

## 1st Quarter 2020

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*The DA Focus* is the service newsletter published quarterly by the General Service Board (GSB) of D.A. It is available as a download from the official D.A. website at: [debtorsanonymous.org/share](http://debtorsanonymous.org/share)

**The General Service Board seeks qualified trusted servants to fill a number of service positions. The positions are non-paying. Positions include Trustees and Appointed Committee Members. For details, email: [office@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:office@debtorsanonymous.org)**

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## Issues & Concerns Move Online

### Introducing a New Electronic Submission Process for Issues & Concerns (*due April 1 for 2020 WSC*)

Every year the World Service Conference receives 50-60 Issues & Concerns from the Fellowship. These are distributed among delegates who spend months researching as needed, deliberating how best to address them, voting on a group conscience, and finally crafting responses for publication.

There are certain logistical issues with this process: How do we attract new members around the world and manage any proportionate increase in Issues & Concerns (which already take up a significant percentage of Committee and Caucus work)? Are we setting ourselves up for success if we have a system in place that cannot adequately handle any extra work flow?

Each individual member's voice is fundamental to the health of Debtors Anonymous. Issues & Concerns hold a vital history in our program. Other 12 Step fellowships have drastically different processes in place for incorporating member suggestions. With this in mind, we are proposing a few basic reforms to the Issues & Concerns process.

From now on, all Issues & Concerns will need to be submitted electronically through the D.A. website. This will make them easily copied and pasted into other documents without requiring us to transcribe handwritten forms.

There are submissions that are better considered questions for the General Service Office (GSO), such as requests for information as well as corrections to the website. An Issue & Concern is meant to shine a light on an area for possible improvement and affects the D.A. Fellowship as a whole. The GSB will now review submissions within this context, and if they do not meet that criteria, we may forward them to the GSO for response instead of presenting it to the World Service Conference.

In recent years members have attempted to achieve a desired outcome via Issues & Concerns. Multiple members have submitted identical Issues & Concerns that resemble a letter-writing campaign. Our Traditions tell us we come to decisions by an informed group conscience. The GSB believes it is important to respect our delegates' autonomy without undue pressure in their process of attaining a group conscience.

While critical analysis can be helpful, we do not feel that lengthy attacks or incendiary language are constructive ways to implement necessary change. Issues & Concerns become official documents available to the public in a World Service Conference report. For this reason the GSB may decide

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# General Service Board Committee Reports

## GSB Communications and Technology Committee (CommTech)

The 2019-2020 GSB Communications and Technology committee consists of Bill D. (chair), Tom B. (co-chair), Nancy K. (outgoing secretary), Matthew E. (incoming secretary), and Laurie L. (ACM). Project Contributors are Sherri H. (manuals), Jeff F. (website), and Drew M. (online archive).

The members of the committee are grateful to be of service to the Fellowship.

An important project that the committee has been working on during the past six months is a re-design of the Debtors Anonymous website. Although serviceable, the current website has been out of date for several years and based on the input of the Fellowship, the committee has been working since last Spring on the redesign. Project Contributor (PC) Jeff F., with the support of weekly meetings of the redesign subcommittee of the WSC Technology Committee, has completed the new website. Improvements include a more easily editable home page, better positioning of menus, and a much improved meeting search. This is the first phase of a multi-phase project that in the future will include an online literature store. The redesign launched on January 29.

CommTech is also working on improving the online WSC registration and payment process; connectivity to Intergroup websites; an easier non-U.S. donation process, and more extensive digitization of D.A. books and pamphlets for e-books and print-on-demand purchases around the world.

The committee has continued publishing both the *Ways & Means* magazine and the *DA Focus* newsletter on a quarterly basis; the magazine has featured several issues curated by WSC Committees and Caucuses.

Members of the committee also are charged with sending eNews

announcements by email regarding important updates to the Fellowship. There are currently more than 7000 subscribers to the D.A. mailing list, and the typical open rate is 20% which is higher than industry standard.

PC Sherri, with the help of the committee's Trustees, is writing a CommTech manual of operations which will be invaluable to future members.

ACM Laurie has been researching possible uses of social media to carry the D.A. message. The committee also has been reviewing past proposals for an app with a D.A. meeting search and other capabilities.

The GSB recently registered for and received a Google for NonProfits account, and PC Drew is working with Tom B. to transfer the online archive from Google Drive to a G Suite Shared Drive, which offers better security and permission-setting as well as unlimited storage space and user accounts. We hope to migrate the WSC committee and caucus archives for incoming delegates at the 2020 WSC.

## GSB Conference Support Committee (CSC)

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) works with the WSC Conference Committee and WSC Host Committee to plan the annual World Service Conference. 2019-2020 GSB members are Tom B. (chair), Nancy K. (outgoing secretary and Host Committee liaison), Matthew E. (incoming Host Committee liaison), and Michalene R.

As many of you know, the 2020 and 2021 Conferences were awarded to the Debtors Anonymous of Greater New York Intergroup. After a long and dedicated site selection process by the 2020 Host Committee, the best option by far was a hotel near the airport in Newark, New Jersey, which is only a 20-minute train ride away from New York City. We were able to sign a two-year contract locking in very affordable room rates for delegates.

CSC toured the hotel in early February before the GSB Winter Face-to-Face meeting in New York.

We have been researching nonprofit rates for online platforms that offer combined event registration and electronic payment, but so far the lowest fee is 5% of the event which would be absorbed into overall registration fees. Because of the additional fee burden for all delegates, we are still working toward an informed group conscience. We've asked the WSC Conference Committee to weigh in.

The Debtors Anonymous Minnesota Intergroup has generously shared the Fellowship Day speaker recordings from the 2018 World Service Conference to be included soon as podcasts on the D.A. world website. Fellowship Day speakers recordings before 2018 were contracted to an outside vendor who is no longer in business. We've reached out to the vendor multiple times to inquire about the possibility of publishing those recordings for free on our website. We hope to receive a response.

The registration packet will be released soon. We have tried to streamline the packet by moving two sections to the website. From now on Issues & Concerns can be found at [debtorsanonymous.org/inc](http://debtorsanonymous.org/inc) and Hosting a World Service Conference can be found at [debtorsanonymous.org/wsc](http://debtorsanonymous.org/wsc).

We look forward to a brilliant 2020 World Service Conference and beyond.

## GSB Finance Committee

The GSB Finance Committee is involved in creating the Income and Spending Plan; overseeing the bookkeeper and accountants; reporting financial information to the Fellowship; and making recommendations on revenue, expenses, pricing, and Cost of Goods Sold. To provide the D.A. Fellowship with examples of recent work completed by the committee (and the Board), we

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# General Service Board Committee Reports

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offer the following updates.

The GSB Finance Committee forwarded a motion to the board that World Service Conference Committees purchase literature for public information purposes at cost. The motion was approved. The GSB Finance Committee is working on a financial analysis of the production cost of each piece of literature to accurately define specific production costs.

The GSB Finance Committee forwarded a motion to the board that \$500 be approved for the WSC Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus for public information purposes. The motion was approved.

