

First Quarter March, 2016

The General Service Board seeks qualified trusted servants to fill a number of service positions. The positions not paying jobs. Positions include Trustee and Appointed Committee Members. See website for details.

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The D.A. Focus is published quarterly by the D.A. General Service Board. It is available as a download from the D.A. website at www.Debtorsanonymous.org

PLEASE SHARE THE D.A. FOCUS WITH YOUR GROUP

Present and past issues of the *D.A. Focus* are available at

www.debtorsanonymous.org

Individual contributions made out directly to the GSO or GSB are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

News

Great news from Literature Publication
The 12x12x12 is at the printer.
We are counting down the days to books will arrive at the GSO.

Service Pays Well

The Hidden Benefits of Taking on a Service Commitment in D.A.

This Fellowship-wide call will explore the incredible results that members have experienced from doing service at all levels in D.A.

From typing up a phone list for your home group to attending the D.A. World Service Conference, each act of service strengthens your recovery and the Fellowship. On this call a panel of three speakers who have experienced the benefits of varied service roles will share their experience, strength and hope.

It is through service that we grow in spirit, experience a remission of our common disease and watch our fellowship grow. Join us and share the joy.

All D.A. members are welcome to attend. Members interested in service as a path to spiritual growth and growth of the fellowship are especially welcome.

Announcements

Press release announcing the 40th Anniversary of Debtors Anonymous was sent around the world at 1 minute after midnight on April 4th. Just two hours later, we received our first report that the press release was picked up by 474 print, broadcast, and online outlets. In the first two hours, the release hit the U.S., Canada, Chili, Columbia, and Argentina.

At the five hour mark, we hit China and Malaysia. A few hours later, Asia, Australia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mainland China, more outlets in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam. A little later, Brazil, France, Macao, and Taiwan. The reports are still coming in, with the final report expected at the one month mark.

General Service Board Committee Reports

Audit

The Audit Committee continues to oversee to the financial procedures of the D.A., as per New York state law guidelines.

Recent actions by the committee include:

Recommended to the board's Nominations committee that the full General Service Board (GSB) receive a presentation regarding our password protection policies and procedures, with possible suggestions in how to continually protect the integrity of all passwords and password-protected documents. This presentation was made to the GSB by Jon L., Appointed Committee Member to the board's Information Technology Committee, at the GSB face-to-face meeting in January. It was well-received by all, and a better understanding was developed in how we can ensure not only our financial integrity, but also in any other areas where passwords are required.

Forwarded a motion to the GSB to establish a reengagement policy relating to acquiring a C.P.A. firm to conduct the annual review of our year-end financial statements and to prepare the GSB's federal and New York state tax returns. The policy, which was approved, states that the GSB will request new bids for this service every 5 years.

Yours in service,
Audit Committee 2015-2016
Pat B., chair

Conference Support

The trustees' Conference Support Committee (CSC) is working hard to finalize the registration packet for the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC), to be held in Irving, Texas, from Wednesday, August 10, to Sunday, August 14, 2016. Delegates will be able to register online, with an option to pay by debit card, but may still register on paper and by postal service if they wish. Early registrants will have the opportunity to participate in the "paperless-binder" experiment, prepared by the WSC Conference and Technical committees. A PDF of the binder contents will be available for download to a laptop, tablet, or other device. There will be a check box on the registration page. Much care has been given to this year's menu, in response especially to the evaluations of last year's Conference.

CSC welcomes Dayton L., of Minnesota, the GSB's newest Class A trustee.

Alexandra BW, chair; Sue F., secretary; Eileen N.; Dayton L.; Marcy E., Appointed Committee Member (ACM).

Finance

Financial Statements can be found on page 10 of this issue.

Legal

The Legal Affairs Committee oversees the intellectual property of Debtors Anonymous. The committee is working on organizing the copyrights and

trademarks of D.A. so that future committees can easily track when they need renewal.

The committee also responded to three Issues and Concerns. One of them involved the meeting closing statement currently in use by many groups. This statement has been heavily borrowed from the AI-Anon closing statement. Legal Affairs brought a motion to the Board to remove this statement from our literature. This motion passed and the statement will be removed when literature comes up for reprint. The chair of the General Service Board also sent an eNews to the members requesting that the groups consider discontinuing the use of the statement.

