

# Ways & Means

A Quarterly Newsletter For The Fellowship Of Debtors Anonymous

Third Quarter 2008

## Newsletters Help To Carry The Message From DA's Early Years To The Present

**T**wenty-three years ago, Anni W. had a dream.

The fledgling fellowship of Debtors Anonymous consisted of only a handful of meetings in four major cities. Although DA was poised for tremendous growth in the next few years, communication in 1985 between meetings in New York and Los Angeles, Washington DC, and Boston, DA's four early centers, was difficult and sporadic. Someone, or something, had to inform the fellowship, unite it, knit it together. Someone had to create DA's first national newsletter.

A debtor from Eastern Massachusetts, Anni, who was later known in the fellowship as Elianna, had discovered DA on an out-of-town trip, and had returned to her home fired up with the DA message. Determined to build DA in Boston, she started meetings, organized recovery events, and published a nameless, two-page, local DA newsletter. Her boundless energy brought her to the attention of the DA General Service Board, which elected her a trustee in 1985. It was a fortuitous election, because she was precisely the right person for the job at the right time. Just months before, the GSB had created a Newsletter Committee, which had foundered for lack of the skills actually needed to produce such a publication.

Anni became DA's first periodical writer, editor, and historian. During the latter part of 1985, she lobbied the perennially broke board for the funds to get the newsletter off the ground. The first is-

ssue of Newsletter To The Groups rolled off the press in January 1986. (The working title had originally been "Final Notice", but that chilling reference to the kind of dunning notices debtors receive made another name preferable).

The Newsletter To The Groups, though, scarcely resembled a conventional newsletter. It was plain text with no graphics designed specifically to be read by the secretary of each DA meeting during the announcement period, bringing national DA news to each group at the end of each month. When this didn't happen, except in Boston, Anni was heartbroken. The GSB minutes of the time reflect her disappointment that group secretaries around the country weren't cooperating in that fashion.

And so the Newsletter To The Groups went back to the drawing board, adopting more of a newsletter "look",

*(Continued on page 9)*

### Anniversary Issue

Twenty years ago, the first issue of Ways & Means, dated July/August 1988 rolled off the press and into DA history. Two decades later, the newsletter is produced four times a year instead of six and is an Internet-only rather than a printed publication, but it's still dedicated to carrying the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. This special anniversary issue contains stories and news briefs from all periods of its history, as well as the history of the publication itself and other DA newsletters.

## Ways & Means

Celebrating 20 Years  
1988-2008

Ways & Means, an electronic meeting in print for the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous, is published quarterly by the DA General Service Board. It is a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of DA members, groups, and other service bodies. Articles are not intended to be statements of DA policy, nor does publication constitute or imply endorsement by DA as a whole, the DA General Service Board, or Ways & Means.

A PDF version of the Ways & Means can be downloaded free of charge from the world service website [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). Multiple copies may also be downloaded for distribution at meetings. The newsletter may also be distributed electronically via an e-mail subscriber list.

Submissions from readers on any aspect of DA recovery or service are welcome. If chosen, submissions will become the property of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, and will not be returned. As with all DA publications, everyone submitting writing, artwork, or other creative work will be required to sign a standard publishing release form granting rights to the work to DA and releasing DA from legal liability. Those submitting work to Ways & Means automatically acknowledge that they will not receive compensation for their work, and that the work may be viewed by an unknown number of readers in unknown locations.

Please submit work by e-mail to [waysandmeansda@hotmail.com](mailto:waysandmeansda@hotmail.com), or in hard copy form by mail to Ways & Means, c/o DA General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass 02492. Include your full name and mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. (This information will be kept confidential). Story ideas and questions should be sent to the same addresses.

Editing and layout for Ways & Means are done by the Communications Committee of the DA General Service Board.

## DA Members Share From The Heart In Two Decades Of Recovery Writing

**T**wenty years worth of experience, strength, and hope.

It's been an adventure, these past few months, reading through two decades of back issues of Ways & Means in preparation for this 20th Anniversary Issue. Twenty years of the fellowship's history, of changing language, newsletter design, and type styles, 20 years worth of the soul sickness of this disease of compulsive debting, and 20 years worth of the joy of DA recovery.

Reading these hundreds of pages (longer than most books) and dozens of issues has allowed me to pick out some wonderful stories from those years to share with you. It's also allowed me to pick up some impressions about the state of journalism and sharing here in Debtors Anonymous.

First, I'm struck by how difficult, nearly impossible, it is to find stories like these anywhere else. Other than DA's book *A Currency Of Hope*, there are few places that speak "the language of the heart" to compulsive debtors like the DA members who share here in our "meeting in print."

When we read a story in Ways & Means it is as Elaine S. describes her first face-to-face DA meeting in a story later in this issue, "I heard this woman share her experience, strength, and hope; she and the others who shared spoke about money and their lives as I have never heard anyone else speak, but exactly as I thought, spoke, and lived!"

Second, I am amazed at how bright, how talented, how capable so many of us are in Debtors Anonymous, creative people who, thanks to this program, have begun to liberate their inner gifts and share them with others; people who've overcome the deep shame that comes with this disease and begun to write about their recovery.

But third, I am dismayed by how few of us have done that. The simple fact is that, although there has been some wonderful sharing in these pages, it's been done by a very dedicated but very small group of the same few people, year after year.

Virtually every person ever to serve as editor of Ways & Means, and there have

been many over the years, has left behind written evidence of their frustration and bitterness over the unwillingness of DA members to write stories for the newsletter. Hundreds of impassioned pleas have gone out over the years, almost always with little response. Many editors ended up filling the pages with stories written themselves, or by a small, dedicated group of trustees, GSRs, and office employees, who would step up to the plate time after time after time.

In his famous 1991 keynote speech to the World Service Conference, DA founder John H. said, "Here tonight in this room are some of the greatest writers, architects, artists, lawyers, and therapists that exist in the world." But he went on to say, "But there still remains this cloud over DA, this shadow of doubt and ambivalence and shame and blame," a cloud that keeps us from being all we could be and dream in our hearts of being.

John's prayer that night, and his vision for DA as a whole, was that "we be freed as this shadow is lifted so that we can all march out and do what we were created to do."

Ways & Means was founded in the early days of our fellowship to give voice to those prayers, to share the adventure of reclaiming our integrity and releasing that shame and blame by sharing, each with one another. The founders of the newsletter saw the need for a forum in which the joy of recovery, the excitement of living debt free, the spiritual awakening that comes as a result of working the 12 Steps, could be shared with our membership, issue after issue, year after year.

