

Issues & Concerns

2022 World Service Conference

London.

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.

General Service Board Committees

GSB: 22-08, 22-18,
GSB Audit & Legal Affairs:
GSB Communications: 22-15,
GSB Conference Support: 22-02, 22-07, 22-12,
GSB Finance: 22-16, 22-19,
GSB Information Technology:
GSB International: none
GSB Literature Publications:
GSB Literature Translations and Licensing:
GSB Long Range Planning: 22-04, 22-09
GSB Nominations:
GSB Office:
GSB Public Information:

Did not meet criteria as an Issue and Concern

22-01, 22-03, 22-06,

World Service Conference Committees & Caucuses

WSC Business Debtors Anonymous: 22-10, 22-17,
WSC Conference: 22-12,
WSC Fellowship Communications: 22-05,
WSC Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons: 22-13,
WSC Intergroup Caucus: 22-20,
WSC Internal Operations:
WSC International Committee:
WSC Literature: 22-11, 22-14, 22-21, 22-22,
WSC Public Information:
WSC Resource Development:
WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus: 22-21,
WSC Technology:
WSC Underserved and Under-Represented Outreach Committees: 22-04,

ID	Assigned Committee	Issue & Concern	left blank for notes in binder
22-01	Not Meeting Criteria	<p>Issue & Concern Dear GSB: Please practice what you preach!</p> <p>From Concept 9 -- The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery (pp. 139-140). Debtors Anonymous. Kindle Edition.</p> <p>"First of all, leaders in D.A. must recognize that they exercise only a delegated authority. The right of the Trustees to act on behalf of D.A. stems from the fact that the groups and their delegates have recognized their right to do so. The leaders in D.A. are those who can generate respect and acceptance for their actions because they are understood to be acting for the good of D.A. as a whole. This requires that the Board and General Service Office (GSO) listen carefully to the D.A. groups as they express themselves in the conscience of the Conference. It is essential that leaders be open to persuasion and discourse. This also applies to group and Intergroup officers and representatives."</p> <p>From Concept 9 -- The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery (p. 140). Debtors Anonymous. Kindle Edition.</p> <p>"A leader in D.A. must always be willing to explain her or his actions."</p> <p>From Concept 9 -- The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery (pp. 140-141). Debtors Anonymous. Kindle Edition.</p>	<p>Response: GSB: There is no question to answer.</p>

Humility is at least as important as prudence. The leaders in a Twelve Step Fellowship must always be willing to recognize and accept their limitations as well as those of others. In service it is all too easy to become self-righteous and insistent upon the need to do things in only one way. This mind frame must be avoided at all costs. The good leader must always be willing to admit error and seek better ways of doing things. Closely allied with this is a sense of humor. The ability to laugh at ourselves is central to good leadership. We must be careful not to take ourselves too seriously, and we must always be ready to place our conduct in the perspective of humor. Beyond this, the ability to laugh and to see the lighter side is helpful in ensuring that we do not become bogged down in our own narrow view of things."

From Concept 9 -- The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery (p. 141). Debtors Anonymous. Kindle Edition.

"Charity is not only a virtue; it is an essential element of leadership. The ability to reach out and seek to understand and support those around us makes the tasks of all easier. The desire to forgive perceived slights and to move on in unity is of inestimable value. If our service is not motivated by a love of our fellows and a desire to help and assist, it is a vain and empty gesture. Twelfth Step work, at whatever level of service, always proceeds from the impulse of love for our fellows.

"Finally, two of the most important elements in leadership are faith and hope. Leaders must have faith in their Higher Power and in the Fellowship of D.A. They must always be willing to strive for the highest good for D.A. Hope leads us on in service to achieve great goals for the Fellowship and for our fellows. Hope convinces us that we can be better and that we can do better."

		<p>From Concept 9 -- The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery (pp. 141-142). Debtors Anonymous. Kindle Edition.</p> <p>"... in our groups we come to know each other remarkably well. After all, we have gone through a life-changing experience together in joining D.A. and in working its program. The still, quiet voice often becomes apparent as the voice of wisdom if we listen and continue to love each other. As we grow through working the Twelve Steps, these qualities become increasingly apparent. Experience leads to strength and hope."</p> <p>Submitted August 10, 2021 by Member [Submitter #1]</p>	
22-02	Assigned to GSB Conference Support Committee	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>Is there a way for me to sign up and attend this weekend's part of the worldwide conference? I am secretary of a large group in Los Angeles (Miracle Mile, 175+ on zoom weekly) and would like to attend sessions esp related to pro-con re meetings becoming separate (observing 7th tradition being self supporting) vs. staying together and how.</p> <p>I am happy to pay, but only saw that all registration is closed. Please advise.</p> <p>Submitted August 12, 2021 by Christopher J., Los Angeles [Submitter #2]</p> <p>GSB Note: This Issue and Concern is in reference to the 2021 World Service Conference.</p>	Response:
22-03	Not Meeting Criteria	<p>Offensive, misogynist material was deleted by a group conscience of the GSB.</p>	Response:

