

# THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Spring 2006

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**Register your group**

Have you registered or re-registered your DA group or Inter-group? Don't forget, the DA meeting list will contain only information on registered meetings. If you would like your group included in the soon-to-be-launched online searchable meeting list, please update your group's information with the General Service Office as soon as possible. All groups and Intergroups are asked to update their info annually.

**Coming soon**

The first official General Service Office (GSO) email version of the DA Focus newsletter is currently in development. General Service Reps (GSRs) and Intergroup Service Reps (ISRs) at the 2006 World Service Conference (WSC) will automatically receive the email newsletter unless they indicate they prefer not to. All DA members and interested parties are invited to subscribe via the link on the DA Web site [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

**Sign up for news from the Debtors Anonymous General Service Office**

email@domain.com

## Technology Helps the DA Office Carry the DA Message

The InfoTech committee of the General Service Board is entrusted with the task of helping DA use technology to carry the DA message. This year the InfoTech committee has been

assisted by the members of the WSC Technology Caucus. Members of the Tech Caucus (formerly the Internet Caucus) prepared two proposals that will enhance the ability of the Office

to reach the still-suffering debtor. The first is the creation of an online searchable meeting list, the second, a voice mail phone

*(Continued on page 3)*

**AVAILABLE NOW**

**Download the GSB service newsletter DA Focus from the DA Web site.**

The General Service Board of Trustees (GSB) publishes the *DA Focus*, a quarterly service newsletter that is distributed to all registered DA groups and Intergroups through the mail. It is also available (in color) on the DA Web site [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

**Download the fellowship newsletter Ways & Means from the DA Web site**

The GSB also publishes a fellowship newsletter, the *Ways & Means*, edited by a paid editor. The W&M offers DA members a place to share and comment on DA recovery issues. Formerly available only by subscription, the W&M is now available for free from the DA Web site.

**COMING SOON**

**Subscribe to the official GSO email announcements list.**

Eighty-six percent of the 49 GSRs and ISRs surveyed at the 2005 World Service Conference in Mt. Laurel, NJ, said they would subscribe to a GSO DA-related email announcements list. Another 7% said they would consider subscribing. Watch for the link to Subscribe on the DA Web site.

**Use the searchable meeting list on the DA Web site to find a DA meeting**

The WSC Technology Caucus presented a proposal to the GSB for an online searchable meeting list. This will be an important tool to help DA members find a meeting by location. Funding to add the searchable meeting list to the DA Website is in place. The plan is to "go live" before the 2006 WSC.

**Call the DA General Service Office to access a voice mail "tree" to find a DA meeting**

The WSC Technology Caucus presented a proposal to the GSB for voice mail phone "tree" that will help callers locate a meeting. This is intended to help DA members who do not have Internet access or a meeting directory. The proposal is in discussion.

## Media Contact Person Needed to handle Public Information for DA

The Board PI Committee is looking for an Appointed Committee Member to serve as a PI Media Contact. The work involves coordination of PI requests, referring reporters to DA members who are willing to be interviewed, following up to make sure that contacts have been successful and satisfactory, building and training a cadre of volunteers for this type of public information work, and keeping track of requests from receipt to disposition. The ACM would participate in all GSB PI Committee calls. This person would serve for three years and would be ineligible to serve concurrently as a GSR. Qualities needed include an understanding of the Traditions (particularly the distinction between attraction and promotion in Tradition 11), patience, good humor, and perseverance. Anyone who is interested should contact the GSO at [da-gso@mindspring.com](mailto:da-gso@mindspring.com).

## Translators Wanted

Can you translate DA's literature into Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, or some other language? We would like to hear from you. Please email the GSO.

## 10 Reasons to Become a Trustee

1. To give back what I've been given.
2. To help DA live, prosper, and grow.
3. To maintain my own recovery.
4. To demonstrate the power of service to transform lives.
5. To understand how our organization operates.
6. To learn how to apply the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts to our service work.
7. To gain humility.
8. To practice leadership skills in a spiritual context.
9. To work with trusted servants who are working a rigorous recovery program.
10. To remember always that I am a part of DA and DA is a part of me.

## Literature Publications (Lit Pub)

The GSB Literature Publications committee continues to focus on adding Spanish translations of the Preamble, 12 Steps, and 12 Traditions to the DA Web site. The DA Numbers booklet is at the printer and should be available for purchase soon.

## Literature Services Board (LSB)

Two of the three LSB members joined the GSB at the April face-to-face meeting in Houston. The third member, who was too ill to travel, joined the joint LSB and Literature Publication meeting by speaker phone. Discussion included further work on a "Just for This Day" bookmark concept, a *BDA meeting format*, and a *How to Start an Intergroup service pamphlet*.