I'm deeply grateful to all the DA members who've shared their stories in this newsletter over the past 20 years, and my wish for DA, my vision for Ways & Means is that this shadow be lifted from many more of us so that the incredible recovery and creativity to be found in this program will fill many more pages and inspire new generations of DA members in the 20 years ahead.

—Anonymous

## 13 Years Of Not Debting And ‘Different Attitudes’

March/April 1989

John H., our founder, sat down in 1976 with a man named Danny to talk about his compulsive debting, and they helped each other to become solvent. John has told us of the early days of DA, wondering whether anyone would show up for meetings, and of the challenge of developing the tools and keeping faith that there were other compulsive debtors who would respond and recover in the program...and people did start to come, and kept coming back.

I remember those early business meetings in St. Ignatius Church in New York City before we even had a Board of Trustees. As compulsive debtors, we didn't think we could manage business effectively, but John kept us all believing in ourselves, and eventually we started becoming more confident and solid as a group. Thus DA became a healthy toddler.

I personally found DA on Tuesday, March 25, 1980, when it was four years old and there were a total of five meetings in the entire world, all in churches in New York City, a nucleus of 25 people who kept coming consistently.

We were all in awe of John H. One of our early members, Colin S., affectionately and facetiously coined a phrase about him which was as follows: "We turn our will and our lives over to the care of John as we understand him!" In fact, the first person who held out his hand to me

when I entered my first meeting was this same Colin S. John wasn't there that day. There were about six other people who are still in DA today who were sitting in that room almost nine years ago.

I was desperate with fear, suicidal, and barely functioning. I realized as the meeting proceeded that I had finally come home. I knew I belonged in that room as I listened to the sharing. My sense of relief and hope was enormous.

When I had been in the program for only about three or four days, an incident occurred that I will never forget, because in a nutshell I think it sums up the character of the man who founded DA—his intelligence, vision, deep spiritual nature, and true compassion.

I could not wait to get to meetings, and one Friday afternoon I turned up at St. Patrick's Cathedral Parish House, only to find out that the meetings had been cancelled. Someone had left two telephone numbers to call if anyone needed to talk after they found out no meeting was to take place that day. So I headed straight for a telephone and was walking along Madison Avenue when I bumped into Colin. He told me John H. had left those numbers and that he was the founder of DA. We chatted for a few minutes and then I rushed on to make that call.

Sure enough I reached John and he asked, "How bad is it?," to which I replied, "Chronic and awful." Then he said, "Where are you?" I told him

I'd just left St. Patrick's, so he suggested we meet at a restaurant nearby on Madison. He said he'd be over in 10 to 15 minutes. I had just come through an entire month of terror and isolation, walking around with a yellow bandana on my head because I was too depressed to wash my hair. I had torn stockings and was totally disheveled, but I couldn't have cared less. Needless to say, I felt rather embarrassed walking into that restaurant to meet a total stranger to talk about something of which I was so ashamed.

We sat in a booth and I blurted out my whole story, sobbing along the way. John just sat there and listened and seemed to understand everything that I was talking about. I didn't have to "translate" a thing, and when I finished about three hours later, he wrote something down on a piece of paper and pushed it over the table toward me and said, "You know, when I was coming over here in the cab, I was thinking about these words..." and on the piece of paper it said: "There is enough."

That simply confused and annoyed me. How could he say there's enough when I'm dying and don't have any money left and I'm in a panic over the terrible lack? What a strange thing to say. How can there ever be enough, I thought...

But I couldn't get over the fact that this total stranger had stopped working in the middle

*(Continued on page 11)*

# How Debting Kept My Life From Happening

Winter 1990-1991

**E**ver since I was young I was a whiz in math. I got good grades on tests and aced every class. Math was always easy for me, as long as it wasn't in my checkbook.

As I began to manage my own money the confusion set in, and all of a sudden it was like I couldn't add two and two. I'd sit down with my checkbook and add and subtract with my super deluxe pocket calculator, and after a time I'd finally have to quit thinking that I could ever balance to the bank. My "committee" had plenty of explanations for this inability, most of them having to do with my incompetence and inability to participate in the world on any level. Over time my checkbook and my finances became an area of shame and embarrassment. My checking statement became a monthly reminder that I wasn't good enough and that my "committee" and all "those people" who said I'd never make it were right. I had sabotaged myself to create proof that I wasn't good enough.

When I arrived in DA I heard that "it's not the money," and somewhere down inside I knew they were right. I was told that all I had to do was to trust God and work the program to the best of my ability. I recorded my daily expenditures and kept records as best I

could. I did pretty well after a time, just because I didn't give up the first or second time I "forgot" to write something down. I knew I was fighting an uphill battle against my "committee" and against all of those deeply rooted negative messages many of us seem to have acquired over time. I just refused to surrender over an occasional setback. I just couldn't do that to myself. I knew this program had the answer to my debting insanity, so I just kept putting one foot in front of another.

After a time, by using the tools, I had calmed down enough of the whirlwind of finance that I could begin to work the Steps. The Steps have been a slow process for me, but this is when the major miracles began occurring in my life. After I began working the Steps, my checkbook began to balance with less and less of a struggle, my debts got paid off, I lost much of my compulsiveness about money, calmness set in. I was beginning to live a 12-Step way of life.

What this means for me is that I have free time where no troubles, worries, or shame are hanging over my head, time that I don't have to use worrying about work or payments or budgets or any of the other things I used to worry about. The only way I can describe it is to say that this time feels clean. It's time to do with as I please; I've earned it. The 12 Steps have and are cleaning up my life.

I got to begin the process of finding out what I wanted to do when I finally discovered that I had the time to do whatever I wanted. Walk on the beach? Read a book? Go for a drive? I hadn't ever done any of that before (unless, of course, YOU wanted to, but that's another story!) I've gotten to take the time to begin to uncover not only my likes and dislikes, but also my vision (I never allowed myself one before--too many other obligations to fulfill.) It's quite an adventure, not scary, just wonderful. DA has helped me get enough recovery to discover how to make the world a banquet, and now I'm feasting. I'm feeling safe and free.

