

THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Spring 2005

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We're on the Web

The DA Focus is available on the DA website as a pdf file that you can download, print and take to your meeting. And, it's in color!

The DA Focus publication schedule

Spring: April 30 (deadline for approved submissions is April 15), Summer: July 31 (deadline is July 15); Fall: October 31 (deadline October 15) and Winter: January 31 (deadline January 15).

Free Service Literature available on DA website

Service literature in pdf format is available for free download from the DA website. Topics include:

- *How to Keep Your Meeting Alive* offers tips and techniques for attracting and retaining meeting members.
- *Group Inventory: All Shapes and Sizes* has a list of questions your group can use to help maintain the health of your meeting.
- *Conference -Approved Literature at Meetings: Assuring Our Unity* explains the reasoning behind DA's recommendation that groups refrain from using non-conference-approved literature at meetings.

To read or download these essays, visit <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/service.htm>.

DA literature: progress report

Thanks to a new literature approval process and an enthusiastic committee of appointed members, some exciting literature projects are in the pipeline, including the long-anticipated DA Twelve and Twelve.

Literature Services is a Board-level service committee that was created at the 2004 World Service Conference to focus specifically on the writing and editing of DA literature.

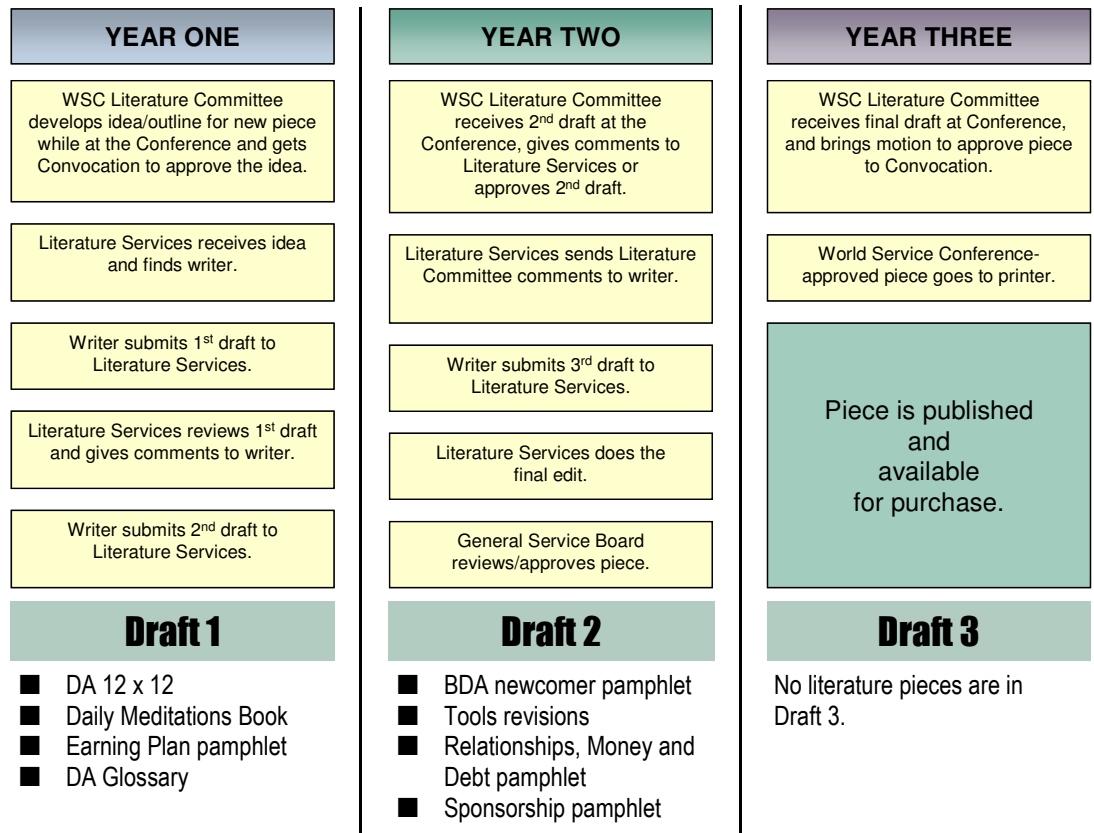
Literature Services is made up of appointed committee members (ACMs) and two General Ser-

vice Board Trustees. To date, four ACMs have been approved to join Literature Services. Literature Services will shepherd the various projects through the creation and approval process that was approved at the 2004 World Service Conference (see below).