The GSB Finance Committee learned that the current shipping rate for literature is not covering expenses. Therefore, the committee is researching options for determining fair shipping costs for literature which will better address shipping weights of different literature types.

In addition, an analysis of the full cost of selling literature was completed which included the cost of labor, storage, and shipping materials. As a result of that

research, the committee is researching and working on recommendations on adequate pricing for books and pamphlets.

Also, the GSB Finance Committee is developing a service piece on Seventh Tradition contributions and how those donations cover expenses for the Fellowship as a whole.

The GSB Finance Committee continues to monitor income and spending, online contributions, and the prudent reserve on a monthly basis.

We hope this report helps D.A. members understand the types of issues that the General Service Board addresses on behalf of the Fellowship.

## GSB Legal and Audit Committee

This fiscal year the Legal and Audit Committee was combined with the Long-Range Planning Committee due to a shortage of Trustees; however much of the work of Legal and Audit is completed separate from Long Range Planning. The mission of the Legal and Audit committee is to be responsible for and oversee many Debtors Anonymous procedures and safeguards. This

includes Copyright and Trademark protection, examining contracts for unfavorable content, and the licensing of materials.

The main focus of the Legal and Audit portion of the committee the first half of the fiscal year has been to ensure that the D.A.'s intellectual property is protected. This is critical so that D.A. ensures the D.A. message remains consistent across the entire world. We are currently discussing with our outside attorneys about adding a trademark for the term "D.A." this year and potentially next year moving on to "Debtors Anonymous." Legal has been working with the attorney to review the licensing agreement that D.A. will be using for licensing literature to countries outside of the United States. In addition, new materials released this past year have been copyrighted as well as the update to the DAMS. The Audit portion of the committee oversaw the submission of state and federal taxes in conjunction with the Finance Committee.

The Legal and Audit Committee will concentrate the rest of the year on ensuring current procedures and policies are up to date and being implemented as well as continuing its legal pursuits.

## GSB Literature Publications Committee

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

This is a very exciting time for literature development in D.A., as several projects are coming to fruition. The GSB Literature Publications Committee has also been actively working on the development and production of a number of new literature projects.

The "Twelve Promises of Debtors  
(continued)

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# General Service Board Committee Reports

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Anonymous” is a pamphlet that was published in 2019 and is currently available for purchase as our newest piece of literature.

The GSB Literature Publications Committee also includes a literature development and editorial group: the GSB Literature Services Committee. The six members of the current GSB Literature Services Committee (three GSB trustees and three Appointed Committee Members) help develop each piece of literature by selecting writers and editing various drafts.

The GSB Literature Services and WSC Literature Committees expect to receive and review the D.A. Step Study Guide and anticipate that it may be ready for approval by the WSC in 2020.

We are currently looking for writers for a new pamphlet, “Couples and D.A.,” and, with the WSC Literature Committee, are participating in the review and editing of submissions for the D.A. daily meditation book (daily reader).

The GSB Literature Services Committee is currently working on several other literature projects, including the Daily Meditation Book, collecting and reviewing member stories to be considered for inclusion in “Stories” sections of the D.A. Basic Text, reviewing the D.A. and Health Issues pamphlet concept, and development of an outline for a diversity pamphlet. We are looking at ways to include many of the “Voices” of underserved and underrepresented members in one or several D.A. pamphlets.

A member of Literature Publications also serves as the GSB liaison to the WSC Literature Committee and helps facilitate the development of a concept for a piece of literature through the literature approval process. The 2019-2020 WSC Literature Committee submitted a number of pamphlet concepts which were approved by the WSC in August 2019.

Additionally, a member of the GSB Literature Publications Committee serves as the GSB liaison to the WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee. The B.D.A. Committee continues to address the needs of D.A. members who are business owners. The WSC B.D.A. Committee is in the process of developing several pieces of literature specific to B.D.A. At the 2019 WSC, the Conference approved the concept for a book of stories from B.D.A. members.

The Literature Publications Committee continues to explore additional options for electronic literature, such as eBooks, print-on-demand, and other possibilities, which we hope will increase availability and reduce shipping costs for members who reside outside the United States.

Currently the *Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous*, the *Currency of Hope* (2nd edition), and a number of pamphlets translated in Spanish are available to purchase as electronic downloads on Kindle. There is also an option to order the *Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous* from Amazon on a print-on-demand basis.

## GSB Literature Translations and Licensing Committee (LTL)

The members of this Committee are Bill D., Chris S. (ACM), Josie O. P. (Chair), Michalene R., Paul M. (Sec.), and Rody D. (PC).

The translation of D.A. Conference Approved Literature continues around the globe. The amount of translation service work being done by our D.A. fellows is truly wonderful. On the GSB we appreciate this so much. Thank you.

We have been pleased to welcome Paul M. as our new Trustee on the committee and Rody D. as a Project Coordinator who will focus on one

language for us.

Our job continues to be to iron out the verification process, which is in place so that the D.A. message doesn't accidentally get diluted. At the summer GSB face-to-face in Los Angeles we passed a motion to ask translators to stay faithful to the concepts and principles in the literature. Of course there will always be debate about the best way to translate the actual words, in the same way that our literature production committees of the WSC and GSB debate the best ways to express the message in English. Writing and translating by committee is a slow process. But it's the best way to bring the group conscience and the HP to bear on the production and distribution of our precious recovery literature and to be faithful to the message of D.A.

The final stage—after the committees around the world have slugged it out with a Higher Power to produce a text—is verification. We have settled on a particular agency to verify samples from the translators' work, and the results have smoothed the process through. This is one of the stages that costs money. This year we have committed a dollar amount from the Fellowship's general donations to this verification. We look forward to being able to do more.

In our Ideal Spending Plan there is an international desk at the office, a paid employee dedicated to this project, and a turnaround time to equal the best.

In the meantime we have also this year written and had legally approved the wording of a license to print and distribute D.A. literature. We are currently debating the parameters of financial terms that might benefit D.A. as a whole while making literature widely accessible. We are looking forward to working with Intergroups to bring about licensing.

Josie O. P.  
Chair, LTL

**“Isolation will give way to fellowship; faith will replace fear.”**

#6 of Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous

## **IT'S D.A.'S INTERNATIONAL PROMISE 6 DAY! SAVE-THE-DATE: SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020**

It's as simple as being with one other fellow. Take the initiative to meet with another in program.

**WHAT:** D.A.'S INTERNATIONAL PROMISE 6 DAY kicks off on the 4th Saturday in April in 2020. D.A. members are encouraged to gather in person for face-to-face fellowship (this is only for fun, not fundraising). For example: Select a local coffee house to gather for coffee, a potluck picnic at a park, challenge another local meeting to a softball game, go for a hike, etc.

**WHEN:** SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020 (every 4th Saturday in April thereafter). Members are free to choose any time of day they wish.

**WHY:** To break the cycle of isolation with fellowship.

**HOW:** It can be as simple as asking a fellow to meet for coffee. All D.A. members (especially General Service Representatives) are encouraged to make a motion at their meeting (or Intergroup) to select someone to organize a gathering on Promise 6 Day.