One thing I always have said about DA recovery is that I love it because you can touch so many of the miracles. You can see them in black and white. A new car, a bill paid in full, a class taken to begin a dream, even a shift in attitude that impacts a life; recovery is tangible here. One miracle I've noticed in my own life is the process I go through every month now with my checkbook. When the statement arrives I open it, sit down, and balance my checkbook, to the bank, to the penny. First try, every try. Sometimes I don't even use the super deluxe calculator. Do I love DA? You bet I do!

—Richard C.  
Los Angeles

## A Non-Debtor Views DA From An Inside Perspective

Winter 1992-1993

**A**bout 1983 I had a call from a most extraordinary man who has since become a good friend. John introduced himself as a member of the Debtors Anonymous Board of Trustees (I subsequently learned that he was a founder), and he told me the board was looking for someone to serve as a Class B, non-DA member trustee, and that a mutual friend had given him my name in light of my experience as a member of another, much larger 12-Step fellowship. Several meetings followed during which we discussed the commitment involved, and I tried to figure out whether the DA program made any sense at all.

As a result of John's enthusiasm and ability to articulate what DA is, I came to understand compulsive debting and to believe that the DA program could provide help. Then, and repeatedly through the ensuing years, I recognized that I have had close friends, some of whom had made wonderful recoveries in other 12-Step programs, that suffered greatly from the problem of compulsively incurring unsecured debt.

I agreed to join the DA Board in 1984. At the time there about 30 groups in essentially four metropolitan areas. DA now has over 300 groups in 39 states and six for-

eign countries, many in locations in which there was not one recovering debtor in 1984.

Looking back to those first years of service on the board, I witnessed a few things that seem to me truly remarkable. First was the courage of John H., Donald A., Leila B., Joan S., Jim C., and John C. and others to establish a national board in such a young and tiny fellowship. Their faith and vision strike me as incredible. In those years there was not always a great deal of recovery, at least in terms of length, on the board. There was a lot of turnover, personality conflicts, and emotionalism. Despite these problems, the board never lost its vision of building a DA service structure and DA unity. Frequently the board took two steps forward, one backward, but it always kept the faith.

Second was the determination and daring of the DA Board to create links with the DA groups and the Fellowship it served. This was particularly true with respect to initiating a General Service Conference and the board's willingness and desire to seek guidance from the DA groups through the Conference. AA did not establish a General Service Conference until there were over 100,000 members and groups in every U.S. state and Canadian province. I had grave reservations as to whether a Conference

would work for DA so early on, but it has.

Unquestionably, the most rewarding aspect of my participation in DA has been the opportunity to associate with DA members. You are really very interesting people. Over time, I've arrived at certain generalizations (there are always exceptions) about the personal characteristics of compulsive debtors. Bear in mind that I'm a businessman, not a shrink, and for that reason I'm a little reluctant to make these observations. With that caveat, here they are:

From the beginning, I have been struck by how intelligent DA members are. It once occurred to me that if everyone at the board meeting in which I was sitting were given IQ tests, I would probably wind up in the lower quadrant. I also realize that an unusual number of you are highly educated and hold advanced degrees.


As time went on I also became aware that the debtors I met were generally very creative people, frequently in several areas. At the same time I was amazed and occasionally frustrated to observe that these charming, intelligent, well-educated, and creative folk seem to have some sort of dysfunction involving monetary considera-

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# DA's Publications Evolve Over The Years

**General Service Board**  
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NYC, NY 10025-9992

(212) 595-5175 Mondays 11 am to 4 pm only, please!  
(for internal D.A. business only)



**DEBTORS  
ANONYMOUS.**

**AUGUST 1986**

**NEWSLETTER  
TO THE GROUPS**

volume 1

number 8

In keeping with the ninth tool which reminds us of the importance of D.A. business to our recovery, we will now read the General Service Board Newsletter to the Groups for August.

**Keeping the Fellowship Record:** In addition to 12 Step calls from individuals wanting to get help for themselves, or for family, friends or coworkers, Debtors Anonymous also gets requests from the media wanting to write about us or interview us on radio and tv. The Public Information requests, sometimes from national or international publications, were originally handled by the same D.A.'ers answering local 12 Step calls. This often resulted in unnecessary delays and confusion.

In late 1983 the General Service Board decided there was a need to filter out these Public Information requests and handle them separately. In January 1985 Board member Lella became our Public Information Coordinator and got her first contact a few days later upon her return to L.A. The result was an informative article in a major paper, the Los Angeles Examiner, the following month.

At the September 1985 Fellowship Day a workshop was devoted to setting up a working committee of volunteers. They handle Public Information requests referred to them by Lella, as Coordinator. At that workshop Lella shared information she had gathered from people experienced in doing Public Information work for other programs such as AA and OA. P.I. issues were discussed, including: D.A. members sometimes fearing having a reporter at a meeting and the problem of editors sometimes wanting writers to produce full names of sources to confirm facts.

In the last 20 months Lella and the committee have dealt with more than 30 reporters, resulting in many stories helping to reach the debtor who still suffers. The New York Time Magazine article alone (January '86) resulted in hundreds of letters from fellow debtors.

1986

A newsletter for the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

August/September 1990

## Ways & Means

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- 3 LITERATURE COMMITTEE IS COOLING UP A STORM
- 4 HOW GSO CARRIES THE MESSAGE: Treasurer's Report

**CHICAGO**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**1990**

**Fourth Annual  
World Service Conference**

The 1990 World Service conference of Debtors Anonymous is will be held Friday through Sunday, September 14, 15, and 16 in Chicago, Illinois.


The conference has been expanded this year so that the General Service Representatives will have plenty of time to consider all of the business put before them. Events and meetings are scheduled from Friday morning until early afternoon on Sunday.

All members of Debtors Anonymous are invited and encouraged to attend the many social events and workshops.

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1990

## Ways & Means

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous      2nd Quarter 1993

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### Message from the D.A. General Service Board

**Dear Members of the D.A. Fellowship:**

This is the first of what will be a regular newsletter feature on news from the General Service Board and information about the progress of various committees. Conference committees are still encouraged to send in their own reports for newsletter publication if they would like. We hope that through this regular communication from the GSB we can satisfy the Fellowship's interest and desire to know more of what is going on at the national level throughout the year.

First of all, some board news. This spring, Marjorie M., who has served as the General Service Board Chair for almost five years, retired from the role of Chair and is finishing up her service as a regular member of the Board. On the April GSB conference call, nominations were discussed and L. Mary M. was selected to be the new Chairperson.

