

THE D.A. FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Fall 2004

Inside

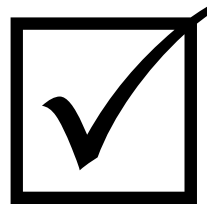
| | |
|---|---|
| Appointed Committee Member definition and nomination process | 2 |
| Guidelines for Appointed Committee Members | 3 |
| General Service Board Committee news | 3 |
| Debtors Anonymous Income Statement, July 1—September 30, 2004 | 4 |

Attention GSRs/ISRs

This publication contains important information for your meeting. Please share this newsletter with the members of your group. Newcomers often wonder what a GSR is... now is your chance to tell them how doing service at the world service level benefits your recovery and also helps carry the DA message to the still-suffering debtor.

The Board Call has a new look and a new name.

Starting with this issue, the publication formerly known as the *Board Call* will now be called *The DA Focus*, to reflect its purpose—to facilitate communication between all levels of the DA service structure, including the groups and Intergroups, the Conference Committees and Caucuses and the General Service Board of Trustees.



What's on your D.A. wish list....?

Our General Service Office provides services for over 500 meetings throughout the world. D.A. is present in more than 13 countries. Recent additions to D.A. literature include the *Twelve Steps* pamphlet and the *Spirituality* pamphlet. A new pamphlet, *Recovery from Compulsive Spending*, has been approved and is in the publication process.

These successes could not have been possible without the dedicated service and contributions of many D.A. members. However, as D.A. grows, so do its financial needs. The D.A. fellowship has said it would like to have a *How it Works* book, a larger Office, and an International Convention. The fellowship would also like to have an improved website and be able to order D.A. literature in languages other than English. In order to fulfill these visions, D.A. needs the financial support of its members. No contribution is too small if given freely with love.

- Twelve Steps pamphlet
- Compulsive Spending pamphlet
- Over 500 registered DA meetings
- DSL service for the General Service Office
- A *How it Works* book
- A larger General Service Office
- An International Convention
- An improved website
- Translation of DA literature into languages other than English

How to Contribute to D.A.

As an individual D.A. members are asked to contribute what they can at each meeting. Members who have experienced prosperity through recovery in D.A. are encouraged to contribute more. Individuals can make separate contributions to the GSB of up to \$5000 per year.

As a group After a group has met its monthly expenses, including paying rent and purchasing literature as needed, the funds that are surplus above the group's established prudent reserve are usually donated to two or three levels of service: the GSR Regional Area Group (if there

is one for the area), the local Intergroup, and the General Service Office. The suggested proportions are 10% to the GSR Regional Area Group, 45% to the local Intergroup, and 45% to the GSO. If there is no Regional Area Group, then the donation is generally split 50/50 between the local Intergroup and the GSO.

As an Intergroup After an Intergroup has met its monthly expenses, any leftover funds are generally donated to the GSO. The address of the GSO is on page 4 of this publication.

Do you know the power of a dollar?

We have 524 registered meetings. If 75% of these meetings (393) increased their contribution by \$1 per month, the result would be an additional \$4,710 income per year. Now visualize \$2 per month, \$5 per month. Every registered D.A. meeting can help make this happen!

Outside contributor turned away

The General Service Board recently received an offer from a not-for-profit organization seeking to make a donation to D.A. Our 7th Tradition tells us that D.A. must be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions. The GSB declined the offer.

World Service Conference 2004

One hundred and three registered delegates attended the 18th annual World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous, held in Sacramento, Calif., from August 25-29, 2004.

continued on page 4 ⇨

The General Service Board of Trustees

Nomination, Election and Rotational Structure of Appointed Committee Members

INTRODUCTION

The General Service Board (GSB) of Debtors Anonymous (Trustees) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York. The Trustees work with appointed committee members on the GSB committees.

