

# the DAfocus

THE QUARTERLY WORLD SERVICE NEWSLETTER FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF DEBTORS ANONYMOUS

## 4Q2020

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The 2020 World Service Conference.....	1
Meet the Trustees .....	2
A Delegate Reflects.....	4
Literature Translations .....	5
GSB Finance Committee Report.....	6
D.A. Announcements .....	8

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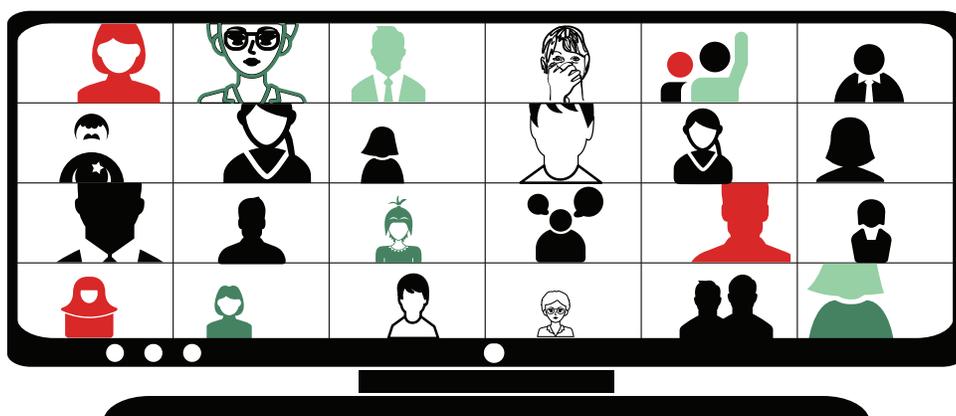
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## THE 2020 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE THAT COULD

### A WORLDWIDE FELLOWSHIP MEETS VIRTUALLY



In August 2020, Debtors Anonymous hosted our first all-virtual World Service Conference. Our decision to go virtual was unavoidable due to the looming threat of COVID-19, which made large in-person gatherings impossible this year. Many of us who were involved with the planning of the conference—as well as most of those who planned to attend—were disappointed that we could not meet in person, but we were grateful to all those who planned and arranged for a very successful virtual conference on short notice.

As often happens in less-than-ideal circumstances, we experienced several “silver linings.” Generally, the cost to attend a face-to-face conference is approximately \$1800 USD per delegate. By holding a virtual conference, costs for transportation, housing, and meals were eliminated and the registration fee of \$200 made attendance more financially feasible to groups and Intergroups who may have been unable to send representatives in the past.

Additionally, for the first time in the history of the John H. Scholarship Fund, there were funds remaining, even after supporting every group or Intergroup who requested financial support to send a delegate to the 2020 World Service Conference. Additional funds will be available for both the 2021 and 2022 John H. Scholarship awards. Scheduling the WSC to occur over two weekends instead of the usual full week may have also made it easier for delegates to attend with less disruption to their work and personal schedules.

For many reasons, this was the largest group of delegates that has ever assembled for a D.A. World Service Conference. It was also the most geographically-diverse conference we’ve ever had. There were 22 delegates representing countries outside the U.S.—including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Kenya, New Zealand, and Spain. One hundred and fifty-two (152) debtors from all over the world—some of whom got up at 3 a.m. to

continued on page three

## Me? World Service as a Trustee

My name is Roger H., and I am a debtor living in Ontario, Canada. I joined D.A in February 1998 and my solvency date is 02 September 2004. I often refer to myself as a 'garden-variety' debtor and despite having an honours diploma, a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a master's degree, my best thinking got me here. I came into D.A. with around \$45,000 CAD of unsecured credit card debt plus student loans. While a conscientious employee, I gravitated to the untenable reality of overworking and underearning. Intermingled with this undergrowth of chaos was deep-rooted fear that I am not enough and didn't have enough. There was vagueness in my finances, my acquisitions, my visions, and my belief in a power greater than myself who could restore order to my insanity and compulsiveness.

I latched onto the program of D.A. and starting using the Tools right away. I had to reach out for help, as the only meeting in Toronto in 1998 was small. My first PRM involved a local member and one in New

York City, and my documents were sent via mail. While it did not make sense to me at the time, I learned to trust in the process of recording my numbers, reaching out to others, working the Steps, using the Tools and being willing to admit that "I didn't know what I didn't know." By coming to meetings, being willing to do service and staying close to my D.A. fellows, my life began to change.