In other literature news, the *Anonymity* pamphlet will soon be reformatted into a one page handout and join the other pieces of service-related literature that can be downloaded for free from the DA website (see article to left).

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How the Literature Creation and Approval Process Works



World Service Conference Committee Reports

The **Fellowship Communications Committee** held its first telephone conference call on April 3. Three people attended. A second conference call is in the planning stages. The FCC is communicating regularly via an email group.

One of the FCC's main functions is to serve as an advisory committee to the Ways & Means, the newsletter of the DA fellowship.

The **Public Information Committee** held a "Reach Out to a Therapist" month. The committee compiled packets of DA material which were delivered to interested therapists.

Over twenty PI representatives from around the country have contacted the **Carry the Message Network** for support. To join the CMN, contact Richard H. (818) 843-7058.

Successful responses to media requests have resulted in:

- An article published in a major French periodical with a circulation of 350,000 readers.
- A live radio interview on a Spanish-speaking station in the Washington, D.C. area.

The PI Committee also recommended to the GSB that the Twelve Signs posters be made available for free on the DA website.

The **Resource Development Committee** designed the World Service Month flyer, which was mailed to all registered groups with the previous issue of the *DA Focus*.

The **Conference Committee** continues to work toward changing Article Three of the DA Charter. A copy of the proposed change will be mailed to groups at least 60 days prior to the 2005 World Service Conference.

Other active conference committees include **HIP (Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons)**, **Internal Operations**, and **Literature**.

The three conference caucuses are the **Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) Caucus**, the **Internet Caucus** and the **Inter-group Caucus**.

Attention

2004-05

GSRs & ISRs who attended the 2004 WSC in Sacramento

June 30, 2005 is the deadline for conference committees to be reimbursed for committee expenses incurred during the 2004-2005

See page 4 for instructions on how to be reimbursed for your committee's expenses.

Literature Notice

The *Anonymity* pamphlet is now available as a free downloadable pdf file from the DA website.

All conference committees and caucuses are invited to submit reports on the status of their committee work to the *DA Focus* via their GSB Trustee liaisons.

From the Open Forum

"My group is having trouble getting a GSR to represent us, and we wonder if it would be a good idea to reduce the suggested requirements for the length of time a person has not incurred unsecured debt."

The suggested abstinence requirements for the group service positions can be found in the GSR pamphlet and the Service pamphlet, both of which are available from the General Service Office. The GSR pamphlet suggests that a person being considered for the GSR position have the following qualifications:

- Be actively working the 12 Steps
- Has had at least two PRMs
- Has abstained from incurring new unsecured debt for at least one year
- Has given service to a local group at the Intergroup level
- Is an active member of a home group.

Each group is free to set the requirements for service, however, many DA groups have found that the group is best served by following these guidelines.

The Open Forum is a part of the traditional agenda of the annual World Service Conference, where GSRs and ISRs can voice concerns and ask questions about DA issues.

GSB Reports

Chicago hosts GSB business meeting

The General Service Board usually meets face-to-face between World Service Conferences. This year Chicago DAs welcomed the GSB to the Windy City.

The members of the DA General Service Board of Trustees met April 21-24 at a small hotel in downtown Chicago for the annual mid-year GSB business meeting. The purpose of the face-to-face meeting is to work together on topics that affect DA as a whole. Among the topics discussed were ideas to improve the World Service Conference process, Literature Services projects and the DA website. For more information, please see the reports from the GSB Committees on page 3.

