

THE D.A. focus

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Nov 2014
4th Quarter

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



Big Changes on Agenda for this Year

As the Board, its committees, and World Service Conference (WSC) committees begin digging into this year's service agenda resulting from the actions of the 2014 WSC, we would like to highlight just a few of the many exciting markings of growth in our beloved fellowship. A new D.A. website is in the offing. The contracts for developing the site have been prepared, reviewed by outside counsel, refined, and are headed to signatures. We could see a new site in beta form before spring.

With the retirement of Howard S. from the position of Office Manager at GSO, a position he held for 13 years, the board liaison Joan R. is working overtime with our GSO staff to keep our operation afloat during this transition period. The board is updating the job description for OM with all the necessary skills and requirements to keep the Office at the heart of our many fellowship services. An additional part-time employee has been hired to ensure that literature orders are being fulfilled in a timely fashion. Upgrades to computers and electrical wiring are just a few of the planned office enhancements.

The WSC Technology Committee is hard at work investigating the feasibility of internet video conferencing, which could someday allow delegates to participate in some limited fashion at the conference who could not otherwise attend from overseas.

The board passed a motion in October to increase John H. funding by voting that any excess revenue realized from any WSC would be, after all the Conference bills are paid, directed back into the John H. fund for the following year's Conference. This idea came to us via one of the non-debtor trustees; "It seems like a no-brainer to me that revenue from the conference should first benefit those who attend the conference." We try to break even each year, but with some conservative planning the Conference makes a little money more years than not. And with an online application for John H. funding in the pipeline, this streamlined approach should ensure that all applications get to the Host Committee in plenty of time for a thoughtful award process and the timely notification of applicants of their award status.

After years of grappling with the evolving technology, debit-card only (DCO) contributions and literature orders will soon be a reality for D.A. members, groups, and intergroups in the USA. The GSB continues to seek ways to facilitate contributions and literature payments from outside the US, so as to lower the costs of such transfers.

Once again this year, online WSC registration should simplify the process of signing up to attend the WSC. We hope to use the DCO option for this as well.

General Service Board Committee Reports

Audit

Over the last quarter, the GSB Audit Committee has discussed D.A.'s annual financial statements, reports, and associated filing forms with our external reviewer, and have verified compliance with tax filing regulations. All documents were found to be in line with standard accounting practices.

Communications

Lawanda C. serves as the trustee chair of ComCom this year, ably assisted by trustees Michael A. and Jeff Y. Lawanda edits the Ways & Means, Jeff the D.A. Focus, and Michael prepares all eNews blasts.

The 2014 WSC Final Report is being proof-read and will be distributed to all delegates before the end of the calendar year.

Communications Committee seeks an Appointed Committee Member (ACM) to perform basic proof-reading tasks and formatting of newsletters. Please check the Open Service Positions tab on the website for further details.

Your recovery stories are needed for the W&M and the D.A. website. A new W&M flyer is available on the Member News tab of the website. Please print off a few copies for your literature table and for new members who may not be familiar with our meeting in print. Several other updates to the website were made recently.

A special issue of the Focus was posted to the website following the WSC with details of the proceedings of the conference this year. Deadlines for the D.A. Focus this year are February 1, 2015, May 1, July 30, and October 1.

The committee has completed a

response to our Issue & Concern item.

The weekly eNews digest is an experimental project to limit the quantity of emails coming from the board to a reasonable amount. We welcome your feedback – too many, too few, or just right? At the end of September, over 5600 subscribers received the eNews. Only 15% of the subscribers are opening the message to read it. Please let us know if you don't really want to receive these emails.

Conference Support

The GSB's Conference Support Committee is actively involved in supporting the 2015 Host Committee, as D.A. in Portland Oregon prepares for our next World Service Conference. At its recent October meeting, the Committee gave a thumbs up to the working theme for 2015: "Practicing These Principles: The Steps in Action," continuing the long-standing tradition of rotating between the Steps, Service, and Sponsorship for our conference themes.

The CSC's liaison to Portland's Host Committee is Allen T. Allen and the Host Committee recently visited the selected hotel in Portland. They, along with our new convention planner, toured the hotel and found it to be "first class." They also presented the hotel with our spending limits for meals, which is the largest expense of any conference, and came to an agreement about desired costs and menu options, including the all-important vegetarian choices.

In other news, our committee chair, Jeff Y., and Allen T. reviewed the entire 2015 WSC spending plan and submitted it to the CSC at its October meeting, for approval and presentation to the entire GSB. The plan was approved by the committee, with some minor suggested changes, and will be presented to the

GSB's Finance Committee for their approval as well, before sending it on to the GSB.

Finally, Allen T. reports that the 2015 Host Committee is busily filling out its subcommittee chair roles, wrapping up its research for necessary outside vendors for the conference, and has identified a local person to serve as recording secretary for 2015.

With that, it looks like planning for WSC 2015 is proceeding apace. Stay tuned for information about the registration packet and deadlines for scholarship applications in future updates.

