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The 2014 World Service Conference

On Wednesday evening, August 6, the 2014 Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference will begin. The General Service Board will report to the GSRs and ISRs, and, through them, to the Fellowship. The WSC committees and caucuses will present their reports to the delegates, along with recommendations to the 2014–15 committees.

This year’s Conference brings with it a sense of celebration as the second edition of *A Currency of Hope* has just been published and will be available for sale. In her report to the 2006 World Service Conference (WSC), then GSB chair, Carol B., called for a re-commitment to our primary purpose, to not debt one day at a time. This report inspired the 2010 WSC Literature Committee to bring a motion to Convocation approving a second edition of *A Currency of Hope*.

Many committee members worked throughout the 2013–14 Conference year, attending monthly conference calls, addressing their agendas, and responding to the Fellowship’s Issues & Concerns. Tens of thousands of dollars went into collection baskets to bring the voting members of the Conference—the Office Manager, delegates, and trustees—to Skokie, IL. Delegates and trustees will have used their vacation time to be there. With the continuous support of the GSB Conference Support Committee, the 2014 WSC Host Committee worked for two years, selecting the hotel, planning meals, seeing to audio-visual and other needs, and organizing the Saturday Fellowship Day and the big Gala. Beginning days before the Conference, the Host Committee and many volunteers, some of them from hours away, will support the Conference members from early in the morning (the first Conscious Contact sessions) until late at night (when the Tech and Hospitality Rooms close).

The World Service Conference is the central annual event of Debtors Anonymous worldwide, the product of thousands of hours and dollars in resources. And for what? To support the debtor in recovery, welcome the newcomer, and reach the debtor devastated by this ruthless compulsion but still unaware of Debtors Anonymous. For four and a half days, more than one hundred people will give themselves up to the process of determining the group conscience, our highest authority. We will draw on our recovery, imagination, talents, generosity, and good will to labor together in a common purpose. Many of us will experience the deep rewards of service: the light heart of unselfishness, the love for sufferers we will never meet, trust in people who were strangers just a few days before.

The achievements of the 2014 Conference reflect a process of profound humility, as committee members seek the group conscience that is our ultimate authority, freely accepting the constraints of the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts—constraints that are only suggestions, often ambiguous, sometimes paradoxical, but always practical and expansively spiritual. After all, what do we learn from the daily experience of going to any length to refrain from incurring unsecured debt if not about the freedom on the other side of constraint?

Working with others is difficult, and the process may at times seem interminable before it bears fruit. Yet, those sometimes glacially slow procedures leave room for many views and thereby for a power greater than any of us. In the end, seemingly miraculously, unity—substantial unanimity—is reached. No principle requires more humility than the principle of rotation, the willingness to walk away, to change committee, when our time is up and know that the work may or may not proceed as we envision it, but that it abides and thrives through our collective endeavor over time and in the steady, enduring light of a power greater than ourselves.

**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.



General Service Board Committee Reports

Audit

We had a busy quarter, the more so because we changed Trustee composition during this period, with one member leaving and another joining our committee.

The primary focus was that we reviewed all the financial statements for Jan-Feb-Mar, with many suggestions and recommendations made to Finance Committee, including recommending a reorganization of the structure of how the Conference is shown on the financials.

We also reviewed the tax return schedule, with comments and suggested updates, the second year that Audit was able to assist in assuring that DA-GSB met all the requirements and review cycles for the required tax documents for New York State and Federal. We also participated in joint call with accountant and Finance Committee.

Communications

The Communications Committee was reformed this year with all new members. Lawanda C. joined the board in May 2013, assigned to this committee, and carried over this year. Bill J, Michael A, and Jeff Y. were new to the committee this year. The Communications Committee chair, Jeff Y., served as the liaison to the WSC Fellowship Communication Committee and appreciates their hard work. An update on the work of the GSB was provided to the committee on every call. They have been a real joy to work alongside.

We compiled the Final Conference Report and published that for delegates earlier than ever. ComCom has taken over responsibility for the timely publication of this report in the future. Four issues of the D.A. Focus and four issues of the Ways & Means have been published. Over one hundred eNews have kept 5500+ subscribers up-to-date on events in the Fellowship this year.

Numerous updates to the DA website have been recommended and carried out. The new Promises, updated Tools, the new responsibility statement, and statement of purpose were loaded on to the website shortly after our return from Phoenix, as were several Spanish-language translations to the page 'En Español'. A new page on the website features News for Members. We reworked the "Start a Meeting" page into "Resources for Groups". We appreciate the ready cooperation of Info-Tech getting all the uploads done in a timely fashion. New recovery stories which are now on the website.

We developed a committee handbook with procedures and policies in the hope of securing committee continuity. We updated the D.A. Style Guide used in all our communications and literature.

We have issued numerous Calls for Stories: for GSRs and ISRs to submit stories about their experience in attending the WSC; on BDA, HIP, RDC committee work, or from any other WSC committee or caucus; stories about solvent holidays, taxes, solvent vacations, and going back to school in recovery without incurring unsecured debt. The committee reviewed and welcomed the RDC writing project headed by Sheffra W.

Our request for an Appointed Committee Member for editorial support remains unfilled. Committee considered a recommendation from WSC BDA committee concerning request to change the name of Ways & Means. The question has been referred to a WSC committee this year for consideration as an Issue & Concern. We remain committed to improving the exchange of information and ideas within the fellowship and welcome your loving appraisal.