<p>22-04</p>	<p>Assigned to GSB Long Range Planning Committee, WSC Underserved and Under- Represented Outreach Caucus</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>My name is Mike, and I am a compulsive debtor.</p> <p>My issue: the “anti-racism” training required for DA employees and attended by all Trustees. Note, I have no issue whatsoever with any individual, including an employee or Trustee of DA, attending anti-racism or any other training on their own time and for their own reasons, just as I would expect any member of DA to have no issue with my political affiliations or what I do on my own time, so long as I do not claim sponsorship by DA. However, this “anti-racism” training was required for DA employees and apparently was attended by Trustees under the aegis of DA, so much so that it was reported to the Fellowship in the Chair’s report.</p> <p>The problem: Anti-racism is an entirely different concept than not being racist or acting in a racist manner. Debtors Anonymous is not, should not be, and cannot be discriminatory or racist or act in a discriminatory or racist way at any time. However, “anti-racism” is an entirely different concept. Anti-racism training has nothing to do with our primary purpose and is directly involving outside issues in our governance and decision-making process. Frankly, it’s no different than reporting to the Fellowship support for a political candidate or the marketing of a member’s business. It belongs nowhere near Debtors Anonymous.</p> <p>I understand the pressures the Board was under at the time this training was attended by the Board, and I don’t suggest that the training was obtained because of some improper motive. However, the training, with the sponsorship of Debtors Anonymous, cannot be squared with our Traditions. The Board should communicate that attending the training under the aegis or sponsorship of the Fellowship, and the requirement for employees to attend, was a mistake and will not be repeated.</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From WSC UUOC:</p> <p>This was not required training. It was an opportunity for trustees to attend a 1-hour presentation and was entirely voluntary.</p>
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<p>22-05</p>	<p>Assigned to WSC Fellowship Communications Committee and GSB Nom/Pro.</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>My name is Mike, and I am a compulsive debtor.</p> <p>My issue: The WSC Fellowship Communications Committee’s recommendation that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training be provided to the full WSC delegation before the 2022 World Service Conference. This is problematic and against the Traditions of Debtors Anonymous for multiple reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The mission of the FCC is defined in the DAMS as follows: the Fellowship Communications Committee “facilitates communication and promotes collaboration among the debtor who still suffers, the Debtors Anonymous membership, the World Service Conference Committees and Caucuses, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board, and oversees Sponsor-A-Group and Promise Six Day.” A recommendation of this sort should never have been considered by the FCC, much less presented by the FCC to the Conference, as this sort of recommendation falls nowhere within the mission of the FCC. 2. The Committee explained to the Conference their reason for this recommendation, saying we need a “shared vocabulary.” We of Debtors Anonymous already have a shared vocabulary, the Steps and Traditions of Debtors Anonymous. 3. Diversity training? We already have diversity via the Tradition that ANY person who desires to not incur unsecured debt is a 	<p>Response:</p> <p>From GSB NomPro: Please refer to 2021 WSC Recommendations and the GSB’s response.</p> <p>From WSC FCC:</p> <p>Thank you for your issue and concern regarding The WSC Fellowship Communications Committee’s recommendation that DEI training be provided to the full WSC delegation before the 2022 World Service Conference. The General Service Representatives of D.A. participate in the World Service Conference and through the guidance of the collective conscience of the Fellowship as a whole, work to carry out the mission of the World Service Committees and Caucuses. The freedom of a committee to recommend something to the GSB is within the conference work as GSRs. There is no need to censor ideas. The GSB has the right of decision whether to implement or not.</p> <p>At the 2021 World Service Conference, there was a lot of discussion about Inclusivity and Diversity. Diversity and inclusivity are very relevant in fellowship communication. As part of the FCC mission statement to “promote communication and collaboration”, we agreed to conduct research on DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training and explore how other 12 Step fellowships were using this</p>