Getting through the SARS pandemic in 2003 solvently was achieved, despite losing all my business due to the shutdown of the special events industry in which I was working at the time. I did have a slip in August 2004 when I incurred a bank charge due to insufficient funds and so became willing to reset my solvency date. It was during the aftermath of that pandemic that another member and I started a new meeting in Toronto which is still very active today. During my time in D.A. I have been active in all levels of service at local meetings, including starting (and closing) meetings, starting our

Intergroup, securing our domain location on the internet, working on Share-A-Days, retreats, Step Studies, sponsorship, etc. I often heard that "Service is the magic word." As an introvert, I must dig deep within to step outside my comfort zone, yet I instinctively knew that service is where my recovery would become well-planted, and my internal vagueness would eventually reveal clarity.

Over these decades I would speak of the importance of sending representation to the World Service Conference. For several years, sometimes with gaps, we have selected an ISR to attend. During these years I purposely did not put my name forward to do this service due in part to the seasonal nature of my work at the time and my insecurity that I was not 'good enough'. Fortunately, there were several other highly qualified D.A. members who were selected, and they also have done marvellous service over the years locally and worldwide. They created the pathway for me to follow for service at a higher level.

My journey to becoming a Class A Trustee of Debtors Anonymous began in earnest by a series of events orchestrated by my Higher Power. In early 2018, I experienced a medical episode that required a leave of absence from work for a time. During this recovery time, I was invited to think about my future and to focus on Step 11 to pray for understanding of my Higher Power's will for me and how best to carry that out. Later that year I turned 60 and was celebrating 20 years of sobriety in my other program. To mark this occasion, I took a solvent trip to Europe including a 16-day cruise to Germany, Norway, Iceland, and the U.K. Before I departed, I reached out to local D.A. groups on my itinerary to find local meetings. I was able to meet wonderful D.A. Fellows in Reykjavik and Akureyri,

continued on page seven



## A Worldwide Fellowship Meets Virtually

continued from page one

attend various events—came together on Zoom. The dedication of recovering debtors in service was truly awe-inspiring.

Speaking of service: it takes a team to run a virtual WSC. In addition to the NYC Host Committee, we utilized videoconferencing specialists, tech volunteers, Board members, GSRs, ISRs, and other members of the fellowship who pitched in to make this virtual WSC a reality. In addition to the Convocation, events included a hospitality room, virtual social events, sixteen hours of committee meetings condensed into four scheduled hours, and additional time organized by individual WSC Committees and Caucuses.

Overall, we received feedback that the virtual Conference was a tremendous success. Of course, there is always room for improvement. One suggestion was that future Conferences “go virtual” every other year to allow for greater international participation. That “odd year” without a face-to-face Conference could be used by groups with fewer resources to gather funds to send delegates in person on those alternate years.

The New York Area Host Committee found creative ways to bring the sense of fellowship that only a face-to-face Conference creates. There was a hospitality Zoom room where delegates could drop in almost any time of day for socializing. The Host Committee also presented the traditional Fellowship Day with a full roster of speakers, a talent show, and a dance.

The final two days of the Conference started with Convocation, where delegates vote on motions brought by the newly formed World Service Conference Committees. Similar to Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-Step fellowships, our Convocation was originally established using Robert’s Rules to guide our voting process and to ensure that we are following the process correctly. D.A. hires a professional parliamentarian to continue to assist and advise us on parliamentary procedure, and he has been with us for many years.

At face-to-face Conferences, we schedule eight hours for Convocation. This year, with reduced time for committee and caucus reports, we were still able to plan for seven hours which we thought would provide adequate time to address the business of the fellowship.

Because Convocation often feels like it is rushed, the GSB has started to informally discuss what it would involve to reform the process and perhaps have committees submit motions earlier in the year, which would provide delegates the opportunity to research

and discuss the concepts proposed with their groups before arriving and voting at Convocation. Several other 12-Step fellowships present the Motions for consideration to delegates prior to the Convocation, with the goal of reaching a more informed group conscience.

The full list of Motions and Recommendations is annotated elsewhere in this issue. Below are three of the more significant Motions from the 2020 WSC:

The Conference voted to approve the D.A. and BDA Step Study Guides. The concept for Step Study Guides with sections for D.A. and BDA was approved in 2007. Although there are several unofficial guides to working the Twelve Steps with a sponsor in D.A., these are the first Conference-approved Step Study Guides. They were developed by WSC and GSB Literature Committees, and the writing was completed by a paid professional with input and review from dozens of members over several years. The Step Study Guides will be published after the processes of copy editing, proofreading, and layout and design have been completed.