Finance

In the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2014, the Finance Committee worked on the following:

1. Working with the CPA firm to produce and file the 6-30-2014 tax returns and reviewed financial statements.
2. Participate with full Board on a conference call with CPA firm to approve the tax returns and reviewed financial statements.
3. Produce monthly financial statements.
4. The Finance Committee made a motion which was passed by the Board, that any excess funds realized from the WSC be put into the John H. Scholarship Fund for the next year's WSC awards.

Financial reports begin on page 6

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Legal Affairs

Over the last quarter, the GSB Legal Affairs Committee has reviewed a number of contracts on behalf of the board, and has researched and updated

General Service Board Committee Reports

ed D.A.'s existing copyrights and trademarks. Additionally, we have responded to a few query's regarding use of D.A. trademarks and copyrights within the fellowship. As a point of reference, many of these questions are answered in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service.

Literature Publications

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

Newly reformed in August of this year, the committee has been getting up to speed on the various projects that are "in flight," and has identified those which it considers to be the top priorities.

While all projects are important and will be addressed in due time, the committee considers these items to be the highest priorities: 1) publication of the Steps portion of the D.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book; 2) preparation for the approval of the Traditions at the 2015 World Service Conference; and 3) reprinting A Currency of Hope, Second Edition. Updates on these and other projects will be provided in future reports.

Long-Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee hosted the first "Ask the GSB" call on October 12th. The topic: *Recap of the 2014 World Service Conference*. There will be three more calls this conference year, January 4, 2015: *Seventh Tradition: It's not just about the money*, March 1, 2015: *D.A. Literature, Copyrights, World Service Website* and June 7, 2015: *The D.A. Traditions and Concepts*. A recording of the presenters is available for a short period following each call. If you would like to receive announcements about future "Ask the GSB" calls please sign up for eNews at debtorsanonymous.org. LRPC is open to suggestions for call topics. We will also be hosting a modified forum in Indianapolis, IN on Friday, February 6, 2015. We will be trying something different this year by having a conference call line so members from all over can listen in on the Forum.

We are continuing to collect ideas for celebrating D.A.'s 40th anniversary in 2016. Please email any suggestions to DA40@debtorsanonymous.org

Nominations

The primary task of the GSB Nominations Committee is to identify, review, and nominate (to the full board) trustee candidates. This includes both Class A trustees, who are members of D.A., and Class B trustees, who are usually (but not always) members of other 12-step fellowships. Class A trustees are debtors who have stopped incurring unsecured debt and have service experience in D.A. Class B trustees are individuals who have never suffered from the disease of compulsive debting. To clarify this further, Class B trustees are not D.A. members who have stopped debting—they are people who never had the disease in the first place.

The board's bylaws allow for up to 10 Class A trustees and up to 5 Class B trustees. Currently, we have 7 Class A trustees and 5 Class B trustees.

The Nominations Committee is reviewing one trustee application, and welcomes additional applications, particularly from members of D.A. who would, of course, serve as Class A trustees. Information about applying to become a trustee is available at the D.A. website, on the Service page.

In future D.A. Focus reports, we will describe other activities conducted by the Nominations Committee.

Public Information

The Public Information Committee of the General Service Board is planning our second Media Contact Training (MCT). The tentative date for this event is January 31, 2015. Our first MCT was held at the 2014 WSC in Skokie, IL where we launched a new format featuring improvised scenarios.

Additionally, GSB PI is supporting both the WSC PI and HIP Committees with their projects.



WSC Committee and Caucus Reports

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES

BDA

The BDA Committee has four subcommittees – Pamphlets, Accountability, Vocations/Visions, and Taking Our Pulse.

The Pamphlets subcommittee is busy trying to get BDA related pamphlets ready for publication and sale to help the Fellowship both spiritually and financially. The pamphlet closest to that goal is the Spiritual Marketing pamphlet, which focuses on using the Steps and spiritual principles to market our businesses. They are also in dialogue with the Literature Committee on several other pamphlets that are already in various stages of production that may be brought to the Fellowship for possible publication.

The Accountability Subcommittee is also working on a pamphlet, one that focuses on how we can use accountability as a tool in our programs. They plan to use various DA tools in this discussion -- DA Tool 4 (PRGs), DA Tool 6 (Action Plans) and BDA Tool 11 (Bookending). Their goal is to present various different methods used by the fellowship at large in implementing DA's steps and tools and our Higher Power's vision for us.

Taking Our Pulse is communicating with different meetings and Intergroups throughout the Fellowship to mine best practices and tools that may be shared with the Fellowship at large. They intend to share their results in articles and perhaps a pamphlet.

The Vocations/Visions Subcommittee is continuing the work of the previous year in interviewing members of the Fellowship to see how DA and BDA have helped them in their lives. They are formulating a 2-page questionnaire to find patterns in recovery – what has worked for those who have found it -- that they hope to share with the Fellowship.

Conference

This year's WSC Conference Committee is currently:

- Working to further refine and improve the John H. Scholarship Fund distribution process.
- Continuing to explore the idea of Conference Transparency (the idea of non-voting D.A. members attending the WSC).
- Working to address the absence of an Internal Operations Committee this year.
- Supporting the Portland Host Com-

mittee in preparation for the 2015 World Service Conference.

