

4th Quarter 2019

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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**



GSB Group Conscience and the Translation Approval Process

I want to give you a picture of one decision that we made at the General Service Board (GSB) face-to-face meeting before other delegates arrived. The GSB can be a spiritual decision-making machine of such clarity and precision that it's a really enjoyable experience when we are all together. It's like one of those brass and steel wonders that make ships sail in the right direction, and there is a diamond inside which is the HP. I recommend Trusteeship if you haven't done it already.

The GSB Trustees always arrive at the World Service Conference (WSC) a few days before the other delegates. We have formal Board meetings to catch up on old business, initiate new business, and make decisions in the relative peace of an away-from-home dedicated space. There's this lovely couple of days after jet lag where the group conscience of the GSB becomes so deeply spiritual I always end up feeling profound gratitude and—more often than I'd imagined—in tears of joy. Many of us do. In my first sessions I gained my permission, from Trustees who had been around much much longer, to be my full self in GSB meetings. In other words, I learned it's OK to live the engaged life of the Promises.

In Fellowship, in my experience, I know I'm on the right track when a decision, although it's sometimes hard to come to, now feels right, has ease, and is often what others do themselves. In other words, it's been done before and it works. So do it. Stick with the winners. On the GSB we are not often in the business of innovation either. We are in the honest business of doing the right thing for D.A. as a whole.

For a long time the translation process of review and verification has had a glitch in it. An honest glitch but a sticking point. On the GSB Literature Translation and Licensing Committee, we could see that it's been difficult for the GSB to give translators permission to alter our literature so that it works in their language where, for example, their language will reverse the order of the English words. The GSB has worried about that because we respect that tens, if not hundreds, of GSRs on Literature Committees and Convocations at past WSCs—never mind the writers(!)—have fine-tooled those sentences to the exact right way they are now.

But this Board, this my-Board-in-LA, grappled with the issue head-on. The machine huffed and puffed every which way. We referenced the ship's archives, we discussed it a lot more, wondered what Bill W might have thought, or John H., and we took long coffee breaks. Eventually we came to a unanimous decision that the Debtors who still suffer across the world need to find the wisdom of D.A. recovery in their own language phrasing and in the cultural context that makes sense to them and their Fellowship.

Then HP gave us reassurance. That afternoon we went to the World Service Office of another Fellowship for a tour that they offered us in a most generous and welcoming spirit. And right there on the walls in their corridors were printer's proofs and posters showing their commitment to their literature in other languages. It was a vision of one of their founders that they would always do exactly—I mean exactly—what we had agreed to do that very morning.

I was so moved. We all were. There wasn't a dry eye in the wheelhouse that day.

—J.P., Class A Trustee

A Delegate Shares Impressions of his First WSC

My experience at the 2019 World Service Conference can be described in one word: inspirational! This is my first year in the Debtors Anonymous program having joined the Fellowship in February. I randomly stumbled into a meeting one day, where I was soon after elected to serve as GSR when no other member was able to take the commitment. If this year is a metaphor for my formative years of my time in this program, the WSC definitely served as the boot camp.

In my first couple of days, I quickly discovered the “engine” under the hood of our program’s business protocol. After becoming familiar with the Caucus/Committee groups that maintain and expand the operation that is Debtors Anonymous, I chose to join the Fellowship Communications Committee and the Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus. In the former, we strategize on ways to strengthen our Fellowship from within, while in the latter we are identifying areas where deprived

communities could benefit from our extended hand.

The weekend was a special treat, with the opportunity to participate in my first ever Convocation. It was at this gathering of the collective committees that I was able to witness the evolution of the Fellowship in real time. Committee chairs presented motions and recommendations that were worked on and drafted in the days prior, after which members were given an opportunity to voice their support or dissent. In the end, each committee walked away with action items and an agenda for carrying the message of our trusted leaders back to the greater D.A. membership.

I am overcome with joy and feel tremendously blessed for the opportunity to take part in this memorable event. I will forever be humbled by my fellows and hope to continue to learn from their dedication and service.

—Jason C, Los Angeles

Returning Delegate Shares her WSC Experience

First of all, I am grateful my group sent me to the World Service Conference. I was excited about returning to the World Service Conference to do service and see “old friends.” This service gives me confidence. I worked on the Business Debtors Anonymous Committee.