Conference Support

The Trustees on the Conference Support Committee (CSC) for the 2013-2014 Conference-Year were George M., Jeff Y., Chair Marci W., Secretary Marcy E (ACM), and Maureen C. Trustee Pat B. (WSC 2014 Liaison) joined our monthly calls to discuss the details of the 2014 conference planning. Allen T. has been named the WSC 2015 liaison. We are saddened by the departure of Marci W. from the board. She was a font of institutional memory. Marci served as liaison to the WSC Conference Committee; Maureen completed her term as liaison.

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) is primarily concerned with the planning and implementation of D.A.'s annual World Service Conferences. CSC works closely with the WSC Conference Committee, the local Host Committee, the Board's Legal Affairs and Finance Committees to ensure all the behind-the-scenes work happens so that the conference can run smoothly each year.

The items CSC reviewed, discussed, and took action on during this conference year include:

- The feedback received from the WSC 2013 attendees as submitted in the post-conference survey.
- The feedback received from the WSC 2013 Host Committee in their post-conference "lessons learned" report.

- The 2013 WSC Issues and Concerns and committee recommendations that were assigned to CSC.
- Developed a national hotel request-for-proposal for future WSCs.
- Identified a professional meeting planner and coordinated the search for the 2015 site.

CSC also reviewed, updated, and created several internal documents related to the annual WSC, including:

- The WSC post-conference survey
- The WSC Committee Starter Kit
- The WSC Host Committee Handbook
- An instructional document for WSC Committee/Caucus Chairs and Treasurers

Other action CSC conducted throughout the year included:

- Organized the mid-year WSC Update conference call
- Hosted two Pre-WSC 2014 GSR/ISR Orientation Telephone Trainings
- Led the development of the WSC 2014 registration packet, with input from the Chicago Host Committee
- Worked with Information Technology to bring WSC registration online.

We have been honored to serve the Debtors Anonymous fellowship during this conference year and we look forward to the possibilities ahead.

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Finance report begins on page 6

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Information Technology

The biggest news coming from Information Technology is that a request for proposals (RFP), for development of a new and improved website, has been published. We are now in the process of evaluating the candidates, and hope to select the vendor soon. It will still take several months to work out the details of a contact, then build and test the site. We could not have gotten to this point without the focused work and commitment from the WSC Technology Committee. This has truly been a collaborative effort. Thank you, Tech Comm.

In addition to the activities around the new site, we have continued to maintain the current site, making close to 100 changes, additions, deletions, and corrections over the last year.

International

The International Committee (Int'l Com) of the General Service Board (GSB) has been getting our translation program underway. The

General Service Board Committee Reports

first phase of the project is to ask members outside the U.S. to form translation committees to adapt for Debtors Anonymous translations of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions that have been approved by Alcoholic Anonymous World Services (AAWS). This is the condition of the permission to adapt, and AAWS has sent us their approved translations of the Steps and Traditions.

Most of the documents mandated by the 2010 World Service Committee (WSC) Literature Committee have been translated into Spanish and are on the world website.

Int'l Com is in touch with the organizers of a European Convention, to take place in the spring of 2015. One of the topics planned for the Convention is the formation of a European Intergroup.

The International Committee is seeking two Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). Please see "Open Service Positions" on the website and contact the committee, via office@debtorsanonymous.org with any questions.

Legal Affairs

This past quarter the Legal Committee composed of Bill J., Sue F. and Maureen C. focused on the following areas:

1. Sending a Cease and Desist Letter to an individual who described being a debt counselor in D.A. on her Linked In resume.
2. Obtained quotes from employment lawyers for HR issues.
3. Research translation releases from writers.
4. Invite two possible ACM candidates to a committee meeting. One has attended and participated in a call.
5. Begin the process of contacting D.A. websites who are still using the old Preamble to replace it with other DA Literature or take it off the website.
6. Reviewed and approved Sheraton Portland contract for WSC 2015.
7. Responded to other inquiries from members on questions of Traditions.
8. Ongoing organization of the legal Google docs files.

The committee members have one more monthly telephone meeting in July before they will meet face to face at the World Service Conference in Skokie in the first week of August. At the conference the Board Members will receive new committee assignments from the Board Chair.

Literature Publications

The Literature Publications Committee of the General Service Board (Lit Pub) oversees publication and revision of D.A. literature as directed by the World Service Conference.

Projects that we have focused on this year:

- The second edition of *A Currency of Hope* is available for sale. A Literature Order Form can be down loaded from Debtorsanonymous.org.
- The Newcomers Packet is also available for sale. There are two versions, one for regular D.A. groups, and one for Business Debtors Anonymous (B.D.A.) groups.
- Lit Pub brought a motion to the General Service Board (GSB) to approve the final draft of the Twelve Steps. This motion was approved and we will be asking the 2014-2015 WSC Literature Committee (Lit Com) to bring them to the World Service Conference for approval.

- Literature Services (Lit Serve) is reviewing the final draft of the Traditions.
- Lit Pub brought a motion to the GSB to have the Twelve Concepts as written in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service included in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book. This motion was approved and we will ask the 2014-2015 Lit Com to bring this change in the original concept to the Conference for approval.
- Lit Serve has received a first draft of the B.D.A. Clarity in Business pamphlet. It is being reviewed.
- Lit Serve has received the second draft of the Underearners Pamphlet. It is being reviewed.
- Lit Pub brought a motion to the full Board to redistribute the funds in the *Twelve and Twelve* reserve to create a reserve for the Step Study Guide and the Debtors Anonymous book. This will allow us to start the search for writers.

Long-Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has hosted four "Ask the GSB" phone forums this year: October 6th was a recap of the 2013 World Service Conference (WSC), January 19th was on D.A. Finances, March 16th was on Literature, Copyrights, and Translation, and June 15th was on the Traditions and Concepts. A recording of the presenters is available for a short period following each call. If you would like to receive announcements about future "Ask the GSB" calls please sign up for eNews at debtorsanonymous.org. LRPC is open to suggestions for call topics.

