

The 2018 Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference

32nd Annual Report Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

**2018 Convocation Minutes, General Service Board Reports,
Committee Reports and Caucus Reports
Crowne Plaza Aire MSP Airport-Mall of America Hotel
Bloomington, Minnesota USA
August 4-5, 2018**

Anonymity

This report contains names of delegates who attended the 2018 World Service Conference. The information in this report should be kept confidential to protect anonymity.

WSC Report Availability

A version of this report is available to the Fellowship and other interested parties on the Debtors Anonymous website at www.debtorsanonymous.org.

Accuracy

Every effort has been made to publish an accurate and error-free version of the Conference proceedings. Please notify the General Service Office of any errors before the 2019 Conference.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
SECTION 1: CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF 2018 WSC MOTIONS.....	2
SECTION 2: ALPHABETICAL SUMMARY OF 2018 WSC MOTIONS.....	4
SECTION 3: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7
SECTION 4: CONVOCATION MINUTES AND REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES.....	10
Convocation Opening	
WSC Committee and Caucus Reports	
Internal Operations Committee	
Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus	
Conference Committee	
Business Debtors Anonymous Committee	
International Caucus	
Resource Development Committee	
Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee	
Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus	
Fellowship Communications Committee	
Literature Committee	
Technology Committee	
Intergroup Caucus	
Public Information Committee	
SECTION 5: CLOSING BUSINESS.....	17
SECTION 6: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR.....	19
SECTION 7: GENERAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS.....	21
Finance Committee	
Ad Hoc Committee to Address D.A.'s Finances	
Audit Committee	
Communications Committee	
Conference Support Committee	
Information Technology Committee	
International Committee	
Legal Affairs Committee	
Literature Publications Committee	
Long-Range Planning Committee	
Nominations Committee	
Office Committee	
Public Information Committee	
Technology Committee	
GSO Report of Operations	
SECTION 8: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES.....	45
Business Debtors Anonymous Committee	
Conference Committee	
Fellowship Communications Committee	
Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee	
Internal Operations Committee	
Literature Committee	
Public Information Committee	
Resource Development Committee	
Technology Committee	
SECTION 9: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MINUTES.....	65
Intergroup Caucus	
International Caucus	
Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus	
Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus	
SECTION 11: COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS ROSTERS.....	72
SECTION 12: 2018 ISSUES & CONCERNS.....	73

SECTION 1: CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF 2018 WSC MOTIONS:

Internal Operations Committee

No motions.

Conference Committee

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the Conference continue the Remote Participation Trial involving delegates outside North America for the 2019 and 2020 World Service Conferences. ***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the name of the Diversity Caucus be changed to the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus (UUOC). ***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the mission and description of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus be changed to: *The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.* ***Motion carried.***

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the WSC Conference Committee, the GSB Conference Support Committee, and the General Service Board determine the site of the 2020 D.A. World Service Conference. (This is because there were no proposals submitted to host the 2020 or 2021 WSC. Usually the site of WSCs needs to be approved by the delegates at the Conference). ***Motion carried.***

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No motions.

Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee moves that there be no financial cap on contributions made to Debtors Anonymous through a D.A. member's Last Will and Testament ("Testamentary Bequest"). ***Motion did not carry.***

That a D.A. member may contribute up to \$12,000 to Debtors Anonymous on an annual basis. ***Motion carried.***

Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee moves that the second Saturday in July be designated HIP Awareness Day. ***Motion carried.***

Fellowship Communications Committee

No motions.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee moves that the "The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous" pamphlet be approved. ***Motion carried.***

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark of slogans from D.A. conference-approved literature be approved. ***Motion carried.***

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark to include the D.A. Third and Seventh Step prayers be approved. ***Motion carried.***

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on "Couples and D.A." be approved. ***Motion carried.***

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Recovery and Relapse” be approved. **Motion carried.**

Public Information Committee

No motions.

Technology Committee

No motions.

SECTION 2: ALPHABETICAL SUMMARY OF MOTIONS:

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

No motions.

Conference Committee

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the Conference continue the Remote Participation Trial involving delegates outside North America for the 2019 and 2020 World Service Conferences. **Motion carried.**

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the name of the Diversity Caucus be changed to the Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus (UUOC). **Motion carried.**

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the mission and description of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus be changed to: *The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.* **Motion carried.**

Conference Committee (CC) moves that the WSC Conference Committee, the GSB Conference Support Committee, and the General Service Board determine the site of the 2020 D.A. World Service Conference. (This is because there were no proposals submitted to host the 2020 or 2021 WSC. Usually the site of WSCs needs to be approved by the delegates at the Conference). **Motion carried.**

Fellowship Communications Committee

No motions.

Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee moves that the second Saturday in July be designated HIP Awareness Day. **Motion carried.**

Internal Operations Committee

No motions.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee moves that the “The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet be approved. **Motion carried.**

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark of slogans from D.A. conference-approved literature be approved. **Motion carried.**

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark to include the D.A. Third and Seventh Step prayers be approved. **Motion carried.**

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Couples and D.A.” be approved. **Motion carried.**

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Recovery and Relapse” be approved. **Motion carried.**

Public Information Committee

No motions.

Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee moves that there be no financial cap on contributions made to Debtors Anonymous through a D.A. member’s Last Will and Testament (“Testamentary Bequest”). **Motion did not carry.**

That a D.A. member may contribute up to \$12,000 to Debtors Anonymous on an annual basis. **Motion carried.**

Technology Committee

No motions.

SECTION 3: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Business Debtors Anonymous Committee

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the text of the Third Tradition and the answer to “What is solvency?” in the FAQ section of the D.A. website be featured prominently on the website homepage.

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the D.A. Welcome Statement include the following language in parentheses at the end of the third sentence: “unsecured debt is any debt that is not backed by collateral.”

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the WSC Public Information Committee create public service announcements that would focus on getting the message of recovery and hope to the still suffering business owner.

Conference Committee

The Conference Committee recommends that the Host Committee Manual be reviewed and updated to reflect current practice.

Fellowship Communications Committee

The Fellowship Communications Committee recommends that the “Resources for Groups” page on the D.A. website be translated into Spanish.

Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee

No recommendations.

Internal Operations Committee

The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the General Service Board maintain the FY 2017-18 funding level for the “Salary and Hourly Wages” line item in the Income and Spending Plan for FY 2018-19 for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the General Service Board consider increasing the number of staff to 2.0 full-time employees, with appropriate qualifications such as 12-Step experience and technical expertise.

The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the General Service Board establish a line item in the GSB Income and Spending Plan to begin saving for the eventual relocation of the General Service Office.

The Internal Operations Committee recommends that an additional telephone line be installed at the General Service Office.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee recommends that a process be created to review D.A. literature on a periodic basis to maintain its relevance, appropriateness, and spiritual nature to the D.A. program and Fellowship.

Public Information Committee

The Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Information Technology Committee transcribe the public service announcements (PSAs) and the “D.A. Signs Come to Life” welcome video into podcasts and eNews articles.

The Public Information Committee recommends that the WSC Technology Committee create a user-friendly accessible Public Information hyperlink for direct access for meetings, Intergroups, and the public, in consultation with the WSC Public Information Committee.

The Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Communications Committee continue to publicize the “One Member, One Action” Day prior to D.A.’s anniversary.

The Public Information Committee recommends that a Spanish-speaking option be available for the General Service Office toll-free telephone line.

Resource Development Committee

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board create an Ideal Income and Spending Plan.

The Resource Development Committee recommends that consistent and continuous messaging across all D.A. Fellowship-wide communications regarding the existence and convenience of the online contribution option be created.

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the GSB Communications Committee and the GSB Information Technology Committee increase the visual awareness of the new online contribution option on the D.A. website.

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board provide an in-depth information session open to all D.A. members, during the 2019 D.A. World Service Conference Fellowship Day, regarding the form and content of the Fellowship’s annual financial statements.

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Office include the John H. Scholarship, D.A. Anniversary and other GSB-approved Resource Development Committee communication pieces with D.A. Literature Orders.

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board explore a subscription-based pricing model that allows online access to D.A. conference-approved content.

Technology Committee

The Technology Committee recommends that there be more time for conference committees to meet at the WSC.

The Technology Committee recommends that the Fellowship accept contributions by SMS text.

The Technology Committee recommends that GSRs and ISRs encourage group members to enroll for eNews announcements. (A survey will be distributed to profile Fellowship demographics.)

The Technology Committee recommends that D.A. establish an online store for ordering literature.

The Technology Committee recommends that the D.A. website be updated to be more user-friendly and attracting.

Intergroup Caucus

No recommendations.

International Caucus

The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate and implement diverse payment options for international D.A. members.

The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee review and change the Treasurer's Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to accommodate international transactions.

The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee reach out to international D.A. members when collecting stories and submissions for the D.A. Basic Text and the Daily Meditation Book, and be inclusive of our international Fellowship in the selection process.

The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee use audio technology to allow international D.A. members to record their stories in their chosen languages.

The International Caucus recommends that the General Service Board facilitate free international conference call numbers for fellowship-wide calls, including playbacks.

Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

No recommendations.

Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that the Diversity Outreach Recommendation on page 61 of the DAMS include suggested communities as listed in the HIP and PI starter kits.

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that the Fellowship define best practices for reaching out to underserved and underrepresented debtors.

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that Fellowship members submit stories of their experience, strength, and hope in reaching out to underrepresented debtors.

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that the Fellowship develop more literature and support for group and individual sponsorship.

The 2018 Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference Minneapolis, Minnesota USA

August 1-5, 2018

SECTION 4: CONVOCATION MINUTES

AUGUST 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

At 8:30 a.m., Saturday, August 4, 2018, the Convocation of the 32nd Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC) was called to order by General Service Board (GSB) Chair, Allen T.

He then reminded delegates that ballot cards need to be turned in when leaving the hall and retrieving them when re-entering. He noted that a 7th tradition donation would be collected later in the morning.

The Serenity Prayer was said by those present. The Twelve Steps were read by Lolly A., while Dave read the Twelve Traditions, and Susan read the Twelve Concepts.

The convocation for August 4 consisted of 83 delegates; therefore, 56 were necessary to establish a quorum, and the morning ballot count showed that more than 56 members were present.

Allen called the attendees' attention to WSC Charter Items 1 and 2, pertaining to delegates, and to Item 3, which addresses the WSC'S relation to DA. In essence, delegates are free to vote as conscious dictates; changes in the charter needs $\frac{3}{4}$ of present voters, as clarified by Mary Jane. Ellen addressed Item 4, the WSC's relation to the General Service Board and the definitions of quorum, board and trustees; Item 5, the term of office; and Item 6, the selection of the WSC venue two years in advance. Tim addressed Item 7, the composition of the General Service Board and delineates its complete freedom of action, with some qualifications. Nina addressed

Items 8-12, which specify, respectively, that the WSC will hear the policy reports, advise trustees, engage in debate, draft bylaws and name its own officers and committees. After each session the WSC will publish a full report, Amendments are sent to groups 180 days before the 1st day of conference; $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of those present required for passing amendments, if there is a quorum. All decisions are reached by substantial unanimity, and the process is to always be democratic in thought and action.

Allen then introduced the professional parliamentarian, Darlene Harens. He noted that the WSC always employs a professional parliamentarian, who sits with the chair on the dais, to help guide the meeting on correct parliamentary procedure. Ms. Harens then gave some basic instructions on parliamentary procedures, including the different types of motions, when a second is necessary. She noted that the goal is efficiency and that the best advice for remaining in order is to listen. She also noted that Thomas Jefferson is considered the father of parliamentary procedure. Other issues she clarified were the rights of majority versus the minority; the definition of a strong minority (more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of those voting); and the rights of individuals versus the group parliamentary procedure. "A rule in advance is much better than fighting about what rules should be," she noted. In contrast to common practices, she noted that introducing a main motion requires the following sequence: 1) the speaker says, "I move to" or "I move that" and states the motion, rather than "so moved." 2) Seconds are not required for motions introduced by committees. 3) The motion is restated by the presiding officer. 4) Then discussion occurs if the presiding officer allows. 5) The motion is voted on. 6) The presiding officer

states the results and the action that will or will not be taken. At the WSC, the motions will be displayed on an overhead to avoid confusion. (Note: DA process calls for allowing the minority opinion to be expressed and the opportunity for a second vote to see if hearing the minority opinion has caused anyone to reconsider their vote.)

A friendly amendment must be introduced before discussion starts. At that point, the maker of the motion can accept the amendment or not. It does not need a second. Once debate starts, any amendments introduced must be processed as an amendment regardless of maker's opinion and requires a second to be adopted. If a consensus for the motion exists (before debate), motions can be adopted without a vote. Once debate starts, the motion must be put to a vote. Amendments are voted one amendment at a time. A secondary amendment must apply to the primary amendment.

Other issues regarding motions include: ranking motions; higher motions cannot be amended; amendments to strike out, which consist of leaving out a word and not replacing it; and amendments to strike out and inserts in which one word is replaced with another. If adopted, will read the motion as amended. When amended and restated, motion is the property of the assembly (not the maker of the motion).

Substantial unanimity is defined as 66 2/3% or more of those voting. General consent occurs when apparently everyone is of the same opinion (the chair's query for objections shows no objections).

Allen then reviewed the rules and procedures for the convocation. The agenda was adopted by general consent; as were the 2017 minutes.

COMMITTEE AND CAUCUS REPORTS, AND OTHER BUSINESS

INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (IOC) REPORT

The International Operations Committee (IOC) chair, Paul M., recognized the members of the IOC and presented the report. He noted that the IOC supports

the efforts of the GSB and office manager Allen C. The IOC had no motions but made four recommendations.

IOC Recommendations:

- 1) The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2017-18 funding level for the "Salary and Hourly Wages" line item in the Income and Spending Plan for FY 2018-19 for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

(In response to a question for clarification, Paul noted that current staffing is one full-time, Allen C, and one at 20 hours/week, and that the spirit is not to decrease the staff line.)

- 2) The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the GSB consider increasing the staff to 2.0 full-time employees, with appropriate qualifications such as 12-Step experience and technical expertise.

(Paul noted that this could be two full-times or one full-time and two part-times.)

- 3) The Internal Operations Committee recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the GSB Income and Spending Plan to begin saving for the eventual relocation of the General Service Office.

(Paul noted that the lease for the current office is until 2022.) In response to a question about relocation, Paul clarified that there is no pressing reason, but that the current GS office is a small space in a basement.)

- 4) The Internal Operations Committee recommends the installation of an additional telephone line at the General Service Office.

(Paul noted that the extra line would be for the still-suffering debtor to call in; those calls would then be forward to a national group of volunteers. The current phone line could be used for outreach).

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

SPIRITUALLY SUSTAINABLE EARNING CAUCUS (SSEC) REPORT

The Chair of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC), Lolly A., recognized the “talented and robust” members of the SSUC and presented the report.

The SSEC did not submit any motions or recommendations in its report to WSC; rather, its recommendation was submitted to the Conference Committee. However, the chair noted several accomplishments: a call schedule, an action plan, and an ongoing commitment to continuing to develop SSEC’s mission statement: SSEC aims to support the DA fellowship in gaining clarity and has a goal of broaden the understanding of spirituality. SSEC welcomes liaising with the BDA Committee as well as with any other committees, according Lolly.

Allen stated that, without objection, the report from the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus would be received.

At this point, Allen called a 15-minute break.

End Session 1

Session 2

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (CC) REPORT

Mike L., the General Service Representative (GSR) for Dallas and Chair of the Conference Committee (CC), recognized the members of the CC. Mike noted that the CC considered six issues and concerns resolutions (issue numbers 18-21, 18-49, 18-03, 18-04, 18-05, and 18-06). Issue 18-03 related to delegate spending plans; Issues 18-04, 18-05, and 18-06 pertained to the language pertaining to the John H. scholarship. The CC concluded that the spending plans were appropriate and that the scholarship language was clear. Issue 18-21 was deferred and will be brought by the CC over the conference year.

On behalf of the CC, Mike brought before the convocation four motions and two recommendations.

CC Motion #1

The Conference Committee moves that the Conference continue the Remote Participation Trial involving delegates outside North America for the 2019 and 2020 World Service Conferences.

Allen noted that motions put forward by committee do not require a second, and then restated the motion and asked for background. Mike noted that at the 2016 WSC in Irving, the convocation passed a resolution to allow, on a trial basis, remote participation for delegates outside North America. The convocation concluded that a charter amendment was needed to pass the motion. The convocation adopted a charter amendment to permit delegates based on the conference’s decision to attend by other means and for a trial of remote for this conference. However, none signed up for remote participation, due to technicalities and communication issues, which have now been resolved. The CC is now proposing continuing the trial for next two years.

During the discussion, delegates asked several questions:

- Why restrict remote participation to outside North America? (Answer: Because allowing North America delegates remote participation would lead to the destruction of the physical WSC and to its becoming an exclusively video conference.)
- Is someone working on instructions for how to participate? (Answer: A remote participation ad hoc committee was formed to address this concern.
- Is remote participation visual and, if so, how is anonymity protected? (Answer: Anonymity details have been addressed to the CC’s satisfaction.

During debate, pro and con remarks were alternated with each speaker allowed one minute.

Allen called for a vote. ***Motion carried.***

After hearing from the minority, Allen asked for a motion to reconsider, which was moved and seconded. Ms. Harens clarified that abstentions are not counted; that one needs to vote for or against a motion to have the vote counted. ***Motion to reconsider carried.***

The revote was conducted by a standing count, with 56 in favor and 25 opposed. ***Motion carried.***

CC Motion #2

The Conference Committee moves that the name of the Diversity Caucus be changed to the Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus.

Mike explained that the Diversity Caucus requested the name change to better reflect its spirit.

Allen noted that this committee-made motion required no second and restated the motion.

During questions, Amy asked a point of clarification: Since abstentions weren't counted on the prior vote, would they be considered for this one? Ms. Harens reiterated that abstentions do not count.

During debate, two pro and one con speaker addressed the motion with one minute each. One speaker felt that "underserved" was insufficiently inclusive. ***Motion carried with general consent.***

CC Motion #3

The Conference Committee moves that the mission and description of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus be changed to:

The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.

Again, as a motion coming from a committee, no second was necessary. Rather than reading aloud because of its length, he referred the convocation attendees to the screen.

During questions, one speaker noted that use of the word "earning" suggested that the under-earning focus was lost. Lolly A., chair of the SSEC, said that, for the caucus, earning is the topic, and that the SSEC felt that it was more positive to focus on earning. Another pointed out that earning only enough to survive is not necessarily spiritually sustainable.

The debate primarily focused on dropping the word "underearning" and "earning." One speaker was concerned that dropping "underearning" widened the rift between Underearners Anonymous and DA. Another felt that "solvency" was better than "earning." One pro speaker acknowledged that the

change was an imperfect step forward, while Mike said noted that the caucus was not the underearners caucus.

Motion carried.

CC Motion #4

The Conference Committee moves that the WSC Conference Committee, the GSB Conference Support Committee, and the General Service Board determine the site of the 2020 D.A. World Service Conference.

Mike noted that the process takes many bid solicitations, and that, so far, no bids had been submitted and that a response from the Los Angeles intergroup was impossible during the conference. Therefore, the CC was asking for authority to set the site after soliciting bids and hearing back from LA as to whether they're willing to host.

Motion carried with general consent.

CC Recommendation 1:

The Conference Committee recommends that the Host Committee Manual be reviewed and updated to reflect current practice.

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

BUSINESS DEBTORS ANONYMOUS COMMITTEE (BDA) REPORT

Mary Jane W., the chair of Business Debtors Anonymous Committee (BDA), recognized the members of the Committee. She said that BDA Committee will continue to collect BDA stories through interviews, so that people who don't feel confident writing can still share their stories, and that they will be making more fellowship-wide calls that can be used in BDA meetings. BDA Committee made three recommendations.

BDA Recommendation #1

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the text of the Third Tradition and the answer to "What is solvency?" in the FAQ section of the D.A. website be featured prominently on the website homepage.

Mary Jane said that BDA Committee talked about for an hour and deeply considered the recommendation, adding that issues of solvency, unsecured debt, and credit cards discussed.

BDA Recommendation #2

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the D.A. Welcome Statement include the following language in parentheses at the end of the third sentence: “unsecured debt is any debt that is not backed by collateral.”

