

## March 2011

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### Seeking Class A Trustees

Twelve Trustees are currently on the General Service Board, seven Class A's (recovering debtors) and five Class B's. Because of the generosity of D.A. members living the Promises, the Fellowship can support a full complement of fifteen. The Conference is looking for another three Class A's to help do the work of the Fellowship. Please see page 6 for an overview of the qualifications for this service.

### New Pamphlet

The "Communicating with Creditors and Debt Repayment" pamphlet is now available. This newly combined pamphlet reviews the importance of Steps Eight and Nine and provides experience, strength and hope to the newcomer and those of us still struggling with the fear and shame of our debting.

## Growing DA—Getting the Message of Hope to the Still-Suffering Debtor

The D.A. General Service Board gathered January 13–16 in Norwood, Massachusetts, for an extremely productive face-to-face meeting. Among the highlights was the election of two new Class B (non-debtor) trustees, Pat B. of Missouri and Tony H. of New York State, who began their service on the conference calls following the F2F. Welcome, Pat and Tony, and thank you for so generously giving service to D.A.

The location of the winter 2011 meeting was chosen so the Board could visit the General Service Office in nearby Needham. The Office Manager and the Office's part-time employee warmly welcomed the Board, and the trustees, in turn, were deeply appreciative of the work that takes place there. Most individuals and groups know the Office as the source of literature sent in a timely way. But the Office is much more. Even though many newcomers enter D.A. through meetings and the website; for many suffering debtors, the Office is the first human encounter with Debtors Anonymous, as the statistics reported below by the GSB Office Committee show. The Office is also the face of D.A. for the increasing number of requests from the national and international media. For a number of trustees it was the first visit, but everyone found it fascinating to observe the Office's operations firsthand. There were fruitful conversations with the Office Manager and our part-time employee, including initial discussions of the Office's evolution and future direction.

Perhaps because of its traditional function as the face of the Fellowship in A.A., decades before the Internet, in D.A. the Office also occupies a singular place in the Fellowship's organization. The Office Manager is a voting member of the World Service Conference, and several of the Concepts specifically address the GSO and the Office Manager's rights and responsibilities.

The Office is in a small commercial building conveniently situated next door to a post office. In the building's lobby is the usual placard showing the enterprises with premises in the building. Among these it was moving to see listed, quite publicly, "Debtors Anonymous." It was a reminder that we cherish our own and our fellows' anonymity, but our goal is to reach the debtors who still suffer, and to cease to be "the world's best-kept secret," in the words of Dick B., one of our admiring Class B trustees.

Much of the work at the F2F was—like most of the trustees' activity generally—dedicated to fulfilling the Board's legal and fiduciary responsibilities; recently this has meant a great deal of work by the newly established Legal Affairs Committee in the areas of copyright and intellectual property protection. The GSB also formulated a Financial Policy Statement in line with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (and our own Twelve Traditions). The Trustees also discussed the logistics of the upcoming 2011 WSC, to be held in the Motor City—Detroit—and selected Charlotte, NC, as the site of the 2012 F2F and of a modified Regional Forum.

It was a pleasure to meet again and to share the joy of fellowship and service, and much fun was had. Not for nothing does A.A.'s Step Twelve begin, "The joy of living is the theme of A.A.'s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word."

### General Service Board Committee Reports

#### Communications Committee

In keeping with the spirit of rotation we have a new editor for *The DA Focus* and *Ways & Means*. The plan is to publish four issues of both this year. The Communications Committee (ComCom) has completed the Unified Style Guide and is forwarding to Literature Services for additional input. The Committee will also be looking for an ACM to work with them to increase submissions to *Ways & Means*.

#### Conference Support Committee

The Conference Support Committee (CSC) is in negotiations with a facility for the 2011 World Service Conference to be held in Detroit, Michigan, in August. Our next WSC beginners' training conference call will be held April 17, 2011, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EST, with the topic "Using the D.A. Service Manual." We continue our search for an Appointed Committee Member to work closely with our committee. Also in progress are reviews and revisions to the John H. Scholarship distribution guidelines and the Committee Starter Kit.

