

THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

April 2007

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Register your group

Have you registered or re-registered your DA group or Intergroup? Don't forget, the DA meeting list will contain only information on registered meetings. If you would like your group included in the soon-to-be-launched online searchable meeting list, please update your group's information with the General Service Office as soon as possible. All groups and Intergroups are asked to update their information annually.

10 Reasons to Become a Trustee

1. To give back what I've been given.
2. To help DA live, prosper, and grow.
3. To maintain my own recovery.
4. To demonstrate the power of service to transform lives.
5. To understand how our organization operates.
6. To learn how to apply the DA Steps, Traditions, and Concepts to our service work.
7. To gain humility.
8. To practice leadership skills in a spiritual context.
9. To work with trusted servants who are working a rigorous recovery program.
10. To remember always that I am a part of DA and DA is a part of me.

Toronto Welcomes the DA General Service Board

Celsius, Customs, toonies, and snowstorms didn't slow down the work of the DA Trustees as they met at the first-ever GSB face-to-face business meeting on international soil.

DA members of Toronto, Canada, welcomed the DA General Service Board of Trustees (GSB) to Toronto, the site of the GSB's Spring face-to-face (F2F) business meeting. The meeting took place the last weekend of February, 2007.

The eleven DA Trustees journeyed from points around the U.S. After working all day Friday, the Trustees boarded a van for a ride to a special DA meeting in downtown Toronto, organized by the Toronto Intergroup. After the meeting, many of the group walked to a nearby restaurant for dinner and fellowship. The Trustees worked all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon as a snowstorm came rolling up from the South.

The GSB chose Toronto for this year's Spring F2F site as the first step in an effort to reach out to the DA Fellowship in other countries. In recent years, the GSB Spring F2F meeting has been held in Hous-

ton, Needham, and Chicago.

The annual GSB Spring F2F is a chance for the Trustees to talk in depth and at length about issues facing DA as a whole. The Trustees spend a significant amount of time at each Spring F2F meeting conducting a GSB inventory. The 2007 inventory included questions such as, "How is the General Service Board fulfilling its purpose of serving the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous?" Other projects included a mid-year review of the 2006-2007 spending plan, a demonstration of the long-awaited DA Web site searchable meeting list function, and discussion of DA copyright issues, GSB committee structure, and GSB officer nominations. Each GSB committee also met to continue working on specific projects. See the GSB committee reports on page 3.

One very important job tackled by the GSB at the Spring F2F was the review of the 2007 DA World Service Conference

(WSC) registration packet and spending plan, prepared and submitted by the 2007 WSC Boston Host Committee. The registration packet has been mailed to all registered groups. All groups are encouraged to re-list their group with the General Service Office to ensure that DA has accurate contact information. The 2007 WSC is scheduled for August 15-19, 2007, in the Boston area. (See the DA Web site events page for detailed information.)

Besides the Spring F2F meeting, the Trustees also meet in person at the annual World Service Conference. During the rest of the year, the Trustees conduct business via email and teleconference calls.

If you are interested in serving as a Trustee on DA's General Service Board, please email the General Service Office at da-gso@debtorsanonymous.org for nomination guidelines. The GSB Nominations Committee is especially seeking candidates from the New York area. ■

Just For Today Bookmark
available now

Visit the DA Website for information.

Trustees Wanted

For suggested qualifications and guidelines, please email the General Service Office.

Literature Publications (Lit Pub)

See status chart below.

Ways & Means Committee

The Ways & Means Committee will be merging with the GSB's DA Focus Committee to form an expanded Communications Committee overseeing DA's print and online newsletters and some aspects of Web site content. The committee is considering a special issue to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first DA World Service Conference.

InfoTech Committee

The Info Tech Committee demonstrated the next phase of DA's online searchable meeting list for the General Service Board at their February meeting. Work continues to move the database project forward. The Committee is also working on streamlining DA's email accounts and establishing a telephone information system for the General Service Office. In the near future, the Committee will begin to evaluate the DA web site for redesign, the first phase in developing a new user-friendly site.