I came in every day to work on a committee where we addressed Issues and Concerns. The last two mornings were devoted to the Convocations. We

had three recommendations for Convocation: to add a filter to the search function on the DA website so users can search for BDA meetings, to work on a worldwide map to specify where there are BDA meetings, and to explore ways to communicate the value of face-to-face meetings.

—Kelly, Texas, GSR for “The Just For This Day”
Tool 8 Literature Study Meeting

The Best Kept Secret that Needs to be Unveiled

There is a secret to why being a General Service Representative (GSR) is a three year service, a well-kept one: the experience only gets better each year. This is my second year as a GSR delegate to the World Service Conference, and traveling to L.A. was definitely a highlight in my life (notice I don’t say Recovery). I felt a little restless before getting there; last year’s experience was overwhelming. Like with every new experience, my sense of alertness was in overdrive. I didn’t know what to expect yet I must admit I had in fact shown up with expectations. And since I was coming back, I had something to compare with. Well, as Recovery is teaching me, expectations get in

the way. The 2019 WSC experience could not have been more different.

To begin with, we have a new GSB Chair, and she is a Class B Trustee. What does this mean? She is not a D.A. fellow; she is a friend of D.A. Michalene was our former GSB Treasurer and knows our Fellowship inside out, and now she is our Chair. The Conference felt very different under her direction. Loose, warm, open, and as serious as ever. Or was it that I saw it that way? Having served for one year and met most of our officers, plus many of the GSRs present, I felt at home. Now I also know what it requires—showing up

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World Service Conference (WSC) Articles

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with an open heart and that I am but a channel to serve a loving Higher Power.

Last year in Minneapolis I had a profound First Step moment when on my first day I called my then Action Partner sobbing, asking who were these people and what I was doing there. Just being able to talk about this with a loving fellow allowed me to arrive at the deep realization that I in fact belonged in that room, and that all “those” people were just like me, with me, and for me. From then on I was able in every D.A. meeting to say my name and that I am a debtor fully understanding what it meant. Serving on the Fellowship Communications Committee and the Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus also allowed me to work closely with Trustees and D.A. fellows from other cities. With one conference call a month, a lot got done. And we were ready in L.A. to celebrate while also getting back to work.

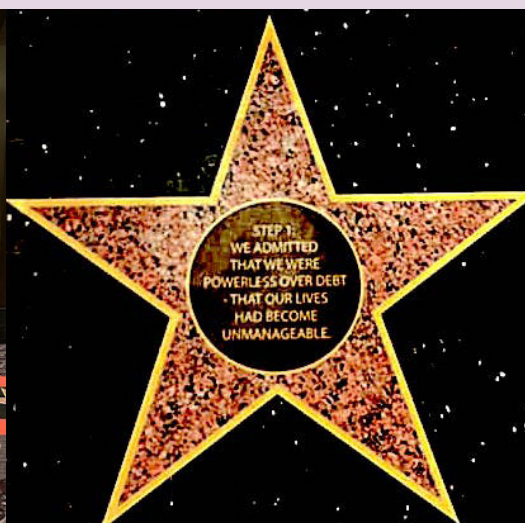
Our Class B Trustees are telling us repeatedly that D.A. is a secret that needs to be shared and revealed with other fellowships to begin with, and we in D.A. also know that this is so with the rest of the world. For the past year an immense effort has poured into reaching every single corner of the world. We are making progress, albeit slowly, yet I felt this year it can no longer be contained. Let’s take a moment to imagine how things are changing: we closed Saturday’s Convocation Day—the first day we vote on Motions submitted by the Committees and hear their Recommendations along with the Caucuses’—with the Serenity Prayer in seven languages. I think there was not one dry eye in the room.

There were three full days of meetings where fellows convened in the committees and caucuses they selected to serve their homegroups with. This year I am Chair of the Fellowship Communication Committee. I returned to it because I felt it was important to have continuation in the service and our former Chair nominated me to chair it. I accepted to later find that I was facing my deepest fears of displaying my shortcomings clearly. My vulnerability was immediately comforted with the loving and kind support from my committee fellows and I understood, once again, that I cannot recover on my own, only together we get better! Which is exactly the theme for our committee this year—Connecting our Fellowship: Together We Get Better.

