

2nd Quarter 2019

Inside This Issue:

GSB Comm Articles ...	2
World Service Conf. ...	3
Meet the Trustees ...	4
Announcements ...	7

The DA Focus is the service newsletter published by the General Service Board (GSB) of Debtors Anonymous. Past and present issues are available as free downloads from the D.A. website at: debtorsanonymous.org/share

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

**PLEASE SHARE
THE DA FOCUS
WITH YOUR GROUP**



Literature Translation and Licensing One Year of Experience, Strength, and Hope

About one year ago, May of 2018, the Board of Debtors Anonymous approved a new GSB Committee—Literature Translation and Licensing (LTL). The charge of the Committee is to endeavor to ensure a consistent translation process for D.A. groups and Intergroups around the world, working to translate D.A. literature into different languages. It also oversees the licensing of D.A. copyrighted literature and service material whether in print or other media.

Well this has been quite a year of learning, conversing, and trying new things. The Committee, capably chaired by Josie P. from England, has direct contact with members of many countries (mostly Europe and South America). Josie has represented the Board at European regional meetings and has learned a lot about how literature is purchased and/or translated for the D.A. community. With the help of the GSB Information Technology Committee, we have been able to get pamphlets published in Spanish on Kindle. Although that is not the optimal solution to publishing literature in native languages (licensing would be the best answer), we have also learned that the lack of long-standing D.A. Intergroups in other countries makes licensing problematic. Whom do you license to and what happens to those agreements and literature files if an Intergroup or committee fails? As the Committee addresses these challenging issues, incredible progress has been made toward starting the literature licensing process.

In the upcoming year, we hope to launch a new translations page on the D.A. website that will better describe our process for getting literature from the volunteer translators, through the verification process and then available to the Debtors Anonymous Community. LTL is working with Communications on expanding the D.A. website to include information in other languages beside English and Spanish. The Committee will be choosing its first Intergroup with which to execute a literature license in the hopes of jump-starting their ability to print their own literature where they're located, in their own languages, meeting all international copyright standards. To do all this, the Committee is asking for assistance in the form of an ACM, Project Contributor(s), or both. There are plenty of interesting projects to be worked on and information to be gathered so that we can get as much literature translated as possible. Anyone interested would be of great value, but expertise in foreign language translation or with the legal aspects of licensing would be a bonus.

General Service Board Articles

D.A. Numbers at the World Level

GSB Finance Committee

The GSB Finance Committee is involved in creating the Income and Spending Plan, overseeing the bookkeeper and accountants, reporting financial information to the Fellowship, and making recommendations on revenue, expenses, pricing, and cost of goods sold. To provide the D.A. Fellowship with examples of recent work completed by the Committee (and the Board), we offer the following updates.

The GSB Finance Committee forwarded a motion to the Board to define and establish a prudent reserve of nine months of operating expenses. The motion was approved. The current balance in the prudent reserve is over six months of operating expenses. The Finance Committee periodically assesses the balance in the main checking account and will make recommendations on transferring funds into the prudent reserve until the nine month goal is reached.

The GSB Finance Committee is preparing the final Income and Spending Plan for FY 2019-2020. In addition, an eNews announcement was sent out to the Fellowship asking for input and suggestions for items to be included in an Ideal Spending Plan. This is based on the idea that there may be services that members would like but have not been implemented to date because of funding. Many suggestions have been received and compiled by the Finance Committee. An Ideal Spending Plan will be presented in an upcoming issue of *the D.A. Focus*.

The GSB Finance Committee continues to monitor income and spending, online contributions, and the prudent reserve on a monthly basis.

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

Recent Developments to Reach Still-Suffering Debtors

GSB Public Information Committee

The GSB Public Information Committee works closely with the WSC Public Information Committee to carry the message of D.A. to the outside world. The GSB Public Information Committee works with the media through the Media Contact Person (MCP), a position created in 2006; creates tools; forwards requests; and ensures all communications follow the Traditions. To provide the D.A. Fellowship with examples of recent work completed by the committee (and the Board), we offer the following updates.

The GSB PI Committee in partnership with the WSC PI Committee has completed edits to grammar and punctuation of the 12 Signposts posters. The complete edited document has been posted on the D.A. website for free download to the Fellowship.