Public Information Committee

The PI Committee has written to all Intergroups asking for information on local PI efforts and for input on how the GSB can help the Intergroups with their PI functions. The Committee has also produced and is in the process of mailing an anonymity letter to approximately 140 newspapers, radio and television networks, and magazines. The purpose of the letter is to inform the recipients of our public information and anonymity policies as outlined in Traditions 11 and 12. Finally, the Committee, with the help of our Media Contact, has approved a spreadsheet format designed to keep the Committee and GSB informed

of how our media contacts on a national level are progressing. The spreadsheet will be used to report on a quarterly basis the outcome of all media requests received by the GSO and forwarded to the Media Contact.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has the responsibility of managing DA's finances. See page 4 for the Treasurer's Report.

Office Committee

The Office Committee continues to work on upgrading and replacing equipment at the General Service Office, and making the office accessible for GSRs and ISRs coming to the World Service Conference in Massachusetts later this year.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee continues to seek qualified candidates from the Northwest, Southwest, South, Midwest, and Northeast regions of the United States, and all parts of Canada to serve on the General Service Board as Class A debtor Trustees. GSRs who have attended at least one World Service Conference are especially encouraged to apply. For suggested qualifications and guidelines, please email the General Service Office.

The (Ad Hoc) Archives Committee

The ad hoc Archives Committee is planning a timeline of DA history for display at this year's World Service Conference in Sturbridge, Mass. Key dates in the fellowship's history will be displayed, along with copies of important historical materials. The Committee may also ask delegates to fill in important dates for DA groups and intergroups in their areas, and to bring archival materials to share with others at

the Conference. In August, the Archives Committee will become a subcommittee of the Office Committee.

Policy & Delegate Support Committee (PDSC)

The Policy Committee is working on an expanded orientation session for GSRs and ISRs at the 2007 World Service Conference in Massachusetts. The committee hopes to develop a concentrated training for first-time GSRs and ISRs to help them be more effective in their service work within the framework of the DA Traditions and Concepts.

World Service Conference Support Committee (WSCSC)

The WSCSC invited the Host Committee chairs involved with the 2004, 2005, and 2006 World Service Conferences to be consultants on two conference calls. The purpose of the calls was to get feedback and ideas for improving the process of orchestrating future Conferences. The members also discussed the importance of creating a new Host Committee manual.

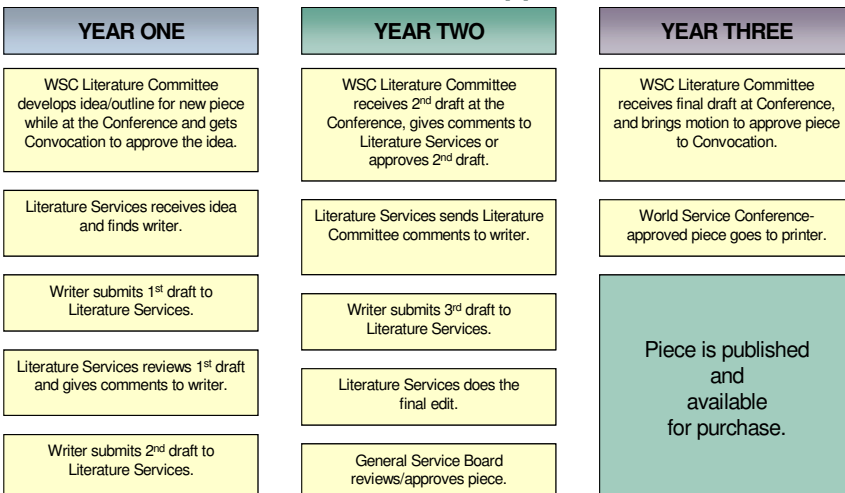
2007 World Service Conference

The 2007 World Service Conference (WSC) is slated for August 15-19 in Sturbridge, Mass. The WSC registration packet is available now on the DA Web site. If your group's GSR did not receive a registration packet, please ensure your group's information is up-to-date with the General Service Office.

NOTE: All group concerns and agenda items must be submitted in writing, preferably via email, to the WSC Host Committee by July 16, 2007. Email your group's issues, questions, and agenda items to dawsc_07@yahoo.com. ■

Literature Status Report

How the Literature Creation and Approval Process Works



Status Chart

Piece	Draft #	Where in Process
12x12 Book	0	Hiring Writer
DA Basics	1	With LSB* for review
BDA Numbers Booklet	1	With LSB for review
Annual BDA Business Plan Pamphlet	1	With LSB for review
BDA Signposts & Tools Pamphlet	1	With LSB for review
Debt Payment & Communicating with Creditors Pamphlet Revision	2	With Literature Committee for comments
Relationships, Money, and Debt Pamphlet	1	With writer
BDA Newcomer's Pamphlet	?	With writer
How to Start a DA Intergroup Pamphlet	1	With writer
Glossary	1	Concept needs to be approved by World Service Conference
Daily Meditation Book	0	Submissions being collected
Just for This Day Bookmark	Done	Available for purchase
BDA Suggested Meeting Format	Done	Available on the DA website

Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

The FCC serves as the advisory committee to the *Ways & Means*, the free quarterly “meeting in print” of DA, available on the DA Web site.