I want to acknowledge Marjorie for the tremendous service she has provided in giving leadership to the General Service Board and facilitating the process of communication with the Fellowship, particularly at World Conferences. Having gotten to know her over the past year, I am deeply moved by her love and commitment to service, and her ability to have a vision for the future.

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1993

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## G.S.B. Quarterly News


(A Quarterly Communication Between the General Service Board and Fellowship of D.A.)

### "A CURRENCY OF HOPE" IS ON ITS WAY!!!!!!!!!!

**Coming Soon to a D.A. Group Near You!!!!!!**


Debtors Anonymous will have its first published book available this April, barring any delays in printing. Thanks to donations by members and groups through contributions and from fund-raising events like the \$90 in 90 Days Campaign (which at last count had raised over \$700,000), the book is on track to be published by April. If all goes as planned "A Currency of Hope" will be available for purchase for WISH Week mid-April. You should have received with this mailing order forms to pre-order the book. The General Service Board would like to extend its appreciation to everyone who has contributed towards raising the funds to publish our first book, and a deep, warm and tremendous appreciation to those members of Debtors Anonymous who contributed their time, money and energy since the book began its long journey towards publication back in 1992 to make this dream a reality. "A Currency of Hope", which is a collection of stories submitted by D.A. members, is the first book that Debtors Anonymous will have published. And it certainly is not the last! Currently in the draft stage of development are two more books: "How It Works", which plans to focus on various aspects of working the D.A. program, and D.A.'s "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions". If you are interested in submitting your written ideas, comments or suggestions for either of these books, please email

Jimmy W. at dumbdond@slip.net



**WISH Week 1999!!!!!!**

Last year's first-ever WISH Week was successful in raising funds towards the D.A. Recovery Book and in maintaining (not to mention moving) the General Service Office of Debtors Anonymous. WISH, which stands for Week of International Support and Hope, will happen April 12-18th. It was originated last year not only to raise funds, but to honor the founding of Debtors Anonymous on April 16, 1978. Groups are encouraged to hold exciting, fun events such as Treasure Mapping, making Stop Three God Boxes, Talent Shows, Yard Sale, etc. One very creative group in San Francisco plans to hold a Ghost Picnic, where members decide on a dish to bring, as if they were going on a picnic, but instead of actually making the dish, donate the amount of money it would have cost to buy the ingredients. Then, on the day of the scheduled Ghost Picnic, members share their recipes for the items they "brought" for the picnic. Very clever and very low maintenance!



**The 1999 World Service Conference Dates and Location Have Been Set**

This year's conference will be held at the Craigville Conference Center in Craigville, Massachusetts on Cape Cod beginning Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> through Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. GSRs and ISRs should make travel arrangements to fly into either Providence, Rhode Island or to Boston, Massachusetts. From there you can take a bus to Hyannis. Please remember that the convention will take place on Wednesday, so plan your return trip late Wednesday.

**OFFICE MEMO**

Call it Murphy's Law, call it the Fickle Hand of Fate, call it our Higher Power's sense of humor, or whatever but this next bit is bound to get a groan out of at least some of you. The Post Office has decided to change our new post office address (which, incidentally, is less than a year old). The new address is:

World Service Office  
P.O. Box 920888  
Needham, MA  
02492-0009

Please make a note of this and announce it at all the meetings that you attend.

1999

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# Ways & Means

A Newsletter For The Fellowship Of Debtors Anonymous Spring 2002

## Trustees Have Vision Of A Vibrant D.A.

A vision of a growing, vibrant fellowship, prosperous enough to provide a full range of services for its members and groups, and firmly anchored in a growing spirituality, has been embraced by the trustees of D.A.'s General Service Board.

The vision, unveiled at last summer's World Service Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, calls for an unprecedented level of growth in membership, spending, services, and maturity over the next three years. It also calls for a "paradigm shift" aimed at encouraging individual members and the fellowship as a whole to think in terms of prosperity generated as a result of spiritual growth and development. In laying out their vision to the fellowship's GSRs and ISRs at the opening convocation, trustees identified three major long-range goals as a focus through the end of the year 2004 and beyond.

The goals are:

**Attraction:** To attract still-suffering compulsive debtors to recovery in D.A. in greater numbers than ever before.

**Retention:** To keep long-time members actively engaged in the mission of D.A. to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers.

**Resources:** By December 31, 2004, to assure that the spiritual and material resources of our members will fully support a well-informed, growing, prosperous fellowship.

The board has outlined dozens of major and minor steps toward those long-range goals over the next three years. Some of the major "target measures" proposed as steps toward those goals include the following:

- An increase in the number of registered D.A. groups from about 460 to 1,000.
- Growth in the percentage of groups contributing to the General Service Office from 50 to 75 percent.
- An increase in the percentage of groups sending a GSR to the World Service Conference from one fifth to one half.
- Expansion of the fellowship's overall spending plan from the current \$112,000 to \$325,000.
- A major shift in the way D.A.

supports itself, from a current 49 percent reliance on literature sales to just 35 percent, and an increase in reliance on group and member contributions, from 48 to 60 percent.

—Growth of the fellowship's "prosperity reserve" from \$20,000 to \$250,000.

—An increase in full-time staff members at the General Service Office in Needham, Mass. from one to three.

—Relocation of the General Service Office to more prosperous and efficient space.

—Further development of the Internet as a major D.A. recovery resource.

—Making certain sponsors and pressure relief groups are available to all D.A. members who want them. Detailed action plans have been developed by the board for implementing all of those goals, and several others. Further details are available from the trustees or GSO.

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**Focus On Prosperity...**

"D.A. should strive continuously to enhance the recovery of each member through gaining a spiritual experience. Our prosperity as individuals and as a fellowship derives from a spiritual approach. Our paradigm shift embraces the concept of prosperity and the spirituality of money"

2002

# WAYS & MEANS

Spring 2003 SPRING SPOTLIGHT: \$2.00

## Using The Tools of D.A.

### How My PRG Touched Me!

Already an addict and alcoholic, I found myself \$150,000 in debt and the clock running out. Before my world imploded and destroyed me completely (and rarely having a good night's sleep anymore), broke-down to a couple of old AA friends who immediately took me to a BDA (BODA at that time) meeting.

Once the guest speaker began, I knew instantly that this was the place I needed to be. After attending more meetings, I realized that this was going to be the program for me! I finally work the 12 steps at long last. I had never heard many of the words or phrases they used in DA in any AA meetings... but I was determined to take it all in and give it the chance to help me.

