

FEBRUARY 2018

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The DA Focus is published quarterly by the D.A. General Service Board (GSB). It is available as a download from the official D.A. website.

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

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Present and past issues of **The DA Focus** are available at:

debtorsanonymous.org
► Fellowship Services
► Fellowship Newsletters

From the Archive:

Overcoming Challenges at the Early WSC

Three pioneers who helped guide Debtors Anonymous through its early World Service Conferences have many different memories, but one emotion in common: they all feel they received much more than the service they gave.

Marjorie M. of Northern California, who chaired the D.A. General Service Board through the first several Conferences, says: "It was just one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I think of it so fondly, everything we went through and everything we accomplished."

Alan S. of New York, a trustee who helped the new fellowship produce and distribute some of its first literature, adds, "It was the greatest time of my life. We just had such a group of wonderful, dedicated people, all working together for the good of the fellowship."

And Mary M. of Chicago, part of the "second wave" of trustees who also chaired the GSB through several later Conferences, says, "I really feel this service was one of the great gifts of my lifetime. I grew so much--personally, spiritually, professionally, in every way."

The three served as members of the GSB at a time when D.A.'s membership and financial resources were tiny compared to today. D.A. was just beginning to see itself as a national fellowship, rather than a collection of ragtag groups meeting in a handful of cities with virtually no literature or national support. All say that the challenges then facing D.A. seemed overwhelming but that overcoming those challenges over a number of years with hard work and goodwill forged a sense of unity that made possible the fellowship we have today.

To be sure, the exhilaration they experienced was balanced by the growing pains D.A. had during those years. At times, it appeared as though the fellowship might fracture or cease to exist altogether. All three feel deeply grateful that

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RETRACTION: The following Statement of Purpose was approved at the 2013 World Service Conference:

"In D.A., our purpose is threefold: to stop incurring unsecured debt, to share our experience with the newcomer, and to reach out to other debtors."

An error in formatting in a series of eNews announcements for a fellowship-wide call in early 2017 might have given the wrong impression that there was a second sentence, but this is the only Conference-approved version. Ever since its adoption, it has been published in its entirety on the Debtors Anonymous website in the Fellowship Services section under Resources for Groups at:

<http://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/resources-for-groups/>

The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous

Debtors Anonymous
Conference-Approved Literature

“The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous (B.D.A.), together with the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, allow us to operate our business without incurring new unsecured debt and to do business in the spirit of service.”

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: In D.A., our purpose is threefold: to stop incurring unsecured debt, to share our experience with the newcomer, and to reach out to other debtors.



New Pamphlet

The Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, the World Service Conference Literature Committee and GSB Literature Publications and Literature Services Committees are pleased to announce the publication of a new World Service Conference-Approved pamphlet:

“The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous”

“The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous (B.D.A.), together with the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, allow us to operate our business without incurring new unsecured debt and to do business in the spirit of service.”

“The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous,” a new 14-page pamphlet, is available for purchase by individual members or groups. The Literature Order Form, which has been updated to include this new pamphlet (P-132), is available on the Debtors Anonymous website at debtorsanonymous.org.

Please share this information at your meetings, and please forward this announcement to other D.A. members.

ATTENTION: CONTRACT WRITERS FOR DEBTORS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE

A contract writer for Debtors Anonymous is a writer commissioned by the D.A. General Service Board (DAGSB) to create or edit World Service Conference-Approved Literature for Debtors Anonymous.

A contract writer must be a current, recovering member of D.A., actively working the Twelve 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.

All contract writers agree to work within terms defined by the DAGSB, including but not limited to agreeing that all authorship will remain anonymous and that 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 considered to be a contract writer, please “stay tuned” regarding future literature projects for which writers may submit bids. Announcements seeking writers will be made via eNews. Members can receive eNews by signing up on the Debtors Anonymous website at: debtorsanonymous.org.

General Service Board Committee Reports

GSB Audit Committee

The GSB Audit Committee has several responsibilities. One is every five years we seek competitive bids for the services of a CPA from New York.

This committee has sprung to life but neither Bob nor I have any idea of how to find a CPA from New York. I mean who would know that?

We asked GSB Chair Allen T. for guidance which he gave us.

Off we went searching for New York CPAs. Amazingly, I found a "List of Pre-Qualified CPA Firms in New York"--75 of them!