Eileen N., chair

Long-Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) focuses on the General Service Board's (GSB) long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering compulsive debtors around the world. Some of the projects of the committee are:

- Hosted three "Ask the GSB" phone forums: November 1st, Recap of the WSC, January 10th, The Seventh Tradition, it's not just about the money, and March 13th, D.A. Literature, Copyrights and Website. There is a recording available for all three calls.
- Will host one additional "Ask the GSB" phone forums: May

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General Service Board Committee Reports

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22nd, D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts. The remaining call will also be recorded and available for members who miss the call.

- Sent out a longtimers survey. The results will be published in an upcoming Ways & Means.
- Will host the D.A. archivist and a sample of the archives at the 2016 World Service Conference in Irving, TX.

Eileen N., chair

Nominations

The Nominations Committee is continuing to encourage D.A. members who are available, and eligible to come forward to serve their Fellowship, as Class A and Class B trustees. Our Bylaws allow for 15 trustees, which comprise 10 Class A's, and 5 Class B's, to serve on the General Service Board. At this time, the ratio is 7 Class A's and 4 Class B's. We have no pending Class A applications, but do have 1 pending Class B application. As stated during the 2015 WSC, it is essential to the spiritual health of the Fellowship, that their members represent the 2/3 ratio set forth in the original founding of the GSB. So, please review if you or another member could step forward to serve the D.A. Fellowship, at this level. It is a way for a member to give back to a Fellowship which has helped you achieve the recovery in all areas of their life. The committee also reviews the DAGSB Bylaws, and makes suggested revisions that go to the full GSB for approval. One item of business they are researching concerns the policy, and

procedures relating to the Appointed Committee Member.

The committee is also receiving letters of intent from the current trustees who are willing to serve as officers of the D.A. Corporation and GSB for the 2016-2017 term. These will be submitted to the GSB, for approval, during their 2016 face- to- face meeting prior to the 2016 WSC.

Pat B., chair

Public Information

Cooperation, coordination, communication, mutual respect, and trust well defines the relationship between the World Service Conference (WSC) Public Information Committee and the General Service Board (GSB) Public Information Committee.

GSB PI has really played a supporting role, working hard to vet the many proposals coming from WSC PI and its sub-committees. Several of the initiatives (see the WSC PI report) were volleyed among the committees and the board, with frequent emails, phone calls, and special meetings; all to find ways to better reach the still suffering debtor.

One of the more far reaching initiatives was the development and publication of a press release acknowledging the 40th Anniversary of Debtors Anonymous. In preparation for the release, GSB PI hosted a refresher media contact training. Even this was a cooperative effort, with a board member and the chairperson of WSC PI serving as co-presenters. The press release was distributed worldwide on April 4th. We will certainly report the results of this venture into the

realm of press releases in a future issue of the D.A. Focus.

Additionally, the GSB PI Committee takes on the responsibility of sending letters of acknowledgment to media outlets who mention D.A. in an article or story. This can sometimes, and has included occasions to share our traditions around maintaining anonymity.

The GSB PI committee continues to seek an Appointed Committee Member...or two. The primary role of an ACM serving as a member of the GSB PI committee is to schedule and conduct periodic Media Contact Training, and help keep the list of trained members current. Please visit the Open Service Positions Page on the D.A. Website for this and other opportunities. If none of the postings seem to suit you personally, think of other members who might be a fit.

Sue F., chair

Resource Development

The RDC updated both the John H. Scholarship letter and the annual April Anniversary Appeals letters. Because of time/duty constraints in the office, these financial appeals were not sent by mail this year. The notices were sent through the E-News, and given to the Board members to distribute through their committees and caucuses. It was also sent to InterGroups. RDC is considering other options to increase awareness of these appeals to the fellowship.

RDC is taking action to increase the number of GSRs. A Fellowship-wide Conference call was hosted in November titled "So You Think

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General Service Board Committee Reports

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You Want to Be A GSR: GSR and ISR Service Made Simple.” Members from across the United States as well as Canada participated. You can hear the inspiring recordings of the speakers at: Dial-in Number (712) 432-0395. Access Code 363385#.

Reference Number 27#.

To celebrate D.A.’s 40th Anniversary, RDC hosted a Fellowship-wide Conference Call Event in early March titled “Spiritual Problem Solving: 40 Years on the D.A. Trail.” The speakers were Trustees, former Trustees and a GSR who shared their experience, strength and hope. There was time for individual shares and questions. You can access the recordings of the speakers at: Dial-in Number (712) 432-0395. Access Code 363385#. Reference Number 29#

A sub-committee was formed to further investigate how to spread the concept of individual donations to the WSO. The concept of “Every Member, Every Month” is being explored. RDC is studying past WS Board financial reports to explore how this information can aid us in our purpose of increasing contributions.