The Conference voted to recommit an amended motion to approve a literature concept on “Race and Debt.” This Motion was returned to the WSC Literature Committee for further concept outline and development. The incoming 2021-2022 WSC Literature Committee will determine whether to bring the Motion back to the 2021 World Service Conference.

When the original Motion to approve “a literature concept on race and debt to address how debt and privilege affect all non-white racial groups” was presented and the floor was opened for discussion, the first delegate recognized brought a Point of Order citing a Tradition Ten violation. In the process of discussing a Motion at World Service Conferences, it is not unusual for members to raise Tradition Ten concerns on a variety of topics and to present “pros” and “cons” to the Convocation regarding whether the proposed concept is an outside issue.

After discussion with the Parliamentarian, the GSB Chair decided not to rule either way on the Point of Order at that time. The next delegate who was recognized brought an amendment to drop the wording “to address how debt and privilege affect all non-white racial groups” from the Motion. The amendment was discussed and voted on and was approved by the Conference.

The delegate who brought the original point of order was then recognized and brought a Motion to Recommit, which was approved by a slim margin.

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There was confusion about the vote, but the allotted time for the WSC Literature Committee had long run out.

After all remaining Convocation Motions and Recommendations had been presented and the meeting was coming to a close, the delegates were asked to vote on whether to extend the Convocation to continue the discussion of the Motion to approve a pamphlet concept on “Race and Debt.” The Conference voted to extend the Convocation by 15 (but not 30) minutes to complete this discussion.

The GSB Chair then opened discussion on the “Race and Debt” Motion again. After an explanation by the Parliamentarian of the consequences of voting yes, no, or abstain, the GSB Chair allowed a second vote to recommit, which was approved again by a larger margin. If the 2021-2022 WSC Literature Committee

brings the Motion back next year, it will be prioritized on the Convocation schedule and there will be more time to discuss it.

The Conference voted to approve the London Intergroup bid to host the 2022 World Service Conference. The London Host Committee has proposed several wonderful and affordable venues in the London area and will start to conduct site visits soon. As previously mentioned, some of the surplus funds from this year have been moved to the 2022 John H. Scholarship Fund to help fund delegates from all over the world to attend the first D.A. Conference to be held outside the U.S. Pending recovery from the pandemic, the WSC will take place in the UK in the summer of 2022.

— Yours in Service,  
The General Service Board

## A Delegate Reflects on Attending a Virtual Conference

This year was my third term as ISR for the Greater New York Intergroup. My first year was in Minneapolis, and I had no idea what I was getting into. I'd never been to a Conference for anything. As soon as the airport shuttle bus dropped me off at the Marriott, I made sure to be everywhere I possibly could or should be, carrying the giant binder of conference materials handed to me at registration. I also carried my laptop upon which I typed furiously, recording everything I heard anyone utter. Predictably, I was a bit more relaxed my second year. I knew there was someone whose job was to record the convocation and opening meeting. I knew the secretary of the committee I was on would take minutes and send them to us (actually I was always the secretary, so scratch that.) But it was generally calmer, though still jam-packed with day-long meetings, information and ideas. To have D.A. be my sole focus for five days was one of the greatest gifts of the experience. With it was the understanding of just how we make this happen

“from the bottom up,” learning the regional nuances of this incredible program, and connecting to so many people who found unimagined spiritual richness in their lives through recovering from monetary debt. This year, with the conference taking place in the “Greater New York” area, I had given updates of the conference committees progress at all my GSR meetings and Intergroup meetings through the year. I expected even more ease and understanding of the system.

But nothing is as expected in 2020 with Covid 19. The idea of a Virtual Conference brought back all the mystery of my first year. It also brought the conference into my home, which in my case made me a little cautious. I was in a new living situation, and though my housemates knew I was in D.A., I felt self-conscious about devoting two entire weekends locked up in my room in mysterious meetings for what I'd believed would be all day long. Upon writing this I have to recognize my own vagueness—if I had just read the schedule more carefully, I wouldn't have had

to worry about day long meetings!

