

Issues & Concerns

2018 World Service Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota 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 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 2, 2018 will not be included in the final document posted on the D.A. website by January 1, 2019.

General Service Board Committees

GSB: none
GSB Audit & Legal Affairs: 18-02, 18-07
GSB Communications: 18-35, 18-47
GSB Conference Support: none
GSB Finance: 18-14, 18-15, 18-16, 18-29
GSB Information Technology: none
GSB International: none
GSB Literature Publications: 18-01, 18-09, 18-22
GSB Literature Translations and Licensing: 18-10, 18-11, 18-12, 18-30, 18-31, 18-32, 18-33, 18-40, 18-41
GSB Long Range Planning: 18-37
GSB Nominations: 18-50, 18-51
GSB Office: none
GSB Public Information: none

World Service Conference Committees & Caucuses

WSC Business Debtors Anonymous: 18-20, 18-25, 18-39
WSC Conference: 18-03, 18-04, 18-05, 18-06, 18-21, 18-49
WSC Diversity Caucus: none
WSC Fellowship Communications: 18-08, 18-19, 18-26, 18-34, 18-43, 18-46, 18-48
WSC Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons: none
WSC Intergroup Caucus: none
WSC Internal Operations: none
WSC International Caucus: none
WSC Literature: 18-13, 18-17, 18-18, 18-23, 18-24, 18-27, 18-28, 18-38, 18-42, 18-44, 18-45
WSC Public Information: 18-20 (to BDA), 18-36
WSC Resource Development: none
WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus: none
WSC Technology: none

ID	Assigned Committee	Issues & Concerns	
18-01	GSB Literature Publications Committee	<p>I continue to hope that DA will start publishing electronic versions of our literature. I can't be the only person who has a hard time with paper copies of books, I assume. With my hand tremors, holding books becomes impossible after a little while. Electronic books do not present the same problem for me. This means I am much less able to access the DA literature as compared to AA literature, for example. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Allison H Minneapolis MN</p>	<p>Hi Allison, Thank you for submitting this Issue and Concern. The GSB and GSB Literature Publications Committee strives to make D.A. literature available and accessible to all members – including literature in downloadable electronic formats, translations in other languages besides English, and audio, and Braille versions. To this end, we have been able to offer the <i>Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous</i>, and the second edition of the <i>Currency of Hope</i> available for sale as downloads. We are acutely aware of the need to make our literature available and are continuing to take the steps necessary to increase literature accessibility for all members.</p>
18-02	GSB Audit and Legal Affairs Committee	<p>We have started an online BDA meeting. Our format is that each participant reads a few lines of the literature and shares. While the person is reading, we show a copy of the text on-screen for a few brief moments, so anyone can read or follow, in the same way a book or pamphlet would be passed around during a 'live' meeting. We obviously do not send any of the literature around to anyone in any form, digital or other.</p> <p>- Are there any precautions we should take or notices to read to safeguard any rights? This is a very small meeting at the moment - but it would be good to know for future eventualities.</p> <p>Many thanks Jonas vS London</p>	<p>Thank you for your question Jonas and thank you for your diligence in protecting the literature. Anytime D.A. literature is used within a D.A./B.D.A. meeting it has automatic permission for usage. It is unclear if someone is typing up the text or if it is on a computer, however, if you would like to have a line to use the normal quote is: Used with Permission from the D.A. General Service Board, Copyright (add the year). Or you could add something simple like, "This material is reproduced for use in this meeting only. Permission to use quotes from D.A. literature for other uses can be obtained by contacting Office@debtorsanonymous.org. Further information can be obtained in the D.A. Manual for Service.</p>
18-03	WSC Conference Committee	<p>Revise the WSC Delegate suggested spending plan and the John H Scholarship spending plan to change the 10% contingency, currently based on the total expenses, to no longer include the registration, food, and hotel costs.</p> <p>Since these are fixed costs that will not alter, they do not need contingency funding. This will drop the overall estimated total for attending the WSC, will make more money available for the John H scholarship fund,</p>	<p>We recommend no change be made to the Delegate Spending Plan Worksheet and the John H. Scholarship Application Form. The Committee's rationale is that a travel contingency needs to be sufficient to cover a true travel emergency such as a missed flight requiring an additional overnight stay in the host or a connecting city.</p>

18-03 (cont)		and reduce reimbursement after the WSC. thanks, Carla	
18-04	WSC Conference Committee	Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA Issue or Concern for the 2018 D.A. World Service Conference: Revise the John H Scholarship to clarify what the scholarship funds may and may NOT be used for. For example, funds may be used for standard business travel costs, e.g. baggage, tips, taxis. Funds may not be used for non-standard life needs, e.g., day care, pet sitting, personal care needs, etc. These items should not be included in spending plans submitted for scholarship funds.	The WSC Conference Committee considered I/C 18-04 and 18-06 and responds that the John H. Scholarship Funding Guidelines are sufficiently clear.
18-05	WSC Conference Committee	Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA Revise the John H Scholarship guidelines to clarify if scholarship funds may be granted for a single room, based on medical needs. Require a letter from a doctor or nurse indicating that the person has a medical condition requiring a single room, e.g. CPAP Machine.	We recommend no change be made to the John H. Scholarship Funding Guidelines. The WSC Conference Committee further recommends that the Conference Host Committee exercise its discretion regarding the allocation of scholarship funds.
18-06	WSC Conference Committee	Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA Issue or Concern for the 2018 D.A. World Service Conference: Revise the John H Scholarship guidelines to establish a minimum amount of funds raised by a group in order for a GSR/ISR to receive funding. For example, a group must have raised at least \$100 (\$2/week) towards sending a GSR before requesting scholarship funds.	The WSC Conference Committee considered I/C 18-04 and 18-06 and responds that the John H. Scholarship Funding Guidelines are sufficiently clear.
18-07	GSB Audit and Legal Affairs Committee	To Whom It May Concern: I was hoping that The Board would answer my query about why this website has been allowed to persist: https://letsgrowda.wixsite.com/lets-grow-da . This unauthorized website is manipulating DA literature which is copyright protected.	Thank you for your question. The legal committee has asked for the materials to be taken down in response to this information. We have provided the group with an opportunity to gain permission to use the quotes and other D.A. materials by submitting them to the Board for permission. That process is ongoing. Thank you for your concern on protecting our copyright protected materials.

<p>18-07 (cont)</p>		<p>How can this be ignored by The Board?</p> <p>Please let me know.</p> <p>Ellen S</p>	<p>I would note here that there are no authorized or unauthorized D.A. web sites except for debtorsanonymous.org.</p> <p>Any D.A. committee or group can develop a web site if they so choose. The contents of the website, when it comes to the quoting of D.A. literature that has Copyright protection, however, must receive permission to be reprinted.</p> <p>Any group who wishes to use Copyright-protected materials for flyers or for local uses can submit the information to the Board for approval at office@debtorsanonymous.org.</p>
<p>18-08</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</p>	<p>Hello. I'm a newcomer to DA from New York named Sally. I have been accessing phone meetings listed on the DA site as a vital part of my recovery. I mainly attend the 7:00am Just For This Day tool 8 literature study meeting Group #1309. My phone carrier T-Mobile has charged for the calls. I spoke to a representative and they're firm about charging. Other major carriers are following suit. As a result I have to rely on face-to-face meetings only. Since I live in New York it isn't a problem, but if a member lives in a remote area unable to attend face-to-face meetings and is charged for the meetings, it may deter them from calling thus jeopardizing their recovery.</p> <p>Is there an alternative phone number that members can access? I tried my google phone and Skype but they charge for calls also. What's App didn't work either. I hope this can be resolved because the morning phone meetings have been a huge help in starting my day. Thank you for your service and thank you for letting me express my concerns in this forum.</p> <p>Sincerely Sally N.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting an Issue & Concern. We understand how frustrating it can be to have connectivity issues and fees when trying to access phone meetings. Meetings are autonomous, including phone meetings, and it is up to each phone meeting to decide how and where they are going to take place. Just as face-to-face meetings often have to pay rent for space, it's possible that the fees charged by phone service providers to access phone meetings is a type of rent. In any case, it is an outside issue as far as D.A. is concerned. We do have a list of downloadable apps for accessing the Fellowship-wide calls at debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access and some of these might provide free access to phone meetings.</p>
<p>18-09</p>	<p>GSB Literature Publications</p>	<p>Please allow people to electronically download literature and send donations to WSO to cover the costs, so that those from outside the USA can have access to the literature.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>	<p>Hi Chris,</p> <p>Thank you for submitting your issue and concern. The GSB and GSB Literature Publications Committee strives to make D.A. literature available and accessible to all members – including literature in downloadable electronic formats,</p>

<p>18-09 (cont)</p>		<p>Chris M</p>	<p>translations in other languages besides English, and audio, and Braille versions. To this end, we have been able to offer the <i>Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous</i>, and the second edition of the <i>Currency of Hope</i> available for sale as downloads. We are acutely aware of the need to make our literature available and are continuing to take the steps necessary to increase literature accessibility for all members. The Literature Translations and Licensing Committee (LTL), convened just one year ago, has been working very hard to address the licensing issues you mention. The LTL was recently able to provide pamphlets translated in Spanish to be offered for sale as downloads for a very reasonable cost. Please stay tuned to the eNews announcements, as we are dedicated to continue our progress on all matters related to literature availability and accessibility.</p>
<p>18-10</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Good Evening, I am grateful for the service you provide. I do have one issue and concern. I am unable to get DA Literature, DA specific books and pamphlets, sent to me in Mexico.</p> <p>The cost is 3X more to have them imported. This is not within my spending plan at this time, yet I need the recovery materials to be of service to my home group, which is via telephone.</p> <p>Mail typically gets lost in Mexico. If it does get delivered, it takes a minimum of three months. This is a long time to wait for recovery materials, if they arrive at all.</p> <p>I ordered a package through DHL shipping from Amazon in early March and it has yet to arrive. Today received correspondence from the IRS, response was due in April of 2018. This is not unusual.</p> <p>I propose DA accept payment on their website and offer a PDF version of all DA Literature so others in foreign countries may have access to these resources.</p>	<p>Gracias Elizabeth por su pregunta, entendemos lo importante que es este asunto y la Junta está muy interesada en resolverlo, no solo con materiales de D.A. fácilmente accesibles en inglés, sino en muchos otros idiomas. Sin embargo, este no es un proceso fácil y está tomando tiempo. Las buenas noticias son que ya tenemos dos libros de D.A. disponibles en Kindle y que fácilmente pueden leerse en diferentes equipos electrónicos al uno descargar la herramienta de libre acceso de Kindle. Están disponible solo en inglés y los libros son “A Currency of Hope” y “The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.”</p> <p>En cuanto a literatura traducida y aprobada en español, como primer paso la Junta ha decidido hacer disponible en Kindle diez primeros folletos. Estamos considerando también hacerlo con los folletos en inglés. Por favor, tome nota que en la página web de D.A. (https://debtorsanonymous.org/en-espanol/) hay una cuantiosa cantidad de material enfocado en la recuperación para el deudor y que puede descargarse sin costo alguno. Está libremente disponible para Ud. y para su grupo. Valoramos su preocupación y estamos trabajando tan rápido como nos es posible en una solución que pueda servir a todos los deudores en recuperación, donde quiera que estén.</p>