Fortunately I found a sponsor early on who, to my great astonishment, not only gave me so much of his valuable time, but would never accept my constant thanks for this. He explained to me that allowing him to help me was beneficial to himself as well. It finally made sense to me... so now I thank God for delivering such a wonderful person to aid me with so many of my issues, and of course, not the least, debt!

... virtual strangers... were so graciously going to give of themselves and their time... this was a very new experience...

After going over how important it is to keep my numbers on a daily basis, my sponsor encouraged me to set a pressure relief group or PRG.

I needed two people to sit down with me to go over my numbers... a man and a woman. Under the guidance of standing the nature of my disease and

debt, he advised me to call a woman named Sharon thinking she'd be perfect for me. Initially my response was "I've never met her, have never been at a meeting with her, nor had any experience with her... am I really supposed to call her and ask her to just give me an hour or more of her time?" His answer of course was simply "Yes! I did call her and after talking briefly over the phone, she agreed to be a part of my first PRG. The next slot of the man was going to take a bit more doing and scheduling, but once I had asked the third guy from the list of men my sponsor gave me, he eagerly agreed having only just met me for the first time (the first two had too many scheduling conflicts).

So there I was on my "PRG Day," sitting across the table from two virtual strangers, who were so graciously going to give of themselves and their time... this was a very new experience for me... not just the PRG, but strangers giving of their time, and actually wanting nothing in return.



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A Quarterly Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

2002

# BOARD CALL

Volume 6, Issue 3 Summer 2004

The General Service Board's Newsletter to the Members of D.A.



## Sacramento Busily Prepares for the 18th World Service Conference

By now you should have received your conference registration packet. The Host Committee of Sacramento has been on the ball all year (and even last year) planning to welcome GSRs and ISRs from all over the country and (hopefully) from the world to California's state capital. As they so eloquently put it, "Our host committee is working hard to create a conference environment that fosters productivity, but also provides time and space for personal rejuvenation and fun! The promise of recovery and the beauty of Northern California await you." (And being a resident of Northern California I can certainly vouch for both its beauty and the promise of recovery.) Registration forms and payment need to be received by July 15 to avoid the late registration penalty. If for some reason you haven't received your registration packet, contact the Host Committee via email: da2004wsc@yahoo.com, or phone: (916) 812-7061, where you can leave a message. All calls that are returned will be returned collect. One last comment: this year's conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel. See you there!

The 18th Annual D.A. World Service Conference dates: August 25-29, 2004

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2004

# THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Winter 2006

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## "Meeting by meeting, member by member..." DA Celebrates

Dear Members of Debtors Anonymous, It's our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday! DA was founded by John Henderson in April, 1976, and this is our opportunity to give back. We of the Resource Development Committee are excited about *World Service Month!* During the month of April, meetings and Intergroups across the country will be holding special events in honor of DA's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday and to support DA in carrying the message to the debtor who still suffers. Our vision amount for this year is \$30,000 to celebrate 30 years! ("30 for 30") Please consider serving the fellowship by making a personal contribution and/or helping to plan a special *World Service Month* event in your area. We are suggesting that each DA member contribute \$10.00 (\$2.50 per week, per person) to help us achieve our goal. Prosperous members are encouraged to give more; however, no donation is too small. (Individuals may contribute up to \$5,000 each year.)

Meeting by meeting, member by member, DA fulfills its primary purpose to carry the message to the still suffering debtor. As DA grows, so does its financial need. We look forward to receiving the support of DA members and to serving the fellowship as it continues to grow.

In hope, gratitude, and service, The Resource Development Committee of the 2005 World Service Conference, The General Service Office, and the Trustees of the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

### How to donate to DA

A special envelope is being mailed with this issue of the DA Focus. Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution to the General Service Office by May 30, 2006, so we can designate this contribution correctly to World Service Month. Please make your check payable to DA-GSB and write "World Service Month" in the memo field. You may also use the downloadable donation form on the DA Web site. Be sure to mark the envelope and your contribution "World Service Month."

2006

## From The Beginning, DA Meetings Saved Her Life

December 1994

**I**n writing the title for this qualification, I wondered if it shouldn't be "DA—It's Shown Me How To Live!", because that's how it feels today. But on June 13, 1988, halfway into my first meeting (a beginners' meeting led by my now-sponsor) it felt as though my life had just been saved. I heard this woman share her experience, strength, and hope; she and the others who shared spoke about money and their lives as I have never heard anyone else speak, but exactly as I thought, spoke, and lived! Then and there, I came to believe that Debtors Anonymous could and would save my life, if I didn't debt and if I came to meetings and if I asked for help.

Until that moment, I was heading for hopelessness and doom. I was \$165,000 in debt (although, of course, I didn't know then the exact amount); I was months behind in my maintenance and mortgage (how many months?); I could barely walk, even with a cane, because I'd fallen down a flight of stairs at my new entry-level job in my new change-of-career career and I couldn't get any results (payments) from Workers' Compensation. I was all alone because I was ashamed to tell anyone of my precarious plight (they would abandon me if they knew the truth!); and I was terrified.

But without knowing it, I had taken the First Step that afternoon: I had

taken the monumental risk of sharing honestly—mind you just a tiny-voiced confession to a friend—"I'm a bit worried about money," when she'd called and then asked why I sounded so odd. (I hadn't eaten or left my apartment in two days). Her response was the suggestion that I call DA and ask where I could find a meeting. I'd done that, and now I was "in the rooms" taking the Second Step. (I took the Third Step in the elevator on the way to hire a lawyer to keep me from losing my apartment, without any money to pay him).

I needed rescuing, and I got it from my Higher Power, whom I choose to call God, right away. I abstained from debting one minute, one day at a time. I was invited out to breakfast the next morning. Then a member of the Fellowship asked me to do a free-lance project after I shared at my next meeting. I found a sponsor, a pressure team. I took every suggestion I could, and prayed—page 165 in the Big Book and the Serenity Prayer—when I couldn't. (I now call that the Sixth and Seventh Steps). I continued not debting, attended meetings, made telephone contact, and on my 90<sup>th</sup> day without debting, I qualified and I accepted a nomination for service as treasurer of that group. I went to a beginners' meeting, a qualification meeting, and a Step meeting per week.