- A) The member organizing the event may create a committee to organize the event.
- B) Meeting organizer either alone or with committee finds a gathering spot, hammers out the details (time, place, etc) and promotes the event at meeting beginning in March.
- C) Intergroups are encouraged to list local Promise 6 Day events on their websites.

**WHERE:** Preferably near a 5 mile radius for home group meeting.

**WHO:** D.A. members old and new.

For those connected via phone and internet meetings, set a time to talk with a member one on one. **Together We Get Better.** Share your stories at [communications@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:communications@debtorsanonymous.org)



# General Service Board Committee Reports

## GSB Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

As stated in the 2019-20 D.A. Manual for Service, “The Long Range Planning Committee facilitates the GSB’s long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to suffering compulsive debtors around the world.” To that end so far this year the LRPC Committee has participated in activities in four general categories.

(1) “Ask the General Service Board” phone forums—A set of four phone forums during the 2019-2020 Conference year that provides an opportunity to learn about and ask questions about D.A. and performing service. Two of these one-hour forums happened in 2019. The first was on September 15, titled “WSC 2019 Recap.” The second was held on November 17 and presented the topic “Three S’s—Sponsorship/Solvency/Service.” We look forward to two more forums in the second half of the conference year during 2020. On Sunday, March 22, the presentation and discussion will center around “D.A. Literature, Literature Translations, and Licensing.” The final forum for the year will feature a presentation and discussion on “D.A. Finances” to be held July 19, 2020.

(2) Distilling the Operating Vision as expressed by the WSC—Building on the work done by last year’s LRPC towards strategic planning and using the wisdom of recommendations and motions presented by the 2019 WSC, a one-page summary of the Fellowship’s Operating Vision was developed. The three over-arching categories encompassed in the vision are Creating Cohesive Presence, Carrying Recovery Message, and Implementing Effective Operations. As an effort to move towards realizing the vision, the committee has begun to examine both underlying challenges to the vision as well as practical solutions to address the challenges.

(3) Renewal of the February Face-to-Face for General Service Board—LRPC

has provided practical support towards the renewal of an actual mid-conference year face-to-face meeting of the GSB. The Board appreciated this event as in the past; such meetings have increased cooperation and effective action of the GSB. This event occurred in New York City, February 6-9. As part of this event, the Board participated in a meet and greet dialogue with the Fellowship on Saturday, February 8.

(4) Fostering a D.A. Website Fellowship Archives page—The committee has begun to work with the Communication and Technology Committee to develop a page on the D.A. website where archived articles and information can be posted on an ongoing basis.

Susan A.

## GSB Nominations Committee (NomCom)

The Nominations Committee (“Nom Com”) is concerned primarily with identifying, developing, and nominating potential Trustee candidates to the D.A. General Service Board (GSB). NomCom also facilitates the application process for Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) and Project Contributors (PCs), who serve on GSB Committees.

The General Service Board is happy to welcome two new Class A (members of Debtors Anonymous) Trustees: Matthew E. from New York, USA, and Paul M., from California, USA. Matthew and Paul joined the GSB in December of 2019.

The GSB currently has three openings for Class A Trustees and two for Class B (non-debtor) Trustees as well as multiple opportunities for service as ACMs and Project Contributors.

Nom Com welcomes queries regarding serving as a Trustee, ACM, or Project Contributor. Detailed descriptions of each of these service opportunities can be found on the D.A. website in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS, 2019 edition) or on the Service Opportunities webpage at

[debtorsanonymous.org/service](http://debtorsanonymous.org/service).

Project Contributor (PC) is the newest opportunity for members to serve the D.A. Fellowship. Committees of the General Service Board may choose to select one or more Project Contributors to participate on a short-term, time-limited basis on a specific assignment or project for a GSB committee.

Recovering D.A. members or former Trustees who have experience or expertise in a particular field, such as computer technology, website or application development, literature translation, communications, or public relations and who may be willing to serve on projects should look for eNews announcements regarding needs of specific GSB committees. Additionally, members may suggest a project they believe may be beneficial to a GSB committee or to the Fellowship.

## GSB Office Committee

The purpose of the GSB Office Committee is as stated in the 2019-2020 D.A. Manual for Service: “The GSB Office Committee acts in both a managerial and advisory capacity, provides a channel for the concerns of the Office Manager to the full Board for action, sets standards for the operations, makes personnel decisions, provides support to the Office, and in general oversees the smooth workings of the General Service Office.” To these ends the Office Committee has worked very closely this year with the World Service Conference Internal Operations Committee to explore opportunities for both short-term solutions and long-range plans for improvement to the General Service Office in Needham or for any future site of the GSO. Topics included current office facility upgrade in Needham, long-range relocation of GSO possibilities, D.A. archives organization, literature orders fulfillment process, revised office and human resources procedures manuals, and

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# General Service Board Committee Reports

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a spending plan for office relocation.

In addition to working with the WSC Internal Operations Committee, the GSB Office Committee has worked with other GSB committees and WSC committees to realize a coordinated effort toward upgrading office equipment for GSO including computer technology.

In December 2019, the Office Committee welcomed a new part-time employee to work with our Office Manager.

Finally, the Office Committee has joined efforts with other Board members in an ad hoc committee for office relocation as a means for creating a well-thought out and intentional plan for future GSO location.

Susan A.

## GSB Public Information Committee (GSB PI)

The GSB Public Information Committee works closely with the WSC Public Information Committee to carry the message of D.A. to the outside world. The GSB Public Information Committee works with the media through the Media Contact Person (MCP), a position created in 2006; creates tools; forwards requests; and ensures that all communications follow the Traditions. To provide the D.A. Fellowship with examples of recent work completed by the committee (and the Board), we offer the following updates.

The GSB PI Committee has responded to several requests for interviews from print, social media, radio, and television media. Interviews were conducted while

protecting the anonymity of Debtors Anonymous members. GSB PI has responded to a request for information on the difference between attraction and promotion with shared experience on Tradition Eleven.

In follow up to the World Service Conference approval of the WSC BDA Committee's audio Public Service Announcement, the GSB Public Information Committee is securing a vendor to produce the audio PSA for distribution to the Fellowship.

The GSB Public Information Committee is planning on hosting a Media Contact Training Fellowship-wide call in early 2020.

We hope this report helps D.A. members understand the types of issues that the General Service Board addresses on behalf of the Fellowship.

# World Service Conference Committee Reports

## WSC Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) Committee

We are halfway through the year, and the BDA Committee has been producing on all fronts. Committee members include Michelle M. (chair), Mary Jane W. (vice chair), Jenny N. (secretary), Kate E. (treasurer), Josie (board liaison), Sadie H., Helena K., Linda P., Kelly L., Kate E., Jenny N., Jerome S., and Ed K.

The BDA's first subcommittee has collected 12 stories with BDA fellows' experience, strength, and hope. They will be featured in next quarter's *Ways and Means*. It is our hope that these stories also eventually make their way into a book of BDA members' stories, much like the current *Currency of Hope*.

Our second subcommittee organizes and hosts Fellowship-wide calls to address BDA-specific issues. They have already held two such calls—one on dealing with prosperity and the challenges embracing prosperity can bring, and more recently a call that

focused on how the D.A. Promises have come true for the speakers. They will be hosting one more call this year, with the topic TBD.