<p>18-10 (cont)</p>		<p>Recoveries Anonymous offers this option. All their literature is password protected. You can only get the password if you purchase the document. The password is sent in an email with the PDFs after purchase. They accept payment online.</p> <p>AA offers free PDF copies of the Big Book and the 12 and 12 on their website. This is how I obtained copies of these books. I am happy to buy the literature, but need a way to do so where I can be guaranteed to receive the purchase quickly, without exorbitant cost.</p> <p>Please consider this request for all expats and foreigners who need this service. If I can be of any help in setting this up for DA, I am happy to volunteer the time and experience.</p> <p>In Love and Recovery, Elizabeth</p>	
<p>18-11</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Dear World DA Fellows,</p> <p>Subject: Important Issues for Helping the Spanish DA groups grow Worldwide Helping with the Literature Accessibility</p> <p>Please confirm reception.</p> <p>Just as an anonymous DA member of the Spanish Community of the following internet registered groups, an active member of the translation process and previously a past coordinator of the Spanish Translation Subcommittee and Alternate Delegate of the Internet Group Solvencia Skype I want to request to the board the generous permit and reciprocity to what the Spanish Online Groups has done with DA as a whole DA WSO translating tons of pages of literature for FREE with the spirit of the 5th Tradition and giving the rights to DA World to carry the message to the Debtor who stills suffers.</p> <p>It is our experience while using the drafts that the groups have quadrupled (from one online meeting of one group to 5 meetings from 3 online groups) and that more inside groups workshops and</p>	<p>Thank you for your question and requests Jorge. On the new Literature Translations and Licensing committee we have discussed it at some length and would like to invite you to collaborate with us. We are exploring specific ways to make our translated literature available to Spanish speakers worldwide.</p> <p>We have reflected on Tradition Five in relation to your request that literature be without charge in certain circumstances. Tradition Five states: <i>Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the D.A. message to the debtor who still suffers.</i> In the DA 12+12+12, p.82, we read, “Fulfilling the group’s primary purpose is one of the keys to individual recovery of every D.A. member.” Our service in D.A. is simply and always about carrying the message; this is done with a loving and generous heart and with no expectation of a return or a particular outcome. At the same time, “the D.A. service structure has direct responsibility to those it serves. . .the aim of each service board and committee is to ensure that recovery is within reach of those who seek it.” (DA 12+12+12, p.103.)</p>

<p>18-11 (cont)</p>		<p>DA literature studies has exponentially multiplied thanks to the Loving God expressed through the literature and therefore the attendance and the attraction of Newcomers. On our whatsapp communication and cyber cafe intergroup there are 240 members.</p> <p>My requests are:</p> <p>1) Because the Spanish DA Groups online DA Internacional, Grupo DA nº 1585 por internet- “Solvencia Skype”, Grupo DA nº 22718 por Internet– “Conciencia Skype” and DA Prosperity have contribute with DA World so much in order to practice generosity and gratitude I believe DA World COULD GRANT the right to read and share digitally ALL the official pamphlets and readings that they contributed to translate for FREE so they can continue to practice the 5th Tradition and keep helping the Spanish speaking suffering debtor to recover.</p> <p>2) I want to request that the E-pamphlets and rest of the Spanish Literature would be available to buy it online for those who can since it would be much easier and cheaper to acquire online that to pay physical transportations and customs that are very expensive in Latin American countries.</p> <p>3) Moreover, I would like to request that the DA Spanish Literature Approved and Sold in Latin American countries with very low monthly income outside the U.S.A. and Spain would be much cheaper so we can prioritize and help with the access to the Newcomers and groups and for carrying the message to the debtor who still suffers who are millions of people in Latin America and the DA Groups in Spanish in this countries are still very small. Through time once there would thousands of meetings the prices could be raised but first let’s prioritize the 1st, 2d, 3rd, 5d and 7th Tradition (since these groups and other face to face in Spanish in Spain, Argentina, etc has been translated Self-sustaining and contribute with DA World since all the Spanish translations progresses have saved thousands of dollars to the DA Fellowship as a whole in Spanish translations to carry the message) and avoiding that questions of money, property or prestige divert us</p>	<p>Addressing this, we want to express that we are grateful to you and to the many members who have shared with us about the need to have D.A. literature in Spanish more readily available to the still-suffering debtor. We understand the urgency surrounding this need and have agreed that working toward a solution will be a primary focus of our service to the fellowship.</p> <p>As a first step, the Board had voted to compile the ten verified Spanish translated pamphlets into one booklet and sell them in the Kindle format that will eliminate the cost of shipping as well as making them available for the first time. We will also have the individual pamphlets available at the same location. However, we are also very interested in finding Intergroups in Spanish speaking countries who would be interested in a licensing agreement with the Board. That would make those pamphlets available to those Intergroups to print and distribute as they please and providing a licensing fee to the Fellowship so that D.A. work can continue happening around the world. You can contact that LTL committee by sending an email to the office at Office@debtorsanonymous.com and put Attention LTL committee in the Subject line.</p> <p>Gracias Jorge por su pregunta y por su solicitud. En el nuevo comité de Licencias y Traducciones de la Literatura (LTL) de D.A. las hemos discutido extensivamente y deseamos invitarlo a que colabore con nosotros. Estamos explorando formas concretas de poner a la disposición en todo el mundo nuestra literatura ya traducida al español.</p> <p>Hemos reflexionado sobre la Tradición Cinco en relación a su petición de que la literatura en ciertas circunstancias sea accesible sin costo alguno. La Tradición Cinco establece que <i>Cada grupo tiene un objetivo primordial: llevar el mensaje al deudor que aún está sufriendo.</i> En la pg. 82 del 12+12+12 de D.A. encontramos, “Cumplir con el propósito primordial del grupo es una de las claves de recuperación individual para todos los miembros de D.A.” Nuestro servicio en D.A. es simplemente, y siempre, el de transmitir el mensaje; esto se hace con un corazón amoroso y</p>
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<p>18-11 (cont)</p>		<p>from the primary purpose of carrying the message to DA who still suffers. Moreover, DA Caucus offered support to the online Spanish Groups with Workshops that until I know have not happened yet in years. The difference between how little the DA WSO can make from expensive selling pamphlets in Spanish that very few could buy versus a faster exponential increment in the membership in DA that would later donate and serve more because they are in grateful recovery and can purchase books makes a very big Spiritual difference.</p> <p>4) Finally to suggest to make a World Spanish DA Sponsorship Committee so we can have</p> <p>With gratitude in working for the commonwealth for carrying the Worldwide DA Message.</p> <p>Thanks very much for your help. In Loving Service to DA Jorge</p>	<p>generoso sin esperar nada, o un resultado en particular, a cambio. Al mismo tiempo, “la estructura de servicio de D.A. tiene responsabilidad directa sobre a quienes sirve... el objetivo de cada Junta y comité es el de asegurar que la recuperación está al alcance de quien la busca.” (D.A. 12+12+12, pg. 103).</p> <p>Atendiendo esto, deseamos expresar nuestro agradecimiento a Ud. y a los muchos otros miembros que han compartido con nosotros la necesidad de tener literatura D.A. en español de forma más accesible para el deudor que aun sufre. Entendemos la urgencia en torno a esta necesidad y hemos llegado al acuerdo de trabajar para lograr una solución como foco principal de nuestro servicio en D.A.</p> <p>Como primer paso, la Junta discutió y aprobó la compilación de los diez folletos ya traducidos, y aprobados, al español en uno solo para ofrecerlo a la venta por \$4.99 en el formato Kindle. Cada título también podrá adquirirse por separado por \$.99. Esto elimina el costo de flete e impresión como también, por primera vez, los hace inmediatamente disponibles al deudor que aún sufre. Sin embargo, estamos también muy interesados en conversar con Intergrupos en los países de habla hispana que están interesados en negociar con la Junta de D.A. una tarifa para cubrir los derechos de autor. Esto otorgaría a los Intergrupos la libertad de publicar y distribuir esa literatura. El pago por los derechos de autor ayuda a que la Comunidad de D.A pueda continuar con su trabajo alrededor del mundo. Puede contactar al comité de Literatura (LTL) por correo electrónico a esta dirección office@debtorsanonymous.org con “Attention LTL Committee” en el Sujeto del correo.</p>
<p>18-12</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Dear DA Fellows,</p> <p>Just as an anonymous DA member of the Spanish Community and an active member of the translation process and previously a past coordinator of the Spanish Translation Subcommittee I want to request to the board the generous permit and reciprocity to what the Spanish Online Groups has done with DA as a whole translating tons of pages of literature for FREE with the spirit of the 5th</p>	<p>Dear Jorge,</p> <p>Thank you for writing this Issue and Concern, and for the detail and thought you have put into it. On the new LTL committee we have discussed it at some length and we are exploring specific ways to make our translated literature available to Spanish speakers worldwide.</p> <p>We have reflected on Tradition Five in relation to your</p>

<p>18-12 (cont)</p>		<p>Tradition and giving the rights to DA World. My request is that since the Spanish DA Groups online DA Internacional, DA Solvencia, DA Conciencia and DA Prosperity have contribute with DA World so much in order to practice generosity and gratitude I believe DA World COULD GRANT the right to side and share digital ALL the official pamphlets and readings that they contributed to translate so they can continue to practice the 5th Tradition and keep helping the Spanish speaking suffering debtor to recover. Thanks very much for your help. In Loving Service to DA Jorge</p>	<p>request that literature be without charge in certain circumstances. Tradition Five states: <i>Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the D.A. message to the debtor who still suffers.</i> In the DA 12+12+12, p.82 we read, “Fulfilling the group’s primary purpose is one of the keys to individual recovery of <i>every</i> D.A. member.” Our service in D.A. is simply and always about carrying the message; this is done with a loving and generous heart and with no expectation of a return or a particular outcome. At the same time, “the D.A. service structure has direct responsibility to those it serves. . .the aim of each service board and committee is to ensure that recovery is within reach of those who seek it.” (DA 12+12+12, p.103.) We want to express that we are grateful to you and to the many members who have shared with us about the need to have D.A. literature in Spanish more readily available to the still-suffering debtor. We understand the urgency surrounding this need and have agreed that working toward a solution will be a primary focus of our service to the fellowship.</p>
<p>18-13</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>I would like to request that the Clutter pamphlet not be included, as Clutter is an outside addiction with its own 12 Step Program and tools. Also, the Business Year End Spending Plan should not be included because it is more of Business Advice instead of offering a spiritual solution. Also, the Health pamphlet should not be included, as Health is a line item on a spending plan, and we don't need individual pamphlets on every issue. Thanks. Sincerely, Chris M</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-13 to the 2018-19 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. We have discussed your concerns relating to “From Chaos to Clarity” (Clutter), “BDA Annual Business Plan” and “Health Issues” pamphlet literature concepts. Of these, “From Chaos to Clarity” was never an approved concept and has been withdrawn from further development. The concept of a “BDA Annual Business Plan” was approved at the 2006 WSC. The concept of a “Health Issues” pamphlet was approved in 2011. The Literature Committee believes that these approved concepts should continue their journey toward development as they encompass issues that affect the still suffering debtor, as well as address situations that, if left unattended, will lead to debting. Thank you for giving our committee an opportunity to pause and reflect on these literature concepts and their continuing development.</p>

18-14	GSB Finance Committee	<p>San Francisco, CA, USA Northern California DA Intergroup (Group # 25200) Growing the Fellowship -Public Information Outreach funding As a fellowship, we need to start funding Public Outreach (PI) to grow our fellowship. As a fellowship we are, as you know, having to reach into our prudent reserves to fund our needs. This is unsustainable. The long-term solution is to become a known 12 step program. To do this we need to do more public outreach. To do this we need a line in the spending plan for Public Information with a substantial accrual amount. There are many still suffering debtors in the world today and they just need to know we are here to help them. Let's get the word out! We have a vehicle in place to plan and implement this process – the Public Information Committee. Let's give them some funding and see what they can do with this! Jeanne G., NCDCA Public Information Committee Chair; publicinfo@NCDASWeb.org</p>	<p>We agree that public information is a needed and valuable expense for outreach. There is currently a line item in the Income and Spending Plan in the amount of \$4,300 for Committee and Caucus Expense, which includes \$100 for each committee, and \$3,000 for all of the committees on a first come, first serve basis. So far this year, three requests have been made by the committees to fund public outreach efforts, two coming from WSC Public Information, and one coming from WSC Hospitals, Institutions, and Committees Committee. All of the requests were approved by the board, and spent all but \$75 from the \$3,000 available. Moving forward, the \$3,000 allocation will be increased each year by rolling over any unspent \$100 funds from each committee from the previous year. Each committee will still receive a \$100 budget in the incoming year.</p>
18-15	GSB Finance Committee	<p>San Francisco, CA, USA Northern California DA Intergroup (Group # 25200) BDA Wednesday Noon (Group # 604), Financial Sobriety (Group # 1240) Electronic Payments I have had requests from several fellows to accept electronic payments for 7th Tradition and Literature. Is there, or can there be, any facility to accept electronic payments, on the GSO level, from various online payment apps i.e. Venmo or Zelle, to be applied to individual meetings or Intergroups? Or, what recommendations can you make so we can do this for those fellows who no longer use cash, just their bank accounts/debit cards? Thank you for your consideration on this request, Jeanne G.</p>	<p>Online contributions became active on August 1, 2018.</p>
18-16	GSB Finance Committee	<p>Group Name: BDA List, Group Number: 1395 City, State/Province, Country: Online all over the world, with members from many countries including: USA, UK, Iran, Spain, Chile, Norway, Germany, Italy, Ireland. Many of us on the BDA List live outside of the USA, and when we</p>	<p>Online contributions became active on August 1, 2018. Contributions from foreign countries are available via TransferWise.</p>

