

THE DA focus

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

May 2014
2nd Q

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THE D.A. FOCUS
WITH YOUR GROUP**

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NEWS FLASH!



Board considers multi-year hotel contract

In response to a recommendation of the 2013 WSC Conference Committee, the board of trustees is discussing the viability of seeking a multi-year contract with one or several hotels. There may be cost savings realized from advanced booking of properties that then puts the board in a better negotiating position with the hotels selected. With the consent of the WSC this year, the Board will engage a three-year trial.

In addition to developing a Request for Proposals (RFP), the Conference Support Committee has been researching the use of a national meeting planner and evaluated a couple firms. On April 6, the board met in an extraordinary session to interview a consultant from one of these firms.

An RFP for a group such as ours takes into consideration past history of the properties at which we've hosted the World Service Conference. Prospective hotels want to know how many room nights we engage, for how long, and in what pattern of reservation. They will also receive a typical program of events which outlines our break-out rooms, ballroom use, and dining arrangements. Sample menus are included with an hour-by-hour schedule of room setups.

Use of a national meeting planner allows the board to consider cities which would not otherwise host a WSC, yet offer all the amenities we need at a reasonable price. The firms we have evaluated do not work with a specific chain of hotels to avoid a conflict of interest; this doesn't limit the board to one brand or chain. The planners work a strict commission basis which is paid by the hotels selected – no additional costs are incurred by the GSB on behalf of the fellowship.

The planning firms offer value-added services to their work for D.A. by arranging local technology and audio-visual firms to subcontract our needs in those areas. The planner can even obtain the services of a DJ and staging for our gala dinner and talent show.

Proximity to a major air hub, ability to fulfill special food needs, availability of nearby grocery stores, and transportation costs from the airport all factor into the board's decision. Ultimately, the board has the final choice of hotels. If nothing suits our purpose and purse, the planner continues looking until we are satisfied.

Meet Information Technology's Newest ACM

The newest addition to the GSB Information Technology Committee is Appointed Committee Member (ACM) Jon L. Jon has been a media innovator for many years, from being a pioneer in the early days of cable TV, through producing video programs about the emergence of desktop digital video production, and currently as an author, speaker and developer of websites, producer of online videos, and strategist for Internet marketing campaigns. While serving as ACM, Jon will focus his energies on the development of our new website.

Jon says, "I know no greater opportunity to help the debtor who still suffers than by making D.A.'s web presence more welcoming and more effective. We know that newcomers are using our website to find meetings, both geographically and to search through the phone and online meetings as well. I look forward to continuing to support the GSB InfoTech committee as we find new ways to expand our online offerings, create new digital products, and develop new ways to support our life-saving Fellowship. I've received so much from D.A. that I'm very grateful that my HP has provided me with such a valuable way to give back."

On the March 30th teleconference meeting of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Eileen N., chair of the Literature Publication Committee announced that the final draft of the second edition of D.A.'s ***A Currency of Hope*** is at the printer! Watch eNews and website for availability...

General Service Board Committee Reports

Audit

The Audit Committee met extensively during the GSB's annual Face to Face meeting in Needham, and hammered out a final Composition, Scope, and Procedure document for the committee. Recognizing D.A.'s growth and expansion, and preparing for the eventuality of being "auditable" under New York State not-for-profit law and the Sarbanes-Oxley legislation, the committee made a presentation to the Board on the issue, and received approval for its proposed expanded scope and process.

The remaining two meetings in the first quarter were devoted to reviewing financial statements. The Committee reviewed reserves for reprinting, and made some recommendations to the Finance Committee, and also recommended the separation of the Conference income and expense from programmatic and General Service Office program cost and expense. This allows the Board to see more clearly how we are doing on the more "daily operational" aspects of the D.A. program, vs the major WSC conference activity.

The Audit Committee was also pleased to support the revision of our Prudent Reserve and savings policies, as recommended to the Finance Committee last quarter. Second quarter activity planned will be further statement reviews, beginning to review policy books for each committee to ensure that they have one in existence, and beginning to prepare for the FY 13-14 financial review by our outside CPA firm.

Communications

Since the conference, the committee has compiled the *Conference Final Report* and published that for delegates earlier than ever. Two issues of the *DA Focus* have been published. Two issues of the *Ways & Means* have been published. 39 eNews blasts have been mailed to 5500+ subscribers since the WSC.

