

THE DA FOCUS

The Quarterly World Service Newsletter for the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous

Winter 2006

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How well is your group fulfilling its primary purpose?

Groups hold inventories to see how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose—to carry the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. A group inventory can help DA groups determine how well they are living up to the principles of the 12 Traditions. The DA GSB holds an inventory every year. Intergroups can benefit from the inventory process as well. A helpful piece of service literature called "Group Inventory: All Shapes and Sizes" is available for free from the DA Web site at <http://www.debtorsanonymous.org/literature/service.htm>.

DA Publications Advisory Statement

Since all publications cannot go through the conference approval process, the DA World Service Conference recognizes that the *Ways & Means* is by tradition the international meeting in print of DA. The *Steps, Traditions and Concepts* are our guidelines, always wishing to reflect DA and nothing but DA. The DA Focus and the DA Web site are service publications for the DA Fellowship.

—Presented at the 2005 WSC by the General Service Board. Send your comments to the GSO at da-gso@mindspring.com.

"Meeting by meeting, member by member..."

DA Celebrates

Dear Members of Debtors Anonymous,

It's our 30th birthday! DA was founded by John Henderson in April, 1976, and this is our opportunity to give back. We of the Resource Development Committee are excited about *World Service Month*! During the month of April, meetings and Intergroups across the country will be holding special events in honor of DA's 30th birthday and to support DA in carrying the message to the debtor who still suffers.

Our vision amount for this year is \$30,000 to celebrate 30 years! ("30 for 30") Please consider serving the fellowship by making a personal contribution and/or helping to plan a special *World Service Month* event in your area. We are suggesting that each DA member contribute \$10.00 (\$2.50 per week, per person) to help us achieve our goal. Prosperous members are encouraged to give more; however, no donation is too small. (Individuals may contribute up to \$5,000 each year.)

Meeting by meeting, member by member, DA fulfills its primary purpose to carry the message to the still suffering debtor. As DA grows, so does its financial need. We look forward to receiving the support of DA members and to serving the fellowship as it continues to grow.

In hope, gratitude, and service,

The Resource Development Committee of the 2005 World Service Conference,
The General Service Office,
and the Trustees of the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous

World Service Month 2006

How to donate to DA

A special envelope is being mailed with this issue of the DA Focus. Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution to the General Service Office by May 30, 2006, so we can designate this contribution correctly to *World Service Month*.

Please make your check payable to DA-GSB and write "World Service Month" in the memo field. You may also use the downloadable donation form on the DA Web site. Be sure to mark the envelope and your contribution "World Service Month."

Literature Publications (Lit Pub)

Projects in progress include a Spanish translation of the Preamble and other DA literature, revisions to the *How to Start an Intergroup* service pamphlet submitted by the Intergroup Caucus, continued work on the DA Numbers booklet, and a discussion of the agenda items that were assigned to Lit Pub from the list generated at the WSC. Literature prices will rise on March 1, 2006.

Literature Services Board (LSB)

Works discussed this quarter include a DA book-mark concept, a *BDA Meeting format*, and revisions to several existing DA pamphlets. Progress continues on the *DA 12x12*. The members of the LSB will be joining the GSB at the face-to-face meeting in April.

Ways & Means Committee

The Fall 2005 issue of the *Ways & Means* will make DA history as the first ever online version of the DA fellowship's newsletter. The free newsletter is available via a link on the DA Web site. Current subscribers will receive paper copies in the mail until their subscriptions expire.

InfoTech Committee

The InfoTech Committee is working toward the implementation of an official non-endorsing GSB list management service.

Public Information Committee

The GSB PI Committee is seeking candidates for a Media Contact Appointed Committee Member (see article in right column). Revisions to the International Public Information Manual are almost complete, and will be available for purchase or free download in the near future.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee of the DA General Service Board has the responsibility of managing DA's finances. See page 4 for the Treasurer's Report.