The GSB PI Committee in partnership with the WSC PI Committee has reviewed the draft pamphlet "Problems with Money and Debt? D.A. Can Help." The GSB PI Committee is working with the GSB

International Committee to better understand and get an overview of the PI going on worldwide. Comments are being incorporated into a final version of the pamphlet.

The GSB PI Committee worked directly with the company which produced the D.A. Whiteboard Video to edit the video to a thirty second version in English and a thirty second version in Spanish, which can be distributed to television stations to air as a Public Service Announcement. The full seventy-five second version is still available on the D.A. website (as the Welcome Video), as well as the thirty second versions. Copies of all of the D.A. PSAs will be copied to flashdrives and distributed to all attendees at the 2019 World Service Conference with an invitation to distribute the videos to local TV stations.

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

World Service Conference

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE 2019 WSC

**Wed–Sun, August 7-11, 2019
Los Angeles Airport Hilton Hotel**

Early Registration Deadline: June 30

**Register as a Delegate or Guest,
Reserve Hotel Rooms, and
View the Fellowship Day schedule:**

www.debtorsanonymous.org/2019wsc



World Service Conference 2019

New Ideas and Great Excitement

The Los Angeles Host Committee for the 2019 World Service Conference is trying things that have never been done before.

- There are having a full day for Fellowship Day on Saturday, August 10.
- They are providing a D.A. meeting on the Beach for Conference delegates on August 9.
- The talent show will be fabulous and hopefully a highlight of everyone's week.
- The Committee has invited Debt-Anon—our sister counterpart—to host a set of workshops during the same time on Fellowship Day.
- A series of workshops that introduce newcomers to Debtors Anonymous in different foreign languages will be recorded and placed on the D.A. website and the D.A. YouTube channel to carry the message.

The Board and the delegates will be doing the work of Debtors Anonymous to address the concerns and opportunities which have been identified over the past year. Hope to see you there, or next year in New York.

IMPORTANT LINKS

debtorsanonymous.org/register

Register your meeting annually for the D.A. website.

debtorsanonymous.org/free

Download free literature for members & meetings.

debtorsanonymous.org/contribute

Contribute to D.A. as a member and as a meeting to help publish literature and support the GSO.

debtorsanonymous.org/onlinecontribution

U.S. members are able to contribute directly online.

debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks

Buy digital and print-on-demand literature online.

**Join the D.A. mailing list to
receive e-News!**

**Just send your email address
by text message:**

Text

**DARECOVERY
to 22828 to get started.**



Message and data rates may apply. Text sign up only available in the U.S.

Meet the General Service Board of Trustees

Jo Mc.—Class B Trustee

If I wasn't desperate and "as willing to listen as the dying can be," I would have found another excuse to continue drinking, destroying my life and the lives of those who loved me. On June 8, I hope to have 33 years of continuous sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous. My A.A. Sponsor calls it a "golden" anniversary because I will be sober as long as I drank. He will not give me a present or even a card. He will say what he's always said: "go to a meeting, hug a shaky, unhuggable alcoholic, and buy them something to eat." I have to give it away to keep it.

My A.A. service effort has covered many levels of structure from GSR down to being a 2002-2004 Delegate for Southern Wisconsin. In 2016, I felt all used up when Sue F., a past D.A. Class B Trustee, told me about D.A. I had 30 years in A.A. and 10 years in Al-Anon, yet I had never heard of Debtors Anonymous.

I researched D.A. and thought about the despair "still suffering debtors" were feeling. I wondered when I had a rifle to my head 33 years ago if a debtor "somewhere out there" also had a rifle to their head?

I was accepted as a Class B Trustee at the 2016 WSC. My life since has been more than busy. I have served as a past GSB Liaison for the Conference Committee, the Fellowship Communications Committee, and now the Hospital, Institutions, and Prisons Committee along with the Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus. As liaison for the Conference Committee I didn't have a clue, and for FCC I knew more but was still learning.

Today I feel like I "click" within HIP and UUOC—HIP because of my 32-years of A.A. Corrections Service in Southern WI, and UUOC because I am "very diverse." I feel safe, accepted, and respected among these members. Who else would let an older, non-debtor Trustee be part of the Hipster's Talent song and dance show at the 2017 WSC? I am having fun with these groups. They even gave me my own personal tie-dyed t-shirt!