At the 2019 WSC we laughed, and cried, we danced, we worked very hard, we heard shares that you can now listen to as podcasts on our website, we chatted, and got to know each other at such a new level! Meeting with so many fellows with years in Recovery, or just beginning, devoted to give, because we really cannot keep it unless we give it away, and who constantly remind me that I am not alone, has transformed me.

I am honored to be a GSR delegate. And, this may be the most important message I will share with you today: service is the cornerstone of my recovery. As I started first with going to meetings and sharing, then with arranging chairs before the meeting started, finding a sponsor, being a sponsor, receiving PRMs, to giving them, to being a Treasurer, to chairing meetings, to finally becoming a GSR, service kept me solvent one day at a time and it also has changed my life.

—Rody, New York



The 2019 Host Committee had a “Golden Era of Hollywood” theme for the Fellowship Day Gala Dinner and Talent Show at the World Service Conference with the city’s landmark Walk-of-Fame paying tribute to the Twelve Steps. The talented MC announced all performers as if we were at a fancy awards show. It was very L.A.!

2019 Debtors Anonymous Survey Results

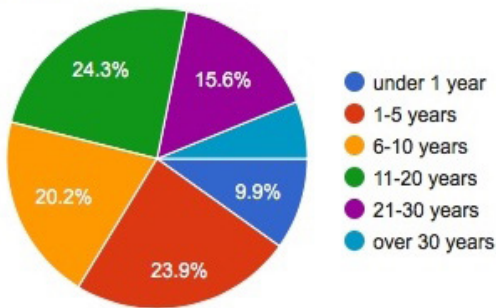
At the 2017 World Service Conference, the GSB Tech Committee recommended that a demographic survey be conducted among the members of Debtors Anonymous. Although it had not been completed by within that Conference year, the survey was launched during the early summer of 2019. It consisted of fourteen questions, including one asking members specifically what they would to see the Fellowship do to strengthen its message to the world.

We received responses from 247 unique individuals that give an informal snapshot of our evolving membership. The results have been gathered and presented here in pie charts. The GSB will discuss the answers to the final, open-end question at their annual face-to-face meeting in February.

— GSB Communications and Information Technology Committee

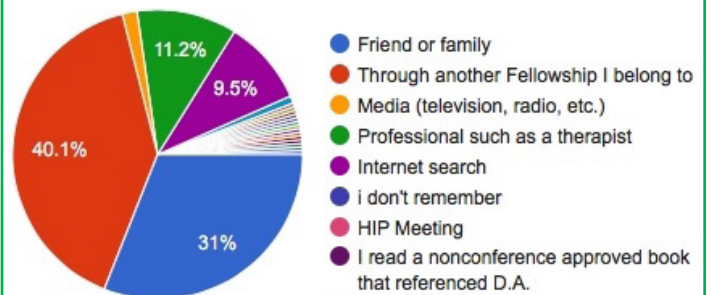
How long have you been a member of D.A.?

243 responses



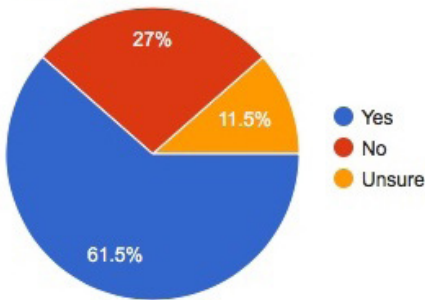
How did you first hear about D.A.?

242 responses



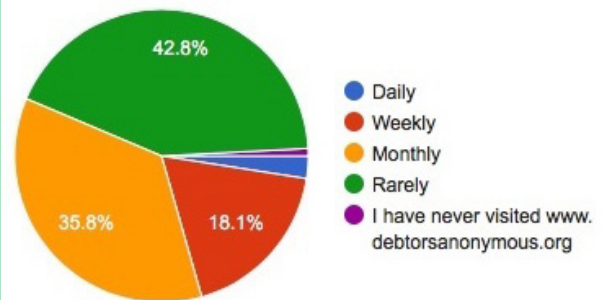
Do you subscribe to eNews?

244 responses



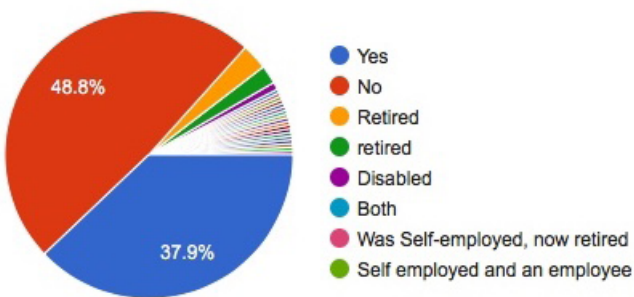
How often do you visit the D.A. website?

