

WORLD CONFERENCE

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focusing on the structure and format of upcoming conferences, as well as such important issues as GSR orientation.

Fellowship/Communications: This committee will spend the upcoming year focusing on three goals: maximizing the use of *Ways & Means* to communicate to all of DA with one voice, beginning the process of developing a comprehensive World Meeting Directory, and managing the GSR list for the entire fellowship.

Public Information: This committee discussed the responsibilities of PI, determined its vision (including outreach to the media, the non-debting public, churches, suicide hotlines, fairs, institutions, professionals, etc.), and developed guidelines for organizing local public information committees and for responding to requests for information. They'll also be working on new public info literature.

Literature: In addition to getting three new pieces of literature approved by the Conference (see page 1), this committee will be working this year on producing pamphlets on each of the DA tools, as well as materials about daily meditation, DA service, starting new meetings, self-debting (including concepts of pauperism, emotional debting, and underearning), and information for newcomers.

Service: This group will be working on a new pamphlet that will encourage individuals and meetings to give and seek service. They are developing a questionnaire about service that will go to all GSRs.

Thanks to the LA Fellowship

The General Service Board is grateful to the Los Angeles fellowship, and especially to Pam H, the event chairperson, for a job well done. The Conference was the largest event in DA history so far, and the members in LA opened their hearts and their homes to help make it a great success. And we hear that equally enthusiastic people in Washington, D.C. are already starting to plan next year's conference.

Tapes Available

If you would like to purchase tapes of the workshops from this year's (or last year's) World Conference, you may do so by calling Listen to Learn Tape Library, 1-800-537-TAPE or (602) 266-TAPE, in Arizona.

Contributions to Ways & Means

The editor would like to receive personal shares (example: "How I Felt in My First Pressure Group"), inspirational quotes or poems (original or otherwise), cartoons or other visuals, excerpts from published materials, favorite passages from DA literature, examples of how you have used the nuts & bolts of the program in your life, and so forth. Please send anything that you think will give strength and hope to someone else. The editor will make every effort to use what you send to the Newsletter address given on page one.

GSO IDEAL SPENDING PLAN

The DA General Service Office (GSO), a clearing house for all matters that affect DA groups around the world, currently has no central location, staff, or facilities of its own. Our "office" consists of a Post Office Box and volunteers who collect mail and bring it to a weekly meeting in a small church in New York City. The DA Finance Committee, working with the Board of Trustees, has put together the following ideal spending plan for the General Service Office:

Running Expenses	Annually
P/T Gen'l Manager	\$15,000
Office Rent	6,000
Telephone Service	2,400
Secretary (Fulltime)	20,160
Answering Service	600
Postage/Office Supp.	2,100
Travel (Transpotation)	300
Trustee Travel	7,200
Professional Services (Accounting/Legal)	1,200
Misc. Petty Cash	300
Ins/Workmen's Comp	1,692
TOTAL	\$56,952

One -Time Expenses

Word Processor/Printer	\$1,850
Furniture/Cabinets, etc.	2,750
Copier	750
Telephone/Ans. Machine	220
Telephone Installation	281
Stationery/Printing	300
TOTAL	\$6,151

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Ways & Means

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WORLD CONFERENCE A BIG SUCCESS!

The Second Annual DA World Service Conference and DoDA Day was a tremendous success in Los Angeles (September 30 - October 2). Members came from all over the USA to share their commitment to the DA program -- including, for example, New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, Washington, D.C., Illinois, Texas, & California.

Three new pieces of literature were approved: a Recordkeeper and brochures on "Meetings" and the "Spending Plan."

Friday evening included registration, orientation, fellowship, a question-and-answer period with members of the Board of Trustees, and a cabaret piano performance.

Saturday was all work and no play for the Group Service Representatives (GSRs), who attended committee meetings on finance, conference planning, fellowship/communications, public information, lit-

erature, and service. Their job comprised the "work" of the Conference. Other attendees went to workshops that were often packed with people to hear speakers talk on such topics as owning one's own business, getting out of debt, and money and anger. Especially notable were the Visions meetings; John H., DA founder, gave a moving presentation at one of them.

Saturday night, the LA fellowship put on a spirited adaptation of "A Chorus Line" entitled "A Credit Line." It was great fun to hear the familiar tunes and lyrics with a DA twist: "I Hope I Get It" and "What I Did for Love" were standouts.

Committee Doings

Finance: The focus of this committee in the coming year will be the establishment of a World Service Office. A spending plan explaining the \$50,000 that is needed for the WSO will be available soon.

Conference: The 1989 Conference will be held in Washington, D.C.; 1990 will be in Chicago. This committee will be
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WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



A LETTER WITH SOME TIPS ABOUT HOW YOUR GROUP CAN HELP TURN THE GENERAL-SERVICE-OFFICE DREAM INTO A REALITY

Last summer, Marjorie M., the new chair of the DA Board of Trustees, who lives in California, received this letter from a trustee, Pam M., who lives in New York City:

"As we sit each week in our meeting at St. Bartholomew's, we have come to realize that we DO have a General Service Office. Dian meets every Tuesday night with her task force at St. Ignatius and answers letters, records contributions to the Development Fund, and keeps the mechanism going that will ensure DA's growth and stability.