The GSB is responsible for putting into practice DA's group conscience as expressed through the will of the World Service Conference. The Board also fulfills all fiduciary responsibilities required by law of non-profit corporations.

The Trustees perform legal duties, such as protecting DA's copyrights and service marks, and filing required forms and tax returns. The GSB may consist of 15 or more Trustees, of which three are non-debtors.

On Friday night, in spite of a fore-

cast that called for rain mixed with snow, the Trustees joined DA members from Chicago at several area restaurants.

After dinner, Trustees and local DAs packed into a small conference room in the hotel for a DA meeting.

There was an informal Q&A session before the meeting and fellowship afterward—a chance for newcomers and longtimers to ask questions on topics ranging from a progress report on the *DA 12 and 12* to doing service at the World level.

The General Service Board is ac-

tively seeking new Trustees and Appointed Committee Members (ACMs) to participate in World-level service. (For more information on how to apply to become a Trustee or ACM, please see the Winter 2005 issue of the *DA Focus* or contact the GSO.) ■

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Literature Services

Revisions. Several pieces of DA literature are undergoing revisions by Literature Services, including the DA Tools, and five pamphlets: *Awareness*, *Telephone*, *Debt Payment*, *Communicating with Creditors*, and the *Sponsorship* pamphlet

Rather than reprint the *Sponsorship* pamphlet now, it was decided to wait until the revisions are completed. Orders for the *Sponsorship* pamphlet will be filled until current stock is gone.

Publishing. At long last, it appears that the Conference-approved but never published *Numbers: One Approach* booklet may have found a designer able and willing to tackle the task of design and layout. Stay tuned.

Appointed Committee Members. Literature Services is continuing to solicit nominations for Appointed Committee Members (ACMs). If you are interested in applying, or nominating someone, please refer to the instructions in the Winter 2005 *DA Focus*.

Why doesn't D.A. do Chips?

At the 2004 World Service Conference, a GSR recommended that the GSB produce chips or medallions to count days of not debting in DA. This suggestion has been made before, so we think it will be helpful to explain why the GSO will not produce nor sell these kinds of items.

Debtors Anonymous, the GSB and the GSO are incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. In a not-for-profit corporation, no stock holder or trustee shares in the profits and losses of the organization and we "exist to accomplish some charitable, humanitarian, or educational purpose." All of our efforts must be toward those aims. Production of literature, because it is educational in nature, is considered a valid undertaking, even when it generates the profit used for the organization to operate. The production and sale of non-educational merchandise could call into question our status as an educational organization. We look to AA (as we often do) for clarification and example and find that AA does not produce nor sell any non-educational merchandise. They direct members, groups, and Intergroups to outside vendors for merchandise such as chips, bumper stickers, and trinkets.

As such the GSB believes that the production of chips and other products or merchandise is not part of our primary purpose and therefore will not be following this recommendation. Like AA, we recommend that groups and Intergroups continue to use outside vendors to obtain chips and other products. We will continue to produce educational materials that help to carry our message to the debtor who still suffers.

Did you know...

25% of every literature order is set aside in a reserve fund to print more literature?

Public Information

The GSB Public Information Committee has fielded a number of requests from various media entities looking for DAs to interview. To facilitate this process, the GSB has created a Media Contact position. The Media Contact person will work with the media, the PI Committee and the Intergroups when media requests come into the GSO.

Office Committee

Many of you have expressed a vision of having a prosperous office in a larger metropolitan area. While we view the existence of the Needham office as a major success for the Fellowship, at this time the Board would like to investigate other options. We invite any interested DA member, group or Intergroup to submit ideas and suggestions for a new office space and location. Email to the GSB Office Committee c/o the GSO.

InfoTech

The GSB InfoTech Committee, a subcommittee of the Communications Committee, welcomed a new ACM, who brings considerable technical expertise to this small committee. A draft FAQ page has been created to hold the content being culled from Conference-approved literature sources by members of the FCC. The InfoTech committee has recommended that the GSB begin the process of moving the group registry database into another program that will better serve the data management needs of the GSO. Other InfoTech projects include researching the possible use of email list management software by the GSO to enhance communication with the Fellowship.

