

September, 2016

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. See website for details.

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The D.A. Focus is published quarterly by the D.A. General Service Board. It is available as a download from the D.A. website at www.Debtorsanonymous.org

PLEASE SHARE THE D.A. FOCUS WITH YOUR GROUP

Present and past issues of the **D.A. Focus** are available at www.debtorsanonymous.org

Individual contributions made out directly to the GSO or GSB are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

D.A. Online

Q. What are the best practices used by Debtors Anonymous groups to protect member anonymity online? (Question from "Issues and Concerns" 15-23)

A. The concern of anonymity for D.A. members touches upon two issues. First, many of us don't want to reveal our membership in a program on social media. Second, we want to protect our personal information, like phone numbers and email addresses, from being shared publicly.

Even when we create email addresses without our name or other identifying wording, we cannot be fully guaranteed privacy using free services (Yahoo, Google, or others, such as the Cloud). Data mining is an evolving phenomenon. Information currently stored by providers, such as phone numbers, names and addresses, could potentially become available for marketing use and could compromise anonymity if released. The issue with free email group service is that while you still own your data, this free service can also use it.

"You may own your data, but the social network has possession, legal rights to use it for its benefit and may lack export options for you to get it back." (Brad Friedman | Feb 9, 2011 | "Cloud Computing")

Private email is protected, because even if the service has access to your data, it does not go public with it. But if you post your email address or your name on a site, it can be found. Although exchanging information peer to peer is not searchable online, posted information can be accessed by search.

Potential employers, banks and creditors could get information that you wouldn't want disclosed, so it is best to avoid using personal information online or on a site. This dilemma is made more difficult by the fact that to fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message, our contact information must be available for the public. Data mining and information collecting is a disturbing reality, but it is important to realize the difference between what is searchable and what is just data mining used to market products.

There are online paid email services which offer the same service as Yahoo mail or Google to exchange email and documents with guaranteed privacy for a reasonable fee. The SoCal GSR Regional Area Group in Los Angeles recently switched to using a paid email group, after much research and discussion on anonymity and the Internet. Everything posted on a public site, forum, social media, or even a protected password site can be found online. Posting an unlisted number without your full name does not disclose your identity unless you make it available on Facebook or another social media site.

Other than using a paid service or password protected site, the best protection is awareness. Using Gmail phone service or a Gmail email address offers some privacy, since the call or email can be forwarded to your personal email or can be dedicated to fellowship work, creating a buffer for anonymity. Skype can be used for international calls or long distance as long you do not use your own name as your ID.

While we cannot avoid data mining and tracking, we can take steps to protect our anonymity by never posting our full name, address or personal phone number together on searchable sites, forums, social media or other public sites.

-JC in collaboration with the Fellowship Communications Committee

Forty and Fabulous

On April 15th, 2016, Debtors Anonymous reached the official age of 40, marking the date when a small group of self-identified debtors gathered in a church basement in New York City. That milestone birthday will kick off an entire year of official celebration across the fellowship at large.

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General Service Board Committee Reports

Legal

The Legal Committee of the General Service Board (GSB) is mainly involved in the registration, maintenance, and defense of D.A.'s intellectual property, copyrights, and trademarks. Some of the projects the committee completed were:

- Registered Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, Inc as a foreign corporation in Massachusetts.
- Will look for a general business lawyer in Massachusetts to consult as needed on general legal questions.
- Registered the copyrights for the Step, Tradition and Concept book and the revised Underearners Pamphlet.
- Created a spreadsheet of all D.A.'s copyrights and trademarks to more easily track and protect D.A.'s intellectual property.

Responded to two requests to use the D.A. logo

Communications

The 2015-2016 GSB Communications Committee included Michael A. (chair), Clay D. (secretary), Bob D., and Bill D. The members of the 2014-2015 Communications Committee are grateful for the opportunity to be of service to the D.A. Fellowship. The Communications Committee (Com Com) facilitates information exchange between the General Service Board (GSB), the World Services Conference committees & caucuses, and the D.A. Fellowship. D.A.'s new website debuted in January 2016. Com Com helped the Information Technology Committee transfer content from our previous website to the new one. Some content came up missing or incomplete and the Committee helped replace the missing information. The Committee is responsible for the continuous upkeep of content on the D.A. website, including uploading, updating, and

removing information. The Committee is also responsible for keeping the website format consistent by using the *D.A. Style Guide*. In the short time since its debut, Communication Committee has made numerous changes and additions to the website.