"Our second mailing [soliciting funds to established a General Service Office for DA] went out on August 3rd and as John, Howard, Lally, Susan, and I stuffed and stamped envelopes, I couldn't help but reflect on how grateful I am to have a place in DA and to be involved in such a positive process. Living without debt and having a central place to

share the good news of that message is really an imperative.

"We are looking at the General Service Board (GSB) development fund as the architect of DA, with the contributions coming in from groups around the country as the material we are using to ensure a solid base of operations for new groups. This will result in the GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE: a central spot for the collective conscience of DA.

"We will be receiving contributions not only from the groups being asked, but also in some very original ways. The VISIONS meeting in New York will be putting on a show and exhibit to raise money for the fund. In November . . . many of our members will be uniting in a show called GENESIS NOW. It is an idea from the Bible, and Paul W. and Bruce S. have the script and music in place. It is the story of the creation of DA using Adam and Eve and the snake as the main characters. There will be an HP and a narrator in the story as well. After the cost of the show is taken care of, there should be a contribution of \$1,800-\$2,400 going to GSO. Truly a creative way to support the GSO!!

"There will also be an exhibit of members' work and a reception before the show. A videotape of the evening will be made. Any marketing ideas of that would be appreciated.

"The PROSPERITY group in New York raised \$200.00 in the

first mailing, and I asked Lally to let me know what she did to get such a terrific response from the group. She did three things: (1) she read the appeal letter, (2) she restated the letter in her own terms, stressing the importance of such an endeavor and using her active participation in DA as a persuasive part of her pitch, and (3) when the envelope returned to her, she asked: 'Did everyone get the envelope?' And then she passed it to those who did not receive it.

"An important part of this whole process is the THANK YOU, and we have a method we are starting to use to see that each group is thanked. . . .

"If we had 50 individual contributors who wished to donate the maximum allowed (\$500), we would have \$25,000. This is the amount for three months' operating expenses. If we then had each group contribute \$175 over the four mailings we plan to do, we would have another \$25,000 and we'd hit our target! (See page 4 of this issue for the GSO ideal spending plan.)

"As you can see the PROSPERITY group and other groups have exceeded that. The VISIONS meeting will contribute a sizeable chunk to the fund, and when we begin our FACE TO FACE appeal to INDIVIDUALS who wish to use their abundance in this matter, we can certainly reach our goal soon!"

THE AFTERMATH OF BANKRUPTCY

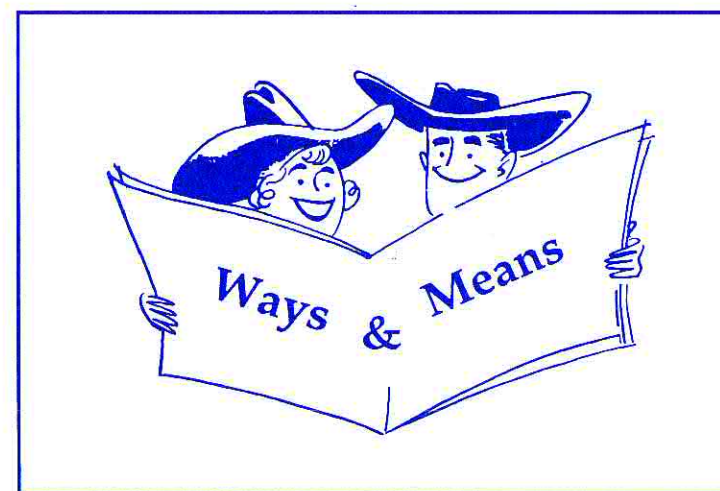
"James, at 42 a confident, charming man, has been in the real estate business for 20 years. Several years ago, he filed a Chapter 7 bankruptcy in federal court because he owed \$500,000 in business debts. His slate was wiped clean. 'For me it didn't work,' he said.

"Bankruptcy was created to relieve the pressure caused by debts, so that one could go on with his life. But in my case, I began making less and less, and my self-worth went down more and more, because I never let those debts go emotionally. . . . Inside I still felt responsible,' James recalled.

"For some of us in DA, just when it seems like we're so very irresponsible -- the truth is we're so damned responsible -- that our debts come before our own lives. When I came into DA four years ago, I was suicidal, hostile and just wanted to die. There were people who had trusted me with their money, and I felt guilty.'

"Although James owed \$43,000 when he got to DA, and his debts were mounting fast, he didn't file bankruptcy a second time. Instead, he followed DA suggestions. Today, his business is returning to solvency. 'I'm not quitting, no matter what,' he said."

Excerpted from a published article written about DA by Wendy T. of Manhattan Beach



WHAT TO DO WITH Ways & Means . . . OPEN LETTER TO GSRs

When you receive Ways & Means, we hope you will follow these simple guidelines for its use:

1. Read it to the members of your group.
2. Do not xerox it for all the members of your group. Instead, encourage people to subscribe, so that Ways & Means can become self-supporting.
3. Announce that the subscription cost will be \$6.50 per year.
4. Xerox the enclosed subscription form for the members of your group.
5. Remind your group members to mail subscription forms to the General Service Board, c/o the Newsletter address on the front page of this newsletter.
6. IMPORTANT: ASK YOUR GROUPS TO SEND WRITTEN MATERIALS FOR THE DA NEWSLETTER (see p. 4 for ideas).