The RDC members will be working on their stories of service for the Ways and Means.

The committee has continued to study the DAMS and is covering one chapter for each month. The chapter is discussed for five minutes during the monthly business meeting.

Submitted by Janet

GSB Literature Publications Committee

The GSB Literature Publications Committee is responsible for the publication, revision, and reprinting of D.A. literature, including books, pamphlets, and other items such as bookmarks and newcomer packets.

We have eight projects actively underway at this time, including six new literature pieces and two existing pieces that are being updated.

Certainly, the item at the top of the list is *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous*, sometimes referred to as the 12x12x12. We are in the final pre-press activities for the new book, and hope to be sending our printing files to the printer by the end of March. If we meet that target, the book should be available for sale in May.

You may be wondering how a “12x12” became a “12x12x12.” The answer is simple: at the 2015 World Service Conference, a motion was passed to expand the concept of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book to also include the Twelve Concepts of World Service, which had previously been printed in *The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service*. Just as the Steps provide guidance for individual recovery and the Traditions provide guidance for group unity, the Concepts provide guidance for coordinating and administering our Fellowship on a worldwide basis.

The new book will be printed in both paperback and hardcover formats. When we receive the books at the General Service Office, and are thus ready to start accepting orders, we will post an

announcement about the book, along with a New Literature Order form, at www.debtorsanonymous.org. The books will be sold as single copies, or in bulk packs of 10 or 20 copies, with discounts for the bulk packs.

Publishing this book will be a landmark event for our Fellowship, and is happening only because of the dedicated service by many D.A. members over the last 15+ years. Thanks to all who served!

Allen T. chair

HIP Committee

The HIP Committee has approved and forward Starter Kit to Conference Committee.

World Service Conference Committee Reports

Conference Committee

The WSC Conference Committee has created four subcommittees. One is working, with the help of our Board Liaison, on clarifying the relationships and responsibilities of our committee, the Board's Conference Support Committee, and the local Host Committee set up for each Conference. All three play a role in putting on the WSC, and we want to minimize misunderstandings about who is -- and should be -- doing what.

The Tech Committee and International Caucus have in the recent past been seeking to effectuate a way for GSRs and ISRs outside North America to participate in the Conference remotely via video. We have a subcommittee looking into the non-technical challenges, such as anonymity and credentialing of voting delegates.

The Convocation has approved running a trial at this year's WSC of giving delegates an option of receiving the conference documents that go in our thick binders digitally, and another subcommittee is monitoring that and preparing means to evaluate the experiment afterwards. Finally, a substantial majority of our committee sees problems -- perhaps unnecessarily imposed by our current structure -- from having WSC committees work throughout the year on projects but be unable to present their work to Convocation. The view is that committees are relegated to hoping that the successor

committees, in the few hours of meetings before Convocation, will be able to get up to speed on the disbanded committees' recommendations and carry them forward as motions. A subcommittee is studying this question and has prepared a draft survey of delegates now serving on committees, to gauge others' concerns and thoughts about possible solutions.

In addition, we receive monthly reports from a committee member who chairs the Dallas/Fort Worth Host Committee on progress in preparing for this year's WSC, which will be August 10-14. We can see that they are enthusiastically and creatively working long hours to ensure another great Conference.

Public Information

Da Focus Article for 4/15/186-- by Siobhan K

WSC celebrates the 40th anniversary along with the rest of the World Service Conference, General Service Board and D.A. fellowship with a keen passion to Grow D.A. spread the word and carry the message about our "best kept secret" in Twelve Step Programs. Here are highlights of the work WSC-PI has been doing in the 2015-2016 year.

Grow D.A. Subcommittee

Grow D.A., which has an emphasis on grassroots outreach, has been, with the strong support of GSB-PI committee, simply prolific this year in its actions and successes.

April 3rd - second Fellowship Wide Call of the year: **"Let's Grow D.A."**

The purpose of the call ranged from kicking off D.A.'s 40th Anniversary month by encouraging members interested in carrying the message to work together and to support one another, to sharing simple actions that we can all take to carry the message to debtors who still suffer.

The newest piece of PI service literature, the **"Public Information Starter Kit."** -- if you have not seen this colorful and helpful document to help started doing PI /carrying the message of D.A. please go to the website: <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/download/pi-starter-kit>

PI Contact Cards -- As part of its mission to make public information materials more colorful, dynamic and useful, new PI Contact Cards were designed. They are business cards with information for newcomers and were approved by the Board to be printed and eventually available to order from the GSO. WSC-PI is hopeful that these new cards will be distributed at this year's WSC.