#### Information Technology

The Info Tech Committee is working on a proposal to "broadcast" via telephone conference call three of the Fellowship Day workshops recorded at the 2011 World Service Conference in Detroit. If the plan proves technologically feasible, D.A. members anywhere would be able to call in to a conference call service and listen live to the workshops.

The committee also continues testing an online group registration form it hopes to approve for use in the near future. The form would allow groups to register and renew their annual registration electronically.

#### Legal Affairs

The Committee for Legal Affairs has been very busy since the 2010 WSC. Legal Affairs serves as "inside counsel" to the GSB regarding contracts, intellectual property, insurance, not-for-profit law, and numerous other issues. The committee received three requests to quote significant portions of D.A. literature. Legal Affairs also received three member inquiries concerning proper use of the D.A. trademark. Cease and Desist letters were sent to 21 churches which were reprinting "12 Signs of Compulsive Spending" without attribution. Requests to translate D.A. literature were received from members in France, Germany, Italy, Russia, China, Argentina, Brazil, and Iceland. Copyrights were filed with the Library of Congress on three new pieces of D.A. literature. The committee currently seeks candidates for the position of Appointed Committee Member to perform paralegal duties.

#### Literature Publications

Literature Publications has been monitoring reprints of D.A. literature for opportunities to make the light revisions recommended by the WSC Literature Committee to emphasize the focus on our primary purpose. Lit Pub is also working to transfer translated Spanish-language D.A. content from an unauthorized website to [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org); in addition to the Twelve Steps, Twelve Tools, and Twelve Traditions (which already exist on our website), the transferred content includes translations of stories from *A Currency of Hope*. In conjunction with the Legal Affairs Committee, Lit Pub is also checking unauthorized French and German translations for accuracy and creating contracts that clarify the fact that the content is owned by the Fellowship. The committee is also reviewing several drafts of new pieces forwarded by Literature Services according to the Conference-approved Literature Approval Process.

#### Literature Services

This subcommittee continues to work closely with the writer of D.A.'s 12 & 12 and other pamphlets in process. They are also reviewing the proposals received for an editor/writer to begin work on the D.A. meditation book. The committee is also seeking at least two Appointed Committee Members with proofreading and editing skills. Please see "How to Become an Appointed Committee Member" under the Service tab on the D.A. website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org)).

#### Long-Range Planning Committee

The Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) has been very busy since the 2010 WSC. The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service has been approved by the Board and is currently with the proofreader. Following up on the success of the recent regional forum in Phoenix (see Jan S.'s report on the Phoenix Regional Forum later in this issue), LRPC is making plans for the remaining two forums this year, in New York City and San Francisco. The committee has responded to all Issues & Concerns assigned to it at the WSC, including ones concerning prayer at meetings and the Traditions. The committee is interviewing candidates for the position of Appointed Committee Member to assist LRPC in collecting and analyzing data from all Board and Conference Committees in response to the 2009–14 Five-Year Plan.

#### Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee (NomCom) presented to the Board two Class B (non-debting) trustees at the January face-to-face meeting. Both candidates were voted onto the board and will begin their service immediately. The committee is looking for qualified members to fill the three Class A (debting) trustee positions. Please see "How to Become a GSB Trustee" under the "Service" tab on the D.A. website. (Continued on p. 5)

## World Service Conference Committee Reports

### Business Debtors Anonymous

The four subcommittees of the Business Debtors Anonymous WSC Committee continue to make progress on their goals for the year, including completing a conceptual outline of the B.D.A. Step-study addendum for submission to the WSC Literature Committee; encouraging the use of D.A. and B.D.A. resources for business owners in recovery to complete their business plans; starting work on a Public Service Announcement with a B.D.A. emphasis in an ongoing collaboration with the WSC PI committee, and exploring a process to reveal snapshots of business owners in recovery.

### Diversity

No report.