I'd read the Big Book and 12&12 from cover to cover in my first two

weeks, and continued to do so and to ask people with long-term recovery, including doing the 12 Steps with a sponsor, for their points of view. I began my Fourth Step, and then I took my Fifth Step. I took my Sixth and Seventh Steps immediately after. Then, with my Eighth Step list, I began to make amends to those my sponsor had labeled "now," and soon the "laters," "much laters," and "maybe nevers" began to show up in my life, giving me opportunities to grow and change. You got it! I was confused, anxious, insane/sane/insane, hopeful, eager, despairing, and finally humbler, more conscientious, happier, sadder, more joyful, and so, so grateful. I am a grateful compulsive debtor. I have received the lifesaving, life-changing gifts of the 12 Steps, the Tools of DA, sponsors, pressure people and fellow travelers on the path, and almost four years of therapy, all without debting. I am becoming happy, joyous, and free. The Promises (Ninth Step) are materializing for me, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. I am a more solid citizen, more responsible about my financial obligations, more clear about taking prompt action to keep my life manageable. I love my religion and appreciate my early religious education. I see my parents and their "addictions" with more realistic and compassionate eyes.

I feel freer to love and trust my Higher Power, the world, other

*(Continued on page 11)*



### *Ways & Means*

*(Continued from page 1)*

with the DA logo incorporated into a nameplate. It was meant to be read individually, not during meetings, and subscriptions were offered. Each month, Anni would lovingly include every possible snippet of news from every corner of the tiny fellowship. She also began a one-woman effort to preserve DA's history in print, at a time when virtually none of it had been written down.

Anni was astonished when, early in her recovery, she heard DA founder John H. express alarm that no one had recorded DA's early history, and that it was in danger of being lost after just a few years. Resolving to preserve it for posterity, she worked with the fellowship's oldest members to document DA's early days. Her column, "Keeping The Fellowship Record", was one of the most avidly read sections of Newsletter To The Groups. Each month she wrote about some aspect of DA's early years. The surviving newsletters are of incalculable value today, because they contain a great deal of information that has not been recorded anywhere else.

The pace of producing a monthly newsletter took its toll, and in 1987, Anni was forced to cut the newsletter back to bi-monthly publication, where it

would remain until its transformation into Ways & Means. Health issues ultimately led to her resignation from the General Service Board, and a succession of other editors took over the newsletter.

After a few years of publication, DA's trustees began to have a broader vision of a periodical for DA. In addition to pleas for contributions to provide services, and articles on events such as the World Service Conference and details of DA's growth in a dozen cities around the country, there was a demand for recovery articles, a forum for sharing the experiences of individual members as they achieved more years of solvency.

With that in mind, Ways & Means was launched in the summer of 1988, with Trustee Donald A. listed as editor. The first issue was dated July/August 1988, but inexplicably, it was dated Vol. 2, No. 1, an anomaly no one can explain today. It contained a front-page story touting the newsletter's new name and complete redesign, asking for contributions of "stories, poems, quotes (famous ones, or ones heard at meetings), letters and articles with messages of hope, cartoons, appropriate reprints from 12th Step literature, and so forth." For the first time it identified itself on the nameplate as "A newsletter for the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous", a designation that it continues to bear today.

From the very beginning, there were two trends that were to be evident throughout much of Ways & Means' history. First, the editors had great difficulty in getting issues out on time, and second, despite herculean efforts, it was difficult, sometimes nearly impossible, to get DA members to write for it.

The two problems were closely related. Often, an issue would simply not be printed because no one had submitted any stories for it. Dozens of impassioned pleas for submissions would bring little or no response. Editors responded by writing large amounts of copy themselves, or relying on a small number of loyal trustees, GSRs, and others active in service work in DA to turn out copy to fill the pages. In 1991, after having failed for three years to produce the requisite six issues a year, publication was trimmed to quarterly, where it remains today. Even with a deadline every three months, there were years when only two or three issues appeared instead of four, although the GSB always kept its commitment to paid subscribers by delivering them the full number of issues they paid for.

This lack of interest in writing by the fellowship at large bedeviled every editor who served the newsletter over the years. One comment, from the General Service Board minutes in the 1990s,

*(Continued on page 10)*

*Ways & Means**(Continued from page 9)*

is typical of many others: “The bad news is that we are simply not receiving submissions of shares from members, so this issue, like others, we have pulled together on our own. Frankly, I don’t know what to do about it. I am personally unwilling to call up people and constantly ask them to send in a share. To me, that feels like being a creditor for an action; it feels like codependency to bug people about the ‘when’ of things—either they will be accountable or not, to get something done once the need is made known.”

This frustration led to frequent changes of editors over the years. Most editors were trustees on the GSB, while a few were volunteers working under GSB supervision and there was one experiment for a few years with a paid editor. Among the longer-term editors over the years were Richard C., Lee L., Suze G., and Kieran K. Many others served as editor for just one or two issues.

Another frustration over the years was the lack of paid subscribers. Subscriptions rose and fell over time, but never reached more than about 300. Efforts to make and keep Ways & Means self-supporting were a continual thorn in the fellowship’s side.

Despite these problems, Ways & Means has fulfilled the dreams of its founders, at least some of the time. Some brilliant, highly inspired writing has appeared in its

pages over the years: founder John H. detailing the spiritual and emotional growth that led to his recovery, former GSB chair Marjorie M. launching the “visions” movement within DA with an inspired discussion of “next stage recovery”; and an article by a member from Seattle that set off a firestorm of reaction after announcing her reasons for leaving DA.

In 1998, the General Service Board attempted to resolve Ways & Means’ “identity crisis” by spinning off a separate publication that would contain service news and the GSB’s view of the fellowship. The GSB Quarterly News, which later became Board Call and is today known as the DA Focus, freed up much more space in Ways & Means for recovery articles. The move gave each of DA’s two quarterly newsletters its own clearly defined mission and identity.

Ironically, the split into two newsletters almost sank Ways & Means. With few submissions, it became harder and harder to put out an issue. During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the GSB came very close to discontinuing Ways & Means for good. A vote of the World Service Conference in Baltimore in 2001 gave it one year on life support before the plug would be pulled.

But support from the Conference, and belief in the newsletter’s mission would keep it alive until a new incarnation could emerge. At the suggestion of the WSC Fellowship Communications Committee, Ways & Means underwent a meta-

morphosis over the next few years. It became both a print and an online publication, with the online version free to view and download. After the full completion of print issues had been sent to subscribers, the print edition was discontinued, and for the past few years Ways & Means has existed free and online. Web site statistics indicate a high readership, and many groups and individuals download and print out copies for personal and meeting use. Utilizing its new format, the electronic newsletter has a greater readership than ever before.