We are continuing to research the future of the General Service Office, presently located in Needham, MA. When our lease is up, is a move to a new location feasible, and will it serve the fellowship? More will be revealed.

We continue to explore ways to celebrate D.A.'s 40th anniversary in 2016. Please send any suggestions to DA40@debtorsanonymous.org

Nominations

The Nominations Committee brought a motion to the Board in May to approve George M.'s application to be a Class B trustee. The Board's approval was unanimous. Marci W., a Class A trustee, resigned in May for personal reasons. There are currently thirteen trustees serving. The Committee is continuing to recommend revisions to the General Service Board's By-Laws, as suggested by an outside counsel. These will be proposed to the Board when completed.

Public Information

The successful Media Contact Training (MCT) on June 14, 2014 resulted in adding seven more D.A. members to our Media Contact List. D.A. members who complete a MCT may be asked to respond to interview requests from newspapers, magazines, radio, and television programs. The committee also worked on clarifying how the Media Contact List is updated and how media requests are processed from start to finish. The GSB PI Committee also created a standard "acknowledgement letter" to say thank you to writers who mention D.A. in their articles or blog postings.

On March 29, 2014, the WSC and GSB PI Committees hosted a Fellowship-wide conference call, "Carrying the Message, Growing our Groups, using D.A.'s Public Information Tools". D.A. members from across the US, Australia, and the UK participated in this successful event.



WSC Committee and Caucus Reports

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES

Business Debtors Anonymous

In the BDA Committee we have three subcommittees:

The Outreach Subcommittee has solicited BDA and D.A. stories from the Fellowship and facilitated their publication in D.A. Regional & National Newsletters and other venues like the D.A. website. They have collected approximately fifteen stories and have published four. They are in the process of contacting all D.A. groups that publish content to further distribute these stories.

The Spiritual Marketing Subcommittee completed a 2nd pilot study of the Spiritual Marketing action study group. In addition, they are in the final stages of editing two proposed pamphlets: 21 Signs of Compulsive Debting and Spiritual Marketing.

The Vocations/Visions Subcommittee is intensively revising and refining language of a Spiritual Business Plan pamphlet. They have focused on editing the language of an original draft they received and making it more consistent with the language and principles of D.A. They have also worked to create language that will help the reader orient their business plan to their vision. If we give thought and prayer to considering how we can best be of service to the world with our given talents and interests, we can then use that knowledge in our businesses to create greater abundance.

Conference

The Conference Committee has been busy. By now you probably know that Philadelphia is not hosting the 2015 conference. Instead, Portland is going to host. Part of the function of the Conference Committee is help support the local host committee. At the 2013 conference, our Committee recommended that the GSB investigate holding the WSC in one location for at least three years. The GSB is sharing their findings with our Committee for possible action at the upcoming WSC. The Conference Committee has been working on our 2013 conference issues and concerns. We are developing plans for the 40th anniversary. Please consider joining the Conference Committee to have your say to help the future of D.A.

Fellowship Communications

The FCC continued to publicize the Group Sponsorship service, and to monitor/respond to all inquiries sent to the gsponsorship@gmail.com email address. Nancy H. was our key Group Sponsorship sub-committee member. We connected a D.A. Sponsee Group from Rio de Janiero, Brazil with a Sponsor Group in Woodstock, NY. We are currently working to connect a D.A. group in Perth, Australia with Sponsor Group. The FCC Chair, Don C. shared information about Group Sponsorship on a Teleconference Call sponsored by the International Caucus. Information on Group Sponsorship is now available on the Resources for Groups page of the debtorsanonymous.org website. The FCC allocated \$240 of its 2013-2014 Spending Plan toward providing a free copy of the D.A. Manual for Service for all newly registered D.A. groups.

The FCC offered support and guidance to the RDC and PI Committees as they planned their Fellowship-wide Teleconference Calls. The FCC provided technical support during several GSB-sponsored Teleconference Calls.

Curt P. wrote an article titled "Finding a Meeting" for publication in the *Ways & Means* newsletter. This article focuses on the importance of providing clear instructions for finding D.A. meetings. Curt P. also wrote Research and Survey Guidelines. These guidelines encourage that the D.A. Traditions be honored when doing member and group research via surveys. The Research and Survey Guidelines have been approved by the General Service Board and are included in this year's delegate binders. They have also been sent the Long Range Planning Committee for inclusion in the 2015 DAMS.

The FCC's D.A. 40th Anniversary Celebration Sub-Committee worked with both the Long Range Planning Committee and the WSC Conference Committee to gather and activate ideas for the year-long celebration of D.A.'s 40th Anniversary scheduled to commence on April 15, 2015!

The FCC Accessibility Sub Committee worked to resolve issues regarding electronic and international access to (a) D.A. information and (b) D.A. Literature. During our Service Year, this sub-committee connected with the WSC Technology Committee's Research Sub-Committee on this initiative.

International Caucus

The International Caucus co-hosted a fellowship-wide conference call titled "D.A. Sto-

ries and Hope from Around the World." This call featured three speakers—from Spain, Italy, and the U.K.—that spoke about their personal recovery and the development of D.A. and service bodies in their countries. This initiative was intended to further connect the greater fellowship of D.A., to hear some of the concerns of non-U.S. groups, and to further the discussion of service groups (inter-groups/regional groups) outside the U.S. Members of the Public Information, Fellowship Communications, and GSB International committees shared useful information about literature translation, and suggestions for group support. The call concluded with an open forum for members to ask questions and exchange contact information.