243 responses



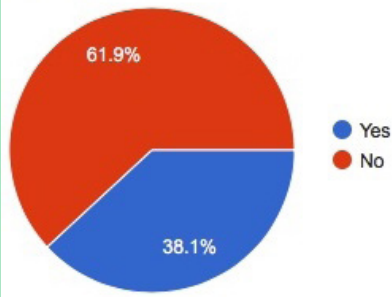
Are you self-employed?

240 responses



Do you attend Business Debtors Anonymous?

244 responses

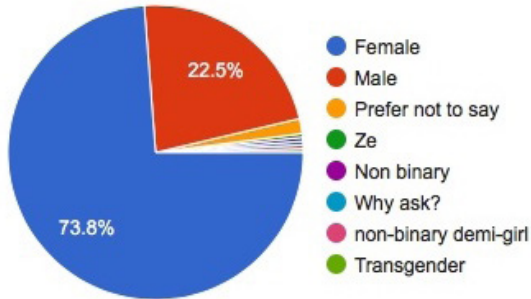


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2019 Debtors Anonymous Survey Results

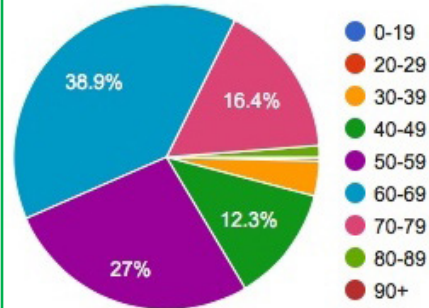
What is your gender?

244 responses



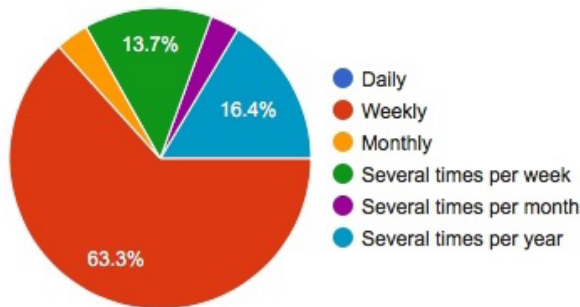
What is your age?

244 responses



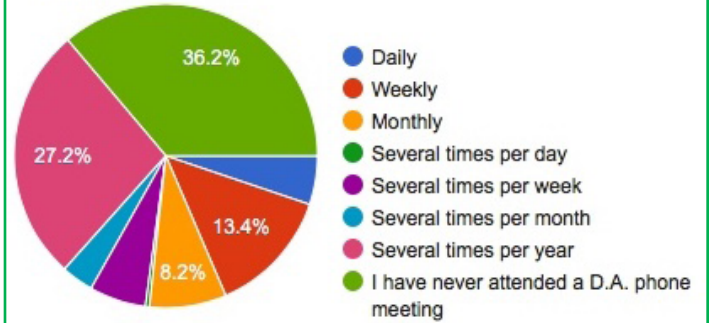
How often do you attend D.A. in-person meetings?

226 responses



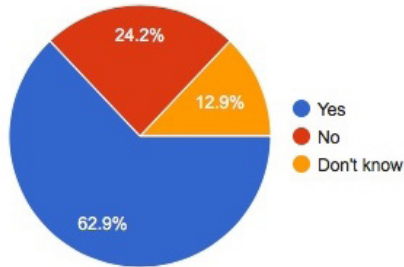
How often do you attend D.A. phone meetings?

232 responses



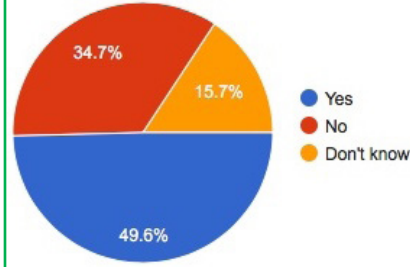
Does your group have a General Service Representative (GSR)?