We reached out to a previous WSC Host Committee Chair and gathered a list of best practices, suggestions for improvement and lessons learned to be shared with the current and future WSC Host Committees.

This year, the Conference Committee will also:

- Work to identify sites that could potentially host future World Service Conferences for three consecutive years.
- Continue to work on the D.A. 40th Anniversary Planning Initiative
- Work to improve access to literature and GSR funding for Non-Face-To-Face D.A. meetings.

Diversity Caucus

We reported at the WSC that, in addition to continuing the work of last year's Diversity Caucus, this year we will explore the possibility of joining an existing outreach committee. The focus of our work so far has been (1) to discuss ways we can conduct outreach and support new meetings in underrepresented areas (both remote locations and underserved demographics where there is a D.A. presence) with the goal of developing "best practices" and (2) last year's mapping project.

We are getting better acquainted with the Public Information (PI) Manual and the PI Committee's new initiative "**One Member – One Action**" to see how we can cooperate to adapt/adopt this for hard-to-reach communities. We're also familiarizing ourselves with the Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Committee's outreach materials. We would very much like to hear from D.A. members who are willing to share their perspectives of the obstacles to greater diversity in the fellowship. Please contact our chair through the GSO if you are interested, so that we can include your experience, strength and hope in a future caucus call.

Fellowship Communications

Group Sponsorship is a great resource for groups of all sizes. Whether your D.A. or BDA meeting is currently thriving or still small and struggling, the Fellowship Communication Committee invites you to join gsponsorship@gmail.com. A group with strong recovery can bring the small group's questions to its group conscience for suggestions, can provide sponsors who have worked the Steps for members of the smaller group, and can offer PRGs via phone or Skype. Members of the smaller group feel more

a part of the fellowship. Members of the larger group gain an opportunity to do service. Everybody prospers!

Groups willing to sponsor are especially needed right now. But regardless of your meeting's size, please encourage your group to access this great opportunity to strengthen your recovery. When you contact gsponsorship@gmail.com, you'll receive an automated response immediately to let you know that your message has been received. Then you will be connected with a group that can benefit from contact with yours. Group sponsorship strengthens our fellowship worldwide!

Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons

In the three months since the WSC in Skokie, IL, this year's HIP Committee has already established a new HIP meeting in a Washington State prison. Committee members are working on establishing additional HIP meetings in the Chicago and Los Angeles areas. The committee has worked on the creation of HIP service material and is currently compiling data for use in a HIP Manual for Service.

Intergroup Caucus

The Intergroup Caucus has divided into three main subcommittees dealing with updating the Intergroup Information on the D.A. website, searching for best practices to recommend to new intergroups, and making contact with the International intergroups in preparation for possible internet-based video conference participation at the WSC in 2015. Liaisons were established with the Tech Committee and the Website development group. Homework was agreed to in reviewing the DAMS descriptions of the Intergroups and their function. We are all looking forward to working together during the year.

Literature

The Literature Committee's priority is the creation of a new outline for the primary text of Debtors Anonymous. This year, Lit Com also expects to review and critique stacks of new and existing literature, including: The Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous (long form), the BDA Clarity in Business Finance pamphlet, the BDA Numbers booklet, the BDA Signposts and Tools pamphlet, the Underearning pamphlet, the Recovery from Compulsive Spending pamphlet, and the currently out-of-print Anonymity pamphlet. Energy and enthusiasm are high.

Subcommittees are gathering the stories of long-time D.A. members and soliciting diverse voices of recovery, perspectives that are conspicuously missing from our current literature. Litcom is also discussing ways to commemorate D.A.'s 40th Anniversary and to facilitate, in any way, binding resolutions from years past. In previous years, the WSC approved the con-

WSC Committee and Caucus Reports

cepts a D.A. 12 Step study guide and a D.A. daily meditations book, but these projects have not yet come to fruition.

Public Information

Guided by its new Statement of Purpose adopted at the 2014 World Service Conference in Skokie, IL, the WSC Public Information (PI) Committee and its thirteen members are grateful to be working with their board liaison, Lawanda C. to move forward with our action plan for 2014-15. We have divided up our initiatives between three sub-committees.

The PI Representative Support subcommittee is busy working on its major initiatives: first and foremost, its planning of a fellowship-wide conference call for either January or February 2015. The call will be for any Public Information representatives in our fellowship as well as others interested in doing PI work for D.A.. The theme for the call will be Carrying the Message: Simple Ways to Share D.A. Recovery. Other initiatives are to work on a starter kit for new PI Reps and two committee members are working on submissions for the Ways and Means.

The P.I.P.E. (Public Information for Professional Events) subcommittee has focused on its long-range goal of creating a system where local PI reps can “man” a booth for professional events, at things like bankruptcy attorney conferences, etc. They have created a few sub-sub-committees: one to research PI practices from other 12 Step programs, one to research professional organizations and their events and last, one to track down past people in the Fellowship who have received PI Media Contact training and create a database.

The Media subcommittee continues the work of the 2013 PI committee to research the possibility and worth of updating existing D.A. audio PSAs so that they can be distributed anew to appropriate media venues. In addition, they are working on a Local Papers initiative to get local intergroup information & website addresses listed in free local media outlets, and to create a procedure for PI Reps to use to continue this work fellowship-wide.