## Ways & Means Committee

The Fall 2005 issue of the *Ways & Means* made DA history as the first ever online version of the DA fellowship's newsletter. The free newsletter is available via a link on the DA Web site. Current subscribers will receive paper copies in the mail until their subscriptions expire.

## InfoTech Committee

See article on page one.

## Public Information Committee

The GSB PI Committee is seeking candidates for a Media Contact Appointed Committee Member (see article in left column). The International Public Information Manual is available for purchase or free download from the DA Web site. The PI Manual, written by the WSC Public Information Committee, contains templates of letters that groups and intergroups can use to carry the DA message locally.

## Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the DA General Service Board has the responsibility of managing DA's finances. See page 4 for the Treasurer's Report.

## Office Committee

The GSB is looking for new quarters for the Office and is seeking site suggestions. Email your ideas to the

GSB Office Committee at the GSO email address. The Office Committee is working with the WSC Internal Operations Committee to launch an all-out effort to get all DA groups re-registered. A group update form was recently mailed to all registered DA groups.

## Nominations Committee

The GSB continues to actively seek nominations for Trustees of both classes: Class A (debtor) and Class B (non-debtor). If you are interested in nominating someone for Trustee, or becoming a Trustee yourself, please ask your group's GSR for the guidelines published in the GSR Manual, or email the General Service Office for information.

## The (Ad Hoc) Archive Committee

Discussion involved two main topics—gathering physical historical material, and creating an electronic storage space for electronic files.

## World Service Conference 2006

**New GSB Committee Formed.** An as yet unnamed ad hoc GSB committee was formed at the GSB face-to-face meeting in Houston. This new committee will focus on carrying out action items recommended by the WSC Conference Committee, plus other activities to help GSRs and ISRs.

**2005 WSC Minutes.** The 2005 World Service Conference minutes have several errors in the WSC committee reports section. The minutes, mailed in January to every registered group, must be amended and approved at the 2006 WSC. If the WSC committees find other errors, please report them to the GSO as soon as possible.

**Open Forum and Agenda-Setting.** The GSB adopted a method designed by the 2005 Conference Committee to simplify the process of gathering and distributing agenda items for the upcoming 2006 WSC. The GSB also voted to require **all meeting concerns and agenda items be submitted in writing, preferably via email, to the WSC Host Committee no less than 3 weeks before the Conference.** Further information will be sent in the registration packet. ■

## DA GSB Meets Face-to-Face in Houston

The DA General Service Board of Trustees was welcomed in April by DA members in Houston for the annual Spring GSB face-to-face meeting. On Friday night, the GSB attended a DA meeting and dined afterward with local DA members at an authentic Texas steakhouse. On Saturday the Trustees were joined by two of the three Literature Services members for committee and Board meetings. A large amount of work took place over the long weekend.

Some discussion items included revisions to DA's 12 Concepts for World Service, consideration of an online searchable meeting list for the Web site, and recruitment of new Trustees.

Most of the work of the GSB is conducted via conference calls, however, the GSB meets in person twice a year—at the Conference, and in the Spring if finances permit. In recent years, the GSB has met in Chicago and in Needham, MA. ■

**Fellowship Communications Committee**

The FCC continues to support the Ways & Means editor by gathering content and volunteering to proof-read. The committee has been instrumental in getting the next issue of the W&M on the DA Web site.

**The Technology Caucus**

The Technology Caucus (formerly the Internet Caucus) has presented several proposals to the GSB InfoTech for consideration and possible implementation. One is for a voice mail phone "tree" for the GSO telephone system. Another is a proposal for the development of a searchable online meeting database.

**Resource Development Committee**

The 2005 Resource Development Committee's World Service Month 2006 flyer is viewable on the DA Web site <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/WSM2006Flyer.pdf>. This year's donation goal is \$30,000 to celebrate DA's 30th Birthday.

**Literature Committee**

The Literature Committee continues to work with the Literature Services Board (LSB) and the GSB Literature Publications Committee to keep the writing of DA's *Twelve and Twelve* moving forward.

**Conference Committee**

The Conference Committee's agenda-item tracking system, adopted by the GSB with minor revisions, is designed to help track the progress of work assigned to various DA committees, caucuses, and the GSB at the WSC. This system will make it easier for GSRs and ISRs at the next Conference to assess the status of issues and projects, as well as track progress throughout the year.