I started my conference days off with Conscious Contact (the spiritual practices, yoga and meditation classes offered before the conference days). For our virtual meeting, this took me from my home in Brooklyn to an adobe New Mexico with wonderful Katy B. leading us in meditation practice. There was a clay fireplace going in Katy's kitchen that was so picturesque it was hard to believe it wasn't one of those zoom “virtual backgrounds.” And of course, people from all over were attending, although due to time zones I think it was particularly hard for the west-coasters to make this session as it would begin at 6:30 a.m. for them. I could relate, for in the in-person meetings “Conscious Contact” was held before breakfast at 6:30 a.m. I'd always meant to go; it seemed like a nice thing. But so was sleeping on crisp white percale sheets on a giant hotel bed. So, this year I was lucky in the time zone lottery. I attended these Conscious Contact meetings every morning. I don't know if it set

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## A Shoutout to the People Translating Literature Around the World

I'm so glad that video conferencing has become commonplace for us. I know it doesn't feel quite the same for fellowship meetings but it's just so natural now, that it's all in a Monday afternoon's work to get people together from across, say, a huge landmass like Russia, linking up with me in London and Chris S. in New York. We can do it regularly if we want to and keep track of how the work on the *Currency of Hope* is going—and it's going beautifully.

Likewise Spanish and Argentinian D.A. translators got together last month with Rody and me to discuss the *12x12x12* and an international Spanish translation. I heard how much people love our literature. I heard the heart beating in the painstaking work of translation.

These meetings are a bit like a PRM for each language. And thank heaven that in D.A. service, the way I feel has a place. So, I can be overcome with joy and express it in tears or I can be rendered speechless for a moment, and it's considered quite normal.

We come together, work it out, remove blocks on the path towards globally accessible literature, respect difference and come up with an action plan—and that feeling of all that pressure being let out like a balloon deflating—it's been great. And will continue. COVID just sped it along. What strange ways a power greater than myself has of showing up sometimes.

I am humbled by how much people are willing to give of their time and themselves to carry the D.A. message in this way. The translators always consider their work service. The fellowship doesn't pay for translations and in so many ways, for where we are, right now, that's correct. We want members to translate because they are the people with the feeling for the texts.

But a word of caution—if you are reading this and thinking of translating work, get in touch at [translations@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:translations@debtorsanonymous.org) first, so we can verify a sample of what you are doing. That is the start of this ongoing, PRM-type conversation that helps to

sustain us all in the work.

We continue to look at other fellowships to see how they manage the work, and we still have that international desk at the office in our ideal spending plan, along with a paid employee and a turnaround time to equal the best. Progress not perfection.

We could do with some help on the committee in record keeping and archiving. If you are looking for a service position and have some spreadsheet or digital filing skills, get in touch at the email above and we can talk through perhaps becoming an ACM for the committee.

In the meantime we have Chris S., Rody D., Bill D., Roger H. and me co-ordinating and conversing with the small groups of fabulous D.A. members around the world who translate and do internal reviews. We all have full time jobs and do the work on weekends. High five I say, and ten toes and elbow bumps all round.

— Josie P.,  
London, England

## THE 2020 WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE THAT COULD

### A Delegate Reflects on Attending a Virtual Conference (continued)

the tone of spirituality and support throughout the entire conference or if the spiritual nature of the conference infused the meditation, but it was a powerful way to start off each day. Surprisingly, this “virtual” experience became so very deep and personal. I had lost a very close friend to Cancer the first week of the conference, and when someone commented on the

flowers in my room in her share, I was able to share the reason for the flowers, and about my loss. In that moment, I felt support and love from all over the world. My friend was a world traveler too, and that was especially meaningful to me. I know this is an extremely personal take, but what an experience! This ties in to the fact that during this conference,

we welcomed each other into our homes across the world. I noticed little details in people's rooms that made me feel how very similar we are as 21st century dwellers. I'm very much looking forward to working with my committee members throughout the year and expanding on this experience.

— Deborah K.

## A REPORT FROM THE GSB FINANCE COMMITTEE

The GSB Finance Committee is involved in creating the Income and Spending Plan, overseeing the bookkeeper and accountants, paying the bills, reporting financial information to the Fellowship, making recommendations on revenue, expenses, pricing, and cost of goods sold.

As in any Twelve Step Fellowship, the income portion of the Spending Plan is made up of a combination of three items: donations from groups and individuals, profit on literature sales, and miscellaneous income including things like interest. As the Finance Committee prepares an Income and Spending Plan, we estimate what our funding will be in any given year.