Office Committee

The GSB is looking for new quarters for the Office and is seeking site suggestions. Email your ideas to the GSB Office Committee at the GSO email address. The Office Committee is working with the WSC Internal Operations Committee to launch an all-out effort to get all DA groups re-registered. A group update form was recently mailed to all registered DA groups.

Nominations Committee

Based on the recommendations of the Nominations Committee, the GSB has invited two new Class A Trustees to join the Board at the Spring face-to-face meeting. The GSB continues to actively seek nominations for Trustees of both classes: Class A (debtor) and Class B (non-debtor). If you are interested in nominating someone for Trustee, or becoming a Trustee yourself, please ask your group's GSR for the guidelines published in the GSR Manual, or email the General Service Office for information.

The DA Focus

The quarterly newsletter from the GSB to the Fellowship invites all WSC committees and caucuses to submit progress reports via their GSB liaisons for inclusion in upcoming issues.

The (Ad Hoc) Archive Committee

Discussion involved two main topics—gathering physical historical material, and creating an electronic storage space for electronic files. (See article below.)

Media Contact Person Needed to handle Public Information for DA

The Board PI Committee is looking for an Appointed Committee Member to serve as a PI Media Contact. The work involves coordination of PI requests, referring reporters to DA members who are willing to be interviewed, following up to make sure that contacts have been successful and satisfactory, building and training a cadre of volunteers for this type of public information work, and keeping track of requests from receipt to disposition. The ACM would participate in all GSB PI Committee calls, and, if requested and if future finances allow, attend the WSC and the Board Face to Face meeting. This person would serve for three years and would be ineligible to serve concurrently as a GSR. Qualities needed include an understanding of the Traditions (particularly the distinction between attraction and promotion in Tradition 11), patience, good humor, and perseverance. Anyone who is interested should contact Paul S. at Sherpa111@aol.com.

Translators Wanted

Can you translate DA's literature into Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, or some other

Preserving DA's History

GSB Establishes *ad hoc* Archives Committee

The General Service Board has created an *ad hoc* Archives Committee to consider what DA wishes to do about protecting and preserving its historical legacy. At present, there is no central file of DA documents, and no collected record of the thoughts and aspirations of its founders or early trusted servants. In light of the fact that DA is thirty years old this year, and in view of the fact that records are so few and memories are rapidly disappearing, it appears that the time has come to face up to the task of collection and preservation of those existing documents and other materials that relate to DA's history.

The Archives Committee views the process ahead as involving two separate steps. First, to ensure that newly created documents do not disappear, an ar-

chive of relevant current materials must be created. This would include an electronic database of all records, documents, books, pamphlets, publications, committee and Conference reports, Board minutes, manuals, correspondence, and legal documents that now exist. Additionally, as new records of this type are created, they must be added to the database.

Second, efforts must be made to generate a physical collection of those historical items that are most relevant to an understanding of the creation and continued development of DA. This would include many of the types of documents to be incorporated into the electronic database, as well as other physical items such as first editions of DA's literature and audiotapes of our early members as they recollect matters of historical importance. This would involve a search throughout the Fellowship and beyond to ascertain

first what materials exist, and second whether they can eventually be made accessible to the Fellowship through the General Service Board and the General Service Office.

As this search progresses, decisions will have to be made about preservation and storage of these materials. Such decisions should be made carefully and after full consultation with the Fellowship. At present, however, the GSB is interested in learning the identities of those who would be interested in working on this project, particularly those who have special training or knowledge of archival collection, storage and research. If you would be interested, please contact Paul S., Chair of the GSB *ad hoc* Archives Committee at Sherpa111@aol.com.

Sometimes D.A. is only as good as its database

Debtors Anonymous is an international fellowship of more than 500 registered groups, but its ability to carry the message to the debtor who still suffers and to conduct internal business can be hampered by inadequate or outdated group information.