I really wanted to impress Bob with my new search skills, so I shared my list with him. He was impressed!!

Now we are both working on the next challenge--creating a Request for Proposal (RFP) to be sent to at least 20 to 30 CPAs that work with Non-Profit Organizations like Debtors Anonymous.

Bob and I are learning many new skills and having fun while doing it.

We are both Friends of D.A. and will continue to learn to support the Worldwide Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

In Service,
Jo Mc, Chair and A Friend of D.A.
Bob D., Secretary

GSB Communications Committee (Com-Com)

The Communications Committee (Com-Com) actively releases information from the General Service Board (GSB), GSB committees, WSC committees, and the General Service Office (GSO) in the following three mediums: eNews announcements, the *DA Focus*, and *Ways & Means*.

We also keep the website current, displaying appropriate links to debtorsanonymous.org that are utilized every day.

Our main goal is to get the announcements released in a timely manner, by the best medium, and to the largest reachable D.A. audience.

If you haven't done so, please register or re-register your meeting by June 30. Go to debtorsanonymous.org, click on Fellowship Services, and follow prompts to the online meeting registration form.

The most efficient means for D.A. members to get announcements is by an eNews announcement. To sign up for eNews, please visit: www.debtorsanonymous.org

Thank you,
Dayton L., Communications
Committee Chair

GSB Conference Support Committee (CSC)

The goal of the Board's Conference Support Committee (CSC) is to support future World Service Conferences (WSCs). Given this charter, the committee is actively involved in the detailed planning for WSC 2018, to be held this August in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, and in the longer range planning for WSC 2019, to be held in August 2019 Los Angeles, California, USA.

Key recent activities for WSC 2018 include:

- Working on the hardcopy Registration Packet and the companion Online Registration Form
- Interviewing candidates to serve as the parliamentarian
- Reviewing and refining the refund policy and a potential new policy regarding participation on a WSC committee after extenuating circumstances prohibit a registered delegate from attending the conference
- Working with the Board's Information Technology Committee to

create the email address issuesandconcerns@debtorsanonymous.org to facilitate the email submission of issues and concerns.

Regarding WSC 2019, CSC is engaged with the Southern California host committee, with a specific focus on supporting them in their location search for the 2019 conference. It's the Board that actually executes contracts with selected WSC sites. For WSC 2019, the host committee has been dutifully researching possible locations, and we hope to enter into an agreement with the selected site in March or April of this year.

GSB Finance Committee

All matters affecting the financial management and financial health of the General Service Board are of concern to the Finance Committee. The committee reviews all finance matters that are brought to its attention and either addresses them or refers them to other GSB committees. It reviews and reports to the GSB on the financial health of the GSB. The treasurer, alternate treasurer, and Board Chair are all members of the Finance Committee. Currently the committee also has an appointed committee member.

Currently, the main concern of the Finance Committee is the spending plan deficit and finding ways to minimize and eliminate the shortfall. This includes keeping the fellowship informed of the current status of the financial health of the Board and the fellowship as well as informing the fellowship of the status of donation and literature sales. Currently group donations are well above last year at this time; however literature sales are significantly down. Reductions in costs proposed in the 2017-18 spending plan plus what has been achieved during the first 6 months of the year have meant a 20% reduction in expenses compared to last year.

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General Service Board Committee Reports

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Long-term goals include finding ways to reduce cost through stabilizing the work load at the office to allow the office staff to take on further activities and keeping the fellowship informed of the services the Board provides and the cost of those services.

GSB Information Technology (Info Tech)

Since last year's WSC, the bulk of InfoTech's effort has been devoted to getting the Debit Card Only (DCO) capability working on the D.A. website. This is the functionality that will allow D.A. members and groups to contribute to the Fellowship online. The committee members are making progress and currently working out the bugs in the system. There are still questions about whether the technology will be able to accommodate debit cards issued in other countries. The committee hopes to be able to announce the launch of DCO during this conference year.

The committee's members have also made progress on organizing the GSB files in the Board's archive platform. There are literally thousands of files in hundreds of folders.

Finally, the process of publishing *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts* and *A Currency of Hope* electronically via Kindle is coming close to fruition.

GSB International Committee

The GSB International Committee continues helping individuals and groups across the world spread the word to the still-suffering debtor. Our biggest hurdle is trying to reach out to those who do not speak or understand the language in which our current Conference Approved Literature is presented.

