

Ways & Means

The Joys of D.A. World Service

The Joys of World Service in Debtors Anonymous

My attendance at the Debtors Anonymous World Service Conference (WSC) truly changed my program and my life. I joined D.A. in September of 2013. In that first year, I attended a small New Orleans meeting which elected me as their General Service Representative (GSR).

I had no idea what I was getting into. During a business meeting, a member made a motion that our little meeting send our GSR (me) to the World Service Conference. I didn't think this would be

possible. We were making rent and paying for literature but bringing in very little above and beyond that. We started announcing our goal at meetings. Members increased their donations. We put together a dance fundraiser. Though we only broke even, we increased awareness about our Fellowship, had fun, and brought our recovery community together. I presented my spending plan to the meeting, and magically we raised enough funds for me to attend the Conference in Dallas, Texas.

I served almost two full three-year terms as a GSR. I attended four World Service Conferences—two in Dallas; one in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and the final one in Los Angeles, California. During that service



Sunset at Santa Monica pier after gathering for a D.A. meeting on the beach. Photo by Mary Jane.

term, my local D.A. community grew. My home group increased its membership. In 2020, after a series of discussions with my sponsor, I decided to step down from my GSR service position, thus giving other members an opportunity to experience the incredible recovery I had received from this service. Looking back, serving as a GSR and attending the World Service Conference had been one of the greatest gifts of my life. Yes, there was plenty of work required, but there was also plenty of rewards received.

In New Orleans, D.A. meeting size ranged from two to six participants. So it felt abundant to be surrounded by more than 100 members—many of whom had several years of recovery and openly

conversation with a member whose recovery I truly admired. She shared with me about how bad life was before D.A. and then revealed details of the spiritual and financial abundance she had experienced ever since. I explained that my sponsor had just debted with credit cards and had stepped down from being my sponsor. This amazing person then offered to be my sponsor! That relationship would change my life and my recovery. Two years later at another World Service Conference, I was again without a sponsor, as that prior relationship had changed. I remember looking at the delegates thinking, “Maybe there’s a sponsor in this room for me.” I knew what I was looking for. My program had changed. I had received the

“My program had changed. I had received the ‘cash and prizes D.A. talks about in the literature, but I wanted ‘spiritual solvency.’ I wanted the serenity that I had heard about from these delegates who attended the WSC.”

shared stories of how D.A. had changed their lives. When I wasn’t attending committee meetings, I had many memorable conversations during meals, in the hallways, and in the Hospitality Suite. I remember one member talked to me about his approach to the spending plan. He asked me how much I wanted to earn in a year. I threw out \$60,000 and he said, “Okay, you’re definitely a debtor. Let’s make the number \$150,000 and here’s how to create a spending plan and income earning action plan for that.” A member volunteering in the Hospitality Suite in Los Angeles shared with me about his discomfort with earning prosperously and how he received a lump sum of money the year before from a single project and then proceeded to stop working until the money ran out.

During my service on the Fellowship Communications Committee, I was in charge of interviewing potential speakers for our Fellowship-wide calls. I had a

“cash and prizes” D.A. talks about in the literature, but I wanted “spiritual solvency.” I wanted the serenity that I had heard about from these delegates who attended the WSC. I kept my eyes and ears open, and eventually asked a woman at breakfast if she could be my sponsor. She agreed. I was excited and grateful. On Sunday, just before we all headed to the airport, she and I had lunch together, and we began our Stepwork. I felt the love, care, and the miracles that this program provides.

If you get the chance to attend a D.A. World Service Conference, I highly recommend that you go. I loved being a GSR. I met many wonderful people whose recovery inspired me and supported me through some very tough times. I am grateful that I had this tremendous opportunity. I would absolutely serve as GSR again.

—Mary Jane, New Orleans



Susan L. in a Redwood tree, living a vision at WSC.

Why attend the D.A. World Service Conference?

I attended the 2016 World Service Conference (WSC) in Dallas, Texas, for the first time as the United Kingdom Intergroup Service Rep (ISR). The U.K. Intergroup makes it a priority to send an ISR to the WSC so that the U.K. has a voice within our worldwide Fellowship. I was the only delegate from Eu-

rope that year. The only other person from outside of the United States was a member from Canada. This is one reason to attend: to be a voice for your group in D.A. across the globe.

When I stood up at that conference with 100 of my fellow debtors, I was overcome with humility. The U.K. Intergroup had seen in me something that I couldn't see in myself. They trusted me to do this service for them. This is a gift of service; it allowed me to grow as a person inside in order to do that ser-

THE JOYS OF WORLD SERVICE

This issue was curated by the WSC Conference Committee. Members who serve on the Conference Committee focus on the general nature of the World Service Conference, including the Conference Charter and its relationship to the General Service Board and membership of D.A. as a whole, all issues related to the format of the annual Conference, providing assistance to the Host Committee in their planning and logistics, and recommendations of sites for future annual conferences.

vice for them. It put my programme, the Steps, and Traditions into action.

I was blown away by the spirituality of my fellows at WSC. How could 100 debtors come to a group conscience on vital business? We voted on every word of D.A.'s Closing Statement, and we approved every word of the D.A. Promises; thus we no longer needed to borrow them from A.A. and Al-Anon.

After the conference I got to realize one of my visions: meeting my first Redwood tree. It was love at first sight.

So why attend?

You and your group can have a direct involvement in:

- Attending and supporting the 2022 World Service Conference in the U.K., the first WSC to be held outside the U.S.
- The international growth of D.A.
- The many areas that need service such as translations, literature, public information, international, and much more ...

I hope to welcome you all soon to the U.K.

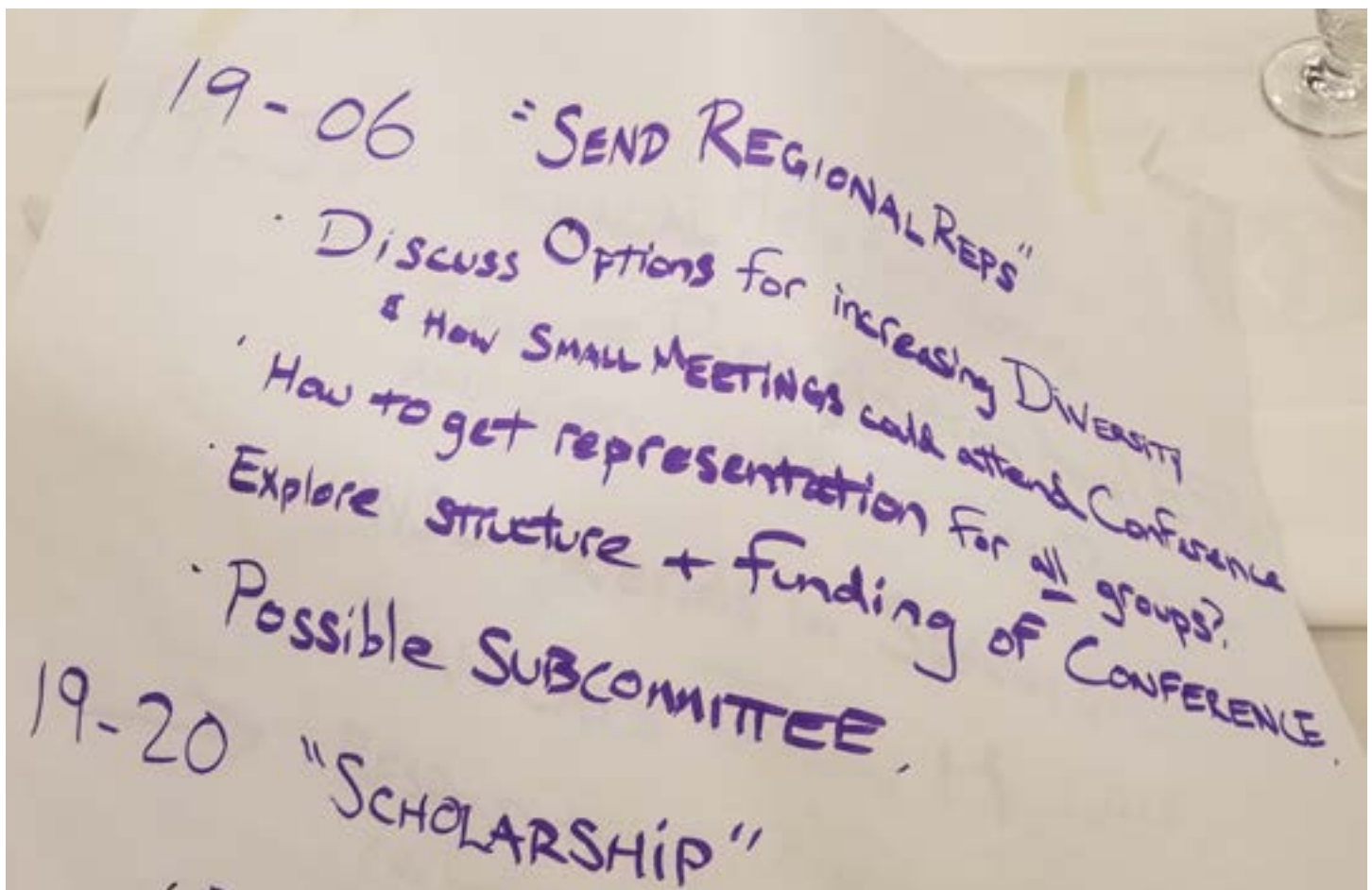
—Susan L, Chair, WSC London 2022 Host Committee