The Committee compiled the following information from the 2015 WSC held in Portland, OR: 2014 WSC motions; convocation minutes; 2015 WSC motions and recommendations; reports from 2014-2015 WSC committees and caucuses; report from the GSB Chair; 2014-2015 GSB committee reports; the Finance Committee's annual report (2014-2015); 2015 WSC committee and caucus annual reports; 2015 WSC committee and caucus minutes; and responses to 2013 WSC recommendations. The report was published in April 2016 and can be found here: <http://debtorsanonymous.org/download/2015-wsc-report/?wpdmdl=1303>

By the 2016 WSC, Communications Committee will have published two issues of *The D.A. Focus*. Additionally, the Committee will have sent out ninety-seven eNews announcements and two on-line surveys. The announcements reached over 5,900 subscribers. The *Ways & Means* was not published 2015-2016.

International

The 2015-2016 GSB International Committee included Michael A. (chair), Alexandra BW (secretary), and Dayton L.

The International Committee offered its support to the blossoming service structures existing outside the US. The Committee members our offered experience, strength, and hope to the European Regional Intergroup (ERI) and the Asia-Pacific Intergroup (API) by attending their meetings via conference call.

With the help of Allan C. at the GSO and Peter G. (GSR), the Committee helped to connect a lone D.A. member in Costa Rica to other recovering debtors through the Group Sponsorship Program. We are also offering our support to a newly-formed D.A. meeting in Warsaw, Poland. The International Committee finalized several pieces of D.A. literature that had been translated into Italian. That literature is now posted on the D.A. website. Other Italian translations and literature translated into Japanese are close to being finalized.

The Committee also worked on improving the logistics of translating our literature into languages other than English. The Committee gratefully accepted the assistance of the International Caucus.

Public Information

The General Service Board (GSB) Public Information Committee (PI) focuses on public information outreach at national and international levels. The Committee also supports local PI activities, by ensuring that D.A. members, groups, and Intergroups have access to the materials necessary for PI outreach at the local and regional level. GSB PI ensures that media requests for information about D.A. or for interviews with D.A. members are responded to in a timely manner. When media coverage on D.A. does occur, GSB PI sends an acknowledgement to the media source that mentions D.A.

Serving on the committee this past conference year were: Sue F., Chairperson, Allen T., Secretary, and Bob D. Also serving on GSB PI was Appointed Committee Member (ACM) Siobhan K., who joined the committee in June.

On the International PI front, the GSB approved the global distribution of a press release announcing the 40th Anniversary of Debtors Anonymous.

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On April 2nd, the press release was circulated worldwide in 18 languages. Within three days, the press release was picked up by 485 print, broadcast, and online media outlets. In addition to the U.S. and Canada, our release was viewed in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, Norway, the UK, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece, Cameroon, South Africa, Zimbabwe, India, Thailand, China, Malaysia, and Japan. It's not clear how many still-suffering debtors were reached as a result of this initiative, but the board took the strongest action possible, in terms of press-release distribution.

Other activities addressed by GSB PI this year included:

- We reviewed and modified our committee's Composition, Scope and Procedure document.
- We organized and conducted a Media Contact refresher training session prior to the distribution of the 40th anniversary press release. The intent of this training was to ensure that we had in place a core group of D.A. members trained to respond to media requests at the time of D.A.'s anniversary.
- Provided liaisons to the WSC PI Committee, the WSC Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP) Committee, and the Diversity Caucus.
- Sue F. served as the GSB PI liaison to the WSC PI committee. GSB PI reviewed and approved a number of World Service Conference (WSC) PI Committee initiatives, including
 - The development of the 40th anniversary press release.
 - Revising the PI Contact Card.
 - Development of a Glossary of Terms.
 - Finalizing and placing online, the PI Starter Kit.
 - Hosting a PI booth at the Mental Health America annual conference.