Helping worldwide members translate our D.A. Literature into their own language, and then professionally reviewing it so the translated material closely follows the English version but still represents the translated language, is our biggest achievement right now.

It seems that we're hearing from members from countries all over the world who would like to translate D.A. literature into their language. We're also hearing from those D.A. members who wish to offer their services in reviewing translated languages in which they are fluent.

Our future outlook is getting the new and accrued, translated D.A. Literature published and distributed in the best possible way that benefits the fellowship as a whole.

Thank You,
Dayton L., International Committee
Chair

GSB Legal Affairs Committee

The GSB Legal Affairs Committee is involved in the registration, maintenance, and defense of D.A.'s intellectual property, copyrights, and trademarks. In the interest of providing the Fellowship with some insight into the actual workings of the committee (and the Board), we'll review an action we recently completed.

In August 2017, the Board was contacted by the law firm that assists us with intellectual property topics. They informed us that the Debtors Anonymous trademark would expire in August 2018, and that to maintain our ownership of the trademark, we should file a "Combined Declaration of Continued Use and Request for Renewal" with the U.S. Patent and Trademark office.

We engaged the law firm to assist with the filing. At their request, we provided them with examples of our current use

of the trademark, which is one of the key factors in registering a mark. They reviewed our submissions, prepared the necessary forms, forwarded a "Declaration of Use" document to our GSB Chairperson for signature, then filed all forms and "specimens" (i.e. evidence of use) with the U.S. government.

We are now awaiting receipt of a "Notice of Acceptance and Renewal." For the law firm's services, the Board's Finance Committee issued a check to the law firm for \$1,060.00 USD. The Board's spending plan included \$1,000 for this expense, so we were slightly over our allotted amount, but not significantly so.

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

GSB Literature Publications (Lit-Pub)

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

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

The "Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous" is a new pamphlet which was approved by the Conference in Dallas in 2017. The layout and design process was completed this month. This pamphlet (P-132) is now available for purchase on the Literature Order Form on the Debtors Anonymous website.

The Literature Services Committee, which develops each piece of literature
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General Service Board Committee Reports

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by selecting a writer and editing various drafts, welcomed a third Appointed Committee Member (ACM) in October of 2017. The committee is currently working on the process to select writers for the Basic Text of D.A., as well as the Step Study Guide.

A trustee member of Literature Publications also serves as the GSB liaison to the WSC Literature Committee and helps facilitate the development of a concept for a piece of literature through the literature approval process. The WSC Literature Committee is currently working on several projects, including the Meditation Book, collecting member stories for the D.A. Basic Text, and development of a Diversity Pamphlet--a new concept which was approved by the Convocation in Dallas in 2017.

For several years, the Literature Publications Committee has been exploring options for literature, such as eBooks and other electronic possibilities. Lit Pub is also working with the GSB and WSC International Committees to address the needs of members requesting literature translations and increasing access to our literature resources.

The GSB Literature Publications Committee is optimistic that we will have made progress on our literature in process over the year and may have some pieces of literature ready to present for possible conference approval in Minneapolis in August 2018. We will keep the Fellowship updated.

GSB Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

The Long Range Planning Committee facilitates the GSB's long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to suffering compulsive debtors around the world. It develops strategies and action plans to help D.A. remain a prosperous, effective Fellowship so that D.A. as a whole can fulfill its primary purpose. It works through the GSB to help all levels of D.A.--the GSB, the GSO, the World Service Conference, and the Fellowship -- plan and work to establish a strong foundation for the future of D.A.

During the past year, an Ad Hoc Committee to study D.A.'s finances was convened by the GSB Chair. That Committee recommended that the LRPC create a new 5-year plan for D.A.

We are looking at the previous 5-year plan created in 2009, have gleaned some "lessons learned," and are excited to have a fresh "look" forward. Creation of this new 5-year plan will be one of the main projects LRPC for this year.

LRPC also plans and conducts four "Ask-the-GSB" phone forums during each conference year. In October 2017, we conducted a call to recap the 2017 WSC in Dallas. The next call was on January 21, 2018, on the topics of "Solvency and Sponsorship." There will be two more calls before August 2018 which traditionally have had speakers share on topics such as the Twelve Traditions, D.A. Literature, and D.A. Finances. The remaining call dates will be announced via eNews when the topics have been finalized.