Ways & Means

Thank you to all the members who wrote in response to the "Fond Farewell to DA" article that appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of the *Ways & Means*. This was an essay from a DA longtimer who shared her reasons for leaving the program. While some members felt it was a controversial share that should not have been published, others felt it opened up a valuable dialogue about why longtimers sometimes leave DA.

The GSO is unable to handle orders for back issues. The GSO prints only enough copies each quarter to cover subscriptions. Occasionally there are some surplus copies, but not always. The *W&M* is a copyrighted publication, however, groups may photocopy an article for the use of their group, as long as it is not for resale. Contact the GSO to receive permission to photocopy articles from previous issues.

The Spring 2005 issue of the *W&M* is being finalized now. To submit articles and shares for the Summer issue, email the Editor at waysandmeansda@hotmail.com before June 30.

NOTICE: If you or your group sent in a *Ways & Means* subscription order at some point in the past, and you did not receive some or any of the copies you ordered, please send an email to the General Service Office da-gso@mindspring.com with your name, address and phone number, and if it was for a group, the group's name and group number. Please indicate the approximate time period your order was placed, how many subscriptions you ordered, for how many years, and how much you paid.

A one-year (4 issues) U.S. subscription to the *W&M* is \$8.00 (Canada: \$8.50, Foreign \$9.00). Discounts apply on orders of five or more subscriptions going to the same address. Subscribe by sending your check or money order to the General Service Office at the address on the back page.

2005 World Service Conference

Registration packets are in the mail for the 2005 World Service Conference, slated for August 24-28 at the Radisson Hotel in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey (Philadelphia area.) The registration packet is available on the DA website.

The packet contains a spending plan, as well as information on how your group can apply for the John Henderson Founder's Scholarship, a fund created to help small groups and Intergroups send a GSR or ISR to the World Service Conference.

Conference registration must be postmarked by July 15 in order to receive the reduced rate.

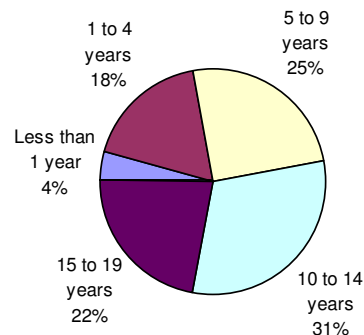
Long Range Planning

The GSB Long Range Planning Committee conducted a survey of members who consider themselves to be "longtimers." Members were allowed to define for themselves what length of time in DA qualifies a person as a longtimer. Seventy-two DAs filled out the survey. Questions asked included:

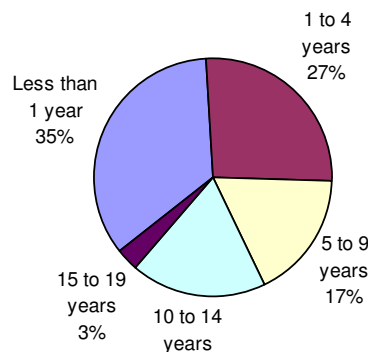
- How long have you been in DA?
- How long have you not incurred unsecured debt?
- How many meetings do you attend each week?
- Do you have and give pressure relief meetings?
- Do you have a sponsor and do you sponsor others?

