

New Year, New Ways and Means! (WAM!)

Salutations and Happy New Year to you, our brothers and sisters, trudging the sometimes bumpy road to solvency, sanity, and higher power connectedness in this worldwide Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous!

My name is Marianne B, and I am a debtor, underearner, business owner, AND a General Service Representative (GSR) serving on the World Service Conference Fellowship Communication Committee (WSC - FCC). Starting this year, the General Service Board (GSB) passed the baton of generating the bi-annual Ways and Means publication, to myself and four other fabulous Debtors Anonymous (D.A.) Fellows in our FCC Ways and Means (WAM) subcommittee.

Our goal is to continue to provide you with interesting, thought-provoking and recovery-focused newsletters.

As with the Ways and Means (WAM) of old, we will be looking for content for our newsletter from YOU, as well as from those who don't read our newsletter or even know of it! So, tell your friends to subscribe to the D.A. news and send in a story of recovery! [Sign Up for eNews](#)

This newsletter is *for all of us, made by all of us*. We hope you enjoy the selections we've made, offered to you in service:

- **WAM Committee Member Stories**
- **Story Corner** – Member Submitted Experience, Strength & Hope
- **For the Newcomer** – A Story to Welcome You
- **Interview Corner** – Q&A with Deborah O., Chair of the WSC Literature Committee

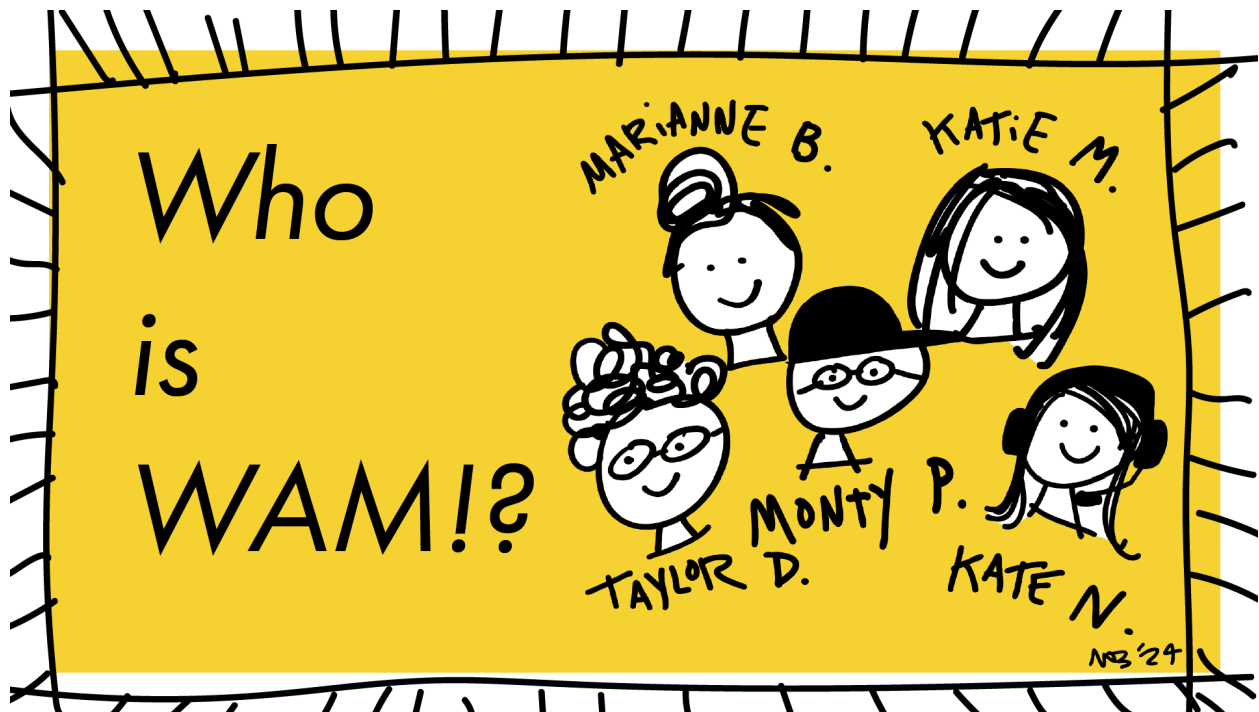
- **The History of Vote to change D.A.'s Steps and Tradition**
- **Promise 6 Day**
- **Upcoming Events** – Fellowship offerings of Workshops, Conferences, Dates to Know

We, Monty, Katie, Kate, Taylor and I, are excited to step up to this new service commitment. Thank you for letting us be of service.

