

GSO: GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

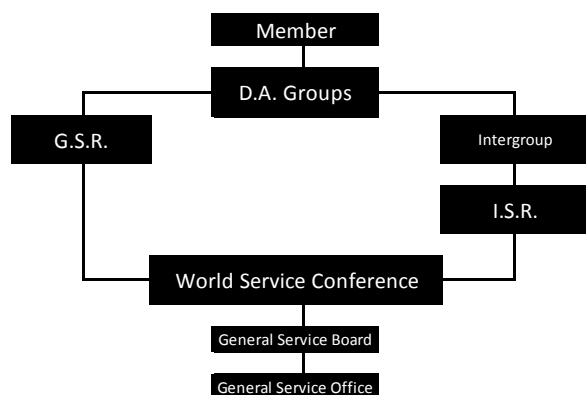
Debtors Anonymous • Conference-Approved Literature

GSO Mission Statement

The mission of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Office is to provide timely consistent service and D.A. information to suffering debtors, D.A. groups, and other interested parties. Using the spiritual principles of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, the General Service Office facilitates communication and unity within D.A. and meets the challenges of a growing fellowship with professionalism and compassion.

What Is the GSO?

The General Service Office (GSO) is the administrative “heart” of Debtors Anonymous (D.A.), carrying out D.A.’s primary purpose—to carry the message to the still-suffering compulsive debtor—every day. It is the hub of day-to-day communication with the suffering newcomer, with D.A. members and groups, between the groups and the General Service Board, with the media, and with the larger world. Special workers, acting within the D.A. Traditions and guided by the D.A. Concepts of Service, serve a growing number of groups and members around the world.



What Does the GSO Do?

The GSO carries out the same functions as those of any main office or headquarters of a

nonprofit organization; however, it does much more because of its unique role of service to the compulsive debtor:

Service to Newcomers and Members

The GSO is the primary point of contact for many newcomers and members. It responds to a rapidly growing number of letters, phone calls, faxes, and email messages each week. Our service workers answer questions, provide meeting locations, explain the basics of D.A. to all who need help, and sometimes, just lend an understanding ear to the troubled. The GSO maintains and continuously updates a complete database of D.A. meetings worldwide and on the Internet. It monitors the D.A. website (www.debtorsanonymous.org), working with the General Service Board Information Technology Committee, the World Service Conference, and contracted professional service firms.

Literature Distribution Service

The GSO administers the publication and distribution of all D.A. literature, including pamphlets, books, audiotapes, guides, compact discs, and Web-based materials. It receives and processes all literature/media orders from individuals, groups, Intergroups, distributors, and the public to spread the D.A. message.

Service to Groups and Intergroups

The GSO is the focal point of contact between groups and Intergroups and the General Service Board (GSB) between World Service Conferences. It administers and distributes the D.A. Focus, the official GSB service newsletter, and formal letters to the Fellowship from the Board. It also distributes the Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference Report to all groups and Intergroups. Our service workers either

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respond to or refer to the proper Trustee inquiries from groups and Intergroups.

Service to the World Conference

The primary responsibility of managing the annual World Service Conference rests with the sponsor city's Host Committee and the Conference Committee. However, the GSO helps coordinate the annual World Service Conference with administrative tasks before, after, and between conferences.

Service to the Media and the Professional Community

Working with the Public Information Committee and Trustee Liaison, the GSO responds to requests from the news media and from outside professionals, such as therapists, counselors, judicial systems, and financial consultants, for information about D.A. and the disease of compulsive debting.

Service to the General Service Board of Trustees (GSB) and its Committees

The General Service Board of Trustees, Inc. is responsible for putting into practice D.A.'s group conscience as expressed through the will of the World Service Conference. The Board also fulfills all fiduciary responsibilities required of nonprofit corporations by law; the Trustees have serious legal duties that they perform, such as protecting copyrights and service marks and filing required forms and tax returns. The GSO assists the GSB and its committees in carrying out these responsibilities.

Structure of the GSB

The GSB may consist of up to 15 Trustees, up to 10 recovering debtors and up to 5 non-debtors. Each year it elects a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer,

and a Secretary. It has a number of committees that both carry out the wishes of the World Service Conference and develop new projects to benefit the Fellowship. The committees include Audit, Communications, Executive, Finance, Information Technology, Literature, Legal Affairs, Long-Range Planning, Office, Nominations, and Public Information. A Trustee also serves as a Liaison to one of the nine World Service Conference Committees: Business Debtors Anonymous, Conference, Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons, Internal Operations, Literature, Resource Development, Fellowship Communications, Public Information, and Technology. Trustees also act as liaisons to informal caucuses that represent the interests of Diversity, Intergroups and International members.