### Fellowship Communications

The Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) is charged with improving communication among the Board, the Fellowship, and the debtor who still suffers. Our aim is to better serve all debtors by removing barriers to full participation in our Fellowship. Since the Conference we have been working on our action plan by holding regular conference calls. To knit together members scattered across the country we have developed a format that allows everyone an opportunity to participate and be productive within a spiritual environment. Our action plan includes finding new ways to reach out to struggling and new meetings through group sponsorship and a welcome letter; listing all the Fellowship communication resources available to members and meetings; clarifying issues regarding social media and anonymity; and improving communication with and among Intergroups. We have been challenged and fulfilled by our service to the Fellowship.

### Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons

The HIP committee has submitted the first of four planned articles about HIP work to *Ways & Means*, in the hopes of inspiring the D.A. Fellowship to consider carrying the message to their own local hospitals, prisons, and other institutions. In that same spirit, we have drafted a letter asking Intergroups to create a HIP position, and have submitted it to the Board for approval. We are in the process of planning a teleconference where a speaker would share experience, strength, and hope about doing HIP work, with time afterward for questions and sharing; expect a date soon! We have also been exploring service literature in this area. And the number of HIP meetings that we know of has doubled: institutions are asking D.A. members doing this service to start more meetings, and members of those meetings have begun starting meetings of their own. For example: there are now three D.A. meetings in Wyoming, a state which had none several years ago, and all three of them are in prisons or halfway houses!

### Internal Operations

The IOC focuses on the overall office operations of the General Service Office and interacts with the Board Liaison and the Office Manager to support the ongoing work of the GSO. Our work thus far has included close contact with Howard at the General Service Office as well as communication with the Tech Caucus. Implementation of an updated D.A. website is underway, and the IOC has concerned itself with reviewing the website, communicating with the GSO about changes that are already in effect, and ongoing talks of ways to streamline day-to-day tasks at the GSO. In the coming months, one of our committee members plans to visit the GSO to see for himself the ins and outs of any given day at the office. Past year's committee members have done this, giving this year's IOC great insight into the value of a trip to the General Service Office.

### Literature Committee

At the WSC, LitCom moved to approve in concept that a second edition of *A Currency of Hope* be published, in which stories previously recommended by LitCom for removal be replaced by Board-approved recovery stories from our D.A. website. **Passed with approximately 90% of the votes!** Motion to adopt the Responsibility Statement did not pass. Recommended new pamphlet: 12s [Twelve Tools, Steps, Traditions and Concepts] of D.A. and recommended the new Newcomers' Packet be a free download. Reviewed and answered Issues & Concerns sent to LitCom. Many were answered that we would put them on our Agenda. Those answers are in the WSC Conference Report. Our work after the WSC: we continue to review the Agenda Issues. We also have made recommendations for the Meditation Book and for the next LitCom committee to consider.

**The Editor Regrets: The November 2010 issue of *The DA Focus* published two errors concerning LitCom actions, both of which are amended above. The first mistake appeared under "Farewells and Welcomes" (the Conference did *not* adopt the Responsibility Statement), the second in LitCom's report (LitCom does not publish).**

### Public Information

The PI Committee has been busy since the WSC, distributing letters to professionals around the country, getting Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the airwaves, setting up two outreach booths at conferences for 2011 (already approved by the GSB and ready to go), and setting up Media Contact Trainings for all interested D.A. members. As mentioned by the GSB PI Committee, the Media Contact list has been busy responding to requests from the media and helping spread the message of DA recovery.

(Continued on p. 6)

### Archives Issue A “Wish List”

DA’s Archives have a wish list.

Since the General Service Board created an Archives Committee a little more than 3 years ago, Board members have been busy collecting, sorting, and cataloguing the thousands of bits of DA history that have been donated to the Fellowship. The cataloguing process has reached the point where they are beginning to identify which specific items are missing from the Archives collection.

Among the most-prized items that would help close some of the gaps in the current collection are issues of the G.S.B. Quarterly News, a newsletter that was published from 1997 to 1999 by the GSB. Some issues are missing, while others are in poor condition. Also being sought are issues of Board Call, another GSB newsletter that was published from 1999 to 2004. Again, a few issues are missing and clean copies are needed of others.