The committee has developed a committee handbook with procedures and policies.

Numerous updates to the DA website have been recommended and carried out. The new 'Promises', updated 'Tools', the

new 'Responsibility Statement', and 'Statement of Purpose' were loaded on to the website shortly after WSC, as were several Spanish-language translations to the page 'En Español'. A new page on the website features News for Members. There you can find flyers and links to information with recent materials.

Recently we forwarded a motion to the GSB to research the Wikipedia entry for 'Debtors Anonymous' for inaccuracies and determine how changes can be made to this page.

The committee considered a recommendation from WSC BDA committee concerning request to change the name of *Ways & Means*. While the *eNews* represents the voice of the GSB, a change this important to our meeting in print should have had full discussion by the WSC. This would have undoubtedly allayed any member fears and concerns about this recommendation. The Communications Committee wishes to apologize to the members of the Fellowship for what appeared to be a premature decision on the part of the GSB to rename the *Ways & Means*. We categorically assure the fellowship in the strongest terms that no such decision has been made by the board. An important change to the *Ways & Means* would best be considered by the whole conference following a full and thorough discussion of the well-informed group conscience. The question will be referred to a WSC committee this coming year for consideration like any other Issue & Concern.

Ways & Means publishing schedule, submission deadlines, and proposed content.

May 15, 2014	August 15, 2014
Solvent Vacations	Back To School & History of D.A.
	RDC

Conference Support

We've supporting the WSC 2014 Host Committee and making sure everything will be ready for WSC 2014. We already have a site contract in place, the Board has approved the spending plan, we are planning to utilize an online service for WSC 2014 registrations, though payment for the registrations will still be processed through the General Service Office, and we are currently working on the WSC 2014 registration packet.

The intergroup that was awarded the bid for WSC 2015 had some complications arise

and they have had to step down from hosting 2015. CSC has been working hard to come up with alternative options for WSC 2015. In conjunction with the WSC Conference Committee, we are simultaneously pursuing two possible solutions. The first possible solution is finding another intergroup that is willing and able to host WSC 2015. We have been working with the Intergroup Caucus and at this point, we believe this is a very viable option. The second possible solution is that at WSC 2013, the Board was already charged with the task of releasing a nationwide request for proposals for a three-year site. We are working hard on this project and this may also prove to be a very viable option. Though we are still in the research stage with both possible solutions, we are confident that there will be plenty of time for the necessary implementation to have a successful World Service Conference in 2015.

Information Technology

Our Information Technology Committee works closely with our Communications Committee to update publications, announcements and other documents on the D.A. website. The phrase "sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly" comes to mind. Over the harsh winter months, we found "slowly" to be more prevalent. The gentleman who is our web support was literally "powerless" from downed electric lines, away due to holiday travel, plus had a couple bouts of illness. Hopefully spring will help us move into "quickly" mode.

We continue to have a most wonderful exchange of ideas with the WSC Tech Committee. Each of their subcommittees have contributed in ways that may not be evident in the short term, but are expected to have long lasting impact for the future of the D.A. website and for D.A. as a whole. Does this sound a bit cryptic? Stay tuned. As always, the focus is how to better carry our message of hope and recovery to the debtor who still suffers.

International

A D.A. member from Brazil contacted the International Committee seeking support for D.A. in that country. He was referred to the

General Service Board Committee Reports

group-sponsorship address (gsponsorship@gmail.com). The group-sponsorship monitor responded to the member's request, and now the New Visions group in Woodstock, N.Y., is sponsoring the D.A. Flamengo group in Rio de Janeiro (founded in 2007). The group-sponsorship program was revived by the 2010 FCC committee, which will monitor it until its administration passes to the General Service Office. The International Committee expects this program of mutual support to be an effective way to help partner meetings thrive.

Legal Affairs

I would like to describe what the committee has accomplished by describing a document each committee creates called the Composition, Scope, and Procedures (CSP). This is a condensed version of the CSP.

Composition: The current committee members are Bill J., chair and Sue F. and Maureen C., secretary.

Scope: To register, maintain and defend D.A.'s intellectual property including copyrights and trademarks. This month Bill obtained the DA logo trademark approval which is now current for the next five years. Also all copyrights have been obtained for the Currency of Hope 2nd edition. This includes copyrights for recently revised literature including the Promises and the Tools. The committee has also answered the fellowship's questions about copyright issues regarding the use of AA literature and the Preamble in particular. In the near future Legal will be reviewing the RFP (Request for Proposals) for the website upgrade.