Your First D.A. World Service Conference

Welcome to the wonderful world of D.A. World Service! Whether you have one or many years of solvency and experience at the group level, your entrance onto the global D.A. stage at your first World Service Conference (WSC) can be daunting. As members of the Mentor/Mentee Subcommittee of the WSC Conference Committee, we're hoping to provide a little road map to success and abundance for your term as a General Service Representative (GSR) or Intergroup Service Representative (ISR).

Most importantly, we urge you to relax and enjoy the journey:

"During a Fellowship-wide orientation call, prior to my first World Service Conference,



Flip chart notes from a committee scribe on Issues & Concerns brainstorming.

Ways & Means®

Carrying the D.A. Message since 1988

Ways & Means, an electronic meeting in print for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous, is published quarterly by the D.A. General Service Board. It is a forum for sharing the experience, strength, and hope of D.A. members, groups, and other service bodies. Articles are not intended to be statements of D.A. policy, nor does publication constitute or imply endorsement by D.A. as a whole, the D.A. General Service Board, or *Ways & Means*. For further information, or permission to reprint, contact communications@debtorsanonymous.org.

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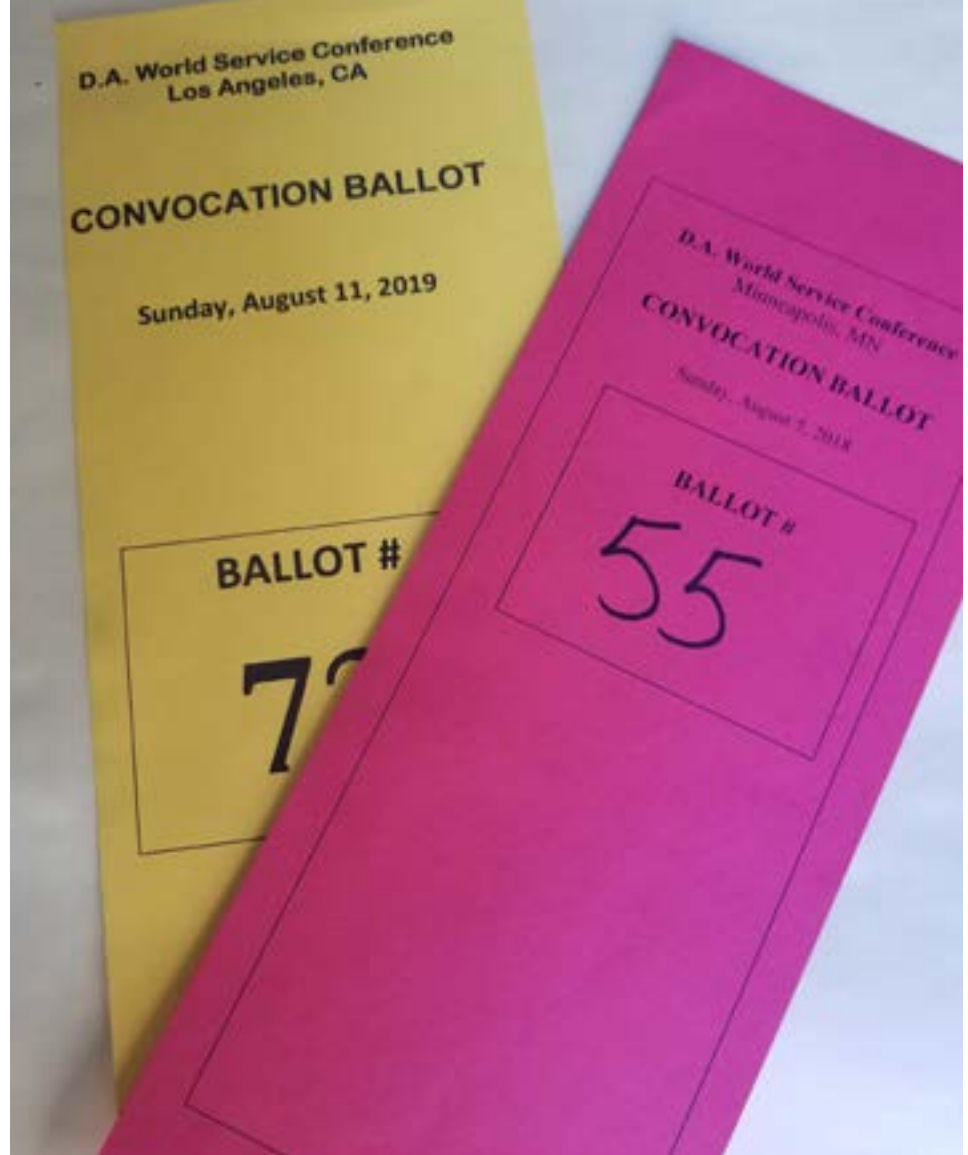
Submissions from readers on any aspect of D.A. recovery or service are welcome. If chosen, submissions will become the property of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board and will not be returned. As with all D.A. publications, everyone submitting writing, artwork, or other creative work will be required to sign a standard publishing release form granting rights to the work to D.A. and releasing D.A. from legal liability. Those submitting work to *Ways & Means* automatically acknowledge that they will not receive compensation for their work and that the work may be viewed by an unknown number of readers in unknown locations.

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or in hard copy form by mail to *Ways & Means*, c/o D.A. General Service Office, PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass 02492. Include your full name and mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. (This information will be kept confidential). Story ideas and questions should be sent to either of the same addresses. All materials must be accompanied by a signed Assignment of Rights available at:

www.debtorsanonymous.org/release

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Paper ballots from the 2018 & 2019 WSC Convocations.