- Presenting two fellowship-wide conference calls on how to grow D.A.
- Bob D. served as liaison to the WSC HIP committee. GSB PI addressed one initiative of the WSC HIP Committee, the development of a HIP Starter Kit.
- We responded to two media requests for D.A. member participation. One request was from a TV talent manager in California, and the other was from a podcast producer in New York.
- We responded to an anonymity break of a member by a magazine.
- We welcomed Siobhan K. to the committee as an ACM.

This has been a tremendously dynamic and successful year for Debtors Anonymous Public Information. The achievements realized this year are a direct result of strong communication, the spirit of cooperation and genuine collaboration between the GSB PI committee, and the WSC PI and HIP committees.

Conference Support

The 2015–16 Conference Support Committee welcomed new Class B trustee Jo Mc from Wisconsin. CSC organized two WSC Orientation calls, scheduled for July 9 and July 17. For more information, please sign up for the eNews on the home page at www.debtorsanonymous.org

These calls are for anyone interested in knowing more about D.A.'s service structure.

- CSC is working with the Sheraton DFW Airport Hotel and other vendors to ensure the best possible experience at the 2016 WSC. Through the 2016 liaison, Michael A., CSC works with the Dallas Host Committee. Registrants and trustees will participate in the paperless-binder trial (physical binders will be available), a joint project of the

WSC Conference and WSC Tech Committees.

- CSC reviewed the Debtors Anonymous Conference Charter, identified and corrected an instance of plagiarism, and forwarded the Charter to the Conference Committee, with which the Charter resides.
- John H. Scholarships: of the 26 applicants, 21 received funds.
- A revised "Starter section," describing the initial procedures for newly formed WSC committees, has been forwarded to the full General Service Board for approval.

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. Some of the projects of the committee are:

- Hosted four "Ask the GSB" phone forums: November 1st, Recap of the WSC, January 10th, The Seventh Tradition, it's not just about the money, March 13th, D.A. Literature, Copyrights and Website, and May 22nd, D.A.'s Traditions and Concepts. There is a recording available for all four calls. The call in number is: 712-432-0395 and the access code is 363385#. The reference numbers are: 26#, 28#, 30# and 31# consecutively.
- Will host the D.A. archivist and a sample of the archives at the 2016 World Service Conference in Irving, TX.
- Addressed one recommendation from the World Service Conference (WSC) Public Information Committee.
- Welcomed a new Appointed Committee Member, Robert R to the committee.

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- Will update the Debtors Anonymous Manual of Service for the 2016-2017 Conference year.

Nominations

2015-16 Committee members were Pat B., chair, Alex B-W., and Michael A. secretary,

The GSB's Nominations Committee is normally composed of three or more voting members, Class A and Class B trustees appointed by the chairperson of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board (D.A. GSB). The committee meets monthly via conference calls, on Sundays assigned by the GSB chair, and in person at the two annual face-to-face meetings. The chairperson of the D.A. GSB is also an ex-officio (voting) member, if necessary.

The Nominations Committee is concerned primarily with identifying, developing, and nominating potential trustee candidates to the D.A. General Service Board (D.A. GSB), for both Class A and Class B trustees. The committee maintains a record of past and current trustees. It also handles the election of GSB officers by receiving candidates' letters of intent and materials and conducts officer elections at the GSB's face-to-face meeting before each World Service Conference. The committee maintains the GSB Trustee Manual, updating it as necessary, and distributing it to incoming trustees, and maintains the GSB Bylaws of the Corporation, including making minor housekeeping revisions as well as substantive revisions approved by the full Board.

The Nominations Committee wants to sincerely thank everyone who has worked so diligently to strengthen the General Service Board. The committee can only do so much, and it is because of the Fellowship's efforts, and willingness to serve, that NomCom was able to recommend two Class A candidates, and one Class B

candidate, which the GSB approved. Their names will be brought to Convocation for ratification at this Conference. The total number of trustees now serving you is at thirteen, with eight being Class A's and five being Class B's, with two Class A's and Class B rotating after the 2016 WSC. The committee continues to encourage applications from both Class A and Class B potential trustees, and to come up with best practices for recommending candidates for the Board. The committee also recommends that the Board continue to explore the financial and practical consequences of approving one or more candidates from outside the U.S., pertaining to the international D.A. fellowship.