<p>18-16 (cont)</p>		<p>are wanting to send donations it is prohibitive to try to send cheques or money orders, so we often end up not making as many donations as we would like.</p> <p>Is it possible that the GSO could please start accepting online payments, through one of the payment services or at the very least set up the site so they can accept debit card payments? We believe that could really improve not only the amount of donations that would be flowing in, but also the connections between the DA in the USA and the rest of the world. Thank you!</p>	
<p>18-17</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Group Name: Sunday Financial Freedom Group, # 452 City, State/Province, Country: Milwaukee, WI USA</p> <p>We very much appreciated the new BDA Tools Pamphlet and are wondering if a pamphlet on the DA Tools is in the making – and if not, would like to suggest that one could be made, as it would be very helpful!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	<p>Thank you, Sunday Financial Freedom Group, #452 for submitting Issue and Concern #18-17 Re: a pamphlet on the DA Tools.</p> <p>The DA Tools are currently described and documented in the “Currency of Hope” (2nd Edition, pages 27-29), the “Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet (P-101), and online at www.debtorsanonymous.org. Detailed information on the DA tools will be included in the “DA Basic Text” which is new literature currently being developed.</p> <p>There are many individual pamphlets on the specific tools (except for Tool 6, “Action Plan”, also to be addressed in the “DA Basic Text”) and these are available for purchase. The pamphlet title and ordering number are as follows: “Awareness” (P116), “Meetings” (P-104), “Pressure Relief Groups & Pressure Relief Meetings” (P-131), “Record Maintenance” (P-105), “Spending Plan” (P-106), and “Using the Telephone and the Internet” (P-110).</p> <p>In addition, the other tools are available online at www.debtorsanonymous.org under Getting Started/Free Literature. Those pamphlets are: “Sponsorship,” AA Literature, “Business Meetings,” “Service,” and “Anonymity”.</p>
<p>18-18</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Group Name: BDA List, Group Number: 1395 City, State/Province, Country: Online worldwide, with members from many countries including: USA, UK, Iran, Spain, Chile,</p>	<p>Thank you so much for submitting your Issue and Concern.</p> <p>There are several BDA pamphlets that were approved by the WSC in 2007. To date, these projects have not been completed. Other</p>

<p>18-18 (cont)</p>		<p>Norway, Germany, Italy, Ireland.</p> <p>Many of us on the BDA List have found the DA pamphlet entitled “Numbers” to be very helpful, but we would like to suggest that even a brief pamphlet be created to show examples of how business owners can do separate records for their Business and Personal numbers, as suggested in the BDA program.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>	<p>projects have taken priority and there has not been consensus about what should be included in these BDA publications.</p> <p>Each year, the BDA Committees, WSC Literature Committees, and the GSB have continued to evaluate the status and progress of these pamphlets.</p>
<p>18-19</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</p>	<p>Hi, I’m a GSR and someone from my home meeting asked me to submit this concern for them.</p> <p>They would like to see if the Lit Pub committee can help in implementing the Debtors Anonymous version of the 3rd step prayer into our meetings. Many DA meetings still use the AA version of the 3rd step prayer and not our own version of it.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kathleen</p>	<p>Issues and Concerns Response 18-19</p> <p>Hi Kathleen - thank you for your service as a GSR!</p> <p>In the D.A. Manual for Service, the D.A. Meeting Format section suggests guidelines for the format of a D.A. meeting. The format may vary, depending upon the group conscience of its members, using D.A.’s Fourth Tradition as a guide. The Fourth Tradition states that “each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or D.A. as a whole.” Many groups choose to open their meetings with a prayer, such as the Serenity Prayer, or with a few moments of silent meditation. Additionally, there's a section on the newly revised webpage Resources for Groups & Meetings with the heading "Include any of these Conference-approved statements in your Meeting Format" and the D.A. 3rd Step Prayer has just been added. To that end, if it is the group conscience of your meeting to incorporate the D.A. 3rd Step Prayer into its meeting format, by all means your group may implement this.</p> <p>FCC plans to make a recommendation to the GSB to update the sample meeting format that is offered on the D.A. website include the D.A. Third Step Prayer as an option for either an opening or closing prayer.</p>
<p>18-20</p>	<p>WSC Public Information Committee (given to BDA Committee)</p>	<p>Group Name: Clarity to Prosperity, Group Number: 90315, City, Stroudsburg, PA, USA</p> <p>The Clarity to Prosperity Group of Debtors Anonymous, which is a BDA Meeting, would like to have a Public Service Announcement</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting this Issue and Concern. We have strongly considered your request. As a committee, we agree that having a BDA-specific Public Service Announcement would be helpful to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering debtor who owns or operates a business (or has a desire to). We are taking</p>

<p>18-20 (cont)</p>		<p>(PSA), that would focus on getting our message of Recovery and Hope to the still suffering Business Owners (BDA's).</p>	<p>steps within the committee to create a BDA-specific Public Service Announcement. Thank you again for submitting this Issue and Concern.</p>
<p>18-21</p>	<p>WSC Conference Committee</p>	<p>RECLAIM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE: Conference committee and Board member assigned to that committee Review and Repeal the Motion # 4 from 2016 "Spiritually sustainable earning" Please re read, ALOUD, from the 2006 conference report: The San Diego Statement. This Statement may be found on our website www.debtorsanonymous.org. From the Home page click Fellowship Services. Then select World Service Conference. From the list of conference reports, click WSC 2006. Scroll that document to p.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: PDF document pagination may show this as page 16) Please re read, ALOUD, 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. Please re read traditions 1,5 & 6 noting especially the principles of 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, they feel bad and we have to do something about it." 12 Step recovery is not about soothing feelings and making newcomers comfortable the short term; it is about helping debtors change a compulsive debting behavior. The argument about the 'stick' was particularly misinformed. DA's eternal problem has been, we spend too much energy trying to comfort anyone in the CIRCUMSTANCE of "Money trouble." Even though ALL ADDICTIONS CAUSE "Money trouble." So do mental and physical illness.</p>	<p>WSC Conference Committee: deferred.</p>

<p>18-21 (cont)</p>		<p>Debtors Anonymous' primary purpose is ONLY <i>to help the debtor stop a behavior</i>: compulsive debting. Debting is a broken relationship with money. Under earning is a broken relationship with energy and time. At conference 2017 there was almost no one in the critical international or diversity caucuses while the underearning room was packed. We must not let these outside issues embezzle our time and energy. Expecting ourselves to help all in the "Money trouble." CIRCUMSTANCE, particularly under earners, has drained our energy, wasted our time, diluted our message, distracted us from our own recovery and ultimately crippled our growth. Have courage and stop this now.</p>	
<p>18-22</p>	<p>GSB Literature Publications Committee</p>	<p>IN SUPPORT OF OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE Change Service Manual Language (In the Sample DA meeting Format) - in support of our primary purpose. In DA, we celebrate Anniversaries of Length of Abstinence only <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 ONLY length of abstinence from incurring new unsecured debt is what is celebrated at DA birthday meetings or the anniversary section of a meeting. This is found on pg 24 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. This should also be clarified in the BDA meeting format, pg 27, second paragraph under "Announcements." The negative effect of birthday chips for attendance not abstinence: The sharing is all about serial confession, excuses, self-justification (i.e. reason why they debt and cannot stop) rationalization and resignation to no progress. Newcomers have actually told me our local DA meeting does not sound like a hopeful place. Birthday meetings became a place to dump feelings but NOT to share experience STRENGTH OR HOPE that abstinence and recovery can be achieved or progress can be sustainable.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting your Issue & Concern.</p> <p>In the 2018 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 DAMS, 2018 edition, Sample DA and BDA Meeting Formats, in "Announcements," pp. 24 and 27:</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>18-23</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY:Dallas TX IN SUPPORT OF OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE:</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-23 to the World Service Conference (WSC) Literature Committee. The members of</p>

<p>18-23 (cont)</p>	<p>LITERATURE CONSISTENCY</p> <p>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. There is a 12 step LANGUAGE that better serves our purposes There are some therapeutic terms floating around the 12 step community that we do not think best fit the 12 step treatment model, that in our experience are best avoided, such as: Remove all vocabulary & references to outside issues such as (but not limited to) compulsive underearning, clutter, time management and family of origin stuff .Remove all references to therapy, self-help and treatment models other than spiritual 12 step recovery.</p> <p>Replace the word underearning as a debting symptom to the word 'pauperism' OR to the phrase "Temporary austerity" to avoid confusion.</p> <p>Avoid 'Buddy' - Instead the terms a 'sponsor' or 'study partner.' Those who take the steps with us are not buddies, pals or necessarily friends although a friendship may result. We study to see what literature says and partner each other by reminding one and other to act on it.</p> <p>Avoid 'Accountable' - if we would follow through because we promised someone, a HUMAN that we would, we would not need the spiritual 12 steps. We humans in fellowship do not hold each other accountable, rather, we are God conduits, reminding each other to ask God for the willingness strength and courage to act in our own best interest.</p> <p>Avoid "Burning Desire," "Check in" or "Claim my seat" These expressions also came from the therapy community as ways to help people get past fear of speaking up. In 12 step these expressions get mis-used to have members relieve and release feelings by sharing confessions that they are not solvent, not doing the work, are ashamed and stuck OR to just chat about their day. We avoid shame sharing. Best to be focused on speaking the spiritual solution found in DOING the step work.</p> <p>We in 12 step allocate time to ask questions and requests because</p>	<p>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>Regarding the issue of consistency in DA and BDA literature, the WSC Literature Committee put forth a recommendation to the General Service Board (GSB) for periodic review of all existing literature. That recommendation was approved and the GSB is moving forward on that recommendation. An integral part of that process will be a review of the appropriateness of language such as the examples you shared.</p> <p>During the review process, we encourage the use of feedback such as yours from the Issues and Concerns archive to help bring relevance and closer alignment with the spiritual principles of the program. Our committee appreciates your suggestions and looks forward to working with the GSB to continually improve current and future DA literature.</p>
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<p>18-23 (cont)</p>		<p>in 12 step, we are here to learn to think, decide and act differently. For that, when we are stuck, we do not confess, rationalize, vent feelings and just leave it at that...we ASK: for help, we ASK for contact, we ASK for support, we ASK for prayers. So leaders will ASK for Support and Prayer REQUESTS rather than "burning desires." Avoid asking for 'comment,' 'advice' or general 'sharing' - When we call for sharing we need to specifically ask for sharing of personal DA experience with the topic reading. We must reclaim DA for focus on 12 step recovery and stopping debting. Consistent language in our published literature will support that.</p>	
<p>18-24</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX RECLAIMING OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE PLEASE Retract the Proposed Pamphlets on Debting and Health issues, Clutter (Chaos to Clarity) and BDA Annual Business Plan and cease spending time and resources on literature, caucuses and committees addressing outside issues. I read the June 2018 DA Focus, report from the literature committee with a heavy heart. I felt I was reading the 'DA total LACK of Focus.' While I appreciate all the heart and dedication given in service to this fellowship, we desperately need delegates and board members with courage to stand up for our primary purpose. Once again, energy, resources and WSC committee time was spent on literature addressing outside issues. This practice breaches the tradition on outside issues and does not support our primary purpose At least the report said the BDA Business Plan sub com disbanded! When I was GSR in 2008 we rejected that pamphlet as having NOTHING to do with stopping debting and NOTHING to do with 12 steps or spirituality! Health care, like education, business planning or small business startup, are simply line items on a DA spending plan. Clutter (and disorganization) is an outside issue with its own fellowship. In D.A.'s history there have been many pieces of literature that diluted our message. Time, compulsive underearning, clutter, small business start up, student loans, family of origin issues and</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-24 to the 2018-19 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>Below is a status update on each of the literature concepts mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "From Chaos to Clarity" was a pamphlet concept proposal that was developed by a subcommittee in 2017-18. However, at the 2018 WSC, the incoming Literature Committee voted against bringing this concept proposal to Convocation for approval. It is no longer being developed - The "Health Issues" pamphlet is a WSC approved concept and is continuing to be developed though not in subcommittee at this time - The "BDA Annual Business Plan" pamphlet is a WSC approved concept that is continuing to be developed, in partnership with the BDA Committee <p>We believe that the WSC approved concepts for a "BDA Annual Business Plan" and "Health Issues" pamphlet address real-life situations for the still suffering debtor that, if left unattended, will</p>