Yours in recovery,

Marianne, Monty, Katie, Kate and Taylor

Who are the WAM committee members?



A Twinge of Hope
Monty, WAM Member

I'm Monty P., and I am a compulsive debtor. I learned late in life, at age 66, that I have a compulsive debting disease. I also learned an old dog can learn new tricks in D.A. I have recovered from compulsive debting now, thanks to my sponsor and his guidance through the 12 Steps of this beautiful program.

My career has been a rollercoaster of compulsively starting businesses. Some of them worked, some of them didn't. I have gone broke twice in my life and could see it was happening in March of 2020. I feared I was about to lose everything, again. This time, maybe my wife as well. I no longer had the energy of my youth or the willpower to rebuild. I felt I was *not enough*, there was not enough out there for me, and there never would be. I began a precipitous fall to the lowest kind of bottom from hell.

I couldn't eat due to the constant pain in my stomach. Couldn't sleep for the horrific nightmares. I became sickly, weak, and incoherent. I was unmanned by an insidious disease I didn't even know I had. After some weeks of this, the only way out of the agony was to end my life.

My debt and my debting disease had grown unchecked until they were bigger than me. I could find no way out of the torment and finally conceived a way to commit suicide where my wife could still get the life insurance. I began to execute both my plan and myself.

Being quarantined due to Covid, my wife and I didn't see our family much, and I had sealed my heart off from them, a necessity to end my life. It was during that time, my youngest son saw me. He was shocked by his now-pitiful, emaciated father. He began to call me each night, effortlessly getting through my barriers. But, after each call, I had to rebuild the steel curtains around my heart. When he told us, after a week of nightly calls, that he was an alcoholic and had found A.A. two months earlier, I understood how he was getting through. He had been using his new A.A. words to reach me. I didn't know it at the time, but that heartbreak was the absolute bottom of my bottom. My wife and I lost it.

As we cried for a week over the plight of our son being an alcoholic, we began to notice, during his nightly phone calls, that A.A. was working for him. I felt a strange sensation, seeing him recover before my eyes. Later, I realized that sensation was a twinge of hope. After a full month of nightly phone calls, he sent me a link to a B.D.A. meeting.

When my son saw me during my bottom, he thought he recognized in my debting something similar to his alcoholic behaviors. His 12th-Step calls talked me off the ledge.

D.A. wasn't an immediate fix. I lost my solvency date twice as I continued to heal physically and mentally from compulsive debting. But in time, I allowed God into my life, especially my money life. My solvency date was finally and firmly set on June 30, 2020. These past four years have been the best of my life, a testament to the hope and power of this remarkable program.

I am happy to have this opportunity to serve on the newly formed Ways and Means Subcommittee as a GSR from my D.A. home group, Steps to Solvency in Raleigh/Durham, NC, which meets Wednesday nights on Zoom at 7 pm, EST.

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From Vagueness to Clarity and Vision

Katie, WAM member

My name is Katie and I am a compulsive spender and debtor, and part of the FCC and WAM Subcommittee.

I came into D.A. in August 2019 when I hit my bottom with spending, with 3 credit cards, and (I think) \$30,000 plus in credit card debt. I am not sure what the total of my credit card debt was due to vagueness. When I first entered D.A. I did not want to be here, I felt like a failure for being in another 12 Step Program.

But thanks to D.A., the 12 Steps, and its Fellowship, I have clarity and humility when it comes to my spending. And now I have goals and visions! I went from putting entire vacations on my credit cards to paying in all cash.

I was trying to find joy by spending compulsively. But as Promise 6 says "Faith will replace Fear, Isolation will give way to Fellowship." D.A. helped me also to become more present in my family and friends' lives, instead of trying to find the next compulsion to distract myself with.

After being in D.A. for almost 2 years, I wanted to feel more connected to the program. So I volunteered to become the General Service Rep (GSR) for my Home Group. My first WSC was in London 2022, and I was with so many Debtors in person for the first time since I walked into D.A..