Procedures: We meet once per month on the last Sunday of the month for one hour on the phone plus we met in person the Face to Face meeting in Boston in January. We communicate by e-mail and phone as needed. Lastly we need an ACM. See the website for details.

Literature Publications

The Literature Publications Committee of the General Service Board (known as Lit Pub) oversees publication and revision of D.A. literature as directed by the World Service Conference. Projects that we have focused on this year:

The second edition of *A Currency of Hope* is with the printer. A selling price of \$14.00 has already been approved by the Board. An eNews will be sent out once the books are delivered and ready for sale.

A final price has been approved for the Newcomers Packet and will soon be available for sale. An eNews will be sent out when they are ready for sale.

We are reviewing the final draft of the 12 Steps for approval.

The 'Statement of Purpose' that was approved by the 2013 WSC has been added to five pamphlets when they were reprinted and has also been added to ACOH2. This has been done in response to a recommendation made by the WSC Literature Committee. The 'Responsibility Pledge' and the 'Statement of Purpose' have been post-

ed on the website under the "Start a Meeting" tab so groups can consider using them in their meetings.

We are working on incorporating the comments received into the BDA "Numbers Booklet" before sending to Literature Committee and the BDA committee for review.

We have a writer working on the BDA "Clarity in Business" pamphlet. We are awaiting a first draft.

We have received the first draft of the "Underearners" pamphlet. It is being reviewed.

We received input from WSC Lit Com to the BDA "Annual Business Plan". These have been sent to BDA so they can create an outline for a revised version of the pamphlet.

We are awaiting input from Literature Committee and BDA of the BDA Tools pamphlet.

Literature Publications also welcomes Caroline O., our newly approved Appointed Committee member.

Long-Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) focuses on the General Service Board's (GSB) long-term efforts to carry the message of recovery to the still suffering compulsive debtors around the world. The committee:

Hosted a two-hour modified Regional forum in Needham, MA in January 2014 and hosted three "Ask the GSB" phone forums: October 6th, Recap of the WSC and January 19th, D.A.'s Finances, and March 16th, Literature, Copyrights, and Translations. There is a recording available for the March 16th call. We will host one additional "Ask the GSB" phone forum: June 15th, D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts. The remaining call will also be recorded and available for a limited time for members who miss the calls.

Had a joint meeting with the GSB Office Committee at our winter face to face to discuss the future of the office in Needham, MA.

Has invited D.A.'s archivist, Jan S., to give a quarterly report to the committee on our calls. Committee has developed a plan of action for celebrating D.A.'s 40th anniversary in 2016. If you have any suggestions for our anniversary please email to DA40@debtorsanonymous.org.

We will update the *Debtors Anonymous Manual of Service* for the 2014-2015 Conference year.

Nominations

The General Service Board (GSB) currently has 13 of its full capacity of 15 trustee positions filled. The committee recently interviewed two candidates for one opening for a Class B (non-debtor) trustee, and it is discussing possible candidates for the remaining Class A (debtor) opening. Nominations Committee is reviewing and compiling suggested revisions to the GSB's bylaws, as recommended by outside counsel.



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES

Business Debtors Anonymous

In the BDA Committee we are working on four different pamphlets that are in different stages of production:

1. 'Business Plan' pamphlet -- draft prepared for feedback from Spiritual Marketing Subcommittee members and then will be submitted to BDA Committee for comments.
2. 'Signposts' pamphlet – we will be reviewing a draft and preparing comments for Lit Services.
3. We are planning to create an Ad Hoc committee to review/further work with Lit Com on the BDA 'Tool Ten' pamphlet.
4. 'Spiritual Marketing' pamphlet – we are preparing a draft for submission for comments.

The Outreach Subcommittee: Its efforts at this point are focusing on 2 main avenues:

- Soliciting BDA/D.A. stories from the fellowship and facilitating their publication in D.A. Regional & National Newsletters and other venues like the D.A. website.

- Promoting the enhancement of the BDA portion of the D.A. website so that it is a more resource rich access point for the still suffering compulsive debtor.

