint task force of Lit services, Lit pub and the WSC Lit com to review EVERY piece of DA Published literature AND service literature for consistency of message and adherence to the primary purpose, abstaining from new unsecured debt. Remove all vocabulary &amp; references to outside issues such as (but not limited to) compulsive underearning, clutter, and time management.  Remove all references to therapy, self-help and treatment models other than spiritual 12 step recovery.  Replace the word underearning as a debting symptom to the word pauperism to avoid confusion.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-29 to the 2017-2018 WSC Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>Any references in our literature having to do with clutter, time management, spending, underearning, and pauperism, etc. are symptoms of the disease of compulsive debting. We do not think the presence of these symptoms in our literature takes away from the primary purpose which is to stop incurring unsecured debt one day at a time.</p>

<p><b>17-30</b></p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p><b>Please change the last line of “Welcome to Debtors Anonymous” from “joy, clarity and serenity,” to “clarity, serenity and joy”</b></p> <p>At the 2016 WSC in Dallas, the new writing to replace the Preamble, “Welcome to Debtors Anonymous,” was approved.</p> <p>Just before the vote, a delegate suggested a change in the word sequence, but time had run out to consider this proposed amendment. We would like the Literature Committee to revisit this issue and ask the Convocation to consider changing the order of the words in that sentence.</p> <p>The suggestion was to change the word order in the last paragraph to “clarity, serenity and joy,” rather than “joy, clarity and serenity.”</p> <p>The delegate stated: “I found clarity first in recovery, then serenity, then joy.”</p> <p>Our group strongly agrees with this wording. After reading this line in “Welcome to Debtors Anonymous” over the past year, that phrase sounds stumbling and awkward when read. “Clarity, serenity and joy,” flows much more smoothly – especially when read aloud –and makes more sense - than the current sequence of “joy, clarity and serenity.”</p> <p>Please have the 2017 Conference delegates consider making this change.</p> <p>Thank you, Group 72316, Daily Commitment Meeting</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-30 to the 2017-18 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee are honored to do the work of the fellowship and take our responsibility seriously. It is our duty to inform you in a timely manner of any and all action taken or not taken on your submissions. We will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>Your request to revisit a delegate’s suggestion to change the word order in the last paragraph to “clarity, serenity, and joy” in the Welcome to Debtors Anonymous is being reviewed.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be of service and we wish you all the best in your recovery.</p>
<p><b>17-31</b></p>	<p>GSB Public Information</p>	<p>From: GLADA Intergroup</p> <p>This is an official request.</p> <p>As time permits, please add to the current or a future GLADA Meeting Agenda an appeal to the WSC (via submitting an "Issues and Concerns" matter) the draft of a WSO letter, to be distributed to those members who publically break their anonymity, or break the anonymity of others.</p>	<p>Thank you for bringing this important issue to our attention. The General Service Board believes that your suggestion of developing a letter for the General Service Office and Intergroups to issue in the event of future anonymity breaks such as what happened in this case is an excellent idea. We are aware that other Twelve Step Fellowships use such letters and issue them as needed. The Board will consider developing a letter that we</p>

		<p>AA has such a form letter they send to their members (who break their anonymity - or the anonymity of others). I have not been able to locate a copy of this form letter, but it is published from time-to-time in the AA Grapevine Magazine.</p> <p>This is related to the 3/29/17 incident when a Mr. Robert A. from an unknown western U.S. state, (former member of the DAWSO PI committee) notified a major local Chicago Law Firm, (Bock, Hatch, Lewis &amp; Oppenheim, LLC) of my name, contact information, and membership in GLADA, related to his attempt to develop a national and/or international network of non-debtor law firms, who would affiliate themselves with D.A., for purposes of plunging D.A. members into (lucrative) bankruptcies. Loathsome! I notified DAWSO about the incident, and forwarded them all of the related documentation.</p> <p>As you know, D.A. has no opinion on outside issues, certainly the outside issue of filing for bankruptcy. The Gamblers Anonymous fellowship openly discourages its membership from filing for bankruptcy. G.A. specifically publishes this in their literature. Hopefully, in my humble opinion, it will similarly be so published in DA conference approved literature someday.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Eric S Acting GLADA Secretary</p>	<p>can provide to the office and Intergroup personnel to use for any future anonymity breaks, such as happened in this case.</p> <p>Concerning bankruptcy, Debtors Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues. The D.A. Conference-Approved pamphlet, <i>Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment</i>, states, "Debtors Anonymous has no opinion on bankruptcy."</p>
17-32	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY:Dallas TX GROUP NAME: prosperity GROUP NUMBER:364 Issue or Concern for the D.A. World Service Conference 2017</p> <p><b>Publish the Adopt a Group Flier and Suggestion List on the DA Website</b></p>	<p><b><u>Dallas TX Group Name: Prosperity, Group Number: 364</u></b> <b><u>Issue / Concern for the D.A. WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</u></b> <b><u>Response to Issue / Concern 17-32</u></b></p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to send us literature related to Group sponsorship to our World Service</p>