240 responses



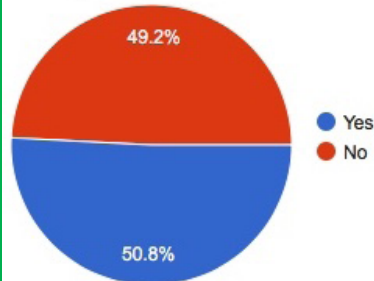
Does your group have a Intergroup Service Representative (ISR)?

242 responses



Do you feel there are an adequate number of D.A. meetings in a reasonable distance from your home?

244 responses



2019 WSC Motions and Recommendations

APPROVED MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE LOS ANGELES, CA – AUGUST 10-11, 2019

Alphabetical by Committee Name

Business Debtors Anonymous: No Motions

Business Debtors Anonymous: Recommendations

Recommendation #1

We recommend that the Tech Committee add a filter to the search function on the D.A. website so users can search for BDA meetings.

Recommendation #2

We recommend that the committees working on the worldwide map specify which are BDA meetings.

Recommendation #3

We recommend that the Fellowship Communication Committee explore ways to communicate the value of face-to-face meetings in the context of the wide availability of phone meetings. Some ideas include quarterly regional face-to-face meetings, promoting starter kits to start a meeting, and regional weekend step-study retreats.

Conference Committee: Motions

Motion #1:

The members of the WSC Conference Committee, each of whom is “a voting member of the Conference” for the purpose of the Application of Paragraph 9 of The Conference Charter of Debtors Anonymous, move to amend The Conference Charter of Debtors Anonymous in the following three particulars:

The members move an amendment to Paragraph 2 to read as follows (additions are in red and underlined; deletions are in red and stricken through):

Composition of Conference: The body of voting delegates is composed of the following who desire to participate **and register to attend the World Service Conference:** (1) the Trustees of the General Service Board, (2) the selected General Service Representatives of all Debtors Anonymous **groups registered with the General Service Office,** (3) **and** a representative of each Intergroup registered with the General Service Office, **and (4) a representative of the General Service Office, chosen by the General Service Board, provided that the representative is a member of Debtors Anonymous.** A collection of groups may choose to select a single General Service Representative to represent the collection, provided the General Service Representative is approved by all groups in the collection. Such General Service Representative will still only receive one vote at the Conference.

The members move an amendment to those portions of Paragraph 7 to read as follows (additions are in red and underlined; deletions are in red and stricken through):

Except for decisions upon matters of policy, finance, or Debtors Anonymous Traditions ~~liable to that may~~ seriously

affect Debtors Anonymous as a whole, . . .

Except in great emergency, neither the General Service Board nor any of its related services ought to take any action ~~liable to that may~~ greatly affect Debtors Anonymous as a whole without first consulting the Conference.

Amendment of the Conference Charter will require that the text of such amendment be sent to the General Service Representatives of all registered groups and to all registered Intergroups, postmarked one hundred and twenty (120)* days prior to the first day of the annual meeting of the Conference. **Such delivery of the text may also be made by email or other electronic means.** Only a voting member of the Conference can move to make such an amendment.

Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #2:

The Conference Committee moves that the 2019 World Service Conference authorize Greater New York City as the host site for the 2021 World Service Conference. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #3:

The Conference Committee moves that the 2019 World Service Conference authorize the Remote Participation trial at the 2020 World Service Conference. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #4:

The Conference Committee moves that the World Service Conference authorize that the International Caucus become the International Committee. Motion Passed Unanimously

Conference Committee: Recommendations

Recommendation #1

The Conference Committee recommends that the WSC website registration information and e-news be translated at least into Spanish.

Recommendation #2

The Conference Committee recommends to the GSB Conference Support Committee that the information about remote participation be available in Spanish.

Recommendation #3

The Conference Committee recommends to the GSB Conference Support Committee that the information about remote participation be included in the WSC Registration packet.

Recommendation #4

The Conference Committee recommends to the WSC Resource Development Committee that they prioritize increasing funding for the John H. Scholarship.

Recommendation #5

The Conference Committee recommends to the WSC Fellowship Communications Committee that they help communicate to the fellowship about the importance of the John H. Scholarship funding and create and publicize service materials on ways to raise funds to send a GSR to the WSC.

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2019 WSC Motions and Recommendations

(continued)

Fellowship Communications Committee: Motions

Motion #1

To establish the 4th Saturday of April of every year as “Promise Six Day” to encourage fellowship activities at the local level among members. Motion Passes with Substantial Unanimity

Fellowship Communications Committee:

Recommendations

Recommendation #1

To the International Caucus: Translate Sponsor-A-Group materials into Spanish.