Literature

Lit Com has been focused almost entirely on reading and preparing notes for the 12 and 12. We find the writing to be comprehensive and are fully on target to have the notes to the writer before the WSC in Skokie. We have completed the health care survey results assessment and have made recommendations to the Board as to how to proceed.

Public Information

The 2013 WSC Public Information (PI) Committee has had a very active and productive year in service. Early in our committee work we analyzed the findings of a survey on fellowship-wide Public Information activities conducted by the previous year's Committee. We used the findings of that survey to direct several of our initiatives.

It came to our attention through the analysis of the survey results that PI efforts fellowship-wide were generally being carried out in small groups or by individuals who were making use of the Public Information Manual for Debtors Anonymous, service literature available as a free download on www.debtorsanonymous.com. We learned that very few meetings and intergroups had formal PI Representatives or PI Committees, and that many respondents, while eager to be of service, were confused about the expectations of the PI Representative position or about how to carry out PI work.

Based on this information, the 2013 WSC PI Committee held an informative workshop/conference call for anyone in the D.A. fellowship with an interest in conducting PI related work. We discovered that there was great interest in learning to carry the message to the debtor who still suffers and good number of members of D.A. who were indeed engaging in Public Information efforts, both in an organized and in an independ-

ent fashion, often using the Public Information Manual for Debtors Anonymous as their guide.

From a 2012 survey it was clear to us that training of PI Representatives was high on the list of how the WSC PI Committee could serve the fellowship in reaching out to the debtor who still suffers. The 2013 WSC PI Committee sees the need for more regular PI Representative Training Calls, and we recommend to next year's Committee to put such trainings on its agenda.

Media Contact Trainings appear to be another highlight of the Public Information activities that the fellowship appreciated and utilized. Run by the GSB PI Committee, these trainings qualify members of the fellowship to respond to requests from the media about information on Debtors Anonymous. The focus of these Trainings is on the 12 Traditions. Many members of the 2013 WSC PI Committee participated in Media Contact Trainings this past service year. We all benefitted from engaging with the Traditions and are prepared for ongoing service at a more public, though still anonymous, level.

There are many ways to be of service at the Public Information level within Debtors Anonymous. The Public Information Manual for Debtors Anonymous is very clear in the description of the duties of a PI Representative and offers many suggestions for PI activities. Use the Manual for ideas on activities to carry the message.

Ultimately, the best place to start is with oneself. As it states in the Public Information Manual for Debtors Anonymous: "the best way to carry the message is for us and our fellow members TO BE THE MESSAGE through the quality of our own recovery."

Resource Development

The chair is grateful for the generous participation of our committee members and the assistance of our liaison, Allen T. RDC's basic purpose is increasing contributions to the fellowship and encouraging participation in service at all levels. Since our last report, the 2013-14 RDC has made headway on the following key initiatives:

Our "Recovery Through Service in D.A." conference call event in April was attended by about 60 participants. We are arranging a call-in number and code to allow members to listen to the recorded speaker portion of the call.

We have recommended three new tent cards for in-person meetings to encourage member contributions and to bring attention to D.A.'s three-fold purpose.

We have recommended a direct mailing to the contacts at approximately 43 online and telephone meetings, suggesting the following wording for inclusion in their meeting formats: "Remember that you may make your 7th Tradition contributions to D.A. with the online Bill Pay option through your bank."

RDC members continue to write stories on service, recovery and the promises, as part of our ongoing "More to Share, When Promises are Fulfilled" initiative.

We have formed a subcommittee to brainstorm ideas for making a commemorative item available to the fellowship to celebrate D.A.'s 40th birthday in 2016.

Technology

The Tech Committee has been thrilled to see the fruits of their labor, both with the online registration form for the 2014 World Service Conference, and with the completed Request for Proposal form for prospective vendors for the new website. As we complete our work for the 2013-2014 conference year and prepare our final report for the WSC, we're feeling proud and grateful for the opportunity to be of service to D.A., its members, and the still-suffering debtor.

2014 Host Committee

The Chicago area Host Committee is busy preparing for the 2014 WSC - "Sponsorship: Together We Can". The committee has been meeting via monthly conference calls. We are grateful to our board liaisons Jeff Y. & Pat B., and to board treasurer Allen T. for their continued help and support.

The Holiday Inn/Skokie was contracted early in the fall, and the Logistics and Meals Committees are now coordinating the schedule, room assignments and meals with the hotel. Thanks to the Gala and Tech Room committee chairs, contracts for the DJ and the Tech Room equipment have been negotiated, approved, and signed.

New Book Revives Old Dreams

When 4,000 copies of the newly published Second Edition of *A Currency Of Hope* were delivered to the General Service Office in Needham, MA. this May 29, it not only meant new literature and a big step forward for the D.A. Fellowship. It also brought to mind memories of the hopes, dreams, and hard work that have inspired D.A.'s members to share the stories of their recovery with one another for the past 38 years.

The new book, which has sold briskly from the moment it arrived, reflects D.A.'s maturity as a recovery program. It contains twenty-one new stories by members with strong, long-term recovery and eliminates an equal number of stories from the First Edition that did not seem to reflect D.A.'s singleness of purpose and the clarity and strength of its program. It also showcases a more diverse membership ethnically, sociologically, and geographically.

To those present at the GSO when the books arrived, the scene recalled events of years past, and the many complicated steps that led up to them. First, it recalled the day in the spring of 1999, when the first copies of the First Edition of *ACOH* arrived at the GSO. By spiritual "coincidence", the books arrived from the printer just as the General Service Board was holding its annual Face-To-Face meeting in Massachusetts. A photo in the D.A. Archives shows gleeful members of the General Service Board (GSB) opening the book crates and exulting over that landmark event in our history - the successful publication of D.A.'s first book. Looking back over the landscape of the years, it is almost impossible to underestimate the impact of the fact that, twenty-three years into D.A.'s existence, the long-held dream of publishing a book finally came to fruition.