Our third subcommittee is one whose members have been helping to create and organize a BDA retreat. These members are few, but they are mighty. We very much look forward to reporting on the retreat during the Conference in August.

Finally, it is likely that our committee will review the BDA portion of the latest Step Study Guide draft in the coming months. We are incredibly excited that the initiative is moving forward and will contribute in whatever ways are needed.

## WSC Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

The Fellowship Communications Committee kicks off 2019-2020 with the theme Connecting our Fellowship:

Together We Get Better.

This year we have six members, of whom two are returning from last year: Rody (Chair), Bert (Vice Chair), Anne M. (Secretary), Alexia (Treasurer), with Amina, Nicole, and Vivian. Our Board Liaison is Tom B.

We have formed three subcommittees:

1) Sponsor-A-Group, chaired by Nicole, has the purpose to connect fellows, meetings, and Intergroups for support. The response from meetings interested in signing up to offer support has been inspiring.

2) D.A.'s first International Promise-6-Day—"isolation will give way to fellowship; faith will replace fear"—chaired by Alexia, is focused on organizing the first event and getting the word out so D.A. fellows around the world can gather in person on the fourth Saturday in April (this year, April 25) for fellowship and just for fun!

3) D.A.'s second quarter edition of

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# World Service Conference Committee Reports

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*Ways & Means* is chaired/curated by Vivian B, and the theme is “A Roadmap of D.A. Resources for Recovery.”

We kicked off our term responding to seven issues and concerns and have been discussing at our monthly meetings the two recommendations we received at 2019’s WSC. We chaired two of the quarterly calls with D.A.’s Committee and Caucus Chairs, an opportunity to connect across the Fellowship and to collaborate with each other.

Rody – FCC Chair

## WSC Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Committee

HIP continues to make inroads into various institution and prison settings throughout the country. We have included universities as part of the institutions we are reaching out to along with what seems to be our main focus—shelters and prisons. Each institution and each prison system is very different in their needs and requirements, and it is difficult to establish any universal procedures for reaching out to debtors that are without access to our program. We rely heavily on the HIP Starter Kit found in the Public Information section of the website.

In Los Angeles there are six HIP members—more than half of the committee. I have been working with HIP members from previous years, and one thing that stands out most is a lack of continuity when GSR service terms out. The last liaison to the L.A. county jail system is still active but quit trying when she was not getting support. My goal for L.A. and the GSR time I have left is to organize a data pool of 20 to 30 D.A. fellows who would be willing to do a one-day commitment. That way there is always a pool to draw from. I will be reaching out to the entire Los Angeles D.A. fellowship by means of a flyer and announcements at some of the larger local meetings.

Most importantly, don’t forget: It’s COOL to be HIP!

Thanks for letting me be of service,  
Roger D,  
VP and acting Chair

## WSC Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

2019–2020 members:

Chair: Patricia T.  
Vice-Chair: Chris S.  
Secretary: Kim G.  
Treasurer: Pat E.  
GSB Liaison: Susan A  
Members: Bob E., Paul M.,  
Gordon M., Howie S., Con-  
tributor: Allan C

Recommendations from 2019 World Service Conference:

1. Find and implement a D.A. meeting app similar to the “Meeting Guide” app for A.A. meetings (in conjunction with the Tech Committee).
2. Suggestions for all Intergroups to place a button on their website landing pages for one-click access to a .pdf file of their meeting list (in conjunction with the Tech Committee).
3. Create an online literature order form that “does the math” to eliminate order form mistakes that often delay the fulfilment of literature orders (in conjunction with the Tech Committee).
4. Conduct a Fellowship-wide fundraising appeal for the relocation of the General Service Office once a location has been identified.
5. Research and procure international calling capability on a telephone line at the General Service Office.

Recommendations from 2018 World Service Conference:

1. The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain (or increase) the funding level for the “Salary and Hourly

## POPULAR RESOURCES

[debtorsanonymous.org/enews](http://debtorsanonymous.org/enews)

*Sign up for special email announcements.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/announcements](http://debtorsanonymous.org/announcements)

*Download flyers to share at meetings.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/meetings](http://debtorsanonymous.org/meetings)

*Search our new meeting directory*

[debtorsanonymous.org/phone-meetings](http://debtorsanonymous.org/phone-meetings)

*Search specifically for phone meetings*

[debtorsanonymous.org/register](http://debtorsanonymous.org/register)

*Register your meeting annually for the website.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/contribute](http://debtorsanonymous.org/contribute)

*Contribute to D.A. as a member or a meeting to help publish literature and support the GSO.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts](http://debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts)

*Listen to audio recordings of speaker shares.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/channel](http://debtorsanonymous.org/channel)

*Access PSAs and non-English speaker shares that can be embedded on Intergroup websites.*

[debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks](http://debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks)

*Visit the official Author Page of Debtors Anonymous to purchase digital books.*

Wages” line item in the Income and Spending Plan for FY 2018-2019 for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

2. The IOC recommends that the General Service Board (GSB) consider increasing the number of staff to 2.0 FTE with appropriate qualifications such as 12-step experience and technical expertise to reduce turnover.

3. The IOC recommends that the GSB increase allocations to the line item in the Income and Spending Plan for the eventual relocation of the GSO.

4. The IOC recommends that steps concerning the training of volunteers to answer the 1-800 number call from the still-suffering debtor be started and the installation of an additional telephone line at the GSO to facilitate this initiative. Suggestion that one phone number will

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# World Service Conference Committee Reports

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be used as the office business line and the other will be used to route calls from still suffering debtors to a network of trained volunteers. Estimated monthly cost is \$33.00.

Status of On-Going IOC Projects:

1. Physical Improvements to the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham, MA—The IOC is doing research on the cost to replace the ceiling tiles in the GSO. The quotes will subsequently be forwarded to the GSB for consideration. The purchase of a window air conditioner is being postponed until May 2020. Bob E. will be visiting the office in January and will look at the fire extinguisher at that time. The Office Manager is networking with the landlord to discuss any hazardous materials in the area.

2. Network of Telephone Volunteers—We have written a draft procedure including volunteer training to answer calls that come in to the General Service Office from the debtor who still suffers. This document has been reviewed by the GSO Office Manager. We are working with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to complete and implement the procedure and training protocol for volunteers. These calls would come in on a dedicated toll-free number and be forwarded to the volunteer network at times decided upon by the GSO Office Manager so he can work more effectively and without so many interruptions. The IOC and the GSO Office Manager suggest all groups look at the D.A. procedures manual to find answers to procedure questions before calling the GSO Office Manager.

3. Policy and Procedures (P&P) Manual for the GSO—The IOC Committee is reviewing the documents and will forward an updated/edited copy to the GSB Office Committee once preliminary guidelines and procedures for evaluating employees performance are added.

4. Location of the GSO—7 of the 32

Intergroups have responded positively to hosting the D.A. GSO. Also one individual and one outside organization have submitted suggestions and solutions to the D.A. GSO relocation.