Another category of items being solicited are meeting directories. DA published several national and international meeting directories during the 1990s and early 2000s, and contributions of these would be greatly appreciated, along with older copies of local meeting lists.

Contributions to the Archives are always appreciated, and should be sent to the Archives, care of DA General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492.

### **Eileen N., Class A Trustee**

I walked into my first D.A. meeting in June 2001. By the grace of God I have not incurred any new, unsecured debt since that time. I was working my Sixth and Seventh Steps in another Fellowship when I hit another emotional bottom, this time concerning my debting.

Service had enhanced my other program, so when I was asked to serve in D.A., I did it to the best of my ability. I raised my hand when I had two years and my home group needed an Alternate GSR. A few short months before the 2005 WSC, our GSR had to step down, and I was asked to attend the Conference. I went with the expectation that it would be the same as the GSR convention in my other program. Was I wrong! I was blown away when I saw the amount of service that my fellow GSRs and ISRs were doing, not only at the Conference, but throughout the year.

I decided at that first Conference that I wanted to serve D.A. in a greater way, and aspired to joining the Board. That vision became a reality in January 2009. I have worked hard and sacrificed my Sundays, but I have received blessings beyond my wildest dreams. I serve with a group of dedicated trusted servants, both debtors and non-debtors, who demonstrate to me the true meaning of service. I have made friends who will always be a part of my life and recovery. And I have been given the honor of serving our beloved Fellowship that has been beyond my wildest dreams.

I no longer have debt, credit cards, or fear about making it to the next paycheck. I cannot repay the gifts D.A. has given me, and when I try to show my gratitude by doing service, the gifts keep coming. In Love and Service, Eileen N.

### **Beth P., Class A Trustee**

I am a West Coast debtor, and entered the D.A. program in January 2002; my last unsecured debt was a student loan in December 2006. I’m learning that I can have whatever I want, in God’s time, not mine. I have found D.A. an immense pleasure. Keeping track of my numbers and online bank account—once you all taught me that I could do it and not to be afraid—is extremely gratifying; perhaps scratching an obsessive-compulsive itch, but who cares!

I’ve been involved in service since early on. I call and/or text my action partner every day, have a couple of sponsees, and give and get PRMs, but I’m trying to keep things light so I can focus on my Board work. My non-debting practice is no credit cards, no unsecured student loans, no borrowing without collateral; to keep in clarity with my numbers, earn and spend so I don’t debt one day at a time, and pray a lot to God for willingness. I give daily thanks, use daily affirmations, and reach out with meetings and phone calls. Having done the Steps in D.A. once, I am now reviewing Step 1 with my sponsor again and living all the Steps in my daily life.

The D.A. program makes me feel supported and loved in a way I’ve never felt before. I am honored and touched to be able to give service to this fellowship; knowing that you all will love and trust me, no matter how imperfect my service. It’s hard stuff and a lot of work, but interesting; and it’s fun to be with other dedicated people who seem to know what they are doing and help me freely with grace and good humor.

I am ever grateful for the living abundance in my life: of Spirit, love, time, fellowship, friendship, gratitude, and comfort. These are affirmations I hold dear: there is more than enough; I have everything I need. God is my source, everything comes from God. Any time I forget or feel disconnected, I know who to reach out to, to help pull me right back up. Much thanks to you all. Love and Service, Beth P.

## Office

The General Service Office serves meetings and individuals, both those in recovery and suffering debtors seeking a solution. The following statistics for October 2010 through February of this year were gathered by the office manager and assistant office manager. They give a snapshot of the Office's—and the Fellowship's—activity:

Literature orders processed: 351; number of contributions received and acknowledged: 584; phone calls and emails answered: 1,694; new groups registered: 28.