No one knows in precisely what year members of the fledgling D.A. Fellowship first proposed writing a book to share their experience, strength, and hope with other recovering debtors. In its first six years (D.A. was founded by John H. in New York City in 1976), D.A. consisted of a tiny handful of groups in one city with virtually nonexistent financial resources. *Cont'd>*

From the Archives, cont'd

Most of the first several years were spent in efforts to keep meetings going, spread the Fellowship to a few other cities, and produce a handful of crudely printed recovery pamphlets.

But somewhere along the way, someone began talking about the idea of writing down the experiences of our early members. Since most of those members came to D.A. with previous recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous, it seems logical that most of them would have thought quite early on about producing a work analogous to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, known fondly to A.A. members as the “Big Book®”.

The first printed reference to the prospective text that informally came to be called “the D.A. big book” came in 1985, when the General Service Board, only three years old at the time, heard a proposal from a New York member to record the stories of early members on audio tape, with an eye toward publishing them in book form. The member did record the stories of ten long-timers, and was preparing to submit them for publication when, according to those serving on the GSB at the time, the member quit D.A. in a fit of pique, moved to Florida, and refused to turn over copies of the tapes.

The Archives are filled with carbon copies of letters from the GSB to the member pleading desperately for the return of the tapes. The member died a few years

later, and the tapes were permanently lost. (Ironically, printed transcripts of six of the ten tapes surfaced for the first time just six years ago, and are now in the possession of the D.A. Archives. One of the stories was subsequently published in the Fellowship newsletter *Ways & Means*).

The next effort to publish a book came circa 1989, when the GSB entered into negotiations with an author who had written a commercially successful book that referred to the D.A. program. The negotiations ultimately failed over a number of issues such as royalties, ownership, and credit for the manuscript.

In 1990, another author stepped forward with a detailed proposal to write a so-called “big book”, and once again, negotiations faltered over several financial and intellectual property issues. (GSB members were only too aware of how close A.A. had come to losing the legal right to its intellectual property and the revenue from it in its early negotiations with authors and publishers).

By 1991, with more meetings and an increasingly sophisticated literature operation, D.A. had successfully published several attractive pamphlets and was producing other types of literature, such as large national meeting directories.

ACOH - Continued on page 13

Want to know the rest of the story? Check out the expanded, color version of the [D.A.Focus](http://debtorsanonymous.org/) online at <http://debtorsanonymous.org/>

Financial Reports

GSB Finance Committee

In the second quarter of 2014, the Finance Committee:

- sought and obtained approval from the Board to fund an end-of-fiscal-year visit by the Assistant Treasurer to the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham, to participate in the year-end physical inventory count and address other year-end accounting topics.
- developed a 2014-15 GSB Spending Plan and presented it to the Board for its consideration.
- produced monthly financial reports, allowing the Board trustees to serve confidently as financial custodians for the Fellowship.
- joined with the Board's Audit Committee to for a mid-year advisory conference with our CPA firm, and created a schedule of benchmarks for next year's tax return filing.
- began researching, at the Board's request, potential providers for debit-card payment for literature orders and contributions.
- updated the literature order form to include the new edition of *A Currency of Hope* and new Newcomers packets.

Following is the GSB's Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet, as of April 30, 2014.

Financial Reports – Profit and Loss Statement

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.

Profit and Loss, Plan vs. Actual

July 2013 - April 2014

	Actual	Plan	over Plan	% of Plan
Income				
Group Contributions	42,597.33	40,000.00	2,597.33	106.49%
Individual Contributions	36,299.74	30,000.00	6,299.74	121.00%
World Service Month	198.00	900.00	(702.00)	22.00%
Audio Visual	72.00	147.00	(75.00)	48.98%
Books	154.00	25,666.00	(25,512.00)	0.60%
Pamphlets	30,299.75	25,834.00	4,465.75	117.29%
Shipping	5,589.25	6,668.00	(1,078.75)	83.82%
Total Income	\$ 115,210.07	\$ 129,215.00	\$ (14,004.93)	89.16%
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 21,723.44	\$ 30,256.00	\$ (8,532.56)	71.80%
Gross Profit	\$ 93,486.63	\$ 98,959.00	\$ (5,472.37)	94.47%
Expenses				
Archival Expense	919.98	750.00	169.98	122.66%
Bank Charges	37.00	30.00	7.00	123.33%
Board Expenses	16,448.89	17,126.00	(677.11)	96.05%
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	5,632.50	7,103.00	(1,470.50)	79.30%
Data Base Management		82.00	(82.00)	0.00%
Insurance	1,476.38	1,597.00	(120.62)	92.45%
Internet	870.49	1,026.00	(155.51)	84.84%
Licenses, Permits & Regulatory Fees	95.00	95.00	0.00	100.00%
Office Expense	1,793.12	1,897.00	(103.88)	94.52%
Office Payroll, Taxes, Rent, & Utilities	63,999.36	69,356.00	(5,356.64)	92.28%
Office Rent GSO		200.00	(200.00)	0.00%
Outreach Expense	787.40	750.00	37.40	104.99%
Postage	2,474.25	2,068.00	406.25	119.64%
Printing & Copying	1,814.24	2,376.00	(561.76)	76.36%
Telecommunications	2,189.83	2,897.00	(707.17)	75.59%
Trademark Registration & Renewal		100.00	(100.00)	0.00%
WSC Committee Expense	609.13	750.00	(140.87)	81.22%
Total Expenses	\$ 99,147.57	\$ 108,203.00	\$ (9,055.43)	91.63%
Net Operating Income	\$ (5,660.94)	\$ (9,244.00)	\$ 3,583.06	61.24%
Other Income				
Interest	379.27	418.00	(38.73)	90.73%
Conference Income	61,766.43	70,775.00	(9,008.57)	87.27%
John H. Scholarship Fund	2,735.59	4,160.00	(1,424.41)	65.76%
Total Other Income	\$ 64,881.29	\$ 75,353.00	\$ (10,471.71)	86.10%
Other Expenses				
Depreciation & Amortization	132.85	126.00	6.85	105.44%
John H. Reimbursable and Registration Expenses	6,200.88	4,500.00	1,700.88	137.80%
World Service Conference Event	59,698.54	70,775.00	(11,076.46)	84.35%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 66,032.27	\$ 75,401.00	\$ (9,368.73)	87.57%
Net Other Income	\$ (1,150.98)	\$ (48.00)	\$ (1,102.98)	2397.88%
Net Income	\$ (6,811.92)	\$ (9,292.00)	\$ 2,480.08	73.31%