Moving the headquarters of any organization such as Debtors Anonymous is concurrently a legal and an emotional undertaking and is an investment in the Fellowship, for the Fellowship, and by the Fellowship. All individuals in all meeting groups have a stake in the outcome. The IOC has been working on the relocation of the GSO since 2015. It became apparent that the relocation could not be accomplished within the 24 months before the contract needed to be renewed. The General Service Board renewed the lease for the Needham, Massachusetts office space, and as of January 2020, there are 33 months left on the lease, which expires in October 2022. Relocating the GSO should move forward immediately, starting with identifying what strengths each Intergroup or other location could contribute should the office move to their location. The GSB has formed an ad hoc committee to work on this. The IOC suggests that the IOC have presence on the GSB ad hoc committee so that the Fellowship is also represented. The formation of an ad hoc committee is important—as the individuals in the committees change, the formation of the ad hoc committee can provide the stability needed to see this project through to completion.

5. Office Staff—The GSB Office Committee has hired a 20-hour per week employee to help Allan C., the Office Manager. Keeping a person in this part-time position has been difficult over time. The IOC continues to recommend increasing hours and/or hourly rate for the second employee in the GSO to improve the attractiveness of the position to the part-time employee.

6. Archives—The IOC is researching options of getting an intern from one of the local universities to help us structure what archives need to be

retained and help us determine how to store them and prevent damage to the archives. At some point in the future it would be advantageous to discuss with the Archivist what is the best method to display any interesting items. It would be worthy of a discussion to see if the archivist role could be added as a pay-as-needed position or as a permanent volunteer position.

Submitted in service,  
Patricia T., IOC Chair

## WSC Literature Committee (LitCom)

Members for the 2019–2020 Year:

Chair: Curt P.

Vice-Chair: Jeanne M.

Secretary: Amy O.

Treasurer: Mary Jane B.

GSB Liaison: Sharon S.

Members: Anna Holmes H., Charlotte R., Cynthia S., Fati L., Gill W-B., Jorge M., Julie T., Kellie L., Leslie G., Peter S., Ruby S-G., Stuart F., Tammy M., Taylor D.

Statement of Purpose:

D.A. Conference-approved literature begins with the Literature Committee. Members participate in all levels of the literature creative process including generating ideas for new D.A. literature, working closely with members of Literature Services, reviewing drafts of literature in process (given to them at the Conference by Literature Services), approving final drafts of D.A. literature, and bringing motions to approve draft of literature to Convocation to become Conference-approved literature.

Issues and Concerns:

WSC LitCom was assigned 15 Issues & Concerns and submitted responses to our GSB liaison Sharon S. in November 2019. The literature concepts (listed below) that were submitted and approved at the 2019 Convocation largely originated in response to many of the Issues & Concerns submitted by the Fellowship. As part of our

(continued)

# World Service Conference Committee Reports

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response, WSC LitCom also clarified with the GSB the process for periodic review of existing literature that takes into consideration previous Issues & Concerns raised.

## 2019 World Service Conference Approved Literature Concepts

1. Pamphlet on "What is Solvency?"
2. Pamphlet on "Retirement"
3. Pamphlet on "Dealing with Prosperity"
4. Pamphlet on "Earning"
5. Pamphlet on "Action Plan"
6. Pamphlet on "D.A. Voices from the Black Community"
7. Pamphlet on "BDA Stories"

## Continued Work on Previously Approved Literature Concepts

1. Book of "D.A. Daily Meditations"
2. Pamphlet on "Relapse and Recovery"
3. Book of "D.A. and BDA Step Study Guide"

## Status of WSC LitCom Projects:

The 19 members of WSC LitCom, spanning four US time zones and the UK, have created eight subcommittees that are actively working on the structure and content for each of the concepts listed above. Once the subcommittees have fleshed these out, they will submit their work to WSC LitCom for approval. When approved, each concept moves to the next stage: submission of the materials to the GSB Literature Publications Committee to assign resources for further review and development.

Two of the subcommittees, "D.A. Voices from the Black Community" and "Earning," have requested crowd-sourced input and intend to use either direct-to-member surveys or email links in the D.A. *Ways and Means* to reach out to the Fellowship for additional experience, strength, and hope on these topics. These subcommittees are also coordinating their efforts with the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus (UUOC) and the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC). Contributors are in the process of being identified by subcommittee

chairs where needed.

The D.A. daily meditations book and "Relapse and Recovery" pamphlet subcommittees are carrying forward the work done by 2018 WSC LitCom on those approved literature concepts. Currently the D.A. Daily Meditations subcommittee is collecting, reviewing, and editing submissions solicited from the Fellowship.

BDA literature concepts are initially assigned to the BDA Committee for development and are then reviewed by WSC LitCom after submission. Development of the D.A./BDA Step Study Guides is currently under the supervision of the GSB Literature Publications and Literature Services Committees.

The WSC LitCom subcommittees are as follows:

"What is Solvency?"

Stuart F. – Chair

"Retirement"

Charlotte R. – Chair

"Dealing with Prosperity"

Fati L. – Chair

"Earning"

Gill W-B. – Chair

"Action Plan"

Mary Jane B. – Chair

"D.A. Voices From the Black Community"

Ruby S-G. – Chair

"Relapse and Recovery"

Anna Holmes H. – Chair

"D.A. Daily Meditations"

Amy O. - Chair

## WSC Public Information Committee (WSC PI)

Members for the 2019–2020 Program Year:

Beverley, Lisa, Deborah, Roger, Roslyn, Sean, Chris, Susan, Maia, Gerry, Sarah, Jeanne

## Statement of Purpose

The WSC Public Information Committee has as its purpose to carry the message of D.A. to the still-suffering debtor by interacting with the media and helping professionals, the general

public, and the D.A. Fellowship-at-large.

## Report

This year our focus is to reach out to various types of organisations whose members or clients might be interested in Debtors Anonymous.

After the World Service Conference, we formed some subcommittees to focus on specific aspects of our outreach work.

The Subcommittee for PI training decided to do "One Day, One Action." One member of the subcommittee spoke to her relatives and other people in her community about D.A., one wrote a letter to an agency that would be working with people who could benefit from D.A. and included some literature with it, one put together a Twelve Step meeting list that went out to public libraries, and another member sent three different packets of information to different agencies—they plan to follow up and make phone calls and find out if they can speak to their staff about how D.A. could benefit them.

The main purpose of the subcommittee is to look at how local reps are trained to do work in their local communities. They plan to take information from local PI efforts and from the PI manual to develop the Fellowship-wide call in June. They will meet again next month.

The Fellowship-wide Calls Subcommittee met last month and came up with alternative dates and emailed the Board to tease out dates for Fellowship-wide calls.

We plan to hold a Fellowship-wide call this year to provide media training to members who deal with the media as part of their service work.

One member of the PI Subcommittee attended and spoke at a Financial literary forum meeting held by Harlem Rotary Club in New York City—a few members of D.A. also attended with her. The 12 Signs of Compulsive Debting was handed out. People were very interested in the members' shares

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# World Service Conference Committee Reports

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and took away some information about D.A. There were about 50 people there. The committee suggested outreach to other Rotary Clubs around the country.