I heard an experienced fellow say that in his first conference year he didn't really understand how it worked, in the second year he was getting to grips with it, and by the third conference he knew what he was doing. This was invaluable experience, strength, and hope for me as it took all the pressure off at times when I didn't understand things and gave me space to not know and to be a beginner. D.A.'s new Mentor/Mentee programme aims to support delegates and fill in some of the gaps on their new, unknown World Service journey."—Gill, U.K., Mentor/Mentee Subcommittee

During your stint as a delegate attending the WSC, you can represent your Group's "conscience" in four arenas:

1. Issues and Concerns
2. General Assembly Open Forum
3. Convocation
4. WSC Committee/Caucus Service

Issues and Concerns

When asked about the "Issues and Concerns" process, Sharon S.,

the current Board Chair, described it as “... a way for D.A. members to bring issues to the attention of the Fellowship.” She noted that all submissions will be answered either personally or, for those affecting D.A. as a whole, with a published response on the website.

General Assembly Open Forum

The Conference begins with an opening welcome to all delegates—for many of us a heart-stopping moment of gratitude and wonder as we recognize the responsibility we share as trusted servants to find the group conscience of D.A. as a whole for the benefit of the Fellowship. After that, our first order of business will be to hear the annual reports presented by the General Service Board Chair and Treasurer (when held in person, the Conference schedule is looser with more time to receive verbal reports from all GSB Committee Chairs).

The second order of business is the General Assembly Open Forum. You, as the attending GSRs and ISRs, play an important part in this Open Forum. You have two minutes at the microphone to communicate your group’s ideas, opinions, concerns, and/or local news as well as your own personal D.A. experiences. By sharing this information with the General Assembly, you help D.A.’s trusted servants “keep a hand on the pulse of D.A.”

According to the Board Chair, the Open Forum has been around for years and is one of the most popular parts of the World Service Conference. Usually held for several hours during the face-to-face WSCs, last year’s virtual setting with increased delegate attendance did not have time for everybody to speak. “Theoretically, every delegate gets two minutes to say whatever they want to—it could be something that is important to them about their recovery, D.A., or it might be gratitude or criticism of something in or about the program,” she said. “It is interesting because it happens before the new committees and caucuses get together, and some of the ideas that are put ‘out there’ are taken up by the new committees/caucuses.”

What generally bubbles up are the issues members of the Fellowship believe are important at that time. “We always get multiple requests to change the gender of the Steps and Traditions, for example,” Sharon said. “The Open Forum also gives delegates

an opportunity to get to know each other and make connections with those who might have things in common.”

In 2020, for example, there were several requests for mentors at the WSC, which we have addressed with our new Mentor/Mentee Program described below.

Delegates last year also talked about periods of rotation, matters of visibility and vulnerability, and what constitutes an outside issue. We heard, as in many years, concerns and questions about how smaller groups can fund their GSR to attend a WSC (see related article on Funding Your Group’s WSC Delegate).

Convocation

The third responsibility of the GSR/ISR involves participation in the two closed voting sessions of the WSC—called Convocation—where the annual business of D.A. is addressed. If it’s a virtual WSC, like this year, each registered delegate will be given their own unique link.

This all takes place during the last two days of the Conference, after other activities and committee/caucus meetings. Eligible voters include all registered GSRs, ISRs, current GSB trustees, and the GSO office manager. Through this process, the Conference, as the “voice and the conscience for the whole Fellowship” (according to Concept Two), decides how to handle important issues affecting D.A., including approval of literature, committee work, spending plans, and other proposed items. The WSC employs a Parliamentarian to help guide Convocation debate to reach substantial unanimity according to D.A.’s Traditions and Concepts, and Robert’s Rules of Order (see related article). Your vote, and at times your voice, is essential to ensure the Convocation achieves a true group conscience. Informed by your committee/caucus discussions, your Intergroup or home group’s conscience, the GSB, Open Forum reports, Convocation debate, and your personal D.A. experience, you can then exercise your “Right of Decision” as described in Concept Three to cast your ballot.

WSC Committee/Caucus Service

The fourth responsibility of a delegate is to serve on a WSC committee and optionally on a WSC cau-

cus. There are ten Conference committees and three Conference caucuses. Each delegate must select a committee and may select a caucus in addition. This year-long commitment begins with intense meetings at the WSC, where you will be involved in brainstorming and a lot of crucial consensus building and decision making in a relatively compressed timeframe with a smaller group of delegates before bringing motions and recommendations to the full Conference body. After the WSC, you will be expected to participate in monthly meetings and perhaps work on additional projects or subcommittees. For many of us, this is the highlight of our service—when the others on our committee begin to feel like family as we work together actively to implement the ideas approved by the WSC to develop or improve our D.A. resources. It is an incredible honor to help expand the reach of Debtors Anonymous and offer hope and recovery to the debtor who still suffers.

WSC Mentor/Mentee Program

To help you navigate through this maze of rights and responsibilities, we are introducing a WSC Mentor/Mentee Program this year to address the concerns and needs of delegates who arrive at WSC for their first time with perhaps minimal experience with service beyond the group level. We define a Mentor as a GSR/ISR who has already attended a WSC and is willing to prepare and guide an attending delegate, while a Mentee is any registered GSR/ISR who would like to have a Mentor to provide preparation and assistance.

You will be able to indicate your voluntary participation in this program—whether as Mentor or Mentee—on the WSC registration form.

Suggestions for Mentors and Mentees

Mentees:

- Ask questions; every question is important.
- Familiarize yourself with the “Debtors Anonymous Service Manual (DAMS),” particularly these chapters: Principles of Service, World Service (including the GSR Pamphlet), The General Service Board, and Thoughts on the Twelve Concepts for World Service.
- Explore the information on the D.A. website.
- Attend the Pre-Conference Orientation Call:

Overview of the World Service Conference.

- Attend the Pre-Conference Orientation Call: Intro to WSC committees and caucuses.
- Select a service position/opportunity at the WSC to meet people.
- Take notes to prepare your report back to your group.
- Become acquainted with the D.A. General Service Board, which has up to fifteen members who act as trusted servants and custodians of the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. Members of the GSB are also known as Trustees. Most Trustees are members of D.A., but up to five are not debtors or “friends of D.A.,” usually with World Service experience in other 12-Step Fellowships. There are currently eleven GSB committees.

Mentors:

- Answer questions; all questions are important.
- Familiarize yourself with the DAMS, D.A. Traditions and Concepts, the GSR Pamphlet, and Robert’s Rules of Order voting procedures.
- Assist Mentee in selecting a WSC committee and possibly a WSC caucus to serve on (due to logistics of the 2021 Virtual Conference, this decision must be made at registration).
- Introduce Mentee to the activities and offering of the Host Committee, which is made of local D.A. volunteers from the Intergroup that is sponsoring the location of the Conference. The Host Committee will arrange different aspects of the WSC hotel or virtual experience, organize Fellowship Day with multiple speakers and entertainment, and host the Hospitality Suite—a good place for service opportunities and fellowship.
- Explain the resources available on the D.A. website.
- Guide Mentees on taking notes to prepare a WSC report for their group.
- Guide Mentees on preparing an optional two-minute Open Forum report.
- Inform Mentee about the 12-Step meetings and/or 11th-Step meditations.
- Explain what happens on Fellowship Day and its importance to D.A.

