

Ways & Means

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Summer 1995

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Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
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Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0400

More Will Be Revealed

by Susan D., Southern California

After four years in D.A. I felt I had a firm working grasp of the tools of the program. I attended regular meetings, gave service, had and gave pressure meetings, wrote my money down daily and faithfully completed monthly cash flows. I had a good job that allowed me to support three children as a single parent, an excellent car, no plastic and a friendly relationship with the I.R.S.

My comfort was soon shattered by being laid off. I faced an uncertain future in an unstable economy.

I was given a generous three month severance package. However, instead of directing my energy towards finding a job, I justified relaxation, the purchases of new clothes and time to do some serious writing. My latent character defects were on the rise and once again I was fooling myself, avoiding responsibility and living in terminal vagueness.

My severance pay dried up, I fell behind on my rent, I was too stressed to write and my self-esteem plummeted. One day while paralyzed by my fears, my landlord's wife stopped by. She asked me to donate to a religious drive she was collecting for. I was dumbfounded.

She knew I was behind on the rent. I patiently explained why I, of all people, could not possibly give. She quietly told me stories of two other single mothers who had committed to give. One had a severely handicapped son, demanding continuous care. The other was in poor physical health with four young children.

After she left, something happened to me. For the first time since losing my job I began to see what I did have instead of focusing on lack. My children and I were strong and healthy and we had a roof over our heads

thanks to a kind and patient landlord who was willing to see us through rough times.

However, I still had the belief that there simply was not enough money. Then I recalled a past pressure relief meeting and hearing for the first time, "when you hold on the tightest is when you need to let go."

I knew in my heart that it was time to let go. It was time to trust and work the faith side of the program that I had sorely neglected. Thankful for my home, I sent a small check to a center for the homeless.

This was not the first time I had ever given money, but it was the first time I had ever given without conditions and expectations. I simply let go with sincere gratitude for what I did have.

I slowly became willing to do whatever I needed to do to get back on my feet. I took a low-paying temp job and went off unemployment. After rent and utilities, we lived on \$30 a week, but it was OK. We had everything we needed. I became less wasteful and more careful. I wrote at night after work instead of complaining I didn't have enough time.

When my computer keyboard died, an unexpected check came in to help me replace it. No matter what our needs were, they were met. My fears were replaced with peace.

My life today is more balanced than it has ever been and that is a direct result of D.A. I give 10% of my net income to others. I know that money is a needed part of service and sharing mine reminds me of my abundance.

Every once in a while I think about the other things I could buy with that money. However, deep inside, I know there is no way I would forgo the calmness that comes with giving-for anything.



Support World Service and D.A. Prosperity

PLEASE READ TO YOUR GROUP AT MEETINGS AND AT YOUR MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING. FEEL FREE TO MAKE COPIES OF THIS LETTER.

Dear D.A. Members,
The 1995 D.A. World Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan is rapidly approaching. GSRs from around the country (and Canada) come together in the spirit of service to do the business of making our world organization run smoothly and prosperously, ensuring that we may carry our message of recovery to all who are in need.

As you know, the annual conference is the time in which our trusted servants decide as a group how our organization will operate. All of the committees are made up of GSRs who come together under specific committees to serve the needs of the larger fellowship. For example, the Literature Committee generates and prepares our literature, the Service Committee produces guidelines for service positions, the Conference Committee addresses the workings of

the annual conference, etc.

The Finance Committee addresses the financial health of our national D.A. treasury and works with the General Service Board on issues affecting the D.A. national spending plan. All of the committees work all year long for all of us "back home," providing a structure and a central national office for the work we do as a worldwide organization. This includes Public Information and the vast amount of inquiries that arrive daily from debtors who are out there suffering. **According to our 7th Tradition, the work of the committees and D.A. World Service is funded by group donations.**

In order to function, our national treasury needs **regular, monthly 7th Tradition support from every D.A. group.** To help each group plan their expenses, we have provided a **sample of a monthly group spending worksheet** which your group treasurer may use as a guideline for donating to D.A. World Service.

Also, there is a **sample monthly donation coupon**, to be clipped and

sent in each month. **Remember, it doesn't matter what the amount is that your group sends.** Rather, it is the D.A. principle of putting something in that category each month, no matter how modest. If all the groups send in a regular, monthly donation, our World Service Organization will have a prosperous operating fund.

Many members have expressed concern for the cost of literature. This topic is rated as a high priority, and new ways to produce our literature in a more cost-effective manner are being worked on. In the meantime, please know that every aspect of D.A.'s operations, including literature, will be **positively affected** by the financial support of the individual groups.

Remember, our 1st Tradition is **Unity.** In unity we support our World Service organization which, in turn, supports us all. Working together, each donating regularly, we break the pattern of "not enough" and change to a pattern of prosperity and abundance. In unity, **there is enough!**

In loving service,
 D.A. Finance Committee

DA GROUP TREASURER SAMPLE MONTHLY SPENDING WORKSHEET MONTH _____ YEAR _____

Description	Income	Expense	Balance
7th Tradition	207.31		207.31
Less Rent		90.00	117.31
Less Literature		45.00	72.31
Less Refreshments		12.67	59.64
Less Bank Charges, Money Orders, etc.		3.50	56.14
Less Miscellaneous (Notebooks for meeting records, copying charges, postage, etc.)		1.85	54.29
Less Prudent Reserve			<10.00>
BALANCE AFTER EXPENSES			44.29
AFTER GROUP EXPENSES, it is suggested to donate:			
45% to GSB (45% x \$44.29)		19.93	24.36
45% to Local Intergroup (45% x \$44.29)		19.93	4.43
10% to Local GSR Area Group (10% x \$44.29)		4.43	
END OF MONTH BALANCE			0.00

Summary of General Service Board Meetings

July 9, 1995 Conference Call:

1. Treasurer Paige J. reviewed the financial reports for 1994 and first quarter of 1995. She reviewed major expenditures since September 1994 which have included reordering several pieces of literature and a slight increase in hours for the GSO employee, authorized at the September 1994 Board meeting.