The Spiritual Marketing Subcommittee started a 2nd pilot study of the Spiritual Marketing action study group on February 28.

The Vocations/Visions Subcommittee is working on a spiritual visions business plan exercise as a group with a look to revisions and publications of a pamphlet as stated above.

Conference

The Conference Committee last reported on conducting a survey on two issues: transparency and re-ordering the agenda of the World Service Con-

ference. We submitted the survey to the Board Conference Committee. Based on their feedback, we will investigate the two issues further and make recommendations to next year's committee. The transparency concept would allow any member of the D.A. fellowship to attend the WSC plenary sessions without being an official delegate. Such attendees could not participate in either the committees or convocation (voting). Non-delegate attendees would share in the cost of the Conference. The premise of re-ordering the WSC agenda is to allow WSC Committees to formulate and refine motions throughout the year for presentation and disposition at the following year's convocation, which would be held at the beginning of the WSC rather than at the end. New committees would form after the convocation. We're also discussing the possibility of changing the timing of Fellowship Day at the Conference. Finally, we have a sub-committee exploring 40th Anniversary planning.

Fellowship Communications

We continue to facilitate the Group Sponsorship service which helps newer, less experienced groups to be sponsored by more experienced groups. If you send an email to gsponsorship@gmail.com you receive a wealth of information on how to grow and strengthen your meeting. Recently, we helped to partner a new D.A. Group in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with a well-established Sponsor Group in Woodstock, NY.

Our Accessibility Sub-Committee connected with the WSC Technology Committee's Research Sub-Committee in the interest of broadening electronic and international access to D.A. information and literature.

One of our members wrote an article titled "Finding a Meeting" for the *Ways & Means* newsletter. This article focuses on the importance of clear instructions for finding D.A. meetings.

Our Survey Planning Sub-Committee is working to ensure that surveys sent to the

Fellowship honor the D.A. Traditions.

Our 40th Anniversary Sub-Committee worked with the WSC Conference Committee to brainstorm ideas for D.A.'s 40th Anniversary celebration in 2016.

Our "How To" Sub-Committee is working to document tools and processes that D.A. members can use to help the sick and suffering debtor.

Intergroup Caucus

The Intergroup Caucus has been focusing its efforts to contact Intergroups and encourage them to submit bids as sites for the 2015 WSC. In the process it has been updating contact information from those Intergroups. The caucus encourages Intergroups to keep their registrations with GSO up to date, and that they are welcome to share ideas for a new D.A. mission statement (or preamble). The caucus hopes Intergroups are involved in D.A.'s 40th anniversary in 2016.

International Caucus

The International Caucus is hosting a fellowship-wide conference call entitled "D.A. Stories from Around the World." This call will be an opportunity for members to hear what the D.A. experience is like in other parts of the world. Through sharing our collective experience, we may help inform and direct the work of the World Service Conference, and inspire the growth of D.A. in new parts of the world. We will discuss various international-related items—such as public information, literature translation, group sponsorship, regional intergroups—as well as the Twelve Traditions as they relate to D.A.'s expansion. The Caucus is currently seeking non-U.S. members to serve as speakers. All who are interested may contact mem@debtorsanonymous.org.

Literature

We have received the writer's draft of the Twelve Traditions and are on track to have notes prepared for her by April 30th.

We have submitted long forms of all Twelve Promises as prototypes of our recommendations to the writer. We have crafted and submitted for email distribution a request for any and all information for founders and history of the D.A. Program as it spread over the years. This information will be used by the archivist as a basis for a History of D.A. chapter in the basic text or a standalone publication. We are wading through the results of the Health Issues and Solvency survey, which is proving challenging to determine a course of action for.

Public Information

The WSC Public Information (PI) Committee has several ongoing initiatives that we are happy to report on to the fellowship.

Our Outreach Subcommittee is charged with expanding the support we give to the Public Information Representatives within the fellowship. To this end, we hosted a fellowship-wide conference call and workshop on using D.A.'s PI tools to carry the message and grow our groups. Representatives from across our fellowship—from the GSB, from all over the US, and from as far as New Zealand—phoned in and contributed to the exciting topic of growing our fellowship through attraction rather than promotion.

Following up on that initiative, we are aiming to post the recordings of the call on the D.A. website (pending GSB approval) so as to make available to the fellowship the experience, strength and hope of GSB member Michael A. and ACM Laura P., both of whom were panelists on our call and have extensive PI and media contact experience. Their shares will be valuable resources for future PI Reps and committees.