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee has been holding monthly conference calls since the 2006 WSC in San Diego. We are in the process of reviewing a draft of a proposed new pamphlet received from Literature Services, as well as moving forward with the creation of a DA daily meditation/reflection book. Also on our agenda is review of materials submitted by various groups and Intergroups for inclusion into the WSC literature approval process. We welcome and encourage all groups that have developed literature for local use to submit it to the Literature Committee for conference approval consideration, including materials used in newcomer packets. [To submit materials, please contact the General Service Office for information.]

Internal Operations Committee

The Internal Operations Committee has formed a subcommittee to recommend literature for inclusion in a “new group” packet that would be sent to

newly registered DA groups. A similar packet was discontinued some years ago. The IOC is also finalizing wording on a motion requiring annual re-registration of DA groups, and is working in concert with other committees to advance the practice of group sponsorship.

Public Information Committee

Since the last *DA Focus*, the Public Information Committee of the WSC has continued to meet on a monthly basis. In the course of these meetings, and during the weeks between them, we have produced an article on service for the next issue of the *Ways & Means*; we have continued to discuss the work and direction of the Diversity Subcommittee, and we have made and implemented a decision to hold the phone meetings of the Carry the Message Network on a weekly basis instead of monthly as has been the schedule in the past.

Note: The Diversity Subcommittee will become a caucus at the 2007 World Service Conference. Other World Service Conference Committees and Caucuses include the Intergroup Caucus, the Technology Caucus, the Conference Committee, and the Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee (HIP). ■

Dear Members of Debtors Anonymous,

Your group’s 7th Tradition contribution covers the expenses of your group, local GSR area group, local intergroup, and world service.

Each quarter the *DA Focus* includes the DA spending plan and actuals for the current year. The earning categories include literature sales, group and individual contributions, World Service Month contributions, John Henderson Scholarship contributions, and interest income.

The 7th Tradition contributions are used to cover office and Board administration, literature writing, the payroll for DA’s two employees, a bookkeeper, outside legal counsel, World Service Conference committees’ expenses, and to create reserves for future expenses such as literature printing, moving the office, WSC seed money, and other items as necessary.

If you are enjoying prosperity thanks to Debtors Anonymous, please consider giving back with a larger contribution of \$7.00-\$10.00 a week. Watch for reminders of opportunities for regular or special contributions, and pass on the joy of knowing your contributions keep DA thriving for all those who desire to recover from debting.

You may not be aware that individuals may make contributions directly to the General Service office, up to \$5,000 per year. To do so please send a check payable to DA-GSB to DA General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492-0009.

—The Resource Development Committee

GSR Qualifications

The Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC) brings together representatives of DA’s groups and intergroups each year to review the state of the fellowship and make decisions about its future direction.

The Conference is an exciting event, and an important one. It gives groups and intergroups throughout the world opportunities to be an integral part of DA’s conscience, to participate in the fellowship’s service structure, and to work in close cooperation with the General Service Office and General Service Board of Trustees. But along with those privileges comes responsibility—the responsibility of sending the best-qualified delegates to ensure spiritual decision making and good policies for DA’s future.

DA’s Ninth Concept for World Service states “Good leaders, together with appropriate measures for choosing them at all levels, are necessary.” Nowhere is this more apparent than at the annual WSC.

Long experience has shown that the Conference functions better when the GSRs (General Service Representatives) elected

by groups and the ISRs (Intergroup Service Representatives) chosen by intergroups meet certain qualifications. Most important among those qualifications are to have at least one year of not having incurred any unsecured debt and a successful record of service at the group or intergroup level. It is also suggested that GSRs and ISRs be actively working the 12 Steps of DA, have had at least two Pressure Relief meetings, and be active in a home group. Furthermore, good GSRs and ISRs have personal qualities that prepare them for the often-challenging work of the Conference—the ability to work in harmony with others, even amid controversy, the stamina to stay focused for long hours during the busiest days of the WSC, and the willingness to follow the spiritual principles by which the Conference operates.

