



WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2024



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Sharing my 12-Step Recovery in D.A. World Service, as a Non-Debtor

Michalene R, Class B Trustee, Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

My first World Service Conference (WSC) as a Class B, Non-Debtor Trustee was in 2016. The 2024 WSC in Ottawa will be my last. It's been a privilege and an honor to watch the conference change and grow over that time.

When I attended the first meeting of *my* fellowship, I felt all alone in the universe with a problem not even God could solve. Today I know that God could and would if God were sought. Recovery in my 12-step program led me to share my experience, strength, and

hope in yours, as a Class B, Non-Debtor Trustee. I'm thrilled to see how D.A. has grown in numbers and geography during my time on the General Service Board.

This year's 38th annual conference is taking place in its second international location, Ottawa Ontario Canada. This international location is one of the many impressive changes that I've seen during my tenure as a trustee. I have seen the Board work with people all over the world to inform and encourage the growth of the Fellowship. I have seen WSC Committees promote international participation in the conference. And I have personally met members representing countries from Ireland, the United Kingdom, Russian Federation, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, Kenya, Japan, Ukraine, Brazil, South Africa, and Canada plus virtually from Argentina and New Zealand. Through the literature translation process, we are reaching others such as in China, India, Italy, Iran and more.

One of the most profound moments of my time as a Class B Trustee is when we close the Conference with the Serenity Prayer spoken in many languages, by native speakers. The first time it happened, we cried, we celebrated; we learned how to pray internationally. It's an honor to share this experience with fellows making Debtors Anonymous a Fellowship that allows anyone, anywhere to get help with the problem of compulsive debting.



Art work by Marianne B.

More about the World Service Conference

Taylor D. interviews Claudette B., Co-Chair of the WSC Planning Committee 2024

Taylor: Thank you for taking the time to speak with me, Claudette. As this is a mini-issue of the WAM newsletter, I will keep our interview brief. What has drawn you to do service?

- **Claudette:** I believe my Higher Power, God, places people in my path that are perfect for my spiritual growth. I want to continue to grow, spiritually and I believe that no matter your age, you can change. I believe I continue to change and that has a lot to do with my participation (service); being *part of* the program, and not sitting on the sidelines.

The bottom line is being of service is a gift that goes full circle: It's a circle of love. It's very enriching and it's an important part of my recovery.

Taylor: What has your experience been with the World Service Conference?

Claudette: It is an experience that gives an enormous boost to one's recovery. You see firsthand how intense work makes a difference and how our wonderful program continues to grow and improve. The love and energy that comes from a group of people doing dedicated work, is immeasurable.

Taylor: Lastly, what are your words of wisdom for those coming to WSC for the first time?

Claudette: Come with an open mind. Don't hesitate to ask for help or clarification when needed. You'll meet wonderful people from around the world, and you will work. The conference will keep you busy. Enjoy the experience. All committees and caucuses are enriching to be part of. Connect in the fellowship. What might be confusing and a bit overwhelming at the start, will come together and it will work out beautifully.

Thank you, Claudette

STORY CORNER

Ottawa Calling

Kate N.



Art work by Marianne B.

I am thrilled to travel to Ottawa for the World Service Conference and hope that my story will inspire you to get into service as well.

It was April 2023, I was minding my own business, attending meetings, and doing service where and when I could. I had been secretary in my home group and was participating in my local Intergroup. All was well. I was receiving the benefits and gifts from the program for sure.

My utilities hadn't been shut off in years, I had a prudent reserve and was paying my fair share to put my kids through college. Life on life's terms was happening though,

and I had lost my best friend to cancer during this time. He died with dreams and visions still in him. One of his dreams had been to skate the canal in Ottawa with me.

I had never given much thought to Ottawa, to be honest, until he shared that dream with me. As we learn in D.A, his shared dream nudged me out of my past limitations, and Ottawa became my dream as well. *A vision*. No clue how or when I would get there from Boston, especially after his death, it felt like a dream with no home now.

But then, my home meeting's Group Service Representative (GSR) announced that her three-year service was up, and that we needed a new GSR. She had what I wanted from a D.A point of view and she was a person I respected. Having just lost my friend, I knew that it was time to lean into my program. I didn't debt through his illness; I didn't spend money to deny or delay my grief. But, I was holding on by a thread. My interest was piqued when this lovely, intelligent, funny, solvent woman said that she would help someone get started as GSR. I was reluctant, still. Until she said those magic words – the 2024 World Service Conference would be in Ottawa.

My hand went up.

I knew that the GSR role would help me learn to make a travel spending plan. It would be a safe way for me to start seriously thinking and planning my own trip to Ottawa – in the coming winter and by myself.

I want to let you all know that this program did get me to Ottawa in February 2024, and I did get to skate on the canal. It was beautiful, an experience not to be missed. The city was gorgeous and the sun shone brightly. I paid cash. For everything. I drove there from Boston. My car was paid off. My insurance was current. My passport was current. My AAA membership was current. My cell phone was working perfectly and the bill was paid. Without a D.A. foundation, I never would have been safe to make that dream trip. I would not have been able to do it without debting. I made calls while I was there. I did a lot of writing.

I'm so excited to go back and see Ottawa in the summer while being of service to this program, which has given me a life second to none. I live my dreams and visions, sometimes quickly and sometimes slowly.

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