Mary Jane explained that questions had come up regarding the definition of unsecured debt.

BDA Recommendation #3

The Business Debtors Anonymous Committee recommends that the WSC Public Information Committee create public service announcements that would focus on getting the message of recovery and hope to the still suffering business owner.

Allen stated that, without objection, the report from the Business Debtors Anonymous Committee would be received.

Meditation Book, and be inclusive of our international Fellowship in the selection process.

International Caucus Recommendation #4

The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee use audio technology to allow international D.A. members to record their stories in their chosen languages.

International Caucus Recommendation #5

The International Caucus recommends that the GSB facilitate free international conference call numbers for fellowship-wide calls, including playbacks.

Tracey noted that IC is looking at ways to include DA’s international members. The topics will address in the coming year include the history of DA around the world, more international stories, codifying the international contact list, an international virtual online community, systems for members to be able to carry literature to other countries, and a smoother process for approving translations.

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

INTERNATIONAL CAUCUS REPORT

Tracey O., Chair of the International Caucus, recognized the members of the Caucus and noted that its mission is to support growth of DA internationally. The International Caucus had five recommendations:

International Caucus Recommendation #1

The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate and implement diverse payment options for international D.A. members.

International Caucus Recommendation #2

The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee review and change the Treasurer’s Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to accommodate international transactions.

International Caucus Recommendation #3

The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature for the D.A. Basic Text and the Daily

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (RDC) REPORT

Chair Diana B. recognized the members of the Resource Development Committee (RDC).

Diana, RDC chair, stated that RDC members represent all corners of the U.S. The RDC presented two motions and six recommendations. Prior to presenting the motions, she referenced DA Promise #7: “We will recognize that there is enough. Our resources will be generous, and we will share them with others and with DA.”

RDC Motion #1

The Resource Development Committee moves that there be no financial cap on contributions made to Debtors Anonymous through a D.A. member’s Last Will and Testament (“Testamentary Bequest”).

This committee-submitted motion did not need a second. Diana noted that such gifts previously had a cap of \$5,000. The concern, that fellowship be more favorable to well-endowed fellows, was moot

because the giver was deceased. It also removes a block to earning, she said.

Several questions were raised, which Diana answered. One question was where the \$5,000 came from. Allen answered that it used to be \$3,000. Then raised to \$5,000 year.

Regarding whether there was any potential benefit to the cap, Diana answered that it addressed concern about the fellowship being indebted or the giver asking for certain favors.

Noting that the historic AA tradition of the fellowship never becoming wealthy, one questioner asked if the RDC had considered what would happen if a wealthy billionaire member wanted to give billions to DA. This was considered hypothetical and not explored.

Diana also noted that bequests such as the one in the motion can only be donated to the general conference or the John H. Scholarship fund.

Several speakers entered the debate section, with each getting one minute each and speakers before and against the motion alternating. For example, Karen saw no reason to limit abundance, while Mike expressed concern that, if passed, the motion would invite a violation of the 7th tradition.

Allen called for a vote with counted ballots. In favor: 48. Opposed: 31. The motion would have required a 2/3 majority of the 79 voting, or 53.

Motion not carried.

RDC Motion #2

The Resource Development Committee moves that a D.A. member may contribute up to \$12,000 to Debtors Anonymous on an annual basis.

The committee-made motion required no second; Allen moved the process directly to debate, with two speakers in favor and one against the motion.

Motion adopted.

RDC Recommendation #1

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Board create an Ideal Income and Spending Plan.

RDC Recommendation #2

The Resource Development Committee recommends the creation of consistent and continuous messaging across all D.A. Fellowship-wide communications of the existence and convenience of the online contribution option.

RDC Recommendation #3

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the GSB Communications Committee and the GSB Information Technology Committee increase the visual awareness of the new online contribution option on the D.A. website.

RDC Recommendation #4

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the GSB provide an in-depth information session open to all D.A. members, during the 2019 D.A. World Service Conference Fellowship Day, regarding the form and content of the Fellowship's annual financial statements.

RDC Recommendation #5

The Resource Development Committee recommends that the General Service Office include the John H. Scholarship, D.A. Anniversary and other GSB-approved Resource Development Committee communication pieces with D.A. Literature Orders.

RDC Recommendation #6

The Resource Development Committee recommends that General Service Board explore a subscription-based pricing model that allows online access to D.A. conference- approved content.

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

HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, AND PRISONS COMMITTEE (HIP) REPORT

Seana, Chair of the Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee (HIP), recognized the committee members and presented one motion and one recommendation.

HIP Motion #1

The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Committee moves that the second Saturday in July be designated HIP Awareness Day.

Again, the committee-made motion required no second.

Motion carried by general consent.

HIP Recommendation #1

The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee recommends that the Diversity Outreach Recommendation on page 61 of the DAMS include suggested communities as listed in the HIP and PI starter kits. Set up training for using starter kit in November. Each committee member will present to a panel at a hospital, institution or printer.

RECESS

The convocation was in recess until 8:30 a.m., August 5, 2018.

End Session 2

Session 3

AUGUST 5, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

At 8:30 a.m., Sunday, August 5, 2018, the Convocation of the 32nd Annual Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference was called to order by GSB Chairperson, Allen T.

The number of registered voters was determined to be 78 and a quorum of 52 was established.

Allen noted that the host committee had sent a survey for the conference that delegates could either complete onsite or later online. He also told delegates that they could leave behind empty ring binders and nametag holders to be reused at the next conference.

He then clarified two procedural items: when a motion is passed unanimously, clapping was permissible. If a vote is not unanimous, he would ask for one minority opinion, and then ask if anyone in the majority wanted to change their vote. If so, a second voting on the motion would take place.

Allen stated that, without objection, the report from the Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee would be received.

UNDERSERVED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED OUTREACH CAUCUS (UUOC) REPORT

Mike M., the chair of the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus (UUOC), recognized the committee members and presented the report. The caucus's name was changed previously at the convocation per motion by the Conference Committee (CC).

“Our mandate is broad, and our vision may take many years to fulfill,” he said, noting that UUOC has several crossover points with the Literature, HIP, and Public Information (PI) Committees.

The UUOC made three recommendations.

UUOC Recommendation #1

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that the Fellowship define best practices for reaching out to underserved and underrepresented debtors.

“This is our mission as the UUOC, but we want to empower the entire fellowship to broaden the tent,” Mike said, noting that UUOC could be pronounced “woke.”

UUOC Recommendation #2

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that Fellowship members submit stories of their experience, strength, and hope in reaching out to underrepresented debtors.

“Once this starts happening, let's bring these stories back so we can share them,” Mike encouraged the convocation.

UUOC Recommendation #3

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus recommends that the Fellowship develop more literature and support for group and individual sponsorship.

“This mandate crosses over in a lot of different ways,” Mike said. Phone meetings, literature, and support are ways to reach out to new populations.

He noted that other ways of defining underserved and under-represented populations could address states and countries. Elderly people members without debt,

and college students, as well as populations that more frequently come to mind as underserved and under-represented, like African Americans, Native Americans, and LGBTQ.

Allen stated that, without objection, the report from the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus would be received.

FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (FCC) REPORT

Alexia I., the Chair of Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC), recognized the Committee members. She noted that the Committee has conference calls and worldwide fellowship calls planned for the next year so that the FCC can assist committees and caucuses and has plans for recordings and podcasts. Noting that the entire FCC from the prior year is also serving this year, she added that the FCC is looking at additional ways to serve the fellowship, such as group-to-group sponsorship. A name change may be proposed in the future. The FCC will make sure that every GSR report is presented at meetings and that all activities are reported on the website.

Carla was the chair of the 2018 host committee, and Rob is the chair of the 2019 host committee. Before passing on the ceremonial gavel that goes from host committee to host committee, Carla addressed the convocation.

“When I proposed that we host the WSC, completely selfish,” she said. “I know what’s going to happen. ... We’ve had people who have never done world service.” She concluded by saying, “Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. I know our area is going to grow and thrive. If you can convince your area to take it on, it is a benefit to your area.”

The FCC had one recommendation.

FCC Recommendation #1

The Fellowship Communications Committee recommends that the “Resources for Groups” page on the D.A. website be translated into Spanish.

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

LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LIT) REPORT

Amy O., the Chair, recognized the officers and members of the Literature Committee. She noted that the five subcommittees had developed motions and recommendations, so that Lit Com was presenting five motions and one recommendation.

Lit Com Motion #1

The Literature Committee moves that “The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous” pamphlet be approved.

No second was needed for this committee-made motion. Amy noted that at the 2011 WSC, a motion was approved for an expanded version of the Promises. This pamphlet has now been written and approved by all bodies and is ready to go out to the fellowship. When questioned, Allen said that the pamphlet would be available for purchase in approximately six months. Questions came up about approval before publishing, and Allen pointed out that the pamphlet had gone through all the approval publishing of the pamphlet, pending one final review for minor corrections.

Motion carried by general consent.

Lit Com Motion #2

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark of slogans from D.A. conference-approved literature be approved.

This committee-made motion required no second. Allen reviewed the approval process for conference-approved literature has many steps and that the last step was involved in the previous motion. The first step occurs at the WSC, at which the LC proposes a concept and makes a motion for approval at the convocation; the current motion involved that first step. Amy noted that the bookmark would be in addition to the “Just for Today” bookmark and that it would cost \$1.

Motion carried by general consent.

Lit Com Motion #3

The Literature Committee moves that the concept of a bookmark to include the D.A. Third and Seventh Step prayers be approved.

This committee-made motion required no second. Questions came up regarding the content of the DA Third and Seventh Step Prayers, and several delegates admitted that they did not know the Prayers. Amy said that the bookmark was intended to familiarize the fellowship with those Prayers. When further questions about the DA literature approval process recurred, Allen (the manager of the DA office) referred delegates to page 97 of the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS, <https://debtorsanonymous.org/download/2017-d-a-manual-for-service/>).

Motion carried by general consent.

Lit Com Motion #4

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Couples and D.A.” be approved.

This committee-made motion did not require a second. In response to questions, Amy said that the word “and” was used deliberately, so that it could mean situations where both members of a couple were in DA, as well as those in which one was in and the other was not. Amy also added that the process was such that Lit Com provides an outline and a professional writer is hired. This book is a collection of stories that addresses a variety of scenarios regarding money, debt, and relationships, including the possibility of addressing roommate situations where bills are shared, the role of spouses in pressure relief groups (PRGs), etc.

Motion carried by general consent.

The convocation recessed for a 15-minute break.

End of Session 3

Session 4

**LITERATURE COMMITTEE (LIT) REPORT
(con’t.)**

When the Last motion, recommendation, and then question about literature approval process.

Lit Com Motion #5

The Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Recovery and Relapse” be approved.

This committee-made motion did not require a second. A motion was made to call to question. When

questioned whether a quorum was presented, Allen said that the number of attendees had not substantially changed from the morning.

Motion to stop debate carried substantially.

Motion to approve the pamphlet concept carried with no nay votes.

Lit Com Recommendation #1

The Literature Committee recommends to the GSB that a process be created to review D.A. literature on a periodic basis to maintain its relevance, appropriateness, and spiritual nature to the D.A. program and Fellowship.

Allen called the Convocation’s attention back to the question about the approval of literature and the first motion. He said that the Convocation was not reconsidering the motion because it was passed based on the literature approval process.

Lolly suggested that this development might be cause for a change in process for the next WSC, because it seemed to her uninformed for the body to vote on a piece of literature that has not been read. She requested that literature to be voted on be made available a month before the WSC.

Allen suggested that the literature approval process could be changed, in which case a proposal for such a change should be submitted to next year’s conference.

Jean said that such a move could be micromanaging the literature committee. I would be in favor of trusting the literature committee. Others said they did not know they were voting on publishing the pamphlet.

Kathleen pointed out that the convocation had followed the process for DA conference-approved literature: to approve the concept and then delegate the writing, which is then approved by the committee.

Mike pointed out that the Conference Committee could take up the approval process for next year.

Sharon said that the outgoing literature chair could make a recommendation to the incoming chair to modify the process and noted that the approval process is already very lengthy.

Curt noted that one more round of reading before approving “would make it impossible to move any literature forward.”

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

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE (TECH)
REPORT**

Jeff H., the chair for the Technology Committee (TECH), recognized the officers and members of the Technology Committee. Noting that Technology Committee's mission is to use technology to serve the debtor, he presented the Committee's five recommendations

TECH Recommendation #1

The Technology Committee recommends that there be more time for conference committees to meet at the WSC.

TECH Recommendation #2

The Technology Committee recommends that the Fellowship accept contributions by SMS text.

TECH Recommendation #3

The Technology Committee recommends that GSRs and ISRs encourage group members to enroll for eNews announcements. (A survey will be distributed to profile Fellowship demographics.)

TECH Recommendation #4

The Technology Committee recommends that D.A. establish an online store for ordering literature.

TECH Recommendation #5

The Technology Committee recommends that the D.A. website be updated to be more user-friendly and attracting.

Jeff noted that in the coming year, Tech Committee will be utilizing a subcommittee that will identify people who can help Tech Committee fulfill its mission. Other subcommittees are designated to address the needs of underserved and under-represented populations, to research audio literature, and to identify technology solutions within D.A.

Groups can feed ideas to Tech Committee through their GSRs, Jeff said. He noted that the Tech Committee is looking for ways to support better communication between committees.

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

INTERGROUP CAUCUS REPORT

Marysia H., the Chair of Intergroup Caucus, recognized the officers and members. She noted that the IC helps support new and existing Intergroups and helps support regionalization. She said that the IC will continue progress on an intergroup pamphlet, and that the IC will work with the TC on the project, which will among other things, define what an intergroup is. This information will also be on the general website, as well as a map that will show clearly the meetings in a given area.

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

**PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PI)
REPORT**

Barb S., the Chair of the Public Information Committee (PI), recognized the officers and members of the PI. She noted that the GSB has approved outreach to the employee assistance professionals' meeting, along with such organizations as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), the Teamsters, and suicide prevention organizations.

She said that the media subcommittee is developing other outreach such as public service announcements (PSAs), appearances on talk radio, and presence on social media. The PI made four recommendations.

PI Recommendation #1

The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Information Technology Committee transcribe the public service announcements (PSAs) and the “D.A. Signs Come to Life” welcome video into podcasts and eNews articles.

PI Recommendation #2

The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the WSC Technology Committee create a user-friendly accessible Public Information hyperlink for direct access for meetings, Intergroups, and the public, in consultation with the WSC Public Information Committee.

PI Recommendation #3

The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Communications Committee continue to publicize the “One Member, One Action” Day prior to D.A.’s anniversary.

PI Recommendation #4

The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that a Spanish-speaking option be available for the General Service Office toll-free telephone line.

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

Allen noted that, following up on a suggestion from Michalene, the GSB may make the motions and recommendations available on the website in a few weeks rather than waiting for the full conference report.

SECTION 5: CLOSING BUSINESS

PROCEDURAL CLOSING ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESS; TRUSTEE, OFFICER PLEDGES, NEW TRUSTEE RATIFICATION

Allen introduced two trustees, Tom B as a Class A trustee and Mary Clare as a Class B trustee, for ratification of their terms. Each speaking for two minutes. Tom said, “I love service. I love this fellowship ... I’m excited to serve DA in this way.” Mary Clare added that to be nominated as a trustee was “beyond my wildest dreams. ... I promise to give you the best of me.”

After the candidates were nominated and seconded, Allen called the question.

Motion carried by general consent.

After Allen administered the respective pledges for each trustee, the convocation welcomed them with a standing ovation.

Two Class B trustees’ terms required renewal, Bob D. and Michalene R. Each had submitted letters of intent to serve second three-year terms.

Motions were made and seconded to approve their renewals,

Motion carried by general consent.

Likewise, Allen administered the renewing trustees’ pledges.

Allen T noted that he is rotating off the board but will be at Fellowship Day next year and is planning to do basic public information service.

The slate of the General Service Board (GSB) was then nominated: Josie P., assistant treasurer; Tom R., treasurer; Dayton L., secretary; Sharon, vice chair; and Michalene R., chair.

The motion to approve the slate was moved and seconded. A question arose regarding the chair nominee’s status (Michalene) and her Class B (non-DA) status was confirmed.

Motion carried with substantial majority, one opposing vote.

When the minority opinion was queried, a delegate said that she was uncomfortable approving a non-DA member as chair. A second vote was taken.

Motion carried.

When further questions arose about the vote, Allen clarified that, by tradition, the chair is Class A trustee, and that a prior board member, who had planned to be the incoming GSB Chair, recently resigned.

Paul of Sacramento complimented Michalene’s dedication and said that, in A.A., until recently, the chair position has never been an alcoholic.

Michalene then spoke and said that she had not sought out the position, but that her understanding of service was “to be where needed at the time when called.”

Several others spoke in support of Michalene and other Class B trustees.

Allen administered the pledge to all officers individually. Allen then thanked the GSB trustees, the GSR, and ISRs for their work at the conference. He acknowledged the host committee and volunteers for their work, including host Carla, logistics coordinator, Roxanne, and recording secretary, Paula. He encouraged all to stay in touch over the coming year.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer.

SECTION 6: REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone.

My name is Allen T., and I am a debtor.

It is my pleasure to speak to you today. This will be my last World Service Conference, as I am completing my second year and last year as GSB Chairperson, and, per the bylaws of the General Service Board, I will have served the maximum allowable number of years on the board, which is seven.

I count my solvency date in D.A. as January 1, 1998, which means that this past January, I celebrated 20 years of not incurring unsecured debt. I can't speak for anyone else, but for me, living without debt is the way to go. At this point in my life, I have no debt, either secured or unsecured, and for me, it's the right way to live. There's a lightness that comes from having no debt, and for me, if I want real peace of mind, this is what I have to do. I highly recommend it.

Regarding this report, what I'm sharing with you now is version 2. I had a complete version 1 finished, but just didn't like it, so I made what felt like a courageous decision last Thursday, and decided to start over. I hope this report comes more from my heart, rather than from my head. As I've sometimes heard in meetings, my head is a dangerous neighborhood, so perhaps getting out of there was a good thing.

The notes that I've written so far for this second version revolve around a collection of D.A. topics . . . What I'm going to do is talk about things that excite me or that I'm happy about or that I think we've done a good job on.

So, all of that said, here are the topics that made God's list, or should I say it *is* God's list. All I'm supposed to do is talk about them. It's a very mixed bag:

- Shelving at the office
- The board's commitment to do its part to help balance our books . . . what a phone F2F looks like
- Consultants to help us develop the D.A. website
- Coming out of the deficit and getting into surplus

I'll take them in the order above.

- **Shelving at the office.** One of the things that the board and the office staff have known for years, is that our storage space at the General Service Office, in Needham, Massachusetts, USA, is lacking in shelves. Picture a garage with literally one or two hundred boxes of books and pamphlets and bookmarks, stacked on the floor and on top of each other. Now, try to picture how you would figure out what we're getting low on, and also, how you would count everything once or twice a year as part of the physical inventory that every business should do. Well . . . that pretty much sums up our storage area as the office. So, what I'm so excited about is that this year, the board finally carved out the funding in our spending plan to provide \$2,000 to buy high quality shelving for the office. The conference's Internal Operations Committee has been collaborating with the board's Office Committee to plan, select, order, install, and load the shelves. Nothing has been ordered yet, but this super worthy project is finally coming to fruition. It will be so great to have true organization in our office. The staff has been doing the best that they can for years, but this is going to make a huge difference. Thank you, HP, for blessing us with shelving.
- **The board's commitment to do its part to help balance our books . . . what a phone F2F looks like.** The next thing that I want to write about is the board's decision to conduct its annual mid-winter "face-to-face" meeting virtually, in other words, on the phone, rather than in person. We did this earlier this year, in February, and the board will do it again this next February. I guess the reason that I want to talk about this is that I want the Fellowship to know the toll it takes on the board to conduct an in-depth meeting in this manner, both in terms of energy and productivity, and to have the Fellowship see that the board is going to fairly extensive lengths to help provide a cost savings to D.A.

Having the board meet in person for 3½ days, as we would prefer to do and how it happens most years, typically costs in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000 USD. Almost all the expenses are for travel, lodging, and meals. The arithmetic is pretty easy. For example, lodging for 11 board members staying three nights in a hotel, results in 33 hotel room-nights, which, at an average cost of \$125 per night, comes to \$4,125, and that's just the lodging portion. So yes, it is expensive to have the board get together, so the money saved is significant . . . \$10,000 to \$12,000.