	<p>member in good standing of DA. The same goes for Inclusion – every member’s experience, strength and hope is valued, and that applies as much to the newcomer as to the 30-year member.</p> <p>4. As to Equity, that concept is very problematic. Equality is something on which we can all agree; every member in Debtors Anonymous is equal. Equity, on the other hand, is a Marxist concept that bears no relation to our primary purpose and its entry into our Conference is a direct insertion of an outside issue on which there is significant public controversy.</p> <p>If this recommendation is implemented, it will tear the Conference apart. I ask that FCC reconsider, then withdraw this recommendation. Overall, I hope and pray the recommendation never sees the light of day.</p> <p>Submitted August 19, 2021 by Mike, Prosperity Group, Dallas TX [Submitter #5]</p> <p>GSB Note: Please refer to 2021 WSC Recommendations and the GSB's response.</p>	<p>training. As DA members we observe Tradition 10, “Debtor’s Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues, hence the D.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.” We recognize that incurring unsecured debt may have different roots and causes, and we would like to help a broader and more diverse population of debtors to identify and feel included.</p> <p>The FCC’s previous recommendation would only increase collaboration amongst the groups defined in the mission of the FCC. Additionally, such training would enhance our already shared vocabulary and therefore enable us to reach a broader and more diverse population of debtors who still suffer.</p> <p>Equity is defined as “the quality of being fair and impartial.” DEI training is utilized to encourage functional knowledge of fellow member’s identities and how to navigate diversity in an organization. Offering DEI training would help ensure that “the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt” and would help make our fellowship even more welcoming to the debtor who still suffers.</p> <p>Sponsor-A-Group as well as other World Service Committees have worked diligently to extend support to the debtors in underserved populations and locations. Over the past few years, World Service Committees have been working with Spain, Brazil, Kenya, Iran, and many other countries to help establish meetings, translate literature, and expand Intergroups, with the guidance of the Traditions, Concepts, and the GSB.</p> <p>After the 2021 conference, our committee lost some of its members. We were no longer able to focus on the option</p>
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			to offer DEI training to the 2022 WSC delegation. Instead, we focused our work on Promise 6 Day and Sponsor-A-Group. It is our hope to revive this project in the next few years, always having as the main objective to attract the still suffering debtor.
22-06	GSB Office Committee	<p>Issue & Concern I was recently in a meeting with my home group and during announcements, a fellow announced the time and details for a men's meeting. He was then told by another fellow that it's DA rules you cannot announce meetings that exclude people. I was wondering if this is true? Or if it's a personal opinion? I would like some clarity around this, thank you</p> <p>Submitted December 4, 2021 by Grant, London [Submitter #6]</p>	<p>Response: GSB Response: Debtors Anonymous does not have rules, rather a set of guiding principles in the Twelve Traditions. Tradition Three states the only requirement for D.A. membership is a desire to stop securing unsecured debt. Tradition Four states each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or D.A. as a whole. While a group may be identified as a men's meeting, it would not be a violation of Traditions if the group allowed attendance of a woman who stumbled into the meeting.</p>
22-07	Not meeting criteria...	<p>Issue & Concern Good day all</p> <p>Please could you send me a contact number or email address for this below meeting.</p> <p>I attended the most beautiful 5am (SA time) meeting this morning (Monday 13/12/2021)</p> <p>It was so fitting and spritual for me, just what i needed to here on a monday morning.... but then towards the end of the meeting we got bombed/hacked with obseen pictures, I've been on a meeting marathon" as i am only two weeks in DA . this was one meeting that really did it for me. Please could you send me a contact number for the member/s involved in the zoom</p>	<p>Response: A query like this is best dealt with by the General Service Office. The Office number is on the D.A. website and the email address also. This is a good way to contact us if you are outside the USA. They are often able to share meeting contacts with other members.</p>

		<p>meeting as i need confirmation that the site has be protected. Typically when everything is perfect. we got bombed,..!!!! and had to shut down the meeting.</p> <p>my phone number is 0649913600 (SOUTH AFRICA)</p> <p>Please confirm that the link is cleared now.</p> <p>please see blow</p> <p>thanking you in anticipation,</p> <p>Hubertha DA SA</p> <p>Meeting Information</p> <p>Sunday, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm</p> <p>Pacific Time (US/CAN)</p> <p>Meeting types International, Open (to all), Videoconference</p> <p>Videoconference information: Platform: Zoom</p> <p>Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/590001152?pwd=OVZQR1poOERIWmtVUkJTYkNmOGF0dz09</p> <p>Dial-in: +1 647 558 0588 ID/Access code: 590 001 152 Password: 1212</p> <p>Click here for meeting resources on the D.A. website</p> <p>Submitted December 13, 2021 by Hubertha, Sunday Night Group, Vancouver [Submitter #7]</p>	
22-08	Assigned to GSB	Issue & Concern	<p>Response: GSB Response:</p>

