

Institutional Meetings Are HIP in DA

The following Frequently Asked Questions were compiled by the HIP Committee of the World Service Conference, which provides support to meetings for debtors in hospitals, institutions, and prisons.

1. Why is a HIP meeting needed?

The purpose of a HIP meeting is to carry the DA message of recovery to debtors who are institutionalized and do not have access to regular face-to-face meetings.

2. What format does a HIP meeting take?

A HIP meeting is generally a speaker discussion meeting, but the format may vary depending on the facility in which the HIP meeting is held.

3. Who is best suited to carry the DA message in a HIP meeting?

It is best for DA members to have at least 6 months of solvency and two pressure relief meetings before speaking at a HIP meeting. It is not a requirement that the speaker have been in a similar facility. Anyone with a clear and consistent DA message who is willing to share is well suited for HIP work.

4. How are requests from hospitals, institutions, and prisons for HIP meetings handled?

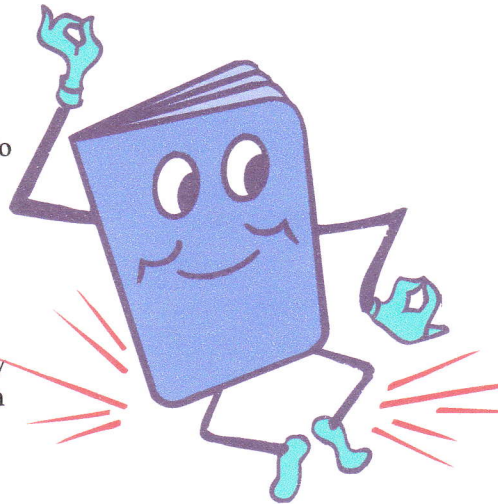
A recovering debtor ought never take on a HIP commitment alone. Such work should include two or more DA members.

5. What is the relationship between the HIP meeting and the facility where it takes place?

Each meeting should have a responsible contact person who stays in touch with the appropriate authorities at each facility. HIP meetings should be very careful to understand, respect, and adhere to all of the facility's regulations.

6. Does the HIP meeting provide literature?

Bringing in Conference-approved DA literature and information on how to get in touch with DA on the outside is part of good 12th Step work for a HIP



meeting, as long as permission has been granted by the facility.

7. How do HIP meetings deal with single-gender facilities?

In a facility where there are only men or women, only members of the same sex should participate.

8. At what types of hospitals are HIP meetings held?

They are held in both private and public hospitals, and in both long-term care and short-term wards.

9. At what types of prisons are HIP meetings held?

They are held in both short-term facilities, such as city and county jails, and longer-term facilities, such as state and federal prisons.

10. What feelings may arise when speaking at a HIP meeting?

Speaking at a HIP meeting can be similar to speaking at a regular DA meeting, but can differ in that some of those in attendance may be medicated, mentally unstable, or have a criminal background. However, a DA meeting is something most attendees look forward to, either as a break from their

usual routine, or as a chance to hear the DA message.

11. What followup will there be after a HIP meeting?

The facility administrator may ask HIP speakers to return for another meeting, or even possibly bring in a monthly or weekly meeting to the facility.

12. Are there any other restrictions on who can serve as a HIP speaker?

The individual facility may have some restrictions, such as a prison not allowing a former convict to enter.



Submissions

Issue	Deadline
Summer, 2007	July 1
Fall, 2007	Aug 15
Winter, 2007	Oct 1

Submit articles, preferably in a Word document, to waysandmeansda@hotmail.com. If you are interested in submitting an article to Ways & Means, take a look at previous issues to get a sense of the kinds of articles we publish. The recommended length for articles is 400-800 words, although shorter pieces are welcome too. Articles are usually written in the first person and often detail a member's experience, strength, and hope regarding some aspect of their recovery from compulsive debting. Articles focussing on the Steps and Traditions are particularly welcome, and we also appreciate jokes and illustrations. We also have special sections such as the Forum, which is for letters to the editor, and the 12th Step Corner, which provides a platform for updates about the fellowship's Public Information efforts. We welcome articles from Intergroups providing updates about DA doings in their region and from DA groups and individuals around the world. If you would like to inquire about the suitability of a particular topic for publication, feel free to contact the editor at:

waysandmeansda@hotmail.com.