In follow up to a recommendation from the WSC Resource Development Committee at the 2020 World Service Conference, the GSB Finance Committee is providing a report to the Fellowship

through the year on the Profit and Loss Statement. We are providing a quarterly summary of the Profit and Loss Statement with a comparison to the same period in the previous year. We are also providing, for comparison, a summary of this year's Income and Spending Plan and the Ideal Spending Plan.

The Income and Spending Plan for FY 2020-2021 includes:

- Income based on the past fiscal year's group and individual contribution levels
- Income based on increased literature sales
- A match in Committee and Caucus Expenses
- Incremental return of funds to the prudent reserve
- A winter F2F for the General Service Board
- Funds for professional website maintenance

“ We are pleased to report that the prudent reserve is now at nine months operating expenses. ”

Following are some highlights of this year's to date Income and Spending Plan.

- For the fiscal year through the end of September, literature sales (hard copy and electronic) accounted for \$11,030.46, or 38.6% under the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- For the fiscal year through the end of September, electronic literature sales accounted for \$6,204.09, or 109.8% over the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- For the fiscal year through the end of September, group and individual contributions received were \$46,903.56, or 122.3% over the same period in the previous fiscal year.
- Of these contributions, 44% of contributions were received from groups and 56% from individuals.

### Profit And Loss: July - September, 2020

	Jul 2020		Aug 2020		Sep 2020		Total		FY 20/21 Income and Spending Plan	Ideal Spending Plan
	Current	Jul 2019 (PY)	Current	Aug 2019 (PY)	Current	Sep 2019 (PY)	Current	Jul - Sep, 2019 (PY)		
<b>INCOME</b>										
Literature Sales										
Total Literature Sales	\$ 3,842.20	\$ 4,649.12	\$ 3,573.40	\$ 4,499.49	\$ 3,614.86	\$ 8,826.77	\$ 11,030.46	\$ 17,975.38	\$ 84,525.00	\$ 168,100.00
Member Contributions										
Groups	5,770.51	3,475.75	8,192.03	3,220.39	6,713.63	3,028.30	20,676.17	9,724.44	50,000.00	143,000.00
Individuals	8,767.65	3,004.20	13,113.12	2,646.16	4,346.62	5,721.40	26,227.39	11,371.76	80,000.00	200,000.00
<b>Total Member Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 14,538.16</b>	<b>\$ 6,479.95</b>	<b>\$ 21,305.15</b>	<b>\$ 5,866.55</b>	<b>\$ 11,060.25</b>	<b>\$ 8,749.70</b>	<b>\$ 46,903.56</b>	<b>\$ 21,096.20</b>	<b>\$ 130,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 343,000.00</b>
Total Income	\$ 18,403.96	\$ 11,185.39	\$ 24,901.68	\$ 10,417.35	\$ 14,697.04	\$ 17,636.24	\$ 58,002.68	\$ 39,238.98	\$ 214,525.00	\$ 512,100.00
Cost of Goods Sold										
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 734.45	\$ 1,117.78	\$ 4,063.79	\$ 2,006.83	\$ 11,351.48	\$ 3,968.86	\$ 8,022.14	\$ 7,093.47	\$ 42,700.00	\$ 108,200.00
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 17,669.51</b>	<b>\$ 10,067.61</b>	<b>\$ 28,965.47</b>	<b>\$ 8,410.52</b>	<b>\$ 3,345.56</b>	<b>\$ 13,667.38</b>	<b>\$ 49,980.54</b>	<b>\$ 32,145.51</b>	<b>\$ 171,825.00</b>	<b>\$ 403,900.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>										
Total Board Related Expenses	\$ 1,179.63	\$ 6,165.74	\$ 0.00	\$ 828.61	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,345.23	\$ 1,179.63	\$ 10,339.58	\$ 20,400.00	\$ 104,000.00
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal										
Total Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	\$ 956.04	\$ 875.00	\$ 1,170.43	\$ 1,120.00	\$ 1,280.45	\$ 2,265.00	\$ 3,406.92	\$ 4,260.00	\$ 19,400.00	\$ 28,300.00
Total Payroll	\$ 3,544.57	\$ 9,830.20	\$ 4,083.64	\$ 6,657.54	\$ 4,100.28	\$ 6,205.62	\$ 11,728.49	\$ 22,693.36	\$ 86,950.00	\$ 187,000.00
Total Office Related Expenses	\$ 4,991.83	\$ 11,126.97	\$ 6,813.32	\$ 8,730.79	\$ 6,589.65	\$ 7,934.10	\$ 18,394.82	\$ 27,791.86	\$ 19,500.00	\$ 221,200.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 11,702.26</b>	<b>\$ 21,009.59</b>	<b>\$ 6,658.28</b>	<b>\$ 11,541.92</b>	<b>\$ 8,663.23</b>	<b>\$ 15,288.39</b>	<b>\$ 27,023.77</b>	<b>\$ 47,839.90</b>	<b>\$ 171,825.00</b>	<b>\$ 403,900.00</b>
Net Operating Income	\$ 5,967.25	\$ (10,941.98)	\$ 22,307.19	\$ (3,131.40)	\$ (5,317.67)	\$ (1,621.01)	\$ 22,956.77	\$ (15,694.39)	\$ -	\$ -
Net Income	\$ 6,117.21	\$ (11,085.92)	\$ 29,554.99	\$ (6,371.99)	\$ (7,395.32)	\$ (1,478.53)	\$ 28,276.88	\$ (18,936.44)	\$ -	\$ -