		<p>As I read and listen to our GSR's service reports this year, I am concerned and confused.</p> <p>It feels like our inverted triangle -- mentioned in the long form chapters of both Concepts One and Five -- has been flipped on its head. It feels like the GSB is involving itself in internal conflicts and squabbles, sometimes creating and fueling those conflicts; is setting agendas and making decisions for our fellowship, without our input or permission; and is demanding that the fellowship, at every service level, adheres to their demands.</p> <p>Have the GSB members read the 36 chapters in our 12, 12, and 12 book? Ever? Recently?</p> <p>I read DA literature every day, as suggested by our program, so I usually rotate through both of our books and all of our pamphlets two or three times a year. (Yes, I'm in love with the 36 principles described there.) In my experience, the GSB is misaligned with at least half of our Traditions and half of our Concepts, most of the time. Do they care?</p> <p>And, as for the Steps, I've read the new study guide cover to cover, and I am appalled. There are a lot of "new age-y" "feel good-y" "easier, softer way" "bright idea" suggestions and not a lot of guidance toward spiritual recovery from our core problems of addiction, isolation, grandiosity, self-centeredness, and taking more than we've earned or deserved.</p> <p>There is a huge misalignment between these guides and our own 12, 12, and 12. Why weren't these two pieces of recovery literature synced up? Could this new piece of literature be recalled and rewritten to be aligned with the Step writings in our 12, 12, and 12?</p>	<p>The General Service Board maintains responsibility for the publication of Conference Approved D.A. literature, and the day to day operations of the General Service Office. In carrying out these functions, the GSB is guided by the principles in the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts.</p> <p>The World Service Conference, the General Service Representatives and Intergroup Representatives serves as the collective conscience of the Fellowship. Any changes to existing literature or new literature must be considered and approved by the World Service Conference. Conference actions are then moved on to the GSB to carry out through the year.</p> <p>We would encourage you to become involved with WSC General Service and contribute to the development of the group conscience of Debtors Anonymous as a whole.</p>
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		<p>Lastly, if the GSB and the WSC -- as the next level down in service -- are unwilling to read and practice our 36 principles, as written and conference-approved in their long forms, will one of those two things be changed soon? The refusal to adhere to our principles by the WSC and GSB? Or significant revisions of our conference-approved writings to reflect how things "really work" in our fellowship and service structure?</p> <p>Submitted December 7, 2021 by Member [Submitter #8]</p>	
<p>22-09</p>	<p>Assigned to GSB Long Range Planning Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I was appalled to hear of this new rule from the GSB recently:</p> <p>"In the interest of equitable attention to all Issues and Concerns, we request a limit of three Issues & Concerns per member, per year."</p> <p>If "... it is an abundant universe with more than enough for everyone," from our own literature, why doesn't that apply to Issues & Concerns and our other actions with the GSB?</p> <p>Our group's GSR shared the 2021 Issues & Concerns with us, and we were all dismayed that one of our fellow DA members' Issues & Concerns had been hidden and that he had been accused -- by name -- of airing resentments rather than offering Issues and Concerns. Wouldn't his resentments be between him and his sponsor and him and his Higher Power?</p> <p>But even if the GSB had effectively read this member's mind, the long form of DA's Tradition One -- that's the common welfare, personal recovery, and unity one -- says that:</p> <p>"When disagreements arise, they are generally addressed in business meetings. Whether these disagreements are simple or complex, collegial or rancorous, our tradition of unity stands us in good stead. Our opinions may vary, and often they do, but as</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>Response from last year:</p> <p>In the interest of equitable attention to all Issues and Concerns, we request a limit of three Issues & Concerns per member, per year. Issues & Concerns will be selected for dissemination and publication at the discretion of the General Service Board based on a number of criteria, i.e. whether the issue has been addressed multiple times already or whether it might be better handled as an inquiry to the General Service Office.</p> <p>To see if your Issue & Concern has ever been addressed, please review past Issues & Concerns at the bottom of this webpage.</p> <p>Before publication, Issues & Concerns may be edited for clarity and brevity. If you have a point of view that you feel needs to be expressed in its original form, you are welcome to submit an article to the Ways & Means magazine at www.debtorsanonymous.org/share.</p>