DEFINITION

Definition of an

Appointed Committee Member:

Several GSB committees seek the participation of DA members with strong experience (DA service and/or professional). Suggestions for candidates are sought from Trustees, delegates, staff members, directors and committee members past and present. The committee chairperson makes sure that all résumés received are carefully evaluated, using the following criteria: special qualifications, service experience and dedication. Eligible candidates are then interviewed by the committee chairperson or someone designated by the chairperson. The name of the candidate selected is referred to the DA GSB for approval, and is then appointed by the GSB. The term of service is 3 years, renewed on a yearly basis, for a maximum of one 3 year term.

All nominations for GSB Appointed Committee Members shall be sent to:

Debtors Anonymous
General Service Board
Nominations Committee
PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492
da-gso@mindspring.com

NOMINATION PROCESS

The General Service Board (GSB) has a Nominations Committee (the Nom Com). The Nom Com does the work of identifying and selecting individuals who might serve on D.A. General Service Board Committees as an Appointed Committee Member (ACM), and then shepherds each candidate through the nomination and election process. Each GSB Committee reviews the nominations and upon approval, invites the new ACM to begin world service to D.A.

The following process will be followed by the GSB when nominating and selecting new Appointed Committee Members:

Step One—Receive a Nomination

Any D.A. member may nominate a recovering debtor to serve as an Appointed Committee Member. The Nom Com asks nominees to provide the GSB with three (3) documents:

1. **A signed letter from the person or group** making the nomination and stating their knowledge of the nominee's experience in a service role or activity.
2. **A letter from the nominee** stating his or her interest in GSB service and that he or she meets the guidelines as described for an Appointed Committee Member. If the nominee seeks membership on a specific committee, this should be included in the letter.
3. **A résumé of the nominee** showing prior D.A. service, other Twelve Step service, and any qualifications or experience that may be helpful to the D.A. General Service Board.

Step Two—Consider the Nomination

The Nom Com reviews all the nominations. The Committee may interview nominees and gather relevant data about the nominees, paying attention to the needs of the GSB. The Nom Com may also educate nominees about Board service so that the nominees will be sure of their interest. Nominees may remove themselves from consideration for any reason, and the Nom Com may remove any nominee from consideration who does not meet the guidelines for Board service.

Step Three—Recommend the Candidate

The Nom Com will present to the GSB the names and relevant information of candidates for Appointed Committee Members. As part of their consideration of the nominees, the Nom Com will strive to reflect the diversity of the fellowship in geography, culture, gender, race, religious background, ethnic background, and sexual orientation.

Step Four—Consider the Candidate

A GSB Committee may consider the nominees in a Committee meeting. Any Board member returning as a Trustee the following year may veto a candidate. Discussions of candidates will be kept confidential.

Step Five—Confirm the Candidate

The individual GSB Committee will notify each candidate of his or her confirmation or not as an Appointed Committee Member.

Guidelines for G.S.B. Appointed Committee Members

The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous has found that the following attributes contribute most toward fulfilling a world service level commitment. It is suggested that a GSB Appointed Committee Member Nominee would:

- 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* (3) years of not incurring unsecured debt.
- 2) Be committed to working the Twelve Steps of D.A. in his or her own life.
- 3) 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, requires a definite commitment of time, and understands that world service takes priority over other service.
- 4) Be dedicated to and active in D.A. service, demonstrated by successful completion of service commitments on an ongoing basis, and preferably have attended and participated in at least one World Service Conference.
- 5) Have the ability to follow through with commitments and show willingness to complete the commitment in accordance with D.A. principles, Tools, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts.
- 6) Be dedicated and committed to the health of D.A. and have a desire to carry the message to the still suffering debtor.

GSB Literature Publications | Literature Services

Definition of Contract Writer

A Contract Writer for D.A. is a writer commissioned by the D.A. General Service Board to create or edit *conference-approved literature* for Debtors Anonymous. A contract writer must be a current, recovering member of D.A., actively working the 12 steps in D.A., who has not incurred unsecured debt for a minimum of one (1) year. Contract writers may work on either a volunteer basis or for payment, depending on the funding available.

Contract writers will receive requests for proposals for future literature projects and may submit proposals at that time. All writers agree

to work within terms defined by the DAGSB, including but not limited to agreeing that all authorship will remain anonymous and D.A. will hold the copyright of all work commissioned by the DAGSB.

