

# Ways & Means

July/August 1988

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 A NEW LOOK,  
A NEW CALL
- 2 GSB FUNDING  
TARGET
- WRITE IT DOWN!
- 3 DA UNIFIED AND  
MOVING FORWARD:  
2nd Annual World  
Conference
- 4 A PERSONAL SHARE

## A NEW LOOK, A NEW CALL

We've got a new look and a new name! We hope you like it. It's a reflection of the growth of DA and the continuing commitment of the General Service Board (GSB) to carry the message to others who still suffer from the consequences of compulsive debt. We want to acknowledge all of those who helped to launch and produce the newsletter last year. Their efforts reflect the kind of dedication that has made the growth of DA possible.

The GSB will continue to use the newsletter to keep the DA fellowship informed of activities in DA around the world; as a forum for members to share their strength, hope, and recovery; and for issuing calls for service.

Right now, for example, the newsletter itself wants to issue a call for **area reporters**. If you like to gather news, and want to be part of the Ways & Means team, let us know. If you don't want to be a reporter, but you do

have something to contribute, send it to us right away (see below for address).

What's appropriate to send? Almost anything that you think will inspire someone else in their quest for recovery -- poems (written by yourself or someone else), quotes (famous ones, or ones heard at meetings), letters and articles with messages of hope, cartoons (if not original, provide source so that we can give credit), appropriate reprints from 12th Step Recovery literature, and so forth.

As DA comes of age, let us, the members of DA, join together in using this newsletter as one of the ways or means of facilitating recovery for ourselves and the whole DA Fellowship.

In love and unity,

The Editors  
Ways & Means

Volume 2, Number 1

Published by the General Service  
Board of  
Debtors Anonymous

Send materials to:  
Editors  
DA Newsletter  
P.O. Box 20322  
New York, NY 10025



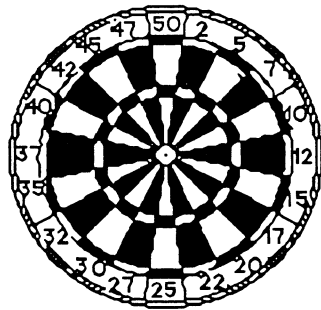
## GSB FUNDING TARGET

Since its beginning in New York in 1976, DA has been supported solely by group contributions, personal donations, and proceeds of special fund-raising events or conferences.

Most other 12-Step programs support themselves by literature sales. For example, sales of the "Big Book" help finance Alcoholics Anonymous. And while the day will come when DA, too, will have abundant literature to generate revenue for the fellowship, we're not there yet.

The Finance Committee was established by the DA Board of Trustees in 1988 to develop ways to increase income. They have three goals:

- \$ to establish a national DA office and to staff it (a vital need: rental office space and equipment to keep DA's work moving forward)
- \$ to have enough money to develop and print more literature pieces
- \$ to provide funds for the Trustees in various regions to travel, so that the Board's work can reflect the views of all DA rather than just the views of those who live close enough to attend Board meetings.



In April this year, the Finance Committee sent letters and flyers to all known DA groups asking that they pass the basket during the month of May for the General Service Office.

As of July 16, \$562 had been received.

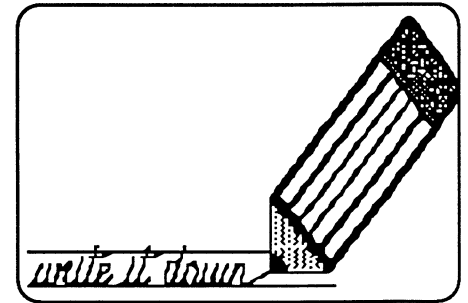
**The Board's goal is to raise \$50,000.** Another mailing will come out shortly, and more will follow during the rest of this year. The Finance Committee will also be suggesting ways that members and groups can help.

### A Very Special Time.

This is a very special time in DA's development. The Board is encouraging all members to contribute \$5.00 or more to further the work of the fellowship. A donation of any size will help. Anyone whose prosperity has increased measurably through DA is urged to contribute a larger amount (the maximum is \$500 per person per year). Think of it! Your \$500 could buy a typewriter or printer for a computer, help pay rent for a month, buy reams and reams of paper for DA communications, and so forth.

**Send contributions to:**  
 General Service Board  
 P.O. Box 20322  
 New York, NY 10025-9992  
 c/o Finance Committee

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The Conference Literature Committee has been writing all year--producing new literature pieces for the fellowship. Each one is expected to be a wonderful new tool to aid in recovery. Pamphlets in progress include: Debting, Abstinence, and Solvency; Communicating with Creditors; and brochures on many of the tools -- Meetings, Record Maintenance, the Telephone, expanded version of "Pressure Groups and Pressure Meetings," Spending Plans, and Business Meetings.

The Conference Literature Committee -- co-chaired by Will S. of LA and Nancy C. of San Francisco -- is planning to present several of these for approval at the upcoming World Conference. The Committee includes Bill C., the Trustee for Literature, who acts as liaison to the National Board of Trustees.

### Writing-Team Approach.

The Literature Committee first developed and approved outlines for each topic, then put together writing teams across the country to handle the profound task of putting concepts into words. The team approach takes time and patience and cooperation, but the effort has been worth it.