I joined FCC and helped put on the Fellowship Wide Call for Promise 6 Day in April 2023. This year I am part of the WAM publication with the FCC.

Because of service I have met so many people from around the world and have gotten out of my head. D.A has given me so much, it is my pleasure to serve on WAM to give back to the newcomer and Debtors.



"My plan is to borrow my way to financial freedom!!!"

Artwork courtesy of Dion F.

My Word is Good

Kate, WAM Secretary

This is my second time in D.A.. I am so delighted to be here and be of service.

Before D.A., for most of my life, I could not be trusted. I didn't think my words really meant anything and that everyone knew it. If you lent to me, it's because you liked me... not because you wanted to be repaid. That's what I thought. And I thought you knew it too.

I didn't have a lot of credit card debt but I had owed money on utilities and to people. I was a small-time debtor, high-bottom debtor, never in enough or the kind of debt to declare bankruptcy (you are still expected to pay back your Aunt whether you're "bankrupt" or not.) I had no savings.

Most importantly, I operated out of fear. That's a hard place to live. It was at such a base level, I didn't even know that it was there, behind almost all of my actions and inactions.

Today, I trust and I can be trusted. I really enjoy keeping my word. I get a kick out of it. I have learned things here like: *Information is your Friend* and *There is Safety in Numbers* (like, keeping your numbers and being one of a number at a meeting.)

For the newcomer and those who are coming back:

I used to have my utilities turned off regularly, I lived from orange shutoff notice to orange shutoff notice. I only paid things under threat of cancellation: car insurance, school fees, dental bills. Every day had a near emergency in it.

Today, my car (which was bought new) is paid for. I maintain it so I have not yet had a tow in six years. It has been insured 100% of the time. I have had AAA 100% of the time. My utilities are all up to date. My only debt is my mortgage. My jobs have gotten better. My work pays me more every year. My health is excellent. My conscience is clear. My word is good.

I live a life of sane and very-very happy usefulness.

If I am not happy, sane, and useful, I need more meetings...more service...more steps.

I'm excited about this new year and working with this committee. Every time I do service, my life gets better. Quick, shameless plug for working at the Intergroup level. That service has brought joy and opportunity to my life.

Feeling Relief

Taylor, WAM Co-Chair

Hi, I'm Taylor and I am a debtor. I have been a member of D.A. since March of 2017. D.A. has truly been a life-changing program for me. When I came to my first meeting, almost seven years ago, I was barely earning and felt completely overwhelmed with financial fear. I felt ashamed that I couldn't figure out how to solve my problem on my own. Thankfully, I found a great home group meeting, Tuesday Night "Earn or Burn" in Santa Monica, California, and began working the program.

I took commitments, got a sponsor, made outreach calls, started keeping my numbers and working the steps. In just a matter of months, my earnings increased and I began to feel relief from the "money terror" I had come into the program with. In June of 2019, I took on the commitment of GSR representative for my local group. I attended my first World Service Conference in Los Angeles that summer. I have been active in World Service ever since. This is my second year on FCC.

I am excited to be working with a great crew of Fellows on the WAM sub-committee. We have been brainstorming how to restructure the Ways & Means publication and collecting stories and interviews from D.A. members across the world. I have learned so much from my time as a GSR and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to learn and grow in recovery.

From Demanding to Contributing

Marianne, WAM Chair

Hi all, I'm Marianne and I am a compulsive debtor, underearner and business owner.

I was introduced to the Fellowship and Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous in the year 2000, a few months before my 21st birthday. I had a problem with drinking and my life was wildly unmanageable. I was full of fear, self-hate, and self-blame; I wanted to die. A therapist suggested that I look into A.A., which I thought was an over-the-top suggestion, but I did it anyway. Strangely enough, all these *old people* in a dark church on a Wednesday night had something I wanted; peace, serenity, and love for themselves and each other, all in sobriety. In the summer of June 2000, the 12 steps became the backbone of my life.