Regarding the decision to do this year's meeting over the phone, I think to a person, the board was glad we made the decision we did—there was goodness in taking an action that could help reduce the financial deficit that D.A. was experiencing.

And, doing the meeting this way was difficult. What the session looked like was all the GSB committees, of which there are twelve, met via phone on the first weekend, then, on the next weekend, we had four 1½ conference calls, two on Saturday of that weekend and two on Sunday, with a 90-minute break each day between the two calls. Overall, it was a good meeting, and we got a tremendous amount of things accomplished. And, it was draining, at least for me.

So, why do I share this? I guess I want everyone to see the lengths that we were willing to go to help support the Fellowship, both in terms of our commitment to doing in-depth service and our willingness to reduce costs. We were serving the Fellowship as best as we could with our service activities, and we were trying to help D.A.'s finances as well.

And finally, I want to say that as the Fellowship, which is all of us, we shouldn't be fooling ourselves thinking that, cool, we just saved \$10,000 and received just as much benefit. We didn't. There is no way that eight or ten hours of phone conferences will replace 3½ days of in-person connection. Hard as we tried to be really focused on the calls, it just isn't the same as meeting in person. If we as a Fellowship really want to receive the full benefit of having a board, we will want to get back to the financial prosperity that will allow the board to meet in-person twice a year. The board can do far more for the Fellowship when these meetings are in-person rather than over the phone, and I hope we can get back to the in-person meetings soon.

- **Consultants to help us develop the D.A. website.** One of the board projects that I was heavily involved with this year was our effort to provide the functionality on the D.A. website for people to contribute online, in other words, right on the website. As many of you probably already know, right now, the only way for a group or D.A. member to contribute to the Fellowship is to send a check to the General Service Office via postal mail. We're very close to being able to go live with the online capability, but in the last couple of weeks, my eyes have opened up to an even bigger possibility. That is, I believe that, following the guidance in our Eleventh Concept for World Service, which states, "While the Trustees hold final authority for D.A. World Service administration, they will be assisted by the best possible staff members and consultants," I think we need to lift our heads up and engage some capable consultants to help us with the next phases of electronic commerce on our website. Having worked hard on the contribution capability, which is the simplest of all transactions possible, and seeing what it's taken to get us to this point, I don't think we can do full, true e-commerce on our own. And, I'm not suggesting this because I'm some sort of tech evangelist . . . it's just because there are so many opportunities for spreading the word about D.A. and for supporting D.A. recovery that could be realized if we had full e-commerce capability on our website.

The vision I have for this could include any of the following, and other things, I'm sure, that I don't even know enough to know about: selling literature online; selling downloadable literature online, and doing so in multiple languages; selling downloadable audio versions of our literature online, in many languages; providing downloadable versions of our most recent Fellowship-wide conference calls; registering for the conference, online; and registering your D.A. meeting online. I'm sure these aren't everything we could do, but it would be a great start.

I'm not an e-commerce expert, but I've experienced enough online commerce in my day-to-day life, plus I've visited enough websites from other Twelve-Step fellowships, to know that right now, we're way behind the times. And, I don't think we're going to get there on our own. We as an organization and board can get by with having the board and the conference do most projects, like the office shelving project, for example, but for this . . . to get us to the next

level on our website, in my opinion, we need professional help. Also, I know that we're not the only organization that has faced this challenge—I'm sure there are thousands of organizations that have gone before us, and they all didn't do it on their own, meaning, I'm certain there are some good consultants and vendors that could help us.

I highly recommend to the board and the conference's Technology Committee that we start focusing on a much larger future regarding e-commerce, and start thinking about what it would take to get there. In this day and age, carrying the message for anything, and in our case carrying the message of D.A. recovery, happens instantaneously, exactly when and where and on what devices the people want it. In my view, a robust e-commerce platform is critical to the future of D.A.

- **Coming out of the deficit and getting into surplus.** Our board Treasurer will talk in a couple of minutes about the details of our finances, but I just want to share that, from my perspective, the multi-year process that the board started last year to help us get out of the financial deficit we were facing and into a financial surplus is, in my view, working. We made progress this past year, and I think we'll make further progress in this coming year. We'll still need to pay careful attention to the financial details . . . we ain't on no "easy street," but I think that we as a Fellowship are going to see our way out of this period of insufficient revenue, and get to a point where not only all of our expenses are met, but we have the surpluses that will allow us to undertake some important new initiatives, including, should the board decide to do so, the full build-out of our website.

OK . . . these are my formal remarks about this collection of D.A. topics. I'd now like to make a few final reflections.

Effective this Sunday, I will no longer be a member of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board. Looking back on seven years of board service, I have learned a lot about myself in that time, and I know I've tried my hardest to do the best I could at each juncture. I'm not perfect and I wasn't perfect. Like all debtors, I show up with my collection of character defects, and some of them have impeded my board service in some moments. But, overall, I've tried to do the best I could, and I've asked for God's guidance and support when my willingness was short or my effectiveness was low. Overall, it's been a tremendous opportunity to support this Fellowship as a board member, and I'm extremely grateful for having had the opportunity to do so.

In closing, I wish you all a good and productive conference, and like last year, I ask that you serve in the spirit of Traditions One and Two, which speak about unity and knowing that our Higher Power is in charge. Let's go forth for the next four days, trying to do all we can to develop new ways to carry the message to those who still suffer.

Thanks, Allen T.

SECTION 7: GENERAL SERVICE BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

2017-18 GSB Finance Committee Report

[Introduction](#)

It is an honor to present this report to the World Service Conference and the rest of the D.A. Fellowship. My name is Michalene R., and I am a Class B member of the General Service Board and a grateful friend of Debtors Anonymous. The members of the Finance Committee this year were myself as chairperson, Allen T. as secretary, Dayton L. assistant treasurer and Appointed Committee Member (ACM) Jackie D. Our sibling WSC committee is the hard-working Resource Development Committee, or RDC. The Finance committee is grateful for the opportunity to serve the D.A. Fellowship.

[Finance Committee Actions During the Conference Year](#)

Below is a list of items that the Finance Committee undertook this year:

- Changed the name of the GSB Spending Plan to the GSB Income and Spending Plan, to reflect the importance of both elements of our financial results.
- Worked with Finance's sibling committee, the Resource Development Committee (RDC), to facilitate their projects.

Thank you for your hard work RDC.

- Completed all accounting for WSC 2017.
- Provided information to our outside accounting firm to enable them to complete their tax preparation activities and annual financial statement review.
- Renewed the office lease for 5 years.
- Allows us to vacate earlier if facilities can be rented before vacating
- Reviewed various contracts for financial terms.
- Worked with the GSB Information Technology committee to advance the website's ability to receive contributions by debit card.
- Registered the GSB with a third-party foreign currency transfer provider, to enable international payments and donations to be streamlined and less costly.
- Spearheaded activities regarding the 2017-2018 Income and Spending Plan, in an effort to reduce the proposed deficit. Actions included:
- Provided information to the Fellowship on the nature of the shortfall and the efforts being undertaken by the GSB and others to eliminate it.
- Substituting the Board's annual winter face-to-face meeting with a virtual, teleconference meeting, held over two weekends.
- Worked with our bookkeeper to improve and streamline various accounting practices.
- Shifted the Board's WSC 2018 registration costs back to the conference.
- Worked with the rest of the Board to identify cost cutting measures.
- Developed and sent a letter from the Committee to the Fellowship on our finances.
- A member of the Finance Committee served on the Ad Hoc GSB Committee that was formed to study the FY18 Income and Spending Plan. That member participated in all teleconferences, helped draft committee recommendations, and participated in on the Ad Hoc Committee's fellowship-wide call.
- Held the May 7th "Ask the GSB" call about D.A.'s finances.
- Developed 2018-2019 Income and Spending Plan and presented it to the Board for passage.
- Prepared this financial report for the Fellowship.

Recommendations to the 2018-19 Finance Committee

- Work with the new GSB Literature Translation and Licensing Committee, as they develop methods for streamlining translations and licensing. Advise the new committee on financial issues.
- Continue work on finalizing the testing for using the third-party currency transfer service for international transfers, and then work with the GSB Communications Committee to inform the Fellowship of the availability of the service.
- Continue providing education to the Fellowship on the financial welfare of the Fellowship. Communications with Intergroups may be one method to provide more information.
- Continue discussion on what level of prudent reserve the Board should maintain, and implement policy when approved by the Board.
- Determine if the addition of the online contribution capability on the D.A. website and the use of the third-party currency transfer service for international contributions has affected the income of the Fellowship.

Recommendations for other GSB committees

- To Literature Publications (Lit Pub): to prioritize e-books

Financial Reports

The Finance Committee is very grateful for the Fellowship's attention to the financial status of the Board. I'd like to begin this section of the Finance Committee report with a picture of this past fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2018, then summarize the FY18-19 Income and Spending Plan.

How we ended the fiscal year

It is with tremendous gratitude that the Finance Committee is able to report to the Fellowship that the Income and Spending Plan for 2017-2018 ended with a positive balance of \$2,855.36. Considering that the plan presented at last year's WSC anticipated a \$26,660 negative balance, the difference is the result of cost cutting by the Board and also the Fellowship as a whole. It must be noted however, that due to cash flow issues, \$10,000 was transferred from the prudent

reserve to our operating checking account. In attachment 2, however, you will note that the total bank account balance on June 30th was just slightly higher than at this same time last year. This results in an increase of the Total Assets of the Fellowship by \$14,000 over fiscal year 2017.

Income

Contributions increased by 20 percent over last year, an increase of over \$14,600. Group contributions rose by almost 40% while individual contributions rose approximately 6%. This is the highest level of contributions Debtors Anonymous has received in over a decade. However, total income was only 95% of fiscal year 2017, due to a reduction in literature sales, while total gross profit was nearly the same as last fiscal year. Since literature sales must reflect cost of production prior to determining the amount of income to the Fellowship, despite the fact the increase in contributions was almost 37% less than the reduction in literature sold, the total gross profit was only down by approximately \$800.

Contributions

Contributions increased by 20 percent over last year, an increase of over \$14,600. Group contributions were almost 35% greater than last year. Individual contributions were up nearly 4%. On behalf of the entire D.A. Fellowship, the Finance Committee thanks the D.A. groups and individual D.A. members who contributed to D.A. during the last year. Those contributions were an essential part of improving the financial health of the Fellowship.

Literature sales

Literature sales decreased significantly by over \$23,000. In the last fiscal year of 2016-2017, literature sales were significantly higher due to the release of the 12 & 12 & 12. It should be noted that although the decrease in literature sales was considerably higher than the increase in contributions, the gross profit is nearly the same.

Expenses

Total expenses for the 2018 fiscal year were approximately \$38,000 less than fiscal year 2017. And although that might appear like we were able to take the fat out of the Income and Spending Plan, in fact, every reduction in spending was a reduction of services to the Fellowship.

For example, almost none of the money allocated to World Service Committees was utilized. Although we are talking about only \$3,000—this is money for committee projects. The part time person assisting the office manager was cut from 30 hours per week to 20 hours per week. This can result in literature orders taking longer to be sent out and phone calls and email responses to the Fellowship being delayed. In fact, our manager worked without help for many weeks, which reduced total labor costs. One of the expenses that effects the Board was removing their winter face-to-face meeting. This is a long weekend when the Board gets together and spends significant hours (at least 8 hours per day) doing the work of the Fellowship and advancing Board initiatives, in an intensive working weekend. It also provides an opportunity for the Board to meet the local D.A. community. This year the Board extended their February phone board meeting schedule to two weekends. This is not as effective as a face-to-face meeting, but the Board was willing to forego the normal in-person meeting to reduce expenses. Finally, registration fees for the board members for this year's World Service Conference have been transferred back to the conference.

Fiscal Year 2019 Income and Spending Plan

The first thing to note is that the Finance Committee predicts a slight decrease in literature sales and contributions in FY 19. It should be noted that the plan was approved by the Board before the end of the fiscal year and therefore, it may be a lower projection than would be anticipated, especially as new literature is developed and released. Regarding contributions, there are often variations from one year to the next. One good year does not necessarily mean that the next year will be as good. However, contribution may even be better in fiscal year 2019. But currently, if the literature sales and contributions stay equal to 2018, we would still be predicting, on an overall basis, a small shortfall. Based on the income projection, we have the potential for a deficit of \$15,636. This deficit does not reflect any potential licensing agreements for printing copyrighted literature in other countries. Although much lower than the projection for last year, this Income and Spending Plan does not replace any of the services that were reduced last year. For example, the Board has not scheduled a face-to-face Board meeting for next winter. In addition, the registration costs of the Board have been shifted back to the World Service Conference. The Board does not anticipate that WSC committees will or should refrain from asking for financing for committee work nor do we expect to lose the part time office help. Also, the Board added \$2,000 to the Income and Spending Plan for improvements to the office, which are well overdue.

[Report 1: FY2017-18 Plan vs Actual](#)

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.				
Plan vs. Actuals: FY2018 Income and Spending Plan - FY18 P&L				
July 2017 - June 2018				
	Actual	Plan	over Plan	% of Plan
Income				
Literature Sales			0.00	
Audio Visual		84.24	(84.24)	0.00%
Pamphlets	29,660.16	27,999.96	1,660.20	105.93%
Shipping	10,340.93	12,744.24	(2,403.31)	81.14%
Member Contributions			0.00	
Groups	49,326.48	35,241.24	14,085.24	139.97%
Individuals	54,272.17	51,000.00	3,272.17	106.42%
Total Member Contributions	\$ 103,598.65	\$ 86,241.24	\$ 17,357.41	120.13%
Miscellaneous Income	46.84		46.84	
z Interest	658.44	657.60	0.84	100.13%
Total Income	\$ 182,098.51	\$ 184,467.60	\$ (2,369.09)	98.72%
Cost of Goods Sold				
Book Production and Printing	5,147.76	8,227.32	(3,079.56)	62.57%
Inventory Shrinkage	(3,263.50)	99.96	(3,363.46)	-3264.81%
Pamphlet Production and Printing	16,668.58	13,719.96	2,948.62	121.49%
Postage	11,137.06	13,331.40	(2,194.34)	83.54%
Production Costs		79.56	(79.56)	0.00%
Shipping & Postage		105.36	(105.36)	0.00%
Shipping Supplies	283.60	241.32	42.28	117.52%
Translation Services		3,000.00	(3,000.00)	0.00%
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 29,973.50	\$ 38,804.88	\$ (8,831.38)	77.24%
Gross Profit	\$ 152,125.01	\$ 145,662.72	\$ 6,462.29	104.44%
Expenses				
Archival Expense	75.00	1,050.00	(975.00)	7.14%
Bank Charges	1,365.24	999.96	365.28	136.53%
Board Related Expenses			0.00	
Lodging	9,016.00	9,498.00	(482.00)	94.93%
Per Diem & Meals	3,575.80	3,798.00	(222.20)	94.15%
Travel	6,587.52	8,500.00	(1,912.48)	77.50%
WSC Registration Fees	6,565.00	6,840.00	(275.00)	95.98%
Z. Other		1,225.04	(1,225.04)	0.00%
Total Board Related Expenses	\$ 25,744.32	\$ 29,861.04	\$ (4,116.72)	86.21%
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal			0.00	
Bookkeeping Services	13,037.50	16,128.00	(3,090.50)	80.84%
CPA - Tax and Review Services	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	100.00%
Legal Services	290.00	1,119.96	(829.96)	25.89%
Total Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	\$ 17,327.50	\$ 21,247.96	\$ (3,920.46)	81.55%
Depreciation & Amortization	498.72	908.76	(410.04)	54.88%
Dues & subscriptions		106.20	(106.20)	0.00%
Fraudulent Charges		99.96	(99.96)	0.00%

Insurance	1,787.61	2,000.00	(212.39)	89.38%
Licenses, Permits & Regulatory Fees	145.00	1,047.84	(902.84)	13.84%
Office Expense	1,004.33		1,004.33	
Fellowship Mailing from the Board	279.53	153.00	126.53	182.70%
Office Supplies GSO	1,954.76	3,522.96	(1,568.20)	55.49%
Payroll			0.00	
Salary & Hourly Wages	65,211.21	77,000.04	(11,788.83)	84.69%
Taxes - Soc Sec Medicare Futa Suta	5,340.01	6,637.32	(1,297.31)	80.45%
Total Payroll	\$ 70,551.22	\$ 83,637.36	\$ (13,086.14)	84.35%
Payroll Service Fees	1,349.38	1,313.28	36.10	102.75%
Rent & Real Estate Taxes	14,472.90	15,372.24	(899.34)	94.15%
Temporary Labor	4,383.75		4,383.75	
Utilities	699.24	943.20	(243.96)	74.13%
Total Office Related Expenses	\$ 93,690.78	\$ 104,942.04	\$ (11,251.26)	89.28%
Outreach Expense	1,474.28	1,442.28	32.00	102.22%
Printing and Copying	393.90	68.64	325.26	573.86%
Telecommunications	3,567.14	3,019.92	547.22	118.12%
Trademark Registration & Renewal	1,060.00	1,000.00	60.00	106.00%
WSC Committee & Caucus Expense	527.00	4,299.96	(3,772.96)	12.26%
Total Expenses	\$ 149,269.65	\$ 172,322.44	\$ (23,052.79)	86.62%
Net Operating Income	\$ 2,855.36	\$ (26,659.72)	\$ 29,515.08	-10.71%
Other Income				
John H Fund Contributions WSC 2018(4/17-3/18)	7,431.19	3,100.00	4,331.19	239.72%
WSC Income			0.00	
World Service Conference Income	44,082.04	55,445.00	(11,362.96)	79.51%
Total WSC Income	\$ 44,082.04	\$ 55,445.00	\$ (11,362.96)	79.51%
Total Other Income	\$ 51,513.23	\$ 58,545.00	\$ (7,031.77)	87.99%
Other Expenses				
WSC Expenses			0.00	
John H. Registration Credits	2,632.20	2,500.00	132.20	105.29%
World Service Conference Expenses	46,790.12	55,262.00	(8,471.88)	84.67%
Total WSC Expenses	\$ 49,422.32	\$ 57,762.00	\$ (8,339.68)	85.56%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 49,422.32	\$ 57,762.00	\$ (8,339.68)	85.56%
Net Other Income	\$ 2,090.91	\$ 783.00	\$ 1,307.91	267.04%
Net Income	\$ 4,946.27	\$ (25,876.72)	\$ 30,822.99	-19.11%

Please note:

Total income is just under 99% of plan. Things to remember - contributions are 100% income, but literature is not. Before literature profits can be calculated, costs of printing and other costs are subtracted from the literature income. Therefore, it was "beneficial" to the bottom line that contributions were up, but literature sales were down. The opposite result would not have reached the 99% of plan result. Note that the income parts of our plan are in 'black' background.