**Internal Operations Committee**

Internal Operations acts as an advisory body to the GSB Office Committee. The Internal Operations Committee asks that all DA groups and Intergroups re-register their meetings as soon as possible, and do so every year, so that DA's database will be current.

**HIP Committee**

The Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons (HIP) Committee has commenced its outreach efforts to enable the DA message to be carried to institutionalized or incarcerated individuals who presently have no access to meetings. To help this specific population of debtors, the Committee has prepared a flyer and a letter that is included in this mailing.

The HIP Committee requests that the word be

spread to local meetings that volunteers are needed to share their experience, strength, and hope about being institutionalized or incarcerated due to problems with money and debt, as well as DA members who are willing to participate in meetings to be held in hospitals, institutions, and prisons.

**Public Information Committee**

The PI Committee's *Carry the Message* Network continues to meet the last Sunday of the month via conference calls. If you are interested in carrying the message through public information, send an e-mail to [acucinotta@earthlink.net](mailto:acucinotta@earthlink.net).

**2006 World Service Conference**

The 2006 DA World Service Conference is slated for August 16-20 in San Diego. Details on location and costs are being finalized now. Registered groups will be mailed a registration packet containing information about the Conference, including a registration form, spending plan form, and information about San Diego. Make sure your group is registered with the General Service Office in order to receive your packet.

Other WSC committees and caucuses include the Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) Committee and the Intergroup Caucus. ■

**Technology helps carry the DA message**

*(Continued from page 1)*

"tree." These two proposals are the beginning of an effort by the GSB to make better use of technology. Another feature coming soon is an official GSO email announcements list. If you are interested in receiving DA news via email newsletter, click on the Subscribe link on the DA Web site.

The DA Web site also offers DA members downloadable versions of the *DA Focus*, the service-oriented newsletter published by the GSB, and the *Ways & Means*, the fellowship newsletter that contains members' shares, questions, comments, and some local DA-related announcements.

**ACM needed**

The InfoTech committee is seeking assistance from the fellowship. If you have experience with Web site management, Web architecture, and/or database management, please consider applying to become an Appointed Committee Member (ACM). An ACM works with the Board-level committee to implement the committee's action plan. For guidelines on qualifications, please email the GSO. ■

**Notices**

**NEW! How to Hold a DA Meeting** DVD available now from the GSO for \$7.00 plus shipping.

The *Ways & Means* fellowship newsletter is available for free on the DA Web site.

For information on how to order DA literature and service materials, visit the **DA Web site** at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org).

**ATTENTION.** Do you have at least three years of not debting? Have you served as a GSR or ISR? Are you committed to working the 12 Steps in your own life? Are you willing to help carry the DA message at the World Service level? Are you organized? Can you use a computer to send and receive email? If you answered yes to all of these questions, please consider becoming a Trustee. Email the GSO at [da-gso@mindspring.com](mailto:da-gso@mindspring.com) for more information.

**WSC Spending.** The 2005 WSC committees have spent \$419 of the \$3,750 that was allocated for committee work in the 2005-2006 spending plan.

**Most Popular DA Literature**

Conference-Approved literature is one of the best ways to learn about the DA program, and it is one of our most effective tools for carrying our message to debtors who suffer. Literature is created and revised each year as we continue to improve our publications. Here is a list of our most popular pamphlets for January-March, 2006.

| Number | Title  | Number Sold |
|--------|--|-------------|
| P-120  | Monthly Recordkeeper (single)                    | 1,450       |
| P-127  | Recovery from Compulsive Spending                | 1,050       |
| P-106  | Spending Plan                                    | 900         |
| P-105  | Record Keeping                                   | 596         |
| P-113  | Visions  | 594         |
| P-108  | Pressure Relief Groups/ Pressure Relief Meetings | 558         |
| P-125  | Twelve Steps of DA                               | 534         |
| P-101  | Debtors Anonymous                                | 526         |
| P-109  | Debt Payment                                     | 448         |
| P-122  | Business Debtors Anonymous                       | 422         |
| P-126  | Spirituality                                     | 386         |
| P-124  | Underearning                                     | 382         |
| P-112  | Communicating with Creditors                     | 379         |
| P-116  | Awareness  | 311         |
| P-104  | Meetings   | 248         |