		<p>long as we value the gifts of D.A. recovery, attempt to apply the Traditions as a guide to our behavior and decisions, and trust the group conscience, we will find solutions that keep our group vital and unified."</p> <p>"Rancorous" means "characterized by bitterness or resentment." Unless I've misunderstood, Issues & Concerns are an opportunity for groups and members to contribute topics to the WSC, DA's annual business meeting. So who is the GSB to judge or guess at anyone's motives or the reasons for their participation? Are resentful DA members less welcome to participate in the program? What about resentful GSR and GSB members? Who gets to judge who is "too resentful to participate"? Who is the GSB to ignore and undermine our own conference-approved literature?</p> <p>I'm concerned by the authoritarian tone and activities that have been displayed by our GSB over the past 4 or 5 years. Wasn't the GSB created to serve DA groups and members, rather than the other way around? Why does it feel like the service structure has been turned on its head over the past few years?</p> <p>Back to the new rule, let's please be clear that:</p> <p>"The difference between a demand and a simple request is plain to anyone."</p> <p>This new rule is phrased as a request and, hopefully, that's how it will be applied.</p> <p>Lastly, how will limiting individual members' participation in the Issues & Concerns process create "equitable attention to all Issues and Concerns"? This feels like a justification rather than a reason. Is it?</p>	
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22-10	<p>Assigned to WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p>GSB Finance</p>	<p>Submitted December 7, 2021 by Member [Submitter #9]</p> <p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I've recently been participating in BDA recovery conferences hosted by bdaworkshops.org and helpfordebtors.org and have had an amazing experience of deepening my Step work, my DA/BDA recovery, and my commitment to and confidence in my solvency. I was happy to make their requested contributions for free conference-approved literature and outreach to still-suffering debtors and LOVED the workshops and other conference events I attended.</p> <p>These workshops have helped me more than anything else I've done in this program. With their help, in 2021: I worked all 12 Steps in BDA and am now sponsoring others; I finally feel like I understand the Traditions and Concepts; ALL of the DA promises are coming true in my life; I developed a clear vision for my business in words, numbers, and pictures; and I am starting 2022 with both an annual business plan and a personal spending plan. These two BDA groups helped me with all of these areas of my DA/BDA recovery in ways I didn't even know I needed help or that help was available.</p> <p>My question is: Why is there so much negative chatter about these two BDA groups, often from GSRs?</p> <p>I see the groups listed on the DA/BDA meeting schedule with group numbers, yet I was told by one GSR that they're not even part of DA. Is there a problem with these groups that DA/BDA members should be aware of? Are they doing something wrong?</p> <p>Submitted January 3, 2022 by Member [Submitter #10]</p> <p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>Quick thought:</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>The Issues and Concerns sub-committee of the WSC BDA Committee has looked at 22-10 in detail and met on several occasions to discuss which Traditions may apply to these questions. In the end we discovered the questions about rumors going on in DA are an outside issue (Tradition 10). The BDA committee will not address rumor and innuendo. We agreed it is an outside issue. On the other questions, they would be covered under group autonomy (Tradition 4). The traditions are guidelines and not law, and every group has the right to be wrong.</p>
22-11	<p>Assigned to WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>Quick thought:</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From WSC LitCom:</p>

	<p>and GSB Lit Pub</p>	<p>What if we stopped trying to create our own "Big Book" -- which is a term we would be BORROWING from AA, without asking for or receiving their permission to do -- and instead developed "A Book Within Our Means." That could even be the title.</p> <p>Submitted January 7, 2022 by Member [Submitter #11]</p>	<p>Thank you for your title suggestion. It has been noted by the Literature Committee and Literature Publications.</p> <p>The current working title for this main DA book is "DA Basic Text" not a Big Book.</p> <p>If fellows are calling it a Big Book, that is a common term in many 12 step programs. DA honors all copyright and would only use anything from AA with expressed permission.</p> <p>But Big Book is not intended to be the title of this "Basic Text."</p>
<p>22-12</p>	<p>Assigned to WSC Conference Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a longtime DA member who would like to express my sincere concern about the conference being held in London. I go to a meeting a day and so many meetings are struggling right now on Zoom just to have the resources to solvently handle their meeting expenses and with the spike in Covid, I truly feel it is inconsolable not to make this year virtual.</p> <p>We are not in certain times with the virus and it is so upsetting to me that this conference has not been planned to be virtual all along. It is causing a lot of stress in many of the meetings and it;'s so upsetting to witness.</p> <p>The first tradition reminds us about Unity and what is best for DA and BDA as a whole.</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From WSC Conference Committee:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission! We can assure the submitter that the decision to hold the annual World Service Conference in person in 2022 was in compliance with the Charter of the World Service Conference and was made with the Concepts for Service fully in mind and for the benefit of Debtors Anonymous as a whole. We believe the conference in London demonstrated the benefits to the Fellowship of having an annual in-person gathering of the Fellowship and, for the first time, doing so outside the United States. Paragraph 6 of our Charter requires an in-person annual gathering. While that was waived by the General Service Board in 2020 and 2021 due to the emergency conditions that existed, making an in-person Conference impossible those years, there was no need for such waiver in 2022. For a number of years, the Conference has considered changing the nature of our annual</p>