- Also note that in our expense categories, all were below 90% of plan. (Noted in Red). This resulted in total expenditures that were 86.62% of the plan.
- Note that the net operating income for the 2017-2018 fiscal year ended up POSITIVE by \$2,855.36

[Report 2: Balance Sheet, as of June 30, 2018](#)

	As of Jun 30, 2018	As of Jun 30, 2017
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Bank of America Accounts	(108.97)	(108.97)
1. Main Checking		
1a. Operating	33,065.02	25,671.00
Total 1. Main Checking	\$ 33,065.02	\$ 25,671.00
2. Unrestricted Savings	6,082.69	6,081.50
3. WSC Checking	22,511.99	17,805.81
4. John H. Checking	(1,926.20)	(36.00)
John H. for WSC 2017	3,130.48	8,535.88
John H. for WSC 2018	6,248.73	
Total 4. John H. Checking	\$ 7,453.01	\$ 8,499.88
5. Intl Payment Checking	(1,357.54)	134.75
Total Bank of America Accounts	\$ 67,646.20	\$ 58,083.97
EverBank Reserves Account		
5b. Basic Text Reserve	20,000.00	20,000.00
5c. Step Study Reserve	15,000.00	15,000.00
5e. Prudent Reserve	67,755.65	77,755.65
5z. Interest Earned	3,576.81	2,919.56
Total EverBank Reserves Account	\$ 106,332.46	\$ 115,675.21
Office Petty Cash	11.56	11.56
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 173,990.22	\$ 173,770.74
Accounts Receivable		
*Accounts Receivable	(13.00)	(13.00)
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ (13.00)	\$ (13.00)
Other Current Assets		
Advances		
WSC Host Committee Advances	5,000.00	2,500.00
Total Advances	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Conference Prepaid Expenses	5,514.49	7,926.40
Inventory Asset-1	10.00	10.00
Inventory On Hand		
Audio-Visual Materials	3.55	3.55
Books	13,166.94	12,817.93
Pamphlets	29,246.14	18,144.13
Total Inventory On Hand	\$ 42,416.63	\$ 30,965.61
NSF Checks Receivable	1,276.67	819.03
Prepaid Board Meeting Expenses	4,616.98	1,397.84
Prepaid Expense	3,546.69	3,597.90
Undeposited Funds	1,866.65	4,201.29
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 64,248.11	\$ 51,418.07

Total Current Assets	\$	238,225.33	\$	225,175.81
Fixed Assets				
Office Equipment		3,840.75		3,840.75
zAccumulated Depreciation		(8,028.02)		(7,866.02)
Total Fixed Assets	\$	(4,187.27)	\$	(4,025.27)
Other Assets				
Intellectual Property				
Copyrights & Trademarks		6,883.06		6,772.66
zAccumulated Amortization		(4,888.44)		(4,141.72)
Total Intellectual Property	\$	1,994.62	\$	2,630.94
Rent Security Deposit		300.00		300.00
Website Development Costs		15,985.88		14,335.88
Total Other Assets	\$	18,280.50	\$	17,266.82
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	252,318.56	\$	238,417.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
Accounts Payable x		1,582.90		0.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$	1,582.90	\$	-
Other Current Liabilities				
Accrued Salaries		3,260.46		3,260.46
Mass. Dept of Revenue Payable		(176.45)		(127.83)
Payroll Liabilities		350.04		302.39
WSC Conference Registration		20,490.00		13,117.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$	23,924.05	\$	16,552.02
Total Current Liabilities	\$	25,506.95	\$	16,552.02
Total Liabilities	\$	25,506.95	\$	16,552.02
Equity				
Fund Balance		137,666.37		137,666.37
Opening Bal Equity		(9.48)		(9.48)
Retained Earnings		84,208.45		84,208.45
Net Income		4,946.27		
Total Equity	\$	226,811.61	\$	221,865.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	252,318.56	\$	238,417.36

Report 3: Fiscal Year 2019 Income and Spending Plan**Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.****FY2018-2019 Income and Spending Plan**

	Proposed FY2018-2019 Income and Spending Plan (12 Months)
Income	
Billable Expense Income	
Literature Sales	
Audio Visual	
Books	35,000.00
Pamphlets	26,000.00
Shipping	9,500.00
<u>Total Literature Sales</u>	70,500.00
Member Contributions	
Groups	47,000.00
Individuals	53,000.00
<u>Total Member Contributions</u>	100,000.00
Miscellaneous Income	
z Interest	500.00
<u>Total Income</u>	171,000.00
Cost of Goods Sold	
Audio Visual Duplication	
Book Production and Printing	5,000.00
Inventory Shrinkage	100.00
Pamphlet Production and Printing	15,000.00
Production Costs	
Shipping & Postage	9,500.00
Shipping Supplies	450.00
Translation services	1,000.00
<u>Total Cost of Goods Sold</u>	31,050.00
<u>Gross Profit</u>	139,950.00
Expenses	
Archival Expense	100.00
Bank Charges	1,000.00
Board Related Expenses	
Lodging	4,500.00
Per Diem & Meals	3,028.00
Car rental	0.00
Registration	0.00
Discretionary/Other	500.00
Liaison visit to GSO/	2,000.00
Travel	0.00
<u>Total Board Related Expenses</u>	10,028.00
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	
Bookkeeping Services	14,000.00

CPA - Tax and Review Services	4,000.00
Legal Services	760.00
<u>Total Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal</u>	18,760.00
Depreciation & Amortization	450.00
Dues & subscriptions	110.00
Fraudulent Charges	
Insurance	1,400.00
Internet	800.00
Licenses, Permits & Regulatory Fees	290.00
Office Expense	
Fellowship Mailing from the Board	0.00
Office Supplies GSO	3,800.00
Payroll	
Salary & Hourly Wages	72,000.00
Taxes - Soc Sec Medicare Futa Suta	6,000.00
<u>Total Payroll</u>	78,000.00
Payroll Service Fees	1,350.00
Rent & Real Estate Taxes	15,000.00
Utilities	750.00
Temporary Labor	
<u>Total Office Related Expenses</u>	98,900.00
Outreach Expense	1,200.00
Postage	1,000.00
Printing and Copying	1,000.00
PI Outreach Expense	1,000.00
Telecommunications	3,600.00
Trademark Registration & Renewal	0.00
WSC Committee & Caucus Expense	4,300.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	143,938.00
<u>Net Operating Income</u>	\$ (3,988.00)

WSC Income		
World Service Conference Income	\$	54,000.00
Total WSC Income		
Total Other Income	\$	54,000.00
Other Expenses		
WSC Expenses		
John H. Paid Expenses		
World Service Conference Expenses	\$	53,290.00
WSC Board Lodging	\$	5,986.00
WSC Board Per Diem & Meals	\$	372.00
WSC Board Car Rental	\$	-
WSC Board Registration	\$	-
WSC Board Travel	\$	6,000.00
Total WSC Expenses	\$	65,648.00
Net Other	\$	(11,648.00)
Net Operating Income	\$	(3,988.00)
Net - Operating & Other	\$	(15,636.00)

2017-18 General Service Board Committee Reports

GSB Ad Hoc Committee to Address D.A. Finances

Committee Members: Bob D., Josie P., Michael A., Michalene R., Sharon S.

Brief Synopsis of Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

1. Met in a series of meetings over the conference year to look at ways to address the Fellowship's financial concerns.
2. Focused on Fellowship education: updated flyer/insert on what services the GSO and GSB provide for the Fellowship.
3. Explored ways to provide easier access for International Group & Individual Seventh Tradition Contributions.
4. Looked at ways to encourage telephone meeting and online group donations.
5. Discussed raising individual maximum annual contribution donations, D.A.'s current financial challenges and work of ad hoc committee to address them.
6. Recommended a series of Fellowship-wide calls on D.A. Traditions for conference year 2018-2019.

Respectfully submitted,

The members of the 2017-2018 Ad Hoc Committee to Address D.A. Finances

GSB Audit Committee Report

Introduction

The 2017-2018 GSB Audit Committee consisted of two Class "B" Trustees, Jo Mc. (Chair) and Bob D. (Secretary). The

Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the accounting and financial reporting processes of the GSB and the annual review or audit of the GSB's financial statements. The Audit Committee also has oversight responsibility for selected GSB policies and internal controls, including, for example, the GSB's Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policies.

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

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

The following actions were completed this year:

1. A new policy requires us to seek Requests for Proposals (RFP) from New York based CPAs every five years. We sent out 26 requests and received 9 replies. The lowest bid was \$4,000 from Bailey, Carr, CPAs.
2. D.A. engaged Bailey, Carr, CPAs, an accounting firm located in New York State, to review our financial statements and to complete our tax returns for the next three (3) years.
3. Reviewed, updated, and received approval for the GSB Audit Committee's Composition, Scope, and Procedures document, following guidelines for non-profits published by the State of New York.
4. Reviewed, updated, and submitted for approval the Document Management Policy of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board and the Debtors Anonymous General Service Office.

Recommendations to the next committee: None.

The GSB Audit Committee and the GSB Legal Affairs Committee will be combined in the next conference year. It will be called the Audit and Legal Affairs Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

The members of the 2017-2018 Audit Committee (Audit and Legal Affairs Committee)

GSB Communications Committee Report

Introduction

I'm Dayton L., Class A Trustee and Chair of the 2017-18 GSB Communications Committee (ComCom). Joining me this past year were Bill D. (secretary), Jo Mc., and our wonderful Appointed Committee Member, Tom B.

The Communications Committee (ComCom) is responsible for:

1. Facilitating the information exchange between the General Service Board (GSB) and the World Services Conference committees and caucuses, and the D.A. Fellowship. It oversees the content of the D.A. website and is responsible for the approval and release of any eNews announcements going out to the Fellowship. The members are also responsible for both D.A. publications—*Ways & Means*® and *The DA Focus*®—and for any updates to the D.A. Style Guide. The Communications Committee publishes the WSC Final Report on the website; the report includes that year's Issues & Concerns. One ComCom member is also liaison to the WSC Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC).
2. Liaison to FCC: The WSC Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) facilitates communication and promotes collaboration between the debtor who still suffers, the Debtors Anonymous membership, the World Service Conference committees and caucuses, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board. A member of ComCom is of direct service to FCC for the entire conference year.
3. *The DA Focus*: *The DA Focus* is the Fellowship's service newsletter which allows the GSB to directly share information with the D.A. Fellowship, including Committee and Caucus reports and articles with a focus on service.
4. *Ways & Means*: *Ways & Means* is the Fellowship's official magazine with recovery stories by D.A. members. This year marks its 30th anniversary, and the GSB recently voted to re-designate *Ways & Means* from a newsletter to a magazine in order to distinguish it from other publications.
5. eNews: The eNews announcements help to connect the GSB and the WSC committees and caucuses to D.A. members. The announcements reach over 6,000 subscribers.

6. Website updates: The Committee is responsible for the continuous upkeep of content on the D.A. website, including uploading, updating, and removing information. The Committee is also responsible for keeping the website format consistent by using the D.A. Style Guide. In the short time since its debut, ComCom has made numerous changes and additions to the website.

Recommendations to the incoming committee

1. Draft a Committee Handbook.
2. Access the full potential of the website: add audio files of recovery stories or recordings of Fellowship-wide calls.
3. Maintain regular schedule for publishing the magazine and newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
The members of the 2017-2018 Communications Committee

GSB Conference Support Committee Report

Introduction

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

Also serving with me on the committee were trustees Bob D., Dayton L., and Mary Clare L. Much thanks to them for their service.

The committee, also referred to as CSC, is responsible for supporting upcoming World Service Conferences, including the current year's conference plus future conferences.

One member of CSC always serves as the GSB Liaison to the WSC Conference Committee. This year, Allen T. served in that capacity. It is also typical, although not the rule, that the GSB's liaisons to future conferences are also CSC members. This year, this was the case, with Dayton L. serving as the board's Liaison to WSC 2018 and Bob D. serving as our liaison to WSC 2019.

Support of WSC 2018

During this year, we completed the following activities in support of WSC 2018:

1. Supported the Minneapolis Host Committee in their search for a venue, and conducted the final negotiations and contract signing with the selected hotel.
2. Developed and published the Conference Registration Packet, and the corresponding web-based registration page.
3. Ensured that the General Service Office (GSO), the Finance Committee, and our bookkeeping service were connected, as it related to processing conference registration payments sent to the GSO.
4. Participated in the planning for the Remote Participation Trial.
5. Completed minor updates to the WSC Committee/Caucus Starter Kit.
6. Collected all the necessary files for the WSC 2018 conference binder, and prepared all the final files before providing them to the Host Committee for duplication.
7. Planned and conducted the two GSR/ISR telephone trainings, which many of you may have attended.
8. Executed contracts for:
 - a. the copier and computers in the Technology Room
 - b. audio-visual equipment and support for the general sessions and the Convocation
 - c. the parliamentarian that will support us during the Convocation
 - d. the D.J at the Saturday night gala
9. Supported the Minneapolis Host Committee on many of their detailed service efforts.
10. And finally, and still ongoing, we are working closely with the hotel and the Host Committee during the conference to address issues or questions as they arise.

Support of WSC 2019

With Los Angeles, California, USA having been selected as the site of WSC 2019, our committee started working with

members of Southern California Debtors Anonymous (SCDA, the D.A. Intergroup in that region) to prepare for the 2019 conference.

At this early stage of preparing for the 2019 conference, the primary focus of their and our efforts was to select the conference site.

The Host Committee did a thorough job of identifying potential sites, and, working together, the Host Committee and our board committee narrowed the selection process down to two preferred hotels, one of which emerged as the top candidate. Our board committee then completed the contract negotiation process with the preferred hotel, presented the contract to the GSB for approval, and sent the final signed contract to the hotel.

I might add that in addition to many minor points that we ironed out in the contract prior to signing it, the primary point of negotiation concerned the minimum revenue guarantees that we would make to the hotel. Clauses pertaining to these “performance” guarantees are standard in hotel contracts. The board and our committee feel that CSC did a good job in protecting the board’s financial interests and reducing the board’s financial risk, through the minimums that we were able to negotiate.

Overall, we’re very excited about the selected property for WSC 2019, and look forward to next year’s conference.

Other Activities Addressed During the Conference Year

1. Online Conference Registration Page. Although previously mentioned in our report, we wanted to highlight our committee’s efforts on the online conference registration page. In a very D.A.-like way, we took our time on developing that page, and kept coming back to it again and again, making small refinements here and there, before we made it available to the Fellowship. We feel the improvements we made can benefit future conferences for years to come.
2. Addendum to Conference Registration Policy for Extenuating Circumstances. There have been occasions in the past when a delegate who has registered for the conference and paid their registration fee can’t attend due to personal difficulties in the days or weeks immediately prior to the conference. According to current practice and policy, if this were to occur, the delegate would not be allowed to participate in the monthly calls and ongoing service work of the WSC committee in the twelve months that followed the conference. Considering this circumstance, CSC developed and approved the following policy, which was then discussed and approved by the full board:

Policy Regarding Extenuating Circumstances and Participation in a WSC Conference Committee When a registered, returning General Service Representative (GSR) or Intergroup Service Representative (ISR), whose registration fee has been paid, is unable to attend the WSC due to extenuating circumstances that occur within the two-week period preceding the conference, the GSR or ISR may participate as a voting member of a WSC committee during the conference year that follows, provided that: 1) It is the same committee for which they served in the previous conference year, and 2) the newly formed committee approves the participation of the GSR/ISR.

Our Committee and the full board believe this policy will allow delegates to continue their service work, and not be excluded from such service due to unique circumstances.

3. Refined the language for the Registration Cancellation and Refund Policy. While not making any changes to this policy, the new language provides greater clarity about registration fees and the registration cancellation and refund procedure.

Respectfully submitted,
The members of the 2017-2018 GSB Conference Support Committee

GSB Information Technology Committee Report

Introduction

This past conference year, the GSB Information Technology Committee, also known as InfoTech, consisted of chair, Bill D., secretary, Jo M., and Allen T. Additionally, Bill D. served as the GSB Liaison to the WSC Technology Committee.

InfoTech is charged with recommending, implementing, and overseeing the use of technology in support of the D.A.

Fellowship and in conducting the administrative business of D.A. InfoTech oversees the creation, maintenance, and enhancement of the D.A. website; monitors and administers the database of D.A. meetings; supports other GSB committees in their consideration and deployment of electronic tools and media; assists in the selection and purchasing of computer equipment and software for the General Service Office (GSO); and plans for future technology needs of the Fellowship and the GSO.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year

1. Online Contributions on the D.A. Website. The Information Technology Committee served as the lead GSB committee for this important initiative. For this project, the committee:
 - a. Purchased and successfully implemented Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) website security technology, that brought the protection status of the D.A. website from unsecured to secured SSL technology ensures that all data transmitted between a web server and user's browsers are encrypted, and therefore safe. This was considered a mandatory action prior to conducting financial transactions on the D.A. website.
 - b. Continued development of the preferred Debit-Card-Only (DCO) vendor solution, which included refining the plug-in web page that appears on the D.A. website and working with the vendor to provide important enhancements and fixes to the page.
 - c. Tested the DCO web page under a variety of contribution and error situations.
 - d. Tracked test contributions through to the GSB's bank account.
 - e. Developed the online confirmation message and the email confirmation letter that are sent to the D.A. member after a contribution is made.
 - f. Revised the "Make a Contribution" page on the D.A. website.
 - g. Facilitated meetings between the board's InfoTech and Finance committees and 1) the board's bookkeeping vendor, and 2) the GSO, regarding the launch of the DCO capability.
 - h. Trained the bookkeeping vendor on running reports showing contributions made, to allow the bookkeeper to enter the contributions into our accounting system.
 - i. Developed an eNews announcement regarding the launch of the DCO capability.

As of this writing, there is a motion pending before the full GSB to approve launch of the DCO online contribution capability.

When the direct contribution page is launched, it will only accept contributions made with debit cards from U.S.-based financial institutions, as the system does not accommodate non-U.S. cards. However, InfoTech and GSB Finance are working to implement a third-party vendor solution that will allow international members to make direct contributions. For the initial release of this capability, we will be able to accept contributions in three currencies: English pounds, European Union euros, and Australian dollars. Assuming that the solution is successful, we would then expect to offer this service for additional non-U.S. currencies.

2. Continued build-out and adoption of the board's online shared file repository.
3. Numerous updates to the D.A. website, including:
 - a. Ongoing updating of the Events page
 - b. Periodic updating of the WSC page
 - c. Posting of the D.A. Whiteboard Video
 - d. Enhancements to various other pages, as requested by other GSB committees
 - e. General updating of the site to increase compliance to the D.A. style guide
4. E-publishing
 - a. Assisted GSB Literature Publications in converting and uploading files for *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous* to the vendor's website.
 - b. Interfaced with GSB Lit Pub and GSB Finance to recommend the amount to charge for the book.
5. Encrypted list of usernames and passwords
 - a. Has gathered an encrypted list of usernames and passwords for all website accounts maintained by individual GSB trustees and the GSO.
6. WSC Committee/Caucus virtual storage platform
 - a. Is working on creating a virtual filing system for archiving and storage of all WSC reports and supporting documents.

Recommendations to the next committee:

1. Investigate audio versions of *A Currency of Hope* and *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous*
2. Provide support to WSC Lit Com and GSB Lit Pub in their efforts publish a *Daily Meditation Reader*
3. Initiate development of DCO online literature purchasing on the D.A. website
4. Support the publication of international literature

Respectfully submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Information Technology

GSB International Committee Report

Introduction

Greetings. I'm Dayton L. Class A Trustee, and Chair of the 2017-18 GSB International Committee. Joining me this past year, were Josie P. from the United Kingdom, Class A Trustee and we were fortunate to have as an Appointed Committee Member, Christine S., (Secretary). The International Caucus had a fantastic year, as we had Josie, amongst European D.A. groups, first hand, on the scene, giving her side of the experiences that International countries have in D.A. We also had first-hand experiences from Christine, who made regular trips to the European continent.

Created in 2012, the GSB International Committee is charged with the outreach to and communication with D.A. groups and Intergroups outside the US. The International Committee has two principal areas of activity, coordinating translations and providing support for the service structures of Debtors Anonymous outside the US. The Committee occasionally works with other GSB committees and, through their GSB liaisons, WSC committees. Via action of the 2011 WSC, the International Caucus was created to exchange information and develop initiatives to support the growth of D.A. internationally. A member of the International Committee serves as liaison to the International Caucus for the entire conference year.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

1. The International Committee offered its support to the blossoming service structures existing outside the US. The Committee members offered their experience, strength, and hope to the European Regional Intergroup (ERI) and the Asia-Pacific Intergroup (API), by attending their meetings via conference call. This year, ERI DA conventions were held in the United Kingdom and Berlin, Germany
2. The Committee, working with the GSB Technology Committee, and the GSB Treasurer, is currently researching an alternate payment system for our fellows outside the US for their Seventh Tradition contributions and literature order payments; the possibility of electronic literature to remove costly shipping fees for orders coming from outside the US; and with the help of the newly formed GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee the feasibility of international licensing of D.A. literature to service structures outside the US.
3. With the help of Allan C. at the GSO, the Committee continues to reach out to individual international DA members and groups seeking information about other DA meetings in their areas or for information about new DA Literature they wish to translate.
4. The International Committee finalized several pieces of D.A. literature that had been translated into Spanish this year. Other Italian, German, Swedish, French and other translated DA literature are close to being finalized.