Nancy and Will say their goal, and that of all who are participating  
 (continued on p 4)



## DA UNIFIED AND MOVING FORWARD: 2nd Annual World Conference

Los Angeles, here we come! The Second Annual World Conference of Debtors Anonymous will meet in LA on the weekend of September 30 to October 2. The entire Fellowship of DA is invited and urged to attend. We want to hear from you, exchange ideas with you, and give you a chance to help us evaluate the work of the committees that were formed last year at the 1987 World Conference. The 1988 Conference will be voting on new literature pieces that the Literature Committee has developed, for example. They've been working hard on such items as new pamphlets and a record keeper for recording daily expenses.

The full schedule of the Conference appears on this page. Note that our host, the Los Angeles Fellowship, is sponsoring a DoDA Day in conjunction with the World Conference for attendees. There will be opportunities for many interesting meetings, workshops, and for fellow-

Meanwhile, the GSR Committees (Finance, Public Information, Literature, Fellowship, Conference Structure) will hold their meetings and decide on the agenda of items that will be presented to the Conference as a whole for a vote at the Convocation on Sunday morning.

In response to the feedback given at last year's Conference, two question-and-answer forums will be held on Saturday night -- one with the Board of Trustees and one for the general fellowship (see calendar).

The World Conference is a great opportunity for people from different parts of the country to share their strength, hope, and recovery. **If you want to participate in an uplifting cross-pollination of recovery ideas, put the Conference dates on your calendar and plan to be there.**

Direct housing requests to Chris (213-398-6729). The Conference will be held at the Westchester High School, 7400 W. Manchester,

Westchester (LA), Calif -- about 10 min from Los Angeles International airport. Friday's entertainment will be at the Masonic Temple, 7726 W. Manchester (2 blocks from the school).

Registration fee: \$35.00 -- includes Fri. eve entertainment and lunches on both Sat. and Sun. Daily rate: \$12.00.

## Conference Calendar

### Friday Eve, Sept 30:

Registration and Social Time  
Special Entertainment by Los Angeles Fellowship (at Masonic Temple, see address above)

### Saturday, Oct 1:

Roll call of all GSRs (9:00 am)  
Introduction of National Board  
Opening remarks  
GSR Conference Committee Meetings (am & pm)  
Other attendees in Workshops and Meetings (am & pm)

**SPECIAL LUNCHEON featuring John H, founder of DA**

Dinner

Evening: Two Open Forums:

I: One with the National Board of Trustees about DA issues, followed by

II: One with the Entire Fellowship about recovery issues.

### Sunday, Oct 2:

9:00 to noon: Main Convocation of Conference

Lunch (food for sale)

Afternoon (until 6:00): DoDA Day (workshops, meetings, fun)

## WRITE IT DOWN

(continued from page 2)  
in the effort to produce new DA literature, is that the new pamphlets express the group conscience of the fellowship and be information all of us can count on for recovery.

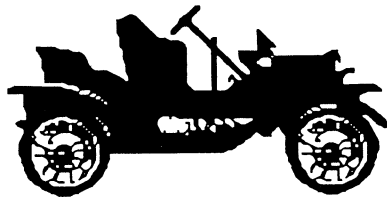
### New Record Keeper.

The Literature Committee also expects to present its newly developed record keeper for approval at the World Conference. This will be a small pocket calendar (like a Day-Timer®) -- with space to record daily expenses, as well as room to create weekly and monthly summaries. There'll be blank sheets for making notes too.

Each record keeper will cover about three months -- with over 30 categories of expenses.

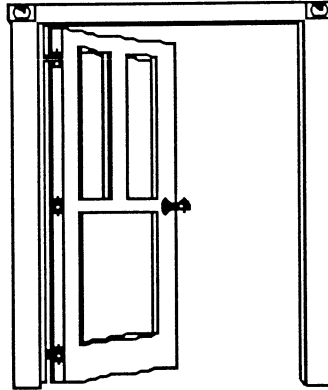
Congratulations, Conference Literature Committee! We're grateful for all your hard work and can't wait to see the results!

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY



Failure is the opportunity to begin again more intelligently.

Henry Ford



## A PERSONAL SHARE: The Door to Recovery

Philosopher/astronomer Carl Sagan once said: "Somewhere, something wonderful is waiting to be known." I love that thought. Each time I think of it, it makes me freshly aware of the purpose of my recovery work in DA -- as long as I keep in "fit spiritual condition," as long as I have **faith**, I can stay clear of negative thinking and needless anxiety. This leaves room for all the wonderful things that lie waiting to be discovered in each new day.

I recently had the experience of being shown anew what faith is all

about, and by a relative newcomer. I was having trouble completing my part of a project I had committed to do. Seeking perfection, I seesawed back and forth between **inflation** ("I can do it perfectly if given a little more time") and **deflation** (accompanied by the old, familiar despair and deep shame at not being able to "perform"). And in my blind striving, I had lost touch with my faith.

Then my new friend said, "What about not trying so hard? What about having faith that the problem will be lifted? Maybe then you can do the work." I began to protest. I didn't see how simple faith could get me out of my predicament. I needed action! But then I remembered these words Bill W. wrote in 1950: "Believe more deeply. Hold your face up to the Light, even though for the moment you do not see." And so I thanked this newcomer, because what she had helped me remember is the important lesson that faith has to teach: Sometimes the door on which we have been pounding only needs to be pushed.

-- J.W., San Francisco Bay Area