Simple outline of the 2021 World Service Conference

1. Conference Opening & GSB Reports from the 2020-2021 Conference year
2. Open Forum for delegates with optional two-minute sharing
3. Mandatory committee meetings of delegates' choice (plus optional caucus meetings)
4. Committee reports, motions with opportunity for debate, and voting at Convocation
5. D.A. Fellowship Day—open to all (includes key-note speakers; multiple track 12-Step meetings; talent show & dance)
6. Final reports, motions with debate, and voting at Convocation
7. Conference closure

Closing Call to Action

All of the personal work we have done in our D.A. program—recordkeeping, Pressure Relief Groups (PRGs), working the Steps, action steps, chairing meetings, serving as secretary or treasurer, practicing and serving with love and tolerance—all of this work has prepared us for our service at the WSC. Be prepared to approach the Conference as a growth experience. Our WSC is the annual business meeting of D.A. and serves, essentially,

as the group conscience of D.A. as a whole. It is our opportunity as delegates to help shape the productivity of a living, breathing, and expanding life-saving Fellowship. We are a workable, honest recovery Fellowship attuned to global outreach. We have always returned from the WSC stronger, more excited about D.A., and more committed to serving.

The bonus is that the World Service Conference enriches our own solvency.

—Mentor/Mentee Subcommittee, 2020/21 WSC Conference Committee

World Service Conference and Cowboy Boots

Attendance at the D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) means I get to hang out with people I enjoy, love, and respect. It means the buzz of ideas, the blessings of tradition, visions of perpetuity, and the awesome democratic process at convocation. And after five days or so, I stumble out into the fresh air of my vacation time.

At this moment in history, it's more like a voyage to Lilliput, the island in *Gulliver's Travels* where everything is in people's heads, and they need to be gently struck on the face with a sheep's bladder on a stick to bring them to their senses. I have a love-hate relationship with Zoom. I



JP and other delegates having fun at the L.A. WSC on the “Sanity Fair” red carpet—no cowboy boots in sight.

appreciate that I can go around the world in a click—that I can continue to go to a virtual meeting. But I hate the two-dimensional nature of it. It’s almost as difficult for me to read people on Zoom as it is in an email.

Still there it is: reality. D.A. has taught me to live life on life’s terms, to be clear about reality rather than pretending things are different or having my head actually off its neck and buried in the sand. I’m forever grateful. That’s why I do service.

But service had difficult connotations for me. My father’s mother was in service in a house before she escaped into marriage. My mother’s mother spent the first year of her life in a workhouse, which was an English institution for the poor, so in my family, service either came with a premeditated resentment, or it was merely something you never wanted to do. Even working for other people was seen as something of a failure in my family.

So, service for me is the great experiment. Occasionally things go up in a puff of smoke, but in general I feel I have done more good than harm. That’s saying something.

My U.K. Intergroup voted me in as ISR, and off I went to Phoenix, Arizona, to the Conference where the D.A. Promises were approved. I wanted to come back with cowboy boots.

The Conference is a mixture of vision work, democratic action, and procedural administration. It taught me pacing and time management. It also taught me about letting go and letting God in ways I wouldn’t have understood before. Great things can be done in our Fellowship, but D.A. has its own HP that works at its own pace. So it’s not my time, not my committee’s time, not “should-be” time, only HP’s time.

Those Promises came true for me eventually. I remember one particular moment where the Convocation changed the wording “active lives” to “engaged lives” in order to include differently-abled members. I remember when the guy who brought the minority opinion shared his committee’s reasoning on it. It was brave of him to respectfully assert his opinion to a hundred people. I thought, “I want to be brave like that.”

I came back having made new acquaintances, some of whom have become friends. I also have a much more open mind. It’s a much better look on me than cowboy boots.

—JP

World Service Makes Us Rich

In 2017, Debtors Anonymous was an answer to my prayers. My finances and other areas of my life were in chaos. One year after taking out another mortgage to pay off debts, I was in the same boat all over again, as many times before. To paraphrase Charles Dickens in *David Copperfield*, I craved to have the happiness of spending “sixpence” less than my income but was stuck in the “misery” of outgoings exceeding income. In fact, I had no idea how much I had coming in or going out and despite many attempts, it was impossible for me to sort it out. Through working this wonderful programme, HP has done for me what I could not do for myself. My life is transformed, and I now experience a life of richness and abundance, one day at a time.

Though I felt called to step forward to be the first remote participant at the World Service Conference (WSC) in 2019, I had many fears and reservations: “Surely, if everyone else thinks it’s not good self-care to attend remotely, why should I think it would be different for me?” “Is this self-will?” But HP dragged me kicking and screaming and each time a snag appeared an easy, gentle solution arose. As a result, I attended the 2019 D.A. WSC in Los Angeles as a remote participant. Full of fear and self-consciousness, I participated fully—with the support of a one-to-one guide, the other delegates, trustees, and HP. Technical glitches occurred and were resolved.

Attendance and the related service subsequently has had such a profound effect that I now think of my recovery as “BWSC” and “AWSC”—Before and After World Service Conference! I am not an extrovert, so being in a group or having attention focused on me is way outside of my comfort zone. Nevertheless, I found myself chairing a subcommittee and with the generous support and guidance of the committee chair, was able to contribute to the work of D.A. in carrying the message. Moreover, the things I am learning with gentle support from fellows is great training for my work and relationships outside of the programme.

Conference 2019 finished on the Sunday, and next day I went to my home meeting in the U.K. I walked two visitors from Minnesota who, as it turned out, had been very involved in previous years in getting



Home, and the venue for my virtual WSC 2019, 2020, and 2021. Photo by Gill of Wales.

remote participation set up. It felt very much like a higher power miracle. I am still in touch with both, one of whom is now my sponsor!

This year's WSC is virtual again, allowing many more participants and greater representation from around the world to attend at a much lower cost than face-to-face. My experience, strength, and hope in participating in World Service has taken my recovery to another level, and I recommend it to other General Service Representatives (GSRs) and Intergroup Service Representatives (ISRs).

The General Service Board and the Conference are committed to carrying the message to debtors across the world, and the 2020 WSC voted overwhelmingly for the 2022 face-to-face Conference to be held in London! This will be the first time WSC has been held outside of the United States.

My experience of WSC has been amazing. It is a privilege to be involved and to get some understanding of how our Fellowship is structured, how decisions are made, and the passion and vision for reaching those

debtors who still suffer.

Learnings:

- I only need to make my contribution, it's not all down to me
- Reaching a spiritual group conscience takes as long as it takes
- A democratic process can also hear and respect the minority opinion
- Things happen in God's time

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

—Gill, U.K.

Our First Virtual World Service Conference

My name is Joe F., a recovering debtor from the United Kingdom.

I was privileged to attend the first virtual D.A.

World Service Conference (WSC) in August 2020, and to represent our U.K. Intergroup. To take part in the group conscience of the Fellowship was truly an amazing experience for me, and I hope for all who attended. Even though there were more than 150 in attendance, not once did I feel left out of the proceedings. From the moment I joined, where I was welcomed, to the very last part, I felt a part of the Conference community. Considering that this was the first time anything like this had been attempted, on the surface at least it ran very smoothly (I should imagine behind the scenes it was something like a duck's legs beneath the water).

I was very apprehensive at first with so many experienced members in attendance, but my fears were soon laid to rest. Though I have attended U.K.-based conferences, to attend a worldwide one was a new experience, and the fact that we were all participating from different time zones made it more exciting.

While attending the main sessions was enlightening and special, being part of a committee for me made the WSC more personal. I had signed up for the WSC Intergroup Caucus and the Fellowship Communications Committee in total ignorance of what I was letting myself in for, and how I would manage these commitments throughout the year. It is now coming on seven months, and I can honestly say the excitement and joy of attending is still with me. I think partly because of the different time zones, my WSC service commitments do not interfere too much with my attendance at local meetings, which is a blessing. I have on average attended two meetings a month since WSC, and the sense of togetherness is a joy. Though we are all different, we come together as one voice for the benefit of our wonderful Fellowship.