Recommendation #2

To Public Information Committee: Provide Outreach materials about D.A. to self-help speakers, authors.

Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee:

No Motions

Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee:

Recommendations

Recommendation #1

To have HIP representative on every Intergroup Board.

Recommendation #2

Encourage Intergroup Rep to ask for HIP involvement at their meeting.

Recommendation #3

Training call for International HIP Awareness Day or for anyone interested in being part of HIP beginning of next year.

Recommendation #4

Individual members will continue to work on bringing HIP Awareness Day to their localities.

Intergroup Caucus (IC): Recommendations

Recommendation #1

Ensure that Intergroup websites display the same meeting information as the GSO website.

Recommendation #2

Provide an automated link on the meeting re-registration page that sends the updated information to both GSO and affected Intergroup.

Recommendation #3

Assign every meeting to an Intergroup with the option of choosing a particular Intergroup.

Internal Operations Committee (IOC): No Motions

Internal Operations Committee (IOC): Recommendations

Recommendation #1

Find and implement a D.A. meeting application similar to the “Meeting Guide” app for A.A. Meetings.

Recommendation #2

All Intergroups place a button on their website landing pages for one-click access to a .pdf file of their meetings.

Recommendation #3

Create an online literature order form that “does the math” to eliminate order form mistakes that often delay the

fulfillment of literature orders.

Recommendation #4

Conduct a Fellowship-wide fundraising appeal for the relocation of the General Service Office (GSO).

Recommendation #5

Research and procure international calling capability on a telephone line at the General Service Office (GSO).

International Caucus: Recommendations

Recommendation #1

The International Caucus recommends that we install Google translator or something similar to allow for translation of Debtors Anonymous website.

Recommendation #2

The International Caucus recommends that we say The Serenity Prayer in 3 non-English languages next year at the World Service Conference (WSC).

Recommendation #3

The International Caucus recommends that we designate July as the D.A. Worldwide Fellowship Awareness Month.

Recommendation #4

That the International Caucus support and strengthen the work of the non-US Regional Intergroups: presently the European and the Asia Pacific Regional Intergroups.

Recommendation #5

That the International Caucus work with the GSB in locating translators, translation reviewers, Project Contributors (PC's) and Appointed Committee Members (ACM's) to move forward with urgency, the translation of D.A. Approved literature into languages other than English (subject to a Caucus being able to appoint one).

Literature Committee: Motions

Motion #1

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “What is Solvency?” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #2

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Retirement” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #3

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Dealing with Prosperity” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #4

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Earning” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #5

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “Action Plan” be approved. Motion Passed Unanimously

(continued)

2019 WSC Motions and Recommendations

(continued)

Motion #6

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a pamphlet on “D.A. Voices from the Black Community” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Motion #7

The WSC Literature Committee moves that the concept for a book of “BDA Stories” be approved. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Literature Committee: No Recommendations

Public Information Committee (PI): Motions

Motion #1

We move that a BDA Public Service Announcement be approved and produced by the GSB. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Public Information Committee (PI): No Recommendations

Resource Development Committee (RDC): Motions

Motion #1

Move that Bequests from Wills and Gifts from Trusts be allowed, with the proviso that receipts be limited to: Estates and Trusts of members of the Fellowship; Will Bequests be capped at \$50,000 total; and Trust Gifts be limited to \$12,000 for not more than five years, with the exception that living trusts are treated as gifts from individuals. Motion Passed with Substantial Unanimity

Resource Development Committee (RDC):

Recommendations

Recommendation #1

RDC recommends to the Conference that delegates suggest that phone and online meeting include 7th Tradition Break and specifically mention the online contribution options for World Service.

Recommendation #2

The RDC recommends to the General Service Board (GSB) that all General Service Representatives (GSR's) suggest to their meeting the addition of “Thrive w/ Five” to Seventh Tradition announcement.

Recommendation #3

RDC recommends to the GSB that all GSR's continue to announce in GSR announcements re: Various electronic methods for making contributions to WSO.

Recommendation #4

RDC recommends that GSR's suggest to their groups that they add a service position called “Temporary Sponsors.”