As part of its commitment to increase understanding around public information service and reach out to the still suffering debtor, the WSC PI committee as a whole has been asked by the D.A. GSB Public Information committee to work on organiz-

ing a one day, one action initiative; this will likely be a day long, fellowship wide campaign where every member of the fellowship is encouraged to take one small Public Information action, e.g. leaving D.A. pamphlet or a D.A. card on bus or in doctor's office. One small thing becomes very big action when many are doing it.

Resource Development

The RDC for 2014-2015 is composed of six members from across the U.S. plus our GSB Liaison, Maureen C. The RDC's focus is to increase contributions to the local group, Intergroup and GSR meetings and the GSO and encourage participation in service at all levels.

RDC has taken the following actions:

1. We have updated the John H. Scholarship letter. It was sent to the Finance Committee for review and was passed on to the Board for approval.
2. We are in the process of updating the annual April Anniversary Appeal letter to celebrate D.A.'s 39th year.
3. To celebrate the 39th Anniversary, RDC is planning a worldwide Conference Call in April of 2015.
4. RDC's members have committed to writing their personal stories of service to submit to the Ways and Means. Several stories have already been sent to the Communications Committee for possible publication.
5. The committee members are studying the DAMS, and the assigned reading is discussed for 5 minutes during the monthly Conference Call.
6. Inspired by the share of Allen T. at the WSC, a subcommittee has been formed to develop a campaign entitled “Every Member, Every Month” to encourage the contributions of individuals to the GSO.
7. The GSB has approved the Debit Card Only payment plan to make contributions and purchase literature on the D.A. website. The GSB Tech Committee is moving forward to implement this plan.

Technology

The three subcommittees of the WSC Tech Committee are working on the three recommendations made to the 2014 World service Conference.

e-Publications Proposal: Make *A Currency of Hope*, available for sale on the D.A. website in PDF format. The rationale is to offer an e-publication at the lowest cost to the Fellowship in a format most available to the membership. Concerns include ensuring that the publications income to the Fellowship will not be adversely affected and that the PDF version would not be copied and re-distributed for free. We are coordinating with the

Board LitPub Committee on this proposal.

Paperless Conference Proposal: Reduce the cost of the 2015 WSC binder by providing a paperless option. The idea is to offer an electronic version of the binder to be downloaded to members' devices at the Conference, for those members who opt into this distribution method. This option would be voluntary; members who opt out would still receive a paper binder upon arrival at the Conference. Concerns that we are addressing include logistic difficulties, such as sufficiency of outlets for recharging devices, costs, WIFI access and bandwidth, and support. We are coordinating with the Board InfoTech committee and the WSC Host Committee on this proposal.

Video Conferencing Proposal: Include video conferencing of the 2015 WSC on a strictly limited basis to enable the six registered international Intergroups to participate. The concept is to link a representative of each of the overseas Intergroups to the WSC through Skype, using dedicated laptops, web cameras, and large screen broadcasting. Concerns that we are addressing include technical logistics, support, and potential costs. We are coordinating with the Board InfoTech committee and the WSC Host Committee on this proposal.

2015 Host Committee

The 2015 Host Committee and the General Service Board are working in preparation for the 2015 World Service Conference, which will be held in Portland, Oregon, USA, August 5 – 9, 2015.

The Portland Host Committee visited the selected hotel in October and meet with the hotel staff. The committee was favorably impressed with the facility and encouraged by the helpful, cooperative attitude of the hotel employees. Host Committee and its GSB liaison continue to meet monthly to address various preparation activities. Committees of the General Service Board have completed a full draft of the conference spending plan, and are preparing the draft for full GSB approval.



From the Archives

Archives Join In D.A. Anniversary Observance

As the celebration of D.A.'s 40th anniversary during the 2015-2016 Conference year draws nearer, the Fellowship's Archives are planning to do their part and encourage participation by members, groups, and Intergroups everywhere.

Debtors Anonymous was founded in April 1976 by John H., a recovering alcoholic who had found recovery in 1950 in Alcoholics Anonymous, and who struggled for many years to find a similar solution to his financial woes. John discovered a way to adapt the 12-Step spiritual recovery program of A.A. specifically for compulsive debtors, and, joined by a number of other A.A. members in the same situation, created a clear, written set of instructions for recovery and a service structure to carry that message to the world.

D.A. has since grown from a handful of people attending one meeting in New York City to thousands of members and more than 500 registered groups and Intergroups on every continent except Antarctica.

The yearlong 2015-2016 observance will be the first major anniversary celebration in D.A.'s history (modest one-day celebrations were held to mark the dates of the 10th and 25th anniversaries). The General Service Board has an ambitious schedule of events planned for both the 2015 and 2016 World Service Conferences, and plans are in the works for the addition of much historical information in D.A. publications, the World Service web site www.debtorsanonymous.org, and in other venues.

The D.A. Archives, which were founded in 2005 in an effort to preserve and disseminate the Fellowship's history, plan to participate fully in the celebration. Archivist Jan S. is working on a number of projects aimed at making the history of the Fellowship come alive for more members.