If you are interested in writing for D.A. and would like to be a contract writer, please send a writing and recovery résumé and samples of your work (copies are OK) to:

Contract Writers

DA General Service Office
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009
781-453-2743 / da-gso@mindspring.com

GSB Communications Committee

The GSB Communications Committee was created at the 2004 WSC to encompass three former GSB Committees: Public Information, InfoTech and the Ways & Means.

Public Information. Recently, D.A. was contacted by a producer who wanted to film a DA meeting as part of a documentary about debt. The Public Information Conference Committee has prepared guidelines to help groups interact with the media. These guidelines help safeguard the anonymity of D.A. members. You can order a copy of the PI Manual from the General Service Office.

InfoTech. The InfoTech Committee is receiving help from tech-savvy D.A. members, who are working on a FAQ page for the Website, and who prepared the info page about phone meetings that is now available on the D.A. website.

Ways & Means. The W&M Committee continues to help the production team of the W&M publish the Fellowship's "meeting in print." If you or your group have not received your subscription, or you have a D.A. story you would like to submit for possible publication, please email the W&M editor at waysandmeansda@hotmail.com.

GSB Nominations Committee

The process for nominating an Appointed Committee Member is on page 3.

The process for nominating a General Service Board Trustee is on page 20 of the GSR Manual, which can be ordered from the DA website.

GSB Treasurer | GSB Finance Committee

Contributions are down, and so is spending

"There are no dues or fees for D.A. membership. We are self supporting through our own contributions."

It is only through your group and personal contributions that the General Service Office of Debtors Anonymous can pay existing expenses and can achieve our visions of future growth: to expand our office space and hire additional staff to meet the needs of the Fellowship, to reprint existing and develop much-needed new literature, and have a spending plan where we can proactively add services in order to reach the debtor who still suffers.

The comparative charts for the period of July through September (see page 4) show that **contributions and literature sales are not meeting our spending plan.** (Literature sales, contributions, Ways & Means subscriptions, and miscellaneous income in 2003 totaled \$37,351 and in 2004 they total \$30,538. This is a \$6,813, or

18% income reduction.) Fortunately, due to carefully monitored spending, expenses for this period are less than plan.

In the next three months we have literature needs that include the reprinting of several existing pamphlets and the printing of the *Compulsive Spending* pamphlet approved at the 2004 Conference. The D.A. website is in need of long overdue enhancements. The GSB will be planning its April face-to-face board meeting. To make these plans a reality, your contributions and literature purchases must support our income spending plan.

Thank you.
Yours in service,
Carolyn H., GSB Treasurer

World Service Conference Held in Sacramento

←Continued from page 1

The World Service Conference is the annual business meeting of the program of Debtors Anonymous, where delegates from registered D. A. groups (GSRs) and Inter-groups (ISRs) gather to review the financial status of the fellowship, define D.A.'s business strategies, work on new D.A. literature, develop new communication methods and address a variety of other issues that affect D.A. as a whole.

Each delegate chooses a Committee and/or Caucus to work on while at the Conference. Then, on the last day of the Conference, the registered delegates come together at what is called the *Convocation* to present and formally vote on motions from the Committees.

The General Service Board welcomed two new Trustees, Paul S. and Deborah C. Three Trustees rotated off the GSB: River L., Jimmy W. and Jack B. We thank them for their service.

Finally, the gavel for the 2005 World Service Conference was transferred to a representative from the New Jersey-Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware Host Committee. The 19th annual D.A. World Service Conference is scheduled for August 17-21, 2005 at a location to be announced.