Spiritually Sustainable Earning Caucus:

No Recommendations

Technology Committee: No Motions

Technology Committee: Recommendations

Recommendation #1

D.A. undertake revising the website beginning with Incremental improvements and planning for a long-term strategic redesign including an interim update with multilingual functionality within 60 days.

Recommendation #2

Improve accessibility and purchase of literature online.

Recommendation #3

Improve online donation capabilities including text donations and non-US currencies.

Recommendation #4

General Service Board (GSB) purchases two new computers for the D.A. office within the next 30 days.

Recommendation #5

Investigate new platforms for Podcasts.

Recommendation #6

Invest in and/or investigate methods to improve and move to automating meeting registration. Ensure that all D.A. worldwide meetings are accurately represented and captured on the D.A. Website

Recommendation #7

Investigate D.A. Website's ability to synchronize with other Intergroup databases.

Underserved and Under-represented Outreach Caucus:

No Recommendations

UPDATE: Change in the language in the preface of the Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous

Based on an Issue & Concern submitted by a member in 2017, WSC Lit Com and GSB approved removing the redundant language and updating the preface of the *Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous*. This editorial change was presented to the 2019 WSC in Los Angeles.

TWELVE PROMISES OF DEBTORS ANONYMOUS (revised August 2013)

Previous language: In the program of Debtors Anonymous, we come together to share our journey in recovering from compulsive debting. There is hope. In working D.A.'s Twelve Steps, we develop new ways of living. When we work D.A.'s Twelve Steps and use D.A.'s Tools, we begin to receive these gifts of the program:

Update 2019: In the program of Debtors Anonymous, we come together to share our journey in recovering from compulsive debting. There is hope. When we work D.A.'s Twelve Steps and use D.A.'s Twelve Tools, we develop new ways of living and begin to receive these gifts of the program:

Please note this change for your meetings.

General Service Board (GSB) Articles

Sponsor-A-Group (SAG)

This DA resource is modeled after individual sponsorship, helping connect strong and well-resourced groups with groups that are either just getting started or are in need of additional guidance and support.

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With many under-served and under-represented regions in both the United States and across the world, fledgling groups with little recovery and resources remain weak or disappear completely. Sponsor-A-Group is an opportunity to bridge these gaps, offering more people and untapped communities the precious gift of recovery in Debtors Anonymous.

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*The group-to-group sponsorship exists between:
α DA Sponsor Group and α DA Sponsee Group ...*

- **DA Sponsor Group** is an established DA meeting with recovery and solvency that shares experience, strength and hope with a select DA Sponsee Group
- **DA Sponsee Group** partners with a thriving DA Sponsor Group to receive guidance in starting a new meeting or strengthening an existing meeting.

More information is available in the online SAG STARTER KIT, including ...

- how do groups get started in Sponsor-A-Group?
- suggested service requirements for Group Representatives
- how does a Sponsee Group connect with a Sponsor Group and vice versa?
- what are the next steps, including a meeting of the Group Representatives to create an Action Plan

<https://debtorsanonymous.org/sag>

Developed by the
WORLD SERVICE FELLOWSHIP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE (FCC)

Solvency and World Service

D.A. defines “unsecured debt” as “any debt that is not backed up with some form of collateral.” Some members who apply for service on the GSB have asked for clarification of this definition, specifically with respect to using credit cards in their personal life or for business. The issue of how each D.A. member defines “solvency” has provoked much discussion on the GSB and within the Fellowship.

Some members consider credit card use to not be incurring unsecured debt if all debts are paid monthly; however even by this logic it is rarely if ever the case that they have a solely dedicated savings fund equal to or greater than the amount of their credit limit as collateral. Other members consider using credit cards for one’s business to be separate from personal debting.

The GSB has discussed whether to add abstinence from credit cards as a requirement for Board service. With or without this explicit requirement, the GSB group conscience traditionally does not approve applicants who use credit cards. However there is a long history by the GSB of not explicitly imposing this requirement. One reason is that the D.A. World Service Conference defines solvency as not incurring unsecured debt, and attempts to provide specific definitions have not prevailed when it comes to a vote. This is similar to how A.A. has always refused to weigh in on the specifics of what constitutes drinking alcohol (i.e. cough syrup, cooking with alcohol, “near beer,” etc.) despite constant requests because the specifics are considered outside issues. The GSB takes this seriously because the Conference is the clearest representative of the voice of our membership.