As Ways & Means enters its third decade, it is going through a period of growth and innovation. In the last year, the number of pages has grown dramatically, from a static 28 per year to more than 40. Articles detailing DA’s history are again appearing after a hiatus of many years, and a new emphasis on “recovery stories,” articles written by people with years of strong DA recovery has sparked new interest. There are plans in the year ahead to begin running photographs of some of DA’s most important historic sites.

Most importantly, Ways & Means still fulfills the dream of Anni W. and the other trusted servants who started it, of bringing the fellowship together in understanding and unity, of providing a forum for members to share their experience, strength, and hope with one another, and as always, of carrying the DA message to the debtor who still suffers.

**From The Beginning***(Continued from page 8)*

people, and myself, because I have the “sober” reference of knowing from my own experience that I can trust ME! I live in Steps 10, 11, and 12, as best as I can, and I accept, enjoy (I am determined to enjoy) my life.

The proof? I’ve now sold my apartment (it came within 12 hours of being auctioned off in foreclosure in 1988), and made or am in the process of making all financial amends. I’ve moved to the other side of my city, and I love it! To my surprise (always!), the more I work the program, the more I change. The more I change, the more I become my true, real, own self, and I love it!

I’m still seeking “right” work, but I know it’s all right as long as I’m in the process of learning HP’s will for me. When I practice the principles in all my affairs, I have more serenity to accept the things I cannot change, more courage to change the things I can, and more wisdom to know the difference.

Trusting, faith, and self-loyalty seem to be my antidote to trouble, turbulence, and self-loathing. My reflexive, defensive thinking and behavior, my heretofore blind spots, are receding. Respect for me and others--all life--is growing. DA saved my life and put my feet on the path to happy destiny!

—Elaine S.  
New York City

**13 Years***(Continued from page 3)*

of a hectic workday in the center of Manhattan, had sat with me for three hours, had understood everything I said, and didn’t seem fazed by it. And most of all, he didn’t judge me.

To this day, I don’t think John knows that I was expecting him to pick up the check when it came, but in fact he paid his own and let me pay mine. In a strange way for me at that time, his action was a compliment, because implicitly he was saying, “You CAN take care of yourself.” It gave me a momentary feeling of self-esteem.

I had the good fortune to have John in my pressure group for the first four or five years in the program, where I was the recipient of a lot of hard lessons and tough love. I gradually developed a new attitude about money. (I’ve always thought that DA should stand for “Different Attitudes.”) I began working the 12 Steps of AA, substituting the word “debt” for alcohol.

It was through John that I truly started to learn and understand about God working in my life, but I kicked and screamed and protested along the way. I argued and wanted proof and was very skeptical, but I followed the suggestions of my pressure group anyway. My life started to change and improve. I am deeply grateful to John H. and to all DA members.

—Joan M.  
New York City

**Article Submissions**

Submissions are now being accepted for the 4th Quarter 2008 issue of Ways & Means, due out in November.

This will be a “regular” issue, for stories on any aspect of DA recovery or service. There is considerable flexibility on article length, which can range from 200 to 1200 words.

All submissions are subject to editing for length and clarity. Deadline for the 4th Quarter issue is October 15, 2008.

To submit an article, send by e-mail to [waysandmeansda@hotmail.com](mailto:waysandmeansda@hotmail.com) or by postal mail to Ways & Means, c/o DA General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass. 02492.

Questions and comments should be directed to the same address.

While articles are welcome on all aspects of personal recovery and DA service, Ways & Means is particularly interested in stories on the following topics: practices that build strong groups and intergroups, the history of DA in your city or state, sponsorship, working the 12 Steps, how members apply the 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts to their recovery, and the personal stories of “longer-timers” who have refrained from incurring unsecured debt for 10 or more consecutive years.

*Non-Debtor's View**(Continued from page 5)*

tions—cash flow, the relationship of what comes in to what goes out, and so forth. A more recent observation is that compulsive debtors often have difficulty finding a career path that utilizes their very considerable talents and provides the rewards, both financial and spiritual, that they seek and deserve. This also seems to be true of pre-DA friends I suspect had a severe debting problem. As DA recovery has progressed, I have happily seen some indication that the program can provide help in this area as well.

Participating in DA from a somewhat detached perspective, it strikes me that the Fellowship is still in the process of defining its singleness of purpose. Some members feel the primary purpose should be rather strictly defined in terms of recovery from unsecured (money) debting. Others talk of “time,” “self,” and “emotional” debting. All of these views were expressed, without acrimony, at the 1991 World Conference. I am confident that if DA members maintain the spirit reflected at the Conference, these questions will at some point be answered. At the same time, recognizing the great need that compulsive money debtors have for the help DA can clearly give them, I feel it is vital that groups retain a focus and not simply try to be all the things that people walking into the doors of DA meetings might want DA to be.

It also seems to me that the way DA “long timers” view their own debting problem will be critical to DA’s survival as a 12-Step fellowship. Will they come to feel, as they achieve solvency, that their problem was a dysfunction, or possibly a defect of character from which they have recovered, or borrowing from AA’s disease concept, a condition that has been arrested but not cured. During a recent board meeting we discussed just what compulsive debting is. One view was that it does not much matter what word is used so long as it is understood that a debtor cannot go back to unsecured debting without risking a return to the hopelessness that brought him or her to DA.

For DA to grow, indeed to survive, as a fellowship offering help to the suffering debtor, members will have to understand and practice DA’s 12 Steps and DA’s 12 Traditions as they work to achieve solvency. This means acknowledging that continuing recovery requires carrying the DA message, in other words, some form of DA service. It means that groups and members will need to appreciate the necessity for DA unity and the idea that a group has but one primary purpose—to carry the DA message. These principles are clearly stated in your 12 Traditions and are implicit in the 12<sup>th</sup> Step.

During my first years on the board I was concerned about the long-term commitment of members once they achieved solvency and even “abundance.” The concern

was twofold: 1) whether recovery would be maintained by those who did not stay involved, and 2) whether DA could meet the challenges of growth and fill the very clear need for its message if it were simply a fellowship of newcomers. Now, down the road a little, I’m far less concerned. I know members who have achieved happy recoveries who talk about their need to stay connected. These long timers have remained active and dedicated in DA service at all levels.