Fast forward to December 2021. I'm married (never expected that to happen), struggling to live life as an artist (emphasis on struggle), and back in Massachusetts, the place where I grew up. My husband wants to buy a house before the mortgage rates go up again. We live on his salary, plus maybe \$12,000 I bring in each year, which is decent money, but not enough to buy a house near the beach as I demand. Yes, I demanded it. Many, many fights ensue. I feel betrayed, 'this is why I married you, so I could be an artist and have all the nice things!!' I say to myself, knowing that saying it out loud is a bad idea. A program friend mentions D.A. to help with my earning and debting (*not to mention my grand sense of entitlement*). It sticks.

Two years into my D.A. recovery, what is life like? My husband and I own a home we can afford (barely, but we can) and it's 15 mins from the beach. I found a home group and a sponsor in D.A. and started to work the steps (I'm on my 4th step right now). I stopped using a credit card, even for my business, and I don't debt. I have PRGs to help me get clear on what I need to earn - as well as my vision of earning - and how I can do that.

Since January 2023, I've been making a significant contribution to my family's expenses each month. I'm not paying half of everything, which is something I aspire to, but I am meeting my solvency commitment. I reach out to Fellows, ALL THE TIME; the phone is my lifeline. And now I'm the GSR for my homegroup, which has given me the chance to do even more service which connects me to more people, and more ways to give it away.

I have a better relationship with my husband today. I can see how I wasn't taking care of myself and expected him and everyone else to parent me. That's my job, not his. I get to do that today, in the most loving and generous ways.

And, I have a growing, dynamic, sometimes foggy but always present relationship with a loving higher power which I sometimes call God, sometimes HP, Universe or even just Love! My Fellows in D.A. and the real world are also part of this God. I feel blessed to have so much love, acceptance, and beauty in the relationships I have.

I'm filled with gratitude for my abundant recovery life.

But it's slow. I mean sloooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooow.

A day at a time, I am recovering from debting and underearning and discovering my HP's will for me. I do that by making time for prayer and attending D.A. meetings, doing service, keeping my numbers, and having and giving PRGs. Is this the life beyond my wildest dreams? That's a tough one; I had some pretty wild dreams. But the presence of a loving Universe and the abundance of peace, clarity, and serenity is exactly what I needed.



...Step One was the beginning of freedom.

From The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery, pg.9

Artwork courtesy of Marianne B.

STORY CORNER!

Stories about recovery submitted by our members

Talk About a Global Effort! One Debtor's Story of D.A. in Iran

Behrooz M.

I was born in the worst country, in the worst city and worst neighborhood in the world; God! Are you kidding me?

I grew up in a poor and unsafe family. I tried different businesses, from fruit selling and photography to a small paint factory that was all built with debt. But each time I ended up with bankruptcy and more debt, so I hid myself from banks and creditors like a lizard, in jobs with the worst conditions.

During my last hideout in a cement factory, I contemplated suicide for several months (my father had ended his own life). In that utter desperation, while frantically searching the web, I found the D.A. website.

Very soon, I found myself in the first face-to-face meeting of D.A. that a friend had started in Tehran. It was 3 hours away from my work. We had no literature, just some free pamphlets from the D.A. World Services website in English.

I was trying to attend the B.D.A. list and Spenders D.A. email meetings and I made friends with some people there. Little by little, I found the courage to come out of my hiding place in that cement factory, and despite my fears of a job that did not have a pleasant environment and humiliated me, I came out and started my business in the field of accounting with one of my friends.

At the same time, help was coming. My friend and my sponsor asked the Milwaukee D.A. group to sponsor us. Talk about a global effort! But thanks to the service offered by all these various people we eventually started translating books and pamphlets like thirsty people.

Two years ago, I separated from my business partner with guidance from my sponsor and my PRG, and despite my hesitation and fear, I learned to manage my business.

As I am writing today, D.A. in Iran has several face-to-face meetings in Tehran and other cities. We have a lot of online meetings and I'm a speaker at some of them.

I'm running a personal business without debt. My employees and customers like and respect me, and I am thinking of developing my business to scale with my friends' help.

I have experienced many ups and downs in my life, sometimes when I look back and see where I started in D.A. and where I am now, it seems more like a dream than reality.

These days, my biggest effort is to maintain my awareness by working the STEPS daily, without stopping. Because it's the best way to connect me to my Higher Power that brought me to D.A. in the first place.