What Can You and Your Group Do for the GSO?

As a D.A. member, General Service Representative (GSR), Intergroup Service Representative (ISR), or group or Intergroup officer, you can help the GSO—and the still-suffering compulsive debtor—in many ways:

- Share your experience, strength, and hope. Your email messages, phone calls, and letters help the GSO and the GSB stay in touch with and respond to your and your group's true needs.
- Keep the GSO informed of changes. You, your group GSR, your ISR, or your group officers need to help make sure that the D.A. database includes accurate, up-to-date information about your group (meeting days, locations, and times, contact persons, and GSR). You can keep the GSO informed about your Intergroups and Area Groups (a group of GSRs in your

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area) and let the GSO know about special events that could be posted on the D.A. website.

Remember our Seventh Tradition

Just like your own group, the GSO is self-supporting through the contributions of D.A. groups and members everywhere. The GSO cannot serve you or any suffering compulsive debtor without your personal and your group's experience, strength, hope, and financial support.

The GSO must serve a rapidly growing number of members like you and groups like yours, and it cannot do so without adequate funds and prudent reserves. Each D.A. member and each group is asked to provide regular support at every level so each D.A. member, each group, and the GSO can do the most important task that any of us has: To carry the message to the still-suffering compulsive debtor.

Suggested Contribution Plan

Here is a suggested plan for group and individual contributions:

Group Contributions

- Establish a group spending plan and local treasury with adequate prudent reserves, usually three months of normal expenses.
- Meet your local expenses first to keep the meeting healthy.
- Divide any surplus—each month—by the following recommended formula:
 - If your area has an Intergroup, contribute 50% of any surplus to Intergroup and 50% to the GSB
 - If your area has an Intergroup and an Area Group of GSRs,

then contribute 45% to Intergroup, 45% to the GSB, and 10% to the Area Group.

- If your area does NOT have either an Intergroup or an Area Group, contribute 100% of the surplus to the GSB
- Intergroups and Area Groups, in turn, are asked to contribute 100% of their surpluses, if any, to the GSB.
- Groups, Intergroups, and Area Groups may make unlimited donations to the GSB each year.
- Each Treasurer should send a contribution by check or money order after the group's monthly business meeting.
- Special Event Collections for GSB: Many groups and Intergroups pass a special basket to support the GSB during special events, such as Fellowship Days, World Service Month (to celebrate D.A.'s anniversary each year), Group Anniversaries, and the like.

Individual Contributions

- Double Your Dollar: Each individual D.A. member who is able is asked to contribute \$2 per meeting so your local group has enough funds to pay rent, buy literature, sponsor special events, build a prudent reserve, and contribute to any Area Group, any Intergroup, and the GSB. Even if you are unable to give, please keep coming back. The still-suffering compulsive debtor is the most important person in D.A., and all of the efforts of both the GSO and the GSB serve you and help you and all compulsive debtors like you recover.
- Thrive With Five: Members who have experienced prosperity through

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recovery in D.A. are asked to put \$5 in the basket at each meeting.

- Individuals can make separate contributions to the GSB of up to \$5,000 per year. Individuals may want to give directly to the GSB on a regular basis or to celebrate special occasions, such as...
 - Prosperity Contributions: If you receive a new job or a raise, pay off a debt, resolve a legal issue successfully, or are blessed in any other way through your recovery in D.A., you may want to express your gratitude with a contribution.
 - Anniversary Gifts: Many D.A. members give special gifts to the GSB to commemorate the anniversary of their first D.A. meeting or their first day of not incurring unsecured debt. Some give an amount equal to the number of anniversaries (for example, \$10 for 10 years in the program) while others give some multiple of that amount (for example, \$50 -- \$5 for each year for 10 years).
 - World Service Month: Many members and groups make special donations during World Service Month in April each year to honor D.A.'s anniversary and its success in helping the suffering compulsive debtor. You may wish to consider giving an amount equal to the number of D.A. anniversaries.
 - Regular Contributions: Many D.A. members put monthly or quarterly contributions to the GSB, above and beyond their

group donations, in their personal spending plans.

NOTE: Remember that all individual contributions to the General Service Board are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowable by law.

Mail contributions (check or money order) to:

Debtors Anonymous
General Service Office
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492
781-453-2743
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www.debtorsanonymous.org

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