Financial Reports – Balance Sheet

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.		
Balance Sheet		
	As of Apr 30, 2014	As of Jun 30, 2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
John H. Checking	5,575.54	8,783.25
Main Checking	15,597.95	13,091.05
Unrestricted Savings	25,702.19	163,692.78
WSC Checking	8,000.00	45,496.29
EverBank Checking	155,326.86	0.00
Office Petty Cash	11.56	24.29
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 210,214.10	\$ 231,087.66
Other current assets		
Advances	2,000.00	2,000.00
Conference Pre-paid Expenses	0.00	4,887.95
GSO Pre-paid Postage meter	248.78	104.03
Literature Inventory	20,439.80	18,546.73
NSF Checks Receivable	(24.00)	0.00
Prepaid Expense	2,669.00	3,559.38
Undeposited Funds	66.50	57.00
Total Other current assets	\$ 25,400.08	\$ 29,155.09
Total Current Assets	\$ 235,614.18	\$ 260,242.75
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	3,840.75	3,034.02
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,034.02)	(3,034.02)
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 806.73	\$ -
Other Assets (Copyrights, trademarks & deposits)	5,477.74	4,676.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 241,898.65	\$ 264,919.66
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Conference Registration	0.00	16,189.61
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ 16,189.61
Equity		
Fund Balance	137,666.37	137,666.37
Opening Bal Equity	(19.48)	0.00
Retained Earnings	111,063.68	111,063.68
Net Income	(6,811.92)	
Total Equity	\$ 241,898.65	\$ 248,730.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 241,898.65	\$ 264,919.66

Concept Six

The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board.

The Conference and its committees have delegated active management of D.A.'s service activities to the General Service Board. While many programs that have been proposed are worthwhile and some have been successful, for purposes of continuity, these programs should be left to the management and supervision of the General Service Board. The GSB has the legal and fiduciary authority to provide a continuing framework under the GSO to enable these activities to continue, grow, and develop. Where the Board does not have the personnel, time, or money to carry out a particular project, the Conference should recognize that its time has not yet come.

Here the operative principle is humility. The Conference has recognized, in adopting the Twelve Concepts, that it does not have either the personnel or the expertise to engage in ongoing administrative activities. Whenever it has attempted to do so, difficulties have arisen. The Conference acts through committees, whose memberships change each year. The interests and goals of these members also tend to change and vary. Beyond these practical facts, there lies another spiritual principle. The Third Step suggests that we should turn our will and our lives over to the care of our Higher Power. This tells us that we should not use our wills to beat a recalcitrant reality into submission. If time, personnel, or money for a program is not available, we should accept that fact or, if possible, change it by making the time, money, or personnel available through contributions to the GSO in kind, in cash, or by volunteering. We should not rely on *ad hoc*, under-supported service structures that are all too likely to collapse in order to impose our viewpoints upon the Fellowship.

It is always wise to try to couple policy with administration so that both can be effective. When the Conference, acting as the voice and conscience of the Fellowship, makes a decision, it should always try to couch that decision in terms that are broad and flexible, so that the Board, in administering the decision, can develop policies that are effective. In short, those policy choices that are closely tied to administration are best left with those who are to administer.



Meet Conference Support's Newest ACM

Marcy E., an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) to the GSB Conference Support Committee, shares her journey in service with us.

I came into Debtors Anonymous in the year 2000, after friends in other fellowships heard me talk about my struggles with money, and repeatedly suggested that I "would probably really like" D.A. The first meeting I went to was the Sunday Night Integrity meeting in New York City, the meeting which eventually became my home group, and for which I have done service as a GSR for 5-plus years.

The credits didn't transfer from those other programs I was in when I came in, and I was a raw, ravaged beginner when I joined, like so many of us.

After all of my money struggles, I had the gift of desperation when I finally came into the rooms of D.A. I got a sponsor, studied the steps, and starting keeping my numbers on a daily basis. I really couldn't see how things were ever going to achieve any balance, but little by little, I learned to live within my means, stopped incurring new unsecured debt, and within what now seems like a few short years, paid off all of my creditors. All of my recovery in D.A. has involved miracles. Please be sure to ask me to share some of them with you when we see each other at a meeting.

I probably started doing service in D.A. pretty early in my recovery. After a few years of service in the meeting, I took the position of Group Service Representative, and served for almost 2 full 3-year terms, attending 4 World Service Conferences during that time. That service did for me what I could not do for myself: at my meeting, everyone knew me. In group discussions about the meeting, I finally felt like I had something to give, and that I was heard when I shared. I wasn't more important than anyone else in the meeting, but I no longer felt that I was less than anyone else in the room.