## Public Information

The PI Committee has been very busy since the 2010 WSC. Four Class B (non-debtor) trustees were interviewed on camera by the Korean Broadcasting Service, the public TV network in Korea, for a show on the credit-card crisis. PI is seeking candidates for the position of Appointed Committee Member to conduct media-contact training. GSB-PI continues its collaboration with WSC-PI to select appropriate professional outreach opportunities in 2011. In addition to our attendance this year at EAPA and UUSA, suggestions for professional conferences where D.A. might host a booth to do CPC/PI outreach are always welcome from any member of the Fellowship. Media inquiries peaked during the holiday shopping season with five emails/calls to the GSO. Media inquiries to our GSO are directed to the chair of this committee for distribution and action by WSC-PI, GSB-PI, and members who have completed the Media Contact Training (MCT). PI seeks Spanish-speaking DA members to help field media inquiries from Latino news outlets. News coverage mentioning D.A. included 10 articles in November, 3 in December, and at least 16 in January. D.A. was referenced in an advice feature syndicated in over 800 newspapers.

## Finance Committee

The following table compares planned and actual income and expenses. Note that the projected figures are for the entire fiscal year July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011, while the actual income and expenses are for July 1 through December 31, 2010.

	<b>Plan 7/1/10 to 06/30/11</b>	<b>Actual 7/1/10 to 12/31/10</b>
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Group Contributions</b>	44,000.0 0	27,629.23
<b>Individual Contributions</b>	21,000.0 0	12,062.47
<b>Other Contributions</b>	0.00	259.75
<b>World Service Month</b>	2,000.00	169.45
<b>Pamphlet Sales</b>	41,000.0 0	18,666.89
<b>Book Sales</b>	20,000.0 0	10,151.10
<b>Audio Visual Sales</b>	100.00	275.80
<b>Shipping</b>	11,800.0 0	4,972.41
<b>WSC Income</b>	52,000.0 0	42,245.90
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	3,000.00	0.02
<b>Interest Income</b>	1,000.00	185.81
<b>Total Income</b>	195,900. 00	116,618.8 3
<b>Cost of Goods Sold</b>		
<b>Pamphlet Printing</b>	18,000.0 0	2,692.43
<b>Book Printing</b>	2,500.00	1,438.65
<b>Audio Visual Duplication</b>	500.00	301.50
<b>Production Costs</b>	6,400.00	1,150.00
<b>Shipping &amp; Postage</b>	9,000.00	3,949.55
<b>Shipping Supplies</b>	1,000.00	452.50
<b>Total COGS</b>	37,400.0 0	9,984.63
<b>Expense</b>		
<b>Board Administrative</b>	5,150.00	1,557.69
<b>Board Travel</b>	23,000.0 0	6,933.17
<b>General Administration</b>	36,200.0 0	2,824.66
<b>Office Administration</b>	11,530.0 0	8,743.62
<b>Payroll Expense</b>	66,000.0 0	30,136.68
<b>WSC Event Expenses</b>	47,000.0 0	51,353.20
<b>WSC Committee Expenses</b>	5,000.00	2,688.39
<b>Total Expense</b>	193,880. 00	104,237.4 1
<b>Funds Transferred from Reserve</b>	35,380.0 0	0.00
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,396.79</b>

Note: Unaudited - for information purposes only

PI is also targeting a list of underserved communities for distribution of our PSAs, and one has been sent to over 500 radio stations in Los Angeles.

Internationally, the PI Frequently Asked Question sheets and Media Contact Training sheets have gone out to all UK groups. The UK Intergroup PI committee are putting together a UK PSA and are developing the "One action, one member for PI" slogan.

### Resource Development

The Chair of the RDC, Beth S., resigned from RDC due to personal time constraints. Thank you, Beth, for all the service you gave to RDC. RDC will be electing a new committee chair soon. RDC has created a World Service Month appeal letter and a Seventh Tradition Frequently Asked Questions letter. These letters will be distributed to the Fellowship soon. RDC is currently working on a suggested Seventh Tradition protocol for phone meetings and a downloadable group treasury format.

### Technology Caucus

The Tech Caucus has spent considerable time discussing D.A.'s relationship to the phenomenon of social networking. Many D.A. members participate in social networking sites and have requested a greater involvement by D.A. with these sites.

A consensus was reached by caucus members that all D.A. members need to be careful of their anonymity and the anonymity of others in dealing with such sites. Concerns and caution were also expressed that such sites often engage in inappropriate advertising and marketing, and in collecting members' confidential information and selling to commercial interests.

