

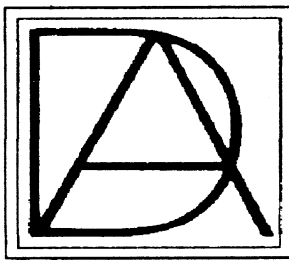
Ways & Means®

A Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Fall 2000

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DEBTORS ANONYMOUS®

Ways & Means is published by the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous. It is generally published quarterly, but the publication may vary. Individuals may subscribe by sending \$8.00 (Foreign: US \$13.00; Canada: US \$8.50) to the General Service Office (GSO) in Boston for a 4-issue subscription. Ways & Means is a forum for sharing experience, strength, and hope of D.A. members, groups, and service committees. It does not interpret D.A. traditions or principles. Articles, poems, cartoons, and other appropriate submissions are welcome, but cannot be returned. Send ALL correspondence and subscription requests to:

*Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
P.O. Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009*

There ARE Spiritual Solutions! HOSTING A D.A. CONFERENCE

One chairperson's experience, strength and hope

I have had the wonderful experience of hosting a D.A. conference. For me it was one of the most rewarding and fulfilling opportunities of my life. As I listen to the Do D.A. Day tapes, all the love, fellowship and recovery are relived. I want to share a few of my experiences for future host committees and chairpersons. Please take what you like and leave the rest.

First, you need to have a God-inspired Vision of hosting. Share your vision with your home group to see if there are like-minded folks in your area. If so, be sure to send one or two people to the following conference and have them be on the Conference Committee. Also, contact previous hosts, like myself, for ideas of what is really involved.

To be honest, it was never "My" vision to host this conference. No

sir, I was content helping with Do D.A. Day and being a co-chair for this committee only. After all, I didn't want all the responsibility and work involved with being THE CHAIRPERSON. Well, HP had a Vision for me. Being of service in this capacity was something God wanted me to do so I could grow and grow and grow. At first I was just a liaison to the Board. Then I made a decision to go to any length to do whatever it took to fulfill our commitment to D.A., and with one particular Board member's blessing and help we held the Vision. I was filled with fear at times--self-pity and grandiose notions at others. I called for prayer support often, got on my knees to turn over my will often and cried, all along doing the footwork (WORK, and lots of it!).

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Across-The-Board Literature Price Reduction

Effective January 1, 2001, the price of ALL D.A. pamphlets will be reduced by 50 cents each.

The price reduction was approved at the annual meeting by the General Service Board (GSB) and responded to a long-felt need among D.A. members. After successfully testing several new prices during the summer, the Trustees unanimously approved the reductions. They hope that the price reduction will encourage both new--and current--D.A. members to read more D.A. literature that can help them enhance their recovery.

The new prices will be reflected in new literature order forms and a new catalog of D.A. publications available around the first of the year.

For more information, contact the General Service Office in Needham, MA.

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There was a turning point when I finally accepted that I was capable and that God had given me the support I needed, inwardly and outwardly, to go forth. I had seen I was willing to do the work and I accepted the "TITLE" of Chairperson.

Lots of changes took place in Albuquerque from the time we bid in 1997 to having the conference in 2000. LOTS OF CHANGES!!!! Many people who were to be involved moved, got married, left D.A., freaked out, or were not able, for whatever reason, to be of service after they had initially committed. Put your faith in your Higher Power and the process, not in one individual. Keep doing the next right thing. All along, pray for God's will. With God for you, who could be against you? Help will come in the perfect way and at the perfect time!

As the conference got closer and closer, folks

from Santa Fe and Albuquerque got involved and did a great deal of service. In my opinion, the whole conference went very, very well. Yes, there were many areas in which to improve and grow, yet I felt totally in God's Hands throughout and was very calm and confident. God was in charge and I was truly a servant.

I want to thank each and everyone who attended the conference. I am so blessed! I met many new friends and got to know my comrades from previous conferences at a deeper level.

So, go forth with your Visions, you know who you are! God has a perfect plan! Be flexible and open to what the outcome may be! It could be different from your first thought. And when you make a commitment, keep it. God will light your path!

In Love and Service,
Phoenix F.