	<p>(Possibly in the PI Manual)</p> <p>In Conference 2007 the PI committee generated a lot of material about Group adoption or group sponsorship that our North Texas community found very helpful. In particular was a suggestion list and a flier that spelled out with specifics what group sponsorship involved. These documents would be valuable to have for all emerging DA communities and would be a good addition to the website.</p> <p><b>Here are other articles with more info:</b>  Adopt.A.meeting Flier with Specifics  DA-PHONE-LONER SPONSORSHIP-DATA (Article)  Group-loner Sponsorship - ESH (Article)  Group Sponsorship Article  Group Sponsorship Suggestion List</p> <p>Jill P dadivadelux@yahoo.com if you want more info on these  DA's Fifth Tradition</p>	<p>Committee for consideration. Currently on the DA website <a href="http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/">http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/</a> there is information about Group Sponsorship that is clear and helpful.</p> <p>Additionally, when a member sends an inquiry about Group Sponsorship to <a href="mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com">gsponsorship@gmail.com</a> the auto-response contains additional steps and information that is also informative.</p> <p>To this end, we have concluded that the information already provided on the website as well as what is included the auto-response email is sufficient. <b>Both are included below.</b></p> <p>The second part of your Issue / Concern addressed adding information about Group Sponsorship to the PI Manual on the website. We do not think PI is the best place for this. To this end, the FCC has made a motion to add a separate page on Group Sponsorship to the 2018 DAMS. That motion will be submitted to ComCom on 2/17/2018. Thank you for your enthusiasm about Group Sponsorship.</p> <p><b><u>DA WEBSITE <a href="http://debtorsanonymous.org">http://debtorsanonymous.org</a></u></b>  <b><u>&gt;Fellowship services &gt;Resources for groups</u></b>  <b><u>&gt;Group Sponsorship</u></b></p> <p><b><u>GROUP SPONSORSHIP:</u></b> Group sponsorship is a D.A. resource that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provides new, less experienced or struggling DA groups with resources that can help to grow or strengthen their meetings.</li> <li>2) Assists new, less experienced or struggling DA groups meetings to find a Sponsor Group.</li> </ol>
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3) Assists more established DA groups to become a Sponsor group for a less experienced meeting.

To get information on Group Sponsorship, send an email to: [gsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com)

Once you send your email, you will receive an auto-response containing resources and suggestions for potential Sponsor Groups, Sponsee Groups and new or struggling groups. If you require further information you can reply to the auto-response with your questions. Someone will reply to your questions as soon as possible.

**AUTOMATED E-MAIL RESPONSE:**

Welcome to [gsponsorship@gmail.com](mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com)!

This service connects strong, well-resourced groups with smaller and newer groups.

GROUP SPONSORSHIP: Sponsor Groups share their experience, strength, and hope with Sponsee Groups. The same way that sponsorship helps an individual, Group Sponsorship helps a younger and/or smaller group learn from a more experienced one about what keeps their meeting healthy.

(If what you are looking for is to START A NEW MEETING, click

here: <http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/>

If you are looking for an INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR, we recommend [finding a meeting in your area](#), or calling in to a [DA phone meeting](#) if there aren't any face to face meetings near you.)