One thing I have come to realise through this experience is how it has strengthened my own recovery. By doing service, I get out of my own head and start thinking of the Fellowship, and I am reminded of Tradition One: that I cannot survive without each member of this Fellowship. If we do not work in unity, the D.A. Fellowship will cease to exist and that scares me—for my own sake and for those who have yet to join us. My Higher Power, whom I call God, guided me to last year's WSC so I could learn more and maybe in a little way be of service to the Fellow-

ship worldwide.

We are blessed here in the U.K. that we have a strong Intergroup, and we have an item in our spending plan to send our ISR to WSC each year. However, last year the situation enabled us to use those funds to send five Delegates, so we could all experience the wonders of a WSC.

I for one will be forever changed by this experience, and I would encourage everyone who can to attend at least one WSC in their lifetime and to sign up for a committee of their choice.

—*Love in Fellowship, Joe F., U.K.*

Robert's Rules and the Formation of our Fellowship Group Conscience

Making decisions democratically in a group is a challenge. We want to move forward, but we want to avoid mistakes. We want to discuss issues, but we don't want to spend time hearing the same points repeatedly. We want the viewpoints of a minority to be heard, but we don't want individuals or small groups to dominate the discussion. We want the will of the majority to prevail while making sure the minority viewpoint is heard. Ideally, we would like to make decisions by consensus or "substantial unanimity," where most everyone comes to support a course of action.

We want the discussion to be fair.

When three or four people are gathered, these things happen naturally; when you have six to eight people, you may need to have a chairperson to make sure people take turns talking. When you get eight to twelve people, things get complicated. Differences may arise and it is hard, nearly humanly impossible, for a chairperson to manage the discussion fairly without a set of rules that have been adopted that give guidance about what is fair in complicated situations.

A paradox emerges: a body must impose rules in order to keep its freedom to act.

This is where Robert's Rules comes in. Robert's Rules of Order is based on hundreds of years of experience of deliberative bodies, specifically the U.K.

Virtual DA World Service Conference

FELLOWSHIP DAY



saturday

August 14th, 2021

2:30p - 10p EST

11:30a - 7p PST

7:30p - 3a UK

1:30p - 9p CST

8:30p - 4a CET

Speakers, Talent Show & Dance!
Spread The Word!!

To Register: <https://debtorsanonymous.org/wsc2021fellowship>



Parliament and U.S. Congress. Robert's adopts this experience for use by companies and organizations. Robert's Rules are used to structure discussion and decision-making, ideally increasing the number of decisions made by the whole group unanimously, but when that is not possible, providing procedures so that everyone can feel that the discussion and decision-making was conducted fairly. The minority should feel their views received fair consideration, but the group does not allow a vocal minority to impede the will of the majority.

If the group does not like something in Robert's, the group can modify specific points—like limiting the default time for a person to speak from ten minutes to two minutes.

Minor items may be handled by just asking if no one objects (unanimous consent), but more complex decisions require well-structured debate to obtain group support. A group must also be able to limit debate and move on to decision-making when most people in the group feel that the issue has been discussed sufficiently.

Robert's is based on solution-based discussion. Someone proposes a solution by making a "motion." Then the problem and solution are discussed in de-



2018 World Service Conference binder with handout on Robert's Rules of Order.

“Robert’s Rules are used to structure discussion and decision-making, ideally increasing the number of decisions made by the whole group unanimously, but when that is not possible, providing procedures so that everyone can feel that the discussion and decision-making was conducted fairly.”

bate about the motion, which is put to some sort of vote. This differs from other methods based on discussion-based solutions, where issues are discussed at length first, and then there is an effort to seek

solutions based on the discussion. Discussion-based solution can be good for small groups with ample time, but solution-based discussion is usually better for larger groups with limited time.

Another principle of Robert's is that you can only discuss one solution at a time. You cannot decide on three proposed solutions at once. You discuss one, perhaps you discuss improving it through a specific amendment, and then decide on the latest version of the proposal stated in the original or amended motion. This takes time and patience, but the alternative is that it becomes unclear what is being proposed and how to proceed to a decision. This is experienced as a discussion going "off the rails," which is even more frustrating than the slow, deliberate process of working using Robert's Rules.

A good chairperson will speed things up when they are simple by asking for unanimous consent and slow them down when they are complicated, making sure that motions are clear, and that discussion and votes are conducted fairly, according to the Rules. But all does not depend on the talent of the chairperson. If any member of the group believes the chair or another member has acted in error, they can always make a "point of order," which must be dealt with first before discussion and decision-making can proceed further.

At first it can be unclear what to say when using Robert's Rules. Happily, it is very easy to search online for "Basic Robert's Rules" or "Robert's Cheat Sheet" to gain access to charts and videos that show how and when to say something to deal with a situation, and what items have priority. Learning the basics of Robert's is an important step for Group Service Representatives (GSRs) to be able to take an active part in the formation of our Group Conscience on specific issues. It is very good for committee chairs to understand the basics of how to lead a meeting using Robert's. By practicing in smaller groups, we gain the experience necessary to use the rules in larger groups.

Such fair and deliberate discussion, debate, and voting serve to ensure that our actions aim to reflect the will of our Higher Power working through our Group Conscience. Fair, deliberate discussion is a great aid in our primary purpose of carrying our message to the debtors who still suffer.

—Tom F., 2020/21 WSC Conference Committee

Guide for Group Service Representatives (GSRs)

Have you thought about getting involved in service, but don't know exactly where to start or how to perform your position? Our team, the World Service Conference (WSC) Fellowship Communications Committee's Subcommittee on Connecting GSRs, has gathered information to guide you in your role as a new General Service Representative (GSR). We are assembling a Resource Kit, and it is in the process of being submitted to and approved by the General Service Board (GSB).

In the meantime, here's some information to help you get started.

The position of General Service Representative is an incredibly rewarding service position. The GSR functions as a liaison between the D.A. home group and D.A. World Service. The GSR is elected for a term of three years. You are expected to serve on a WSC committee each year for three years as well. Prior to accepting the position, you can read the [GSR pamphlet](#), available to download at no charge.

Basic duties of a General Service Representative:

1. Educate your home group about D.A. World Service activities.
2. Attend and serve at local GSR Regional Area Group meetings if they exist in your area.
3. Communicate information between your group and the World Service Conference. You represent your group at the World Service Conference, but as a trusted servant you have a "Right of Decision," as explained in Concept Three.
4. Attend the World Service Conference: Register at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/world-service-conference>
5. Serve on a WSC committee and (optional) caucus

Sharing information between your group and the World Service Conference

As GSR, you are the liaison and conduit between

your home D.A. group and D.A. World Service, sharing information in both directions.

Share information from the WSC with your group:

- Let your group know about information provided on the Announcements page of the D.A. website: debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/announcements
- Announce Fellowship-wide calls and make members aware of podcasts on the website.
- Let the group know there are two D.A. publications, Ways & Means recovery magazine and the DA Focus service newsletter: debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/fellowship-newsletters/
- Encourage group members to sign up for eNews from D.A. and/or pass around an email sign-up sheet and enter the information on the [eNews Form](#) yourself.
- Provide information about opportunities for Public Information work, and let members know about the [Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service](#) and some of the useful features of the D.A. website.

Help your group participate in D.A. as a whole:

- Register as a GSR and update your group's registration with the GSO yearly: <https://debtorsanonymous.org/meeting-registration>
- Outline suggested contributions to GSO and verify that your meeting's treasurer is contributing to the D.A. GSO and to your local Intergroup and GSR Regional Area Group if they exist in your area.
- Encourage your group to participate in Promise Six Day on the fourth Saturday of April every year.
- Each April, pass a special collection for World Service Month and send the collected funds into the GSO.
- Groups may choose to have a collection to contribute to the John H. Scholarship fund.

