

Ways & Means

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

1st Quarter 1993

In This Issue . . .

Finding the WE	1
Getting a New Vision of What's Possible	2
DA News 'N Notes	3
Finance Committee Report	4
Fellowship Communications Committee	4
New General Service Board Members	4
Round-Up Prayer	4
Going to Any Lengths to Find DA Recovery	5
First Quarter Financial Statements	6-8

Ways & Means is published quarterly by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. It is mailed free to all GSRs. Individuals may subscribe by sending \$8.00 (Foreign: US\$13.00; Canada: US\$8.50) to the General Service Office (GSO) in New York for a 4-issue subscription.

Ways & Means is a forum for sharing experiences of DA groups, service committees and members. It does not interpret DA traditions or principles.

We welcome articles, poems, cartoons and other appropriate submissions. Send all correspondence to:

Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
P.O. Box 400
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Finding the WE

by Jane P.,
New York City

The 1992 DA World Service Conference has been classified in my brain's file as a Wonderful Experience (WE). In order to make it as a WE, the following criteria must be met: I have to laugh a lot, experience warm fuzzy feelings, talk to new people, be visible, learn something new, and laugh a lot more.

I was sent to Cambridge by the New York Monday night Lesbian and Gay Step Meeting which I represent. My spending plan for the trip was supplemented by the Sunday night St. Vincent's Integrity Meeting. This meant I would have to give two reports.

I almost didn't go. A week prior to the conference I got cold feet. "Maybe I should stay home," I thought. My Negative Orchestra (NO) was playing a symphony because instinctively it knew we were coming up against a WE, and it was threatened. It plays loudest when its scared. "First of all," it chimed, "you'll have to ride up with other people and you'll have to talk with them. What if you have nothing to say? What if they

don't like you? Or you don't like them. Huh? Secondly, girlfriend, how solvent are you really? Didn't you borrow a pen last week? And how hard have you really worked for your committee? Besides, why aren't you a trustee? Not good enough? Just stay home, honey. Then we can go to the Flea Market and get some bargains."

I was tempted by the NO, but the WE had a stronger calling and I went. And yes, to the NO's chagrin, I did experience the WE. At committee meetings, between meetings, at the talent show, with my roommates.

I returned home inspired by what I had seen and felt. This must have been what it was like during the pioneer days of A.A. I felt privileged to be able to contribute my insight and opinions to an organization created only to help the debtor who still suffers. But - how could I write a report perfectly and why couldn't I look at my conference notes?

After a few weeks (one of which was a backlash week) and before November's business meetings, I

Please turn to Page 3

Getting a New Vision of What's Possible

by Rae M.,
Redondo Beach, CA

My participation in the 1992 DA World Conference in Boston was significant for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the opportunity to have a role in defining and clarifying the purpose of DA, which in turn will determine our future direction.

For me personally, however, the most significant aspect of my trip was the journey itself. Not only was it the farthest I had traveled in my life, but I was able to be there only as the result of a series of events which, although unremarkable in themselves, occurred at times and in sequences that could only have been arranged by a Power greater than myself. I cannot call them anything other than miracles.

My adventure started when Darlene B., Service Board chair of the Southern California Intergroup, announced "We're going to Boston!" My initial reaction was "You're out of your mind!" Not being a GSR, it was not necessary that I be there, and I clearly could not afford to pay for such a trip out of my own funds. I had lost my job in January, and three months without a job had exhausted my savings (which I only had to begin with through the grace of God and the tools of DA). Although I was working, it was at a temporary job at considerably less than my usual pay, and the job was scheduled to end soon with slim prospects for getting another very quickly. Unemployment compensation alone would pay little more than my rent. But Darlene kept telling about a trip that for her, too, was "impossible", and I increasingly

began to feel that, although I had no idea what it might be, my Higher Power had a reason for me to be in Boston, and if that were true, He would find a way to get me there.