The PI Committee purchased further thumb drives from the General Service Office so that we have them for further outreach. These have proven useful in members' outreach work. Thumb drives received at the World Conference have been distributed to various radio stations who agreed to play them.

A member in Ireland did an email blast to a number of community radio stations there. Thirteen of these have agreed to read out the Irish D.A. meeting information and contact number on their community announcements slots. This member also did two radio interviews D.A.

Other radio interviews were taken by members of the committee such as an interview last October on Sirius Radio.

Universities were also contacted and the student union of one of the major universities in Dublin is putting information in relation to D.A. on their social media feed.

The suicide services were also reached out to and the largest of these in Ireland, The Samaritans, is informing their volunteers about D.A. and asking them to keep the fellowship in mind when dealing with clients who appear to have difficulties around money and debt.

The LGBT outreach service and the Gay Switchboard in Dublin are doing the same by informing their volunteers and outreach workers.

Some members handed out D.A. flyers at their local meeting so that members could hang them on the notice boards of venues that host meetings of other 12 Step fellowships.

Some members of the committee have reached out to helping professionals, conventions, professional bodies, and

other Twelve Step fellowships. One of our members did an email blast to U.S. therapists in specific areas by batches.

Several requests were received by the committee during the year from publications interested in writing about Debtors Anonymous. Among these were the *Wall Street Journal*, *Buzzfeed News*, and *Student Loan Hero*. These requests were responded to by individual members of the committee.

Research was done into the upcoming meetings over the next few years of the Bankruptcy Judges Conference, and it is anticipated that we will arrange to have a D.A. booth at these conferences. Other booths are planned for the Toronto Black Business Association, Health Professionals Conferences, and Trade Union Conferences.

Our Toronto member set up a table at the Gratitude Conference in Toronto where D.A. material was taken by attendees.

Each member of the committee is taking a section of the PI training manual and looking at it for suggested improvements or changes. The focus is not to change the content but to reorganise it and make it more user friendly.

## WSC Resource Development Committee (RDC)

The D.A. RDC is five fellows strong, each with their own talents and drive to serve the Fellowship: Barbara H., Ceilia M., Michael L., Lynn S., and Diana B.

### SERVICE

Michael L. is invested in increasing sponsorship activity Fellowship-wide and is working on adding a Temporary Sponsorship position to each meeting. Also, each of this year's three RDC Fellowship-wide calls are themed around sponsorship: finding a sponsor, being a sponsor, and the power of sponsorship in recovery. The first such call was held on 10/26, and the second

is scheduled for 2/15.

### REVENUE

With respect to revenue, the RDC's goal for 2019-2020 is an aggressive 20% contribution increase on the shoulders of the same growth the last two fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

In the early part of the year, the RDC became concerned in the face of apparent contribution shortfall rather than growth. Lynn S. created a campaign inspired by efforts in California to inspire \$7 monthly contributions to the GSB from 1000 fellows that, in theory, would result an \$84,000 contribution increase. A flyer on this campaign has been submitted to the Board for approval, and we are optimistic it shall be approved soon. In addition to this direct effort, a very recent \$12,000 maximum contribution from one D.A. member in December has brought this year's contribution levels slightly higher than 2018-2019, or \$4,054.39.

### COMMUNICATION

RDC with the efforts of Ceilia M. submitted updated versions of the End of Year Tax Announcement which was distributed twice between Thanksgiving and 12/31/2019, and the John H. Scholarship contribution letter (deadline end of March) will be distributed shortly. The Fellowship's Annual April Appeal letter's updated language will be submitted in February for Finance Committee review.

### END NOTE

Lastly, the RDC with the efforts of Barbara H and Ceilia M is working on refreshing the DAMS language around Treasury, including in part adding a line in the suggested 7th Tradition announcement that, in clarity, suggests a specific contribution amount based on that meeting's rent and insurance costs and anticipated GSR needs. Diana B. is also working on a 7th Promise—prosperity sharing—piece that is still in development.

# World Service Conference Committee Reports

## WSC Technology Committee (TechComm)

Members for 2019 - 2020:

GSB Liaison: Bill D.

Chair: Juhli

Vice Chair: Dave L.

Secretary: Peter

Treasurer: Rosemary

Members: Cris, Diane, Tim, Stephanie, Faith

2019 WSC Recommendations :

1) Office Equipment Upgrade

2) New Website

Progress report:

1) Office equipment upgrade:

It was determined at the last World Service Conference in L.A. that the office is quite overdue for an equipment upgrade. Updating the equipment will improve the security and efficiency of office function. A recommendation for a new computer has been researched and submitted to the Board

2) New website:

TechComm is working with a GSB Project Contributor and have decided on a template that is currently being

tested. Aiming for a launch date 2 –3 weeks into the New Year (as of this report).

3) G-suite for non-profit organizations:

This will facilitate storing and sharing our files. GSB Communications and Technology Committee is working with a Project Contributor to develop protocols for moving our archives. The G Suite app on Google for Nonprofits offers free unlimited space and email addresses, and their plan is to create an email for all committees and caucuses.

Submitted by Juhli

# World Service Conference Caucus Reports

## WSC Intergroup Caucus

Members

Cris F. Chair, Lisa B. Secretary, Jerome S., Howie S., Roger H.

Nancy K. Board Liaison

Recommendations from WSC 2019

1. Ensure that Intergroup websites display the same meeting information as the GSO website

- Continued to contact all known Intergroups and get updated contact information.

2. Provide an automated link on the meeting re/registration page that sends the updated information to both the GSO and the affected Intergroup

- Staying in contact with Tech Committee, is on the project list for the Web redesign Project Contributor.

3. Assign every meeting to an Intergroup with the option of choosing a particular Intergroup.

- Currently Intergroup regions match the definitions set forth in the D.A. Manual for Service, Chapter 9.E.3.5 on page 127. We may want to consider rearranging the Intergroups, as some of them have done this organically.

Issues and Concerns

- Intergroup rep. from out of the U.S. asked for examples on how other Intergroups deal with web site

management and operation.

—This is a question on the survey sent out to all known Intergroups. Results will be shared with the Fellowship.

## WSC International Caucus

The International Caucus has been focused on preparing the caucus to be a committee. Thus, our group has been focused on answering the following questions:

- What will make a successful caucus this year?

- How can we best assess and respond to the needs of the non-U.S D.A. members during our time together?

- Top three activities I'd like to participate in for the caucus?

- How can we best prepare the caucus to become a committee?

In addition, we are orchestrating a "listening session" with the European Intergroup (tentative date first week of Feb, 2020) to better understand how D.A. can support their efforts. This is our big project for the year, as we hope to orchestrate multiple listening sessions globally. In addition, we are discussing curating a *Ways & Means* issue as well as holding a Fellowship-wide call. Finally, the topic of web translation is hot for our group and we are working on how to bring this into reality.

## WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

Members 2019–2020:

Chair: Lolly A.

Vice-Chair: Roger D.

Secretary & Treasurer: Jeanine C.

Members: Alexia I, Ed K, Jeanne, Jenny, Paul, Peter S, Susan L, Trisha R.

Liaison: Bill D.