Two committees of the World Service Conference—Internal Operations and the Conference Committee—are spearheading an effort to update the way the fellowship collects and stores meeting information, and to keep it updated on a regular basis. When their work is complete, DA members and service bodies should be able to get updated meeting times, share information, and develop a fellowship-wide group conscience much more effectively.

Since its early days, DA has produced meeting lists and maintained contact information for the trusted servants who do the work of keeping the groups and intergroups going. But meetings and members can change frequently, and changes have often happened much more quickly than the fellowship could track.

In some cases, meeting lists and contact information have become seriously outdated. This has led, in some areas, to difficulty in locating meetings, an inability of the General Service Office and General Service Board to communicate with all groups, and confusion over how to determine the conscience of all DA groups on fellowship-wide issues.

Database issues have been discussed at the World Service Conference level for some time. Now, substantial progress is being made toward a greatly enhanced and up-to-date database of meeting and contact information.

The General Service Board has recently invested in new computer hardware and software that will make possible a greatly enhanced database of group information. This is being phased in, under the oversight of the GSB's Information Technology committee.

Simultaneously, the World Service Conference Internal Operations and Conference committees are at work on policies that would utilize the increased capability of the computer systems by requiring groups to

provide more detailed meeting and contact information, updated at least once a year. Whatever policies finally emerge from the two committees may be considered at the 2006 World Service Conference; implementation in 2007 may be possible.

However, members of both committees are calling on members of the fellowship to update their meeting information now. All registered DA groups should provide current meeting times and locations for the General Service Office, as well as the names of at least two current contact people and their complete contact information.

Group information update forms are available by contacting the General Service Office or any member of the Internal Operations Committee, or can be easily downloaded from the D.A. website www.debtorsanonymous.org. A form was also sent to each group in a recent mailing. Please update your group's information as soon as possible.

—This information was provided by the 2005 WSC Internal Operations Committee. ■

World Service Conference Committee Reports

Fellowship Communications Committee

The FCC continues to support the W&M editor by gathering content and volunteering to proofread. The committee has been instrumental in getting the next issue of the W&M on the DA Web site.

The Technology Caucus

The Technology Caucus (formerly the Internet Caucus) has presented several proposals to the GSB InfoTech for consideration and possible implementation. One is for a voice mail phone "tree" for the GSO telephone system. Another is a proposal for the development of a searchable online meeting database.

Resource Development Committee

The 2005 Resource Development Committee designed the fundraising campaign (flyer and table tent) that was enclosed with the Fall 2005 DA Focus mailing. A big part of this committee's work centers around DA's birthday, celebrated as *World Service Month*. (See page 1.)

Literature Committee

The Literature Committee continues to work with the Literature Services Board (LSB) and the GSB Literature Publications Committee to keep the writing of

DA's *Twelve and Twelve* moving forward.

Conference Committee

The Conference Committee presented an agenda-item tracking system to the GSB to help track the progress of work assigned to various DA committees, caucuses, and the GSB at the WSC. This system will make it easier for GSRs and ISRs at the next Conference to easily assess the status of issues and projects, as well as track progress throughout the year.

Internal Operations Committee

Internal Operations acts as an advisory body to the GSB Office Committee. The Internal Operations Committee asks that all DA groups and intergroups re-register their meetings as soon as possible, and do so every year, so that DA's database will be current.

Other WSC committees and caucuses include the Public Information Committee, HIP (Hospitals, Institutions and Prisons), and the Intergroup Caucus. ■

First FREE *Ways & Means* newsletter online now

The 2005 Fellowship Communications Committee, the GSB *Ways & Means* Committee, the Editor of the *Ways & Means*, and the General Service Office are pleased to announce the successful launch of the first free version of the Fellowship's newsletter.

Subscribers will continue to receive paper copies in the mail until their subscriptions expire. Anyone may download and print the online version for personal and group use.

You will find a link to the Fall 2005 *Ways & Means* on the DA homepage www.debtorsanonymous.org.