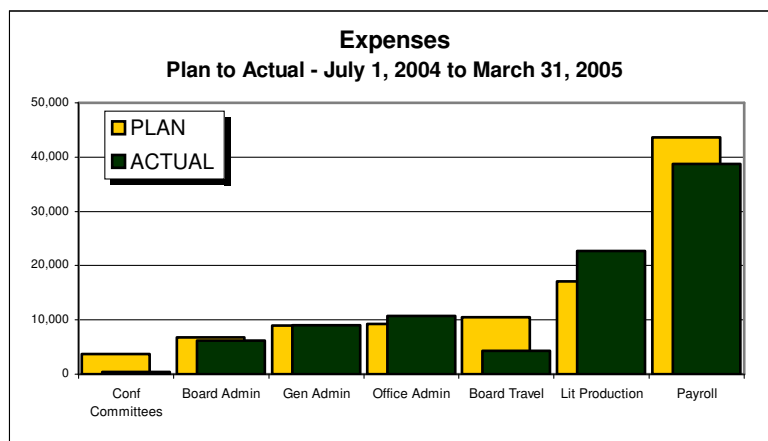
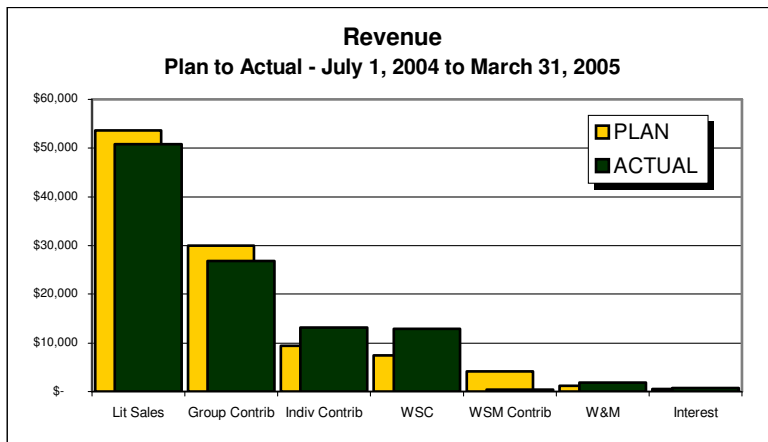
The two charts below show some of the results from the survey. It's important to remember that a sample size of seventy-two is not large enough to draw any definitive conclusions from these results. This is for discussion purposes only.

Length of time in DA



Length of time not incurring unsecured debt





Income Statement (Plan to Actual)
July 1, 2004 — March 31, 2005

Unaudited—for information purposes only

| | PLAN 7/01/2004 to 3/31/2005 | ACTUAL 7/01/2004 to 3/31/2005 |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| REVENUE | | |
| Lit Sales | \$ 53,625 | \$ 50,778 |
| Group Contrib | 30,000 | 26,857 |
| Indiv Contrib | 9,375 | 13,111 |
| WSC | 7,500 | 12,868 |
| WSM Contrib | 4,125 | 462 |
| W&M | 1,200 | 1,874 |
| Interest | 600 | 774 |
| Misc. | 37 | 0 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | \$ 106,462 | \$ 106,725 |
| EXPENSE | | |
| Book Storage* | \$ 225 | 0 |
| Offc Improvemnts* | 1,875 | 0 |
| Office Computer* | 3,750 | 0 |
| Conf Committees | 3,750 | 373 |
| Board Admin | 6,750 | 6,177 |
| Gen Admin | 8,944 | 9,022 |
| Office Admin | 9,225 | 10,662 |
| Board Travel | 10,500 | 4,336 |
| Lit Production | 17,100 | 22,656 |
| Payroll | 43,614 | 38,748 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | \$ 105,733 | \$ 91,975 |
| NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSE | \$ 730 | \$ 14,750 |

*Proposed

Please note: A group contribution that doesn't have the group number on the check is categorized as an "individual contribution."

Reimbursement Process for Conference Committees

June 30, 2005 is the deadline for conference committees to be reimbursed for committee expenses incurred during 2004-2005.

1. Before you make the purchase, get approval from your committee. Check with your Committee Treasurer to make sure the funds are in your committee's spending plan.
2. Make the purchase and keep the receipt.
3. Send the receipt to your Committee Treasurer with your full name and address.
4. The Committee Treasurer fills out the reimbursement form* (with your full name and address), signs the form, attaches the receipts and mails it all to the GSB Treasurer.
5. The Committee Treasurer updates your committee's spending records.
6. The GSB Treasurer issues a check directly to you.

*Committee Treasurers please contact the GSB Treasurer for reimbursement forms.

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