### Debtors Anonymous Wants YOU!

The D.A. General Service Board seeks qualified candidates for the position of GSB Trustee, either now or as candidates for future openings. Strong candidates have a demonstrated record of success in various service positions over a number of years, and meet several other qualifications.

Trustees are elected from regions, but serve as international Trustees, devoted to the interests of D.A. as a whole. There are [current openings](#) in several regions.

Candidates should meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a member of D.A. who regularly attends meetings, has a sponsor and is a sponsor, has and sits on pressure relief groups, and has at least three years of not incurring any new unsecured debt (Class A Trustee);
2. Be committed to working the Twelve Steps of D.A. (Class A Trustees), or have a working knowledge and understanding of the Twelve Step process (Class B Trustees);
3. Have a desire to seek the will of a Higher Power, however one may conceive of a Higher Power;
4. Be committed to service as a principle of life; have a willingness and desire to grow through service with the knowledge that it will have its challenges and require a definite commitment of time, and that world service takes priority over other service;
5. Be dedicated to and active in D.A. service, as demonstrated by successful completion of service commitments on an ongoing basis, including experience and participation as a GSR or ISR at the World Service Conference;
6. Have the ability to follow through with commitments and show willingness to complete the commitment in accordance with D.A. principles, D.A. Tools, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions;
7. Have a desire and the ability to perform leadership roles in the spirit of being a trusted servant rather than a ruler and have the ability to work independently while at the same time being part of a team;
8. Be dedicated and committed to the health of D.A. and have a desire to carry the message to the still suffering debtor;
9. . Understand the difference between majority rule and group conscience and be willing to work within the group conscience;
10. . Have a flexible attitude and the ability to work with other people even if the direction was not the first choice;
11. Have reliable and private access to a telephone, a computer, a printer, and email;

12. Have effective communication skills, including the ability to listen to others and speak honestly, the ability to write and deliver reports, the ability to follow up on messages and engage in the group process with the GSB, and to the ability to use the telephone, email, and the Internet;
13. Have good time management and organizational skills;
14. Have the ability to travel twice a year or more on GSB business;
15. Have the willingness to use one's full name, address, telephone number, and email address in order to communicate effectively with the GSB and the General Service Office.

The GSB Bylaws establish a maximum of 15 Trustees, including a maximum of 10 Class A compulsive-debtor Trustees and a maximum of five non-debtor Trustees. Class A Trustees are those who have arrested their compulsive debting, have not incurred new, unsecured debt for a period of at least three years, and who are living so far as possible within the concepts of the Debtors Anonymous Twelve Steps. Class B Trustees are those who are not now and have not been afflicted by the disease of compulsive debting and who express a profound faith in the D.A. program. Trustees elect their own successors from among all interested parties, subject to approval at the next annual Conference.

GSB Trustees serve for a three-year term, and may renew their service for another three-year term, for a total of six years. New Trustees may join the Board at any time during the year; however, their term of office begins when they are ratified at a World Service Conference.

For more information about nominating, please see the D.A. website [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). Click the link on the left side marked "Service" and read "[How to Become a GSB Trustee](#)" for details near the bottom of the page. We encourage those who are interested (or know someone who is interested) and meet the qualifications listed above to consider submitting a nomination package.

### **Latest Regional Forum Held in Phoenix**

On December 4 in Phoenix, more than forty recovering debtors representing all eight of Arizona's D.A. groups spent the day learning and asking questions about the Fellowship's service structure at the latest General Service Board Regional Forum.

Members came not only from the Greater Phoenix area but from several other parts of the Grand Canyon State to attend the all-day event. It featured presentations by two current and two former Trustees on such topics as D.A.'s history, finances, traditions and concepts, General Service Office, communications, technology, and the relationship between groups, Intergroups, the World Service Conference, and the GSB.