- For the fiscal year through the end of September, expenses for the Board, bookkeeping, operating the General Service Office, and WSC Committee and Caucuses were \$27,023.77, or 43.5% under the same period in the previous fiscal year.

This represents a summary of the income and expenses for the first quarter of this fiscal year.

Last year, the Finance Committee forwarded a motion to the board to define and establish a prudent reserve of nine months operating

expenses. That motion was approved. Since that time, the Finance Committee has regularly assessed the balance in the main checking account and forwarded motions to the GSB to transfer money into the prudent reserve. A month ago, the GSB approved a motion to transfer \$8,000 from the main checking account to the prudent reserve, which restored the prudent reserve to the level it was before money in the amount

of \$35,000 was drawn down in 2016-17. This action brought the prudent reserve up to eight months' operating expenses. At our last GSB meeting, the board approved an additional transfer of \$13,214 from the main checking account to the prudent reserve. We are pleased to report that the prudent reserve is now at nine months' operating expenses.

Please note that as the prudent reserve is defined as nine months'

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## A REPORT FROM THE GSB FINANCE COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

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operating expenses, then as the Income and Spending Plan may change for each fiscal year, the prudent reserve will be adjusted to meet the nine-month goal. Please note that the board has established a goal for D.A.'s prudent reserve of nine months of operating expenses. This benchmark was determined after inquiring of other 12-Step fellowships how they maintain an adequate reserve of self-supporting operating expenses without becoming too wealthy and powerful.

The Income and Spending Plan is adjusted each year to reflect and include inflation, cost of salaries and services, as well as other factors, to meet the nine-

month operating expenses.

In summary, I hope this report has provided you with an overview of the work the Finance Committee and the General Service Board are doing on a continuing basis, not only to remain solvent and self-supporting through our own contributions, but to provide the services the Fellowship asks for. Thank you.

— Yours in Service,  
GSB Finance Committee

## MEET THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

continued from page 2

Iceland, and in Hamburg, Germany on my travels in addition to the daily "Friends of Bill W." meetings onboard the ship where I shared parts of my recovery stories.

Back home I stepped up to do more service locally and with Intergroup. In 2019, I was chosen be our ISR to the World Service Conference in Los Angeles. I was attending more meetings, including phone meetings, to listen for discernment of HP's will for me. I was a semi-regular attendee on the Rochester, NY, hybrid meeting of D.A. and had been invited to share my story. During that meeting I shared my contact information. I later received a call from Sean C. in New York City who pointedly asked why I am not doing service at the World level. As I had not yet attended the WSC in L.A. I indicated that I would be at the Conference the next month. He strongly suggested I consider service at the Trustee level. A seed was planted. On the one hand, as a debtor, I don't particularly like being told what to do, and on the other hand, my feelings of unworthiness get triggered by such invitations. I agreed to be open to HP's direction in the matter and to first attend the WSC to see what this level of service entailed.