The committee discusses and recommends GSB trustee-training topics for both of the Board's face-to-face meetings, with the most current training session related to Risk Management. This topic addressed several areas, relating to the operations of the General Service Office and Board, plus sufficient insurance coverage to protect the assets of the D.A. Fellowship.

The committee reviews the Nom Comm "Composition, Scope, and Procedure" document annually, and makes modifications, as needed. If substantive changes are made, the revised document is forwarded to the GSB for approval. The committee also collects the "Composition, Scope, and Procedure" documents of all the GSB committees and retains them in the *Trustee Manual*.

Literature Publications

In terms of projects addressed this year, none could be more important than the publication of the Fellowship's new book, *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous*. It is a huge accomplishment for any twelve-step fellowship to publish a "Twelve and Twelve," and I think our Fellowship has taken a big step forward with the release of this book.

The final conference approvals for the book occurred last year, when WSC 2015 approved the Traditions and the Foreword (the Steps had previously been approved). With those approvals in hand, our committee then set about the tasks of identifying and interfacing with a graphic designer who would create the layout for the book; two proofreaders, who would carefully review the approved text and the final print-ready layouts; and a printer.

We ended up using the same designer and printer who had worked on *A Currency of Hope, Second Edition (ACOH2)*. We wanted the design and printing of the new book to be completed without any major problems and felt that working with these known vendors was the best way to go. The board was very pleased with the work they had done on ACOH2, and we wanted the same level of quality for the 12&12&12. Additionally, from a financial standpoint, their quoted fees were reasonable and fit within our allocated reserves.

We worked through the design, proofreading, printing, and shipping processes, and the book was delivered to the General Service Office this past May. An announcement was posted on the D.A. website, and several eNews announcements were immediately sent out. Sales began shortly thereafter.

One final point: some people may have wondered how the "12&12" became a "12&12&12." The answer is that at WSC 2015, a motion was passed to expand the concept of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions book to also include the Twelve Concepts of World Service, which previously been printed in *The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service*. Just as the Steps provide guidance for individual recovery and the Traditions provide guidance for group unity, the Concepts provide guidance for coordinating and

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administering our Fellowship on a worldwide basis.

Audit

Introduction

My name is Pat B., and I served as the Chairperson of the GSB Audit Committee during the past conference year. Also serving with me on the committee was Allen T.

The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is overseeing: 1) the accounting and financial reporting processes of the GSB, and 2) the annual review or audit of the board's financial statements. In addition to these primary responsibilities, the committee also has oversight responsibility for selected GSB policies and internal controls, including, for example, the GSB's Conflict of Interest and Whistleblower policies.

Regarding the annual financial statement review or audit, the committee is responsible for: Engaging an independent Certified Public Accountant ("CPA") to perform the annual financial statement review or audit and to complete the board's federal and New York state tax returns.

Ensuring that the Finance Committee and the CPA firm have developed a schedule that will allow the tax returns to be filed by our November 15 deadline.

Reviewing all significant findings resulting from the review or audit with the CPA and the full Board.

Specific Committee Actions

Based on the aforementioned charter, we completed the following actions during the year:

Engaged Bailey, Carr, CPAs, an accounting firm located in New York State, to review our financial statements and complete our tax returns. This is the fourth year that we have used the services of this firm.

Created an electronic Audit Committee Handbook, comprised of online storage of all policies and procedures for which the committee is responsible.

Developed a CPA retention policy. Under the new policy, which was approved by the full board, the board will be required to seek competitive bids for CPA services every five years. In more simple terms, what this policy means is that at least every five years, the board will go back out to bid for its CPA services.

Started an in-depth review of the board's insurance policies and coverages.

Updated the committee's Composition, Scope, and Procedure document, following guidelines for non-profits published by the State of New York.

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Literature Committee

The WSC Literature Committee received twenty Issues and Concerns for review this year, which required much of our energy and discussion in the first three months. The topics presented in the Issues and Concerns were wide-ranging and generated lively, passionate and thoughtful discussions among the Literature Committee members.