First, he is finishing up the digitization and cataloguing of more than 4,000 historical records and artifacts that have been collected from member donations over the past nine years, and is storing them both physically and electronically in a manner that will be of use to future historians and researchers.

Second, he is creating a series of "timelines" which outline key points of our history. Separate timelines are being created for the history of D.A. as a whole, as well as the individual histories of the General Service Board, General Service Office, and World Service Conference.

Third, he is asking members, groups, and Intergroups to participate in writing histories of D.A.'s early years, its early members, and its service structure. In particular, all of D.A.'s Intergroups have been asked through the Intergroup Caucus to write comprehensive histories that can be preserved permanently. (To date one Intergroup has completed its history, and others are working on them). All D.A. groups are also invited to write group histories for preservation.

Fourth, the Archives are seeking "Stories of the Founder", written memories of founder John H. by those who knew him personally. Sadly, only a handful of people have written down their recollections of John H., and many older members who knew him are passing from the scene. All members who knew John personally are urged to submit their personal recollections of his life and his role in D.A. to the Archives.

With the support of the GSB, the Archivist recently received professional training in archival techniques at the National A.A. Archives Workshop, including advanced training in preservation and restoration techniques for physical documents, digitization and storage of electronic records, interviewing techniques for oral histories of long-time members, and the preservation and conversion of vulnerable audio and visual recordings for long-term use.

This expertise will be used to upgrade the level of storage in D.A.'s physical and electronic Archives, and to find ways to make more of our history available to all members of the Fellowship.

During the past nine years, a vast number of documents and artifacts have been collected and sorted that recount and illuminate the D.A. story. Many gaps in our knowledge of the past have been filled, but some still remain.

The Archives are always looking for donations of documents and artifacts related to D.A. history. Questions about particular items can be addressed to the Archivist at the following e-mail address: stillsolvent@yahoo.com

Historical materials should be sent directly to the General Service Office, and marked clearly on the outside "For Archives". Items can be sent by mail to the GSO at PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass. 02492, or shipped to the GSO at 1116 Great Plain Avenue, Needham, Mass. 02492.

Contributed by Jan S., Burlington VT, archivist for D.A.

Financial Reports – Profit and Loss Statement

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.
Profit and Loss - Spending Plan to Actual
FY 2015

	July to September Actual 2014	July to September Plan 2014	Difference
Income			
Literature Sales	\$ 27,442.24	\$ 20,439.00	\$ 7,003.24
Member Contributions	\$ 20,905.76	\$ 23,751.00	\$ (2,845.24)
Total Income	\$ 48,348.00	\$ 44,190.00	\$ 4,158.00
less			
Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 7,713.88	\$ 7,839.00	\$ (125.12)
Gross Profit	\$ 40,634.12	\$ 36,351.00	\$ 4,283.12
Expenses			
Archival Expense	921.40	243.00	678.40
Bank Charges/GoEMerchant Fees	188.04	9.00	179.04
Board Related Expenses	\$ 8,605.03	\$ 8,252.00	\$ 353.03
Office Related Expenses	\$ 18,779.25	\$ 20,487.00	\$ (1,707.75)
Outreach Expense	330.62	225.00	105.62
Postage	3,059.89	732.00	2,327.89
Printing & Copying	324.61	663.00	(338.39)
Telecommunications	550.88	699.00	(148.12)
NSF Fees		18.00	
WSC Committee Expense	327.43	811.00	(483.57)
Total Expenses	\$ 38,710.69	\$ 40,646.00	\$ (1,935.31)
Net Operating Income	\$ 1,923.43	\$ (4,295.00)	\$ 6,218.43
OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES			
Other Income, interest, John H.	1,335.69	225.00	1,110.69
Other Expenses			
Depreciation & Amortization	84.18	39.00	45.18
WSC Income			
1. World Service Conference Income	58,621.61	70,500.00	(11,878.39)
2. John H. Scholarship WSC 2014 Awards	5,657.29	3,500.00	2,157.29
Total WSC Income	\$ 64,278.90	\$ 74,000.00	\$ (9,721.10)
WSC Expenses			
1. World Service Conference Expenses	52,162.51	70,500.00	(18,337.49)
2. John H. Reimbursable and Registration Expenses	5,986.21	3,500.00	2,486.21
Total WSC Expenses	\$ 58,148.72	\$ 74,000.00	\$ (15,851.28)
Net WSC Income	\$ 6,130.18	\$ -	\$ 6,130.18
Total Other Income and Expenses	\$ 7,381.69	\$ 186.00	\$ 7,195.69
Net Income	\$ 9,305.12	\$ (4,109.00)	\$ 13,414.12

Financial Reports – Balance Sheet

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.

Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2014

	9/30/2014	6/30/2014
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Operating Checking	\$ 43,379.56	\$ 30,289.50
Savings	\$ 25,704.75	\$ 25,703.45
WSC Checking	5,000.00	20,429.38
John H. Checking	\$ 443.02	\$ 5,696.72
Reserve Accounts	\$ 155,724.52	\$ 155,485.28
Total Other current assets	\$ 26,418.33	\$ 30,485.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 256,709.74	\$ 268,100.89
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 733.73	\$ 733.73
Other Assets		
Intellectual Property	\$ 4,600.44	\$ 4,684.62
Rent Security Deposit	300.00	300.00
Total Other Assets	\$ 4,900.44	\$ 4,984.62
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 262,343.91	\$ 273,819.24
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Salaries		1,617.49
Payroll Liabilities	310.83	129.41
WSC Conference Registration	0.00	19,334.38
Total Liabilities	\$ 310.83	\$ 21,081.28
Equity		
Fund Balance	137,666.37	137,666.37
Opening Bal Equity	(19.48)	(19.48)
Retained Earnings	115,091.07	109,721.39
Net Income	9,305.12	5,369.68
Total Equity	\$ 262,043.08	\$ 252,737.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 262,353.91	\$ 273,819.24

Concept Seven

The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board serve as governing documents and that the Trustees have legal rights, while the rights of the Conference are spiritual, rooted in the Twelve Traditions. The Concepts are not legal instruments.

The Charter of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc. is the legal document used to incorporate the D.A. GSB in the State of New York. It is more commonly called the Articles of Incorporation, and is distinct from the Conference Charter. The general purposes of D.A. as an educational not-for-profit corporation are set forth there. The Bylaws of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board are more detailed rules covering how our corporate business is conducted under the laws of the State of New York. The bylaws have been adopted by the GSB pursuant to its Articles of Incorporation and are legally binding upon the Board.

These documents stand in contradistinction to the Charter of the D.A. World Service Conference, which has not been filed with any legal entity and does not serve as a legally enforceable document. As a result of its status as a corporation created under the laws of New York State, the General Service Board is the entity legally responsible for carrying out the business affairs of D.A. All property owned by D.A. is legally vested in the Board, and the Board has a fiduciary duty to carry out its responsibilities on behalf of D.A. These are legally binding rights and duties under the law of New York, and the Board must comply at all times with that jurisdiction's rules, as well as with the rules of any other jurisdiction within which it operates.

Although it does not have any legal significance, the Conference Charter carries great weight within the service structure of D.A. as a whole. It creates and outlines the duties of the World Service Conference, and sets up the structure whereby the GSB is advised and guided in its actions. Because the Conference represents the collective conscience of all of the D.A. groups in the world, it is apparent that the General Service Office and the Board must ordinarily act with the guidance, support, and general approval of the Conference.

However, as noted in the discussion of Concept 2 above, the Board has the right to refuse to follow this guidance in cases where there is an infringement of the legal or fiduciary rights of the Trustees. Thus, the Board has refused to act upon a Conference motion which it concluded was in violation of several Traditions in suggesting that groups might in some cases sell and display outside literature. This right to "veto" WSC actions should be exercised only in the most limited and extreme circumstances. For example, if the Conference directed the Board to enter into a lease beyond the ability of the Fellowship to support it without the possibility of future debting, the Trustees might appropriately refuse to do so. This would be true even if no debting were involved, but the future ability of the Fellowship to carry its message would be impaired.

It is the Conference which carries the spiritual force of the group conscience of D.A. and it is the means by which the heart and soul of the Fellowship—the groups and Intergroups—make certain their will is heard. The Conference is given the power under the GSB Bylaws to ratify the appointment of all Trustees, and as noted in connection with Concept 2, the Conference also holds the ultimate power of the purse, which can be used to control the activities of the Trustees. If the Conference were to decide to withhold group and individual contributions from the GSB and GSO, those entities could not long exist.

Concept Seven, cont'd

Although the Conference Charter is not a *legally* binding document, the Board has accepted it as the *morally* binding expression of the will of the groups as to how D.A.'s business is to be conducted. Under Article 4 of the Conference Charter:

"It will be further understood regardless of the legal prerogatives of the General Service Board, as a matter of tradition, that a three-quarter (3/4) vote of all Conference members present may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board and staff members of the General Service Office, if or when such reorganization is deemed essential."

Here the Board has accepted the ultimate authority of the Conference in the unlikely situation that the Board has seriously disregarded the moral authority of the Conference. Each Board member is bound by an oath (or affirmation) of office to respect and abide by this provision. In fact, this provision is given legal effect by the voluntary action of the Trustees in adopting Article 3.7 of the Bylaws, which provides in part:

"Class A and Class B Trustees, are expected, subject only to the laws of the State of New York and to these bylaws, at the request of the Conference of Debtors Anonymous, according to the provisions of the D.A. Charter, (that a three-quarter (3/4) vote of all Conference members present may bring about a reorganization of the General Service Board) to resign their trusteeships even though their terms of office as member Trustees may not have expired."

These carefully limited rights and grants of authority interact to produce a thoughtful balance between power and responsibility. When all is said and done, the ultimate authority of the Conference over the Board, as both a practical and spiritual matter, is apparent, but the Board's legal and fiduciary rights are preserved.