Conference-Approved Public Information Manual Available

Contact the Board Office for the latest update to the Public Information Manual. The Manual includes useful information and tools for local meetings to use when reaching out to the still suffering debtor. Two additional items have been added to the Manual:

- A letter to the professional help community
- A public service information letter briefly summarizing how D.A. works

The Public Information Committee developed and refined the manual over the course of several World Service Conferences. The 2000 World Conference in Albuquerque approved the current version of the PI manual.

Additional items found in the manual are:

- Guidelines for Organizing a local public information committee
- Useful Tools for Regional Public Information Committee
- Guidelines for Responding to the Media
- Guideline for understanding the tradition of attraction versus promotion for D.A. meetings
- Memo for members
- Memorandum to press and media
- Public service information letter*
- Letter to professionals and institutions*
- CD public service announcement letter
- D.A. fact sheet

*New items for 2000 version

The Public Information Committee has plans to make the manual available via the upcoming version of the Debtors Anonymous Website.

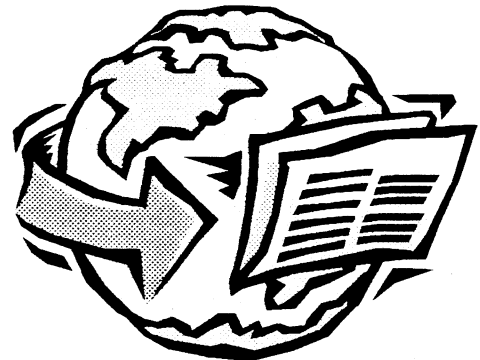
Three new literature pieces approved at 2000 World Service Conference in Albuquerque!

Notes to Newcomers: a one-page overview of D.A. for newcomers.

Service Pamphlet: the 12th pamphlet describing a D.A. Tool

The Numbers/One Approach: a useful format for record-keeping.

These three items are now in the hands of the Publication Committee of the General Service Board which handles printing of literature. They should be available for ordering sometime in the first half of 2001.



The Twelve Concepts for D.A. World Service

D.A. provides a solid basis of four legacies with which debtors are guided in their recovery. These four are the Tools, the Steps, the Traditions, and the Concepts. The tools are our "standard operating procedures," practical exercises in recovery designed to bring clarity and order to our confusion about money and its role in our lives. The Steps provide spiritual guidance for each individual to grow in one's personal recovery process. The Traditions provide direction for working in unity and harmony in order to support all members of the groups and the D.A. Fellowship as a whole. The Concepts of Service support our recovery as we serve each other in business matters in order for the Fellowship to grow and to reach the still suffering debtor.

The Concepts are more than "rules" of business management. They are the global guidance for the spiritual caring and effective management of D.A. by the Trusted Servants in meetings, intergroups, areas, and D.A. worldwide.

Just as the Twelve Steps are guides for personal recovery and the Twelve Traditions are guides for group unity, the Twelve Concepts are guides for World Service. These Concepts serve as a path for Twelfth Step work on a world service level, and show how the D.A. groups, the World Service Conference, and the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board work together to carry recovery in D.A. to the still-suffering debtor.

1. The ultimate responsibility and authority for Debtors Anonymous World Services should always remain with the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship as expressed through the DA groups.
2. The Debtors Anonymous groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority, except for changes in the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, to the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board, who will be the voice and conscience for the whole Fellowship.
3. As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relationship between the groups, the World Service Conference and the DA General Service Board, it is suggested that we endow these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision" in order to ensure effective leadership.
4. Throughout our Conference structure, we maintain at all levels a traditional "Right of Participation" ensuring a voting representation.
5. Throughout our world service structure, the Right of Appeal protects minority opinion and assures that they may be heard.
6. The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility and other duties of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board. The Trustees delegate full authority for routine management of the DA headquarters to its executive committee.
7. The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the Debtors Anonymous General Service