The speaker portion of each call is recorded, and there is also time reserved for those attending to ask questions or make comments. These calls provide an opportunity to hear the experience, strength and hope of other members and to deepen our D.A. experience.



World Service Conference Committee Reports

WSC Conference Committee

The Conference Committee is working on a review of the Charter, creating a digital census of WSC committee and caucus staffing, and preparing for the 2018 Remote Participation Trial. The Conference Committee also communicates regularly with the Twin Cities Host Committee, receiving reports from its Chair during monthly conference calls.

The Conference Committee's primary action item this committee year continues to be coordination of

the ad hoc Remote Participation Trial Committee (RPTC). The RPTC is currently comprised of representatives from the GSB Conference Support Committee, Twin Cities Host Committee, European Regional Intergroup, and the WSC International Caucus, Technology, and Conference Committees. The RPTC has researched pricing and process for the upcoming 2018 Remote Participation Trial and offered the GSB a spending plan based on bids from four vendors and a recommendation for the registration fee for Remote Participants (RPs). The RPTC will be drafting a

Remote Participant Registration packet for GSB review and will continue to work to identify up to 8 RPs to virtually attend the 2018 WSC. Since the RPs won't have the benefit of fellowship and "hallway intel", the committee is discussing reaching out to experienced delegates to serve as conference specific service buddies, willing to touch base on a one-on-one basis with the RPs during the conference. The RPTC will also support the Twin Cities Host Committee in identifying tech volunteers to support each committee/caucus with
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World Service Conference Committee Reports

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web-conferencing during breakout sessions. Those eligible and interested in being a Remote Participant, or those interested in being of service for the trial, should email: wsc2018rpt@gmail.com

WSC Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC)

The Fellowship Communications Committee (FCC) facilitates communication and promotes collaboration between the debtor who still suffers, the Debtors Anonymous membership, the World Service Conference committees and caucuses, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board. (rev. 8/12)

Our original 2017 WSC FCC consisted of six members and our liaison. Today, we are Lynn S.-- Chair, Alexia I., Melissa D., Bill P. -- Spiritual Advisor, and our GSB Liaison (not sure if I include Jo as a member). We are three first-year GSRs devoted to the program that saved our lives--the Worldwide Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous--and the still-suffering debtor. That said, I must modestly say that we are kind of killing it!

Bill P. is very sick and Lynn was asked to be the FCC Chair. Bill remains our Spiritual Advisor.

We have monthly calls to discuss and prepare actions to complete our world-wide conference calls, our Issues & Concerns, G-Sponsorship, and the WSC Committee/Caucus calls on the 5th Saturday of the month.

Our two "Visions" conference calls were very successful. The first, "Visions-Individual," had quite a turnout in numbers with members sharing their personal visions and how these have stimulated their DA recovery. The second focused on "Visions-Groups," sharing how a vision for individual

groups coupled with the 12 Traditions can help groups grow and thrive. The attendance was light, but it was quite powerful. The speakers were incredible, and on the call were a handful of people with two-member groups who were sincerely looking for guidance to help their groups! I gave my number to a few people on the call who were interested in G-Sponsorship. The third call will be "Visions-Fellowship," expected to be in April 2018.

FCC has received two Issues & Concerns. The first was about a F2F D.A. meeting being turned into a business meeting. Melissa D. created a grand response and it was sent to the GSB Vice-Chairs.

The second I&C was about G-Sponsorship. Alexia and I are responsible for the G-Sponsorship requests and sharing these with D.A. Groups. A group seeking guidance about G-Sponsorship contacted Alexia, and I know of a D.A. Group in Berlin that is possibly interested. We have both had our respective home groups vote YES to being D.A. Group Sponsors and vote YES to creating a position of Group Sponsor representatives who we will elect.

We do all this...really? Wow so can you!

We have had two WSC Committee & Caucus calls on the 5th Saturday of the month, and we will be having our 3rd call on March 31st.

With love, service and gratitude,
Lynn S., FCC Chair

WSC Internal Operations Committee (IOC)

Report on Status of Activities

Paul M	Chair & Treasurer
Patricia T	Vice Chair
Jane L	Secretary
Josie P	Board Liaison

Recommendations from 2017 World

Service Conference:

1. The IOC strongly recommends that the GSB maintain the FY 2016-17 funding level for the "Salary and Hourly Wages" line item for the General Service Office (GSO) staff.