The meeting really benefited from having a GSR, too: as a meeting, we experienced the strength of

being part of a worldwide fellowship. The group went through different struggles, changing meeting spaces, being challenged with keeping track of our treasury, setting group policies and format. But we knew that as a group we were part of a larger whole, and this, in some indefinable way, seemed to help us get through our struggles.

Sometime during my GSR service, I was first invited to consider serving on the General Service Board as a trustee. I wasn't ready then, and still am not ready to take on all of the responsibilities that trustees have to juggle. More recently, I was invited to become an Appointed Committee Member, an advisory service position to a GSB Committee, in my case, the Conference Support Committee. At first, I wasn't ready to take this on, either, but the invitation was open-ended. Finally, I got to the place in my recovery where I knew I couldn't go any further unless I did service, and I decided to accept the position of ACM to the Conference Support Committee.

And now I'm a beginner all over again. Only this time, I'm neither raw, nor ravaged. There's a lot to learn in this new service position. But all of the Board members who make up the committee are incredibly understanding of my "newness," and together they are bringing me along. Just like being a GSR, I'm finding my voice in this new service position, and making contributions wherever I can. And the committee members are appreciative, understanding, and generous in sharing their experience, strength and hope around service at the Board committee level.

I'm grateful that I was finally able to take on this service position, that I didn't say "yes," to please anyone before I was ready, and that the door remained open until I was finally ready to step up. Now into my first year of a 3-year term, I look forward to showing up in service, one day at a time.

*Marcy E.,
New York City*

Meet the GSB – George M., Class B trustee

I'm George M. from Milford, Michigan, a small town about 25 miles north of Ann Arbor. I recently began serving on the D.A. General Service Board as a Class B Trustee (non-debtor), and have been asked to introduce myself to you via this *Focus* article, which I'm happy to do.

I was born and raised in Detroit (in the city, not one of those fancy suburbs), and still regard Detroit as one of our country's great cities, notwithstanding the bad press it seems to attract. I had loving parents and a normal childhood, with no warning of the chaos to come. My problems started when I began my college life at a small New Hampshire school well known for the drinking habits of its students; a contemporary of mine there is the author of the script for the movie *Animal House*, and I participated in many of the activities portrayed in that movie (although please note - I never killed a horse). The school is, coincidentally, the alma mater of Dr. Bob Smith, the A.A. cofounder. I had a scholarship canceled after my sophomore year, and graduated only by the skin of my teeth. The Dean's office, which knew me well, was delighted to see me go.

The drinking only got worse during two years in the Army and then graduate school at the University of Michigan, where I received a degree in accounting. I worked long enough for one of the big accounting firms in Detroit to get my CPA certificate, but it was clear that my career there was going nowhere. My last drink was on the morning of April 1, 1974, taken to settle my nerves and hand tremors, because I had decided to go to the Detroit A.A. central office, and wanted to be somewhat presentable to the A.A. people when I got there. I was just a couple weeks short of my thirty-first birthday, and at the end of my rope.

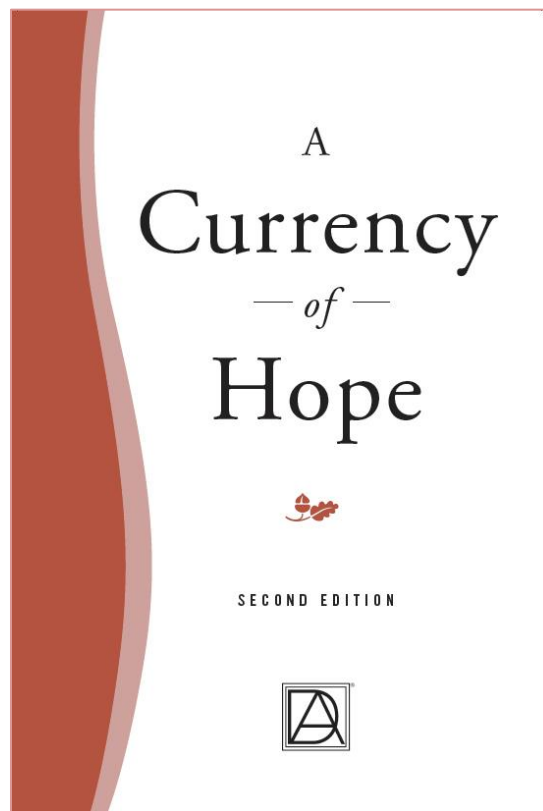
After a couple years, two program friends about my age, both of whom had gone to law school after joining A.A., encouraged me to do the same. This struck me as an odd suggestion, but I went ahead and did it. Three years later I had a law degree from the University of Michigan and have now recently retired after practicing law for 35 years.

I have been active in A.A. since joining, but became involved in general service only about twelve years ago. In 2005 I began service on the board of directors of A.A. World Services, Inc., which is responsible for running the General Service Office of A.A. in New York, and for all of A.A.'s publishing operations other than the Grapevine magazine. In 2009 I was elected to serve in addition as a Class B (alcoholic) Trustee of the General Service Board of A.A. I rotated from both of these positions after the April 2013 A.A. General Service Conference. The result of these service opportunities was a fuller and deeper appreciation of the world wide reach of A.A.'s 12 step program and its ability to restore the lives of people of many different cultures and religious upbringings. It has truly been a humbling experience.

I am very excited and looking forward to the opportunity for service in the D.A. fellowship, and to meeting many of you at the upcoming WSC. This will be my first chance to see the 12 Steps at work in the lives of people with a problem other than alcohol. I have been busy getting up to speed, reading the Currency of Hope (Second edition!), learning to use "debt" as a verb, and struggling with the innumerable acronyms (40 years in A.A., and I've just now learned that ESH stands for "experience, strength and hope").