			<p>FOR GROUP SPONSORSHIP: The following suggestions have been used in the past and may be useful for your group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Sponsor Groups may create a phone list for their Sponsee Group by assembling a list of members who are willing to share their contact information in line with our cherished tradition of anonymity.</li><li>* Sponsor Groups can share practical suggestions such as: spreadsheet formats for spending plans, regular meeting and business meeting formats, meeting topics, lists of roles and responsibilities for service positions, suggestions for setting up Fellowship Days and for arranging to send a GSR to the DA World Service Conference. Sponsor Groups can also model and foster good group treasury practices with their Sponsee Groups. You are free to create your own Group Sponsorship format as long as it agrees with the DA principles and Traditions.</li><li>* To find a Sponsor or Sponsee Group, start by exploring potential groups in your area. You can reach out to your local or nearby Intergroup for assistance. Or you may encounter a potential Sponsor or Sponsee Group in your travels</li></ul> <p>HOW TO BECOME A GROUP SPONSOR OR SPONSEE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. After reading this email, raise a motion at your next business meeting for your group to become Sponsor or Sponsee. You can make a flyer using the definition above under Group Sponsorship.</li><li>2. Then make a second motion to create the</li></ol>
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			<p>position of Group Sponsor (or Sponsee) Representative</p> <p>3. The Group elect a Group Sponsor (or Sponsee) Representative</p> <p>4. That Representative emails <a href="mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com">gsponsorship@gmail.com</a>, receives this automatic email, and gets in touch with the person monitoring Gsponsorship emails.</p> <p>GROWING AND STRENGTHENING YOUR DA MEETING:</p> <p>In addition to Group Sponsorship, there are many resources available for building a small or new meeting, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Focus on DA's primary purpose ("...to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt") by using <a href="#">conference approved DA literature and pamphlets</a> as a basis for sharing. Some groups also read <a href="#">recovery stories from the DA website</a>.</li><li>2) Encourage individuals to enrich their DA program with <a href="#">DA Phone Meetings</a> in between face to face meetings.</li><li>3) To attract newcomers to come to your meeting, print the DA "12 Signs of Compulsive Debting," and place them in locations as recommended in the <a href="#">Public Information Starter Kit</a>.</li><li>4) Read the DA approved document "<a href="#">How to Keep Your Meeting Alive</a>".</li><li>5) Encourage your group's participation in DA Intergroup, and participate in area DA events.</li></ol> <p>After reading this email if you think group sponsorship would be useful for your group, let us know at <a href="mailto:gsponsorship@gmail.com">gsponsorship@gmail.com</a>.</p>
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			<p>In Service, Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) DA World Service Conference</p>
<p><b>17-33</b></p>	<p>GSB</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Issue &amp; Concern</p> <p>Re: Removing a WSC delegate from their Committee and or Caucus.</p> <p>During the 2016/2017 World Service Conference year, a member of the Public Info Committee was removed from their WSC Committee and Caucus. As it was explained to me, the member's Intergroup told Trustees of the GSB that they did not want this member to represent them any further and asked the GSB to remove them from WSC Service. Following this request, the GSB formalized a policy which would allow for the removal of a WSC member from service.</p> <p>This policy creates a formal method of removing a WSC member unilaterally should their group or intergroup request it. This works against unity (Tradition 1) within the WSC Committee and Caucus. This policy potentially provides a vehicle to those who chose to oust a WSC member rather than work together on their differences. Ousting any member, especially without group conscience, can be a form of governing (Tradition 2). "Our only requirement for DA membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt" (Tradition 3).</p> <p>I served on the WSC PI Com when this GSB policy came into effect. I witnessed a few members complaining and gathering momentum against a member which completely broke down the unity of the group. Of the members complaining, one of them included the Intergroup Chair of the member being singled out, in a WSC PI Com email communication without group conscience. This broke the group's anonymity (Tradition 12) and diminished trust.</p> <p>In the spirit of the minority opinion (Concept 5), I would ask the GSB to reconsider the policy altogether and/or limit it to the proceedings of the WSC convocation.</p> <p>I would ask the GSB to consider that though a GSR starts out being the representative of a group or intergroup, and though they continue to represent that group, they "become a member of the WSC of DA" (pg 68 of the 2016 DAMS). And as a GSR/WSC member</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concerns, which involve an Intergroup's decision to remove a member from serving as their Intergroup Service Representative and the question of that member's subsequent eligibility to continue to participate in service on a World Service Conference Committee and/or Caucus.</p> <p>The D.A. General Service Board considered D.A.'s Second and Fourth Traditions when assessing this particular situation. Our Second Tradition suggests that the GSB is not the governing body of Debtors Anonymous and our Fourth Tradition reminds the GSB that every group should be autonomous. The decision of this Intergroup was to remove a particular member as their representative, so they were certainly autonomous in that decision.</p> <p>It is important to note that this involved removal of a representative from service – not an expiration of a service term before the completion of a WSC conference year. If a member is removed from service by an informed group conscience and insists on their "right" to continue to serve, it would seem clear that the individual member would be putting their own desires ahead of the common welfare and unity of that Intergroup, and by extension, would affect D.A. as a whole, which is contrary to Tradition One.</p> <p>After careful consideration of the Traditions, the GSB looked at the concept of D.A.'s "inverted triangle for service." Ultimately, it was the concept</p>