The PI committee looks forward to

following up on this workshop with additional PI trainings—both Media Contact and PI Representative—in the coming months.

The WSC PI Committee has elected to regionalize our outreach efforts in the Detroit area. To this end, we have taken on the role of distance PI Representatives (one of our committee members is local to Detroit) and we are using the tools and suggestions available in the Public Information Manual to reach out to parties in the Detroit area who may benefit from learning about Debtors Anonymous.

And finally, the WSC PI Committee is looking forward working with the GSB PI Committee in supporting the Long Range Planning Committee's vision to create national and local press releases that will have an impact on the growth of our fellowship.

Resource Development

The chair is grateful for the ongoing participation of our committee members and the excellent assistance of our liaison, Allen T. Regretfully, Celeste L. had to step down due to a health issue – we appreciate her service and will miss her.

The RDC's basic purpose is increasing contributions to the fellowship and encouraging participation in service at all levels. Since our last report, the 2013-14 RDC has made headway on the following key initiatives:

* We will sponsor a fellowship-wide conference call event on "Recovery Through Service in D.A." on Sunday April 27th from 1:00 to 2:30 PM Eastern.

* We have recommended an e-News Announcement suggesting the following wording for inclusion in online and telephone meeting formats to remind members that they can make contributions to D.A. using online banking. "Remember that you may make your 7th tradition

contributions to D.A. with the online Bill Pay option through your bank."

* We have adopted the tag-line, "More to Share, When Promises are Fulfilled," as the theme for a series of stories on service, recovery and the promises, which will be distributed to the fellowship through various D.A. platforms.

Technology

As the result of the work done by Paperless Conference Sub-Committee, members will be able to register online for the 2014 World Service Conference in Skokie, Illinois. Snail mail remains an option for those who prefer or need that.

The RFP Sub-Committee is working with the ACM to the Info Tech Committee to finalize the Request for Proposal document and seek out potential vendors for the redesign of the D.A. website. Bids for the enhancements to the searchable meeting database will be delineated under a separate Request for Proposal.

The Usability Sub-Committee is creating monthly analytics reports for the Info Tech Committee and this provides very interesting and valuable information about how visitors find our site, where they come from, and their activity on the site.

The Tech Research Sub-Committee is drafting a proposal with recommendations for producing/distributing e-literature. The proposal includes a suggestion to begin with the second edition of *A Currency of Hope*.



General Service Office

Your face to face meeting has been around for two, three, or more years, yet it isn't growing. Newcomers come, but rarely stay. Perhaps it is time to take a look at what's working and what's not. A wealth of resources is available to strengthen meetings at www.debtorsanonymous.org. Two board-written essays specifically address the issue of the 'languishing' meeting: "Group Inventory: All Shapes and Sizes" and "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive"; both are available under the Service Literature link.

The revised *D.A. Public Information Manual* offers ideas on how to raise awareness of D.A. in your area so that newcomers, helping professionals, and friends/family of potential members know that we exist. Consider printing a copy to keep with your group documents. How many of these actions has your group fully utilized?

- Have you checked your group's listing on the website to verify that the information is accurate and complete? Is your re-registration date current on the website?
- Is there a local Intergroup? Do they have current information for your group on their web site or telephone voice message?
- If your group meets at a large facility or institution, are you sure the information/security desk is aware of your group's existence and meeting location?
- Have you listed your group in newspapers or local web sites under Community Events, Self-Help Groups or similar listings?
- Is a member willing to provide a public phone number so newcomers can call for meeting details or simply to connect with someone in recovery?
- What about the title of your meeting? Would a newcomer find it odd, off-putting, weird, or confusing?

These materials are the result of many years of experience and are an important resource for us all so we may more effectively carry the D.A. message.

GSB Finance Committee

This issue, we provide details about two financial management actions we've taken since the 2013 World Service Conference and a brief financial summary:

Savings. In late 2013, we opened a new savings account to enable us to earn a higher interest rate on our long-term funds. This change involved two actions. First, we left working savings of approximately \$30,000 in our original savings account. Second, we transferred funds for which we don't need immediate access to the new account. This included our prudent reserve (\$90,000), the reserve for completion of the D.A. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book (\$50,000) and the reserve for development of the new D.A. website (\$15,000). The interest rate on the new account is 0.61%, versus 0.04% on the prior account. This difference will allow us to earn approximately \$850 more per year in interest.