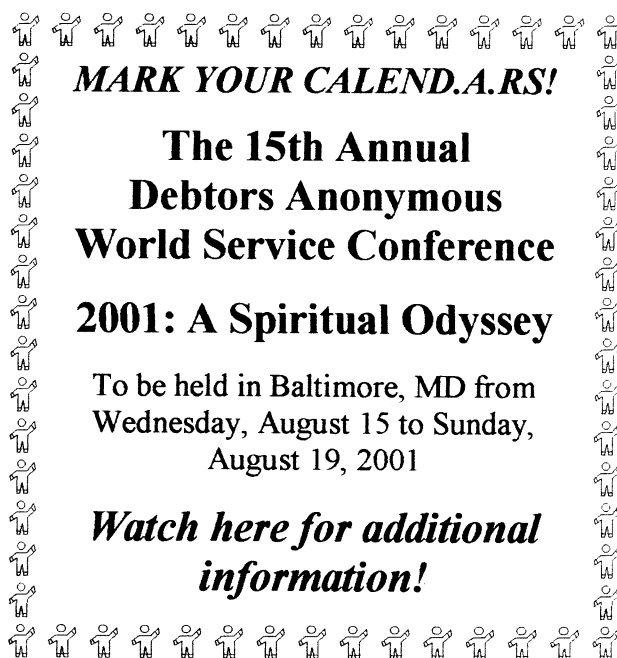
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World Conference Statement on Abstinence and Solvency Terminology

The World Conference in Albuquerque, NM adopted a new statement about abstinence and solvency for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous (D.A.), proposed by the Literature Committee, by a 90-4 vote. The new statement reads: "The process of solvency begins the day we abstain from incurring new, unsecured debt one day at a time."

It retains all senses and definitions of the word "solvency" as a state of being that one can reach or achieve. It retains the action of the verb "abstain," which means to refrain from doing something that could harm us. And it focuses on the most important aspect of D.A. membership: not incurring new unsecured debt one day at a time.

This statement was adopted after many years of discussion among D.A. groups during which different groups emphasized different terms. It is hoped that the new statement will be embraced by all groups so the Fellowship may remain focused on our primary purpose: to carry the message to the compulsive debtor who still suffers.



MARK YOUR CALEND.A.RS!

**The 15th Annual
Debtors Anonymous
World Service Conference
2001: A Spiritual Odyssey**

To be held in Baltimore, MD from
Wednesday, August 15 to Sunday,
August 19, 2001

**Watch here for additional
information!**

(Continued from page 3)

Board serve as governing documents and that the Trustees have legal rights, while the rights of the Conference are spiritual, rooted in the Twelve Traditions. The Concepts and the Charter are not legal instruments.

8. The Debtors Anonymous General Service Board of Trustees assumes primary leadership for larger matters of overall policy, finance, and custodial oversight and delegates authority for routine management to the General Service Office.
9. Good leaders, together with appropriate methods for choosing them at all levels, are necessary. At the world service level, the Board of Trustees assumes primary leadership for DA as a whole.
10. Every DA service responsibility should be equal to its service authority as defined by tradition, resolution, or DA's Charter.
11. While the Trustees hold final authority for DA World Service administration, they will be assisted by the best possible staff members and consultants. Therefore, serious care and consideration will always be given to the composition, selection, induction to service, rotation, and assignments of special rights and duties for all staff with a proper basis for determining financial compensation.
12. The Conference of Debtors Anonymous will observe the spirit of the Traditions, taking care not to become powerful and wealthy; having sufficient operating funds with a prudent reserve; having no authority over any other members; making important decisions by discussing and voting on issues; not acting in a punitive way; not inciting public controversy; never performing any acts of government; and, finally, always remaining democratic in thought and action.

Notes from the General Service Board

Four new Trustees from four geographic regions were ratified for three-year terms at the 2000 World Conference in Albuquerque, NM in September. Their ratification brings the number of Trustees to an even dozen, the first time in many years that the GSB has had that many Trustees.

The new Trustees are:

- * Joanna R. from New York, NY
- * Michael F. from Washington, DC
- * Carolyn H. from Seattle, WA
- * Carla J. from Minneapolis, MN

The GSB also introduced its new officers for 2000-2001 to the World Conference:

- * Chair: River L. from Woodstock, NY
- * Vice Chair: Robert P. from Annapolis, MD
- * Treasurer: Michael F. from Washington, DC
- * Secretary (re-elected to his third year in the post): James W. from San Francisco, CA.