## Individual Contributions Exceed Plan; so do Printing Costs

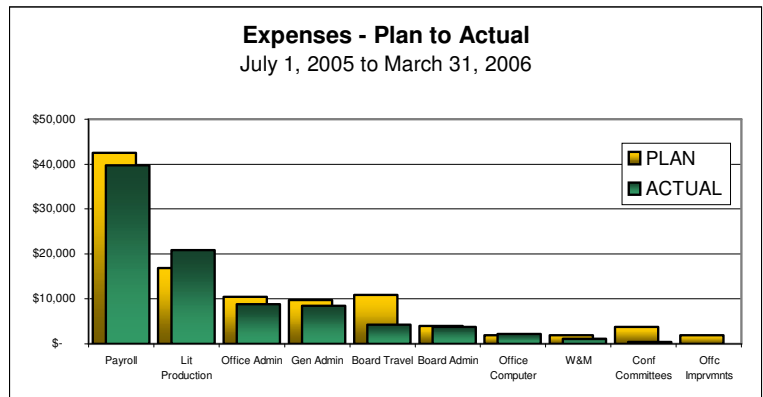
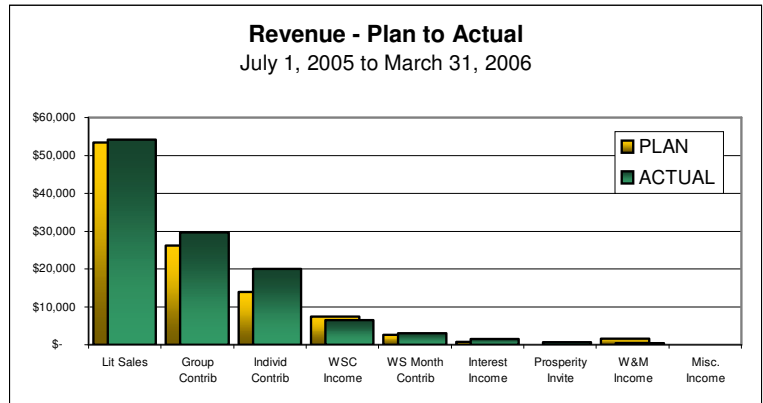
### Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

#### INCOME STATEMENT

As of March 31, 2006

|                       | 7/01/2005<br>to<br>3/31/2006 | 7/01/2005<br>to<br>3/31/2006 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                       | PLAN                         | ACTUAL                       |
| <b>REVENUE</b>        |                              |                              |
| Lit Sales             | \$ 53,363                    | \$ 54,146                    |
| Group Contrib         | 26,250                       | 29,661                       |
| Individ Contrib       | 13,875                       | 20,043                       |
| WSC Income            | 7,500                        | 6,399                        |
| WS Month Contrib      | 2,625                        | 2,980                        |
| Interest Income       | 750                          | 1,455                        |
| Prosperity Invite     | 0                            | 582                          |
| W&M Income            | 1,575                        | 399                          |
| Misc. Income          | 38                           | 0                            |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>  | <b>\$ 105,975</b>            | <b>\$ 115,663</b>            |
| <b>EXPENSE</b>        |                              |                              |
| Payroll               | \$ 42,465                    | \$ 39,714                    |
| Lit Production        | 16,875                       | 20,818                       |
| Office Admin          | 10,500                       | 8,835                        |
| Gen Admin             | 9,731                        | 8,459                        |
| Board Travel          | 10,875                       | 4,275                        |
| Board Admin           | 3,938                        | 3,768                        |
| Office Computer       | 1,875                        | 2,207                        |
| W&M                   | 1,875                        | 1,148                        |
| Conf Committees       | 3,750                        | 419                          |
| Offc Imprvments       | 1,875                        | 0                            |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>  | <b>\$ 103,759</b>            | <b>\$ 89,644</b>             |
| <b>NET DIFFERENCE</b> | <b>\$ 2,216</b>              | <b>\$ 26,020</b>             |

- Income is ahead of plan, mainly due to several large individual contributions.
- Spending is well within plan, with the exception of literature production expenses; the cost of printing literature has been rising in recent months.
- **Attention Group Treasurers:** please send your April World Service Month contributions to the General Service Office as soon as possible.



These figures are unaudited, and intended for information purposes only.

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

Please send your personal and group contributions to the General Service Office. You can find a donation form on the DA website. Click on the 7th Tradition link.

## THE DAFOCUS

Produced by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

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## Attention WSC Committees

**The 2005 WSC committees have spent only \$419 of the \$3,750 that was allocated for committee work in the DA spending plan.**

If your committee has spent funds on committee work, please have your committee treasurer mail the receipts with the WSC committee reimbursement form to the GSB treasurer by the end of May. DA's 2005-2006 fiscal year ends June 30. Any reimbursement requests received after May 30 will come out of the 2006-2007 spending plan.

If a committee's project is not completed by the end of May, the GSB Treasurer will accept an advance notice of the estimated expense amount. The estimated expense will be recorded for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. For more information, please email the GSO.