		<p>I truly pray you all consider how unmanageable it is to still be planning an in person conference in the Uk and not going ahead and making it virtual as well.</p> <p>It is very disheartening to witness the hubris and ego to not plan it to have the virtual component as an official way to attend. You are not considering what is best for the fellowship as a whole and we are in new times DA must deal with solvently and lovingly.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Submitted January 16, 2022 by Member [Submitter #12]</p>	<p>Conference, but it appears a substantial majority of the Fellowship believes an annual week-long gathering of our world-wide Fellowship helps strengthen Debtors Anonymous.</p>
<p>22-13</p>	<p>Assigned to WSC Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I just received the email announcement regarding the February 12, 2022 event, "Getting HIP for Service." At first I thought the title was eluding to having fun doing service. Quite the opposite. Though I understand perhaps impulse for using catchy acronyms, this one I take offense to. There is nothing "HIP"/hip about being confined in a hospital, institution or prison. It is actually an insult and makes light of those who are in those establishments. May I suggest at the very least this: H.I.&P. It is more professional and less innocuous. I also noticed on the flyer a cartoon representing two hippies from the 1960s, with a sign "make love not war." Those two caricatures associated with this event and its topic, are inappropriate and offensive. They do not speak to debting, but rather drugs and alcoholic, for starters. I believe these caricatures along with their sign, "make love not war," is a violation of our 10th Tradition. It is a complete outside issue. My hope is, future announcements to events (wording) and their accompanying flyers (graphics), are taken into better consideration and carefully scrutinized.</p> <p>Submitted January 26, 2022 by Max, New York [Submitter #13]</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From the WSC HIP Committee:</p> <p>Thank you for your thoughtful email and for allowing us to address this with you, directly.</p> <p>As we are currently in attendance of the World Service Conference, we can express that committees (in general) struggle to have enough bodies in which to volunteer, and the harder task is attracting DA members to become interested in the areas that need outreach, particularly Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP).</p> <p>We agree with your assertion that this could have been presented in a more sensitive manner and, regardless of intention, we fully understand how this garnered a negative reaction upon being seen, as all areas that this committee covers are deeply personal and (often) deeply emotional. As we are now a new Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) Committee, most of us did not see the flier and also did not design it.</p>

			<p>We agree that the “Make Love, Not War” clip art addition to the flier would have been better served by not being added at all.</p> <p>We appreciate your honesty. In order to better explain the intention, we were told that the HIP Committee put out this flier in an attempt to attract interest in the committee, and in NO way to make light of the areas that this group covers.</p> <p>HIP (the acronym) is not meant to be insensitive to the difficult nature of these areas (and those that are confined to any of them), it is simply used for brevity.</p> <p>Whilst we cannot know what the exact process was in the previous service year, our 2022/2023 HIP Committee is extremely passionate about reaching out to these communities and being as sensitive as possible for all flyers/methods of communication going forward.</p> <p>In DA Service,</p> <p>The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons Committee for 2022/2023</p>
<p>22-14</p>	<p>Assigned to WSC Literature Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern January, 2022. Hello! I have one focus.</p> <p>1) The topic of Young People DA -- I would like to see a publication and/or online writing directed to potential DAs who are 30 or younger. This demographic can be 17-30 who are facing student loan repayment (both undergrad and possible/actual graduate loan repayment); first car loan repayment, first home mortgage, etc.</p>	<p>Response: The following motion passed unanimously at the 2022 World Service Conference: “The Literature Committee moves to create an outline for a Voices pamphlet of Young People’s Experience, Strength, and Hope.”</p> <p>The Literature Committee is currently working on the outline for this pamphlet, listing issues young people face such as finance knowledge, home life, ebt from school,</p>

		<p>I happen to be a Baby Boomer, and actually never have had serious debt in this arena. But as a person in recovery at 25! it would have offered thoughtful information to ponder.</p> <p>Submitted January 26, 2022 by Jan H. [Submitter #14]</p>	<p>Credit Cards, and noting that DA offers solutions to people of all ages.</p>
<p>22-15</p>	<p>Assigned to GSB Communications & Technology Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I was checking a webpage on the DA website, looking for the wording for the "word to newcomers" paragraph that was revised and approved in 2017. [https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/]</p> <p>Last sentence: "...we hope you will join us on the path of recovery and find the peace, joy, and love..."</p> <p>However, this is the text that was sent around way back in 2017. Note the difference in the last sentence: "...we hope you will join us on the path of recovery and find the joy, clarity, and serenity..." This phrase matches The Word to Newcomers language, which uses "...joy, clarity, and serenity..." [Final approval date: August 28, 2016, "A Word to Newcomers" corrected on June 4, 2017]</p> <p>Can you clarify this discrepancy for us? Several of the groups I attend are in the process of revising their meeting formats and it would be helpful to support the conference-approved language. If the website is not current, maybe someone could tackle that update at some point soon. In general, we've noticed that the website language is sometimes different from what has been published in the Currency of Hope. I understand the website should be the most current, but it would be really reassuring if we kept the good grammar from the COH when updating the website language. In the Promises, in particular,</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From GSB Communications and Technology Committee:</p> <p>Thank you for your suggestions of uniforming the language. We are in the process of checking and correcting the website text.</p>