Those chosen as delegates should also be aware of the workload—all GSRs and ISRs are expected to work on a standing committee of the Conference for the full length of the WSC, and by telephone or email throughout the year until the next Conference. They also have the job of carrying the

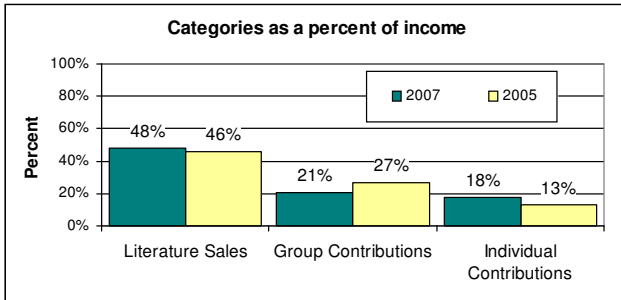
group conscience of their group or intergroup to the Conference, and of reporting news of the Conference’s activities to their groups.

Delegates should be committed to following the spiritual principle of rotation practiced at all levels of the DA service structure. GSRs and ISRs, like Trustees and other trusted servants, rotate out of their positions after either one or two 3-year terms, and are expected to serve no more than 3 years on any one committee. Rotation ensures a regular flow of new ideas, and prevents the distraction and disruption caused by a particular individual or issue becoming “entrenched” year after year.

The selection of a GSR or ISR is a solemn trust for any DA service entity. Members should take the time to find the right person to represent them on the World Service level, and to not allow the selection to become a “personality contest.” The strength of the DA service structure rests in the group conscience of the GSRs and ISRs who serve our Fellowship at the Conference. DA benefits from a strong and unified whole. ■

DA's income comes increasingly from literature sales and individual contributions

Two years ago, individual contributions and literature sales accounted for 59% of DA's income. Today that percentage is 66%. Group contributions, as a percentage of income, have declined 22% in two years.



CHECKING		\$ 1,985	
LESS: PAYABLES		-	
		<u>\$ 1,985</u>	
RESERVES			
Prudent Reserve	\$ 35,000		
Literature Reserve	1,729		
W&M Reserve	-		
WSC Seed Money	-		
JH Scholarship Fund	-		
Book Printing Reserve	15,000		
Office Move Reserve	15,000		
Unrestricted Savings	63,559	\$ 63,559	
Total Savings	<u>\$ 130,288</u>		
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE:		<u>\$ 65,544</u>	

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board INCOME STATEMENT

July 1, 2006 to February 28, 2007

	PLAN 7/1/2006 to 2/28/2007	ACTUAL 7/1/2006 to 2/28/2007
REVENUE		
Literature Sales	\$ 49,000	\$ 52,980
Group Contributions	27,336	22,674
Individual Contributions	13,336	19,659
Other Sales	504	536
Invitation to Prosperity	664	-
World Svc. Month Contributions	5,000	1,509
JH Scholarship Fund	-	3,989
Interest Income	1,528	2,358
Misc. Income	32	124
World Service Conference	3,664	5,884
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 101,064	\$ 109,713
COST OF GOODS SOLD		
Literature	\$ 16,568	\$ 20,141
Ways & Means	1,200	325
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 17,768	\$ 20,466
GROSS PROFIT	\$ 83,296	\$ 89,247
EXPENSE		
Board Administration	\$ 4,296	\$ 2,918
Board Travel	13,336	16,237
General Administration	9,712	8,227
Office Administration	8,296	10,181
Payroll Expense	39,864	33,752
Conference Committees	4,336	1,009
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 79,840	\$ 72,324
GROSS PROFIT	\$ 83,296	\$ 89,247
LESS EXPENSES	79,840	72,324
NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$ 3,456	\$ 16,923
Proposed Office Computer	\$ 2,000	-
Proposed Office Improvements	1,432	-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ 24	\$ 16,923

Notes:

JH Scholarship funds for the August 2006 WSC were paid during the 2005-06 fiscal year. The \$3,989 represents funds received (income) during the 2006-07 fiscal year and will be used for the 2007 WSC in August.

These figures are unaudited, and intended for information purposes only.

A group contribution that doesn't have the group number on the check is categorized as an "individual contribution."

Please send your personal and group contributions to the General Service Office. A donation form can be found on the DA Web site. Click on the 7th Tradition link.

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Produced by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

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