Well, my job was extended: first to August, then September, then "until we hire someone permanent." (It ended about a month after my return.) Then the income taxes I had procrastinated on filing until a few days before the extension was up turned out to result, not in the token refund my accountant had initially estimated, but in a refund almost sufficient to pay my entire out-of-pocket costs for the trip. Most of the refund was state taxes, so the refund was delayed by California's budget crisis, and then, when "warrants" were issued which, if not honored by the state would be charged back to me, I did not dare spend the money until the issue was resolved. This turned out to be just in time for the trip and not soon enough for me to have already spent the money on other things.

In all the confusion and uncertainty over rapid airfare changes because of a price war, the group trip Darlene had tried to arrange fell apart, and we found ourselves scrambling for reservations and tickets on the last day before the fares were to go up. Not only were all the fares lower than we had originally allowed for, but the airline I needed to book us on so that my travel companion could use a frequent flyer pass dropped its fare another \$50!

Our small meeting, reeling under the effect of a recession that

had particularly hurt our aerospace-driven economy, was unable to raise more than half the money needed to fund our GSR's trip. Since our GSR had agreed to go out of her willingness to serve but without particular enthusiasm, and I was going anyway and had already committed my own funds, she expressed her feelings to the meeting, they elected me alternate GSR, and then she deferred to me. Thus, half of my trip would be paid. We're going to Boston! Well, almost. . .


About a week before the conference, my level of commitment was tested by the decision of my intended roommate to withdraw from the trip. It was too late for me to arrange for another roommate, and it appeared that I would have to either pay the entire hotel bill myself, or withdraw. I made the decision to go anyway, and turn the outcome over to my Higher Power. Two days before we were to leave, I was able to make arrangements to stay at the private home of a Boston member who was one of those involved in putting the conference together, at considerably less cost than I would have paid at the hotel had my roommate not withdrawn.

When I stood up at a Visions workshop at the conference and said "I am a figment of your imagination. There is no logical way I could be here," I was at that moment living testimony to what can be accomplished when I am willing to do the footwork and allow my Higher Power to work through me. Gone was my limiting belief that travel was for other

Getting a New Vision

continued from page 2

people - people with lots of money and no debts or responsibilities. If Boston is here, can New Zealand - my dream trip - be far behind? I came away with a bigger vision for myself and for DA, and with the wonderful feeling of being connected by a golden thread to new friends I made who were now all over the country; people who shared with me the vision of a better life and the willingness to do whatever it takes to make it happen.

My out-of-pocket cost? Apart from the extra day I chose to take to see the east coast for the first time - about \$39! 

Finding the WE

Continued from page 1

put the report together during my daily writing sessions. The first was given to St. Vincent's, the group which supplemented my spending plan. It was fairly short so that by the time people had started to drowse I was finished. No problem. But when it came time to give a longer report to my home group, I panicked. How could I give a report unless it was one they remembered for the rest of their lives?

I began it by thanking the group for sending me. Then I launched into information about the "organization as a whole" and "committee meetings." Members of the group began to fidget, pick at their articles, rub their temples. Some started to gather up their things. I thought maybe they weren't getting enough information. I related the names and functions of the six committees and their goals for the next year, how DA service

DA News 'N Notes...

The 1993 Debtors Anonymous World Conference in Dallas, Texas: September 30-October 3 are the dates for the 1993 World Conference. Further details and registration materials will be mailed out in early June ... hope to see ya' all there this fall, pardner...

Audiotape of DA Literature To Be Available This Summer: The first in a series of audiotapes carrying DA literature will be available this summer. This first tape will carry the basic Debtors Anonymous pamphlet and the Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings pamphlet. Order forms will be sent out from the General Service Office when the first tape is available...

New Literature Available - A.A. Literature and Sponsorship: Two new pieces of literature that were approved at the 1992 World Conference are now available, *A.A. Literature* and *Sponsorship*. The enclosed order forms are updated to include these items...