Glossary of Terms -- a Public Information Resource for D. A. The Board has approved a new glossary of many D.A. terms -- this

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World Service Conference Committee Reports

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will be very helpful to newcomers lost in a terminology fog. Short paragraph definitions from everything from the D.A.M.S. to P.R.G.s to Seventh Tradition. You are going to love this!

New P.I. Flyers – Grow D.A. is developing on a series of printable and hangeable flyers about D.A. which debtors could hang in public places and the still suffering could take a tear off edge with the www.debtorsanonymous.com address.

Media Subcommittee

At the last WSC, WSC-PI brainstormed about the possibility of writing D.A.'s own version of the *Jack Alexander* article, available in a pamphlet from Alcoholics Anonymous. The Media subcomm decided instead to write a press release at the occasion of the 40th anniversary of D.A. This press release has been approved by the GSB and the GSB has paid to have it distributed via the most widespread news distribution service available. The press release will be distributed internationally on April 4th, 2016. It will be translated into a numbers of other languages as part of this distribution. It begins with the following quote and proceeds to describe the Fellowship, the program and a little about history of D.A.

'Debtors Anonymous Offers Hope for People Struggling with Debt'

Fellowship to celebrate 40th anniversary worldwide'

P.I.P.E Subcommittee

PIPE – is the Public Information for Professional Events committee. They continue to create procedures and a database of key professional events through which we can spread the word of D.A. The committee is thrilled that, with funding from the GSB, P.I.P.E. has successfully registered for the Mental Health America conference on June 8th, 2016 in Alexandria, VA. They will have a booth, a D.A. banner, plenty of DA literature (have requested 600 pamphlets from the GSO and will also do a large printing of our Helping Professionals service pamphlet). The event will be staffed by one of our committee members from Alexandria as well as other D.A. members who have taken D.A.'s Media Contact training.

Full committee initiatives:

A full committee project is underway to fully revise the D.A. Public manual and to turn it into a more useful, more appealing and friendly service handbook.

They have been working to reframe the "One Member One Action Day" initiative to "Let's Grow D.A.", moving this from an annual one day event to an every day event for every member.

Finally, P.I. committee members have been working with the H.I.P. Committee, Intergroup Caucus, International Caucus and the Diversity Caucus to develop new outreach materials for their audiences.

The Chair of WSC-PI committee would like to convey that she is inspired, moved and filled with hope by the work of WSC-PI, by our board liaison, GSB-PI and the

full Board to cooperate in moving so many public information

Intergroup Caucus

With our numbers still fairly strong, the Caucus has taken on a IG focused survey, creating and finding ideas for Anniversary Celebrations, and preparation for follow-up action items resulting from the survey. The survey was coordinated with committees and members of the GSB and their help in releasing and collecting the responses. Suggestions for celebrations are being posted on the web and shared at IG meetings to spur enthusiasm. All of us on the team have grown in our programs as a result of these projects. We expect to learn more about what IGs are great at and what more we can do for DA to present in our final report at the WSC 2016.

Technology Committee

The small but valiant tech committee has been concentrating on the arrangements for the trial of a digital binder at this year's 2016 World Service Conference. This test was approved by the 2015 WSC, and will give the option to the delegates who would like to test how the "paperless binder" can work for the conference. Some of the membership have been organizing the technical aspects of the New York City DA 40th Anniversary Celebration so that it will be accessible worldwide by phone and computer. We also celebrate the new web site which past members of the committee helped into being.

World Service Conference Committee Reports

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WSC Literature Committee Update – March 2016

The 2015-2016 Literature Committee is an enthusiastic, dynamic group of 15 members. We continue to work closely with the General Service Board's Literature Publications Committee and other GSB and WSC Committees in all levels of creating DA conference-approved literature.

Participation on our monthly calls has been strong and steady. We also have additional meetings during the month for subcommittees on the 'Basic Text' outline and have started weekly 'drop-in' reading and discussion meetings to work on in-process literature.

The WSC Literature Committee responded to all twenty Issues & Concerns that were assigned to us at last year's World Service Conference in Portland. We continue to prepare responses for several Issues & Concerns that the GSB Literature Publications Committee referred to us and these will be ready for the 2016 WSC in Dallas. The topics presented in the Issues & Concerns were wide-ranging and generated lively and passionate discussions among the members.