2. The IOC recommends that the GSB establish a line item in the Spending Plan to begin saving for an eventual relocation of the GSO.

3. The IOC recommends the installation of a dedicated hotline in order to facilitate a network of trained volunteers who can answer calls from still suffering debtors. The IOC is coordinating this item with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to move this forward.

Status of On-Going IOC Projects

1. Issue and Concern 17-02 -- Numbering System for D.A. Meetings. This was raised by GLADA Group 72800 at the 2017 World Service Conference. The GLADA intergroup noted discrepancies in the numbering system used to identify groups. The IOC has reached out to GLADA to obtain more details about this issue, but to date we have not heard back from them. See Item 3 below.

2. Physical Improvements to the General Service Office (GSO) in Needham, MA. We have prepared a spending plan \$5,648.50 to pay for the following items of work: 1) Painting of the walls and trim, including moving of furniture required to complete the painting (\$977.90); and 2) Shelving units, six 4-foot bays X 24 inches deep, to support the work flow of the office (\$4,670.60). The spending plan includes sending one member of our committee, an experienced project manager, to Needham to install the shelving. Her airline ticket for this trip is being donated by the committee chair. This spending plan will be considered and acted upon by the full General Service Board at their meeting on February 24-25, 2018.

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World Service Conference Committee Reports

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3. Meeting Re-Registration Process. Meetings of Debtors Anonymous are expected to re-register each year on the D.A. website. There are some meetings on the website that clearly have not updated their information for several years. We are working with the Technology Committee to come up with a system for reminding the groups to re-register each year, following up to confirm that re-registration has been completed, and removing groups that are not responsive. Resolution of the Issue and Concern in Item 1 above can be included in this re-registration process.

4. Network of Telephone Volunteers. We have written a draft procedure including volunteer training to answer calls that come in to the General Service Office from the debtor who still suffers. This document has been reviewed by the GSO manager. We are working with the Resource Development Committee (RDC) to complete and implement the procedure and training protocol for volunteers. These calls would come in on a dedicated toll-free number and be forwarded to the volunteer network at times decided upon by the GSO office manager so he can work more effectively and without so many interruptions.

5. Policy and Procedures Manual for the GSO. This project has been placed on long-term status as we focus on the more immediate needs reflected in the projects listed above. We will work on this after some of the other projects are completed.

6. Location of the GSO. The General Service Board has renewed the lease for the Needham, MA office space for 5 years, expiring in October 2022. The possibility of relocating the GSO has been placed on long-term status.

Submitted in service,
Paul M, IOC Chair

WSC Literature Committee (Lit-Com)

In the months following the World Service Conference, the Literature Committee has spent a great deal of time focused on responding to twelve literature-related Issues and Concerns from the fellowship. As always, we address these concerns to the best of our ability while seeking the wisdom of a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience.

2017-2018 subcommittee work:

- 'Basic Text' stories subcommittee (Point Person: Kelly, Members: Amos, Andrea, Diana, Julie) -- This subcommittee is currently working on logistics for collecting original stories from the fellowship for use in the D.A. Basic Text.

- 'BDA Annual Business Plan' subcommittee (Point Person: Amina, Members: Cynthia, Lolly) -- Literature Publications is currently reviewing a draft of a BDA Annual Business Plan and will get back to this subcommittee on any further work needed on this project.

- 'Daily Meditations Book' subcommittee (Point Person: Amos, Members: Amy, Debbie) -- This subcommittee is currently working with Legal, GSB Literature Services and the WSC Communications Committee on the logistics and process for collecting original writings from D.A. Members. The plan is to revise and release a flyer developed in 2017 to solicit these original writings from the fellowship to be used in developing a D.A. daily meditation book.

- "Diversity in D.A." pamphlet subcommittee (Point Person: Diana, Members: Andrea, Kelly) -- This subcommittee is working on a draft outline for a pamphlet titled 'Diversity in D.A.'. This literature concept was approved at the 2017 World Service Conference.

- "From Chaos to Clarity" pamphlet concept subcommittee

(Point Person: Marysia, Members: Amina, Debbie) -- This subcommittee is working on a concept proposal focused on debtors who suffer from debting that is perpetuated and worsened by symptoms of chronic disorganization.

The monthly teleconference meetings for this year's WSC Literature Committee have been well-attended and productive. The group is full of bright, focused, and discerning individuals who are all dedicated to working on the development of D.A. literature throughout every phase of the approval process. I am humbled and honored to serve as chair and work alongside this incredibly talented group of D.A. members committed to carrying the message of D.A. recovery to others.