Recommendations to the incoming committee:

1. Update D.A. history to include international countries, with the help of the WSC InternationalCaucus.
2. Continue in-process translations.
3. Work with the Literature Translations and Licensing Committee on all reviewed translations.
4. Continue outreach to international groups and Intergroups.
5. Continue supporting international groups and Intergroups.
6. Request recovery stories from international members for publishing in *Ways & Means*, and possibly the 3rd edition of *A Currency of Hope*

Respectfully submitted,
The members of the 2017-2018 International Committee

GSB Legal Affairs Committee Report

Introduction

This year's committee members were: Tom R. Chair; Michalene R., Secretary, and Allen T.

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

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

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

1. The Legal Affairs Committee continued working on a project in cooperation with the GSB Literature Publications Committee, to develop and maintain a database that will document and track copyright information of all D.A. literature.
2. The Debtors Anonymous trademark was renewed for ten years, or until 2028. A "Notice of Acceptance and Renewal" has been received from the law firm which the Board engaged for assisting us with Intellectual Property topics. In this case, the law firm assisted us with filing a "Combined Declaration of Continued Use and Request for Renewal" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for the Debtors Anonymous trademark.
3. The ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS for the Debtors Anonymous Daily Meditation Book was reviewed and approved.
4. A copyright was filed for the approved Whiteboard Video and "The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous" pamphlet, through the U.S. Copyright Office.
5. World Service Conference 2019 hotel contract was reviewed
6. A committee spending plan was developed and submitted to the GSB Treasurer.
7. The committee reviewed and made minor changes to their Composition, Scope, and Procedure document. The changes were made for clarity and continuity.

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

Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Legal Affairs Committee

GSB Literature Publications Committee Report

Introduction

This year's committee members were: Sharon S., Chair, Bill D., Secretary, and Bob D.

The Literature Publications Committee ("Lit Pub") is responsible for the creation, publication, revision, and reprinting of D.A. literature, including books, pamphlets and other items such as bookmarks and newcomer packets. A member of Literature Publications serves as the GSB liaison to the WSC Literature Committee and helps facilitate the development of a concept for a piece of literature through the literature approval process. Additionally, a member of Literature Publications serves as the GSB liaison to the WSC Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) Committee.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

This has been a very exciting time for literature development in D.A., as several projects are coming to fruition. The Literature Publications Committee has been actively working on the development and production of several literature projects.

1. The “Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous” is a new pamphlet published in 2018 and is currently available for purchase as our newest piece of literature.
2. The Literature Services Committee, which develops each piece of literature by selecting a writers and editing various drafts, selected writers for the Basic Text of D.A., as well as the Step Study Guides for D.A. and B.D.A. Both of those projects are now in the early stages of writing and development.
3. The Literature Publications Committee and the WSC Literature Committee are working together to review a new pamphlet: “The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous.” We are hopeful that this pamphlet will be ready to be presented to the Conference for review and possible approval in August in Minneapolis.
4. The WSC Literature Committee is currently working on several projects, including:
 - a. the *Daily Meditation Book*,
 - b. collection of member stories to be considered for inclusion in “Stories” sections of the *D.A. Basic Text*,
 - c. review of the “D.A. and Health Issues” pamphlet concept
 - d. development of an outline for a Diversity Pamphlet, a new concept which was approved by the Convocation in Dallas in 2017
5. The B.D.A. Committee continues to address the needs of D.A. members who have business concerns and are in the process of developing several pieces of literature specific to B.D.A. The B.D.A. Committee has also hosted several Fellowship-wide calls over the 2017-2018 WSC year.
6. The Literature Publications Committee has been exploring options for electronic literature, such as eBooks and other electronic possibilities. The interior files for D.A.’s Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts have been formatted for an electronic version and we are working with a vendor to complete this process.
7. Lit Pub continuously works with the GSB and the WSC International Committee to address the needs of members requesting literature translations and increasing access to our literature resources. To this end, a new committee, GSB Literature Translation and Licensing, was convened in May 2018 and will be a permanent, ongoing GSB committee.

Recommendations to the incoming committee: None

Respectfully submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Literature Publications Committee

GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Report (new committee)

Introduction

The members of this Committee are Josie P. (Chair) Michalene R. (Secretary) and Mary Clare L. We have met three times since inception this conference year (two at the time of writing) via conference call.

In recent years the number of translations sent to the GSB for approval has grown substantially, and the GSB felt there was a need for both clarity and focused attention on this work.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

In our first meetings, we have worked on our Composition, Scope and Procedures (CSP), hoping to present it soon for Board approval. We have spent some time defining what we mean by a license as this term may have slightly different use in different countries. We are also working on an up-to-date catalogue of the translations in progress and those awaiting publication now.

Recommendations to the next committee:

1. Support the GSB International Committee and Caucus to get as much translated literature out to the Fellowship as soon as possible in their own languages.
2. Keep working through the suggested committee objectives (noted below) given to the Committee by the GSB Chair. Discuss and adopt or not:
 - a. Catalog all translations submitted to date and record status in process.
 - b. Develop GSB’s strategy for translation receipt and review/verification (i.e. revisit our existing translation process, in light of the large numbers of translations we’ve received and our experience to date. Is our current process the right process?)

- i. Who receives submitted translations?
 - ii. Who archives them, and where?
 - iii. Who verifies translations: i.e. a centralized resource (often, but not exclusively in USA) or local, in-country resources?
- c. Develop GSB's business strategy for publishing translated literature.
- d. Determine approach for graphic layout of translated pieces:
- i. Fully designed by graphic designer (a la BDA tools)
 - ii. Simpler MS Word layout, requiring no graphic design services
 - iii. Other approaches
- e. Determine publishing media:
- i. Current process, i.e. printed pamphlets, a la *Deudores Anonimos*
 - ii. Simpler non-graphic-design layout, possible printed on demand, rather than in advance
 - iii. E-publishing (possibly exclusively – this would require the ability to purchase things on the D.A. website)
- f. Develop New Literature Order Form for non-English literature.
- g. Develop GSB's business strategy for licensing literature for local publishing.
- h. Develop income and spending plan for all of the above.

Respectfully submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee

GSB Long Range Planning Committee Report

Introduction

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) facilitates the GSB's long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to suffering compulsive debtors around the world. It develops strategies and action plans to help D.A. remain a prosperous, effective Fellowship so that D.A. as a whole can fulfill its primary purpose. It works through the GSB to help all levels of D.A. – the GSB, the GSO, the World Service Conference, and the Fellowship – plan and work to establish a strong foundation for the future of D.A.

Over the past two years, an Ad Hoc Committee to study D.A.'s finances was convened by the GSB Chair. That Committee recommended that the LRPC create a new 5-year plan for D.A. We have looked at the previous 5-year plan created in 2009, have gleaned some "lessons learned," and are excited to have a fresh "look" forward. Creation of this new 5-year plan will be one of the main projects LRPC over the next several years.

LRPC also plans and conducts four "Ask-the-GSB" phone forums during each conference year. In October 2017, we conducted a call to recap the 2017 WSC in Dallas. We followed with calls on January 21, 2018 on the topics of "Solvency and Sponsorship," and on May 6, 2018 on "D.A.'s Finances." The final call this conference year will be on July 15, 2018 and will focus on "Updates from the GSB."

The speaker portion of each call is recorded and there is also time reserved for those attending to ask questions or make comments. These calls provide an opportunity to hear the experience, strength and hope of other members and to deepen our D.A. experience.

Respectfully submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Long Range Planning Committee

GSB Nominations Committee Report

Introduction

The Nominations Committee is concerned primarily with identifying, developing, and nominating potential trustee candidates to the D.A. GSB. The committee maintains a “watch list” of candidates who may be interested in GSB or Appointed Committee Member (ACM) service.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year

Among the activities worked on by the Nominations Committee:

1. Potential candidates for Trustee were notified to determine interest in general service at the Board or ACM level
2. Watch list was updated following those contacts
3. Composition, Scope and Practice was updated
4. Committee interviewed candidates for Class A and Class B Trustees upon receipt of their application and background information. The GSB added one Class A and one Class B Trustee over the past year.
5. Discussed and proposed new service opportunity of “Project Contributor”
6. Addressed an issue in the *Bylaws* concerning rotation of service of outgoing and incoming Board members and modified a section at 3.1 regarding Trustee representation from a “class *or* region.”
7. Discussed and presented proposals to modify some aspects of ACM service; got accurate dates of service for all current ACMs
8. Worked on Board Development Topics for WSC in August 2018.

Recommendations to the incoming committee:

1. Update the Trustee Manual and refine the watch list, after contacting people on the list or interacting with them at the Conference.
2. Continue to refine concept of “Project Contributor.”
3. Coordinate with Nom Com and the Secretary, so that the most recent Bylaws, the Trustee Manual, and the rosters of former Trustees and ACMs are easily available.

Respectfully submitted,
2017-2018 GSB Nominations Committee

GSB Office Committee Report

Introduction

This year there were three members of the GSB Office Committee: Michael A., Chair, Michalene R., Office Liaison, Josie P., Secretary and IOC Liaison. We met monthly via conference call. The committee was challenged this year with accommodating time zones for Trustees in California, Indiana and London, England.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year:

1. Before the end of 2018 we worked on the Office Lease and signed the contract allowing us to stay at our current premises for the next 5 years. We were able to negotiate favorable terms.
2. We employed temporary workers through an agency until Feb 2018, when we found the right permanent part time employee. We worked closely with IOC to develop a spending plan for repainting, and for shelving in the office, that took account of D.A.'s current projected deficit.
3. We looked at and began updating current Policy and Procedures manuals. We discussed and wrote replies to Issues and Concerns 17-03 and 17-07. As Liaison to IOC, Josie P arranged to have the GSB Treasurer attend an IOC meeting. We continued our review of service accounts.
4. We responded to IOC recommendations. Two of these concerned expenditure at the office which unfortunately did not feel prudent at this time. We reminded the IOC of the sacrifices made in many areas of the spending plan.

Recommendations to the next committee:

1. Continue to encourage a volunteer support network to help the Office Manager.
2. Continue work on the Office Manuals with IOC.
3. Continue to review the service accounts.
4. Continue discussion of a savings line item in the spending plan for the eventual relocation of the Office.

Respectfully submitted,
The 2017-2018 GSB Office Committee

GSB Public Information Committee Report

Introduction

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

Serving on the committee this past conference year were: Bob D., Chairman, Tom R., GSB Secretary and HIP Liaison, Josie P. Also serving on GSB PI as an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) was Siobhan K.

Projects and Topics Addressed During the Conference Year

1. Requested and received approval of the "new" flyer 12 Signs/15 Questions, also known by the shorthand "12S/15Q". This flyer is simply the Conference Approved "Twelve Signs of Compulsive Debting" printed back to back with the Conference Approved "Fifteen Questions to Ask Yourself about Compulsive Debting." This 12S/15Q flyer was approved at the 2017 World Service Conference.
2. Building on the work of the 2016-2017 WSC PI Committee, we were responsible for the placement of the D.A. whiteboard video – "The D.A. Signs Come to Life" – on the D.A. website under the "Getting Started" tab as the Welcome Video. In addition, an announcement was made via a General Service Board eNews blast.
3. We facilitated the placement of the new D.A. 12S/15Q flyers into the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) convention participant bags. These bags were then distributed to 1,500 Family Therapists at their Annual Convention. This was funded through the pool of funds available to WSC committees and caucuses, at a cost of \$527.00
4. We submitted various changes/corrections to the *D.A. Public Information Manual*.
5. We submitted resolution of the 2017 WC Issue and Concern 17-37 to the WSC Literature Committee for handling. The resolution involves the correction of grammar, punctuation, etc., to the "Twelve Signs of Compulsive Debting" flyers, a sample of which (Sign #8) appears on Page 35 of the *Public Information Manual*.
6. We hosted a Fellowship-wide Call on March 25, 2018 call Public Outreach – Attracting not Promoting. This call included speakers that discussed:
 - a. Working with the Beginner Face-to-Face utilizing Traditions 1, 2, 3.
 - b. How did the Traditions help communication with an institution: such as, jail/university/health fair?
 - c. How does the Tradition of Anonymity inform the process of "Carrying the Message" and/or Public Information Work?

A part of the discussion focused on the success of the 2016-2017 WSC PI Committee's presence at a booth at the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges as presented by one of the D.A. members who helped staff the booth.

1. We uncovered the locations of the D.A. Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that can be used for radio spots on station such as NPR.
2. We put forward a new brochure called "Problems with Money and Debt? D.A. Can Help"

Recommendations to the next committee

The following items are what the 2017-2018 WSC PI Committee recommends the 2018-2019 WSC PI Committee work on during its conference year:

1. Follow "Problems with Money and Debt? D.A. Can Help" brochure.
2. Follow *D.A. Public Information Manual* corrections.
3. Follow Issue and Concern 17-37 corrections.
4. Continue development/production of Fellowship-wide Calls.
5. Continue pursuit of EAPA (Employee Assistance Professionals Association) October 2018/2019 Expo/Convention (Note: Short time frame for 2018).
6. Continue development of target groups for Public Outreach.
7. Continue progress of inroads into talk radio.
8. Pursue change/addition of e-mail address for PI@debtorsanonymouse.org to PublicInfo@debtorsanonymous.org

Respectfully Submitted
Bob D., GSB PI Chairman and Liaison

GSO Report of Operations, 2017-2018

General Overview

The past year has been a busy and at times somewhat chaotic year at the General Service Office (GSO) of Debtors Anonymous. I am coming to realize that there may be no such thing as a 'normal' year at the GSO.

At the beginning of the year we lost the services of our second employee, Janice S, who was obliged to retire because of illness. That made the GSO a one-person operation for some time. A backlog inevitably appeared and grew despite my best efforts, particularly in literature orders, meeting updates, and email correspondence. This of course created problems of all sorts for the groups and individual members, with accompanying frustration. I gave top priority to literature orders, but at times these were getting out later than I would have liked.

The GSB was aware of the situation and worked with me to ease it. We obtained help intermittently through a temporary staffing service, but it was difficult to find someone who was willing and able to commit to longer term employment. Late in the spring of 2018 we finally found a suitable person in Chan, a non-member who has been of enormous help since. The flow of mail and literature orders has improved greatly as a result, and we are now usually able to turn most orders around within 24-36 hours.

Important Developments

1. THE WSC

As GSO manager, I attended the 2017 WSC in Texas. As at previous conferences, this gave me an opportunity to meet and know the GSB and many members of the fellowship. I also worked with the WSC Office Committees and sold literature. The sale was successful, but we still had to ship back a fair number of unsold items to the office. For the 2018 WSC, the GSO handled registration checks and paper registration forms. We have adjusted the total of literature for this year's WSC downwards in light of the sales at the 2017 WSC.

2. CONTRIBUTION RECEIPTS

We continue to send contribution receipts. Most of these have been electronic, but a percentage is sent by regular USPS mail.

3. OFFICE SPACE AND ARCHIVES

The GSO is located in Needham, Massachusetts, a very pleasant suburb of Boston. The best thing about the office is that it is located right next door to the post office, which helps greatly with shipping. Members should be aware that the office is in fact quite small, just three and a half not very large rooms plus a storage room down the hall which also holds the DA archives. The IOC has helped improve the work environment by setting up a plan to paint the office, which may also give us an opportunity to do some cleaning and reorganization.

Nothing has been done with the DA archives since the death of Jan S, or respected long-term archivist. I have since been informed that we have a new archivist, who will no doubt pick up the reins and continue to work on organizing and indexing the archives.

4. INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE ORDERS

For some time now we have relied on an electronic payment transfer system for our international orders. The banks sometimes oblige the payer to add an additional bank fee, but the system takes care of currency conversion automatically. We are now looking at DHL as a potential carrier for overseas orders.

5. SUPPORT FROM OFFICE LIAISON, GSB, AND IOC

The GSB office liaison is vital to the successful functioning of the GSO. I cannot say enough thanks to Michalene R, our liaison for the past year. Every day I have new questions and face new problems, and she has helped with all of them. I also face a constant stream of inquiries from the membership and the public. Other members of the GSB have also given valuable aid. My special thanks go to Sharon for literature, to Dayton L for help with international members and the WSC, to Bill D for technical and website problems, to Bob D for public information, and to Allen T. I am also grateful for the work of the IOC and I thank Josie P of the GSB, Paul M, Pat V, and Jane L for their outstanding support. Thanks to them, some major improvements to the office and our telephone workflow will be happening.

6. LOCATION AND RELOCATION OF THE OFFICE

The GSB has been considering relocation of the office to another city for some time now. Some investigation of alternatives has already been done, and this process will continue. In the meantime, the GSB has signed an extension of the lease on the current location for the next three years. This will give ample time for investigation and informed decision.

Difficulties Large and Small

The GSO faces a number of difficulties, and the fellowship needs to be aware of them. Some of these I hear about from members, since the GSO is the face of the fellowship. Some problems are simply in the nature of the work, but there is always room for improvement.

1. ELECTRONIC ORDERING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

At present, DA literature orders are paper only and checks and money orders are the only forms of payment. Deposit of these can take some time, since I have to send them to our accountant, Toreen, who works in another state. We have now introduced an electronic system for contributions, and I am told that electronic payment for literature orders will be our next step forward. These improvements will greatly reduce the workload on the GSO and speed up the processing of literature orders and contribution receipts.

2. ERRORS IN LITERATURE ORDER PAYMENTS

Most DA literature orders are correct, but too many which reach the GSO contain errors. Under-payments and over payments are the most common of these. Some of these goofs are due to use of obsolete literature forms (2017 and even older). Despite warnings not to do so on the literature order form some customers from outside Massachusetts include the Massachusetts State 6.25% sales tax, even though they do not owe it. Amounts involved are typically small, and prompt action usually resolves problem orders quickly. Where overages are concerned, customers usually elect to donate excess funds. We can now offer refunds as well. I appeal to all members to check and double check their numbers before they send in an order. As it says on the order form, **orders which are incorrect may be delayed or returned.**

3. OBSOLETE AND ERRONEOUS MEETING INFORMATION

The GSO is responsible for maintaining and updating the meeting list on our website, debtorsanonymous.org. This is regular daily task which absorbs a good deal of work time. The fellowship now asks all groups to update their information every twelve months, but despite appeals too many groups are still neglectful in this regard and we have too many meetings on our list which have not been updated for two years or even longer. I receive frequent calls and emails from members and newcomers asking if a meeting is still there, or reporting that they went to a listed location at the proper time and found no one. Needless to say, this is a poor advertisement for DA. I have often been obliged to call or email venues and group contacts to determine the status of a group. Some groups, it seems, have not bothered to register with the GSO at all and I have no way of estimating how many such phantoms may exist. Many Intergroups have websites with local meeting lists, but comparison with their lists and ours often reveals discrepancies. Some groups may be informing their Intergroups of changes but not informing the GSO, or vice-versa. Such problems seem to be more widespread in some DA regions than in others. I have not heard from some Intergroups (Georgia, Australia) at all.

4. TELEPHONE MEETINGS

The Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup (DATIG) does tremendous work, but telephone meetings seem to have more than their share of problems. I often hear from callers that they cannot dial in to a meeting, or that their carrier does not support conference calls. Some phone meetings appear to have been more or less abandoned by the people who originally started and maintained them, which means that callers are dialing into meetings and finding no moderator or format. There is not much I can do in such cases.

5. THE INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

As the manager of the GSO, I am often in touch with members and groups from outside the United States. Western Europe, Canada, and Australasia are in relatively good shape for DA and have functioning Intergroups. The rest of the world is much less well off. There is very little DA in Eastern Europe, East Asia, and Latin America, nothing in Africa, and nothing in the Middle East outside of Israel. I often get appeals for help from these areas, sometimes in foreign languages which I have to use online translating programs to understand. Loner members and suffering debtors in these areas are in great need. Our continuing lack of literature in any language but English is a crippling handicap, and shipping even English language materials overseas can be terribly expensive. In some cases I have sent copies of our temporary translation policy to non-US groups, which may be of some benefit until conference-approved literature can be provided in the appropriate languages. Dayton L and the International Committee of the GSB are well aware of all this, and I am pleased to say that the committee and the GSB as a whole have done a lot of hard work to speed up the translation process and improve support to overseas members

6. DA WEBSITE AND HYBRID MEETINGS

At present, DA meetings are listed either as face-to-face, telephone (which includes Skype), or online. We have a hybrid meeting option on the group registration form, but unfortunately we have no way to list meetings that way on the website. Hybrid meetings are a popular idea in DA, and Bill D of the GSB and his tech helper Santosh have been working on ways to get hybrid meetings listed on the site.