Accounting tools. During January and February, we converted our accounting software to the online version. In so doing, we elected to incur an ongoing monthly charge of approximately \$30. We took this action because transferring our bookkeeping data file back and forth between the General Service Office, our bookkeeping service, and the Finance Committee was becoming increasingly difficult. A few months in, we're very pleased with the conversion. We released our February financial reports before the end of March, which is the cadence we've been wanting to adhere to all along.

Year-to-date financial summary. Finally, below are year-to-date financial results, showing our operating results and plan for the 8-month period of July through February. Overall, we're doing well, particularly considering we've had virtually no book sales this entire fiscal year, as we await the publishing of *A Current of Hope, 2ND Edition*.

	YTD Actual	YTD Plan
Income from Contributions and Product Sales	\$ 94,917.35	\$ 100,455.00
Less: Cost of Goods Sold	\$ 13,890.48	\$ 24,557.00
Gross Profit	\$ 81,026.87	\$ 75,898.00
Less: Total Expenses	\$ 83,217.97	\$ 89,796.00
Operating Income/Loss	\$ (2,191.10)	\$ (13,898.00)
Net Other Income (primarily the World Service Conference)	\$ (1,883.37)	\$ (1,164.00)
Net Income/Loss	\$ (4,074.47)	\$ (15,062.00)

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.				
Profit and Loss, Plan vs. Actual				
July 2013 - February 2014				
	Actual	Plan	over Plan	% of Plan
Income				
Groups Contributions	33,862.48	32,000.00	1,862.48	105.82%
Individuals Contributions	32,205.10	24,000.00	8,205.10	134.19%
World Service Month Contributions	38.00	0.00	38.00	
Audio Visual	64.00	119.00	(55.00)	53.78%
Books	168.00	18,332.00	(18,164.00)	0.92%
Pamphlets	24,141.00	20,668.00	3,473.00	116.80%
Shipping	4,438.77	5,336.00	(897.23)	83.19%
Total Income	\$ 94,917.35	\$ 100,455.00	\$ (5,537.65)	94.49%
Cost of Goods Sold	13,890.48	24,557.00	(10,666.52)	56.56%
Gross Profit	\$ 81,026.87	\$ 75,898.00	\$ 5,128.87	106.76%
Expenses				
Archival Expense	779.98	620.00	159.98	125.80%
Bank Charges	37.00	20.00	17.00	185.00%
Board Travel, Lodging, & Meals	15,783.06	17,126.00	(1,342.94)	92.16%
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Legal	5,247.50	5,681.00	(433.50)	92.37%
Data Base Management		64.00	(64.00)	0.00%
Depreciation & Amortization	100.00	102.00	(2.00)	98.04%
Insurance	1,292.71	1,279.00	13.71	101.07%
Internet	678.42	822.00	(143.58)	82.53%
Licenses, Permits & Regulatory Fees	95.00	95.00	0.00	100.00%
Office Expense	1,568.66	1,519.00	49.66	103.27%
Office Payroll, Taxes, Rent, & Utilities	50,860.83	55,091.00	(4,230.17)	92.32%
Outreach Expense	637.40	600.00	37.40	106.23%
Postage	1,899.56	1,656.00	243.56	114.71%
Printing & Copying	1,814.24	1,902.00	(87.76)	95.39%
Space Rent		200.00	(200.00)	0.00%
Telecommunications	1,814.48	2,319.00	(504.52)	78.24%
Trademark Registration & Renewal		100.00	(100.00)	0.00%
WSC Committee Expense	609.13	600.00	9.13	101.52%
Total Expenses	\$ 83,217.97	\$ 89,796.00	\$ (6,578.03)	92.67%
Net Operating Income	\$ (2,191.10)	\$ (13,898.00)	\$ 11,706.90	15.77%
Other Income				
Interest	219.44	336.00	(116.56)	65.31%
WSC Income	61,766.43	70,775.00	(9,008.57)	87.27%
John H. Scholarship Fund Contributions	2,030.18	3,000.00	(969.82)	67.67%
Total Other Income	\$ 64,016.05	\$ 74,111.00	\$ (10,094.95)	86.38%
Other Expenses				
John H. Reimbursable and Registration Expenses	6,200.88	4,500.00	1,700.88	137.80%
World Service Conference Event	59,698.54	70,775.00	(11,076.46)	84.35%
Total Other Expenses	\$ 65,899.42	\$ 75,275.00	\$ (9,375.58)	87.54%