The balance in the checkbook as of July 9 is \$2,007.56. Upcoming anticipated expenses include reprinting the basic DA pamphlet (\$1,800), cost of July 9 GSB conference call (\$300), *Ways & Means* mailing (\$800) and trustee travel to the World Conference (total not determined yet).

It was noted that contributions are down by about \$3,000 from last year. Paige summarized D.A.'s overall expenses by stating that average quarterly income for three months has been about \$10,000 per quarter. Committed overhead for office rent, employee compensation, professional fees, etc. is about \$7,500 per quarter. The remaining \$2,500 per quarter is what is available for reordering literature, the World Conference, committee work, board conference calls, etc.

The report of the treasurer was accepted.

2. There was a lengthy discussion of the Recovery Book project. Eric, chair of the literature committee, and Tabatha, chair of the Recovery Book subcommittee, joined the call to provide an update for the Board. It was noted that as part of the Board's responsibility to be stewards of the Steps and Traditions, the Board needs to approve the book. There was a lengthy discussion of process for approval of the book. In summary, a committee of the Board (Nicole, Chris, Alex and Patti) was appointed to develop recommendations for the Board regarding the process for approval and a plan for overseeing production of the book.

3. It was noted that at the Convocation of last year's World Conference, it was voted to send out to the Fellowship for a vote, a proposal to amend the Steps and Traditions of D.A. for the purpose of

making them "gender neutral." A draft of the proposal and suggested letter had just been received from the committee. It was agreed that the letter to the Fellowship should come from the Board, and that the materials from the Unity subcommittee of the Literature Committee should be distributed to the Board for review prior to mailing.

4. Nicole agreed to investigate the cost of printing D.A. literature and explore more cost-effective printing possibilities.

5. An update on the 1995 World Conference in Ann Arbor was provided. The schedule and hotel arrangements were reviewed. Concern was expressed about funding trustee travel for the Conference. It was also noted that at the September, 1994 Board meeting, it had been voted to provide a meal allowance for trustees at the Conference, if funds are available. It was noted that this would be the first year that intergroup representatives would be allowed a vote at the World Conference. It was agreed to refer to the Intergroup representatives as "Intergroup Service Representatives" to distinguish them from General Service Group Representatives.

6. Patti provided an update on plans for the next *Ways & Means* mailing, and it was noted that an issue had not been sent out since last December due to lack of funds.

7. There was a discussion of taking over the maintenance of the Fellowship mailing list for when Cindy C. decides she can no longer provide the service. There is a computer available in the General Service Office. Mary and Alex agreed to investigate if it accepts compatible software with what is being used now to maintain the mailing list. Concern was expressed about the impact this would have on the employee's hours in the General Service Office.

8. David reported on several public information inquiries he has handled in the last few months, including a mock-D.A. meeting that was staged for a network program. It appears broadcast of the taped session has been put on hold.

9. Chris reported for the Service Committee and indicated that most of the members had resigned since the 1994 World Conference. She was uncertain as to if it would be possible to produce the GSR manuals for this year without the help of committee members.

10. Alex reported on the General Service Office and reviewed all the responsibilities currently performed by the office employee, Elaine. She reports that it is difficult to keep up with the workload on 13.5 hours per week. It was agreed to send a letter to all intergroups and GSR-area groups inquiring if any areas around the country would have an interest in exploring relocation of the GSO to an area where rent would be less expensive. A list of requirements would be included with the letter.

11. The nominating committee reported that it has developed a process for soliciting nominees that it feels will make the nomination process more open and inclusive. A letter will be sent to intergroups and GSR-area groups inviting nominees and providing a process for nominations to be sent in. The committee is also working on a balanced rotational plan for trustees completing their service on the board. It is hoped that a few new people will be brought onto the Board by January 1, 1996.



MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TO D.A. GENERAL SERVICE

Your monthly donation symbolizes your
spiritual support of D.A. and aids
Recovery for us all. Thank you.

Group _____

City _____

No. of Members _____

Amt. Enclosed _____

Mail To: D.A. General Service Board,
Inc.
P.O. Box 400 - Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10163-0400

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Important: Please list your home group's name: _____

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(If yes, please indicate if you want an extra copy to be sent for your personal use.
As a GSR or group contact you already receive a complimentary copy for your group.)

This is an extra copy I am ordering (paid subscription) _____

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10+ subscriptions \$6.50/yr

Foreign:

1-4 subscriptions \$13/yr

5-9 subscriptions \$12/yr

10+ subscriptions \$11/yr

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8/95

Poetry

Dear Editor,

This is a poem I came across twenty years ago in an art school calligraphy exercise.

Cheers & Joy,
Jerome P., Boston

Step Three: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

Tell us about your Step Three experiences. Jot them down, type them out or send them on disk to the Editor of *Ways & Means*.



I bargained with Life for a penny
And Life would pay no more
However I begged at evening
When I counted my scanty store.
For Life is a just employer
It gives you what you ask
But once you have set the wages
Why you must bear the task.
I worked for a menial's hire
Only to learn dismayed
That any wage I asked of Life
Life would have willingly paid.

--Unknown

W&M For All

D.A. groups can order *Ways & Means* in bulk for a discount.

The *Ways & Means* is the main communication tool of the fellowship. The more people reading, the more connected we will be.

Some groups reserve a meeting a month to read something from *Ways & Means*.

How does your group stay in touch with D.A. as a whole? Write and let us know:

Editor
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