HIP and UUOC are important to the survival of D.A. They dive into the darkest, saddest places to find debtors who need you. HIP works to get the D.A. message to debtors who can't attend the meeting of their choice today. UUOC works to find the "lost" still suffering debtors in the communities where they live.

Once I learned more about D.A., I came to realize that one of my A.A. sponsees was also a debtor. Seana A. and Sarah V. (HIP) sent me sample spending plans to share with her. Today she is doing much better.

The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts (the 36 principles of D.A.) lead the way to the recovery of debtors. It's important to keep the message of Debtors Anonymous safe from those who would change it to suit their own personal needs. Quotes from A.A. literature are widely used in D.A. literature. Today I feel this practice weakens the real message of Debtors Anonymous. D.A. and many other 12-step Fellowships owe a debt of gratitude to A.A. for sharing their basic literature with us. However, I feel it is time for a change to focus on D.A. literature that sends strong hope to the still-suffering debtors in the U.S. and in non-U.S. countries.

Thank you for allowing me to share. I remain a friend of D.A. Class B Trustee.

Bill D.—Class A Trustee

My name is Bill D., and I'm a debtor. I first walked into a Debtors Anonymous meeting in Austin, Texas, in April of 1991. Although I was raised in a religious system, it never really "took" with me. However, during that first meeting I immediately felt that I had joined a spiritual community. I revealed with some shame that immediately prior to joining the program I had worked as a credit card marketer. When I revealed that dirty secret, the group gasped, and someone made the sign of the cross. Then they all laughed. I knew I was home.

As with all newcomers, it took me a while to get my feet wet. I had no knowledge of the Twelve Steps other

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Meet the General Service Board of Trustees

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than, well, that there were 12 of them. As I got more comfortable in meetings and started saying things that sounded smart, a few brave souls asked me to do a Pressure Group (there was no R in it back then). I had to be scrupulously honest and admit that I had not yet had one myself. So I got a sponsor, and she and another brave fellow agreed to help me look at my numbers and create my first action plan. The practice in Austin was to meet once a month, so as soon as I had several under my belt, I started saying “Yes” when people asked me to do one. That was my first experience with doing service work in the program.

In my first few years I attended three meetings a week, which were all that Austin had. I became Treasurer for one of my groups and then Literature Representative. I also became one of the keyholders (although not in the cool *Ghostbusters* way) and helped set up.

I know that some of my groups had a mysterious position that was either a GSR or an Intergroup Rep, but I didn't know what those duties involved. I had only a vague sense of a program beyond Texas, mostly because I sent in money to Needham, Massachusetts, and someone sent me back literature. I found out years later that a previous General Service Board Chair was actually from Dallas, but for some reason I didn't hear anything about either the GSB or World Service Conference.

After living in Austin for eleven wonderful years, my Higher Power decided that I needed to move to Los Angeles. I found a home meeting in Pasadena, and one of the members there mentioned that he had been to some . . . D.A. conference where he had seen someone from Austin who knew me. D.A. Conference? Huh?

Later I found out that my Pasadena buddy was himself the Chairman of the Board, and I don't mean he was Frank Sinatra. (My wife was actually the soloist at Frank Sinatra's funeral several years earlier, but hey—that's her story to tell).

I moved to the Sherman Oaks area, in that legendary part of Los Angeles called the Valley (as in Oh, my God! Gag me with a spoon!). I served again as the Literature Representative and then the Treasurer. Our GSR was a wonderful woman who succumbed to cancer after a brave fight. In her last year she actually attended the WSC in a wheelchair. When she passed away, a member of my group nominated me to be the GSR, and in about two months I found myself in Seattle for my first D.A. World Service Conference (WSC). One of my friends describes the WSC as a “spiritual Congress,” which some people in American might consider an oxymoron. I'll tell you that it was an incredibly beautiful, joyous, mind-blowing experience.

In my second year, in Phoenix, I asked one of the Trustees how much work was required. I heard her say “A lot, but it's doable,” and I kind of went deaf after the first two words. In Chicago I asked someone else, listened better, and asked again in Portland. The next spring, while speaking at an L.A. workshop about service, I made a decision to apply to the Board. The members accepted, and so for the past three World Service Conferences it has been my utter delight and joy to serve in that capacity.