Literature Committee has made significant progress with the following ongoing projects: preparing an outline for the Debtors Anonymous 'Basic Text,' creating a writing to replace the 'Preamble,' and developing an outline for a Beginner's Meeting Format. We plan to bring motions to the 2016 WSC Convocation in Dallas to make small, but substantive, **changes in language** to 'A Word to Newcomers,' and to Tool 5, Spending Plan, based on suggestions submitted by D.A. members as Issues and Concerns. The Committee considered, but tabled for this year, work on a DA Step Study Workbook. Lit Com has reviewed and provided feedback on other 'in-process' projects, including new pamphlets and revisions, as requested by the GSB Literature Publications Committee.

Technology

Technology Committee: Arthur G. Chair; Pat B, Board Liaison; Ellen B. Tom W.

The Technology Committee supports the rest of the Conference committees and the Board committees. Whenever an idea is initiated in Tech. Com, we work with the responsible committee(s) to bring it to fruition. We devoted the 2015-16 work session to joining with the Conference & Host committees to test the feasibility and utility of a digital binder at the World Conference. It was decided to enlist up to 20 attendees to the 2016 WSC to receive a PDF version of the paper binder, see how well, or badly, it worked, and to fill out a short survey

to give feedback on their experience and ideas for improvement. Our recommendation to the 2016 Conference Committee is to present a motion for WSC approval to authorize the availability of digital binders to all participants at future WSC's starting with the 2017 conference.

Business Debtors Anonymous

The BDA Committee had a very productive year, providing input, content and guidance for three BDA-specific pieces of literature. These include:

- BDA Signposts and Tools Brochure: the committee determined the key resources for inclusion in the brochure, which will help debtors assess their business debting problem and use the twelve tools of BDA to help their recovery.
- BDA Numbers Booklet: our committee members provided specific suggestions for including the following elements in the booklet - an income/expense record, a monthly business summary, a record of accounts payable and receivable and a listing of business debts.
- BDA Annual Business Plan: we are providing resources to the LitPub Committee that detail both spiritual and strategic guidelines that will help new and experienced BDAs create an annual business plan based on recovery principles.

In addition, the BDA Committee raised an Issue and Concern to the Conference Committee regarding the creation of an Underearner Caucus for the purpose of gaining insight on and addressing this aspect of our fellowship which negatively impacts the solvency of many DA and BDA members. The Conference Committee has communicated that it will determine next steps.

Resource Development

Our congratulations to RDC member,

Bill, who became a Class A Trustee. Bill was Vice-Chair of the RDC and a vital colleague who helped forward the business of the Committee. Our thanks and gratitude for all his hard work. Bill will be a strong addition to the Board of Trustees. Two Fellowship-wide Conference Call Events were hosted by RDC during the year. The recordings of these calls can still be accessed.

"So you Think You Want to Be A GSR: GSR and ISR Service Made Simple"
Dial-in Number: (712) 432-0395. Access Code: 363385#. Reference Number: 27#

"Spiritual Problem Solving: 40 Years on the D.A. Trail"
Dial-in Number: (712) 432-0395. Access Code: 363385#. Reference Number: 29#

The D.A. financial statements are being reviewed to get information to aid the RDC in increasing resources.

A Financial Workshop for a future WS Conference is being discussed. The workshop would be used to clarify the use of donations, both group and individual, to the WSO. The vision is to increase resources to create stronger and more abundant ways to serve the Fellowship such as cheaper literature, absorbing shipping and handling costs for literature, the possibility of an International Trustee. A flyer is being prepared to list the possibilities of what can be done with greater resources.

Ways to encourage GSRs to visit nearby groups who do not have a GSR are being explored. The goal is to increase the number of GSRs. An email address, lovethosegdrs@gmail.com, has been created for feedback about the results of such outreach or for requesting advice.

The members have continued to read and discuss the DAMS for five

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have a presence. Organized in order to allow the 2016 committee to continue organizing similar professional events.

Contacted several of those places to ask about cost and to get further details. Narrowed down to the

H.I.P.

Chair, Doug P., Vice Chair, Kieran K. Secretaries, Bethany O. & Amy S. Other members, Bev, Naomi, Andrea, Molly, Peter, We thank D.A. for the opportunity to be of service and thanks to Bob our Board Liaison

Completion of The H.I.P. Starter Kit:

A 12-page document, which is a compilation of present and past members work designed to help future H.I.P. committee members going forward.