Literature Committee continues to work on other projects and include the following: preparing an outline for the Debtors Anonymous 'Basic

Text,' creating a writing to replace the 'Preamble,' and developing an outline for a Beginner's Meeting Format. The Committee has considered, but tabled for now, work on a DA Step Study Workbook. Lit Com has reviewed and provided feedback on 'in-process' projects, including manuscripts and other pieces of literature, as requested by the GSB Literature Publications Committee.

We have reviewed the revised 'Recovery from Compulsive Spending' pamphlet and the first draft the 'BDA Signposts and Tools' pamphlet. We anticipate work on other pamphlet revisions and drafts, including a new pamphlet on the 'Twelve Promises' and additional pamphlets from BDA.

D.A.'s History: When the Pressure Went Our of PRGs

Debtors Anonymous, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, is one of an estimated 300 recovery programs in the world that utilize some form of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. This common background of having adapted the Steps and Traditions with permission from Alcoholics Anonymous gives D.A. a very strong sense of kinship in the world of recovery from many kinds of addictions.

But D.A. is also different, and the story of that difference, and how it came about, is an intriguing one. Besides being the only recovery program that deals with the problem of compulsive debting, it is also one of only two fellowships that feature the institution of the Pressure Relief Group or Pressure Relief Meeting. (The other is Gamblers Anonymous). For four decades now, since the founding of D.A. in 1976, members have been using Pressure Groups (since renamed Pressure Relief Groups) as a major recovery tool and as an adjunct to our primary purpose of not incurring any new unsecured debt one day at a time.

How is that D.A. came to adopt as its own such a practice that is rare in the Twelve-Step world? The answer goes back to the earliest days of our fellowship, when D.A. was just an idea in mind of a recovering alcoholic named John H., a long-time A.A. member who despite great success in staying sober and a very successful business life was unable to stop incurring large amounts of unsecured debt. Beginning in 1968, John gathered a number of A.A. members with a similar problem around him and launched an eight-year spiritual search for a solution to their debting problem.

In those early years leading up to the formal founding of D.A. in April 1976, John and his associates adapted many aspects of the A.A. recovery program to debting. They also read widely in Twelve-Step literature and attended

meetings of other fellowships such as the Al-Anon Family Groups in hopes of finding answers there.

John was a devout Roman Catholic and numbered among his friends many priests who were members of Twelve-Step programs. One of his closest associates was Monsignor Joseph D., a chaplain with the New York City Police Department who was himself a recovering gambler and active in Gamblers Anonymous. He convinced John that G.A., which was founded in the 1950s and was then the only other Twelve-Step program that dealt in any way with money issues might also have answers for him and other compulsive debtors.

Attending many G.A. meetings, John (not himself a compulsive gambler) was intrigued by a G.A. practice of holding Pressure Relief Groups. In G.A., many gamblers owed money to loan sharks or were otherwise in physical danger from criminal elements, and needed experienced members to help them negotiate repayment of gambling debts over time. While few D.A. members were enmeshed in situations like this, they were often intimidated by dealing with those they owed money to, and needed experienced members to show them how to contact and make repayment to creditors. Thus John decided to make Pressure Groups an integral part of the D.A. program, and it remains one of only two programs today that utilize it.

Feeling that D.A. needed a tough, no-compromise language, he also renamed the D.A. version "Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings", and the first D.A. pamphlet on this subject, written and copyrighted in 1982, was published with that title and retained it until 1999.

The first complaints about the "toughness" of the name came at the 1991 World Service Conference in San Francisco. Some GSRs felt that newcomers to D.A. were or would be

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GSB Financial Report

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc. Profit and Loss July 2015 - February 2016

	Total	
	Jul 2015 - Feb 2016	Jul 2014 - Feb 2015 (PY)
Income		
Total Literature Sales	\$66,215.73	\$50,474.22
Member Contributions		
Groups	25,608.32	31,398.25
Individuals	25,400.38	24,567.30
World Service Month	365.00	
Total Member Contributions	\$51,373.70	\$55,965.55
Sales of Product Income		(65.75)
z Interest	585.60	634.94
Total Income	\$119,128.03	\$107,399.11
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$16,081.97	\$12,822.46
Gross Profit	\$103,046.06	\$94,576.65
Expenses		
Archival Expense	650.86	1,185.36
Bank Charges	137.82	674.55
Board Related Expenses		
Lodging	4,055.15	8,669.11
Per Diem & Meals	4,867.79	6,652.49
Travel	8,549.04	6,273.86
Total Board Related Expenses	\$17,471.98	\$21,595.46
Total Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	\$15,186.25	\$14,305.39
Total Office Related Expenses	\$52,606.54	\$30,532.88
Outreach Expense	807.52	782.18
Postage	9,015.17	8,613.73
Printing and Copying	410.94	884.37
Telecommunications	2,308.31	1,781.57
Uncategorized Expense	91.91	
Uncategorized Expenses	(88.74)	
WSC Committee Expense	42.39	537.27
Total Expenses	\$106,593.14	\$85,441.81
Net Operating Income	\$(3,547.08)	\$9,134.84
Other Income		
World Service Conference Income	40,725.00	63,088.61
Total WSC Income	\$40,725.00	\$67,847.06