This year the Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus is hosting three Fellowship-wide calls:

- "Bringing Balance to Our Spiritually Sustainable Earning" on 10-13-19

- "Roundtable Discussion: What Does Spiritually Sustainable Earning Mean to YOU?" on 2-16-20

- "TBA" on 6-14-20

Members of the SSEC have been participating on the Earning Pamphlet Subcommittee with members of LitCom, chaired by Gill W-B.

The upcoming SSEC Fellowship-wide call "Roundtable Discussion: What Does Spiritually Sustainable Earning Mean to YOU?" will be on:

SUN 2-16-20, 11AM PST / 2PM EST / 7PM GMT – 90 minute call

Call-In Number (USA & CANADA): 605-472-5540 Access Code: 617093#

For international numbers and online access, visit: [www.debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access)

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# World Service Conference Caucus Reports

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SSEC members have been committed and creative, working hard to uphold our mission:

“The Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus (SSEC) serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity around issues of earning in the D.A. program. Our vision is to broaden the Fellowship-wide understanding of how spiritually sustainable earning fits into D.A. recovery, encouraging a comprehensive and spiritual approach by working the 12 Steps and using the Tools of Debtors Anonymous.”

In gratitude and service,  
Lolly, SSEC Chair

## WSC Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach (UUOC) Caucus

The Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Caucus has been passionately working to help support the growth of new meetings in underserved areas and to bring inclusivity to debtors of diversity.

At the World Service Conference we made a recording of a member of our caucus sharing his experience, strength, and hope on what it was like for him as a debtor who is gay. This recording will ultimately live as a podcast on the [debtorsanonymous.org](http://debtorsanonymous.org) website with several other podcasts we have recorded in our diversity series, once a platform has been built to house them.

We are expanding on our mapping project to create international maps, to update our maps with new meetings, and to enhance the data overlays that show demographic information.

We drafted a letter introducing Debtors Anonymous (or in some cases reintroducing ourselves) to Alcoholics Anonymous. This was done in an effort to carry the message of D.A. to those who do not know we exist. This letter was then hand-delivered by our Board Liason, Bob, to a member of the Board

of Alcoholics Anonymous. We also expressed interest in having a presence at the A.A. Conference in Michigan this year. We are currently working on a shorter version of the letter, which with Board approval could be posted in A.A. halls.

We are working on a service piece on Diversity/Inclusivity that would live on the [debtorsanonymous.org](http://debtorsanonymous.org) website as free downloadable literature.

We are working with Sponsor-A-Group to support their expansion, which will also serve as a wonderful tool that can help support new meetings.

We are collecting information, podcasts, recorded WSB phone calls, etc to combine with downloadable literature to form a template to provide to new meetings reaching out to us for assistance.

We requested and received a grant for literature. The members of our caucus will use this literature for underserved areas.

A member of our caucus has reached out to the LGBT community in Ireland to carry the message of D.A. and has received interest and commitments from radio stations there to play D.A. PSAs and to provide switchboards with D.A. information.

A member of our caucus in Canada is working with an Intergroup rep there to

try to start new meetings in underserved areas.

We are supporting a debtor starting a meeting in Pennsylvania. We also respond to debtors who reach out to our caucus for help facing the challenges of starting new meetings in areas where there are very few.

We are currently collecting information from debtors with disabilities in an effort to best know how to move forward in supporting their needs.

A member of our caucus has collected many stories from debtors from diverse communities.

A member of our caucus has worked diligently to increase the number of meetings in New Orleans, which has now doubled since the WSC.

We are working with both the FCC and the Intergroup Caucus in an effort to create Sponsor-An-Intergroup, at the suggestion of one of our members. This would allow a new or struggling Intergroup to have support from a more established one which would benefit an entire region.

We are looking forward to completing these actions and being open to inspiration for many more in our “boots to the ground” approach to carrying the message and supporting underserved and underrepresented debtors.

*(“Issues & Concerns” continued from page 1)*

to edit certain submissions, making sure that the actual Issue & Concern is conveyed while observing our First Tradition to preserve D.A. unity. Submissions may be edited for grammar and punctuation in accordance with the D.A. Style Guide.

We do not want to silence any member or create unreasonable hurdles for members wishing to promote positive growth for D.A. Our hope is that these changes will make it easier for delegates to do the work of the Fellowship. We will discuss this topic further at this year’s World Service Conference and adjust the process as needed, so please bring your ideas. For more information or to submit Issues & Concerns, visit the Issues & Concerns webpage at [debtorsanonymous.org/inc](http://debtorsanonymous.org/inc). Note that the deadline for consideration at the 2020 World Service Conference is April 1, 2020.

— Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

## John H. Scholarship Fund Call for 2020 Contributions by March 31, 2020

### What Is the John H. Scholarship Fund?

Established in honor of D.A.'s founder, John H., scholarships are awarded to groups that do not have sufficient funds to cover the expense of sending their General Service Representative (GSR) or Intergroup Service Representative (ISR) to the annual D.A. World Service Conference (WSC).

During the past four years, D.A. groups and fellows have contributed a total of \$31,614.92 to the John H. Scholarship Fund, helping send 58 representatives to the WSC. In the 2018-19 Conference year, \$8,091.31 was raised. This helped send 11 delegates to the August 2019 WSC held in Los Angeles, California USA - delegates who otherwise might not have been able to attend

### How Does the John H. Scholarship Fund Work?

All D.A. groups that have a GSR or ISR, but have not raised enough money to cover the cost of sending their representative to the WSC, are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

One scholarship is awarded to a qualifying meeting with the greatest financial need. The remainder of the Fund is distributed to meetings with the smallest amount needed first, followed by groups with larger amounts needed so that the John H. Scholarship Funds supports the largest number of delegates attending the WSC. Our goal for the 2019-20 Conference year is to raise \$10,000 or \$20 per each of D.A.'s 500 registered groups. This amount will make it possible to provide support to approximately 20 D.A. groups seeking to send a representative to the 2020 World Service Conference in the New York City, USA area to be held at the Newark, NJ Marriott.

All contributions received by March 31, 2020, will go toward sending GSRs and ISRs to the 2020 World Service Conference.

Individual contributions by D.A. Fellows to the John H. Scholarship are graciously accepted and may result in a U.S. Federal Tax deduction to the contributor. Check with your tax advisor.

Please visit the link below to download the John H. Scholarship Fund Information Flyer for distribution at your meetings.

<https://debtorsanonymous.org/wsc>



# 2020 WSC Host Committee Report

## 2020 WSC Host Committee

It Takes a Village

Concept 9 – Servant Leadership

Hi. My name is Maureen C., and I live in Manhattan (thank you D.A.). I'd like to tell you about the steps taken in the last year including thanking those fellows who helped and the "coincidences" that happened, to prepare to host the WSC 2020 Conference which will be August 12-16, 2020 at the Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel. I first heard about the need for a host committee chair in late December 2018 when two Intergroup members announced at the Saturday 6:30 Little Room meeting that the local NYC Intergroup was interested in responding to the Board request to host an upcoming WSC and needed help preparing a bid. I had a lightbulb moment thinking I'd be excited to do that. I believed my experience attending conferences as a GSR and a Board member plus relevant business experience would prepare me for this new service position (very naïve—a request for humility should have been my main desire). I was also interested in a new service opportunity that would keep my program fresh and introduce me to other people who love D.A. and service. This 100% came true when I went to LA to attend this past year's conference (thank you Rob, Carolyn, Levon, Peter, and Craig from Texas 17-18).