I have been learning to pay attention to my talents and not to sacrifice myself too much for others, and that being strong for me means letting go of fake pride and getting help. I have been learning that geographical boundaries cannot limit me; I can make my own world in this global village with my friends who are like me and get out of the feeling of loneliness.

I really feel that my country isn't a poor neighborhood in a third-world country, my country is my D.A. Fellowship.



From The Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Debtors Anonymous: Thirty-Six Principles of Recovery, pg 19

Artwork courtesy of Marianne B.

FOR THE NEWCOMER

A Newcomer Returns to The Meetings That Resonate

Aaron H.

Before working my D.A. program, I visualized myself in a virtual, white muscle t-shirt, telling my wife, yet again, that I had debted. She'd get angry, then cry, yet again. Even though I hadn't hurt my wife physically with my hands, I had abused her with unhealthy money management habits.

Before coming to D.A. via Zoom, I'd been to one in-person meeting about a year and a half earlier. When I came home, my wife asked me where I'd been.

I said, "D.A."

She asked, "What's that?"

I said, "Debtors Anonymous."

She said, "Oh, what's that?" I told her.

She said, "You don't need that. Just listen to me!"

And there you have it – my perfect excuse to cop out. And anyway, "those people" in the in-person meeting were "weird."

My wife is NOT a debtor. I continued to debt for another one-and-a-half years, abusing my wife with my mismanagement of our finances and robbing us of our financial well-being. Obviously, I was not "ready" (I hadn't hit enough of a bottom). Later, I did. Bottoms are relative.

I found a D.A. meeting online and began attending the recommended six meetings. The last day I debted, I returned to a restaurant to tip a waitress better, and later that same day, I bought the recommended D.A. literature - both with a credit card. My solvency date began the following day, when I started keeping my numbers.

Attending 90 meetings in 90 days was suggested to me by a fellow. I attended at least one meeting per day, sometimes two or more, "banking them" for when I missed days. I did this for the first eight months or so. It has now been three years.

My first PRG was held very early into my recovery. The night before, I stayed up late, gathering all my spending records, including future expenses, and learned how to do a spreadsheet.

During this Pressure Relief Meeting (PRM) my team of fellows reminded me of D.A.'s Promise 2: "*Clarity will replace vagueness.*"

I asked my future sponsor to sponsor me. He responded he hadn't completed enough of his step work. I responded, "I'll wait." Sometimes, waiting works. It did for me.

At first, D.A. was my higher power. *Note: I have a Highest Power.*

There were three different explanations for why I was a debtor: a doctor's view, an angel investor's view, and D.A.'s view. I didn't care which lens I looked through, I just needed help. I believed and trusted D.A. could and would help.

D.A. obviously has! I've paid off both our credit lines (mostly my fault), and I closed mine. Now, I could pay off the remainder of my student loan all at once, but I'm building a prudent reserve. Last year, we traveled to the Philippines for a month without debting.

My sponsor wishes me a long, slow recovery. My wife sees my progress and has asked me to make D.A. my new job.

<https://debtorsanonymous.org/> lists a vast number of meetings held throughout the week. I return to the ones that resonate with me. Consistency, "one day at a time," is key.



Gender Neutrality in D.A. Steps and Traditions
WAM Committee Co-Chair Taylor D. talks with
Deborah O., Chair of the WSC Literature Committee

Taylor: Can you tell us a little about your story and what brought you to D.A.?

Deborah: Chaos around money and being self-supporting through my own contributions.

No matter how much I was earning, there was chaos around spending everything and not taking care of myself. I was active in other 12-step programs and I learned about D.A. from a self-help book that was talking about being drunk with money. The book suggested Debtors Anonymous. I couldn't believe that the program existed.

D.A. continues to change my life, I just love this program so much.

Taylor: How long have you been in service at the world level?

Deborah: I've been a GSR for the past 3 years, and was involved on the group level before that. While living in Los Angeles, I was a regular at the Miracle Mile meeting where the GSRs always caught my attention, modeling that position and going to conferences. When they needed a GSR for the meeting I helped start, Earn it Grow it, Sundays at 8:45 a.m. Pacific time, I finally stepped up to the role after watching people I admired do the same.

Taylor: How did you become the Chair of Literature Committee (Lit Com) and what has it been like for you?