World Service Conference and Committee Service

The GSR needs to be available to attend the annual

D.A. World Service Conference, held during the first and/or second week of August. The Conference is a five-day business meeting of GSRs, ISRs, and D.A. Trustees from around the world. It is intensive timewise, and it is also incredibly rewarding spiritually. In addition to business meetings, there are also D.A. meetings and several fun events held at the Conference.

When you get to the World Service Conference, be prepared to join one of the ten WSC Committees that support the Fellowship as a whole. Be prepared to work with other members of D.A. in your committee on Fellowship-wide issues, topics, and projects throughout the year. Usually there is one conference call with your committee per month (sometimes more), and there might be additional events on the calendar such as subcommittee meetings or a Fellowship-wide call hosted by your committee. You can choose to join a different committee each year if you wish.

There are also three WSC caucuses, and you can choose to serve on one of those in addition to your committee. Serving on a caucus is encouraged but not required. Some people choose to wait until their second World Service Conference to join a caucus. The GSR is also expected to give a World Service Conference report to their meeting sometime in the weeks following the Conference. Your meeting will likely have a time that is traditional for the GSR to give their report, for example at the first or second speaker meeting after the Conference. You will need at least twenty minutes to give your WSC report. This is a great opportunity to share the latest news from D.A. with the meeting, as well as to share your experience, strength, and hope. It is a good idea to prepare a written report and to include the Fellowship's financial information.

Finances for the WSC

To prepare for the annual World Service Conference, the GSR needs to create a spending plan and submit it to their D.A. group at the April or May business meeting. This requires research on flights and other travel costs. There is a sample WSC spending plan included in the WSC Registration Packet. The WSC Registration Packet is usually published the April before the Conference. The GSR is required to make their travel and lodging arrangements, keep accurate spending records and receipts, report back to the meeting on the actual spending, and return any unused funds.

Cerridwen—Sculpting Recovery Through World Service

The variety of seeds planted by our Higher Power are rarely known whilst they germinate. Our inner visions are hard to access in the throes of debting. In my case, I could not see the connection of vision work in my early recovery. I had no idea of how much my chaos and drama around money stole my inner dreams and aspirations from me. Now, years into my recovery, I see so many multi-variants of my visions coming true that I believe my whole attraction of recovery from my compulsive debting and spending is the means of creating a life beyond my wildest dreams.

Goddess Cerridwen, my first wooden sculpture, is a token of my recovery, my service in D.A., and honoring my inner artist. Let me tell you of her germination and fruition. I want to tie it into Tool Eleven that references doing service at every level, specifically concluding with World Service. Now, not all service at the World Service level is done as a Group Service Representative (GSR) or an Inter-

“Now, years into my recovery, I see so many multi-variants of my visions coming true that I believe my whole attraction of recovery from my compulsive debting and spending is the means of creating a life beyond my wildest dreams.”

Your meeting is responsible for funding you to attend the WSC. If your meeting does not/cannot raise enough money for you to attend the Conference, your meeting can hold a fundraiser event. You also can apply for a John H. Scholarship, (usually only small amounts are awarded, but it can help you reach your goal). You also have the option of asking other meetings who do not have a GSR to attend the Conference if they can contribute to get you to the WSC, and you can give them a Conference report. For face-to-face Conferences, you may have the option to share a hotel room at the WSC to keep expenses down. It is your responsibility to find your own roommate, and if you don't have someone local in mind, the WSC Host Committee can help you find a roommate as many GSRs from other areas are also looking for a roommate.

It is important to have clarity about the GSR funds that your meeting has raised as the year progresses to see if your meeting is on track to get you to the Conference. If the amount of funds is not on track, it should be discussed at business meetings, and the meeting can begin planning fundraisers if needed. Some meetings pass two baskets, one for the Seventh Tradition, and one to get the GSR to the WSC. However it is done, it is a priority for the meeting to be financially on track to get their GSR to the WSC before disbursing Seventh Tradition Funds to Intergroup, the local GSR group, and to the D.A. General Service Office.

It should be a priority for each group to get its GSR to the WSC, because GSRs are critical to keeping D.A. running.

Local GSR Regional Area Group

If your area has a local GSR group meeting, you should be available to attend that and to participate in the activities of the local GSR group. If you cannot attend the local GSR meeting, your meeting's Alternate GSR can attend. There may also be service positions associated with your local GSR group. The GSR shares any announcements or interesting news, such as events, meeting changes, and opportunities for service learned at the monthly local GSR meeting with their home group meeting.



Photo of Goddess Cerridwen wood sculpture by Roxanne K, modeled after clay sculpture by Carmen Friedman.

group Service Representative (ISR). There are volunteer positions for the Host Committee in the area hosting the annual conference, but one can also be a Project Contributor (members who have an interest/expertise in a particular task). I was working as a volunteer for the Minneapolis D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) and got involved with the tech committee's exploration of Remote Participation for WSC. I was not on that full committee and did not see it through to the implementation stage but felt passionately about it. Things (think seeds) take time. Time goes by.

My wife, Therissa, also in D.A. recovery and who grants me permission to share about this, is a college professor—one who was blessed with a year's sabbatical. If you can imagine this, she was paid 80% of her salary to follow her work vision: traveling the world doing work and some research on addictions. Pretty great, right? We had been traveling in the United Kingdom for weeks without encountering a D.A. meeting and finally went to one in a major city. At the small meeting of a half dozen of us, one woman

shared of her attending the WSC as the first and only remote participant. After the meeting we had more fellowship, and I explained that the year before I had worked on recommending that we do remote participation. We were blown away that, low and behold, we happened into the one D.A. meeting in the world where the first person to ever do that attended. And get this—she had just completed the Conference the day before we met! I call that a God thing. No coincidence, just God (as you understand God) working the soil and nurturing the seeds.

The woman is now a sponsee and we stay in touch, sharing in fellowship and service. Therissa and I have had our adventures and misadventures around the world, including a broken leg and COVID providing brick walls for continued travel. One thing that recovery has taught me is when I hit the brick wall, to turn left (or right) because something better is beyond the brick or bend—so true in this past year. Therissa and I have a strong shared commitment to spiritual development, profound relatedness, and right livelihood. Trav-

eling in Ireland, Scotland, England, and a tiny bit of Wales, we had delved into the standing circles, ancient Celtic mysteries, and spiritual sites. Therissa even attended a Druid camp. We find so much of our life is woven with the threads of spirituality and recovery-based practices. A workshop leader, also an author, drew her attention to a book about the Celtic tales that we have been reading. This was our first introduction to the goddess Cerridwen, goddess of rebirth and transformation. Sounds like she fits with recovery, right?

What, you ask, has this to do with Tool Eleven, especially at the WSC level? Well, in my mind, she would not have come to be were it not for my service years ago (and currently, serving as ISR). What I believe happens with service at every level is as the Tool says: “It is vital to our recovery.” Little do we know when we sign up for service what impact it will have in our lives. No doubt we receive much more than we are given. I have experienced it and seen it in many others—that though we may doubt what we have to offer, or if we know what to do, or whether we are significant in the overall success of D.A., despite it all we do and are. We show up, maybe over- or under-confident, try to control things, or disappear into the woodwork, but through the process, we see how our experience can benefit others and D.A. as a whole. We bloom where we are planted. That blooming is not only to the advantage of D.A. on the World Service level, but it benefits our local groups and recovery members, too. The real miracle is that it is not partitioned from our outside life. Our confidence and contributions can mean job promotions, relationships that provide purpose and meaning, and of course, spiritual development. The whole world benefits and, above all, you are the representation of the miracle of recovery! So, jump in there and sign up for service; push the boundaries of “How great can you stand it?” Who knows what beauty your blooms will provide for our D.A. Fellowship and the world at large?