While I was speaking with the above Intergroup members (thank you Sheila, Dana, and Charlie), I was also speaking with Sharon on the Board who was very encouraging and NYC members who were involved with the 2002 NYC conference held at Columbia University. Sharon introduced me to Tom B. on the Board who had put together the bid for L.A. August 2019 conference and he walked me through every step of creating the 2020 and as it turns out 2021 bids. This included getting a core group of host committee members and three venue quotes and reading the Host Committee Manual. We also got a beautiful logo (thank you Dana and other members who submitted and voted on options). Our theme is Trusting Our Traditions. We were appointed a Board Liaison, Sarah V from Philadelphia, and she and Alexandra and I began driving to various venues, which was very fun. After getting many more quotes, a member got a great quote from the Newark Airport Hotel which was further negotiated by the Board Chair (thank you Charlie and Tenzin and thank you Chris S. who put on a Westchester Share A Day where I met Tenzin). We began having monthly Host Committee meetings at 6:00 on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. See [danyc.org](http://danyc.org) for all relevant flyers. A core group of 8-12 host committee members attend regularly and sometimes meet at the diner afterwards for fellowship (thank you Michael).

In the last month we have been working on the menus with the Hotel (thank you Sarah and Kris); setting up a system to match roommates at the conference (thank you

**NYC will be hosting  
the 2020 DA  
World Service Conference  
on August 12-16, 2020**

**The HOST COMMITTEE  
needs YOUR help!**

**Interested in doing service or  
learning more?**

**Email us at:  
[wsc2020volunteers@danyc.org](mailto:wsc2020volunteers@danyc.org)**

**The Host Committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each  
month. Location details can be found at  
[WWW.DANYC.ORG/meetings](http://WWW.DANYC.ORG/meetings)**

Karen); opening up the checking account after getting an EIN number (thank you Willie, Lisa, and Paula); creating a spending plan for the seed money (thank you Charlie, Lisa, and Michaelene); and a spending plan for AV/Tech (thank you Jonathan). I meet monthly with the GSR/ISR Conference Committee (CC) (thank you Tracy, Karen, June and all) and go to monthly Intergroup meetings (thank you Rebecca, Michael, Bob, Andrew, Este, Deborah and Rosita).

There are many positions that need to be filled between now and August: Fundraising and Gala Chairs, people to sit in the Tech Room and the Hospitality Room from Wednesday to Sunday, and members to speak at Fellowship Day and register attendees there. Please send your email to [wsc2020volunteers@danyc.org](mailto:wsc2020volunteers@danyc.org). The Fellowship Day (thank you Chris, Minke and Tzipora) is on Saturday, August 15, and includes a noon lunchtime and speaker meeting followed by 16 workshops and speakers on topics including Steps, Traditions, and Debt-Anon (thank you Karen). Fellowship Day concludes with the Gala Dinner and speaker. See you then! Looking forward to it and if this inspires you at all please sign up for a new service position. Concept 9 is a good guide... we are not alone... we can follow servant leaders before us as we become one of them.

Save the  
date

*Saturday, August 15, 2020*

## *Fellowship Day*

DA World Service Conference 2020  
Newark Liberty International Airport Marriott Hotel

12:00pm

Lunch

1:30pm - 5:30pm

Workshops and sharing

6:00pm

Gala Dinner

If you would like to volunteer to help or speak at a workshop  
please email [wsc2020fellowship@danyc.org](mailto:wsc2020fellowship@danyc.org)



# For the Good and Wellbeing of the Fellowship

Have you signed up for **eNews**? Has your group?

Get connected to D.A. worldwide.

Receive newsletters, announcements, event info, and more.

To subscribe, visit:  
[debtorsanonymous.org/enews](http://debtorsanonymous.org/enews)

Share your personal story in **Ways & Means**, our meeting in print!

Have you been of service to a meeting by giving a **lead share**?

**Write it down**, send it in!

You can also email us your original photo, drawing, or poem that represents your recovery and/or vision in Debtors Anonymous.

**Email** your story/artwork to:  
[communications@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:communications@debtorsanonymous.org)



**DEBTORS  
ANONYMOUS**

## ANNOUNCEMENT CORNER

*Here are possible announcements for members—especially General and Intergroup Service Representatives (GSRs & ISRs)—to make during D.A. meetings:*

1. The new D.A. website is now live! Improvements include a new design with high contrast text, our own coding rather than proprietary coding, navigation menus at the top rather than to the left, and an improved meeting search!  
[www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org)
  2. Mark your calendar! Saturday, April 25, 2020, is the inaugural **Promise Six Day** of Debtors Anonymous. Meetings and Intergroups are encouraged to come up with simple fellowship activities like shared meals, hikes, or outings for members to break out of isolation and celebrate connection in observance of our Sixth Promise.
  3. Consider serving at the World Level of D.A. as a General Service Board Trustee or recommend a member for service to one of the six positions currently open. Info available at [www.debtorsanonymous.org/service](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/service)
  4. Fellowship-wide Calls use the U.S. call-in phone number: 1-605-472-5540, access code: 617093#. International phone numbers (and online access) are available at [www.debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access). Let members know to mark their calendars for the upcoming live Fellowship-wide Calls:
    - Thursday, February 20, 2020, from 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Eastern Time, **“A 2020 Vision for Building Intergroups,”** presented by the WSC Intergroup Caucus
    - Saturday, February 22, 2020, from 1 p.m. – 2:30p.m. Eastern Time, **“Benefits of Being a Sponsor,”** presented by the WSC Resource Development Committee (RDC)
    - Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, on the topic **“Training for D.A. Outreach to Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP),”** presented by the HIP Committee
    - Sunday, March 22, 2020, from 1 – 2 p.m. Eastern Time, on the topic **“Ask-The-GSB: D.A. Literature, Literature Translations and Licensing,”** presented by the GSB Long Range Planning Committee
  5. The GSB Trustees of Debtors Anonymous hosted a Meet-the-GSB event in New York City in February 2020. You can listen to the recording at the 2019-2020 World Service Recordings section at [debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts](http://debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts)
  6. Seeking D.A. members with special skills to serve in the new position of Project Contributor to assist D.A. Board Committees in specific projects for short-term commitments: [www.debtorsanonymous.org/projectcontributor](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/projectcontributor)
  7. If it fits in your spending plan, please increase your 7th Tradition contributions! [www.debtorsanonymous.org/contribute](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/contribute)
  8. Let your meetings know that members may sign up to receive eNews at [www.debtorsanonymous.org/enews](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/enews)
  9. Share your story in *Ways & Means*—the recovery magazine of D.A.—or share an article about service in *The DA Focus* newsletter.  
Go to [www.debtorsanonymous.org/share](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/share)
- For more announcements, visit [www.debtorsanonymous.org/announcements](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/announcements)