<p>18-24 (cont)</p>		<p>other problems can all prove to be a distraction that can result in a financial consequence (OR - A Money Trouble, a circumstance). Even the AA Big Book, in the amends section, says that ‘most alcoholics owe money.’ Any outside addiction or situation (i.e. health problems) can get expensive and result in the circumstance of indebtedness. This program is not about the circumstances. Those are outside issues. DA has no opinion on outside issues. This program is about stopping debting, a COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR. DA has WAY too many committees, caucuses and literature proposals that amount to: "STUFF THAT GETS EXPENSIVE." If we really want to be pure DA, we would abolish BDA altogether, abolish Spiritually sustainable earning, pull the compulsive underearning and BDA pamphlets, and anything that does not directly address our primary purpose. While our tradition says one thing, we in DA have actually been exercising a different, de facto primary purpose- making those in 'money trouble comfortable' in the circumstance rather than helping those with the debting compulsion to change.</p> <p>In all that we publish, we need to stay focused on that spiritual solution found in the "S's" - stopping debting behavior- step work - sponsorship - spirituality - service.</p>	<p>inevitably lead to debting.</p> <p>The Annual Business Plan is one of the Twelve Tools of BDA and the pamphlet is an expansion of this tool. The financial planning industry is an outside issue.</p> <p>In addition, the Literature Committee acknowledges the long, rich history that DA and BDA members have shared over the decades with a common desire to stop debting one day at a time and a common purpose to help the still suffering debtor. It is our belief that our fellowship has been made stronger by offering both DA and BDA literature.</p> <p>Thank you for giving the Literature Committee an opportunity to pause and reflect on these issues and to re-affirm our unity of purpose.</p>
<p>18-25</p>	<p>WSC BDA Committee</p>	<p>CITY: DALLAS, GROUP NAME: Prosperity, GROUP NUMBER: 364 Change the BDA (Business DA) committee to the "Debtors with Variable income" (DVI) committee.</p> <p>We do not have a lot of DA CEO's of companies but we do have MANY individual self-employed freelancers.</p> <p>Renaming this group would be a first step in recreating this committee to be more reflective of the issues of the ACTUAL DA membership. This rapidly growing segment of DA needs separate record keeping and separate spending plan assistance desperately. We also need to reduce the distraction of a large BDA committee spending valuable conference time on generating business planning literature, business advice (outside issues) & bookkeeping advice which is only utilized by a miniscule portion of the BDA membership.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern 18-25 to the 2018-2019 World Service Conference BDA Committee. The committee has discussed the issue at length and has unanimously voted to keep the committee name as is. As stated in the B.D.A. committee mission statement, <i>“The B.D.A. (Business Debtors Anonymous) Committee’s purpose is to carry the message to the still suffering debtor and help them apply the Steps and Traditions to all their affairs and not debt one day at a time. The B.D.A. Committee focuses on issues specific to the needs of D.A. members who own or operate businesses, are self-employed or have a desire to own or operate businesses or be self-employed. The B.D.A. Committee is open to all GSRs and ISRs, not just those who represent B.D.A. groups,”</i>(DA Manual for Service, p. 78). The two main focuses of the BDA committee in 2017-2018 was to gather BDA stories for future publication and provide fellowship-wide BDA conference calls. Thank you for the opportunity to be of service, and we wish you all the best in your recovery.</p>

<p>18-26</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX, GROUP NAME: prosperity, GROUP NUMBER: 364 Publish the Adopt a Group Flier, Articles and Suggestion List on the DA Website, (Possibly in the PI or Service Manual) 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. We utilized almost all of the recommendations and have written reports of how they worked 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. CONTACT Jill P dadivadelux@yahoo.com if you want more info on the following: Adopt.A.meeting Flier with Specifics Group Sponsorship Suggestion List DA-PHONE-LONER SPONSORSHIP-DATA (Article), Group-loner Sponsorship - ESH (Article), Group Sponsorship Article</p>	<p>Hello, Jill. Thank you for responding and sending the materials. FCC has a commitment to Group Sponsorship, recently changed to "Sponsor-A-Group," this year. We are working on developing materials, and as your pieces came from PI and BDA, we will incorporate information from them when possible. Also, FCC is hosting a Fellowship-wide call focusing on "Sponsor-A-Group" in 2019. Please look for it! And again, thank you for your service.</p>
<p>18-27</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX MAKE A FORMAL "OFFICIAL" SEPARATION BETWEEN DEBTORS ANONYMOUS AND UNDEARNERS ANONYMOUS (UA) Make an official position statement acknowledging that DA, in the 1990's did attempt to address compulsive underearning, but has since realized that compulsive underearning is a unique and separate compulsion with its own symptoms, tool kit and separate fellowship UA (Underearners Anonymous.) Make a clear statement that DA considers underearning an outside issue and will no longer give it any forum on the DA agenda. TRANSITION PROCESS Part 1 - Add a Sticker to all existing DA lit that has underearning vocabulary, with the outside issue statement. Part 2 - Make a thorough literature review process and remove all underearning vocabulary and references from all DA literature. Part 3 - publish these edited versions for future editions of each literature piece. Change the term for temporary underearning symptoms of compulsive debtors back to the terms used in early DA - 'pauperism' or 'temporary austerity.'</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-27 to the 2017-2018 World Service Conference (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. At the 2015 WSC, a motion was made and approved by substantial unanimity to create an Underearners Caucus to address a symptom of debting that the delegates agreed impacts many of our members who identify as debtor/underearners. At the 2017 WSC, the Underearners Caucus made a motion that was again passed by substantial majority that their name and mission be redefined as the Spiritually Sustainable Earnings Caucus. The delegates fully embraced this redefinition and feel that it addresses a key element of recovery for many debtors in a manner that will encourage positive actions instead of confusion with another fellowship. The WSC Literature Committee does not feel it necessary to develop a statement that officially separates DA from</p>

<p>18-27 (cont)</p>		<p>Part 4 - relinquish any DA published underearning material deemed useful by UA, to UA</p>	<p>Underearners Anonymous (UA). Debtors Anonymous is a legal entity represented by the General Service Board (GSB) and they have not indicated that such a statement is needed.</p> <p>Regarding the language in DA literature, the WSC Literature Committee put forth a recommendation to the GSB at the 2018 Convocation for periodic review of all existing literature. That recommendation was approved and the GSB is moving forward on that recommendation. An integral part of that process will be a review of the appropriateness of language such as the examples you shared. During the review process, we will encourage the use of feedback such as yours from Issues and Concerns to help bring relevance and even closer alignment with the spiritual principles of the program.</p>
<p>18-28</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Chris B., City, State/Province, Country: The Villages, FL, USA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are several pamphlets being worked on that are outside issues to DA and waters down our focus on DA recovery. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The “BDA Annual Business Plan” pamphlet appears to have nothing to do with debting. Instead, it is business advice on how to write a business plan. The pamphlet should be dropped as it is an outside issue. b. The “Chaos to Clarity” pamphlet is also an outside issue related to clutter and does not fall under our primary purpose. “Chronic disorganization” is a different addiction than debting. There is already a CLA program to address disorganization. This pamphlet should be dropped. c. The “Health Issues” pamphlet should also be dropped. The cost of health issues should be a line item in a spending plan, i.e. medical bills, prudent reserve for co-payments or deductibles, etc. Again, “health issues” on its own is an outside issue in DA. Our primary focus is to help the suffering debtor. Someone with “health issues” or catastrophic expense due to health issues is not necessarily a debtor. 	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-28 to the 2018-19 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>We have discussed your concern as it relates to the “From Chaos to Clarity” (Clutter), “BDA Annual Business Plan” and “Health Issues” literature concepts. Of these, “From Chaos to Clarity” has been withdrawn from further development. The “BDA Annual Business Plan” and “Health Issues” concepts were approved in accordance with Tradition Two by a substantial majority at the World Service Conference (WSC). The Literature Committee believes that these approved concepts should continue their journey toward development. We feel that they encompass issues that affect the still suffering debtor, as well as address situations that, if left unattended, will lead to debting.</p> <p>Thank you for asking about the “How to Hold a DA Meeting” video. Unfortunately, the General Service Office ran out of copies of this DVD (this DVD has now been listed as ‘Out of Stock’ on the literature order form). The Literature Committee and the General Service Board trustees will evaluate the material to determine if</p>

<p>18-28 (cont)</p>		<p>d. What happened to the “How to Hold a DA Meeting” video? I ordered this early in my recovery and received a phone call that it was back-ordered. I told the office manager to keep my money and send it when they came in. If a decision has been made to discontinue its use, we need a pamphlet on this same subject. I believe this is very important and we need to spend more time on expanding the membership of DA and helping members to start new meetings.</p>	<p>the DVD should be printed at a new vendor or if a new format would be appropriate. The office manager has reached out to you again to offer a refund for this order since we are unable to fill the order at this time.</p> <p>If you are looking for support for a new meeting, service literature is available on the website www.debtorsanonymous.org in the “Resources for Meetings and Groups” section, https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/. There you will find meeting formats, the treasurer’s manual, Manual for Service, Group Inventory, an essay “How to Keep Your Meeting Alive” and other support literature. The D.A. Manual for Service, also available online, has resources to support your meeting. Refer to Chapter 2, “Service on the Group Level” for meeting information.</p>
<p>18-29</p>	<p>GSB Finance Committee</p>	<p>CITY: Brookline, GROUP NAME: 12 Steps to Entrepreneurship and DA Tools, GROUP NUMBER: 102</p> <p>Hello, There seems to be a general belief in my group if not all groups that 7th Tradition contributions are not tax deductible. I am showing participants how to contribute automatically to the GSO office in a way that generates a receipt from the GSO office, which makes the contribution tax deductible. Since many folks, primarily new folks, respond to the circulating basket during 7th Tradition collection with cash, it can take years, if ever, for them to discover there is a tax deductible option. However, should everyone pay to the GSO in a way that generates a tax deductible receipt, there would be no way to pay the rent for the space we use along with other traditional group expenses. I understand there is a way of specifying the group number on the payment to the GSO, thus generating a tax deductible receipt to be acknowledged by the treasurer. But the process remains not well understood by most, if not all participants, and therefore seems confusing and bumbling. I wonder if the information about options could be clarified and streamlined for groups interested in having and clearly and effectively detailing a tax deductible option for members perhaps via a pamphlet and or the website? I see at the following website</p>	<p>We will discuss the clarification of donations being tax deductible on the D.A. website, with the GSB Finance Committee and the GSB Communications Committee.</p>