Financial Reports – Balance Sheet

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.		
Balance Sheet		
As of February 28, 2014		
	As of Feb 28, 2014	As of Jun 30, 2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Bank of America Savings	35,700.63	163,692.78
EverBank Checking	155,168.59	0.00
John H. Checking	4,870.13	8,783.25
Main Checking	17,963.49	13,091.05
Office Petty Cash	11.56	24.29
WSC Checking	10,000.00	45,496.29
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 223,714.40	\$ 231,087.66
Accounts Receivable	180.00	0.00
Other current assets		
Accounts Receivable	14.00	0.00
Advances	0.00	2,000.00
Conference Pre-paid Expenses	0.00	4,887.95
GSO Pre-paid Postage meter	169.78	104.03
Inventory On Hand	15,940.61	18,546.73
NSF Checks Receivable	(24.00)	0.00
Prepaid Expense	2,266.67	3,559.38
Undeposited Funds	235.00	57.00
Total Other current assets	18,602.06	29,155.09
Total Current Assets	\$ 242,496.46	\$ 260,242.75
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	3,840.75	3,034.02
Accum Depreciation-Equipment	(3,034.02)	(3,034.02)
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 806.73	\$ -
Other Assets (Copyrights, trademarks & deposits)	\$ 4,576.91	\$ 4,676.91
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 247,880.10	\$ 264,919.66
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable x	3,230.00	0.00
Accounts Payable	14.00	0.00
Conference Registration	0.00	16,189.61
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 3,244.00	\$ 16,189.61
Total Liabilities	\$ 3,244.00	\$ 16,189.61
Equity		
Fund Balance	137,666.37	137,666.37
Opening Bal Equity	(19.48)	0.00
Retained Earnings	111,063.68	111,063.68
Net Income	(4,074.47)	
Total Equity	\$ 244,636.10	\$ 248,730.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 247,880.10	\$ 264,919.66

The traditional Rights of Appeal and Petition protect the minority opinion and ensure the consideration of personal grievances.

Concept 5 deals with two related rights: “Appeal” and “Petition.” Both are based upon the principle of the equality of all persons involved in service. Even more important, both require courage and a willingness to respect the opinions of a minority. Both involve the recognition that the majority view may be wrong, and that the minority may be articulating the voice of the Higher Power in D.A.’s affairs. Each requires that the majority have the humility to be willing to recognize its own fallibility.

The Right of Appeal refers to the duty of the majority to listen to the minority viewpoint in any debate on issues of importance to D.A. Most frequently, it comes into play after a vote is taken. Whenever there are “no” votes, the Chair should always ask if there is a minority opinion that wishes to be heard. If, as a matter of honestly held principle, a person in the minority believes that the majority has made a serious mistake of principle or fact, that person should rise to restate her or his position for consideration by the majority. Such a power to delay and confuse debate should never be exercised without careful thought. The minority member should never be acting out of hurt feelings or wounded pride, but only out of a deeply held conviction that the decision just reached may seriously harm the D.A. group.

When a member of the minority in D.A. does so, he or she is said to be exercising the Right of Appeal. At that point, the Chair should then ask if anyone who voted with the majority wishes to change her or his mind. If someone is so willing, that person should make a motion to reconsider. If the motion is seconded, a vote will be taken on whether the body wishes to reconsider. If a majority votes to reconsider, then debate on the original question reopens.

This Right of Appeal is of immense spiritual importance. It requires great humility on the part of a majority to recognize that it may have erred. It requires great courage on the part of a member to face down the majority and call it to recognize its duties. And, it requires a great degree of respect for the rights of all members to implement this right.

In practice, the Right of Appeal is exercised at the World Service Conference to great effect. At each Conference there will usually be one or two instances in which a member of the minority calls the majority to task for its actions. And, in about half of these cases, the majority will recognize its error and reverse its prior action.

