Carrying the DA Message:
Vital to our Recovery

“We perform service at every level: personal, meeting, intergroup, and world service.” DA’s tool of service is often read aloud in DA meetings. Have you ever wondered what carrying the DA message means at the “World Service” level? The General Service Office, the World Service Conference committees and caucuses, and the General Service Board of Trustees work together to carry the DA message to the debtor who still suffers. This is service in action. Here is an update on some of the ways we make, or will soon make, the DA message more accessible to all.

**AVAILABLE NOW**

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<tr>
<td>Download the DA Focus newsletter</td>
<td>The General Service Board of Trustees (GSB) publishes the DA Focus, a quarterly service newsletter that is distributed to all registered DA groups and intergroups through the mail. It is also available on the DA Web site <a href="http://www.debtorsanonymous.org">www.debtorsanonymous.org</a>. Be sure your group has a copy of the DA Focus.</td>
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<td>Download the fellowship newsletter Ways &amp; Means from the DA Web site</td>
<td>The GSB also publishes a quarterly fellowship newsletter, Ways &amp; Means, a “meeting in print” where members can share and comment on DA recovery issues. The W&amp;M is free on DA’s Web site. Bring a copy to your meeting. The GSB is continuing to work toward make past issues available on the DA Web site.</td>
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<td>Subscribe to the official GSO email announcements list</td>
<td>At last count, over 3,000 people have subscribed to the DA eNews. The electronic newsletter brings DA service-related announcements to your email inbox. Subscribe on the DA Web site home page, and encourage the members of your group to subscribe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Call the DA General Service Office 800 number and use the voice mail system</td>
<td>The GSO voice mail phone “tree” and 800 number is now in place. A few refinements are still in progress. This 800 number is intended to help callers reach the Office more easily. For now, the 800 number is operational for U.S. callers only. What’s DA’s new 800 number? 800-421-2383.</td>
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**COMING SOON**

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<td>Use the searchable meeting list on the DA Web site to find a DA meeting</td>
<td>Attending meetings is an important form of service; the searchable meeting list can help members find meetings wherever they are. The plan to “go live” before the 2007 WSC was unfortunately not met due to unforeseen challenges that required moving the DA Web site to a new host. The GSB InfoTech Committee hopes to launch the service before the 2008 WSC.</td>
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The GSB Communications Committee is seeking a DA member with desktop publishing skills and a willingness to be of service to design DA’s fellowship newsletter, Ways & Means, which is published quarterly on the DA Web site. This could be a paid position.

At the 2007 WSC, the Conference Committee presented a motion asking the WSC to recommit to DA’s primary purpose as stated in DA’s Preamble:

Our primary purpose is to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.

The Communications Committee oversees the production of the DA Focus and Ways & Means newsletters, and the eNews, the Office’s electronic newsletter. Ways & Means is seeking a graphic designer to handle design and layout of the online publication. (See announcement to right.)

The GSB revived the GSB Long Range Planning Committee at the 2007 WSC. The Committee discussed challenges that are facing DA as a whole: Why does the number of DA groups remain flat from year to year? Why is DA increasingly fragmented into groups that focus on “special interest” topics such as underemerging, visions, prosperity, spending, and time, rather than on DA’s primary purpose of not debting? Why do DA members in general seem consistently uninterested in performing service at any level?

The 2007 World Service Conference will be held August 13-17, 2008, at the Red Lion Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. Groups are encouraged to begin saving now to send a General Service Representative (GSR) to represent the group at the WSC. GSRs and ISRs are encouraged to visit the DA Web site’s Service Page.

If you are interested in translating DA literature into Spanish, please download the Spanish Translation Request for Proposal on the DA Web site’s Service Page.
There are eight committees and three caucuses that meet at each annual World Service Conference to work on DA’s business. Here are some highlights of the work the committees and caucuses have undertaken since the Conference.

**Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA)**
The BDA Committee has been working on creating more literature for BDA meetings and members. Projects in process are: 1. BDA Step Study Guide; 2. Clarity & Business Finances; 3. BDA Recovery Stories; 4. Signposts and Solutions; and 5. BDA Newcomers Pamphlet.

**Conference Committee**
The 2007-08 Conference Committee subcommittees are working on several projects including improving communication with the General Service Board, creating an Underdeveloped Caucus, improving the John Henderson Scholarship distribution process, and preparing for the 2008 WSC. The 2008 WSC Host Committee is designing the registration packet and finalizing the spending plan. After review by the GSB, the packets will be printed and mailed to all registered DA groups. The 2009 WSC Host Committee is reviewing potential meeting sites for the 2009 Conference, which will be held in Dallas, Texas.