—Roxanne K.

Funding your GSR

The World Service Conference (WSC) Conference Committee would like to express support and appreciation to the General Service Representatives (GSRs) and Intergroup Service Representatives (ISRs) who attend WSC as delegates.

Three of the challenges that Groups and GSRs/ISRs face are:

1. How to fund participation;
2. Getting support;
3. Service position overload or burnout.

We of the Conference Committee hear you. We understand your concerns. We support your commitment to enrich your solvency through World Service.

Our ultimate goal is to have a rich, diverse representation of ISRs and GSRs at the WSC. We trust that a Higher Power speaks through our collective voice. Our experience proves that a more diverse and inclusive WSC leads to a stronger Fellowship for us all.

Challenge #1: How to fund participation

When I, Kathryn G., a current WSC Conference Committee member, had a Pressure Relief Group (PRG) to ask about a dream/wish/vision/adventure, the PRG advised me to **start a reserve fund for that**. The same suggestion applies to funding your GSR. First and foremost, we recommend **your group** start a **“GSR/ISR to the WSC” fund**. Here are ways other groups have raised GSR/ISR funding:

1. Passing a second basket, envelope, or special container at every meeting of your home group.
2. Holding one or more fundraising events throughout the year. Create a core group or committee to plan events such as a “D.A. Day” or half day, a Zoom workshop, a picnic, or other fun event.
3. Joining with other local groups to fund one GSR to represent both or all the groups.
4. If you have a shortfall in your GSR/ISR fund, apply for the John H. Scholarship Fund. Applications must be submitted by mid-May each year.

At the world level, the WSC Resource Development Committee actively advocates raising funds for the John H. Scholarship Fund.

The application for the John H. Scholarship can be found on the D.A. website in the Registration Packet. This year the application form is on page 15 at the following link (however, the May 16 deadline has already passed for this year) [2021 Virtual WSC Reg Packet.pdf](#).

The suggested qualifications to apply are:

- One year of not having incurred any new, unsecured debt;
- A committed record of service at the group or Intergroup level;
- Actively working the 12 Steps and 12 Tools of Debtors Anonymous;
- Active member of home group; and
- Willingness to fulfill Conference duties and to remain a committee member the entire Conference year.

The Scholarship funds raised from the groups are allocated by the Host Committee. For 2021, our Host Committee is made up of members of the New York Intergroup. The Treasurer of the Host Committee keeps track of the name, address, meeting represented, and the amount funded to each recipient. The funds are received and kept in a separate account by the General Service Board (GSB). After the deadline passes, the Host Committee will forward a report with its recommended scholarship recipients and amounts to the GSB.

At the end of the Conference, the recipients will complete an Actual Spending Plan which is on the same form as the original application (column B on the Spending Plan Worksheet). They will return this to the GSO within two weeks following the last day of the conference.

Some Intergroups and local area GSR organizations also support member groups with funding.

Challenge #2 (Getting support) and #3 (Service-position overload or burnout)

- Ask for and utilize a D.A. Service Sponsor or Mentor.
- Reach out to your D.A. Sponsor, PRG team, home group, and friends in the program.

- Work the 12 Steps, 12 Tools, 12 Traditions, and 12 Concepts, as well as you can, one day at a time.
- At the WSC, ask for and use support from the GSB, the WSC committees and caucuses, and all of the GSRs and ISRs.
- At the WSC, attend the daily 12-Step meetings and meditation groups, exercise, and get plenty of rest.
- During the year, have monthly contact with your committee members and GSB liaison.
- Stay active with your committee and volunteer to lead a subcommittee or initiative to develop positive proposals for the GSB and the next WSC.
- Know that this too will pass. Sometimes our commitments will require us to go the extra mile, so be sure to take time to balance, rest, and play.
- Practice self-care and set boundaries around all work and service commitments.
- Finally, discuss with your sponsor and/or PRG before you commit to any service work or commitment.

In conclusion, if you or your group has a dream, goal, or vision to be at the WSC 2021 **start your GSR/ISR fund today**. Move forward with creative ideas to raise funds.

For us in D.A., our program comes first. We schedule our meetings, talk to our sponsors and sponsees, arrange PRGs, keep our numbers, and keep our work levels appropriate to our needs. We know we need help, and we consistently ask for it. The same idea applies to raising funds for our GSR or ISR.

We are the GSRs and ISRs of the 2020/21 WSC Conference Committee. We invite you and your group to join us on the road to happy destiny. Join us as we work together and enjoy the fruits of enriched solvency.

—Kathryn G., 2020/21 WSC Conference Committee member

The Exponential Power of D.A. World Service

When I joined Debtors Anonymous in July, 1990, I was \$104,000 in debt and had a list of creditors two single-spaced pages long. I was in the middle of a contentious divorce that took almost two more years to resolve. Today, in mid-2021, I have been retired six years (doing so two years early!) I am able to live comfortably for the rest of my life without financial worries. I have one debt—a mortgage. What happened?

First, and most important in the early days, I did exactly what this simple, though not easy, program suggested I do: worked the 12 Steps with a sponsor, used the Tools daily, and did what I could do each day to live a 12-Step way of life. I still do my best to live by the 12 Steps and their principles every day.

Second, my long-term solvency and prosperity result directly from what I believe is the “universal law of exponential recovery”: For every hour of service I give to D.A. and our members, I receive an exponential reward of ten hours of recovery, prosperity, abundance, and joy.

Notice I do NOT say for every hour of service, I get \$10 more money or less debt. My rewards have been far more valuable than money. Of course being debt free, having excellent health care, and living comfortably come in handy, too, but primarily so I can live to be of service to others.

Financial success through D.A. is not my primary purpose or main goal. My primary purpose is to carry the message, and my main goal is to live a life of service to my fellow sufferers. Getting solvent, staying abstinent, paying off my debts, and managing my money wisely are merely—and I use this word deliberately—actions I must take to become ready to give the best of myself to others and receive deep spiritual recovery of peace and serenity.

Let me explain the “exponential reward” I’ve received through World Service. Serving as a General Service Representative (GSR) and as a Trustee can feel frustrating because it seems to take forever to accomplish anything. Before I attended my first World Service Conference (WSC), I had been

a freelance writer—a loner, that is—for twenty years. To say I “didn’t play well with others” would be a gross understatement. “Need a lane, make a lane” was my motto of being constantly impatient, breaking the rules, and pursuing what I wanted. Of course, what I eventually “got” was utter misery, \$104,000 in debt, and a years-long trail of broken promises and crushed business and personal relationships!

The WSC doesn’t work by selfishness at all—D.A. couldn’t survive if everyone at the WSC or on the General Service Board (GSB) focused solely on their own agenda, on getting their own way. Instead, to be effective, I had to learn to practice two particular “Ps”: Patience and Process. As a committee member at all my conferences and board meetings, I had to learn to be patient with everyone, including myself. With the myriad personalities and stages of recovery everyone brought with them, I had to learn to accept each person as they were. After all, every one of us was a struggling compulsive debtor/spender fighting for recovery every day. All of us were fellow sufferers trudging the happy road toward recovery.

As I began to learn patience, I also learned to listen and to really hear what other people had to say about every aspect of every issue. The D.A. process is slow and cumbersome, I have come to appreciate, for good reasons. It takes time for God’s will for what is truly best for the Fellowship to become clear. It doesn’t feel like it when a committee has had the same “discussion” about the same issue for the umpteenth time. However, when I learned to listen and understand what people truly meant, I began to learn to respect both the people and the process.