1992 Financial Statements Enclosed: Enclosed with this mailing are the following 1992 financial statements: Annual Statement of Revenues and Expenses; Year End Balance Sheet; Year End Statement of Cash Flows; 1992 Spending Plan - Actual vs. Budget; 1993 Spending Plan and Prior Three Years Comparison...

Request for Input On Interim Conference Charter: At the 1992 World Conference Annual Meeting in Boston, it was decided to review the Interim Conference Charter for an additional two years prior to voting on it for permanent approval. The Conference Charter describes the basic duties of the General Service Conference, the General Service Board and DA as a whole, and how these entities relate to one another. It is based, in large part, on the A.A. Conference Charter as found in the A.A. Service Manual and then edited to suit the needs of DA. The Conference Committee is soliciting comments regarding the Charter. Please review the Charter (enclosed with this mailing), and forward any comments and suggested changes to:

DA General Service Board
Attention: Conference Committee
P.O. Box 400
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0400


Please respond by June 30. Thank you!

structure needs to change in order to meet the needs of our expansion. Eyes were starting to roll, jaws were dropping. Something was wrong.

It turns out that my ego had overshadowed the WE connection. I was so worried about giving a flawless report, I forgot about my passion for the experiences of being involved in DA on a national level.

I took a couple of deep breaths as an ego antidote and then I began to speak about the vitality of the controversies within the confer-

ence: the price of literature, degenderization, compulsive debt vs. debt, BODA as a tool of incest recovery. Gray areas in DA. Eyes opened and people began to listen. Some even chuckled.

I learned something here. If I want to communicate ideas, I stand a better chance of being heard if I am emotionally and passionately linked to it. After the report, many members thanked me. I felt pretty warm and fuzzy. This, too, turned out to be a WE. 

Finance Committee Report

From M.D., New York and
Mark K., Los Angeles,
Co-Chairs


The Finance Committee wishes everyone a happy, joyous and free new year. We serve Debtors Anonymous to increase contributions in three areas:

1) Through providing information on financial issues. We are currently working on a treasurer's information sheet and a sheet about obtaining a tax identification number;

2) Bridging communication to all regions through building a regional network;

3) Increasing contributions to the General Service Office through regional events.

This spring special Abundance events are being held in New York, Los Angeles and the Bay area.

If you are in these areas, you can get details about the dates and location for these events at any meeting. Come join the party! 

Fellowship Communications Committee Report

From Rob S., Chair, Merrick, NY

Hello, my name is Rob. I've been in DA for a little over two years now. In the middle of my second year, I became the GSR for my home group in Merrick, NY. Since then I have been learning the meaning of service and of the rewards it has to offer me as an individual.

This past October, I was given an even greater honor in being selected to chair the Fellowship Communications Committee. We are responsible for production of this publication, the *Ways and Means Newsletter*, along with other projects. We are hoping to bring the fellowship closer together by making this publication interactive with those who feel the need to voice themselves or just want to share some of the HOPE and STRENGTH that this program has brought to their lives.


Members of the Fellowship Communications Committee have made a commitment to serve for one year to bring the fellowship of

Debtors Anonymous closer together. Our specific goals are as follows:

1) To improve both the publication and circulation of the *Ways and Means*, including making the entire fellowship aware of its potential.

2) To make contact with the orphan groups and loners in need of the fellowship's support.


3) To study the possibilities for use of computer bulletin board systems currently used by other fellowships as another means for communication between members.

Finally, I would like to say to all of you who have accepted responsibilities for your own groups (especially GSRs), be assured that your service will be rewarded ten fold to your effort. Peace be with you. 

New Members of the General Service Board Increase Regional Representation

Four new trustees have been added to the General Service Board. These new members along with one from Chicago, Mary M. who was added last summer, will greatly enhance regional representation on the Board.

The new trustees who attended their first Board meeting in January, 1993 are as follows: Lee L. from Boston, Paul B. from Washington D.C., Ron G. from New York, and Don P. from Denver. Don is a non-debting trustee.