WSC Resource Development Committee (RDC)

The mission of the Debtors Anonymous Resource Development Committee is to create revenue for D.A. including:

- a. Increasing Seventh Tradition contributions and clarifying the use of Seventh Tradition funds.

- b. Encouraging member participation in service at all levels.

- c. Increasing awareness within the D.A. fellowship about the importance of self-support in D.A. at the level of group, Intergroup, and World Service.

Financial goal for 2017/2018 – \$65,000 in Group and Individual Donations:

- A. Increase of \$36,000 in individual donations (\$88,304 total in individual donations or + 69% over last fiscal.)

- B. Increase \$29,000 in group donations (\$65,666 total in group donations or + 78% over last fiscal.)



WSC Caucus & Host Committee Reports

WSC Diversity Caucus

The Diversity Caucus has only met twice since the World Service Conference but we're off to a great start.

Below are the updates for the three projects we've chosen to undertake:

- Identify and complete next steps to publish "Best Practices for Outreach to Underserved Populations and Locations" as a piece of service literature.

- An initial review was completed but we'll continue to refine the language and make additional updates on practical suggestions for getting started.

- Collaborate with Intergroup and Technology Committees on their mapping project to identify meeting coverage by region and globally.
 - Contacted chairs of the Technology Committee and the Intergroup Committee to discuss ways we can work together to identify populations and locations that are currently being served and where we may have "deserts in D.A."

- Continue to collaborate with the Literature Committee on the concept for a Diversity in D.A. pamphlet.
 - As updates are made, we will continue to work with the Literature Committee to provide feedback on content shared for review and approval.

In addition to making a start on these projects, we've also had healthy, vibrant discussions about whether our caucus name accurately reflects our mission. As we continue this conversation, the Caucus will keep you posted on whether we will reach out to the Conference Committee to put forward a motion to change the caucus' name and any other future developments.

In love and service,
Diana G., Diversity Caucus

WSC International Caucus

Current goals:

1. Develop written history of International D.A. Request from GSB Communications Committee for updates to history of D.A. from International D.A.
 - Europe, Asia Pacific (answer basic questions: first started, when, how long per country, How did they find out about D.A.?) Have collected the history of the UK, Kenya, Czech Republic, and are working on Canada, Mexico, South America, Germany, France.

2. French translations--contact French connections to open communications with GSB Legal. Communication has been re-opened by GSB trustee, Josie, and the international caucus will leave her to liaise until she advises otherwise.

3. Collate 2-3 international stories for *Ways & Means*, *The DA Focus* and *A Currency of Hope*, 3rd Edition. This agenda item dovetails with the caucus's goal #1 to collate international stories / written history of D.A. Collected one story from Kenya, working on two more.

4. GSB to continue to investigate implementing diversified payment options for international fellowship members. Currently liaising with Tech committee for an update in their next meeting.

5. To support the Trial of the Remote Participation for GSRs and/or ISRs, we will liaise with Conference Committee and Technology. Chair is attending monthly Remote Participation Trial Committee (RPTC) meetings.

WSC Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus

The SSEC was created by the 2016 WSC and serves to support the D.A. Fellowship in gaining clarity and using tools to address the ways that underearning can threaten D.A. sobriety, and how it can be relieved through the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous.

The SSEC has met by phone six times and has hosted one fellowship-wide call on January 7, 2018: "What is Spiritually Sustainable Earning?" A second fellowship-wide call is being planned for the Spring.

As well as the Fellowship-wide Call Subcommittee, SSEC has also formed a Meeting Formats and Literature subcommittee and a Statement of Purpose subcommittee in service of our vision of broadening our fellowship-wide understanding of how Spiritually Sustainable Earning fits into the D.A. program.

2019 WSC Host Committee

Los Angeles and Southern California D.A. members are incredibly excited to host the 2019 WSC. Our five-person Venue Search Subcommittee contacted over 80 hotels and college campuses and has now settled on four finalists. They will be making site visits this weekend. Go Team L.A.! Let's rock WSC 2019!

Rob B., 2019 Host Committee Chair



An Important Message from the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

The General Service Board is committed to keeping the Debtors Anonymous Fellowship informed of the financial health of the fellowship through periodic updates.