7. INSTITUTIONS AND CARE PACKAGES

The office sometimes receives letters from persons in prisons or hospitals. In response to these I send packages of free materials, including downloadable material from our website, literature order forms, lists of meetings, etc. We also have a substantial (but not unlimited) supply of second-quality literature. This consists mostly of DA books. I will be working with Sarah V of HIP to make this material available to institutions and others in need.

8. THE TWELFTH STEP

I often get calls from newcomers about DA. Very often these persons are in a state of crisis and they may ask for advice: should I go into bankruptcy, what do I tell the IRS, and so on. As a rule I refuse to give advice on specific matters, which is in accordance with DA traditions. Instead, I recommend that callers attend DA meetings, read our literature, and learn from the experience of their fellow members in order to find their own answers. With the help of the IOC, we may soon be setting up a phone network of volunteers to answer the many inquiries of all sorts which we receive.

9. FAMILIES OF DEBTORS

I receive many calls not from debtors but from their spouses, children, siblings, or parents. They want to know if DA has anything which might help them deal with their debting relative or force that relative to face reality and get into recovery. I have to tell them that at present DA has no sub-program or literature which deals with the impact of the debt problem on relatives. A very small fellowship dealing with it apparently does exist; I mention this fellowship to callers but as I know little about it I neither recommend it nor advise against it. I do tell relatives that they are welcome to read DA literature and to visit open DA meetings in order to listen and learn about the compulsion from the debtor's point of view.

SECTION 8: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

WSC BUSINESS DEBTORS ANONYMOUS COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Mary Jane W., Chair, Ed K., Vice-Chair, Michelle M., Secretary, George M., Treasurer, Members: Carol M., Roslyn R., Susan L., Amina Z., Diana G.

Thursday, August 2

Answer for Issue and Concern 18-25:

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, *"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,"* (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.

Our committee calls are scheduled for (***)note that these times changed in our meeting on Friday, August 3):

PST 7:45 a.m.

Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, June 9, July 14

Agenda for our meeting:

Complete Issue and Concern 18-39

Unfinished business: Fellowship calls

Discuss recommendations

Action plan for year

Format for our calls

Motion (George): We should read the tradition and concept of the month on our call. Seconded (Ed). All in favor.

Motion (Ed): We should use the "We" version of the Serenity Prayer on our calls.

Seconded (Carol). 4 yes, 3 no. Motion passed.

Agreed to take a roll call at the beginning of our calls, as well as agreed to the guidelines for calls in the Committee starter kit, Tab 6, p. 3 of the WSC binder.

Friday, August 3

Said the Serenity Prayer.

Read Committee Purpose Statement.

Read Tradition 8 and Concept 8.

Discussion of adjusting time for our call. Tabling until Carol comes back.

Went around table introducing ourselves and a miracle through the program.

Discussion of time for our call. **We decided to have our calls at 8:30 a.m. PST, 12:30 p.m. EST, 5:30 p.m. London on the 2nd Sunday of the month.** And if someone needs to leave the call early, their sub-committee can present first. Whether to call in July is TBD.

30 minutes: Agenda

Response to 18-39:

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.

All voted in favor of the above response, and we decided to include the first and last sentence to Issue 18-25.

Unfinished business

1. BDA stories
2. Fellowship-wide call on BDA Tools 7-12

BDA stories

Carol spoke on the background of the recommendation to continue collecting BDA stories. The near-term goal is to publish the three stories that were submitted

Continue collecting BDA stories

Develop a tool to interview BDA members and a suggested format on how to write your story

Distribute the BDA flyer with the parameters for the stories

Idea: Interview BDA speakers for the calls and get their stories

Idea to have a sub-committee to come up with questions to interview people to get the stories. Idea to also record the interview with someone, publish podcasts on the DA website and Talk Radio (something Diversity Caucus is working on). Maybe get permission from the people on the BDA calls from last year to publish their stories.

Fellowship-wide call on BDA Tools 7-12

Ed spoke on the calls that were put on last year. Ed mentioned that at his meetings they played these calls. He volunteers to be on a sub-committee to put on a call for Tools 7-12. Mary Jane mentioned for two of the calls there was an international presence (speaker from Canada and UK). The calls were successful because the committee did a lot of outreach. We can decide to use a theme for all the calls; we can also use the day, time, and phone number for all the calls, like last year (Sunday, 2 p.m. EST).

Recommendations

1:25 p.m.

As a committee, we have noticed increased concern and confusion about what unsecured debt is.

Motion (Michelle): I move that the following be the committee's first recommendation: (seconded by George):

- 1. We recommend that the Third Tradition and answer to "What is solvency?" in the FAQ section of the website, be featured prominently on the DA homepage.**

Discussion. Carol called the vote. Vote: Favor – 3; Opposed – 2; Abstain – 3.

Re-vote because of clarity re: abstention: Favor – 5 Opposed – 3 Abstain – 1. Motion passed.

2. Motion (Susan): The BDA committee recommends that DA Welcome statement include the following language in parentheses at the end of the third sentence: "unsecured debt is any debt that is not backed by collateral."

Seconded (Roz).

Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1

3. Motion (Ed): The BDA committee recommends that the PI committee have a PSA that would focus on getting the message of recovery and hope to the still suffering business owner.

Second (Roz)

Favor: 8 Opposed: Abstained: 1

Our committee has 9 members. Our quorum for is 2/3 (6 people).

Motion (George): Our quorum for emails is also 2/3 (6 people).

Seconded (Carol): All in favor.

Motion (Carol): We vote with substantial unanimity, that requires a 2/3 vote yes (at this time, 6 members).

Seconded (George). In Favor: 8 Opposed: 1.

Roslyn stepped down as vice chair, Ed took her place as vice chair.

Actions plan for the year

- Form 2 sub-committees, one to collect BDA stories and one to put on fellowship-wide calls
 - Story sub-committee consists of Carol, Roslyn, Diana, Susan, and Amina. It will be chaired by Carol.
 - Fellowship-wide call sub-committee consists of Ed, Mary Jane, and George. It will be chaired by George.
- Host three BDA fellowship-wide calls
 - Possible topics include: being visible in your business; how to differentiate yourself in business; I am not my business; compare and despair; business is for me; earning and numbers
- Host our calls on Sunday at 11 a.m. PST. Propose the following dates to the GSB for our first call on BDA tools 7-12 (dates in order of preference): Nov. 18, Dec. 2, Nov. 4
- Continue to request BDA stories from the fellowship
- Create a document with questions to help solicit stories
- Create a liaison for the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

BDA Committee Issues and Concerns Resolutions

Issue number	Resolution
18-25	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.
18-39	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, <i>“The only requirement for D.A. membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.”</i> According to the FAQ section of the D.A. website, under the question <i>“What is Solvency?”</i> the website states: <i>“Unsecured debt is any form of debt that is not backed by collateral”</i> (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.

Recommendations

1. The BDA committee recommends that the Third Tradition and answer to *“What is solvency?”* in the FAQ section of the website, be featured prominently on the DA homepage.
2. The BDA committee recommends that DA Welcome statement include the following language in parentheses at the end of the third sentence: *“unsecured debt is any debt that is not backed by collateral.”*
3. The BDA committee recommends that the PI committee have a PSA that would focus on getting the message of recovery and hope to the still suffering business owner.

WSC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Conference Committee Members: Mike L., Chair, Jean-Camille B., Treasurer, Cris F., Vice-Chair, Karen S., Secretary.
Members: Lolly A., KellyAnn S., M. Tracey O.

Motions:

1. The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the Conference continue the Remote Participation Trial involving delegates outside North America for the 2019 and 2020 World Service Conferences, with the ad-hoc Remote Participation Trial Committee (RPTC), under the supervision of the WSC Conference

Committee, overseeing the affairs of the Remote Participation Trial in support of the GSB and GSB Conference Support Committee.

2. The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the Conference change the name of WSC the Diversity Caucus to WSC Underserved Outreach Caucus.
3. The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the mission and description of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus be changed to the following:
The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.
4. The Conference Committee moves that the WSC Conference Committee, the GSB Conference Support Committee and the General Service Board determine the site of the 2020 D.A. World Service Conference.

Recommendations

1. WSC Conference Committee recommends that I/C 18-49 be referred to the GSB Conference Support Committee.
2. WSC Conference Committee recommends that the Host Committee Manual be reviewed and updated to reflect current practice.

WSC Conference Committee Meeting Minutes:

The WSC Conference Committee met at the 2018 WSC in Minneapolis, MN on Thurs., Aug. 2 and Fri., Aug. 3. All members were present with GSB Liaison Mary Clare L. and 2019 Host Committee Liaison, Rob B.

The Committee elected officers, Mike L., Chair; Cris F., Vice Chair; Jean Camille B.; Treasurer; and Karen S., Secretary.

The Committee reviewed all referred Issues and Concerns, reviewed the Report of the prior year's Conference Committee and discussed the issues to be considered by the Committee and their priorities.

The Committee considered a recommendation from the outgoing committee concerning remote participation by non-N. American delegates. The following Motion was presented:

The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the Conference continue the Remote Participation Trial involving delegates outside North America for the 2019 and 2020 World Service Conferences, with the ad-hoc Remote Participation Trial Committee (RPTC), under the supervision of the WSC Conference Committee, overseeing the affairs of the Remote Participation Trial in support of the GSB and GSB Conference Support Committee.

The motion was considered and passed unanimously.

The Committee considered the request of the Diversity Caucus to change the name of the caucus. The following motion was presented:

The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the Conference change the name of the WSC Diversity Caucus to the WSC Underserved Outreach Caucus.

The motion was considered and passed unanimously.

The Committee considered the request from the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus to revise the mission statement for the caucus. The following motion was presented:

The WSC Conference Committee MOVES that the mission and description of the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus be changed to the following:

The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.

The motion was considered and passed unanimously.

The Committee considered the location for the 2020 World Service Conference, including the fact that a solicitation for bids was published and no bids were received. After discussion with various stakeholders, the following Recommendation and Motion was presented:

Having received no bids prior to this 2018 World Service Conference, for hosting the 2020 World Service Conference and, the Southern California DA Intergroup having previously expressed an interest in hosting the 2020 World Service Conference in addition to hosting the 2019 World Service Conference;

The Conference Committee RECOMMENDS that an immediate inquiry be made to the Southern California DA Intergroup to ascertain their willingness to additionally host the 2020 World Service Conference.

The WSC Conference Committee then MOVES as follows:

Should the Southern California DA Intergroup answer in the affirmative, that the Conference Committee be authorized to express the will of this Conference that the 2020 World Service Conference be held in the Greater Los Angeles area; that the Southern California DA Intergroup be authorized to establish the host committee for the 2020 World Service Conference; and, that the General Service Board be authorized to execute such contracts as necessary to secure a site in the Greater Los Angeles area for the 2020 World Service Conference.

Should the Southern California DA Intergroup answer in the negative, that the Conference Committee and the GSB Conference Support Committee promptly solicit bids for the hosting the 2020 World Service Conference and, after due consideration is given to any bids so received, that the Conference Committee be authorized to express the will of this Conference that the 2020 World Service Conference be held in the location that the Conference Committee believes to be the best location considering the bids received, and that the General Service Board be authorized to execute such contracts as necessary to secure a site at that host location for the 2020 World Service Conference.

The motion was considered and passed unanimously.

The Committee considered its meeting schedule for the conference year, settling on the following dates for its meetings: 9/13; 10/11; 11/8; 12/13 of 2018; 1/10; 2/7; 3/14; 4/11; 5/9; 6/13; 7/11; of 2019. All meetings will commence at 9:30 pm Eastern/8:30 pm Central/6:30 pm Pacific.

The Committee considered whether to create a Charter revision subcommittee and deferred consideration until later in the year.

The Committee considered Issue and Concern 18-49 and recommended referral of this I/C to the GSB Conference Support Committee.

The Committee considered Issue and Concern 18-21 and deferred the response until later in the year.

The Committee considered Issues and Concerns 18-03, -04, -05, and -06, and the John H. Scholarship Application guidelines generally. The Committee took the following actions:

WSC Conference Committee responds to I/C 18-03 as follows: 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.

WSC Conference Committee responds to I/C 18-05 as follows: We recommend that 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.

The WSC Conference Committee considered I/C 18-04 and 18-06 and responds that the John H. Scholarship Funding Guidelines are sufficiently clear.

The Committee considered a request that the Host Committee Manual be reviewed and updated as necessary to reflect current practice. The following recommendation was proposed:

WSC Conference Committee recommends that the Host Committee Manual be reviewed and updated to reflect current practice.

The recommendation passed unanimously.

The Committee considered other priorities for the conference year and concluded that the following items may be addressed during the conference year:

1. An early e-blast regarding Remote Participation for 2019 and 2020.
2. Creation of a Remote Participation subcommittee
3. Whether the Charter should be revised and a subcommittee formed for that purpose
4. The response to I/C 18-21
5. Possible revision to Host Committee Manual
6. Consideration of possible WSC schedule revisions
7. Consideration of ways to connect groups with the work of World Service
8. John H. Scholarship long range funding concerns

The Committee will prioritize these items at its next scheduled meeting.

The Committee considered whether to form any subcommittees to address the prioritized items and concluded that subcommittees could be formed at a later meeting of the Committee.

The Committee adjourned with the Serenity Prayer at 3:30 pm on August 3, 2018. Subject to call for any additional matters which might arise during Convocation.

Board Liaison-Mary Clare Lynch

Monthly Meeting date/time: 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm PT/8:30 pm CT/9:30 pm ET w/exception of Feb. 7, 2019.

First meeting is Sept. 13, 2018

Call in number is: U.S. +1 712-770-4010, Access Code: 874749

WSC FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Fellowship Communications Committee 2018-2019 - Roster, Committee Positions & Minutes from the Conference FCC meetings

Board Liaison- Tom B

Committee Positions: Alexia I: Chair; Lynn S: Vice Chair; Jeff H: Secretary, Cynthia B: Treasurer; Elita R: Timekeeper

Monthly Meeting date/time: **Third Sundays @3:00PT/6:00ET**

First meeting is **September 16th, 2018**

Call in number is: U.S. **+1 712-770-4160**, Access Code: **673562 #**

Playback phone no.: **+1 712-770-4169**, Access Code: (same as above) **673562**

Agenda Items with sub-committee members:

- **Issues & Concerns**
 - **18-08:** passed to Tech Com
 - **18-19:** Jeff
 - **18-26:** Cynthia
 - **18-34:** Rody
 - **18-43:** Lynn
 - **18-46:** Alexia
 - **18-48:** Lynn
- **Committee & Caucus calls**
 - **SEP 30, DEC 30, MAR 31, JUN30 @11:00amPT/2:00pmET**– Alexia, Rody
- **Worldwide Fellowship calls**
 - **OCT 28, JAN 27, MAY 5 @11:00amPT/2:00pmET** – Alexia, Lynn, Rody, Jeff
- **Audio & Podcasts** – Elita, Cynthia
 - **Sign releases**
 - **Translations**
- **Group Sponsorship** – Alexia, Lynn, Jeff, Rody
 - **Name change**
 - **Starter Kit**
 - **Update DAMS**
 - **Update website**
- **Review FCC Mission Statement** - Alexia
- **Ways & Means content update** – Lynn, Elita
- **Facilitation Communication website/handouts** – Rody, Lynn, Alexia

FCC Committee Issues and Concerns Resolutions

Issue number	Resolution
18-08	Send to Tech Com for member assistance with toll-free call line access

18-19	We recommend using DA Prayers, but it is a group-level decision. FCC will research language to send out to all groups about existence of DA Prayers
18-26	Need copyright release to use. Action deferred after conference
18-34	Recommendation that <u>Resources for Groups</u> webpage be translated to Spanish
18-43	FCC has no knowledge of an existing policy, but admittance is a group-level decision. Action deferred after conference
18-46	FCC is working on Group Sponsorship. Action deferred after conference
18-48	FCC will respond to member for more information. Action deferred after conference

Recommendations

1. Recommend that the Resources for Groups webpage be translated into Spanish

WSC HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS AND PRISONS COMMITTEE

Hospital, Institutions & Prison Committee 2018-2019 - Roster, Committee Positions & Minutes from the Conference HIP Committee meetings

Board Liaison- Jo Mc, Chair: Seana A., Vice-Chair: Roger D., Secretary: Yanick T., Treasurer: Kathleen I.

Monthly Meeting date/time: Second Sunday of every Month-6pm (Eastern), 5pm (Central), 3pm (Pacific). First meeting is September 9th

Call in number is: U.S. +1 712-770-4160, Access Code: 673562

Playback phone no.: +1 712-770-4169, Access Code: (same as above) 673562

Suggested Agenda Items:

- Choose date for HIP International Awareness Day permanently.
- Get correctional facility info letter from Jo.
- Set up two dates for HIP Training Day. September 9th and November 4th.
- Review AA's plan for access to prison.
- Suggested to members to take PI media training.
- Combine HIP, Diversity, and PI Outreach recommendations.
- Flyer designed to recruit HIP reps in local groups and Intergroups.
- Contact past HIP members to share experiences, strength, and hope.

What individual members would like to do: Members attempt to make one attempt each for a panel presentation to or at an institution.

Motion: The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee (HIP) moves that the second Saturday in July be designated as "HIP Awareness Day."

Recommendation: The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee (HIP) recommends that the Diversity Outreach Recommendation on page 61 of the DAMS include suggested communities as listed in the HIP and PI Starter Kits.

WSC INTERNAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Internal Operations Committee, Members: Michalene R., GSB Liaison, Paul M., chair, Susan A., Secretary, Patricia T., Vice-Chair and Treasurer

Minutes Summary

Meeting called to order with the serenity prayer by Board liaison Michalene R.

12 steps read

12 Traditions read

Present: Patricia T, Paul M, Susan A, Alan C, GSO office manager, Michalene R

Officers Elected

Chair: Paul M

Recording Secretary: Susan A

Vice Chair & Treasurer: Patricia T

Discussion Topics

1. Physical Improvement to Office at Needham, MA., including: painting preparations and accomplishment, shelving in storage room and packing area. To consider modular or transferable equipment for shelving. Reorganization of space for efficient work flow and ergonomics.
2. Explore the possibility of GSB to maintain or increase funding for staff and consider increasing the number of staff to 2.0 with appropriate qualifications such as 12-step experience, and technical expertise.
3. Continue working on installation of dedicated hotline
4. Make meeting re-registration process more user-friendly.
5. Network of telephone volunteers to field calls for the GSO.
6. Policy and Procedures creation for GSO, including job descriptions for office manager and staff. Should include a system for updating.
7. Look at implications for transferring the GSO to another location.
8. Monthly meetings of committee will be held on the second Saturday of the month. 2 pm Eastern, 1pm Central, 11am Pacific. Call-In Number 515-604-9546 Access Code 330660# PIN for Chair 4018
9. Begin process of how to approach a 5-year plan for GSO.
10. Request for proposals from Intergroup for possible relocation of GSO to their area.
11. Based on discussion within the committee, revised our recommendations to the GSB.
12. The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2017-18 funding level for the "Salary and Hourly Wages" line item in the Income and Spending Plan for FY 2018-19 for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.
13. The IOC recommends that the GSB consider increasing the number of staff to 2.0 FTE with appropriate qualifications such as 12-step experience and technical expertise.
14. The IOC recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the Income and Spending Plan to begin saving for an eventual relocation of the GSO.
15. The IOC recommends the installation of an additional telephone line at the GSO. One phone number will be used as the office business line and the other will be used to route calls from still suffering debtors to a network of trained volunteers. Estimated monthly cost is \$33.00.

WSC LITERATURE COMMITTEE

WSC Literature Committee 2018-2019

GSB Liaison - Sharon S., Amy O. – Chair, Marysia H. – Vice Chair, Kelly L. – Secretary, Curt P. – Treasurer. Scribe at WSC – Harmony J.

Members: Kellie L., Mary Jane B., Amos P., Vivian B., Gidalia R., Elizabeth P., Suzanne M., John C., Cynthia S., Harmony J.