Nearly half the day was set aside for question-and-answer sessions, and for a panel featuring local GSRs and representatives of the Arizona Intergroup. Morning refreshments and a midday lunch were also served, and many participants later continued the discussion by joining the Trustees for dinner at a local restaurant after the Forum was over.

The Forum was the fourth in a series that began a year earlier in Boston, and continued through the 2009–10 Conference year with Forums in Minneapolis and Los Angeles. Two more Regional Forums are scheduled for the 2010–11 Conference year. The one in New York City will take place on Saturday, April 16—in honor of D.A.'s 35th anniversary—and in the San Francisco Bay area on Saturday, June 11. The locations and schedules will be announced by eNews.

The Regional Forums were launched in 2009 as a pilot project by the GSB to foster the development of a service culture in D.A., and to afford a much greater number of members the opportunity to learn how D.A. works as a Fellowship, from the level of the individual and the group all the way to the World Service level. After the first three Forums proved successful, the GSB extended the program for at least two years. Forums are tentatively scheduled for 2011–12 in Houston, Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

The General Service Board continues to revise the Forum format based on evaluation forms collected at each event. Member reaction to the Arizona Forum was highly positive. Some typical comments read, "I liked learning more about D.A., and it really inspired me to look forward to giving service over the long term," "I have a better understanding about the GSB and how World Service works. Glad to have it here in Phoenix," and "I feel more a part of D.A. now."

Because of the success and popularity of the Regional Forums, and a large number of requests to hold them in other cities, the GSB is considering other possible formats that could allow for shorter, "modified" forums in some places. All of the Forums are open to all D.A. members at no charge.

**Results of the Vote on Amending Tradition Eleven**

On August 11, parliamentarian Michael Malamut delivered to Willie W., the Chair of the General Service Board, the “Teller’s Report on Debtors Anonymous Group Voting on February 1, 2010, Mail Ballot on Amending Tradition 11.” It is reproduced here in full.

Number of possible votes (total number of registered groups, area groups, and Intergroups)*	504
Number of ballots received†	188
Necessary for adoption (3/4 of registered groups, area groups, and Intergroups)	378
Votes for motion‡	125
Votes against motion§	47
Ballots returned marked “abstain”	2
Total legal votes	174
Illegal vote¶	1
Invalid votes¶¶	13

Conclusion: There being 378 positive votes necessary for adoption of the motion to amend Tradition 11, and 125 legal positive votes having been received, the motion failed for lack of a sufficient number of positive votes.

\* There were 508 registered groups, area groups, and Intergroups as of February 1, 2010. Two ballots were returned by the postal service and they were dropped from the list of registered groups after repeated unsuccessful attempts to contact them. In addition, two ballots were returned indicating that the groups they were sent to had been disbanded. They were also removed from the list. No additional groups, area groups, or Intergroups were added by the record date for receipt of ballots, August 1, 2010, leaving 504 registered groups, area groups, and Intergroups as of that date. Ballots were sent to all groups, area groups, and Intergroups, despite the wording of Conference Charter Article 3, which states, “No change in Article Ten (10) of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous or in the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters (3/4) of the Debtors Anonymous groups (emphasis added). Therefore no distinction has been made in the report between votes by groups and votes by area groups and Intergroups.

† Not all ballots were received in official envelopes. No notes indicated which ballots were received in official envelopes and which were not. According to the procedure adopted by the Board and sent out with the ballots, ballots were not secret and all returned ballots were to include the group number on the face of the ballot. All ballots received, whether on official ballots, photocopies, telefacsimiles, computer re-formatted ballots, or letters indicating the intent of the group, were counted as ballots received. The total number of informal ballots received was 27, including 4 invalid ballots. The total of ballots received includes illegal and invalid votes.

‡ Includes 20 ballots with individual vote tallies for the group where a majority of the members present and voting voted yes.

§ Includes 4 ballots with individual vote tallies for the group where a majority of the members present and voting voted no.

¶ Ballot received with a group number, but no signature or marked vote.

¶¶ Includes 2 ballots from groups that were returned by the group contact indicated [sic] the group had been disbanded; 5 votes received with no group number; and 6 ballots received after the August 1, 2010, deadline.