Shown here is a comparison between totals for the first eight months of the 2015–16 fiscal year (July 1, 2015–February 29, 2016) and the first eight months of the previous fiscal year (July 1, 2014–February 28, 2015).

Five points should be noted:

- Literature sales are up \$15,741.51 with respect to the same period in the previous year. This reflects sales of the book *The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous*.
- Group contributions are down \$5,789.93 during the current period compared with last year, or approximately 18%.
- The lower Board-related expenses in the current period are due in part to there being fewer trustees than in the comparable period.
- The lower office expenses in the fiscal year 2014–15 were due to the absence of an office manager during part of the period.
- The difference in WSC income and expenses is the difference between the estimated cost of the Conference, which forms the basis of the registration fees, and the actual costs.

Respectfully submitted, the Finance Committee of the DA GSB: Alexandra BW, chair; Eileen N., secretary; and Michalene R.

D.A.'s History: When the Pressure Went Our of PRGs

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intimidated by the word “pressure”, and suggested that adding “relief” after “meeting” and “group” would make them feel less skittish and more willing to utilize the tool. Others, however, felt that it would represent an unwarranted “dumbing down” of the program, and a proposal to change the name was overwhelmingly defeated.

A fierce debate over the language of Pressure Groups and Meetings raged at several World Service Conferences during the 1990s, with partisans of “relief” gradually gaining ground. By the 1997 Conference in Los Angeles, those in favor of “relief” had gained the upper hand, and a motion to change the tool and the pamphlet carried by a substantial margin. It took a year or two, however, for the existing stock of pamphlets at sell out, at which time the Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings pamphlet was reprinted with the new name.

The 1997 vote was the last formal action ever taken by the Conference on the names, although there has continued to be considerable diversity in the fellowship over what to call these venerable institutions. Regional differences remain prominent. For example, many old-timers in the New York area continue to use the old terms “Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings”. In the Washington, DC area and some states of the Upper Midwest the term “P-Groups” is common. And they are often shortened to “PRG and PRM” in some areas, with confusion resulting over which is the “group” and which is the “meeting”.

Various attempts have been made over the years to “standardize” the practice of PRGs/PRMs in D.A. The “Pressure Relief Groups and Pressure Relief Meetings” pamphlet, D.A.’s second-oldest piece of published literature and one of its consistent best sellers over the years, does not attempt to enforce a common format for members, only some basic general principles. Many members have written their own individual “guides” for PRGs that are used in different parts

of the U.S., with quite a bit of variation between regions.

One Intergroup in Southern California has even published its own PRG guide with a very rigid and specific format. Over the years, however, a number of attempts to make that particular format Conference-approved for D.A. as a whole have been rejected, since many D.A. members seem to appreciate the wide variety of “styles” used in different regions and don’t want any one particular format imposed on them.

One type of Pressure Group that was for decades extremely common in D.A. is the so-called “Treasurer’s Pressure Group”, conducted for D.A. service committees, groups, and Intergroups. While extremely common in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, they have virtually disappeared today. Until the very late ‘90s, the Treasurer of the General Service Board and of board committees would put together several “Treasurer’s PRGs” a year to help guide board finances. The same occurred with WSC committees, and many D.A. groups and Intergroups. No one is quite certain why this practice, once considered *de-rigueur*, is now so uncommon.

It does not seem likely, however, that the Pressure Group/Pressure Meeting, under whatever name it might be called, will disappear from the D.A. scene. Compulsive debtors coming into the fellowship for the first time will always feel the crippling shame and awkwardness of the debting lifestyle, and will always need the encouragement and guidance of more experienced members as they move steadily to stop incurring any new unsecured debt and clean up the financial and emotional wreckage of the past.

Jan S.
Archivist