Deborah: The role of the chair position just presented itself to me, but I learned how to do it by watching the previous chair. She was so calm in the way she did things like sending out the agenda and leading the meetings. I thought if I did what she did, I could do this.

While in this position over the last year, I've grown in recovery, especially around my character defects. I had to learn how to lead, detach, and not take things personally. Triggers would come up with certain personalities and I would write about it, read it to my sponsor, and pray on it.

My action partner told me about workshops on the traditions, and ways to get the support I need in detaching from difficult personalities or whatever personalities were pushing my buttons.

Since taking on this role, something has shifted for me. Everything coincided spiritually with where I was at in my recovery. Through D.A., I'm getting to practice how I am in the world, embracing my skill sets, and setting my own limits.

Taylor: We have a fellowship-wide vote due May 10 to make the Steps and Traditions gender-neutral in all our D.A. literature. Being the Chair of the Literature Committee, can you explain what this means and how this vote came about?

Deborah: Debtors Anonymous adapted the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of A.A., with their permission, by changing the words "alcoholics" and "alcohol" to "debtors and debt", etc. However, we did not have permission to change the pronouns for God or Higher Power, "He" and "Him", which are not gender neutral..

Each year at the World Service Conference, committees make recommendations to the General Service Board/Fellowship based on their committee work. As far back as 2012, various motions were proposed to establish gender-neutral language in any new and/or newly printed D.A. literature. Year after year, LitCom and the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Committee (UUOC) continued to say, "We recommend that the GSB continue to have conversations with A.A. to say that this is important to our Fellowship".

Taylor: Other 12-step groups have changed the pronouns for God in their literature or at meetings, couldn't D.A. just do the same thing?

Deborah: I know of at least one other Fellowship who made those changes on their website. There are other Fellowships that I've seen that just change the literature to gender-neutral language on their own.

As a GSR, I would hear from fellows and newcomers especially, asking "Why are the Steps "He" and "Him"? Why are they not neutral? Other 12-step groups have made changes, so why can't we?" We needed to get permission from A.A.. If we made changes without their permission, maybe they would never know or never come after D.A. for it, but that would be copyright infringement.

Last year, after years of reaching out, the Chair of the GSB received a response from A.A.; permission was granted to Debtors Anonymous to change the language in the Steps and the Traditions. They said yes!

Taylor: Why do you think it has taken so long?

Deborah: It can be a contentious issue. A.A. is still trying to work it out in their Fellowship.

Some say "It's not broken, do not touch the Steps. This is how they were originally written". And I really understand that because this literature, this Program, this Big Book saved my life, so don't mess with it.

Our 12-step rooms are a reflection of our world, meaning everyone has different opinions. Even though gender neutrality in the way D.A. refers to God is important to me, another fellow may completely disagree with that.

This issue brings me back to our primary purpose: to help another sick and suffering debtor. With gender-neutral language in our literature, it may be easier for people to see and find themselves and get the recovery they need.

It's real spiritual work, to evolve. Alcoholics Anonymous and other 12-step programs are also evolving. They are facing these same issues.

Taylor: So what did that mean for LitCom?

Deborah: We needed to look at the history of previous group consciences.

In 2007 the WSC voted to make all references to a higher power in new D.A. literature gender neutral, except the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, because these are under copyright with A.A. The GSB needed to ask for permission.

In 2021, a joint subcommittee with LitCom and the Underserved and Underrepresented Outreach Committee was formed to conduct a gender-neutral language review of existing D.A. literature. We started with all of the pamphlets, formats, and the D.A. Manual for Service. We noted where changes could be made. We were prepared to bring the following motion.

That year at the Conference, the Fellowship approved a motion from the WSC Literature Committee to identify instances in existing literature where gendered language could be replaced with gender-neutral language upon reprint, except for the D.A. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, changes which required permission from A.A.

Which brings us to 2023, the year that A.A. granted D.A. official permission to change the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions to reflect gender neutrality. Finally, at the WSC in 2023 LitCom proposed the motion for the changes, and the motion to ballot the fellowship for the changes passed. Because even the Conference cannot just decide this issue: the whole fellowship has to have a say according to our Charter and 75% of registered groups have to agree to it. That's how we got to where we are.