Much appreciation goes out to five trustees who completed their service with the Board in the past year. They are: Mary O'K., Peter S., Tom C., George D. and Bob P. George and Bob were both non-debting trustees. The contributions that these trusted servants have made to the fellowship is truly extraordinary. 

Prayer for Round-Up at the 1992 World Conference

By Jennifer L.

We are gathered here now humbly with our spiritual sources asking for help and for guidance that we may be the powerful beings we are meant to be. We pray that throughout this year our inner power may guide us, that we may listen, that we may be in harmony with the universe. We pray that when we leave this time together, we go out into the world giving to and receiving the abundance around us, that our gifts be liberated, that we share them with the world, that we honor our limitations and find the freedom that lies within them. We pray that we use our power with love, that we heal and be healed, love and be loved, that we know the joy and peace of right livelihood, that we are whole and we are free.

We speak this prayer with all the love in our hearts. We call on the power of the earth, the power of true self-love that we have in this program, the love we have for each other. We call on the infinite healing power of the universe, the guiding spirit of each one of us. We pray for the good of each one of us and of all creation.

May this prayer be renewed with each breath we take, may it be re-spoken with our every word, may our very existence empower this prayer throughout the coming year. So be it. 

Going to Any Lengths to Find DA Recovery

By Jayne B., Ann Arbor, MI

Hi! My name is Jayne and I am a gratefully recovering compulsive debtor. I came into DA a little over two years ago in Michigan where DA was barely a year old. I came to DA after many years in other twelve step programs when my anxiety over money and my mounting debt to the IRS began to overwhelm me. I had tried many other "easier, softer ways" to deal with my money - mostly schemes to make more money thinking that was the root of my problem. I said affirmations for more prosperity, began tithing to my church, went into business for myself and so on. My income did go up! But so did my debt!

When I finally surrendered to my powerlessness over my money issues I was ready to begin DA recovery. I read literature and began writing my money down. There was only one DA meeting in my area at the time and it conflicted with another 12 step meeting that I depended on for my recovery. There were very few people in the area with enough recovery to sponsor or do pressure groups. I finally did what I have learned to do in other recovery programs - go to any lengths, or any distance to find the recovery and support I need. I went to the World Conference in Chicago and received my first pressure group. I sought out the people in the Detroit area with the most recovery, those who had what I wanted.

I eventually began looking for a sponsor in areas of the country where DA is well established and there are many members with years of DA recovery. I was no stranger to making long distance calls to find sponsorship in other programs. Overall, I have found that the cost of the long distance

calls has been well worth the investment.

I have made "pilgrimages" to Boston to go to DA meetings. On one visit last December I was very fortunate to get together a pressure group and to find a sponsor. I began trying to make these arrangements months before my trip there but found it very difficult to get phone numbers of people willing to share their program long distance. Today I have a wonderful sponsor whom I call once or twice a week. It makes all the difference in the world to have her guidance in working this program.


For those who come into DA in areas of the country where it is very new, it is hard to get the hope, strength and wisdom that is available where there are many who have long term recovery. I have been fortunate to learn some of the more subtle aspects of recovery from my contacts with members in areas like Boston, Chicago and New York, and I thank you for sharing.

One of my dreams is that the fellowship of DA be available to anyone who has the desire to stop

debting compulsively, no matter where they might live. The availability of members who have more recovery has greatly strengthened my program and has strengthened the program here in Michigan. We have two more meetings just in Ann Arbor and others in the Southeastern Michigan area now.

Help Strengthen DA Worldwide!

At the recent World Conference in Boston, I had an idea that might help DAs, who like myself, would like to make contact with members in other areas of the country. A proposal was made and accepted by the Fellowship Communications Committee to establish a list of Pen Pals and members who are willing to accept long distance calls.

The list will be confidential in that it will not be published, but will be available to members at their request by writing to Jayne B. in care of the General Service Office. If you are interested in participating in this program, please return the coupon below. 