		<p>"...have faith and guidance that THEY will come," would be grammatically preferable. Thanks for your service.</p> <p>Submitted February 19, 2022 by Carol, Portland/Tucson [Submitter #15]</p>	
22-16	<p>Assigned to GSB Finance Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern Does DA have a non-profit status for a group to use so they can use it to open a bank account for a Zoom meetings contributions?</p> <p>Submitted February 26, 2022 by Brianna [Submitter #16]</p>	<p>Response: From the GSB Finance Committee:</p> <p>Thank you for your Issue and Concern regarding setting up a group bank account. Each group must set up their own accounts as we are all separate entities to the IRS. While Debtors Anonymous does not offer guidelines on the process for applying for tax-exempt status, there is a brochure available on the IRS website detailing the process. The brochure is titled, "APPLYING for 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Status" Publication 4220. The brochure details the why and how for applying for tax-exempt status. We hope this information is helpful. Thank you, GSB Finance Committee</p>
22-17	<p>Assigned to WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee</p>	<p>Issue & Concern No longer BODA, could we please lose the "Business Owner" designation, switching to business debting, business solvency, and recovery in our business and work lives?</p> <p>I for one have found BDA a significant source of spiritual guidance in earning a living as an independent contractor, and I've seen many recovering debtors who are employed put the BDA Tools and principles to work at work.</p> <p>In my experience, DA and BDA together are one whole recovery program, and either on its own is half of a program. DA has completely changed my spending, BDA has completely changed my earnings, both have given me solvency and help me to protect it, and both have allowed me to surrender all of my life</p>	<p>Response: The WSC Business Debtors Anonymous committee thanks you for your submittal. As you may already know, the BODA designation was not changed because of the issue of it being for Business Owners. In fact, there was a trademark issue and Debtors Anonymous chose to change the name to prevent others from using our designation of Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) in the future without authorization. This prevents confusion among suffering debtors on whether the materials they are looking at come from Debtors Anonymous or some other group using the same designation.</p> <p>That being said, we appreciate hearing from you that using the Debtors Anonymous program has been able to bring the</p>

		<p>to my Higher Power. Neither half of the program could have done as much for me without the other.</p> <p>Submitted March 17, 2022 by Bob, Seattle [Submitter #17]</p>	<p>surrender you needed to your life. However, the committee does not see a separation you make between D.A. and BDA. The program of Debtors Anonymous contains individuals who have issues with personal debting as well as persons who have issues with business debting. The program is still Debtors Anonymous. The designation for Business Debtors Anonymous is to bring forth extra tools and specific modifications on how the D.A. program can also be used in your business life. We do not see however how the two can be brought together for everyone, as not everyone is a business owner or has business debting issues. But we appreciate your reiteration that D.A. is the program of Recovery and BDA is a part of that program.</p>
22-18	Assigned to GSB	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I am serving on the Lit Comm Committee in 2021-2022. We were assigned 12 issues and concerns to respond to. It seemed to be an unwieldy amount of concerns to address and the committee took a lot of time trying to figure out how to even approach coming up with responses. In the end we had to extend the deadline about three times to get our responses in. I am wondering if the Board has provided guidance on how committees can approach responding to issues of concerns, and if not, whether more guidance could be provided in the future. I also wonder if it is possible to limit the number of issues and concerns assigned to any one committee.</p> <p>Submitted March 20, 2022 by Annie [Submitter #18]</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>GSB Response:</p> <p>While the GSB has recommended limiting the number of Issues and Concerns submitted by a single member in one year, the board has not limited the number that could potentially be assigned to a specific committee, and has no plans to change that. As the Fellowship is growing, the amount and variety of Conference Approved literature is increasing. As literature increases, we see the literature continue to develop and evolve. We welcome the input and recommendations from the Fellowship to keep our literature current and be able to reach as many people as need the program.</p>
22-19	Assigned to GSB Finance Committee	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>I am Co-Chair of the NorCal GSR Area Group and am writing on behalf of our group to request clarity about the non-profit status of Debtors Anonymous and whether donations made to the General Service Office (GSO)/General Service Board (GSB)</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From the GSB Finance Committee:</p>

		<p>are tax deductible. Currently the DA website just says that donations "might" be deductible in the U.S. without any mention of its 501(c)3 status.</p> <p>When I exchanged emails with the WSO inquiring about the tax deductible status of DA donations, I was told that I should consult with my accountant, but the first thing my accountant needed to know was the non-profit status of DA, and not just to know it, but have proof of it. Our group suggests that the 501(c)3 status of DA, and other relevant information regarding its tax-deductible status, be made readily available and clearly posted on the DA website.</p> <p>In a 2018 request for end of the year donations to DA, a flyer contained the following language that might serve as a starting point for developing language for the website.</p> <p>"Debtors Anonymous, Inc. is a U.S. 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Please note that 100% of any charitable contribution made by a U.S. federal taxpayer to Debtors Anonymous, Inc. may under certain circumstances be treated as a valid federal income tax deduction and reduce 2018 U.S. federal income tax liability."</p> <p>Submitted March 28, 2022 by Annie, NorCal GSR Area Group [Submitter #19]</p>	<p>Thank you for your questions. We will add language that the 501 (c) (3) status refers to the General Service Board Inc. only and each group must obtain their own determination to call themselves tax exempt.</p> <p>The Board believes your suggestion for using the 2018 language is one that is correct and consistent with what we can put on the D.A. web site, However, updating this as United States law and IRS regulations change would be impossible to interpret for individual groups. We will add a sentence to check with your individual tax advisor, but plan to use most of this language. Thank you for the excellent suggestion.</p>
<p>22-20</p>	<p>Assigned to WSC Intergroup Caucus</p>	<p>Issue & Concern We are (1) of three (3) D.A. Intergroups who support D.A. groups that meet solely via telephone or other virtual means:</p> <p>DATIG DA Telephone Intergroup (#1353)</p> <p>DA HOW Phone Meeting Intergroup (#141022)</p>	<p>Response: We of the Intergroup Caucus responds to the Issue & Concern 2022 in the following way:</p> <p>A DA HOW and BDA Phone meeting intergroup serves only groups who are of those special interests.</p>