Taylor: So permission was granted, a motion was made and accepted. Now what?

Deborah: The next step is to get consensus from the Fellowship.

As with all 12-step programs, Debtors Anonymous has a Conference Charter, which is our governing document for how we do our business in D.A.. In the Charter, it says, "if there is any proposal to change the Steps, Traditions or Concepts, a ballot has to go out and we have to have $\frac{3}{4}$ of the entire Fellowship vote in favor in order to approve it." That means $\frac{3}{4}$ of all of the registered meetings.

What this process shows us is that we, as Debtors Anonymous, will not change our Steps or Traditions and Concepts lightly. This means that every meeting has a vote.

Taylor: So that's why we were trying to get all our meetings to register by the end of last year?

Deborah: Yes. Exactly. The Board wanted the most up-to-date meeting information and GSR contact email for every D.A. meeting, not just for the newcomer and our members, but for this vote, so we could know exactly what a $\frac{3}{4}$ consensus would be.

WSC LitCom had a Fellowship Wide call on February 17, 2024, to inform members about the vote and the 2 items we are voting on. One of them is about the gender-neutral language in the Steps and Traditions, and the other is to make Tradition 11 more all-inclusive for our changing world, striking the word '*and*' between 'radio and films', and adding at the end '*television and all other public media*'.

For those of our readers who missed that call, you can now listen to it [here](#).

Taylor: My last question for you Deb: what are highlights and the struggles of doing service work?

Deborah: The highlight and the struggle is that, and this goes along with my D.A. state of mind, things have to happen *now*. But what D.A. reminds me is that things take time.

There's no emergency. Higher Power is in the group conscience. This is service work, for all of us; none of us are being paid, we are doing this for our recovery. It should be fun! Allowing our work to unfold has sometimes been a struggle, but also a highlight as I get to see Higher Power's will in action.

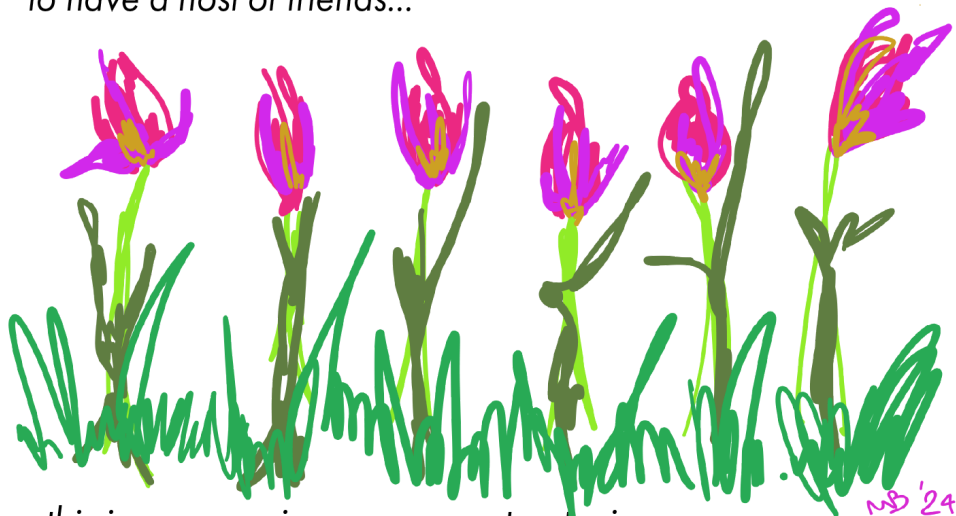
Taylor: Thank you, Deb, for your service and your time today.

Deborah: Thank you!

Editor's note: The number of meetings eligible to vote is 547 (we originally had 542, but we allowed in 5 additional meetings who attempted to register but encountered technical difficulties). This means that each motion will only pass if it receives at least 411 'yes' votes. 410 or fewer 'yes' votes will mean the motion does not pass.

Go [here](#) to learn more about the Fellowship-Wide Ballot.

...to watch loneliness vanish,
to see a fellowship grow up about you,
to have a host of friends...



...this is an experience you must not miss.

from Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 89

Artwork courtesy of Marianne B.