Background

Over the last several years, expenses for the General Service Office, the board, and other administrative requirements have increased, while contributions and literature sales have remained basically the same. This has resulted in a deficit, which the General Service Board has met by using a small portion of our prudent reserve.

Board Request

Continuing to use our prudent reserve to make up for shortfalls in income is not sustainable long-term. The 2018 spending plan already cut services to levels that have resulted in reductions of services. To avoid using more of our prudent reserve, the board is asking all D.A. groups and individual D.A. members to consider increasing their contributions to Debtors Anonymous.

Some D.A. members may not know that, in addition to putting funds in the basket at their D.A. meetings, they can also make direct contributions to D.A. to help cover the expenses of the Fellowship as a whole. A number of D.A. members already do this every month—they include the contributions in their monthly spending plan and send their contributions to the General Service Office on a set schedule. Other D.A. members send contributions when they are able. Both types of contributions are important to meeting the goals of the Fellowship.

Concerning monthly contributions, any amount that fits into your spending plan is welcome. A contribution of even \$5 or \$10, made every month, can make a big difference. Additionally, for D.A. members in the United States, direct contributions may be tax-deductible. Note, however, that the maximum donation per member for any given year is \$5,000.00.

Regarding Seventh Tradition contributions from groups, D.A. members can remind their treasurers that their group's commitment to regular contributions is a part of their group's commitment to support the Fellowship.

In summary, and with much respect for our incredible Fellowship, the General Service Board asks all D.A. groups and individual D.A. members to consider supporting the Fellowship by increasing their level of group and individual contributions. Thank you for your continued support.

Thank you,
The General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

For the Good and Wellbeing of the Fellowship

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

Get connected to D.A. worldwide.

Receive newsletters, announcements, event info, and more--about 3-5 emails per month.

To subscribe, visit:
debtorsonymous.org

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

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

Write it down, send it in!

You can also email us your own poem, drawing, cartoon, or a photo (with no faces) that represents your recovery/vision in D.A.

Email your story/artwork to:
wandsandmeansDA@hotmail.com



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D.A. was able to navigate those shoals and grow to become an international fellowship.

Of all the issues, literature was probably the most contentious. The California fellowship felt separated from the D.A. heartland in New York by 3,000 miles of empty countryside, and did not believe it could survive and grow until D.A. began to produce its own literature.

It was the threat of a potential schism with California that led the GSB to locate the 2nd WSC in 1988 in Los Angeles, despite the fact that most of the membership was then still in New York.

According to Marjorie M, "We weren't sure how it would work to have the Conference in a place where D.A. had not been established very long, but it worked fine. Over the next several years we had Conferences in places where D.A. barely existed, in an effort to help us spread out across the country."

Gradually, as literature began to be produced and internal communications improved, there was more of a feeling of a national fellowship and a unified recovery program. And all that work began to pay off. A California fellowship that had been something of a rival, Money Anonymous, decided to merge with D.A. rather than continue on its own course.

Alan S. was involved during several of the same early Conferences in the development of D.A.'s literature. "Once the literature began coming out on a national scale, it really solidified the feeling throughout D.A. that we were a national organization. The literature really put us on the map as a resource for the recovering debtor everywhere."

Mary M. recalls how, as a member of the Chicago fellowship, she came to do service on the national level: "At Chicago they had this question-and-answers session with the GSB and I was so hungry to hear all this recovery, right then and there I had this thing like an out-of-body experience in which I told myself 'I think I'd like to do that someday.'"

Of the six Conferences she attended as a trustee, several as Chair of the Board, she recalls: "There was a growing sense of transparency that developed between the Board and the fellowship. In the early Conferences there was sometimes a feeling of 'us against them,' but as time went on a real sense of trust between the Board and the fellowship began to develop."

Mary M. identifies the 9th Conference, held in 1995 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the biggest turning point during her tenure. D.A. was experiencing its worst financial crisis ever. "We had no money. The Board felt under siege. Finally, we shared our real financial condition with the fellowship and that was the real beginning of a deep sense of trust. Nobody was mad at the Board; we were all united on finding solutions."

The highlight of her years at the WSC came at the 10th Conference, just outside Chicago, in 1996: "At the end of the Conference, I asked everybody to form one big circle. We all held hands, and we all felt so grateful for our unity and what we had as a fellowship. It was so beautiful. We all came together as one."

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