One final observation: DA’s tools are truly remarkable, pragmatic, and effective. They give newcomers a simple focus in their effort to climb out of the abyss of compulsive debt. Simultaneously, DA is a 12-Step program, and I hope that the early concentration on the marvelous Tools will not deter debtors from truly working DA’s Steps for the opportunity to experience the spiritual recovery and the joy to be found in living a life based on the simple principles encompassed in the Steps.

When all is said and done, DA’s Steps simply suggest that compulsive debtors live a life of love and service to the best of their ability, in all areas of their lives. In so doing, I believe DA promises both a way out of financial despair and a means of dealing with the problems that beset all of us who share the human condition.

—George D.  
Tiburon, California

## Remembering Those Who've Gone Before Us...

### We Remember Leila B., Pioneer In California

Leila B., whose life of service ended on September 17, helped to make Debtors Anonymous a truly national fellowship when she started DA in California. She was a trustee on the General Service Board, served on countless pressure groups, was sponsor to dozens of members, and is lovingly remembered by the entire fellowship. Due to illness, she was unable to attend the Washington (World Service) Conference, where she was sorely missed. A memorial service was held for her in New York City on Sunday, October 15 at The Lambs Theater.

(November/December 1989)

### In Memory Of John D., Early Member In LA

John D. passed away in late December 1993. John was one of the first five DA members in Los Angeles.

John established a Sunday meeting at a savings and loan in the posh community of Beverly Hills. As he shared his recovery in his spiritual and financial journey, he attracted people from a long distance. The meeting became "standing room only." We had to have folding chairs donated to seat the crowd. When that building was torn down, he got us a new room. That room, too, would be filled to overflowing. We listened and were inspired about the small spiritual struggles in life: how he worked to eliminate an unwanted habit of buying and eating frozen yogurt; his spiritual

discoveries about hidden assumptions concerning relationships, family, work and earning or debt. We heard truth and remarkable candor to "uncover, discover, discard" blocks to recovery.

John had a standing time each week for giving pressure groups. At least one of the people he helped was able to come from poverty to ownership of her own condo. Another went from sleeping in his car to chief executive officer of a thriving company. John shared his DA recovery with many other audiences, which brought us a stream of newcomers. He personally sponsored many, and met with them weekly to guide and inspire them. As they recovered, they became officers of the meetings and inspired yet others in applying the Steps to their debt problem.

When DA began to have national conferences, John became a representative from Southern California. He worked on the Public Information Committee, helping to carry the message of recovery via radio, TV, and the press. He helped complete the national PI guidebook, attending the 1991 Conference in San Francisco. In 1992, our General Service Board honored John. In the discussions prior to the award, our trustees who live throughout the U.S. could immediately recognize who John was, that he wore sandals as part of his distinctive style, and that he had contributed to our work and had a place in their hearts.

(September 1994)

### Susan P. Of Boston, DA Doer And Dreamer

Susan P., longtime member and GSR of Boston DA and co-chair of last year's World Service Conference died from lung cancer on May 1.

I'd like to say a few words to acknowledge the gifts Susan shared with all of us who knew her. What can I say about my joyful friend? She was a dreamer. She entered, lived, and actively pursued her dreams. She was dedicated to the creation, discovery, and realization of all of our dreams. Once, on her birthday, Susan had her friends to her house to have a pressure group for the Earth. Susan was the first person who gave permission to dream for the sheer power of dreaming. She dreamed of living in a supreme spiritual state. Her whole life was dedicated to taking care of herself, loving herself, and being the person her spirit was meant to be. I pray that we may all be as loving and dedicated to ourselves and to our communities as Susan was to hers.

My knowledge and my prayer is that Susan is as joyous now as she ever dreamed of being, that she is in harmony with the Earth. My knowledge and my prayer is that her energy, at once released and eternal, dances in the universe, drawing us all to our dreams, calling us to ourselves, showing us our way home. May we love ourselves and one another in her memory.

(3rd Quarter 1993)

# Around The Fellowship



## Non-Profit Status

Debtors Anonymous is now officially incorporated as a non-profit corporation by the State of New York. We are awaiting our IRS tax-exempt status, but donations made after the incorporation will be legally deductible. Many thanks to our Legal Committee chaired by Trustee John S. for arranging for this legal work. (Newsletter To The Groups—March 1987)

## First Regional Directory

As of January 1990, listings of meetings and contacts for our 12 regions worldwide are now available from the General Service Office. This information, plus whatever is received by early February, will comprise the first World Meeting Directory. (January/February 1990)

## Audio Tapes Now Available

DA's first literature audio tape is now available for purchase by individuals or groups directly from the General Service Office. This tape is a reading of the basic DA pamphlet and the pamphlet on Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings., and is of excellent sound quality. Tapes will also be available for sale at the World Service Conference.

(2nd Quarter 1993)

## Computer Pals Project

DA members who wish to communicate with each other by the relatively new technology of computers can obtain a confidential list of members available via computer bulletin boards of electronic mail. Write to the General Service Office with the notation "Attention Computer Pals." Please fill out the coupon on page 5 if you wish to be included on this list, or to receive it. Note: DA does not promote or endorse the use of computer networking services. This service is provided via the Fellowship Communications Committee, which also runs a Pen Pals project for those

who wish to communicate by letter or who wish to receive long-distance phone calls.

(September 1994)

## Hope Becomes Reality

After seven years in the making, the first DA book, *A Currency Of Hope*, has been published and is now available. A commemorative first edition is bound in a "prosperity green" hard cover, but only 1,500 copies were printed for a one-time opportunity to support the Fellowship. The limited first edition costs \$20, while a standard paperback edition costs \$11.95. Although no discounts are available on the limited first edition, significant discounts are available for group orders of the paperback.

The 200-page book is the result of seven years of effort by dozens of DA members. It is a collection of 38 personal stories by DA members from all walks of life. Their stories reflect a wide spectrum of DA experience, strength, and hope as they share their road to recovery through the DA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

(Summer 1999)

## Back Issues Wanted

The DA Archives are seeking donation of back issues of *Ways & Means* and other past and present DA publications. Issues of *Ways & Means* from the period 1995-2000 are particularly important, but issues from any year will be accepted. Also being sought are any back issues of the *Newsletter To The Groups*, *GSB Quarterly News*, *Board Call*, and *DA Focus*, as well as any local and regional newsletters. Please send donations to DA General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass. 02492, and mark "For Archives" on the envelope or package.

(3rd Quarter 2008)