- I am interested in being on the Pen Pal list.
- I am interested in receiving phone calls.
- My phone number is: _____
- I am available to sponsor.
- I would like to have a copy of the Pen Pal/Phone List.

My name and address are: _____

Please return this form to:

DA General Service Office
Attention: Jayne B., Pen Pal Project
P.O. Box 400,
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0400

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, INC.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)

January 1, 1993 through March 31, 1993

Revenues

Contributions		\$ 2,994.30
Literature Sales		\$ 4,042.15
Ways & Means		\$ 314.50
World Conference:		
Boston	\$ (49.80)	
Development	\$ -0-	\$ (49.80)
Bank Interest		\$ 11.26
World Service Directory		\$ 12.50
Area GSR Group		\$ -0-
Audio Tape Sales		\$ -0-
<u>Total Revenues</u>		<u>\$ 7,324.91</u>

Expenses

Rent		\$ 2,400.00
Office Administrative		\$ 1,161.72
Personnel:		
Wages	\$ 1,575.00	
Payroll Taxes	\$ 375.53	\$ 1,950.53
Insurance		\$ -0-
Trustee Travel		\$ 1,881.60
Answering Service		\$ 201.20
Ways & Means		\$ -0-
World Service Directory		\$ -0-
Literature:		
Printing	\$ -0-	
Shipping	\$ -0-	
Development	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Audio Tapes		\$ -0-
Service Pamphlets		\$ -0-
World Conference:		
Boston	\$ -0-	
Dallas	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Committees:		
Conference	\$ -0-	
Fellowship	\$ 315.87	
Finance	\$ -0-	
Public Information	\$ -0-	
Service	\$ -0-	\$ 315.87
Filing Fees		\$ -0-
Bank Fees		\$ 78.50
Donations:		
Cash	\$ -0-	
Literature (@ face)	\$ 795.00	\$ 795.00
Gifts		\$ -0-
Professional Fees		\$ -0-
<u>Total Expenses</u>		<u>\$ 8,784.42</u>

Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues

Over Expenses..... **\$ (1,459.51)**

DEBTORS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE BOARD, INC.

1993 SPENDING PLAN (AS OF MARCH 31, 1993)
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)

	1993 Budget (Monthly)	1993 Actual (3 Months)	1993 Budget (3 Months)	Variance Positive/ (Negative)	1992 Actual (3 Months)
Revenues					
Contributions	\$ 1,417	\$ 2,994	\$ 4,251	\$ (1,257)	\$ 3,077
Literature Sales	\$ 2,708	\$ 4,042	\$ 8,124	\$ (4,082)	\$ 5,641
Ways & Means	\$ 146	\$ 315	\$ 438	\$ (123)	\$ 435
World Conferences	\$ 417	\$ (50)	\$ 1,251	\$ (1,301)	\$ 781
Bank Interest	\$ 10	\$ 11	\$ 30	\$ (19)	\$ 49
World Service Directory	\$ 25	\$ 13	\$ 75	\$ (62)	\$ 63
Area GSR Groups	\$ 250	\$ -0-	\$ 750	\$ (750)	\$ -0-
Audio Tape Sales	\$ 417	\$ -0-	\$ 1,251	\$ (1,251)	\$ -0-
<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>\$ 5,390</u>	<u>\$ 7,325</u>	<u>\$ 16,170</u>	<u>\$ (8,845)</u>	<u>\$ 10,046</u>
Expenses					
Rent	\$ 800	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ -0-	\$ 2,300
Office Administrative	\$ 750	\$ 1,162	\$ 2,250	\$ 1,088	\$ 2,238
Personnel	\$ 667	\$ 1,951	\$ 2,001	\$ 50	\$ 1,809
Insurance	\$ 25	\$ -0-	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ -0-
Trustee Travel	\$ 1,083	\$ 1,882	\$ 3,249	\$ 1,367	\$ 869
Answering Service	\$ 83	\$ 201	\$ 249	\$ 48	\$ 212
Ways & Means	\$ 167	\$ -0-	\$ 501	\$ 501	\$ 552
World Service Directory	\$ 25	\$ -0-	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 156
Literature	\$ 833	\$ -0-	\$ 2,499	\$ 2,499	\$ 1,580
Audio Tapes	\$ 104	\$ -0-	\$ 312	\$ 312	\$ -0-
Service Pamphlets	\$ 20	\$ -0-	\$ 60	\$ 60	\$ -0-
World Conferences	\$ 333	\$ -0-	\$ 999	\$ 999	\$ -0-
Committees	\$ 270	\$ 316	\$ 810	\$ 494	\$ 469
Filing Fees	\$ 13	\$ -0-	\$ 39	\$ 39	\$ -0-
Bank Fees	\$ 25	\$ 79	\$ 75	\$ (4)	\$ -0-
Returned Checks	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
Donations	\$ 67	\$ 795	\$ 201	\$ (594)	\$ -0-
Gifts	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 119
Professional Fees	\$ 125	\$ -0-	\$ 375	\$ 375	\$ -0-
Security Deposits	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ -0-
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 5,390</u>	<u>\$ 8,786</u>	<u>\$ 16,170</u>	<u>\$ 7,384</u>	<u>\$ 10,304</u>
<u>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Expenses</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$(1,461)</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ (1,461)</u>	<u>\$ (258)</u>