WSC Survey Results

At the 2014 WSC, were you a (please select one):

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
GSR			41	67.2 %
ISR			4	6.5 %
TRUSTEE			9	14.7 %
Other			7	11.4 %
Totals			61	100%

At the 2014 WSC, did you attend (please select one)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Committee meetings only			40	65.5 %
Caucus meetings only			1	1.6 %
Committee and Caucus meetings			13	21.3 %
Neither			7	11.4 %
Totals			61	100%

Were you helped financially to attend the WSC by more than one group?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			24	39.3 %
No			37	60.6 %
Totals			61	100%

Did you personally contribute financially to attend the WSC?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			23	37.7 %
No			38	62.2 %
Totals			61	100%

How likely would you be to attend another DA WSC, assuming you could get the funding?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Very likely			50	89.2 %
Somewhat likely			4	7.1 %
Neither likely nor unlikely			0	0.0 %
Somewhat unlikely			0	0.0 %
Very unlikely			0	0.0 %
I will be rotating from my service position, so I will not attend another conference			2	3.5 %
Totals			56	100%

WSC Survey Results

Which vehicle did you find the most helpful for receiving pre-conference information / orientation / training?
Select all that apply.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
eNews			21	35.5 %
D.A. Website			32	54.2 %
D.A. Focus			11	18.6 %
Ways & Means			2	3.3 %
Phone orientation meetings			25	42.3 %
Opening night orientation (Wed.)			25	42.3 %
Other			13	22.0 %
Totals			59	100%

GSR / ISR Orientation

Please rate the following (please check one box per item)

1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 4 = Fair, 5 = Poor, 6 = NA

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
GSR / ISR Orientation - Phone calls prior to conference							56	3.2
GSR / ISR Orientation - Opening night of Conference							57	2.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Board and WSC Committee Reports

Please rate the following (please check one box per item)

1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 4 = Poor, 5 = Very Poor, 6 = NA

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
WSC committee reports Wed PM							57	1.9
Board Reports Thurs AM							57	1.9
Open Forum Thurs AM and PM							56	2.1

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Working Sessions

Please rate the following (please check one box per item)

1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 4 = Poor, 5 = Very Poor, 6 = NA

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Committee meetings							57	2.1
Caucus meetings							44	4.4
Convocation							54	1.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

WSC Survey Results

Other conference elements

Please rate the following (please check one box per item)

1 = Excellent, 2 = Very Good, 3 = Good, 4 = Poor, 5 = Very Poor, 6 = NA

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Schedule / Pace		■					57	2.1
Registration Process		■					59	1.5
Meals		■					58	2.6
Lodging		■					58	2.8
Meeting Rooms		■					59	2.6
Computers and Printers		■					58	2.2
Copier		■					56	2.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following (please check one box per item)

1 = Agree Completely, 2 = Agree Somewhat, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Disagree Somewhat, 5 = Completely Disagree

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
I had difficulty choosing a committee				■		52	3.8
The WSC met my expectations		■				53	1.2
I found the other delegates to be helpful		■				54	1.1
I found the trustees to be helpful		■				54	1.2
I found the local Host Committee to be helpful		■				53	1.2
I found the overall WSC process confusing				■		54	4.3
The length of the conference was adequate to complete the work		■				53	1.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

I would like to see the conference sessions open so all D.A. members can attend.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Agree Completely	■		9	15.2 %
Agree Somewhat	■		12	20.3 %
Neither Agree nor Disagree	■		10	16.9 %
Disagree Somewhat	■		11	18.6 %
Disagree Completely	■		17	28.8 %
Totals			59	100%

My interaction with the host committee was important to my overall conference experience.

1 = Agree Completely, 2 = Agree Somewhat, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 = Disagree Somewhat, 5 = Disagree Completely, 6 = I did not interact with the host committee

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	■						57	1.7

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

WSC Survey Results

The Board is very aware of expressed concerns about the continued rising costs of the WSC. We would like your feedback. In terms of reducing the cost of future conferences, do you think the Board should consider the following:

1 = Agree Completely, 2 = Agree Somewhat, 3 = Neither Agree nor Disagree, 4 = Disagree Somewhat, 5 = Disagree Completely

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Meet on college campuses rather than at hotels						56	3.1
Use one location for several years in a row to increase our negotiating position						57	2.2
Locate the WSC at a central location in U.S., where lodging and food costs tend to be lower						57	2.4
Meet in a location without a strong D.A. community (use a regional host committee)						57	3.2
Reconfiguration of Fellowship Day						55	3.3
Elimination of Fellowship Day to shorten WSC						56	4.0
Elimination of Gala/Talent Show/Dance						56	4.1

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Overall, what did you like about your WSC experience?

[Editor: In no particular order, here is a sampling of the comments from this question on the survey in a stream-of-consciousness format]

It is thrilling that we are seeing tangible results coming from the WSC such as the D.A. 12 & 12. The people were wonderful. I loved being around other debtors who are enhancing their recovery through service. Fellowship, getting the work done, service. I liked the dedication and enthusiasm of the attendees and volunteers.

I like the variety of the tasks and the focus they require -- reports, committee/caucus meetings, convocation, fellowship day. I love the fact there's a fellowship day in the middle of all this work. It helps keep perspective. I like the people of course. Everything feels very streamlined and smart. To me, it seemed like a well-oiled machine. The level of recovery--both that it was varied and that there was very strong spiritual recovery that was communicated by "osmosis" as much as by anything. I enjoyed being useful and collaborating. The process of working with a subcommittee, of not pre-determining outcomes, of patiently wandering through with others and allowing something to unfold.