they have an “ongoing service commitment throughout the following year (pg 68 of the 2016 DAMS). This would indicate that a GSR/WSC member serves a specific term and it is reasonable that if a group does not want that member to serve again as a GSR that they have the right, through group conscience, to choose to send a different GSR to the WSC the following year. The DAMS is clear that a GSR/WSC member serves “the needs of the Fellowship as a whole, not to only represent the interests of their group or Intergroup” (pg 68 of the 2016 DAMS).

Clearly the role of the GSR or ISR expands to WSC Committee and/or Caucus member. It expands from serving the group to serving the fellowship. Does it not stand to reason that a group or Intergroup alone should not be in the position to make the determination that a WSC member be removed from WSC service? Through WSC service a member becomes closely aligned with fellowship and the other WSC member and they don’t see themselves as only members of a local group but as members of a worldwide fellowship.

There are flaws to consider in the policy. The policy can be manipulated by a few members to oust a WSC member without any procedures for hearing both sides. The policy can potentially create an environment of fear and distrust that one might be removed from WSC service if one knows the right channels. The most dangerous flaw is that it tramples on the spirit of love and tolerance and potentially is the cause for a DA member to leave the program.

of the “inverted triangle” which was relied upon for a determination of next steps in this situation.

As you may know, the GSB occupies the lowest position of that triangle. Just above the GSB is the World Service Conference, GSRs, and ISRs. At the top are intergroups and groups. The GSB exists to serve the needs of the membership of the Fellowship, in accordance with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for Service.

The question then was: how could the GSB best respect the determination of the Intergroup that no longer wanted a particular member to serve as their representative? How should the GSB balance their decision with the desire of the member who was removed who wished to remain in service on their WSC committee?

The GSB determined that to truly respect the concept “inverted triangle,” the only reasonable outcome was that this member, having been removed by an informed group conscience of the Intergroup, was no longer eligible to participate on WSC Committees or Caucuses. That individual no longer represented a group or intergroup; therefore, they were no longer a “registered GSR or ISR.” To allow that member to continue to serve would undermine the group conscience of the Intergroup who had removed that individual as their representative in service to the Fellowship.

With that said, it is important to remember that neither the GSB nor the Intergroup relieved the former-ISR of their D.A. membership. A member who is dismissed from service from one Intergroup would be welcome to offer to be of service as a registered representative of another group or

			<p>intergroup. In doing so, that member would again be eligible to participate in World Service.</p> <p>Recovery in D.A. is available to anyone who has the desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. However, many groups have requirements for service positions with each group determining their own criteria. In order to support the autonomy of each group or intergroup to make a decision about representation for their group, the WSC and GSB must take every reasonable step to ensure that the group's determination of representation, or removal from service, be respected.</p> <p>Based on the above criteria, the GSB unanimously determined that a member who had been removed from service by their group would no longer a "registered GSR or ISR," and therefore, would not be eligible to continue to attend or vote at WSC committee or caucus meetings.</p>
<p><b>17-34</b></p>	<p>WSC Conference Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX USA  GROUP NAME:  GROUP NUMBER:  Issue or Concern for the D.A. World Service Conference 2017</p> <p><b>Change Service Manual Language (In the Sample DA meeting Format)</b> Your First Name/Last Initial: Jill P  City, State/Province, Country: Dallas TX USA  Issue or Concern for the 2017 D.A. World Service Conference</p> <p><b>Conference committee and Board member assigned to that committee</b>  <b>Review and <i>Repeal</i> the Motion # 4 from last year (2016)"Spiritually sustainable earning"</b></p> <p>Please re read, ALOUD, calmly and rationally from the 2006 conference report:</p>	<p>The 2016 WSC voted with substantial unanimity to create the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus. In respect for Tradition 1 and Concept 12 of Debtors Anonymous, the 2017 Conference Committee will take no action.</p>