It contains the following:

- Overview of HIP service including a vision for the future
- General descriptions of the suffering debtors in each of HIP's service locations — Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons — and brief descriptions of how D.A. can help those debtors
- How to reach and carry the message to debtors with in Hospital, Institution, and Prison systems in your area
- Sample HIP phone scripts, suggestions for meetings, presentations and panels and sample HIP 3-hour D.A. orientation workshop agenda
- Other available resources and contacts for HIP service
- Distributed 18 donated copies of Currency of Hope to various institutions in our perspective cities.

Individual work:

Doug P. Seattle

- Continued presenting D.A. every 7 weeks to men and women recently released from prison enrolled in Pioneer Industries work and education program
- These presentations included the 15 questions and signposts of a

debtor as well as how D.A. has helped on a personal level.

- Met with approximately 40 professionals from the Seattle and Tacoma Federal Public Defenders office, at the suggestion of Sue F., with another member brought material, talked about the history of D.A., the signposts, a little personal history and talked about how D.A. could benefit their clients.
- Reached out and spoke to a bankruptcy Judges clerk and send pamphlets with a goal of being invited to have a face to face.

Bev Chicago

Continued her efforts to reach to prison systems in the Chicago area, made contact with and sent D.A. literature to a number of treatment centers

Molly Seattle

Set up a meeting with Washington Physicians Health Program, & The Union Gospel Mission as well as other Oxford Houses, hospitals and treatment centers in the Seattle area

Naomi Los Angeles

Took over as secretary for Bethany, Carried the D.A. message monthly to Therapists, Social Workers and Community Directors in the mental health field.

Andrea New York

- Distributed D.A. materials to local universities student bulletin boards, following up at the Universities student offices
- Set up Google drive play back for anyone interested in accessing the minutes

Kieran Los Angeles

Continued his work supporting meetings at the Men's Central Jail in Los Angeles

Bethany O. Los Angeles

- Acquired 18 damaged copies of A Currency of Hope for the team to

distribute

- Was Chair of the H.I.P. manual subcommittee and was instrumental in getting the Starter Kit put together
- Uploaded the P.I. manual to the Shared Google Drive folder as an additional resource.
- Had a baby

Amy S. Nashville

- Stepped up and Joined during the year
- Extensive work on the H.I.P. Starter Kit
- Took over as H.I.P. manual Chair for Bethany
- Helped facilitate others in their work

Peter Seattle

Networked with youth homeless shelters and the directors of those centers.

Fellowship Communications (FCC)

The Fellowship Communications Committee facilitates communication and promotes collaboration among the debtor who still suffers, the Debtor Anonymous membership, the World Service Conference e committees and caucuses, the General Service Office and the General Service Board.

Over the past year, the FCC:

- Continued to publicize the Group Sponsorship service, and to monitor/respond to all inquiries sent to the gsponsorship@gmail.com email address. Carol Ann regularly joined Lolly on weekly calls to go through and answer Gsponsorship emails, with help from Roz, Nancy and Suzanne. We connected a D.A. sponsee Group from Stockholm, Sweden with a sponsor group in Annapolis, MD, as well as a sponsee group in San Juan, PR with a sponsor group in Los Angeles, CA. We are currently

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Public Information

This was a powerful year of productive service for the WSC Public Information Committee. Excitement, camaraderie and mission characterized the committee's work. Working closely with GSB-PI to address its initiatives, the committee was comprised of three strong subcommittees. Here are highlights of their accomplishments.

Grow D.A. Subcommittee

- Grow D.A., which has an emphasis on grassroots outreach, has been, with the guidance and support of GSB-PI committee, inventive and innovative this year in its actions and proposals:
- The newest piece of PI service literature, the "Public Information Starter Kit" was approved by GSB this year.
- On January 16th and April 3rd WSC PI held it's two Fellowship Wide Call of the year -- "How to Grow D.A." and "Let's Grow D.A.!" -- which tackled questions like "How do we share our experience in a way that attracts rather than promotes?" and "How can we best carry the message in our communities?"
- PI Contact Cards – As part of its mission to make public information materials more colorful, dynamic, and useful, new PI Contact Cards were designed. They include information for both newcomers and potential PI contacts.
- Glossary of Terms – a Public Information Resource for D. A. The GSB has approved a new glossary of many D.A. terms – this will be very helpful to both newcomers and helping professionals lost in a terminology fog.
- New PI Tear-off Flyers – Grow D.A. has developed a set of printable and post-able flyers about D.A. which debtors could hang on bulletin boards in public

places. The still suffering debtors could take a tear-off edge with the www.debtorsanonymous.com address on it.