I enjoyed the fellowship with D.A. members with substantial recovery, the governance process and the social networking with members from the West Coast of the US. The exchange and enthusiasm of ideas; gaining clarity about how da works and what is being worked on, and of course sharing recovery. The Hospitality Suite was the best I've ever seen and I've been attending conferences since 2006. There was something for everyone.

The work of the conference! Like that is it generally well organized across the board. The hotel was good, the host committee lovely. Appreciate the hospitality room and the tech room ... everything worked. I enjoyed the committee work best. The Host Committee did an excellent job of recruiting and training wonderful, truly helpful and caring volunteers. The Conference put the "Spiritual Approach" to all of the activities which truly honored the traditions and values of D.A. as a whole from all levels of GSRs, ISRs, and Trustees.

The venue worked out very well. The host committee & volunteers were amazing. The materials provided all the info

WSC Survey Results

we needed. The tech people were really helpful. Loved the food, for the most part. Wonderful GSRs to work with and bond with. I appreciated the Committee and Subcommittee process. It was organized and there was a nice mix of brand new GSRs and seasoned GSRs. I'm also glad that Robert's Rules were explained.

The level of recovery--both that it was varied and that there was very strong spiritual recovery that was communicated by "osmosis" as much as by anything. I enjoyed being useful and collaborating. The process of working with a subcommittee, of not pre-determining outcomes, of patiently wandering through with others and allowing something to unfold

Service to D.A., Meeting other GSRs, ISRs, and the Trustees, Tech Com work and meeting new and old members. The peace and serenity I felt every night. The whole experience creates a shift in perspective. A new understanding happens even though one has heard the same words before. I was always afraid to sponsor, but the speaker and how she handled it created clarity about how I could go about it without fear. Tech help was terrific. I learned so much and everyone on the board was so down to earth, honest, and really very accommodating! So grateful for this experience !!! My cup is full!!!

The Gala & Talent Show, The Hospitality and Tech rooms were outstanding. A terrific host committee and so many helpful volunteers contributed to a very successful conference. It was well organized. People were wonderful. Hosting was really great. I only went out once to get something that was not provided (iced coffee).

Respectful, brief debate/discussion. Efficient time management. A business meeting that follows spiritual principles. Everything went smoothly from start to finish in a timely manner. I got to participate, learned a lot, and enjoyed all the positive energy. Experiencing the gift of our fellowship and service at the international level. Participating with other debtors from other regions, making connections, preparing to carry the message.

Hotel accommodations, Great food - lots of vegetables! Thank you! Chicago destination, connecting with fellows, being part of the historic actions for the fellowship, hospitality room, giving service in a capacity that compliments my skills. This particular year there was such collaboration between the various committees it was inspiring - I feel that with the work of the Technology department we have taken a giant leap for D.A. kind into the future.

It was incredible and there are no words to describe the experience, except to say it was a remarkable and unforgettable spiritual experience and it was a blessing and a privilege to attend. It was as good as I heard it would be. I understand why everyone says it is a life changing experience. It will be that for me.

Hearing different points of view/learning from others; seeing how much I have to contribute; the great people; inspiration from those providing higher level of service (board, committee chairs); opportunities to remind myself that things not going my way doesn't mean it's wrong--that the conference and my committee would have done fine without me.

Excellent volunteers, especially in the Tech Room. The Dance and the DJ, Gary, were a highlight. Gary played great music and stayed extra late because we simply couldn't stop dancing! Great energy here in Skokie. Great location, host committee was wonderful. Everything went very smoothly. Host Committee did a superb & comprehensive & organized job of attending to our personal needs. Provided us with personal information, such as the location of nearby amenities (supermarkets, etc.) Hotel desk clerks helpful in giving me bus & subway travel info.

The opportunity to place GSB, GSR and Intergroup contributions in the framework of the larger fellowship. It was a real pleasure to meet and learn from delegates and Board members with multiple years of participation at WSC. Enthusiasm of GSRs, no cursing or controversy from the mike, approved the 12 Steps. Internet worked everywhere. Sanders was in the parking lot, and saved a lot of complaining about the meals.

The camaraderie and the work itself. Met some nice new people by attending morning meetings. Saw old friends. Met people I have only talked to on the phone. Being with the Board. Site seeing in Chicago on Sat Sun and Fri night. Great city. Hearing the thoughtful motions & recommendations from the committees.

The open forum is dynamic. The work done in committees and caucuses is impressive. It was an informative learning experience for myself about how D.A. runs and its mission. I will be able to bring this back to our small groups and share with them as well.

Registration; practice serving the group through a loving HP; binders; beans and non-gluten foods on Wednesday - Friday and serving D.A. at this level so it keeps existing for the future; amount of Experience, Strength, and Hope put into practice. I think everything went very well. I loved, loved, loved the convenience of the hospitality room and it was well-stocked with a variety of snacks, including those who had the wisdom to eat healthy that week. Thank you, thank you, thank you!