Monthly WSC Literature Committee Meeting date/time: 2nd Tuesday, 9pm EST

Monthly WSC Literature Subcommittees and Meeting dates/times:

1. “D.A. Daily Meditations” book Subcommittee – 3rd Wednesday, 7pm EST
2. “Underserved and Under-Represented Outreach” service literature Subcommittee (previously called “Diversity” pamphlet) – 1st Thursday, 8pm EST
3. “Couples and D.A.” pamphlet Subcommittee – 3rd Monday, 9pm EST
4. “Relapse in D.A.” pamphlet Subcommittee – 2nd Friday, 2pm EST
5. “D.A. Slogans” Bookmark & “D.A. 3rd & 7th Step Prayers” Bookmark Subcommittee – 3rd Wednesday, 8:30pm EST

Suggested Procedure/Etiquette Guidelines/Agenda Items:

- Chair distributes agenda ahead of call
- Everyone will read minutes, agenda and any supporting documents prior to the call
- The chair will start each call and ask for a timekeeper
- Start and end each meeting with the Serenity Prayer
- Read the tradition of the month at each meeting (i.e. at the September meeting, we’ll read the 9th tradition)
- Read statement of purpose at each meeting
- Mute when not talking
- State name before speaking
- Don’t repeat what’s already been said
- Wait for others who haven’t shared yet to speak before speaking again
- Chair will share last in any discussion
- **Voting:**
 - o No more than 2 pros and 2 cons for each motion, before the vote
 - o Chair will vote last (as voted on by the Committee at the WSC) on any Motions so the committee is not influenced by their vote
 - o A simple majority will be used when voting (NOT substantial unanimity)

Agenda at WSC Lit Com Meeting:

- Read recommendations from the 2017-2018 Literature Committee
- Read two literature drafts for consideration as motions at the 2018 WSC Convocation:
 - o “Chaos to Clarity” pamphlet concept proposal (2018 Lit Com voted against bringing this motion to convocation) - 11 AGAINST, 4 Abstentions
 - o “Twelve Promises” pamphlet – 14 FOR (unanimous)
- Read Issues and Concerns and discussed possible responses:
 - o Due to an issue and concern around a request to have literature reviewed, a committee member suggested the following:

- The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship – approved by general consent
- Proposed literature projects were listed by the scribe and then everyone prioritized their top 3 projects. Those top projects were tallied to determine which had the most energy behind them; 3 of these were chosen and subcommittees were formed to work on them.
- Discussed Issue and Concern 17-19 regarding consistency of language in our literature between “Record Maintenance” and “Record Keeping”.
 - The committee voted not to change the literature at this time as these terms basically mean the same thing - 8 FOR, 5 AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION

WSC Literature Committee – Issues & Concerns

18-13	<p>If issue was answered previously, we point to the year they were answered and include that response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clutter rescinded - Conference approved concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BDA business plan ○ Health Issues pamphlet <p>The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship.</p>
18-17	<p>The 2nd edition of the Currency of hope provides a detailed description of the Tools of D.A. XXVI-XXIX. They are also included on the website (include website here). In addition, there are specific pamphlets for each of the tools (i.e. sponsorship, Meeting, Spending Plan, PRGs, Awareness, Business Meetings, Service). Also, a detailed description of the Tools of DA will be included in the Basic Text.</p>
18-18	<p>We will get clarity from the board where the BDA Numbers Booklet is in the literature process and we’ll then answer this question and let this person know what the status is.</p>
18-23	<p>This issue is re: literature consistency.</p> <p>The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship.</p>
18-24	<p>If issue was answered previously, we point to the year it was answered and include that response.</p> <p>The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship.</p>

18-27	<p>If the issue was answered previously, we point to the year it was answered and include that response.</p> <p>In terms of underearning it's included in the signpost as a symptom of compulsive debting, it's not an outside issue.</p>
18-28	<p>If the issue was answered previously, we point to the year they were answered and include that response.</p> <p>Issues part A, B, C addressed by recommendation:</p> <p>The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship.</p> <p>Part D of this issue - We need to research with Allan C. about the availability of the disc and if it should be removed from the Literature form. We will be in touch with our manager about the fact that you've paid for this piece of literature and get back to you.</p>
18-38	<p>If issue was answered previously, we point to the year it was answered and include that response.</p> <p>The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review literature on a periodic basis to maintain the relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature of the literature to the DA fellowship.</p>
18-42	
18-44	
18-45	

2018-2019 WSC Literature Committee

Motions and Recommendation for 2018 WSC Convocation

Motions:

1. The WSC Literature Committee moves that the "Twelve Promises" pamphlet be approved.
2. The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a bookmark on D.A. slogans be approved.

3. The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a bookmark to include D.A. 3rd and 7th step prayers be approved.
4. The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on Couples and D.A. be approved.
5. The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on Recovery and Relapse be approved.

Recommendation:

4. The Literature Committee recommends to the board that a process be created to review D.A. literature on a periodic basis to maintain its relevance, appropriateness and spiritual nature to the D.A. program and fellowship.

WSC PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

WSC Public Information Committee 2018-2019 - Roster, Committee Positions & Minutes from the Conference PI Committee meetings

Board Liaison - Tom R., Chair: Barb S., Vice Chair: Jeanne G., Secretary: Ellen S., Treasurer: Karen M., Members: Gerry L., Frank M., Deb K., Susan G., Gordon M., Chris B., Kathleen M., Maia W., Faith M.

Monthly Meeting date/time: Third Saturday of month 2:30-3:45 pm Eastern

First meeting is Sept 15, 2018

Call in number is: U.S. +1 563-999-1118, Access Code: 580052

Playback phone no.: +1 319-527-2893, Access Code: (same as above) 580052

Public Information Committee

August 2, 2018

Motion: To Elect Barb S. as Chair

Motion passed.

Motion: To elect Kathleen M. as Secretary.

Motion passed.

Motion: To elect Ellen as Vice Chair.

Motion: To elect Jeanne as Vice Chair.

After extensive discussion, the group voted to elect Jeanne as Vice Chair.

Motion: To elect Karen as Treasurer.

Motion passed.

Motion: To hold the meeting for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Motion rescinded.

Motion: To read one tradition a month, starting with tradition one, from the DA 12 Steps 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts and comment on it not to exceed 10 minutes total.

Motion passed.

The Chair read item 12 from the World Service Conference 2018 Committee/Caucus Starter Kit.

Motion: To allow Barb, the Chair to vote any vote.

Motion Passed.

Motion: A quorum consists of 50% of the members present.

Motion passed.

Motion: Recommend that the GSB spend \$652.18 to include the DA 12 Signs and 15 Questions into the packets of the 900 participants in the 2018/19 Expo/Convention of EAPA.

Motion passed.

Motion: Substantial unanimity is required, defined as 2/3 of a quorum, is required to pass a motion.

Motion passed.

The Vice Chair said that actions have been completed to create a list of procedure and/or etiquette guidelines for committee meetings and phone calls.

The Vice Chair then reviewed the 2 issues & concerns that were referred to the committee.

The committee decided to accept all the action items from the previous committee.

August 3, 2018

1. Review of minutes from taken on August 2, 2018
2. Motion: That the PI Committee monthly meeting take place on the 3rd Saturday of the Month- 2:30PM-3:45 EST, 1:30PM-2:45 Central, 12:30PM-1:45PM Mountain, 11:30AM-12:45PM Pacific.
3. Conference call number 515.739.1424 AC 796199# for playback of March 25, 2018 FW call
4. Sept 15th, Oct 20th, Nov 17th, Dec 15th, Jan 19th 2019, Feb 16th 2019, March 16th 2019, April 20th 2019, May 18th 2019, June 15th 2019, July 20th 2019
5. Chair Barb suggested that committee members read the PI manual.
6. Discussion of target groups:
 - A. Gerry-
 - B. Susan-Native American & Immigrant groups-Casa Latino in Seattle
 - C. Fellowship wide campaign for PI Manual
 - D. Barb-Booth set up package on Literature
 - E. Chris-Senior Citizen, Federal-Office of Personnel Management
 - F. Frank- discussed experience in Minneapolis
 - G. Jeanne F. in Santa Cruz has materials for a booth, Signposts of debting flier to be posted in Public Spaces; when annual professional conferences are-dates
 - H. Barb will send 7 flyers home, will contact Jeanne F
 - I. Faith-Ways to bring Public Awareness – eNews-mailing, Pi materials once a month & working with Undeserved & phone call; Faith Monthly call, Suicide prevention
 - J. Frank-How to carry the message to non-clubhouse places & go to other 12 groups
 - K. Mia-put more tear off flyers & 2 radio stations Alameda-community radio & KPFA,
 - L. Jeanne-outreach actions tracking sheet for meeting use to share with 2018-2019 PI Committee.
 - M. Gordon-disconnect to micro managing & overlap of diversity and PI, VA, McDonalds house, Union Halls,

- N. Debby-posting in Library, Community Health Center,
- O. Susan-taking ideas back to Seattle, VA family houses in Seattle,
- P. Gerry-Reach out to GA, Conference on Addiction Recovery
- Q. Karen how to penetrate other 12 step programs
- R. Barb-March 25, 2017 sending Fellowship wide
- S. Separate Free Conference Fellowship wide call
- T. Barb-interpreter office Spanish, AARP, AMA, Page 66 DAMS has a listing of possible outreach
- U. put up signposts in library in Denver, unemployment office, SS office,

V. PUBLIC OUTREACH (POSC) Subcommittee

- 1. **DEBBY**-Community Health Center- NYC
- 2. **GORDON**-V.A.
- 3. **GERRY**-AMA
- 4. **SUSAN**: Ronald McDonald House, Immigrant groups
- 5. **KATHLEEN**: Native American Reservations
- 6. **SUSAN**: Asian Counseling Center
- 7. **ELLEN**: development of an elevator pitch and presentation to Professionals-non 12-Step people
- 8. **FRANK**: Ways to link with other 12 step groups
- 9. **FAITH**: work w/members about Outreach; Underserved Caucus;

W. FELLOWSHIP WIDE (FWSC) Subcommittee -EVERYBODY

- 1. New Fellowship wide calls with a goal of having archival files
- 2. Monthly Fellowship wide PI Support Conference calls
- 3. One Action One day
- 4. Monthly eBlast-HOW TO SET UP A BOOTH-
- 5. October MEDIA training VIA phone-suggested for all committee members
- 6. Fellowship Wide Campaign –Awareness about the PI Manual-Hold Fellowship wide campaign
- 7. eNews the fellowship about phone meetings
- 8. United Way

X. MEDIA Subcommittee –FAITH, JEANNE, KATHLEEN & MAIA

- 1. **PSA's** in various places
- Y. **MAIA** Talk radio- radio stations Alameda-community radio & KPFA,
- 2. Social Media

3. HELPING PROFESSIONALS SUB-COMMITTEE

- 1. **BARB**-AARP
- 2. **GERRY**-DOCTORS (AMA)
- 3. **SUSAN**-American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/Suicide Awareness
- 4. **GORDON**-AFL-CIO /Teamsters
- 5. **FAITH**-United Methodist/COGIC CHURCHES/A.M.E. Churches
- 6. **KATHLEEN**:Native American Reservations
- 7. **KAREN**: College/Universities
- 8. **CHRIS**-Office of Personnel Management for Employee Assistance Program from nationwide to local and finding out conference dates for EAP members.

ACTIONS:

- 1. Page 66 in DAMS has list of targets
- 2. Professional Conferences-Get Target Dates: October-June

3. Get information on Unemployment and SSA-How and when to give out literature
4. We need to be aware that how to start a a meeting- to be
5. Outreach Tracking-Jeanne will email out to

RECOMMENDATION: us asking another party to do something for us.

1. The PI Committee recommends that the Literature, Translation and Licensing Committee (LTL) transcribe PSA’s And DA Signs Come to Life, into podcasts, eNews.
2. The Public Information Committee recommends that the Tech committee create a user friendly accessible PI information portal for meetings, intergroup, and public in consultation with the PI Committee.
3. We recommend that the Communication Committee continues to publicize via eNews “One Member One Action” reminder prior to DA’s Anniversary
4. The PI Committee recommends a Spanish speaking option for the Needham office telephone.

The PI Manual has resources for our committee, such as:

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

Where do I get money to use for my DA/PI related expenses?

1. We have \$100 from the board;
2. See our treasurer for questions about expense reimbursement. But they should with the committee before they are spent.

WSC PI Recommendations

1. The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Literature Translation and Licensing Committee (LTL) transcribe the Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and the “DA Signs Come to Life” Welcome Video into podcasts and eNews articles.
2. The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the WSC Technology Committee create a user friendly accessible Public Information portal for meetings, Intergroups, and the public, in consultation with the WSC Public Information Committee.
3. The WSC Public Information Committee recommends that the GSB Communication Committee continues to publicize via eNews “One Member, One Action Day” reminder prior to DA’s Anniversary.
4. The WSC Public Information Committee recommends a Spanish-speaking option be available for the Needham office toll-free telephone line.

WSC PI – Issues and Concerns:

18-20	No action taken yet
18-36	No action taken yet

WSC RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Resource Development Committee, 2018-2019 Fiscal Year

Committee Positions and Minutes from the 2018 World Service Conference

Board Liaison:

Allen T. (Temp. during WSC)/Tom R. (Permanent), **Committee Positions:** Chair: Diana B., Vice Chair: Linda Y., Secretary: Barbara H., Treasurer: Chris S., Other members: Joanne N. and Celia M.

Monthly Meetings:

3rd Sunday of Each Month, including August 2018

1:30 to 2:30 Eastern Time; Telephone Call-in number: TBD

RDC 2018-2019 Statement of Purpose:

Revenue for Debtors Anonymous is the focus of the RDC, including:

*increasing 7th Tradition group and individual contributions for the 2018-2019 fiscal year **by 20%, with an aggregate financial target of \$124,650**, and clarifying the use of 7th Tradition contributions;

*encouraging member participation in service at all levels; and *increasing awareness within the DA Fellowship of the significance of self-support, (inspired by DAMS, pg. 79).

RDC Motions made during 2018 WSC:

1. The Resource Development Committee hereby moves that there be NO FINANCIAL CAP on contributions made to Debtors Anonymous (“DA”) by and through a DA Fellow’s Last Will and Testament (“Testamentary Bequest.”) **DID NOT PASS 48/31**
Issues of Concern: Potential 7th Tradition violation, question of conditional gifts.
2. The Resource Development Committee hereby moves that a DA Fellow may contribute up to \$12,000 USD to Debtors Anonymous on an annual basis. **PASSED**

2018 RDC Action Plan

1. Update RDC Statement of Purpose. **DONE**
2. Update John H. Scholarship Letter and April/Anniversary Appeal Letter.
3. Draft NEW Announcement/Reminder Notice regarding End of Year Contributions (and U.S. IRS Income Tax Benefit) to be distributed before “Giving Tuesday.”
4. Execute 3 Worldwide Conference Calls:
 - a. Topic: Promise 7, to be held sometime 11/1 to 12/31/2018.
 - b. Topic: PRGs, to be held sometime 1/1/2019 to 3/31/2019.
 - c. Topic: Treasurer Responsibilities and Creation of a Meeting “Ideal Spending and Earning Plan,” to be held sometime 4/2/2019 to 6/30/2019.
5. Refresh language in the DAMS related to Tradition 7, revenue & update Treasurer responsibilities.

TABLED ACTIONS:

6. Redraft suggested meeting formats to including mention of DA online contribution option and moment of silence during online and in-person meeting 7th Tradition break.
7. Creation of Service position/s that have no solvency requirement to offer new or struggling Fellows an opportunity to give service.

RDC Motions:

1. The Resource Development Committee hereby moves that there be NO FINANCIAL CAP on contributions made to Debtors Anonymous (“DA”) by and through a DA Fellow’s Last Will and Testament (“Testamentary Bequest.”)
2. The Resource Development Committee hereby moves that a DA Fellow may contribute up to \$12,000 USD to Debtors Anonymous on an annual basis.

RDC Recommendations

1. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends that the Debtors Anonymous (“DA”) General Service Board (“GSB”) create an Ideal Income and Spending Plan.
2. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends the creation of consistent and continuous messaging across all DA Fellowship-wide communication of the existence and convenience of the online contribution option, including but not restricted to A. general, business, and telephone suggested meeting formats; B. the DebtorsAnonymous.org website; C. contribution receipts; D. literature order receipts; and E. contribution envelopes.
3. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends that the GSB Communications Committee and the GSB Information Technology Committee increase the visual awareness of the new online contribution option on DebtorsAnonymous.org.
4. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends that the GSB provide an in-depth information session open to all DA Fellows during the 2019 DA World Service Conference Fellowship Day on the form and content of the Fellowship’s annual financial statements.
5. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends that the General Service Office (“GSO”) include the John H. Scholarship, DA Anniversary and other GSB-approved Resource Development Committee communication with DA Literature Orders.
6. The Resource Development Committee hereby recommends that Debtors Anonymous (“DA”) General Service Board (“GSB”) explore a subscription based pricing model that allows such subscribers online access to DA Conference Approved content.

WSC TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

WSC Technology Committee Members: Bill D., GSB Liaison, Jeff H., Chair, Rosemary H., Vice-Chair, Dave L., Treasurer, Tim L., Diane W., Secretary

Committee Minutes: We made flip carts and worked our way thru analyzing the accomplishments of last year (significant progress on Kindle literature and donation button on site), what facilitated the results and what were barriers.

We met with our Info Tech GSBs for lunch to review priorities and gather guidance on what they felt was needed. Beforehand, we created a strategy for our lunch together with roles for our meeting to forge our collaboration and think together. During our working lunch learned we could proceed with researching text donation capabilities without board approval since they needed more information to evaluate the project.

Flip charts of our steps include:

Due Diligence of Plan of what human resources there are in the fellowship network. Want to talk with Southern California about their website. Need a tech savvy person on the Board.

Tech Audit of current website:

Vendor List

Product Features

Data Storage

Admin Capabilities

Visitor Count on Website

Priorities:

- TEXT donations tech
- Update website (want new one but also discussed importance of getting store of literature online)
- Survey of fellowship demographics

Each project has sub-steps we worked on:

Website work will include outreach to each of the committee on Tech Com can help them and any resources they may have for our projects.

Diane: Due Diligence on website by Oct. 2018 (who does WSC already pay?)

Dave: Research on proposals for Text Donations January 1, 2019

Rosemary: Survey out by end of Q1 2019 and ACM job description (with Diane) by Oct. 2019

Tim: Research tech mgt, literature delivery systems and talk with Curt on LitPub by Oct 2018

Jeff: Committee chair will meet once a week with members or the group (meets monthly)

We also worked on a vision for the 2025

- 65,000 members
- Fully integrated
- Best in class
- Tech solutions
- 1,000,000 member and \$1,000,000 in lit sales.

Recommendations

3. More onsite time for committees to meet together
4. Fellowship should accept contributions by SMS text
5. GSRs please encourage your group members to sign up for eNews since there will be a survey sent out to profile fellowship demographics
6. Online store for ordering literature
7. Updating the website to be more user friendly and attracting.

SECTION 9: WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE CAUCUS MINUTES

WSC INTERGROUP CAUCUS

Intergroup Caucus Members: Dayton L., GSB Liaison, Marysia H., Chair, Chris S., Vice-Chair, Marcy J., Linda Y., Gerry L., Treasurer, Deborah K., Secretary, Gidalia R., Scribe, Melissa D., Scribe

The meeting will be 1x per month.

Marysia read committee's report.

Gerry read the previous reports from last year.

Marcy brought the possibility of printing the writing that was published in the DAMS as a separate pamphlet – which was the original intention for the work.

Review of Caucus Report:

Agenda:

1. Continue Progress of Intergroup Service Handbook/Pamphlet
 - New Caucus reviews it
 - Decision: which will this document end up –
 - Service pamphlet?
2. Fellowship-wide Conference Call – (already on Google Drive – accessible on General DA website)
3. Intergroup Resource Page
 - Centralize all intergroups
 - Map
 - Section with special events

WSC INTERNATIONAL CAUCUS

1 August, 2018

Board Liaison-Josie began meeting.

Nominations made and accepted:

Chair-Tracey, Vice-Chair–Susan, Treasurer–George, Secretary–Sarah, Scribe–Chris, Time keeper-Josie, Members: Kelly L.

Turned over to Chair.