**The San Diego Statement.** This Statement may be found on our website [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). From the Home page click Fellowship Services. Then select World Service Conference. When you see the list of conference reports, click WSC 2006. You will see a long Text Document. Scroll to the document page 12, entitled "SECTION 2 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR." Read the paragraph that begins with the phrase: Far and above any other issue that that faces the DA fellowship today is our need for strong clarity around our primary purpose." (NOTE that your PDF document pagination may show this as page 16)

Please re read, ALOUD, calmly and rationally from the 2016 conference report starting on p 15, the arguments re motion #4 pro and con. With the emotions removed, I think all will see this action breaks many of our 12 traditions, especially Group Unity and One Primary Purpose; helping suffering **debtors**.

The bulk of **con** arguments are rational and based in 12 step recovery principles for recovering from the addiction to COMPULSIVE DEBTING - a behavior. The bulk of the **pro** arguments are emotional, amounting to the argument that "underearners come in our meetings and they feel: bad- ashamed-scared-needy etc. and we have to do something about it." 12 Step recovery is not about caretaking feelings it is helping addicts change a compulsive behavior.

The argument about the stick was particularly absurd. This is born of the misguided notion that our fellowship is about the CIRCUMSTANCE of "Money trouble." DA's eternal problem has been, we think the way to grow our fellowship is to try to help anyone in the CIRCUMSTANCE of "Money trouble." Even though drinking-doping-eating-sexing-underearning...ALL ADDICTIONS CAUSE the CIRCUMSTANCE of "Money trouble." So do mental and physical illness.

But Debtors Anonymous exists ONLY to help the debtor stop compulsive debtting. Expecting ourselves to help all in the "Money trouble." CIRCUMSTANCE has drained our energy, wasted our

		<p>time, diluted our message, distracted us from our own recovery and ultimately crippled our growth.</p> <p><b><i>Please please shove this toxic tooth paste back in the tube.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO in support of our primary purpose.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>17-35</b></p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX  GROUP NAME:  GROUP NUMBER:  Issue or Concern for the D.A. World Service Conference 2017</p> <p><b>Retracting The Proposed Pamphlet on Debting and Health issues and ceasing spending time and resources on literature addressing outside issues.</b></p> <p><i>Please</i> retract the approval to publish a pamphlet on Debting and Health issues</p> <p>In D.A.'s history there have been many pieces of literature that diluted our message. Time, underearning, clutter, small business start-up, student loans and other problems can all prove to be a distraction that can result in a financial consequence. Even the AA Big Book, in the amends section, says that 'most alcoholics owe money.' Any <b>outside</b> addiction or situation (i.e. health problems) can get expensive and result in the <b>circumstance</b> of indebtedness. This program is not about the circumstances. Those are outside issues. DA has no opinion on outside issues.</p> <p>Health care, like education, or small business startup, are simply line items on a DA spending plan.</p> <p>Once again DA voted to devote time, resources and even a survey to literature regarding a <b>circumstance</b> common to <i>some but not common to all</i> DA members. Stop this practice as it breaches the tradition on outside issues and does not support our primary purpose.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #17-35 to the 2017-2018 WSC Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>The motion to create a pamphlet on DA and Health Issues was passed by substantial unanimity at the 2011 World Service Conference.</p> <p>The group conscience of this year's Literature Committee is that we not make a motion to rescind this decision.</p>