Some highlights

- The motion to amend Article 3 of the D.A. Charter needed not only a quorum of all registered delegates, but also required three-quarters of all voting delegates to vote "yes" in order for the motion to pass. There were 101 of 103 registered delegates present in the room at the time of the vote. Thirty-one voted in favor, 68 were opposed; the motion did not carry, leaving Article 3 of the Charter as it stands.
- The *Recovery from Compulsive Spending* pamphlet was approved.
- The creation of the proposed *Literature Services* and a new literature creation/approval process was approved.
- A guideline for GSR service was adopted. This guideline suggests that the term of service for any member of a standing Committee or Caucus of the World Service Conference run from the current Conference until the next Conference. This is to ensure continuity of service throughout the year.
- The amount that an individual can contribute to the GSO was increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

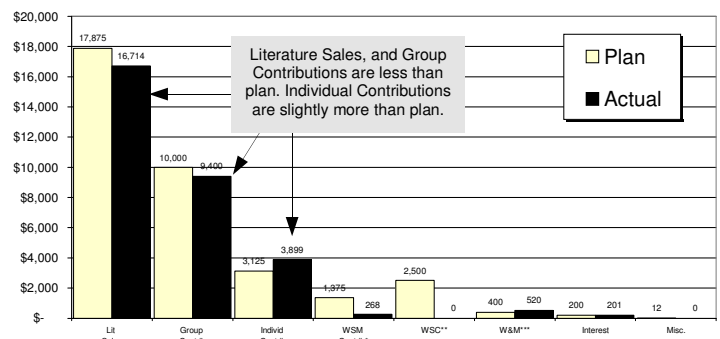
The minutes from the World Service Conference will be mailed to all GSRs and group contacts next month.

Debtors Anonymous Income Statement

As of September 30, 2004

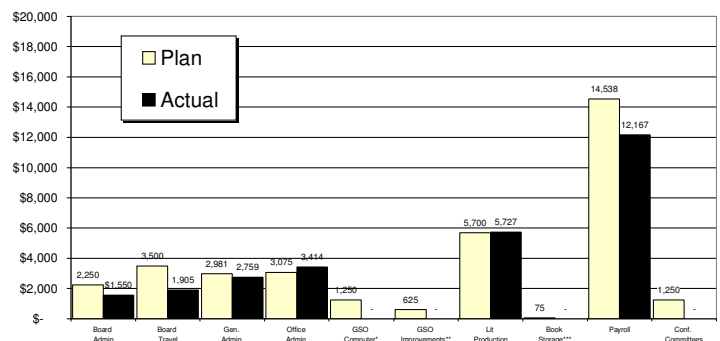
| | PLAN | ACTUAL |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 7/01/2004 to 9/30/2004 | 7/01/2004 to 9/30/2004 |
| REVENUE | | |
| Literature Sales | \$ 17,875 | \$ 16,714 |
| Group Contributions | 10,000 | 9,400 |
| Individual Contributions | 3,125 | 3,899 |
| World Svc. Month Contributions | 1,375 | 268 |
| World Service Conference | 2,500 | - |
| Ways & Means Income | 400 | 520 |
| Interest Income | 200 | 201 |
| Misc. Income | 12 | - |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 35,487 | \$ 31,003 |
| EXPENSE | | |
| Board Administration | \$ 2,250 | \$ 1,550 |
| Board Travel | 3,500 | 1,905 |
| General Administration | 2,981 | 2,759 |
| Office Administration | 3,075 | 3,414 |
| Proposed Office Computer | 1,250 | - |
| Proposed Office Improvements | 625 | - |
| Literature Printing & Production | 5,700 | 5,727 |
| Proposed Book Storage | 75 | - |
| Payroll Expense | 14,538 | 12,167 |
| Conference Committees | 1,250 | - |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 35,244 | \$ 27,523 |
| NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSE | \$ 243 | \$ 3,480 |

Revenue (Plan to Actual)
July 1 to September 30, 2004



* World Service Month contributions
** World Service Conference Income
*** W&M is Ways & Means, the fellowship newsletter

Expenses (Plan to Actual)
July 1 to September 30, 2004



* Projected expense for Office computer
** Projected expense for Office improvements
*** Projected expense for Office book storage

THE DAFOCUS

PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

Phone: 781-453-2743
Fax: 781-453-2745
Email: da-gso@mindspring.com
www.debtorsanonymous.org