<p>18-29 (cont)</p>		<p>link there is no mention of any contribution being tax deductible. https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/make-a-contribution/ Since we are debtors looking for a way to maximize our income to pay off debt, it seems the options could be clarified.</p> <p>Gratefully, Barbara H.</p>	
<p>18-30</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Printed pamphlets in Spanish and send to Argentina and Spain is costly. What does Argentina need to do to have permission to print the approved pamphlets?</p>	<p>Thank you for your important question, In, addressing this, we want to express that we are grateful to you and to the many members who have shared with us about the need to have D.A.literature in Spanish more readily available to the still-suffering debtor. We understand the urgency surrounding this need and have agreed that working toward a solution will be a primary focus of our service to the fellowship.</p> <p>As a first step, the Board had voted to make compile the ten verified Spanish translated pamphlets into a booklet and sell them on the Kindle format that will eliminate the cost of shipping as well as making them available for the first time. We will also have the individual pamphlets available at the same location. However, we are very interested in finding Intergroups in Spanish speaking countries who would be interested in a licensing agreement with the Board. That would make those pamphlets available to those Intergroups to print and distribute as they please and providing a licensing fee to the Fellowship so that D.A. work can continue happening around the world. You can contact that LTL committee by sending an email to the office at Office@debtorsanonymous.com and put Attention LTL committee in the Subject line.</p> <p>Gracias su importante pregunta. Al abordarla, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento a Ud. y a tantos miembros que han compartido con nosotros la necesidad de hacer más disponible la literatura de D.A. en español al deudor que aun sufre. Entendemos la urgencia de esta necesidad hemos acordado que nuestro enfoque principal para servir a la confraternidad será en trabajar hacia una solución.</p>

<p>18-30 (cont)</p>			<p>Como primer paso, la Junta discutió y aprobó la compilación de los diez folletos ya traducidos, y aprobados, al español en uno solo para ofrecerlo a la venta por \$4.99 en el formato Kindle. Cada título también podrá adquirirse por separado por \$.99. Esto elimina el costo de flete e impresión como también, por primera vez, los hace inmediatamente disponibles al deudor que aún sufre. Sin embargo, estamos también muy interesados en conversar con Intergrupos en los países de habla hispana que están interesados en negociar con la Junta de D.A. una tarifa para cubrir los derechos de autor. Esto otorgaría a los Intergrupos la libertad de publicar y distribuir esa literatura. El pago por los derechos de autor ayuda a que la Comunidad de D.A pueda continuar con su trabajo alrededor del mundo. Puede contactar al comité de Literatura (LTL) por correo electrónico a esta dirección office@debtorsanonymous.org con "Attention LTL Committee" en el Sujeto del correo.</p>
<p>18-31</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>How much money Spanish members need to contribute for the GSO be able to do the p-125 the 12 steps in e-pamphlet?</p>	<p>Thank you for this important question that needs to be answered immediately. The problem with getting translated literature to market is not completely the issue of money. Although it is not inexpensive to complete the process, it is important to do it in a way that will be of benefit for the still suffering debtor while still protecting the ownership of the literature by D.A. as a whole. In order to keep the copyright protection of the D.A. literature, it is critical that we keep control of our literature in all languages. That means developing licensing agreements and other methods to allow for literature to be printed in other countries.</p> <p>As a first step, the Board had voted to make compile the ten verified Spanish translated pamphlets into a booklet and sell them on the Kindle format that will eliminate the cost of shipping as well as making them available for the first time. We will also have the individual pamphlets available at the same location. However, we are very interested in finding Intergrupos in Spanish speaking countries who would be interested in a licensing agreement with the Board. That would make those pamphlets available to those Intergrupos to print and distribute as they please and providing a licensing fee to the Fellowship so that D.A. work can continue</p>

<p>18-31 (cont)</p>			<p>happening around the world. You can contact that LTL committee by sending an email to the office at Office@debtorsanonymous.com and put Attention: LTL committee in the Subject line.</p> <p>Gracias su importante pregunta. Al abordarla, queremos expresar nuestro agradecimiento a Ud. y a tantos miembros que han compartido con nosotros la necesidad de hacer más disponible al deudor que aun sufre la literatura de D.A. en español. Entendemos la urgencia de esta necesidad y hemos acordado que nuestro enfoque principal para servir a la confraternidad será en trabajar hacia una solución.</p> <p>Como primer paso, la Junta discutió y aprobó la compilación de los diez folletos ya traducidos, y aprobados, al español en uno solo para ofrecerlo a la venta en el formato Kindle. Cada título también podrá adquirirse por separado. Esto elimina el costo de flete e impresión como también, por primera vez, los hace inmediatamente disponibles al deudor que aún sufre. Sin embargo, estamos también muy interesados en conversar con Intergrupos en los países de habla hispana que están interesados en negociar con la Junta de D.A. una tarifa para cubrir los derechos de autor. Esto otorgaría a los Intergrupos la libertad de publicar y distribuir esa literatura. El pago por los derechos de autor ayuda a que la Comunidad de D.A pueda continuar con su trabajo alrededor del mundo. Puede contactar al comité de Literatura (LTL) por correo electrónico a esta dirección office@debtorsanonymous.org con "Attention LTL Committee" en el Sujeto del correo.</p>
<p>18-32</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Good afternoon I would love to ask if it is possible to have the Spanish literature for DA accessible in Internet. With love and appreciation Esmeralda Concepcion, Chile, Group: 50.31.81</p>	<p>Thank you Esmeralda for this question. And there is very good news on this front. The Board had voted to make compile the ten verified Spanish translated pamphlets into a booklet and sell them on the Kindle format that will eliminate the cost of shipping as well as making them available for the first time. We will also have the individual pamphlets available at the same location. However, we are very interested in finding Intergrupos in Spanish speaking countries who would be interested in a licensing agreement with</p>

<p>18-32 (cont)</p>			<p>the Board. That would make those pamphlets available to those Intergroups to print and distribute as they please and providing a licensing fee to the Fellowship so that D.A. work can continue happening around the world. You can contact that LTL committee by sending an email to the office at Office@debtorsanonymous.com and put Attention LTL committee in the Subject line.</p> <p>Gracias Esmeralda por su pregunta. Tenemos muy buenas noticias en este frente, Como primer paso, la Junta discutió y aprobó la compilación de los diez folletos ya traducidos, y aprobados, al español en uno solo para ofrecerlo a la venta por \$4.99 en el formato Kindle. Cada título también podrá adquirirse por separado por \$.99. Esto elimina el costo de flete e impresión como también, por primera vez, los hace inmediatamente disponibles al deudor que aún sufre. Sin embargo, estamos también muy interesados en conversar con Intergrupos en los países de habla hispana que están interesados en negociar con la Junta de D.A. una tarifa para cubrir los derechos de autor. Esto otorgaría a los Intergrupos la libertad de publicar y distribuir esa literatura. El pago por los derechos de autor ayuda a que la Comunidad de D.A pueda continuar con su trabajo alrededor del mundo. Puede contactar al comité de Literatura (LTL) por correo electrónico a esta dirección office@debtorsanonymous.org con "Attention: LTL Committee" en el Sujeto del correo.</p>
<p>18-33</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Good afternoon I run a business since 2001 and I am having many debts right now. I really appreciate Spanish DA's Skype and Whatsapp Groups however I feel I need more literature and specific tool for Business. With so much appreciation for your kind work and with love, Esmeralda Concepción, Chile Group: 50.31.81</p>	<p>Thank you Esmerelda, for writing to us. There is one BDA pamphlet in Spanish which we will be putting onto Kindle in 2019 in a collection along with other DA Pamphlets called 'Los Diez'. We will also put single pamphlets on Kindle in Spanish and other languages as they are verified. Please sign up to our e-blast at to receive news as soon as this happens.</p> <p>If you would like more BDA literature, then the usual process is that the fellowship does the translating and the GSB of DA organises the verification. Most translators find it is best to work in a team to check each other. If you know some BDA members who would like to translate BDA literature from English to Spanish then please ask them to email the GSB Literature Translation and</p>

<p>18-33 (cont)</p>			<p>Licensing Committee at office@debtorsanonymous.org We will then issue Copyright Release forms for them to sign and they can begin work.</p> <p>The Literature Translation and Licensing Committee is a new Committee of the Board this year. The primary item on our agenda is to address the distribution issues concerning translated literature.</p>
<p>18-34</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</p>	<p>Soy Alba DA de Ecuador. Soy un miembro que participa de reuniones por Skype. A través de DA internacional. No tengo reuniones presenciales. Estoy interesada en llevar el mensaje a mi ciudad y por añadidura a mi país. La pregunta es : ¿Cómo me podrían ayudar desde la mundial? Gracias por la respuesta Nota. Podrían contestar al siguiente mail. . da.abundancia.ecu@gmail.com</p> <p>English Translation:</p> <p>I'm Alba DA from Ecuador. I am a member who participates in meetings via Skype. Through international DA. I do not have face-to-face meetings. I am interested in taking the message to my city and in addition to my country. The question is: How could you help me from the World Group? Thanks for the reply Note. They could answer the following mail. . da.abundancia.ecu@gmail.com</p>	<p>Hi Alba, thank you so much for reaching out to us. Our Fellowship is very interested in helping the communities who are underserved and under-represented, especially internationally. This might be a good opportunity to consider starting a face-to-face meeting in your community. If you visit our website you will find we have information in Spanish that can help you start your first face-to-face meeting. The information is on a link on the top right corner on our debtorsanonymous.org homepage, however, you can also click here: https://debtorsanonymous.org/en-espanol/ Our recommendation is to invite you to also visit the link: https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/ and explore the suggestions given. This, of course, is if you can read in English. If you cannot, we will be happy to find a way to explain the material there. I hope this answers your concern. Gracias por contactarnos. Deudores Anónimos está muy interesado en ayudar a las comunidades no representadas y no servidas, especialmente la internacional. Esta es una buena oportunidad para que Ud. inicie una reunión en persona en su comunidad local. Si visita nuestra página web debtorsanonymous.org podrá encontrar mucha información en español que puede ayudarla a cumplir ese propósito. En la esquina superior derecha puede hacer click que la llevará a la sección <i>Español</i>. (Este link la lleva directamente a esta sección: https://debtorsanonymous.org/en-espanol/) Una vez ahí encontrará la guía para el Recién Llegado toda la información que necesita para comenzar. También le invitamos a que visite https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/ para explorar las sugerencias que encontrará.</p>

18-34 (cont)			Desafortunadamente esta información está en inglés y si por alguna razón Ud. no es capaz de leerla, no se preocupe que encontraremos la forma de asistirle en el proceso. Espero que hayamos podido darle respuesta a su pregunta.
18-35	GSB Communications Committee	Dear GSB, Thank you for your loving service. In "For Helping Professionals" (link at the bottom of the home page), the adapted AA Preamble is scattered throughout. In gratitude, Alexandra B-W	Thank you for bringing this to the GSB Communications Committee's attention. We are in the process of reviewing the "For Helping Professionals" document on the D.A. website and substituting the wording from A.A.'s Preamble with similar wording from the D.A. Conference-approved statement titled "Welcome to Debtors Anonymous."
18-36	WSC Public Information Committee	New York City Dear GSB, Thank you for your loving service. I have one I&C concerning two documents, the PI Manual (p. 39) and the PI Starter Kit (p. 5): the language (Many pursue...to the gates....") is very close to the language of p. 30, paragraph 1, of the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous. In gratitude, Alexandra B-W	Thank you for submitting your Issue & Concern. The WSC and GSB PI Committees have taken note of your concern about the language in the two places you noted in the PI Manual and PI Starter Kit. Please know that we are in the process of updating both of those documents and we will propose to change the language in those two sections.
18-37	GSB Long Range Planning Committee	Therissa L. St. Paul, MN It is clear that the expense of the WSC, both for groups and for DA General Service, is becoming unsustainable. Attendance is shrinking. General Service is underpaying for services, e.g., \$400 for a recording secretary and final report. General Service is overcharging for events, e.g., \$45 for the Fellowship Day luncheon. One possible way to mitigate this is to hold the WSC on alternate years. This would have the following advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing individual groups and Intergroups to save-to-spend for conference attendance for two full years, 	Thank you for submitting your Issue & Concern. The question of having an annual WSC continues to be raised by members and groups in Debtors Anonymous. 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: "Annual meetings of the General Service Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference 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

18-37
(cont)

making it possible for more reps to attend the conference.

- Allowing DA General Service to likewise make two-year rather than one-year financial plans for the conference, thus maximizing the ability to put the WSC on without engaging with or facilitating deprivation.
- Allowing the host committee more time to secure site and services that are optimally priced while still commensurate with the needs of the WSC and, again, coming from prosperity rather than deprivation.