		<p>We have WAY too many committees, caucuses and literature proposals that amount to: "STUFF THAT GETS EXPENSIVE."</p> <p>In DA our primary purpose is to solve our <i>common</i> problem and stop debting (a behavior) one day at a time by means of a spiritual experience obtained by taking the 12 steps.</p> <p>DA members think we '<i>need</i>' to debt because we forget that God will take care of us no matter what, provide us with all our needs and we forget that God is bigger than any problem, even one that gets expensive. In all that we publish, we need to stay focused on that spiritual solution found in the "S's" - stopping debting - step work - sponsorship - spirituality - service.</p>	
<p><b>17-36</b></p>	<p>GSB Long-range Planning Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX USA  GROUP NAME:  GROUP NUMBER:  Issue or Concern for the D.A. World Service Conference 2017</p> <p><b>Change Service Manual Language (In the Sample DA meeting Format) in support of our primary purpose.</b>  In DA, we celebrate <b>Anniversaries of Abstinence</b> only</p> <p><u>In the DA Service Manual Meeting format</u>, there is a statement on anniversary celebrations that says chips or anniversaries may be celebrated for length of abstinence OR length of attendance. This is confusing and DOES NOT support our primary purpose. Remove the latter and make it clear that <b>ONLY length of abstinence from incurring new unsecured debt</b> is what is celebrated at DA birthday meetings or the anniversary section of a meeting.</p> <p>This is found on <b>pg 24</b> paragraph 3 in the 2015 edition of the service manual in Chapter 2, section B "How to Start a DA Group" Item 4, DA meeting format, which begins on p 22.</p> <p>This should also be clarified in the BDA meeting format, pg 27, second paragraph under "Announcements."</p> <p>The negative effect of birthday chips for attendance not abstinence:</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue and Concern.</p> <p>In the 2017 edition of the DAMS, there are no references to receiving chips for "length of attendance" in either of the Sample Meeting Formats you have referenced.</p> <p>From <b>DAMS, 2017 edition, Sample DA and BDA Meeting Formats, in "Announcements," pp. 21 and 24:</b></p> <p>"Some groups ask if any members are celebrating an anniversary in D.A. or other special occasion such as 90 days of not incurring unsecured debt. In addition, some groups encourage beginners to count and share their day count until 90 days are reached."</p>

		<p>The sharing is all about serial confession, excuses, self-justification (ie reason why they debt and cannot stop) rationalization and resignation to no progress. Newcomers have actually told me DA does not sound like a hopeful place.</p> <p>Birthday meetings became a place to dump feelings but NOT to share experience STRENGTH OR HOPE that recovery can be achieved or progress can be sustainable.</p>	
<p><b>17-37</b></p>	<p>WSC Public Information</p>	<p><b>Subject:</b> PI Manual: Correcting Sign Posts Posters</p> <p>Hello. I noticed that there are some general typos on the signs posters toward the end of the PI Manual as well as differences in punctuation and spelling from the signs PDF on the D.A. website (attached). (Note: copies of the posters with suggested editorial changes will be given to WSC Public Information Committee).</p> <p>These are posters that anyone who wants to do outreach can print out and post. They each contain one sign of compulsive debting.</p> <p>I have attached a PDF that points out where all the differences occur.</p> <p>I'm requesting that the 2017-2018 WSC PI Committee replace the current posters in the PI Manual with updated versions that have the typos removed and spelling and punctuation that matches the attached Twelve Signs PDF document from the D.A. website.</p> <p>Another thought. The posters have each sign in quote marks. I'm not sure that is needed If WSC PI decides to remove the quote marks, make sure to replace the single quote marks that are in the posters now with double quotes since single quote marks are only for quotes within quotes.</p> <p>Thanks.</p> <p>Jill W. Chicago, IL</p>	<p>Thank you for your Issue &amp; Concern. The WSC Public Information Committee will review your concerns and make the appropriate corrections as needed. Thank you.</p>

<p><b>17-38</b></p>	<p>WSC Business Debtors Anonymous</p>	<p>City: <b>Phoenix, Arizona</b> Group Name: <b>Phoenix BDA Group</b></p> <p>Question #1</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am contacting you at the request of the Phoenix BDA meeting. I will be attending the World Conference and look forward to discussing these directly with the group.</p> <p>Question #1</p> <p>Much of the literature and readings that are published, primarily address personal debting issues. In specifics, very few of the stories in the Currency of Hope address Business Debting or BDA issues. We are hopeful that the BDA group can identify the stories or other literature that best discusses BDA concerns. Perhaps, solicit specific BDA stories and publish them on the website for meetings or individuals to reference in order to gain experience, strength and hope around Business and Money issues. Or, identify the stories in the Currency of Hope that will provide a good foundation around business issues.</p> <p>Rob E. Phoenix BDA Group</p>	<p>Dear Rob and all of our friends in the Phoenix BDA Group,</p> <p>BDA has no organizational definition of what a business is or does. We believe that to define what a business is would violate the Tenth Tradition. You will need to find a definition that works for you. Also, it gives you, the individual BDA member, the flexibility to decide if it fits your needs.</p>
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