Reviewed 2017-2018 International Caucus Report to see if we want to continue the work. Caucus agreed to:

- 1) Continue collecting international shares for Ways & Means, 3rd edition Currency of Hope, and to request addition of international stories in new Basic Text and Daily Meditations.
- 2) Continue collecting history of DA founding around the world, and to discuss ways to publish this history.
- 3) Support new GSB Literature, Translation and Licensing Committee (ask what our role should be; how can we be helpful)

2 August, 2018

Reviewed purpose of the International Caucus from DAMS.

Continued to discuss follow up work from the 2017-18 caucus.

- 4) Develop international contact list for foreign meetings. Tracey can contact Andrea B (chair 2016-17) for contact list for foreign meetings.
- 5) Attend European Regional Intergroup phone meeting as a visitor [later noted that Susan already attends and can report back]
- 6) Continue to support GSB to accept international payments. Josie has made a donation thru Transferwise in British pounds. GSB testing Euros, and Australian dollars. Josie will ask about testing Canadian dollars. We could ask our international phone meeting contacts to test.

Reviewed some of last year's projects and how this caucus supports the growth of DA Internationally:

- Last year we used \$100 for literature donation for Spanish-speaking countries
- 7) Chris S., (ACM for GSB International Committee) can carry literature to other countries.
 - 8) Develop a virtual/phone/ online community to support the virtual WSC for international GSRs and other members.
 - 9) Make available toll-free numbers for international fellowship-wide calls.
 - 10) Continue discussion on how to get GSB approval for existing translations done by DA members internationally. AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions have been translated into 69 languages, and DA has agreed to use those translations. The home country does the translation and it is vetted for spiritual/unified but culturally appropriate message.

Caucus agreed to set procedures and/or etiquette: (6, 3)

- Chair sets agenda
- Everyone agrees to read previous meeting minutes and supporting documentation before the call
- Let the leader lead the call
- Start and end with the Serenity prayer
- Read caucus statement of purpose
- Read aloud the steps and traditions at the beginning of the call
- Mute when not talking
- State name before speaking
- Don't repeat what has already been said
- Wait for others to share before speaking again (chair can assist in making sure all voices get heard)
- Substantial unanimity over simple majority, when possible

3 August, 2018

Began with Serenity prayer and Statement of purpose

Recommendations due this evening, discussed and approved unanimously:

1. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate and implement diverse payment options for our non-U.S. based, international D.A. members, including those based in Canada.
2. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee review the Treasurer's Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to accommodate international transactions.

3. The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee reach out to international D.A. members when collecting stories and submissions for the Basic Text of D.A. and the Daily Meditation Book; and to be inclusive of our international Fellowship whenever possible in the selection process.
4. The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee use audio technology to allow non-U.S. based, international D.A. members to record their stories in their chosen languages.
5. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB facilitate free international conference numbers for fellowship-wide calls, including playbacks.

Additional Agenda Items for 2018-19 caucus discussion:

- 1) How to collect/archive/display the collected histories of DA around the world
- 2) Discuss facilitating approval of existing translations.

Set monthly conference call as Second Sunday of the month beginning Sept 9, 2018.

1pm Eastern Standard Time.

CALL US/Canada: 712-770-4160, UK: 03306060515; access: 607563#.

PLAYBACK: US/Canada 605-562-3149, access 607563#, Host code: 166551

Recommendations

1. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee continue to investigate and implement diverse payment options for our non-U.S. based, international D.A. members, including those based in Canada.
2. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB Finance Committee review the Treasurer's Manual in the D.A. Manual for Service to accommodate international transactions.
3. The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee reach out to international D.A. members when collecting stories and submissions for the Basic Text of D.A. and the *Daily Meditation Book*; and to be inclusive of our international Fellowship whenever possible in the selection process.
4. The International Caucus recommends that the WSC Literature Committee use audio technology to allow non-U.S. based, international D.A. members to record their stories in their chosen languages.
5. The International Caucus recommends that the GSB ensure free international conference numbers for fellowship-wide calls, including playbacks.

WSC SPIRITUALLY SUSTAINABLE EARNING CAUCUS

Wed 8-1-2018, WSC SSEC Meeting 9:10-10PM

Meeting opened with Serenity Prayer at 9:17 pm by Liaison, Sharon. She explained the process of the Caucus meeting. Those in attendance were: Barb S, Carol M., Ed, Kelly, Lolly, Paul, Yanick, and Sharon.

Lolly was elected to return as chair. The meeting was turned over to the Chair.

Carol M was selected as Secretary, Ed as Vice-Chair, Barb as treasurer and Yanick, Time Keeper.

We discussed the terms substantial unanimity and quorum. A committee roster was started.

Meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer.

Thurs 8-2-2018 WSC SSEC Meeting 2:15-3:15PM

Lolly A., Caucus Chair, Called Meeting to Order 2:20PM

Meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer. Lolly invited everyone to introduce themselves. Present were: Roger D., Diane, Paul, Ed, Vivian, Harmony, Lolly, Barb, Carol, Jeanne, Barbara, Alexia and Sharon. Roster list sent around. Lolly spoke about this year's conference goals to move efficiently: determining what we want to do and what to do to reach the goal.

The Caucus had no Issues and Concerns.

Started Discussion of Possible SSEC goals

1. Definition?
2. Discuss pertinent issues and concerns

Recommendations from last year's caucus:

New Mission Statement that was approved by SSEC 2017-18 was presented to the New Caucus.

After thorough discussion and changes to the Mission Statement a MOTION was made to accept the New Mission Statement. Yes-9, no-1, 2abs. MOTION PASSED. The minority vote was heard. No change in the vote.

ACTION ITEM - Lolly to bring New Mission Statement to Conference Committee for motion at the 2018 WSC convocation.

3:20 pm meeting was closed. Barb led the Serenity Prayer.

Friday, 8-3-2018 WSC SSEC Meeting 5-6PM

Lolly A., Caucus Chair, Called Meeting to Order 5pm

Present: Ed K., Sharon S, Lolly, Roger, Vivian, Jeanne, Alexia, Harmony, Carol M., Paul M., Amina Z., Not present: Barb

- A. Call Schedule
First Sat of each month, 12 noon PT / 3PM ET.
9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6
- B. Action Plan 2017-18
 - a. Fellowship Wide Calls – first one could be this October 2018
Subcommittee formed: Alexia, Ed, Lolly, Paul
 - b. Continue to Develop mission statement - Alexia
 - c. Definition of SSE – Roger “Being of Service in earning,” also: what it is NOT. Discussions.
 - d. Collect stories - Roger
 - e. Earning Pamphlet – Roger
 - f. Caucus Discussion topic of “under being” – Harmony
 - g. Reviewing the Underearning pamphlet – “Literature Subcommittee” formed: Vivian, Carol, Harmony, Amina
 - h. Signposts - review and submit – Literature Subcommittee - Vivian, Carol, Harmony, Amina
 - i. Meeting Format – Literature Subcommittee - Vivian, Carol, Harmony, Amina
 - j. Liaise with BDA – suggestion from Ed, Paul also interested.
- C. Proposed Agenda & Etiquette Guidelines

- a. Voting – substantial unanimity. Quorum is 4 or more. MOTION made by Alexia, amended, seconded, and PASSED. 10-1
- b. Read Tradition Specific the Calendar Month of Each Phone Meeting.
- c. Timer to be used upon group conscience decision.
- d. Balance of Etiquette Policies “leader leading the phone calls.”
- e. Read from DAMS pg. 80 the SSEC Mission Statement.
- f. All sessions open and close with Serenity Prayer.

ACTION ITEM for Sharon: LRPC find call date for SSEC for October.

Meeting ended 6:08pm with the Serenity Prayer.

WSC UNDERSERVED AND UNDERREPRESENTED OUTREACH CAUCUS

Members: Jo Mc, GB Liaison, Mike M., Chair, Rody D., Vice-Chair, Faith M., Secretary, Kathleen I., Treasurer, Members: Yanick L., Elita R., Diana B., Diana G., Barb H.

Board Liaison- Joe Mc

Committee Positions: Mike M (chair), Rody (vice chair), Faith (secretary), Kathleen (treasurer)

Monthly Meeting date/time:

Call in number is: U.S. **+1 515-604-9718**, Access Code: **265573 #**

Playback phone no.: **+1 515-604-9650**, Access Code: (same as above) **265573**, **Host PIN:** 1890

Suggested Agenda Items:

Our mandate is broad and our vision may take years or decades to make headway on. But what has become clear is the obvious and need for this work. We are interfacing with many different caucuses and committees, who share our general mission—to carry the message to the still sick and suffering debtor. Some of those with obvious crossover are: literature, PI, HIP, intergroup, and international. I would encourage you to reach out if you have any ideas or would be interested in helping. Some of these committees have nominated a liaison to interface with this caucus. The UUOC is working on these efforts in full force, but we will start to get some real lift with increased group ownership from the fellowship.

Last Year’s Projects

- Completed phase I of mapping project
 - o identify where D.A. meetings exist
 - o overlay with demographic data to identify targeted groups for outreach
- Worked with Literature Committee to deliver Diversity in D.A. pamphlet
- Define best practices and collaborate with Public Information, Intergroup, and Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)

Clarification of terms for new caucus name:

Underserved: expanding the tent in general

Under-represented: encouraging participation from all members

Recommendations for 2018-2019

1. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship define best practices for reaching out to underserved and underrepresented debtors.
2. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship submit stories of their experience strength and hope in reaching out to underrepresented debtors.
3. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship develop more literature and support for group and individual sponsorship.

Ideas for upcoming year

- Continue to collaborate on Diversity in D.A. pamphlet
- Define best practices for outreach and make them actionable for groups (using tools from Public Information and HIP Committees.
- Call for stories — ESH — for publishing in Ways & Means
- Working with sponsor a group
- Identifying our outreach; widening the net for debtors who still suffer; may include those experiencing trauma around money (the following is a non-exhaustive list)
 - o Elderly
 - o Geographic (states or regions without any DA groups)
 - o members w/o debt (i.e., trust funds, rent-controlled apartments in expensive locations)
 - o college students —(student loans, credit card debt, or both)
 - o African Americans
 - o Native Americans
 - o Spanish speakers
 - o debtors who had NO credit card debt
 - o homeless people and those living in shelters
 - o disabled people
 - o LGBTQ
- creating a scorecard on the status of our outreach across different aspects of the fellowship (PI, HIP, Intergroup, International, FCC)
- helping to start Spanish speaking meetings
- podcasts/vignettes — create a 3-5 min segments by each identified underserved and under- represented group (see list above) to be played on Talk Radio — available for everyone to hear their stories and identify with members; Talk Radio will accept content for free; there are 10 different Talk Radio shows across the U.S. Elita has already begun outreach to stations in NorCal while working with Public Information.
 - o these same recordings could potentially be used on the debtorsanonymous.org as well as local intergroup websites
 - o Each member can research one of the States without face to face meetings and research access to DA in that State.
 - o Create an email address for the UUOC, Mike will talk to the Tech Committee to set this up.

D.A. Recovery Stories

Recruit members who are under-represented or underserved to submit stories about their stories.

In Los Angeles, they have a One Member Story section in their newsletter.

Ways & Means — Publish an Article

Write an article that shows the meeting coverage

Give descriptions / suggestions on what members can do to start a meeting in their area

Collaboration with Other Caucuses / Committees

- working with HIP, FCC and Public Information Committees
 - o Book-Mobile for Homeless Kids in Los Angeles
 - o sharing information on college campuses
 - o outreach to other 12 Step Fellowships to let them know about D.A.
- FCC wants to create a start kit for Group Sponsorship for new meetings.
- As part of the Public Information Committee Faith will be a Liaison to the UUOC to work on using the public information tools to reach underserved and under-represented persons.

Recommendations

1. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship define best practices for reaching out to underserved and underrepresented debtors.
2. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship submit stories of their experience strength and hope in reaching out to underrepresented debtors.
3. The UUOC recommends that the fellowship develop more literature and support for group and individual sponsorship.

**2018-2019 WSC Committee and
Caucus Rosters**

BDA

Bob D, GSB liaison
Mary Jane W, Chair
Ed K
Michelle M
George M
Carol M
Roslyn R
Susan L
Amina Z
Diana G

Conference Committee

Mary Clare L, GSB liaison
Mike L, chair
Jean-Camille B
Cris F
Karen S
Lolly A
KellyAnn S
Tracey O

FCC

Tom B, GSB liaison
Alexia I, Chair
Lynn S
Jeff H
Cynthia B
Elita R

HIP

Jo Mc, GSB liaison
Seana A, chair
Roger D
Yanick T
Kathleen I.

Intergroup Caucus

Dayton L, GSB liaison
Marysia H, chair
Chris S
Marcy J
Linda Y
Gerry L
Deborah K
Gidalia R
Melissa D

IOC

Michalene R, GSB liaison
Paul M, chair
Patricia T

International Caucus

Josie P, GSB liaison
Tracey O, Chair
Susan L
George M
Chris B
Kelly L

Lit Com

Sharon S, GSB liaison
Amy O, chair
Mary Jane B
Marysia H
Suzanne M
Kelly L
Kellie L
Curt P
Harmony J
Amos P
John C
Gidalia R
Elizabeth P
Cynthia S

PI

Tom R, GSB liaison
Barb S, chair
Jeanne G
Ellen S
Karen M
Gerry L
Frank M
Deb K
Susan G
Gordon M
Chris B
Kathleen M
Maia W
Faith M

RDC

Tom R, GSB liaison
Diana B, chair
Linda Y
Barbara H
Chris S
Joanne N
Celia M

SSEC

Sharon S, GSB liaison
Lolly A, chair
Roger D
Carol M
Jeanne G
Barb S
Alexia I
Amina Z
Paul M
Ed K
Vivian B
Harmony J

Tech

Bill D, GSB liaison
Jeff H, chair
Rosemary H
Dave L
Tim L
Diane W

UUOC

Jo Mc, GSB liaison
Mike M, chair
Rody D
Faith M
Kathleen I
Yanick L
Elita R
Diana B
Diana G
Barb H.

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: 18-25, 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, 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>
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 v S London</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, and reduce reimbursement after the WSC.</p> <p>thanks, Carla</p>
18-04	WSC Conference Committee	<p>Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA Issue or Concern for the 2018 D.A. World Service Conference:</p> <p>Revise the John H Scholarship to clarify what the scholarship funds may and may NOT be used for.</p> <p>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.</p>
18-05	WSC Conference Committee	<p>Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA</p>

		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.
18-06	WSC Conference Committee	<p>Carla J Minneapolis, MN USA Issue or Concern for the 2018 D.A. World Service Conference:</p> <p>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.</p>
18-07	GSB Audit and Legal Affairs Committee	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This unauthorized website is manipulating DA literature which is copyright protected.</p> <p>How can this be ignored by The Board?</p> <p>Please let me know.</p> <p>Ellen S</p>
18-08	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<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>
18-09	GSB Literature Publications	<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>Chris M</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>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 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>
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		<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>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 Tradition and giving the rights to DA World.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Thanks very much for your help. In Loving Service to DA Jorge</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.</p> <p>Also, the Business Year End Spending Plan should not be included because it is more of Business Advice instead of offering a spiritual solution.</p> <p>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.</p>

		Sincerely, Chris M
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!</p> <p>Jeanne G., NCDCA Public Information Committee Chair; publicinfo@NCDCAWeb.org</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?</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration on this request, Jeanne G.</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.</p> <p>Many of us on the BDA List live outside of the USA, and when we 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>

18-17	WSC Literature Committee	<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>
18-18	WSC Literature Committee	<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, 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>
18-19	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<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>
18-20	WSC Public Information Committee	<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 (PSA), that would focus on getting our message of Recovery and Hope to the still suffering Business Owners (BDA’s).</p>
18-21	WSC Conference Committee	<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"</p> <p>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</p>

		<p>for strong clarity around our primary purpose." (NOTE: PDF document pagination may show this as page 16)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>Debtors Anonymous' primary purpose is ONLY to help the debtor stop a behavior: 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</p> <p>Change Service Manual Language (In the Sample DA meeting Format) - in support of our primary purpose.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This should also be clarified in the BDA meeting format, pg 27, second paragraph under "Announcements."</p> <p>The negative effect of birthday chips for attendance not abstinence:</p>

		<p>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>18-23</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX IN SUPPORT OF OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE: LITERATURE CONSISTENCY 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.</p> <p>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:</p> <p>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. 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 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."</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 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.</p>

		<p>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>
18-25	WSC BDA Committee	<p>CITY: DALLAS, GROUP NAME: Prosperity, GROUP NUMBER: 364</p> <p>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>
18-26	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX, GROUP NAME: prosperity, GROUP NUMBER: 364</p> <p>Publish the Adopt a Group Flier, Articles and Suggestion List on the DA Website, (Possibly in the PI or Service Manual)</p> <p>In Conference 2007 the PI committee generated a lot of material about Group adoption or group sponsorship that our North Texas community found very helpful. 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.</p> <p>These documents would be valuable to have for all emerging DA communities and would be a good addition to the website.</p> <p>CONTACT Jill P dadivadelux@yahoo.com if you want more info on the following:</p> <p>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>
18-27	WSC Literature Committee	<p>CITY+ COUNTRY: Dallas TX</p> <p>MAKE A FORMAL "OFFICIAL" SEPARATION BETWEEN DEBTORS ANONYMOUS AND UNDEARNERS ANONYMOUS (UA)</p> <p>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</p>

		<p>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.</p> <p>TRANSITION PROCESS</p> <p>Part 1 - Add a Sticker to all existing DA lit that has underearning vocabulary, with the outside issue statement.</p> <p>Part 2 - Make a thorough literature review process and remove all underearning vocabulary and references from all DA literature.</p> <p>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>Part 4 - relinquish any DA published underearning material deemed useful by UA, to UA</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. 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>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,</p> <p>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 link there is no mention of any contribution being tax deductible. https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/make-a-contribution/</p> <p>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>
18-30	GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee	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?
18-31	GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee	How much money Spanish members need to contribute for the GSO be able to do the p-125 the 12 steps in e-pamphlet?
18-32	GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee	<p>Good afternoon</p> <p>I would love to ask if it is possible to have the Spanish literature for DA accessible in Internet.</p> <p>With love and appreciation</p> <p>Esmeralda Concepcion, Chile, Group: 50.31.81</p>
18-33	GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee	<p>Good afternoon</p> <p>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,</p> <p>Esmeralda Concepción, Chile Group: 50.31.81</p>
18-34	WSC Fellowship Communications Committee	<p>Soy Alba DA de Ecuador.</p> <p>Soy un miembro que participa de reuniones por Skype. A través de DA internacional. No tengo reuniones presenciales.</p>

		<p>Estoy interesada en llevar el mensaje a mi ciudad y por añadidura a mí 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>
18-35	GSB Communications Committee	<p>Dear GSB, Thank you for your loving service.</p> <p>In "For Helping Professionals" (link at the bottom of the home page), the adapted AA Preamble is scattered throughout.</p> <p>In gratitude,</p> <p>Alexandra B-W</p>
18-36	WSC Public Information Committee	<p>New York City</p> <p>Dear GSB,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In gratitude,</p> <p>Alexandra B-W</p>
18-37	GSB Long Range Planning Committee	<p>Therissa L. St. Paul, MN</p> <p>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.</p>

		<p>One possible way to mitigate this is to hold the WSC on alternate years. This would have the following advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing individual groups and Intergroups to save-to-spend for conference attendance for two full years, 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. <p>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.)</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>18-38</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>There seems to be some confusion about what constitute "outside 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</p>

		<p>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>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>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 Licensing Committee</p>	<p>Subject: Important Issues for Helping the Spanish DA groups grow Worldwide Helping with the Literature Accessibility</p> <p>A quien corresponda,</p>

		<p>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 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>
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		<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.</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>Of course, greet them very carefully, Paola M.</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.</p> <p>Regards, Remei</p>
<p>18-42</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</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>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>18-44</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<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>18-45</p>	<p>WSC Literature Committee</p>	<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>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>
<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</p>

		<p>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 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>
18-47	GSB Communications Committee	<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>
18-48	WSC Fellowship Communications	<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>
18-49	WSC Conference Committee	<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</p>

		and saving completed forms to an electronic or paper filing system.
18-50	GSB Nominations Committee	<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 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>
18-51	GSB Nominations Committee	<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</p>

		<p>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 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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