For example, for reps and groups to truly support any major change in D.A. it requires what we call “substantial unanimity,” preferably unanimous consent, but certainly a two-thirds or three-quarters majority. We can only gain that level of support when everyone has had a chance to be heard and a chance to influence the decision.

Among the most precious “rights” we have in D.A. is the right of the minority viewpoint to be heard. I have seen critical votes overturned and the tide of opinion turned because a GSR had the courage to challenge a vote or a tide of emotion.

“My often-reluctant willingness to learn patience, process, respect, and openness as I actively participated in WSCs and on the GSB laid the groundwork for a successful future I had never dreamed of. Within a few months of leaving the GSB, I was offered a superb, full-time position within a large government agency. Tickling my sense of humor, I quickly found that the challenges of working in a large bureaucracy were not nearly as difficult as giving world-level service in D.A.! But it did require the same willingness and skills I had learned as a GSR and Trustee.”

In one memorable situation, an issue threatened to seriously divide the Fellowship, if not split it into pieces. The contentious idea was rapidly moving toward approval until one GSR stood up and made it clear that the issue at hand was a personal choice, not a D.A. issue. It was not a D.A. issue because it involved complex legal and financial matters that were resolved by legislatures and courts. It had nothing to do with our primary purpose of carrying the message to the suffering debtor and less than nothing to do with D.A.’s “right” to dictate the terms of membership.

Of course, D.A. doesn’t have that “right.” Our only membership requirement is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. D.A. has no position on how a member gets abstinent and solvent and stays out of debt, and it does not exercise any authority or governance over any member’s recovery.

Thanks to the GSR’s stand, the tide of emotion

at that conference swung completely around. The motion was rescinded, and the issue has never been brought up for a vote again. The Fellowship was, I believe, saved from disaster because we would have turned our backs on millions of compulsive debtors and spenders and forced many current members to leave the program. We would have condemned thousands to more spending, debting, and suffering if we had denied their inherent right to choose their own path.

My often-reluctant willingness to learn patience, process, respect, and openness as I actively participated in WSCs and on the GSB laid the groundwork for a successful future I had never dreamed of. Within a few months of leaving the GSB, I was offered a superb, full-time position within a large government agency. Tickling my sense of humor, I quickly found that the challenges of working in a large bureaucracy were not nearly as difficult as giving world-level service in D.A.! But it did require

the same willingness and skills I had learned as a GSR and Trustee.

I took the federal job with the same purpose I had in D.A: to be useful and give service with whatever skills I had to offer. I went to work at what was then my “dream job.” I was making twice as much money and working half the hours doing what I loved to do—teach writing and editing, but this time to federal employees rather than college students. I was prepared to spend the next fifteen to twenty years happily by doing that job well, building up my retirement plan, and serving a country that had been very good to me and to which I owed a great deal for my freedoms. However, thanks to the lessons my D.A. World Service had taught me, I was recognized for those lessons—patience, respect for process, respect for others, and an attitude of service. Rather than remain an instructor, I was given numerous opportunities to serve in different positions for top agency executives for a number of years. I ended my career working closely with the Director of the Agency at the apex of my profession and, I hope, highly respected by almost everyone I worked with.

Yes, I also more than doubled my salary, received a significant promotion, earned a government-paid master’s degree, and enjoyed several incredible trips. I did receive the material rewards for my effort and service. But if I had still been the same impatient, controlling, deeply-indebted loner I had been before my years of service in D.A., I would never have gotten that job in the first place. I would have remained mired in the low-paying, long-hours “part-time” job I had, and I would have had to continue to work as a freelancer just to survive. Today, I would still be working for many more years to just eke by; a prosperous retirement would not have even been thinkable.

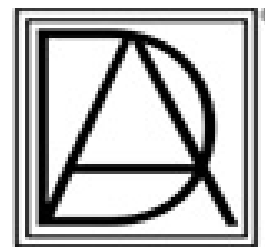
Today, my life, like so many others during the “Covid Era,” has been challenging, but I continue

to enjoy the exponential rewards I first began to receive in D.A. These blessings are the ten-fold return on my investment in hours of D.A. service:

- The love and respect of dozens of friends in and out of my programs;
- A healthy, happy relationship with all of my family members;
- Financial security—and miracles of prosperity—during the wretched year of Covid and despite the sharp swings of the economy; and
- The opportunity to continue to serve the still-suffering compulsive debtor and spender in my own neighborhood.

I stepped aside from world-level service many years ago, but I continue to give whatever service to D.A. I can offer as an “elder” who knows how to get out of the way. I do pressure relief groups when asked. I am the treasurer of my small local meeting. I speak to other groups and workshops when asked. I sponsor others when the match is good. I write this kind of article now and then. And I make monthly automatic donations to the GSB to share my prosperity. At my meetings, I practice patience, listen intently, respect the group conscience, share honestly, and give everyone in D.A. the same love and care I have been so kindly given for thirty years. My “investments” continue to bring me the exponential rewards of recovery, serenity, prosperity, abundance, and joy every day. It is ten times better than the best way of life I’d ever imagined before I joined D.A.

—Robert P., Class A Trustee, 1998-2001; GSR, 1997-98, 2004-06, 2009-10



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Announcement to all D.A. Groups, including those in the
UK, Europe, Africa, and Asia

D.A. 2022 World Service Conference to be held in London, UK

August 2022 - exact date TBC (will be in first or second week)

What is the World Service Conference?

The D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) is our Fellowship's annual business meeting. It is held each year in August. It starts on a Wednesday evening and goes through the following Sunday.

What happens at the Conference? D.A. members:

- Review the state of our Fellowship (finances, website, office, etc.)
- Work on topics like new D.A. literature concepts, public information, etc.
- Vote on important issues affecting D.A. as a whole

Who attends?

- 75 - 100 General Service Representatives (GSRs)
- 10 - 12 Intergroup Service Representatives (ISRs)
- 10 - 12 Members of our General Service Board (GSB)

Why would our group want to send a GSR or ISR to the Conference?

- This will be D.A.'s first truly international Conference—the first one held outside the USA
- Your group will have direct involvement in the international growth of D.A.
- Your representative will have an incredibly rich experience, including attending a Fellowship Day and Gala.

Suggested qualifications for GSRs and ISRs:

- Is an active member of your group
- Has completed or is working on the Steps
- Has not incurred new unsecured debt for at least 12 months
- Has provided service (Secretary, Treasurer, etc.)
- Has received one or more Pressure Relief Meetings

What is the service commitment for GSRs and ISRs?

- GSRs/ISRs serve on a committee while at the WSC, then attend Zoom/phone meetings during the year.
- Recommended service term: three years.
- To learn more, download free GSR pamphlet: <https://debtorsanonymous.org/getting-started/free-literature/>

How much does it typically cost to attend?

- £1,000 - £1,200 (\$1,300 - \$1,500 US) for registration fee, meals, and hotel. Travel not included.

Who pays?

- For most delegates, their group pays their expenses.
- Many groups pass a second basket at their meetings to collect funds to send their representative.
- Some groups also do a fundraising event during the year • Scholarships are available.

What is the Fellowship Day and the Gala, and who can attend?

- On the Saturday of the conference week, there will be a Fellowship Day with speakers and workshops, and a Gala dinner/dance.
- Any and all D.A. members can attend. Typical costs: Fellowship Day: £12 - £15. Gala: £45.

What should our group do now?

- At a business meeting, discuss and possibly vote on creating the GSR or ISR service position.
 - Start collecting funds now.
 - Invite one of our Host Committee members to one of your Zoom meetings, to have us share about the WSC.
-

This announcement is from the WSC 2022 Host Committee (a group of UK D.A. members working on the Conference)

Email any questions to: DAWSC2022@gmail.com