During the 2019-2020 service year, I participated on the Public Information Committee and the Intergroup Caucus and dug into more service at the world level. During this year I spent considerable time in discussions with my sponsor and other D.A. fellows about possible service as a Trustee, potential retirement plans allowing such service, and praying about HP's will for me over the next ten or so years. With the arrival of the coronavirus and the subsequent lockdown in mid-March 2020, I reverted to working from home. This immediately freed up at least ten hours per week from driving to my employment locations. Retirement, while uncertain as to a date,

is likely in the near horizon. I was encouraged to submit my Class A Trustee package and resume for consideration.

It was during this process of application that I explored the three "Duties of Service" required by a Trustee to determine if I met the criteria. The first, Duty of Care, is a concept I was highly familiar with due to the nature of my career. It is the attention to and the appreciation of ethical and legal requirements to properly care for those in my service. The second, Duty of Loyalty, requires attention to the sensitive and confidential information that I will be exposed to at this level of service. The third, Duty of Obedience, is a vocational calling that comes from a relationship with a Power greater than myself of service to the Fellowship as a whole using the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts that have been revealed; being open to learning what I don't know and to uphold the principle of substantial unanimity on which our program rests.

I was interviewed by the Selection Committee and later was approved by the Board to become a Trustee in July 2020. As a result I have stepped down from many other service positions at the local and intergroup levels and have been amazed at the number of people Higher Power has positioned to move into these positions to serve and help grow D.A. in Canada and globally.

It is an honour, a privilege, and a step in faith to be invited to serve this Fellowship as a Trustee, to be the first from Canada to hold such a position, and to expand my own recovery as I do more service at the global level.

— Roger H.

## ANNOUNCEMENT CORNER

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

1. Fellowship-wide calls with live speaker shares use the U.S. call-in phone number: 1-605-472-5540, access code: 617093#. International phone numbers (and online access) are available at [debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access](http://debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access). The Online Meeting ID is darecovery1. Let members know to mark their calendars for these upcoming events:
  - Sunday, November 22, from 1 – 2 p.m. Eastern Time, “Ask-the-GSB: The Three S’s—Solvency, Sponsorship, and Service,” presented by the GSB Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)
2. The latest issue of Ways & Means—the official recovery magazine of Debtors Anonymous—is now available. <https://debtorsanonymous.org/share>
3. Members can download the list of Motions and Recommendations from the 2020 World Service Conference <https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/world-service-conference/>
4. Seeking member recovery stories for the D.A. Basic Text. For more information, email [basictextstories@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:basictextstories@debtorsanonymous.org)
5. Seeking member written submissions for the D.A. Daily Reader Book. Visit [debtorsanonymous.org/meditations](http://debtorsanonymous.org/meditations)
6. Seeking member stories for the “D.A. Voices from the Black Community” pamphlet. For more information, email [wsc.litcom@debtorsanonymous.org](mailto:wsc.litcom@debtorsanonymous.org)
7. The D.A. General Service Board of Trustees has released the following announcement regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the temporary reduced hours of onsite General Service Office operations: [https://mk0debtorsanonyxjebc.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/DA\\_COVID-19\\_Announcement\\_24Oct2020.pdf](https://mk0debtorsanonyxjebc.kinstacdn.com/wp-content/uploads/DA_COVID-19_Announcement_24Oct2020.pdf)
8. Make temporary updates to your meeting listing on the world D.A. website. Temporary updates—teleconference or video conference numbers, meeting closures, meeting contact info—will appear in red on your meeting listing and will revert back to the original listing upon request after your meeting starts up in person: [www.debtorsanonymous.org/temp-meeting-update](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/temp-meeting-update)
9. D.A. pamphlets are now available — individually and bundled together — on Kindle! Visit [debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks](http://debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks)
10. 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 two (2) positions currently open. Visit [debtorsanonymous.org/service](http://debtorsanonymous.org/service)
11. Please encourage D.A. members at meetings to Subscribe to eNews to receive all D.A. announcements!
  - Members can subscribe at [debtorsanonymous.org/enews](http://debtorsanonymous.org/enews)
  - U.S. members can sign up by texting DARECOVERY to 22828
12. Share your story in Ways & Means—the recovery magazine of D.A.—or share an article about service in The DA Focus newsletter. Members can learn more and read past issues at [debtorsanonymous.org/share](http://debtorsanonymous.org/share)
13. If it fits in your spending plan, please increase your 7th Tradition contributions to support the Fellowship! Members can donate at [debtorsanonymous.org/contribute](http://debtorsanonymous.org/contribute)

**For more announcements,  
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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)



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