- Finally, PI committee members worked closely with the HIP Committee, Intergroup Caucus, International Caucus and the Diversity Caucus to develop new outreach materials for their service audiences.

A full WSC PI committee project was the revision and re-writing of the D.A. Public Information Manual, with the new title to be "Sharing Debtors Anonymous: Public Information Handbook for D.A. Members."

Media Subcommittee

Prepared a press release announcing the 40th anniversary of D.A., and accompanying information about D.A., in cooperation and with support from the GSB - PI committee. The press release was funded by the GSB and distributed internationally through a news distribution service.

Preparing a query letter to magazines for article on DA 40th Anniversary, and drafted a second for future submission to news media with the intent to excite interest in writing news articles about D.A.

Studying practices of other twelve-step fellowships' Facebook pages and social media activity. Discussed solutions for engaging in social media; need in guidelines for social media use.

PIPE (PI for Professional Events) Subcommittee

PIPE's main goal for 2015 was to facilitate a Debtors Anonymous (D.A.) presence at one or two professional events during the year. With the help of D.A. fellows and approval from the General Service Board (GSB) for funding such an event, a D.A. presence was successfully executed at Mental Health America's 2016 Annual Conference in Alexandria,

Virginia, June 9-10. Mental Health America is the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and to promoting the overall mental health of all Americans.

An estimated 600 mental health professionals attended the event. A member of the GSB Public Information (PI) Committee, who has taken Media Contact Training and lives in the Alexandria, Virginia, area, set up a D.A. booth complete with a brand new D.A. banner, Debtors Anonymous pamphlets, Information for Helping Professionals pamphlets, and an iPad displaying the home page of the D.A. website. She staffed the booth both days, and some of her comments about the experience were as follows:

"Many people stopped by to ask about D.A. Some already knew about it or other twelve-step programs, but many did not. I had prepared a short description of our program and our doing outreach to the helping professions community in hopes they would be able to help clients/patients who might be having issues with spending, debting, under-earning, etc.

"Quite a few took a bunch of pamphlets to put in colleagues' office mailboxes and in common waiting areas. The D.A. pamphlet was taken either for themselves, someone they were close to, or to give to clients/patients.

"Several told me their own stories about debting or trying to help someone close to them whose debting and spending was out of control. I shared my own story with a couple of people who were at a loss to understand this disease. It was a moving experience."

Additional Initiatives for PIPE:

Created an online document that lists possible events by category, based on our research, where D.A. could

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working to connect other D.A. groups around the world that are seeking assistance and are in need of sponsor groups. More information on Gsponsorship can be found on the Resources for Groups page of the Debtors Anonymous Website (www.debtorsanonymous.org).

- to allow the 2016 committee to continue organizing similar professional events.
- Organized and facilitated two WSC Committee/Caucus Chair calls. The purpose of these calls was to foster collaboration between the various WSC Committees and Caucuses and to help avoid duplication of efforts among the WSC Committees and Caucuses.
- Ellie from the FCC wrote the article titled **“Forty and Fabulous”** for publication in the Ways and Means newsletter. This article provides a fun list of 40 ways members can celebrate throughout D.A.’s 40th year.
- Collaborated with GSR Jean Camille on the article **“D.A. Anonymity Online”**. This article responds to the pertinent topic submitted as an Issue and Concern in 2015 (15-23) of protecting our anonymity online.
- Reviewed and approved the FCC section in the PI Handbook in **“Outreach Efforts By Other WSC Committees and Caucuses.”**
- Submitted and was approved for a fellowship-wide call, **“Service Pays Well”**, in response to an Issue and Concern on the topic of the importance of service in the D.A. fellowship (15-26).

The work of the 2015-26 International Caucus focused on developing a record keeping system that was sustainable, establishing an email address for the group, identifying and connecting with international GSRs and ISRs, searching for an ACM for the GSB International Committee, and supporting international participation in the 40th Anniversary celebration hosted by the New York GSRs.