Cheers to all.

George



A Currency of Hope, Second Edition
has arrived at the General Service
Office and is ready to ship!

Order forms are now available at the D.A. website,
<http://debtorsanonymous.org>

Individual copies – US\$14.⁰⁰

10 copies – \$110.⁰⁰

20 copies – \$185.⁰⁰

Standard shipping rates will apply on all orders.

New Literature Now Available

The Newcomer's Packet

Newcomer Packets are now available in two versions. Both packets contain a collection of D.A. pamphlets pertinent to the newcomer. The Business Debtors Anonymous version also contains the "Business Debtors Anonymous" pamphlet. The packets come in an envelope with suggestions for the newcomer and a place to collect phone numbers.

A Currency of Hope 2nd edition

At the 2010 World Service Conference (WSC), the Literature Committee envisioned a second edition of A Currency of Hope. That vision has come to fruition. The second edition is now available for sale.

Please visit www.debtorsanonymous.org for the Literature Order Form.

In grateful service,

The Literature Publications Committee of the D.A. General Service Board

ACOH - Continued from page 6

Both the GSB and the World Service Conference began turning their attention once again to the idea of a book. A committee was appointed to begin work on the book, and it wasted no time collecting stories.

Most of the personal stories for the book were collected early on, in 1991 and 1992, with a handful in 1993. What delayed publication of the book for many years were other factors:

First, there was a great many different views in the Fellowship of what D.A.'s first book should look and read like. For most of the 1990s, battles royal erupted at virtually every World Service Conference over the name, description, contents, and size of the book. Ferocious pitched battles were fought year in and year out over a large number of issues, and it took many years for enough of a consensus to develop to actually publish a book.

Some wanted the book to be called the "D.A. Big Book" (use of the term "big book" would not have been legal, since it is a trademarked term, owned by A.A. World Services. Its frequent use by D.A. members is in an informal sense only). Others favored terms like "Basic Text", "Recovery Book", "Recovery Text", "How It Works Book", "Debtors Anonymous" and similar terms used in other Twelve-Step programs.

After several years of debate, a long-term member of D.A. came forward with a simple compromise – a name no one else had thought of. The member had had a personal vision years before that someday she would be involved in the production of a book entitled "*A Currency Of Hope*", and she was inspired to suggest the name. It was unanimously accepted by the GSB and the WSC as the perfect name for D.A.'s first book.

There were also many different visions of what the book should contain. Some, for simplicity's sake, wanted only personal stories. Others wanted a full recovery section similar to the first 164 pages of the A.A. Big Book. Still others favored getting rid of D.A.'s pamphlet literature and publishing all of the pamphlets together in one book. There were still other ideas, and over the years a number of combinations of all of the above, so that when members referred to D.A.'s "big book" project, they were actually referring to more than a dozen widely different conceptions, and not to any one specific project.

There were also disputes over which stories should be included (more than a dozen submissions were turned down), and over the years various photocopied manuscripts were submitted to the Conference as prototypes for its consideration, including some with stories that were originally intended to be in the book, but were later removed for a variety of reasons.

Finally, the largest issue was money. The second half of the 1990s were a time of extreme financial stress for D.A., and despite the overwhelming desire for the production of a book, for years no money existed to fund the project. As the money crisis of the 1990s eased a bit, funds were finally raised to bring the book to publication. Although had the

From the Archives, cont'd

book not sold well, it could have been a financial catastrophe for D.A., which a short time before had had to close the General Service Office in New York City for lack of funds.

Fortuitously, the publication of the First Edition of *ACOH* saved D.A. financially, rather than sinking it. The enormous response brought in a gusher of revenue for D.A.'s World Services, enabling the Fellowship to hire a full-time employee at the GSO for the first time in its history, and to fund a number of other service projects, including the production of much new literature.

By 2007, as more members gained stronger and clearer recovery in D.A., and as sales began to drop off, the once-bright new book began to appear shopworn and less reflective of a more grown-up Fellowship. The first, tentative step toward a new edition came that year, when the GSB's Communications Committee began publishing the stories of members with strong, mature recovery in the national newsletter *Ways & Means*. The following year, the GSB's Long-Range Planning Committee asked the World Service Conference to approve plans for a new section on the D.A. web site devoted specifically to stories that reflected clear, long-term experience of the D.A. program of recovery, and those stories drew tremendous acclaim from groups and members, leading to the decision a few years later to make them the core of the new book.

Although a large majority of the stories in the Second Edition are new, there are some similarities in both editions. First, both contain exactly thirty-eight stories (with the Second Edition being published just a month after D.A.'s 38th anniversary!) Seventeen stories have been held over from the First Edition to the Second. And both editions contain an unintended error – each inadvertently contains two stories by the same individual, although the individual with two stories in the First Edition is not the same as the individual in the Second.

There are some differences, as well. The First Edition was issued in both hardcover and softcover form, although the hardcovers were discontinued after several years due to lack of sales. The Second is available only in softcover. An updated history of D.A. has been added to the new edition, and other parts of the front matter have also been revised to reflect changes approved by the WSC. And there are changes in typography and color intended to make for a more readable book.

Will there ever be a Third Edition of *A Currency Of Hope*? While it is, of course, too early to say, past experience suggests that D.A. will continue to periodically update its literature over the years to reflect a changing Fellowship and a stronger recovery experience. Already, the GSB has begun soliciting new stories for the Recovery Stories section of the web site. While it is not guaranteed, it is indeed possible that stories published there may someday find their way into a new edition of *ACOH* or another D.A. book whose existence is as yet undreamed of.