I like to think of being on the GSB as like being on a ship at sea, but one of the cool old sailing ones, not the tacky ocean liners. We work down on the deck, swabbing, tying knots, shouting “Ahoy,” and all those sailor-type things. Then we climb up on the crow's nest and look toward the horizon where the ship is going, trying to make sure we're headed in the right direction. Then it's back to the deck, doing the daily work to keep the ship sailing. The whole crew is made up of the members of the D.A. Fellowship, and the Trustees are only workers among workers. I still have regular PRGs and give them. I fill in for others in my home group when necessary. However, it is kind of cool to climb the mast.

I hope to see you at the WSC in Los Angeles. Look for me there; I'll be the guy dressed in cowboy chic. Hey, you can take the cowboy out of Texas, but . . .

**The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)
Committee of D.A. invites all members to celebrate!!**

INTERNATIONAL HIP AWARENESS DAY

Saturday, July 13, 2019

Our Purpose is:

**To carry the message to those who cannot come to us and to
raise awareness of outreach to Hospitals, Institutions and
Prisons in Debtors Anonymous.**

Suggested Action Steps:

**Each individual member, group or Intergroup may choose to
bring awareness of the hope offered through the D.A.**

Program by:

- ✓ **Donating D.A. literature to a hospital, institution, prison,
shelter, and/or a recovery house, etc.**
- ✓ **Carrying the message by calling and/or visiting local
institutions.**

We can help support your plans.

E-mail us at HIP@debtorsanonymous.org

Mission Statement:

**“The Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee carries
the message of D.A. to the debtor who still suffers within
hospital, institution, and prison systems.”**

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.

To subscribe, visit:
debtorsanonymous.org/enews

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 original photo, drawing, or poem that represents your recovery and/or vision in Debtors Anonymous.

Email your story/artwork to:
communications@debtorsanonymous.org



DEBTORS
ANONYMOUS

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 use the U.S. call-in phone number: 1-605-472-5540, access code: 617093#. International phone numbers (and online access) are available at www.debtorsanonymous.org/call-in-access. Let members know to mark their calendars for the upcoming live Fellowship-wide Calls:
 - Sunday, June 30, from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, **“I Am the Face of D.A.”** presented by the WSC Public Information Committee
 - Sunday, July 7, 2019, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, **“A Spiritual Approach to Growing your Business: Members Share their Journeys in BDA,”** presented by the WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee
 - Sunday, July 14, 2019, from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, titled **“Traditions Ten, Eleven, and Twelve,”** presented by the GSB Long Range Planning Committee
 - Sunday, July 21, 2019, from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time, titled **“WSC Delegate Call: Pre-Conference Orientation,”** presented by the GSB Conference Support Committee
2. Listen to free recordings of speaker shares from Fellowship-wide Calls on the D.A. website at www.debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts
3. June 30 is the early registration deadline for delegates to attend the 2019 World Service Conference from August 7-11 in Los Angeles, and July 14 is the final deadline for D.A. members and guests to attend the Gala Dinner and Luncheon on August 10 in Los Angeles. Download the registration packet at www.debtorsanonymous.org/wsc
4. D.A.’s **A Currency of Hope** and **12 & 12 & 12** are now available via Print-on-Demand which will make it easier for members and meetings outside the U.S. to buy literature. Pamphlets and books are also available in digital formats. Visit www.debtorsanonymous.org/ebooks
5. Seeking D.A. members with special skills to serve in the new position of Project Contributor to assist D.A. Board Committees in specific projects for short-term commitments: www.debtorsanonymous.org/projectcontributor
6. Do you live or travel outside the U.S.? Please take our survey on the availability of debit cards and other payment options in counties outside the U.S. by July 17, 2019 at www.debtorsanonymous.org/survey
7. If it fits in your spending plan, please increase your 7th Tradition contributions!
8. Let your meetings know that members may sign up to receive eNews at www.debtorsanonymous.org/enews
9. Share your story in *Ways & Means*—the recovery magazine of D.A.—or share an article about service in *The DA Focus* newsletter.
Go to www.debtorsanonymous.org/share

For more announcements, visit www.debtorsanonymous.org/announcements