Special Note: The GSB wishes to thank former Chair Chris F., from Winston-Salem, NC, for her incredible seven years of service as a Trustee. Chris served as Chair twice. She also served as Vice Chair and Treasurer.

2001 D.A. 25th Anniversary Calendar

A distinctive 2001 calendar, based on the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, has been published to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Debtors Anonymous. All profits from calendar sales will serve the still-suffering compulsive debtor, according to the General Service Board.

The 56-page calendar could be a great holiday gift for your sponsor, sponsees, family members, or friends. You can use the calendar to commemorate and celebrate D.A.'s anniversary every day of the year.

The calendar, the size of a paperback book, is a useful tool that can be carried in a briefcase or purse or can be used on a desktop or in a home office. It has a unique design that, month by month, helps compulsive debtors focus on their recovery using these helpful features:

- * The Step and Tradition of the Month
- * A Thought-Provoking Theme and Commentary
- * A Daily Appointment Book
- * Holidays and Key Dates, including tax due dates for business owners
- * A Journal page for notes and meditative writing
- * A Spending Record to track income and expenses
- * Pages for member names, phone numbers, and email addresses.

The price per calendar is \$10, but bulk discounts for group orders are available. More than half of the purchase price is considered a contribution to the Fellowship.

For more information contact your literature representative or the General Service Office.

Ways & Means Newsletter Subscription Form

Yes! I would like to become a subscriber to *Ways & Means*, the newsletter for the fellowship of Debtors Anonymous.

Date _____ Is this a new subscription? _____ A renewal? _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ issues

Please list your home group's name: _____

Are you a group contact? _____ A General Service Rep? _____

Make checks payable to:
D.A.G.S.B
(Debtors Anonymous General
Service Board)

**IMPORTANT: INCLUDE
THIS FORM
WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

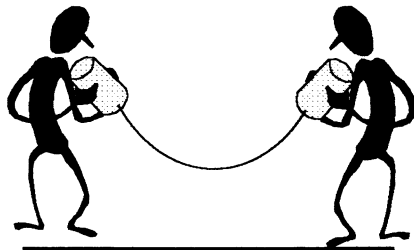
Subscription rates are as follows:

United States:	Canada:	Foreign:
1-4 subscriptions \$8/yr. each	1-4 subs. \$8.50/yr.	1-4 subs. \$13/yr.
5-9 subscriptions \$7/yr. each	5-9 subs. \$7.50/yr.	5-9 subs. \$12/yr.
10+ subscriptions \$6/yr. each	10+ subs \$6.50/yr.	10+ subs \$11/yr.

All amounts must be drawn on U.S. banks only. Please remember that it could be up to three months before you receive your first issue. *Ways & Means* is published quarterly, but the publication schedule may vary. Subscriptions must be prepaid by check, money order or traveler's check; No cash or C.O.D.'s accepted.

Mail check plus order form to:

Ways & Means
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Are there any D.A. related announcements?

Let the Fellowship know what's happening around the world in D.A.. Send your D.A. related announcements to:

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Office Manager

The General Service Office in Needham, MA seeks a full time Office Manager.

Responsibilities include staff management, budget, literature distribution, and phone/mail work. Excellent communication and Microsoft Office skills required. Call 781-453-2743 or fax resume to 781-453-2745 for an interview.

Audio Materials Available for Purchase from the General Service Office

Enjoy this professionally read and recorded version of the Debtors Anonymous and Pressure Relief Groups pamphlets in your cd or tape player.

Cassette 30-minutes each side \$5.75
CD version of the same material \$6.00

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Like a good meeting, this newsletter exists by the contributions of it's members. If you have the desire to share your story of experience, strength and hope or any other D.A. related subject with fellow D.A. members around the world please send in your submissions to:

Ways & Means Newsletter
Debtors Anonymous
Attn.: Editor
PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

Ways & Means is our meeting-in-print. Your contribution is encouraged.

Sharings will be edited as required for space, and will not be returned. Thank you.

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"I find the great thing in this world is not so much
where we stand as in what direction we are moving."

- Oliver Wendell Holmes