I appreciate that this would bring challenges of its own. In this scenario, GSR and ISR terms of three years become less advantageous, as an individual would attend one or two WSCs rather than three. The body would need to consider how this might be addressed, e.g., four-year terms or mentorship of new reps by experienced ones. It would also assume that every rep can commit to two years of committee work and that chairs would either serve for two years or that new leadership would be decided by the committee at the halfway point without an in-person meeting. Given current technologies, in which videoconferencing is easily available to those with decent Internet access, doing effective work from a distance is a norm that can be used to committees' advantage over the two-year span. (Note: Most videoconferencing apps or online services have the option of participation by telephone for those whose Internet access is not adequate.)

Group: Elmhurst Serenity in Solvency, Elmhurst, IL, USA
Based on D.A.'s financial situation and the expense of sending GSR's and ISR's to the World Service Conference, the WSC should only be held every 2-3 years.

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." Based on the requirements of the *Bylaws* as stated above, it is necessary to continue to hold our World Service Conference on an annual basis.

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.

We are acutely aware of the need to continue to reevaluate how the Fellowship holds our annual World Service Conference. While some groups and intergroups are in a position to raise enough money to send GSRs and ISRs every year, many are not able to do so. We would hope that all groups and intergroups could participate by sending a delegate to the conference each year and we are always looking for ways to accomplish this.

The Host Committee of each World Service Conference, together with the WSC and GSB's Conference Support Committees, are responsible for handling the decisions regarding the execution of most aspects of the WSCs, including location and costs. While most WSCs have been held at hotels, some Host Committees have found wonderful venues and accommodations at local colleges and universities, which may help to contain costs.

Fellowship Day, including the scheduling and pricing of the food and events, is handled by the Host Committee. The Host Committee is also responsible for hiring the recording secretary and contracting for payment. The GSB is always looking at alternatives to contain costs and appreciate that there has been variability in the expenses associated with the WSCs over time.

<p>18-37 (cont)</p>			<p>The 2017-2018 WSC and GSB Conference Committees and the MN Host Committee attempted to include more participants by offering remote participation to any GSR or ISR outside North America. As it happened, there were no groups, intergroups, or delegates who chose to avail themselves of the opportunity to participate remotely, despite a very nominal participation fee (approximately \$150 USD).</p> <p>It has been suggested that the opportunity to participate remotely be offered to any group or intergroup who does not raise adequate funds to support sending their delegates to the WSC. Although this could likely be accomplished technically, there are also many factors that might mitigate against making such a decision.</p> <p>The number of technical experts a Host Committee would need to provide to meet the needs of a large number of remote participants may be overwhelming. Anonymity issues also need to be assessed. These are just two of the factors that would need to be considered in making such a decision.</p> <p>Perhaps more importantly, the basis of all 12 Step groups is fellowship. There is a lot to be said for the physical attendance and participation of members at the World Service Conferences. We are not aware of any other 12 Step fellowship that allow remote participation as an option to attend an annual conference. Having said that, we realize that D.A. meeting formats are changing, with telephone and internet meetings becoming increasingly popular, and we strive to include all who want to recover in D.A. and also to participate in service at all levels.</p> <p>We will continue to evaluate options to make participation in the annual World Service Conference available and accessible to all delegates who would like to attend. 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>18-38</p>	<p>WSC Literature</p>	<p>There seems to be some confusion about what constitute "outside</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-38 to the 2018-19</p>

<p>18-38 (cont)</p>	<p>Committee</p>	<p>issues” in D.A. I am concerned that this is compromising D.A.’s stated primary purpose of “not incurring unsecured debt.” Instead of identifying as debtors and focusing on recovery from debting, many members are instead “committed to” prosperity, abundance, visions, and other measures of material success and accomplishment. These outcomes may in fact happen in recovery, but they are not our primary purpose in D.A. Our D.A. Conference-Approved literature should reflect this.</p> <p>We are not trying to recover from a lack of abundance or prosperity, nor are we here to fulfill our “visions.” (“A vision without solvency is a delusion.”) These pursuits should be considered outside issues, or symptoms, of debting. D.A. meetings and Conference-approved literature should focus on the spiritual problem of debting and the spiritual solution in recovery by using our 12 Tools and by working the 12 Steps.</p> <p>We are seeking relief from the use of unsecured debt – our disease is not a lack of wealth, success, accomplishment, fame, or other forms of “cash and prizes.”</p> <p>Additionally, there are other 12 Step fellowships that can provide relief from many of the symptoms or manifestations of debting – including those that are dedicated to recovery involving some of the symptoms of debting - such as underearning, compulsive spending, cluttering, gambling and workaholism.</p> <p>It seems that many members in D.A. are veering away from our primary purpose by focusing on just about anything (and everything) but recovery from debting. Could D.A. Literature Committee provide clarity on these issues and ensure that any new Conference-Approved literature does not include any additional pamphlets or excessive attention to the symptoms of debting and/or pursuits that are not related to our primary purpose to stop incurring unsecured debt? The 12 Step fellowships dedicated to serving members with those concerns may already have wonderful literature available. D.A. should not have to speak to every symptom a recovering debtor may experience.</p>	<p>World Service Conference (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>With regards to the issues and concerns that you have brought up, our DA book, “A Currency of Hope” second edition, has in its contents <u>The Signposts on the Road to Becoming a Compulsive Debtor (pages 15-16)</u>. These signposts give examples of things that can lead us away from our primary purpose.</p> <p>We believe any reference in DA to issues related to clutter, prosperity, abundance, visions, or underearning are not relating to outside issues, but rather as symptoms of compulsive debting. We find the inclusion of these symptoms in our literature helpful for newcomers, in particular, as they identify themselves as debtors when reading about the experience, strength and hope of our members.</p> <p>A substantial majority at the World Service Conference approved the “Underearners” and “Compulsive Spending” pamphlets many years ago. To no longer publish these pamphlets would be negating the WSC group conscience. However, we understand and share your concern about not producing new literature that solely focuses on symptoms and we do not have any literature subcommittees working on the creation of literature relating to clutter, gambling or workaholic behaviors.</p> <p>We agree that Conference-approved literature should focus on the spiritual problem of debting and the spiritual solution. This can only happen when we work our 12 Steps, Traditions and Concepts. Thank you for giving our committee an opportunity to pause and reflect on your concerns and our primary purpose.</p>
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<p>18-38 (cont)</p>		<p>Thank you for your service.</p>	
<p>18-39</p>	<p>WSC BDA Committee</p>	<p>Some B.D.A. members state that use of a credit card, charge card or other forms of unsecured debt are not considered debting in B.D.A. Should the use of a credit, charge, or other forms of unsecured debt be considered an “outside issue” for B.D.A. members, or part of the normal course of “doing business?”</p> <p>The B.D.A. pamphlet, in part, says, “As it states in our Third Tradition, ‘the only requirement for D.A. membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.’ This applies to both professional and personal debt. It is understood that paying bills for goods and services rendered according to agreed-upon terms does not constitute debting.”</p> <p>Can (should?) B.D.A. include the use of credit or charge cards and payments as part of “agreed-upon terms,” and not be considered debting?</p> <p>In the normal course of business, there are certainly times when a B.D.A. member might need purchase goods or services and receives them according to standard business practices. The goods are ordered, received, judged to be satisfactory, the invoice is received and then paid. But is the use of a credit or charge card part of “paying bills for goods and services according to agreed-upon terms?”</p> <p>When using a credit, charge or store card, the goods and services have been taken without paying for them. Of course, the same is true for a business that receives goods “on approval.” But in D.A., the use of unsecured credit is the one thing we need to stop doing; indeed, it is our primary purpose.</p> <p>Several B.D.A. members have stated that because interest charges have not been incurred before the bill is due, it is not a debt. Most D.A. members who are not business owners would likely consider credit/charge card use to be debting (although this is not true in all locations throughout the D.A. recovery community).</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern 18-39 to the 2018-2019 World Service Conference BDA Committee. After considerable discussion and debate, the BDA Committee refers to Tradition Three, “The only requirement for D.A. membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.” According to the FAQ section of the D.A. website, under the question “What is Solvency?” the website states: “Unsecured debt is any form of debt that is not backed by collateral” (https://debtorsanonymous.org/getting-started/faq-frequently-asked-questions/). Thank you for the opportunity to be of service, and we wish you all the best in your recovery.</p>

<p>18-39 (cont)</p>		<p>Is there a difference between using a credit card to pay for purchases or inventory, rather than receiving good “on approval,” and paying the invoice within the specified agreed-upon time?</p> <p>There are certainly instances when both D.A. and B.D.A. members receive goods or services according to “industry standards.” Examples might include paying water, electric, or cell phone bills after the company has assessed the usage or paying car or home insurance on a payment plan – (although some recovering debtors pay their bills a month or so ahead to avoid “owing” anyone or anything).</p> <p>Paying those bills with a credit card would probably not be a “solvent” option for a recovering D.A. member. Should it be different for B.D.A. members, for certain purposes?</p> <p>Using a credit or charge card in B.D.A. could be a “slippery slope” for some B.D.A. members. However, it can be difficult (but not always impossible) to rent a car without a credit or charge card. Additionally, debit cards are not always available or accepted in many countries outside the U.S. and debit cards do not necessarily offer the same protection against loss or damage that credit cards offer. Should that factor be considered when applied to B.D.A., or even in D.A.?</p> <p>Assuming the use of a credit card in business is really “necessary” – if the business does not have sufficient operating capital to fund these expenses before being reimbursed by their customers or clients - is the B.D.A. member operating a solvent business?</p> <p>Could the B.D.A. committee discuss these concerns in the WSC BDA Committee and with other B.D.A. members and provide feedback to the Fellowship?</p> <p>Thank you for your service.</p>	
<p>18-40</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and</p>	<p>Subject: Important Issues for Helping the Spanish DA groups grow Worldwide Helping with the Literature Accessibility</p>	<p>Dear Paola,</p>