Ways & Means

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

1st Quarter 1993

In This Issue . . .

Finding the WE	1
Getting a New Vision of What's Possible	2
DA News 'N Notes	3
Finance Committee Report	4
Fellowship Communications Committee	4
New General Service Board Members	4
Round-Up Prayer	4
Going to Any Lengths to Find DA Recovery	5
First Quarter Financial Statements	6-8

Ways & Means is published quarterly by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. It is mailed free to all GSRs. Individuals may subscribe by sending \$8.00 (Foreign: US\$13.00; Canada: US\$8.50) to the General Service Office (GSO) in New York for a 4-issue subscription.

Ways & Means is a forum for sharing experiences of DA groups, service committees and members. It does not interpret DA traditions or principles.

We welcome articles, poems, cartoons and other appropriate submissions. Send all correspondence to:

Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
P.O. Box 400
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Finding the WE

by Jane P.,
New York City

The 1992 DA World Service Conference has been classified in my brain's file as a Wonderful Experience (WE). In order to make it as a WE, the following criteria must be met: I have to laugh a lot, experience warm fuzzy feelings, talk to new people, be visible, learn something new, and laugh a lot more.

I was sent to Cambridge by the New York Monday night Lesbian and Gay Step Meeting which I represent. My spending plan for the trip was supplemented by the Sunday night St. Vincent's Integrity Meeting. This meant I would have to give two reports.

I almost didn't go. A week prior to the conference I got cold feet. "Maybe I should stay home," I thought. My Negative Orchestra (NO) was playing a symphony because instinctively it knew we were coming up against a WE, and it was threatened. It plays loudest when its scared. "First of all," it chimed, "you'll have to ride up with other people and you'll have to talk with them. What if you have nothing to say? What if they

don't like you? Or you don't like them. Huh? Secondly, girlfriend, how solvent are you really? Didn't you borrow a pen last week? And how hard have you really worked for your committee? Besides, why aren't you a trustee? Not good enough? Just stay home, honey. Then we can go to the Flea Market and get some bargains."

I was tempted by the NO, but the WE had a stronger calling and I went. And yes, to the NO's chagrin, I did experience the WE. At committee meetings, between meetings, at the talent show, with my roommates.

I returned home inspired by what I had seen and felt. This must have been what it was like during the pioneer days of A.A. I felt privileged to be able to contribute my insight and opinions to an organization created only to help the debtor who still suffers. But - how could I write a report perfectly and why couldn't I look at my conference notes?

After a few weeks (one of which was a backlash week) and before November's business meetings, I

Please turn to Page 3