Intergroup Caucus

The Caucus over the last year focused on four areas, beginning each year with encouraging and helping Intergroups to update their information. An IG focused survey was used to measure knowledge and initiatives of Intergroups and is still being reviewed and analyzed for our use. Encouragement to provide and support the sponsorship of 40th Anniversary celebrations resulted in some great events shared by many. A service handbook is in the process of draft and review which will provide guidance and training for new and old intergroups in the future.

International Caucus

GSB Financial Report

(See note on page 2) [Finance Quarterly Report](#)

Please note. The figures for D.A.'s fiscal year 2015–16 (FY16), which ends on June 30, have not yet been finalized. A few remarks about this report.

1. The net income for the fiscal year 2015–16 (to date) shows a negative \$(23,435.88), some \$58,000 less than last year. Most of this is attributable to being without an Office Manager from October 2014 to April 2015. Part of the book production costs, \$20,000 toward the cost of producing *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts*, were held in a reserve fund, and so appear as an expense, with no corresponding income: sales of our “Twelves” are just beginning.
2. When the FY 16 figures are reconciled, book-production costs, primarily for printing and shipping *The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts*, will increase by about \$4,000, paid out in June 2016.
3. The General Service Board's lodging expenses will increase when the monies for rooms at the 2016 WSC will be transferred into the WSC account.
4. As mentioned above, the Fellowship was without a full-time Office Manager for six months in fiscal year 2014–15, which accounts for the lower figures on that line. In fiscal year 2016–17, the salary numbers will increase by some \$28,000, because a part-time person was hired to assist the Office Manager, following a suggestion by the Convocation.
5. The total of individual and group contributions and their part of income, relative to book and pamphlet sales, have remained about the same. It's to be hoped that these will increase, in light of the request for translations from D.A. members and Intergroups outside the U.S., the energetic efforts on the part of WSC committees to reach the debtor who still suffers, and a properly staffed General Service Office.

Please note: WSC income and expenses are intended to cancel each other out, as best can be planned. Any funds left over from the WSC expenses go to the John H. Scholarship Fund. Respectfully submitted, the General Service Board Finance Committee.

Forty and Fabulous *(continued from page 1)*

And there's so much to celebrate! During its forty years, D.A. has brought new hope to many thousands of people burdened with educational, medical and credit card debt. *How many registered meetings, and what countries besides the US?*

In addition, however, each of us who has experienced the joy of recovery through Debtors Anonymous has a personal reason to celebrate! The World Service Fellowship Communications Committee had fun brainstorming ideas for ways we personally could observe this landmark birthday. Here's some of what we came up with. How can you celebrate?

As individual members:

- Make 40 reach-out calls or attend 40 meetings in 40 days
- Find ways to do 40 acts of service
- Set a timer and spend 40 minutes writing your Fourth or Eighth Step
- Read your vision statement out loud for 40 days in a row
- Create 40 affirmations for yourself
- Make a list of 40 things you're grateful for
- Allow yourself the luxury of a 40-minute prayer and meditation time
- Invest 40 minutes in reading from the new *Twelve Steps of D.A.*

With your meeting:

- Generate a list of 40 service providers in your area (therapists, clergy, etc.) who would benefit from knowing about the fellowship, and send them contact information
- Write your meeting's day and time on 40 attraction cards and distribute them around the neighborhood
- Sign up at gsponsorship.com to become a sponsoring group or to obtain group sponsorship for your smaller, newer group. (It would be great to have 40 new groups participating this year!)
- Hold a 40th birthday party/potluck with members of other DA groups in your area, collecting a donation for the General Service Office

For D.A. members with strong financial recovery:

- Donate \$40 worth of literature to your home meeting
- Contribute \$40 to the John H. fund (named for the founder of the D.A. fellowship, this fund provides scholarships to the World Service Conference)
- Mark this 40th year by making monthly or quarterly donations to the D.A. World Service Office at whatever amount seems appropriate (Mail to: DAGSO, PO Box 920888, Needham MA 02492-0009)

We share these suggestions with you all to prime the pump for your own creative ideas (which, of course, do not have to involve the number 40 at all). Have fun in the process, and then by all means send your thoughts to *Ways and Means* so that everyone in D.A. can enjoy them and be inspired. Happy birthday, D.A.! Let's party!