<p>18-40 (cont)</p>	<p>Licensing Committee</p>	<p>A quien corresponda, Soy Paola M, Deudora Anónima, integrante, participante y servidora de los grupos de Solvencia, Conciencia y Prosperidad, vía Skype. Actualmente existe la posibilidad de crear a mediano plazo, un grupo presencial en la ciudad donde resido, Montevideo - Uruguay.</p> <p>El Número de uno de los Grupos a los que asisto es: 50.31.81</p> <p>En lo particular, los grupos por vía de internet han sido de extrema importancia, dado que en nuestro país no existe aún un grupo presencial, por lo cual, sin la existencia de los grupos por vía de internet, jamás habríamos tenido la oportunidad de acceder a la recuperación de tan grave enfermedad como lo es el gasto y la compra compulsiva, con las consecuencias que la misma conlleva.</p> <p>Los grupos por vía de internet, si no cuentan con la información en formato digital, es extremadamente difícil que se puedan llevar adelante y lo menciono con conocimiento de causa porque he estado en el servicio de la programación de la literatura, aún sin tener un grupo presencial de DA, aunque sí formo parte de otro grupo de 12 Pasos.</p> <p>En mi caso y en el caso de muchos compañeros más, si no contamos con la literatura, es MUY DIFÍCIL QUE PODAMOS RECUPERARNOS y además debemos pensar en la infinidad de deudores que no hemos atraído a nuestros grupos y que aún siguen sufriendo sin encontrar espacios de recuperación. En mi caso, si la literatura no hubiera sido gratuita por la vía de internet o si no hubiera sido por la solidaridad de otros compañeros, dado el estado de mis deudas, jamás hubiera accedido a la misma.</p> <p>Por lo anterior es que solicito que se tenga mucho cuidado a la hora de limitar nuestro acceso a la literatura que de tanto nos ha servido en el proceso de nuestra recuperación y que espero sirva de herramienta de recuperación de otros muchos deudores</p>	<p>Thank you so much for your heartfelt request. Please let us assure you that the GSB has no intention of limiting your access to literature.</p> <p>We serve the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous as a whole and we cannot give away for free the approved literature that has been written by the whole fellowship. We are duty-bound to be fiscally responsible to all our fellows around the world and as Debtors in the fellowship some of us surely know very well the consequences of giving away too much.</p> <p>We have made the distribution of literature in Spanish and other languages the primary agenda item on the newly formed Literature licensing and Translation and Licensing Committee this year, and are about to put the ten Spanish pieces of translated literature on Kindle at a cost of \$4.99. The pamphlets will also be available separately at 99 cents each.</p> <p>I would also like to suggest to you that there is a concept in law in most countries called 'fair use'. This is how, for example, physical pamphlets are read out in meetings. Translating this to online, I would suggest you can use material responsibly within a meeting.</p> <p>You might want to visit, for example the Friday BDA meeting in Europe (7.45am UK time) if you can, which is listed on the DA main website. They read literature around the room. The pamphlets are up on the screen during the meeting only. These are taken care of responsibly and their meeting has a reminder that they are using Copyrighted literature and it shouldn't be shared outside the meeting. In addition, they set aside a percentage of their 7th tradition funds for the World Service Office. Donations help us</p>
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<p>18-40 (cont)</p>		<p>anónimos que aún no han llegado a DA.</p> <p>Desde ya, los saluda muy atentamente,</p> <p>Paola M</p> <p>English Translation:</p> <p>To whom it May concern, I'm Paola M, Anonymous Debtor, member, participant and servant of the Solvency, Consciousness and Prosperity groups, via Skype. Currently there is the possibility of creating a group in the medium term, in the city where I live, Montevideo - Uruguay. The Number of one of the Groups I attend is: 50.31.81</p> <p>In particular, the groups via the Internet have been extremely important, since in our country there is not yet a face-to-face group, so, without the existence of the groups via the Internet, we would never have had the opportunity to access to the recovery of such a serious illness as it is the expense and the compulsive purchase, with the consequences that it entails.</p> <p>The groups via Internet, if they do not have the information in digital format, it is extremely difficult to be carried forward and I mention it with knowledge of cause because I have been in the service of programming literature, even without having a group of DA, although I am part of another group of 12 Steps.</p> <p>In my case and in the case of many colleagues, if we do not have the literature, it is VERY DIFFICULT THAT WE CAN RECOVER AND we must also think about the infinity of debtors that we have not attracted our groups and who still suffer without finding spaces for Recovery. In my case, if the literature had not been free through the internet or if it had not been for the solidarity of other colleagues, given the state of my debts, I would never have accessed it.</p> <p>Because of the above, I ask that you be very careful when limiting</p>	<p>write new literature and verify translated materials as well as fund other areas of our work.</p> <p>Querida Paola,</p> <p>Gracias por su amable solicitud. Le aseguramos que el GSB no tiene intención alguna en restringir su acceso a nuestra literatura.</p> <p>Servimos a la confraternidad de Deudores Anónimos como un todo y no podemos regalar o distribuir de forma gratuita literatura escrita por toda la confraternidad. Estamos obligados a ser fiscalmente responsables con todos nuestros compañeros en todo el mundo y como Deudores en la confraternidad algunos de nosotros conocemos muy bien las consecuencias de regalar demasiado.</p> <p>La distribución de literatura en español, y también en otros idiomas, se ha convertido en el punto principal de nuestra agenda para el nuevo Comité de Licencias y Traducciones (LTL) de D.A. de este año. Estamos a punto de ofrecer a la venta en Kindle un compendio de diez títulos ya traducidos al español por un precio de \$4.99. Cada título también estará disponible por separado a \$.99 cada/uno.</p> <p>Me gustaría mencionarle un concepto universal de la ley conocido como "uso justo." Es así como, por ejemplo, folletos impresos son leídos en las reuniones. Traduciendo este concepto a la literatura adquirida en línea (<i>online</i>) por medio de Kindle, nuestra sugerencia es que utilice ese material responsablemente en su reunión.</p> <p>Como ejemplo, quizás desee atender a la reunión de BDA los viernes en Europa (7:45 AM hora local del Reino Unido), y que la</p>
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<p>18-40 (cont)</p>		<p>our access to the literature that has served us so well in the process of our recovery and that I hope will serve as a recovery tool for many other anonymous debtors who have not yet arrived at DA. Of course, greet them very carefully, Paola M.</p>	<p>encuentra en la lista de reuniones de nuestra página web general de D.A. En esta reunión leen literatura en el lugar de reunión. (Josie, I wanted to include the link to this meeting but not sure which meeting it is.) Los folletos son proyectados en una pantalla solo durante la reunión. En esa reunión resguardan la literatura responsablemente, y se les recuerda a los miembros presentes que están usando literatura con derechos reservados de autor y que ese material no puede ser compartido, mucho menos reproducido, fuera de la reunión. Adicionalmente, reservan un porcentaje de sus fondos obtenidos de la séptima tradición para la Oficina de Servicio Mundial. Las donaciones nos permiten escribir literatura y a aprobar material traducido, como también a financiar otras áreas de nuestro trabajo.</p>
<p>18-41</p>	<p>GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Hola,</p> <p>Soy una Deudora Compulsiva desde España, me gustaría saber cómo podríamos conseguir literatura escrita (folletos, libros...) para las personas que deseamos poder comprarla.</p> <p>Saludos, Remei</p> <p>English Translation:</p> <p>Hello, I am a Compulsive Debtor from Spain, I would like to know how we could get written literature (brochures, books ...) for people who want to buy it. Regards, Remei</p>	<p>Dear Remel,</p> <p>Thank you for writing to the GSB to inquire how you can get written literature including books and brochures for those who want to buy it. The Board is very concerned, not only with DA materials being available easily in English, but also in other languages throughout the world. In addition, the Literature Translation & Licensing (LTL) committee wants to express our gratitude to you and the many members who have shared with us the urgent need to have DA literature in Spanish more readily available to the still-suffering debtor.</p> <p>Ways to obtain literature for free and for sale Order from General Service Office - On the basic level, written DA literature is available for order through the general service office (GSO) in Needham, Massachusetts US. If you have access to the internet you can download an order form, fill it out, and mail it back to the GSO with payment in US currency. Currently, this is probably the most complicated and expensive process for anyone outside of the US. Also, there is only one pamphlet available on the order form that</p>

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has been translated into Spanish and is published: *Deudores Anonimos*

Free literature on the DA website. On the DA website there are some pieces of approved literature in English, that are no longer sold at meetings, but they can be downloaded and printed off from the site.

Kindle Access- The good news is that the two books DA has, *Currency of Hope* and the *Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts*, are now available on Kindle and can be read on other types of electronic media by downloading free Kindle software.

As a first step toward making the translated Spanish literature readily available, the General Service Board has voted to make compile the 10 verified Spanish translated pamphlets into a booklet and sell them on the Kindle format. That would eliminate the cost of shipping as well as making them available for the first time. We will also have the individual pamphlets available at the same location.

Intergroup Licensing- The LTL committee is very interested in finding Intergroups in Spanish speaking countries who would be interested in a licensing agreement with the Board. Such an agreement would make the translated pamphlets available to those Intergroups to print and distribute as they please as well as provide a licensing fee to the Fellowship. This helps to ensure that the world-wide work of DA can continue. Interested Intergroups can contact the LTL committee by email through the General Service Office office@debtorsanonymous.com and put Attention LTL committee in the Subject line.

We hope this information is helpful and invite your collaboration in this important issue.

Querido Remel,
Gracias por escribir al GSB para preguntar cómo puede obtener literatura escrita, como libros y folletos, para los que deseen adquirirla. La Junta está interesada, no solo con que los materiales de D.A. estén ampliamente disponibles en inglés, sino también en

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otros idiomas de alrededor del mundo. El Comité de Traducciones y de Licencias (LTL) también desea expresar nuestro agradecimiento a Ud. y a tantos miembros que han compartido con nosotros la imperiosa necesidad de tener en español, y ampliamente accesible, literatura de D.A. para el deudor que aun sufre.

Formas de obtener literatura gratis y a la venta.

Pedido a la Oficina de Servicios Generales – Al nivel básico, literatura de D.A. ya impresa en inglés está disponible para pedidos a través de la oficina de servicios generales (GSO) en Needham, Massachusetts, EEUU. Si tiene acceso al internet puede descargar la planilla de pedidos, llenarla y enviarla por correo a nuestras oficinas junto con su pago en moneda estadounidense. Actualmente, este proceso es probablemente el más complicado y costoso para quien esté fuera de los EEUU.

Literatura gratuita en la página web de D.A. – La página web de D.A. tiene una cantidad de literatura aprobada en inglés que ya no es vendida en las reuniones, pero que puede descargarse e imprimirse desde la página web.

Acceso a través de Kindle – La buena noticia es que dos libros de D.A., *Currency of Hope* y *Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts*, ya están disponibles para la venta en Kindle. Esta literatura puede leerse en otros medios electrónicos al descargar el software gratuito de Kindle.

Como primer paso para ofrecer inmediatamente literatura traducida al español, la Junta de Servicios Generales aprobó la compilación de 10 folletos traducidos al español, y aprobados, en uno solo para venderlos en el formato Kindle. Esto eliminaría los costos de envío y de impresión, como también los hace fácilmente disponibles por primera vez. Cada folleto por separado también estará disponible para la venta también en Kindle.

Licencias con los Intergrupos – El comité de LTL está muy interesado en conversar con Intergrupos en los países de habla hispana que están interesados en negociar con la Junta de D.A. una tarifa por el pago de los derechos de autor. Esto otorgaría a los Intergrupos la libertad de publicar y distribuir esa literatura. El

<p>18-41 (cont)</p>			<p>pago por los derechos de autor ayuda a que la Comunidad de D.A pueda continuar con su trabajo alrededor del mundo. Puede contactar al comité de Literatura (LTL) por correo electrónico a esta dirección office@debtorsanonymous.org con "Attention LTL Committee" en el Sujeto del correo.</p> <p>Esperamos que esta información sea útil e invitamos su colaboración en este importante tema.</p>
<p>18-42</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee and GSB</p>	<p>Brooklyn Tools for Abundance Group 296, Brooklyn NY</p> <p>Consider changing "Him" and "His" to God in the DA Steps and Traditions.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issues and Concern #18-42 to the 2018 World Service Conference Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concern to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.</p> <p>This issue has been brought up for review at the World Service Conference a number of times. The reason the wording of "Him" and "His" cannot be changed is because the steps and traditions are copyrighted by Alcoholics Anonymous. As the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions are protected intellectual property of AA we as members of Debtors Anonymous cannot change any wording. UPDATE: May 2019: The GSB has formally requested that A.A. allow the changes you have proposed. We are awaiting their response.</p>
<p>18-43</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications Committee</p>	<p>Brooklyn Tools for Abundance Group 296, Brooklyn NY</p> <p>Does D.A. have a policy about OPEN or CLOSED meetings? Can the WSC provide some guidance?</p>	<p>We do not have a policy about open and closed meetings. Since the disease of "debting" can be so abstract, pervasive and personal there is a lot of room for one to qualify as a debtor. As per the 3rd tradition: The only requirement for D.A. membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. If you think you MIGHT not want to debt you are welcome as a D.A. member.</p> <p>In other 12-step programs there are closed meetings that are for members only and there are open meetings for people who do not identify as members to be able to attend in support of a member or for other reasons. The Fourth Tradition states: Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or D.A. as a whole. This Tradition says that each group is allowed to function however they choose so long as it doesn't have an effect</p>

18-43 (cont)			on other groups or the D.A. Fellowship. It's possible a D.A. meeting could have a group conscience that decides they would like to be registered as an open or closed meeting.
18-44	WSC Literature Committee	<p>Brooklyn Tools for Abundance Group 296, Brooklyn NY</p> <p>Writing a pamphlet on how to work the D.A. tools as a couple and as a family.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-44 to the 2018-19 World Service Conference Literature Committee. The members of the Literature Committee will endeavor to address your concern 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 on "how to work the D.A. tools as a couple and as a family" was reviewed by this year's Literature Committee. The development of a pamphlet starts with conference 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: http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/getting-started/free-literature/</p> <p>This year's Literature Committee decided to bring a concept proposal to convocation at the 2018 World Service Conference for a pamphlet titled "Couples and DA". This concept was approved and a subcommittee was formed to begin developing the outline.</p>
18-45	WSC Literature Committee	<p>Diane E, Apache Junction AZ, USA.</p> <p>I have a few, somewhat related issues and concerns for the 2018 DA WSC in August. The latest issue of the DA Focus showed both a persistence of addressing a few issues that don't seem to be reaching fruition as publishable pamphlets or other written material – the Health Issues, Disorganization or Clutter/Chaos Issue, and even the proposed Annual Business Planner. They all seem stuck, which to my mind and experience could indicate that they are not what we need to address or spend our limited funds to produce. Those Committees and individual members who are wanting these publications in DA might be directing our time, financial and precious focus toward what I find Outside Issues, not related to debting.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting Issue and Concern #18-45 to the 2018-19 World Service Conference (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>Below is a status update on each of the literature concepts mentioned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "From Chaos to Clarity" was a pamphlet concept proposal that was developed by a subcommittee in 2017-18. However, at the 2018 WSC, the incoming Literature Committee voted against bringing this concept proposal to Convocation for approval. It is no longer being developed