The Right of Petition refers to the right of any personally aggrieved member to seek redress within the service structure. Sometimes this right is misunderstood. It does not mean that a group member has the right to apply to the Board of Trustees or the Conference to reverse a decision taken by a group. In D.A., the groups are at the top of the inverted service triangle; the GSB and the WSC have no power to discipline or correct a group for its actions. Tradition Four, with its emphasis on group autonomy, states this principle forcefully.

Instead, the right applies to situations in which a member of a group is seeking redress within that body. Thus if the Chair of a business meeting arbitrarily refuses to recognize a member who wishes to speak, that member may turn to the whole group for relief by exercising the right of petition. A similar right exists if the Chair of a meeting improperly attempts to exclude or silence a member. When a member believes that a group has acted in violation of the Traditions, she or he has the right to seek to change the group’s decision at a later meeting. (In these situations, it should be noted that, while no member may petition the GSB or Conference to reverse a group decision, an aggrieved member may request that the Conference issue a broad statement of policy clarifying the underlying issue for the guidance of all groups in their activities.)

Since the WSC, its Committees, the Board of Trustees, and the GSO are part of the WSC service framework, the right of petition may be exercised within this structure. Thus, if an individual GSR or WSC Committee believes that a Trustee or Board Committee has acted inappropriately, they may petition the Board for redress of grievances. As noted in Chapter 8 [*of the D.A. Manual for Service*], the Board has adopted a process for resolution of these grievances. Ultimately, if an individual has a grievance against the entire GSB, that person may petition a Committee of the Conference to bring a motion to direct the Board to reverse its action. Assuming that there is no infringement of the GSB’s legal or fiduciary rights, such a motion would be binding upon the Trustees.



Historic Treasures Sought For D.A. Archives

What is the “Holy Grail” of the D.A. Archives, the single most important document that could go the farthest toward closing a major gap in our historical record?

Without a doubt, it is the minutes of the 2nd annual World Service Conference, which was held in 1988 in Los Angeles. The Archives hold complete sets of minutes for all 27 WSCs (1987-2013), with the sole exception of 1988. Some of the registration forms and promotional materials for that Conference have been located, but not the minutes, and the lack has frustrated D.A. historians for years.

Rounding out the “Top 5” of other most-sought after D.A. historical documents for the Archives are the following:

2. Volume 2, Number 2 of the *GSB Quarterly News*, published sometime in the summer of 1998. The *GSB Quarterly News* was the predecessor of the General Service Board newsletters *Board Call* and *D.A. Focus*. A complete set of all three publications exists in the Archives, lacking only this one issue.

3. Minutes of the 1984, 1985, and 1986 Annual Meetings of Debtors Anonymous. The “Annual Meeting” was a service event held in New York City from 1982-1986 before the creation of the World Service Conference in 1987. Minutes from the 1982 and 1983 meetings exist, but the last three are missing.

4. 1985 and 1986 issues of the regional *Bottom Line* newsletter. New York’s venerable *Bottom Line* contains a great deal of historical information about D.A.’s beginnings in New York and its early members. The earliest issue now in the Archives is July 1986, and several issues are known to have been published prior to that date. D.A.’s other historic regional newsletter is *Checks & Balances*, published in Los Angeles. Fortunately, complete sets of the early years of C&B are held in the Archives.

5. Personal stories about D.A. founder John H. Hundreds of members are still alive who knew the fellowship’s founder personally, but only a handful have ever written these memories down. The Archives hope to collect a wide variety of personal memories of John on paper for permanent preservation and future writings on D.A. history.

Prior to 2005, no Archives existed for Debtors Anonymous and almost no historical documents had been preserved. That year, the General Service Board formed an Archives Committee, which has energetically been collecting historical documents and artifacts. More than forty-five long-timers and groups have contributed thousands of important documents, which have been both sorted and catalogued for physical storage, and scanned into an electronic Archive for permanent preservation as the collective property of the Fellowship.

Despite this major effort, many gaps in the collection still exist. Contributions of anything old or significant that is part of Debtors Anonymous and may shed light on our history are strongly encouraged. Anyone with questions or with electronic files to contribute can contact the Archivist at stillsolvent@yahoo.com

Documents, artifacts, or photographs can be sent to the Archives by physical mail at D.A. General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, MA 02492 or shipped to D.A. General Service Office at 1116 Great Plain Avenue, Needham, MA 02492

Jan S.,
Archivist