	<p>Virtual Intergroup for Brazil DA ONLINE (#7684)</p> <p>We have served our virtual meetings for (7) years since we received our Intergroup designation in 2015. The reasons our D.A. groups joined together are as varied as our members, but the unifying force is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt and to help support each other.</p> <p>Recently, a D.A. representative notified us that we would not be allowed to re-register as a D.A. Intergroup because we do not meet the qualifications to be recognized as a D.A. Intergroup.</p> <p>We adamantly disagree with that interpretation. Section 1 – Introduction to D.A. Intergroups of the Intergroup Service Handbook for Debtors Anonymous (ISHDA) states that “An Intergroup can also serve the needs of members who attend meetings on the telephone (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG), or on the internet.”</p> <p>The guidance states that a D.A. intergroup can form to serve the needs of members who attend meetings virtually. It does not state that all telephone or virtual groups must belong to only one virtual intergroup (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG).</p> <p>We ask that we be allowed to continue our service as a D.A. Intergroup until the D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) can clarify what the qualifications are for forming a virtual D.A. Intergroup. The guidance on telephone and virtual D.A. Intergroups is not substantial nor clear enough to meet the needs of the fellowship.</p> <p>This topic is of growing relevance since the current health restrictions have contributed significantly to the growth of telephone & virtual meetings. Many, if not most, D.A. members</p>	<p>“An Intergroup can also serve the needs of members who attend meetings on the telephone (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG), or on the internet.”</p> <p>The Virtual Intergroup must be open to all groups who are virtual and not just those serving special interests</p> <p>“With global changes affecting the way we run our meetings and the sudden change to virtual meetings, we are discussing how intergroups might evolve to meet the needs of groups in this new ‘territory’.</p> <p>The intergroup caucus is working on a survey of intergroups which is a precursor to making recommendations about how to define an intergroup.</p>
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		<p>how intergroups might evolve to meet the needs of groups in this new 'territory'.</p> <p>...Discussions about the role of intergroups in the structure of D.A. and regionalisation are ongoing.”</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration to this matter and your service. We greatly appreciate it.</p> <p>Submitted April 1, 2022 by Domingo, DA HOW Phone Intergroup, San Dimas CA [Submitter #20]</p>	
22-21	<p>Assigned to WSC Literature Committee,</p> <p>WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus</p> <p>GSB Literature Publications</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>We, three long-term members of D.A., have been meeting regularly to review the literature of D.A. and reflect on how we can continue to not debt one day at a time as we age and either choose to or can no longer work. By the grace of the program, we have paid off our debts, built cash reserves, and have prudent reserves/ savings for retirement.</p> <p>Yet, we are seeking more guidance from D.A. on how to achieve life-long solvency, especially given rising costs for health care and senior housing, as well as the ramifications of inflation and diminishing purchase power.</p> <p>Thank you for your service.</p> <p>Submitted April 1, 2022 by Jean C., Mary Ann S., and Bob U. [Submitter #21]</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>From WSC Literature Committee:</p> <p>The Literature Committee is currently collecting stories from members with experience on this subject. Watch for where to submit stories regarding: Retirement: Forever Young: Aging solvently without incurring unsecured debt. How do people use DA recovery in retirement? Awareness of how all cultures around the world discuss this time of life. Sharing experience, strength, and hope with the DA solution.</p>
22-22	<p>Assigned to GSB Lit Pub.</p>	<p>Issue & Concern</p> <p>"The Numbers: One Approach" pamphlet uses the gendered term "maid" within the Housing category. Please change this to a gender-neutral term, such as "house cleaning"—both in the printed pamphlet and in the forthcoming electronic version of the spreadsheet. Thank you!</p>	<p>Response:</p> <p>The Literature Committee is currently collecting stories from members with experience on this subject. Watch for where to submit stories regarding: Retirement: Forever Young: Aging solvently without incurring unsecured debt. How do people use DA recovery in retirement? Awareness of how all cultures around the world discuss this time of life.</p>

