New Meetings

The General Service Board thanks the following groups for their contributions from October to December 1989:

- Abundance North--Highland, NY
- Armonk Group--Armonk, NY
- Beverly Hills (Sun)--CA
- Boston Intergroup
- Business Owners--Portland OR
- Cambridge, MA
- DA Arts/Entertainment--NYC
- Freedom (aka Tools)--NYC
- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual--NYC
- Glendale/Wed--Glendale, CA
- Integrity (Beginners)--NYC
- Los Altos DA--Los Altos CA
- Menlo Park DA--Menlo Park, CA
- Metuchen New Beginning--NJ
- Midtown--NYC
- Portland DA--Portland, OR
- Prosperity Seekers--Denver, CO
- San Jose, CA
- Santa Rosa, DA--Santa Rosa, CA
- Sat. A.M. Step Study--San Francisco, CA
- Seattle DA--Seattle, WA
- Self-Employed--Cambridge, MA
- S.O.S.--NYC
- Southern California Intergroup
- Step Study--Santa Monica, CA
- Steps to Solvency--NYC
- Theater Matinee Group--NYC
- Visions Too--NYC
- Wed Beginners Meeting--Washington, DC
- Wednesday Matinee Group--NYC
- Westsiders--NYC

Treasurer's Report

Debtor's Anonymous
General Service Board, Inc.

January/February 1990

In this Issue:

1. How the Conference Worked: A Personal Share
2. Thank You! Welcome!
3. Design Contest New Lists DA's Anniversary
4. New Meetings Contributions to GSO Treasurer's Report

Ways & Means

How the Conference Worked:

A Personal Share

by Jennifer D., Santa Monica

The 1989 Conference was great!!! I found it enjoyable, as well as valuable, not only for myself personally but because of the information I was able to absorb and bring back to the groups I represented. I want to thank everyone who participated in making my attendance possible.

I hope that by sharing my experience with you, you will gain a clearer concept of the roles of the General Service Representatives (GSRs), the General Service Office (GSO), and the General Service Board (GSB) of Trustees, and how they interact with one another and with regional area GSR groups, meetings, and individuals.

Friday Evening

The first item on the agenda was the introduction of the GSR, an executive board that meets in person four times a year. Beyond that, their communication is by phone and correspondence. The World Service Committee gives recommendations via committees to Board Committees. The Board Committees work with the members at large. The Board of Trustees is made up of 13 men and women from different parts of the country.

In the Question and Answer Session with the GS Board and Committee chairpersons, questions were answered directly or referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration. I asked about the possibility of allowing a GSR to have more than one vote, when she or she represents more than one meeting. The question was answered that at this time each delegate is entitled to one vote, however, the matter was brought up in the conference committee meeting the next day. The idea was tabled for this Conference, but the seed was planted regarding the subject of electoral votes in the future.

Another question was, "Are there any guidelines regarding prioritization of financial responsibility to the GSO versus one's local Intergroup?" The answer from the Board member in charge of Finance was that both are equally important and that priorities vary from time to time.

Due to the popularity of the question and answer session, future Conferences will extend the time for this exchange of information.

(continued on page 2)
Conference Committee. An interim Conference Charter was presented and passed. San Francisco and Boston were presented as potential sites for the 1991 Conference. San Francisco was chosen. A flyer on the role of the GSR was presented and accepted by the Conference and will be included in registration packets this year.

The committee also voted to extend the 1990 Conference in Chicago by one extra day and to have an open speakers meeting as well as some closed sharing meetings.

Service Committee. This committee is developing written guidelines for service, including a definition of what service is, a listing of offices, terms of each office, and requirements to fill each office. They are also developing guidelines for handling long-distance sponsorship for loners and fledgling groups.

Sunday: The Convocation

The conclusion of the business of the Conference took place at 8:30 am "Convocation." Sunday morning did come a little early for those of us who had danced the night away at the Debiter's Ball!

Issues brought before the Convocation were handled with a strict yes or no vote. Some GSRs were frustrated because they had expected that the Convocation would follow Parliamentary Procedure. This frustration culminated at one point with the Chairperson asking a Committee to caucus and then clarify their intent concerning the point in question. She asked the rest of us to take a ten-minute break.

When the session resumed, there was still discord, so the Chairperson paused for a moment of silence. She said it felt it was important to have the group conscience, rather than just a slender majority vote, be reflected in the decisions of the Convocation.

The Chair asked a series of questions of the differing factions in order to discern the nature of the conflict. As a result of her information gathering, a solution was achieved. This integration of the spiritual with the pragmatic, this reverence for group conscience, combined with the commitment to stay on schedule and to take care of business was one of the most inspiring moments of Conference.

What impressed me here and during the Conference as a whole was everyone's willingness to be who they were, to have feelings and not ignore or discount them, and to hang in there while working hard at a working Conference. That we could do so in loving, effective, and creative ways was as important to me as anything else that came out of the Conference.

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!!
THANK YOU!!!

Mary K. has retired from serving as General Service Office Manager during the past year. Mary has helped the GSO to grow and develop, and we thank her gratefully for her service.

WELCOME!!!
WELCOME!!!

The GSO is pleased to welcome Carole B. of New Jersey, who will be serving as the new Manager of the General Service Office. We welcome Carole wholeheartedly and look forward to working with her into the 1990s.

DA's ANNIVERSARY

Debators Anonymous will have its fourteenth anniversary on Saturday, April 28, 1990. There is always a party goes fast when you're having fun!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DA

We hope that this memorable occasion will spark a number of Fellowship Days and other gatherings around the country.

If your group or Intergroup has an event, write to Ways & Means with the details. Send in any articles that you want to alter the event -- even a sketchy draft -- so we can publish your experience. It may help other groups when they are planning anniversary events or birthdays for their own groups.

14 and counting!

YOU KNEW THIS WAS NEXT

Ways & Means is looking for writers and Area Reporters, both on an ongoing basis and on a one-or-more-shot basis. The best way to ensure that your part of the DA world is represented in these pages is to take an action:

Write to us at P.O. Box 20322, New York, NY 10025.