Promise 6 Day Reflection

April 27, 2024 was D.A.'s Fifth Annual "Promise Six Day," a Fellowship-wide reminder to intentionally connect with our Fellows in celebration of our collective journey in recovery.



Although I Had Close Friends, I Never Talked about My Financial Struggles

Matrieya, FCC Member, Promise 6 Day Committee Member

"Isolation will give way to Fellowship. Faith will replace fear."

D.A.'s "Promise 6," like all of our Promises, was foundational for me. It seems a lot to expect, or have hope for, when one is terrified, feeling buried under a mountain of debts, bills, or other financial pressures. When I arrived in D.A., I was in a terrible situation that I had little faith I

could ever fix. I felt so ashamed of myself. Despite an excellent education and having a well-respected profession, I had never really been able to break even. I always lived just a little bit beyond my means. Although I had close friends, I never talked about my financial struggles. I felt so ashamed. I had blown through every nest egg I ever tried to nurture and was totally overwhelmed by vagueness, chaos, and drama in my financial life.

I was “recruited” into D.A. by a social media “friend” I had never met. They saw one of my vague posts about unopened mail biting me in the ass. That person became my first D.A. sponsor and did me the enormous service of taking me through the Steps. I have since gotten solvent, bought my first home, and righted a couple of seemingly impossible life situations. Meanwhile, I slowly but surely apply the Tools to my daily life and feel surrounded by loving support from my D.A. Fellows. (Most of them are virtual, as we have only a tiny group in my small town.) As huge a promise as #6 sounds, it has come true for me.



From Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 89

Artwork courtesy of Marianne B.

UPCOMING EVENTS

WORLD SERVICE CONFERENCE 2024

August 7-11

Ottawa, CANADA



Join us in Ottawa, Canada for the 38th World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous! This annual gathering, held from Wednesday to Sunday in August, serves as our Fellowship's business meeting. At the conference, we review our finances, website, and other aspects of our community, work on new literature concepts and public information and vote on important issues affecting D.A. As a group, sending a General Service Representative (GSR) to the Conference offers direct involvement in D.A.'s international growth and provides a rich experience including Fellowship Day, Talent Show, and Evening Gala.

Learn more here: <https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/world-service-conference/>

Other In-Person and Online Events

Is your homegroup or intergroup sponsoring an event you'd like to share? Send us the details and we'll include it in our next issue, coming out mid-summer 2024!

Dates to Know!			
Date	Event	Location	Check This Link!
May 3, 2024	John H Deadline to Apply	Scholarship for GSR/ISR to attend World Service Conf	See page 19 of World Service Conference (WSC) Registration Packet.
May 10, 2024	Fellowship Wide Ballots Due	Every Meeting	https://debtorsanonymous.org/how-to-cast-a-vote/
June 1, 2024	SSEC Fellowship-Wide Call	JUNE 1ST, 2024 10-11:30 AM PACIFIC 1-2:30 PM EASTERN 6-7:30 PM GMT	Please join us to hear from three D.A. members how spiritually sustainable earning has changed their lives. USA & CANADA CALL IN NUMBER: +1.605.472.5540 ACCESS CODE: 617093
June 15, 2024	Pre-Conference (WSC) Orientation Call	Are you attending WSC? Please join!	See page 4 of World Service Conference (WSC) Registration Packet.
July 5, 2024	Early Registration Ends WSC	(\$100 difference after 7/5/24)	https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/world-service-conference/
August 7-11, 2024	World Service Conference 2024	Ottawa, Canada Brookstreet Hotel and Conference Centre	Please talk with your group about sending your GSR to this annual event! https://debtorsanonymous.org/event/38th-annual-debtors-anonymous-world-service-conference/
Ongoing – Check these out for ongoing events!			
Sponsor	Event	Location	Sponsor Link
New England Intergroup	Workshops 4 th Saturday 10:30–11:45am ET	Zoom	https://danewengland.net/workshops
Southern California DA	Workshops Various	Various	https://socalda.org/
DebtorsAnonymous.org	News!	Online	https://debtorsanonymous.org/fellowship-services/announcements/

All artwork in this issue is courtesy of Marianne B, unless otherwise noted. The stories contained in this issue are not conference-approved literature but are the individual voices of each writer. Mention of any product or brand does not imply endorsement by D.A. but simply reflects the writer's experience.