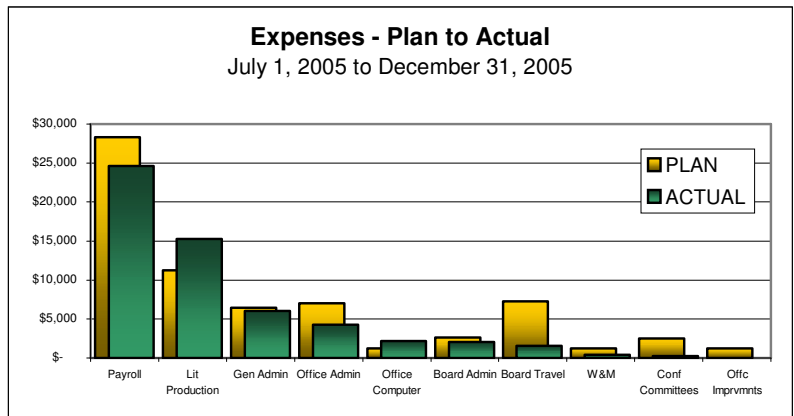
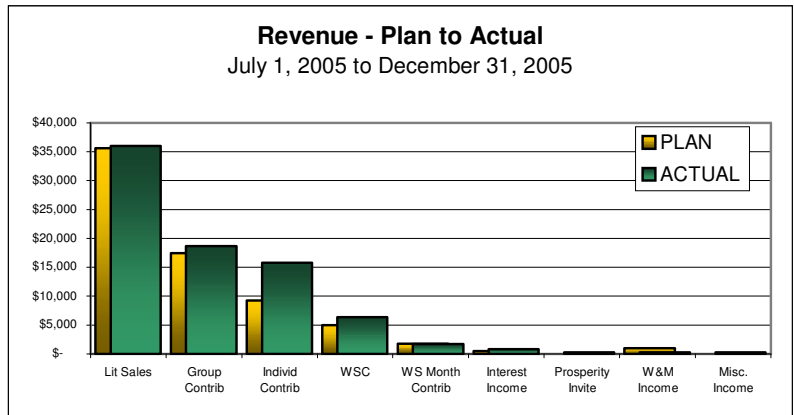
Individual Contributions Remain Important for DA Fellowship

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board INCOME STATEMENT

As of December 31, 2005

	7/01/2005 to 12/31/2005	7/01/2005 to 12/31/2005
	<u>PLAN</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
REVENUE		
Lit Sales	\$ 35,575	\$ 36,055
Group Contrib	17,500	18,650
Individ Contrib	9,250	15,753
WSC	5,000	6,344
WS Month Contrib	1,750	1,662
Interest Income	500	827
Prosperity Invite	0	268
W&M Income	1,050	263
Misc. Income	25	216
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 70,650	\$ 80,038
EXPENSE		
Payroll	\$ 28,310	\$ 24,627
Lit Production	11,250	15,270
Gen Admin	6,487	6,036
Office Admin	7,000	4,263
Office Computer	1,250	2,207
Board Admin	2,625	2,091
Board Travel	7,250	1,563
W&M	1,250	425
Conf Committees	2,500	231
Offc Imprvmnts	1,250	0
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 69,172	\$ 56,713
NET DIFFERENCE	\$ 1,478	\$ 23,326

- Individual contributions exceeded the spending plan projection for the quarter ending December 31, 2005. Individual contributions totaled \$15,753.
- Celebrate your group's anniversary or commemorate your DA birthday by sending a donation for the "Invitation to Prosperity" campaign launched by the 2005 WSC Resource Development Committee. (Mark your contribution "I2P.")
- World Service Month, DA's birthday celebration, is slated for April 2006. Mark your group or individual contribution "WSM" and send to the GSO.



These figures are unaudited, and intended for information purposes only.
Please note: A group contribution that doesn't have the group number on the check is categorized as an "individual contribution."

Please send your personal and group contributions to the General Service Office. You can find a donation form on the DA website. Click on the 7th Tradition link.

THE DAFOCUS

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