GSB Nominations Committee has been developing a questionnaire about GSB applicant credit card use to understand how applicants define their solvency and why. What specific reasons are there that members feel they can safely use credit cards? What steps have they taken to exhaust all other options? Are they in constant consultation with other D.A. members such as a sponsor and PRG? This questionnaire will be requested of applicants who use credit cards. This is not to say an applicant who uses a credit card will be approved, but it is the next step as the GSB seeks guidance for how to interpret solvency requirements for GSB service.

— GSB Nominations Committee

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DARECOVERY
to **22828** to get started.



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

General Service Board (GSB) Articles

From Fear to Abundance *European Regional Intergroup's Annual Convention*

Fellow General Service Board (GSB) members J.P. and I had the honor of attending the 5th Convention of the European Regional Intergroup (ERI) in Monopoli, Italy from October 25–27, 2019. Although the Convention started Friday at 5 p.m., we started earlier as invitees to the ERI's annual face-to-face business meeting. Ideas were exchanged, and officers were elected or renewed for annual terms. Discussion focused on how to carry the message to the still-suffering debtor across Europe and the world. Among the most interesting things was the launch of the ERI's new website debtorsanonymous.eu, as well as plans to continue sending an ISR to the World Service Conference to ensure the European voice is well-represented in Debtors Anonymous (D.A.).

The Convention began on Friday evening with a D.A. meeting and a guided meditation. Saturday included meetings and PRGs. J.P. and I did a panel on Service and then J.P. led the group in a writers workshop for those interested in contributing to the upcoming daily reader being developed by the Literature Committee. A multi-lingual speakers meeting ended the afternoon with two speakers—one in German and one in French—being translated simultaneously through “whisper technology” into English and other languages. It was a moving experience for members to tell their stories in their own languages, still allowing everyone to be able to participate in the lessons that were shared. This was a first experiment with this technology for the ERI, and it was a tremendous success. The day ended with a fellowship dinner *al fresco* where good food, good company, and good merriment filled the restaurant on the Piazza that we took over for the evening.



The Convention closed on Sunday with a visions workshop and a wrap-up meeting before we helped clean up the lovely church building where we met throughout the weekend. There was one final event to which the group contributed. During the weekend everyone constructed a boat called *Le Bateau de Reves* or the “Boat of Dreams.” The boat was filled with visions, hopes, and dreams—a kind of boat-shaped God box that the attendees took in a procession down to the water’s edge and gave to a power greater than ourselves. Several mermaid-inclined fellows swam as the sun set.

— Michalene R., GSB Chair

For the Good and Wellbeing of the Fellowship

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

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

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

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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



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ANNOUNCEMENT CORNER

Here are possible announcements for members—especially General and Intergroup Service Representatives (GSRs & ISRs)—to make during D.A. meetings:

1. Mark your calendar! Saturday, April 25, 2020 is the inaugural **Promise Six Day** of Debtors Anonymous. Meetings and Intergroups are encouraged to come up with simple fellowship activities like shared meals, hikes, or outings for members to break out of isolation and celebrate connection in observance of our Sixth Promise. More information will be coming soon via eNews.
 2. Consider serving at the World Level of D.A. as a General Service Board Trustee or recommend a member for service to one of the six (6) positions currently open. Info available at www.debtorsanonymous.org/service
 3. 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, November 24, 2019, from 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time, on the topic “**Dealing With Prosperity: Members Share Their Journeys in BDA**,” presented by the WSC Business Debtors Anonymous Committee
 - Saturday, February 22, 2020, from 1 p.m. – 2:30p.m. Eastern Time, on a topic related to **Sponsorship**, presented by the WSC Resource Development Committee (RDC)
 - Sunday, March 1, 2020, at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, on the topic “**Training for D.A. Outreach to Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)**,” presented by the HIP Committee
 - Sunday, March 22, 2020, from 1 – 2 p.m. Eastern Time, on the topic “**Ask-The-GSB: D.A. Literature, Literature Translations and Licensing**,” presented by the GSB Long Range Planning Committee
 4. Listen to free recordings of speaker shares from the 2019 World Service Conference Fellowship Day as well as Fellowship-wide Calls throughout the year on the D.A. website at www.debtorsanonymous.org/podcasts
 5. D.A.’s **A Currency of Hope** and **12 & 12 & 12** are 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
 6. 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
 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