<p>18-45 (cont)</p>		<p>My experience is short in DA, my first 12-Step Program, and for the first year I attended phone meetings of various types, including one about clutter and debting, which seemed perfect for me. Unfortunately, I did not hear much recovery in that approach, lots of recycling of misery. Later I did attend several meetings of Clutters Anonymous, which was a great relief and definitely want to revisit and use those resources in the future. My primary daily need is to use the Steps, Tools and support of DA, which I have found in working and re-working to a deeper and deeper spiritual, program-oriented, recovery.</p> <p>That experience also is necessary because of the business failures and huge debt I incurred before finding DA. I somehow cannot wrap my head around the need for an Annual Business Planner in DA when there are so many resources available in the Financial planning industry. Why are our limited resources necessary to pay for this expense, plus the time for committee and GSB consideration of this issue when we should be digging deeper into the Spiritual connections of debting and recovery?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The "Health Issues" pamphlet is a WSC approved concept and is continuing to be developed though not in subcommittee at this time - The "BDA Annual Business Plan" pamphlet is a WSC approved concept that is continuing to be developed, in partnership with the BDA Committee <p>We believe that the WSC approved concepts for a "BDA Annual Business Plan" and "Health Issues" pamphlet address real-life situations for the still suffering debtor that, if left unattended, will inevitably lead to debting.</p> <p>The Annual Business Plan is one of the Twelve Tools of BDA and the pamphlet is an expansion of this tool. The financial planning industry is an outside issue.</p> <p>In addition, the Literature Committee acknowledges the long, rich history that DA and BDA members have shared over the decades with a common desire to stop debting one day at a time and a common purpose to help the still suffering debtor. It is our belief that our fellowship has been made stronger by offering both DA and BDA literature.</p> <p>Thank you for giving the Literature Committee an opportunity to pause and reflect on these issues and to re-affirm our unity of purpose.</p>
<p>18-46</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications</p>	<p>Southern California GSR Regional Area Group (RAG)</p> <p>The Southern California GSR Regional Area Group would like the WSC Fellowship Communications Committee to address the issue of group sponsorship, i.e. G-sponsorship. At present, the process would benefit from being more straight-forward. Many groups have no idea what G-sponsorship is, and those who have tried to become or utilize G-sponsors are often unable to connect.</p> <p>We suggest letting the concept of G-sponsorship evolve from a</p>	<p>Dear Southern California GSR RAG,</p> <p>The FCC could not agree with you more that the D.A. resource G-Sponsorship—now newly named Sponsor-A-Group—would benefit from being more straightforward.</p> <p>With the new name change, the 2018-2019 FCC is currently working on language that reflects the Sponsor-A-Group resource as being one of lateral support for D.A. groups. However, D.A. as a whole cannot require groups to sponsor or</p>

<p>18-46 (cont)</p>		<p>top-down tool, wherein the flow of support goes in only one direction, to a tool of lateral support wherein every registered meeting sponsors another meeting, and is, itself sponsored. What a great way to foster unity and connection among the meetings! It is our practice in our individual recovery to both sponsor and be sponsored; it makes sense to mirror that process at the group level. Not only would this keep strong meetings strong, but it would also address the issue of supporting new meetings and underserved areas, and fostering international connection within the fellowship. If it became tradition for every group to sponsor and be sponsored, G-sponsorship would no longer be an obscure, under-utilized tool, rather a regular part of a healthy meeting's regime.</p>	<p>be sponsored by other groups.</p> <p>Additionally, FCC is aiming to schedule a Fellowship-wide Call in 2019 addressing the topic of Sponsor-A-Group as well as including information about this valuable resource in the 2019 Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS), a dedicated page on the D.A. website, and inclusion in <i>The DA Focus</i> and <i>Ways and Means</i>. A Sponsor-A-Group manual is also being written.</p> <p>Lastly, we are also looking into the possibility of a developing a protocol for newly registered meetings to be assigned a Group Sponsor.</p>
<p>18-47</p>	<p>GSB Communications Committee</p>	<p>Group: Currency of Hope #693 Newtown Square, PA USA Linda Y.</p> <p>The overall process for D.A. conference wide calls needs to be included in DAMS. Process for format and documentation of call content, details of approval, DA-GSB eNews blast, and how to manage technical aspects on the day of the call were issues that arose this year for the committee and caucus that I served on. Three different liaisons provided different information.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting an Issue & Concern. This year we have developed new procedures for Fellowship-Wide Calls and the recordings are uploaded (pending signed releases) to the D.A. website as free podcasts. The GSB Communication Committee will be publishing new instructions and a sample script for inclusion in the World Service Conference Committee and Caucus Starting Kits that are in the WSC binder available to every GSR or ISR.</p>
<p>18-48</p>	<p>WSC Fellowship Communications</p>	<p>Simple Abundance Group #496 Lima, PA, USA Pat B.</p> <p>How does someone buy an airline ticket or rent a car at the airport when cash or credit is accepted and debit cards are declined/rejected? Simple Abundance Group #496 Lima, PA, USA Pat B.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. In situations where credit cards are commonly used (i.e. renting a car or buying a plane ticket) a debit card or prepaid card will often suffice. Sometimes one is required to put a certain dollar amount on hold in one's account when renting a car. We recommend checking ahead with whatever company you are planning to use to be clear beforehand about their policies and to know what balance might be needed.</p> <p>The Conference has never taken a stance on credit cards, nor has the GSB. This is reflected in the fact that there is no literature that is Conference-approved that explicitly states that credit cards are debting, and there has been no formal statement ever put forth by any Board. With the development of the D.A. Basic Text, we are all starting to look at how we</p>

<p>18-48 (cont)</p>			<p>define debting and what exactly to say about credit cards and the impact this would have on members and still- suffering debtors around the world.</p> <p>We suggest members consult with sponsors, PRG members, and other D.A. members for experience, strength, and hope.</p> <p>As of this writing, D.A. defines debting as incurring unsecured debt without collateral.</p>
<p>18-49</p>	<p>WSC Conference Committee</p>	<p>Simple Abundance Group #496 Lima, PA, USA Linda Y.</p> <p>Could not copy 2018 WSC Registration Packet forms using Libre 5, a Microsoft program. Could not type my information into these forms. Could print out form, hand write into them, scan and send them via USPS mail or attachment or email.</p> <p>Suggest that registration forms, spending plan, guest form, and John H. Scholarship form be included in an appendix of the 2019 WSC Registration. These forms need to be formatted to allow typing information onto them to simplify the registration process and saving completed forms to an electronic or paper filing system.</p>	<p>Thank you for submitting an Issue & Concern. The GSB Conference Support Committee appreciates your input and will consider your suggestions for the 2020 WSC Registration Packet. We will make sure all registration going forward will be formatted with fillable-forms. We will also review the WSC Registration Packet to see if we can better organize the information to make it easier for registrants to use. Perhaps it's time that we revisit the possibility of making all forms and payments available to be submitted online.</p>
<p>18-50</p>	<p>GSB Nominations Committee</p>	<p>Please consider creating 1 or 2 Trustee At-Large positions on the General Service Board. Regional representation limits for Board members is a good idea in concept, however such limits are typically only implemented in other Fellowships on Boards at maximum capacity. The D.A. Board is usually at 2/3 capacity. It's rare for a Board for an organization with less than 50,000 members to establish regional limits that further reduce Board eligibility. For this reason, I would ask the Board to consider creating 1 or 2 At-Large Board Member positions that could come from any region until the day there is a reliably full Board every year. Maybe the At-Large position could phase out if certain parameters are met, such as a larger estimated membership or a maximum capacity Board. To date, these regional limits are chiefly an issue for California in which resides an estimated 20% of the</p>	<p>Thank you submitting your Issue & Concern.</p> <p>The GSB has been thinking about these issues for some time and will continue to try to ensure that all qualified trustee candidates will have an opportunity to serve. To this end, the GSB Nominations Committee proposed adding one Class A (debtor) Trustee At-Large. The GSB recently voted to have one "Trustee At-Large" position that can be filled by a member of a region that has met its quota of Class A (debtor) trustees.</p>

<p>18-50 (cont)</p>		<p>D.A. membership. The regional limit does allow for 20% representation of California members on the Board, which is fair. But if there is not a full Board, maybe this limit can be lifted for reasons stated above in order to help the Board fully function. In other Fellowships, there are Boards that have been weighted to one region and there have been no noticeable repercussions. There was a Board in another Fellowship where half the members were from one region (Florida), yet the Trustees from that region didn't vote as a group and as far as anyone could tell, they didn't strategize to do so and were committed to serving the Fellowship as a whole. This was a Fellowship that was slightly larger than D.A., and it was helpful to have as many qualified members serving on their Board of Trustees as were willing. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
<p>18-51</p>	<p>GSB Nominations Committee</p>	<p>Please consider allowing GSRs or ISRs serving a second term to be eligible to serve in 1-year terms as ACMs while simultaneously serving out the remainder of their term as voting members of the World Service Conference. Currently anyone serving as an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) is not allowed to do any other service position in D.A. during their 3-year term. There are other 12-step Fellowships that allow their representatives/delegates to their World Conference to serve as non-Board members of Board committees at the world level, and this policy seems to work out fine with no negative repercussions. Of course, it's always important for Board Committees to find ACMs with specific skillsets, such as writers/editors on Board Literature committees, an attorney on Legal, an accountant on Finance, a magazine editor on Communications, an IT person on Technology, and a Human Resources person on Office. It can be difficult for smaller Fellowships like D.A. to find members willing to serve who possess these specialized skills, and it seems like creating an unnecessary obstacle to reduce the pool of candidates by barring those who do service at the World Conference level, and who are typically the most attentive and willing candidates for Board Committee work. In addition, Board Committee work is a natural progression and training ground for GSRs and ISRs who are interested in possibly joining the Board of Trustees, and to allow members in active service at the world level provides the Board</p>	<p>Thank you submitting your Issue & Concern. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of these issues.</p> <p>The Nominations Committee and the GSB always want to encourage members to participate in service to the fellowship. To this end, a new service opportunity, Project Contributor (PC), was established this Conference year in order to provide members with a shorter-term commitment for a specific task or project, rather than needing to commit to a 3-year term of service as an ACM or trustee.</p> <p>At this point, the role of Project Contributor is fairly flexible and there may occasionally be an opportunity for a member with specific special qualifications to serve as a Project Contributor in addition to serving on a WSC Committee. All PC applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>At this time we do not see the need to change the ACM policy, especially now that the role of Project Contributor has been created. Having said that, Nom Com and the GSB will continue to evaluate how to encourage and facilitate opportunities for members to support the fellowship by being of service.</p>

18-51 (cont)		<p>with a good way to interact with potential Board members in person at the annual Conference.</p> <p>While Board Members cannot serve in other D.A. service positions to avoid conflict of interest issues or any perception of conflict of interest, this concern is perhaps less of an issue for ACMs provided they serve on Board Committees not associated with their Conference Committee work. Other Fellowships often require trusted servants on Board committees to sign annual documents keeping confidentiality and recusing themselves from any conflict of interest as a way of addressing this issue. Terms for non-Board members of Board committees vary in other Fellowships. Sometimes the term is one year, with a maximum of 6 years served. This allows a Board committee to be able to fill their ACM slots with the best available assistance at hand. I hope D.A. can consider these issues again from this perspective. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	
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