**Diversity Caucus**
The Diversity Caucus, newly formed in 2007, began its first year with discussions of the importance of bringing the DA message to under-served populations.

**Fellowship Communications (FCC)**
The FCC is working on revitalizing the Adopt a Loner program that has been dormant for several years. (Loners are DA members who aren’t able to attend face-to-face meetings.) The FCC is working with the Office manager on the development of a “loners” newsletter that can be emailed monthly via the GSO e-News. Another FCC project is a draft for a survey about the DA website.

**Hospital, Institutions, and Prisons (HIP)**
The HIP Committee has liaised with an AA member who has experience working on the AA Corrections & Treatment Committee. The committee is drafting letters to social workers and other professionals.

**Intergroup Caucus**
Minnesota Intergroup has adopted guidelines for how they will operate and has planned a DA Day in April, 2008. Northern California Intergroup’s annual Winter Lights is scheduled for February, 2008. Florida Intergroup is working on setting up a website, has established bylaws and a bank account, and has elected an ISR. The Austin Texas Intergroup has begun meeting and hopes to create a website in the near future. Chicago Intergroup had 62 attendees at their annual Fall retreat. Green Bay Wisconsin Intergroup is asking for members passing through the area to attend meetings. Contact for Green Bay DA is www.GLADA.org.

**Internal Operations Committee (IOC)**
The IOC reviewed a proposed flyer that would be used to solicit volunteers for the General Service Office. The flyer will go to the GSB Office Committee for review. It is the IOC’s belief that volunteers can be recruited nationally to do volunteer work via the phone and Internet, as well as local members in New England to do physical work at the office. The committee will also continue its work visioning a prosperous future for the GSO. It will continue to set aside time at each monthly meeting for such visioning.

**Literature Committee**
The Literature Committee continues to work on outlining the “Newcomers Welcome Booklet” and a DA “How It Works” book. The Daily Meditation Book subcommittee is collecting submissions until the February 1 deadline. Members are indexing submissions and reviewing five meditations per week to determine their viability for the book. They are also collecting release forms for all submissions, past and present.

**Public Information Committee (PI)**
The WSC PI Committee has a subcommittee working on developing templates of letters to college counseling personnel and to professionals dealing with transitioning adults—persons who are approaching or just entering retirement. Another subcommittee is working with the Media Contact Person, Kathy R., to provide support. The Committee is also working on preparing a mailing list for a letter prepared by the Board PI Committee to be sent to Consumer Credit Counselors. (See report below.)

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**Report from the Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission**
The Regional Trustee Selection Study Commission has met twice and has focused on the history of regionalization in DA and in other Fellowships. Discussion centered around the differences in size and growth rate between DA at present and AA at the time that AA adopted regionalization. The Commission also discussed the current Trustee selection process and the regions that currently exist.

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**John H Scholarship Fund**
Donations to the John Henderson Scholarship Fund for the 2008 Salt Lake City World Service will close on March 31, 2008. This allows the host committee the opportunity to notify recipients and to disperse these funds in a timely fashion. Any funds donated after this date will be allocated to the 2009 Dallas World Service Conference.

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**AWOL Groups Statement**
A DA member recently asked the General Service Board for its view on A Way of Life (AWOL) groups and whether or not it is appropriate to mention these groups during the announcements portion of a DA meeting.

The response of the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous regarding AWOL groups is that they are an outside enterprise. As stated in Tradition 3, the only requirement for DA membership is the desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. If requirements in addition to this are imposed on members of a group, that group cannot be considered to be a part of Debtors Anonymous.

As such, AWOL groups are not affiliated with Debtors Anonymous and must be considered an outside enterprise. In keeping with Tradition 6 which tells us that a DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any outside enterprise, the General Service Board strongly cautions against making announcements at group level that pertain to any outside enterprises; AWOL or otherwise.
The DA Focus | February 2008

Debtors Anonymous Spending Plan to Actual
July 1 - December 31, 2007

**Revenue**

- **Literature Sales**
  - PLAN: $40,750
  - ACTUAL: $39,163
- **Group Contributions**
  - PLAN: $17,500
  - ACTUAL: $23,040
- **Individual Contributions**
  - PLAN: $14,500
  - ACTUAL: $11,539
- **Other Sales**
  - PLAN: $390
  - ACTUAL: $331
- **Invitation to Prosperity**
  - PLAN: $500
  - ACTUAL: $-
- **World Svc. Month Contributions**
  - PLAN: $3,000
  - ACTUAL: $312
- **12 & 12 Book Appeal**
  - PLAN: $5,000
  - ACTUAL: $-
- **JH Scholarship Fund**
  - PLAN: $2,500
  - ACTUAL: $3,849
- **Interest Income**
  - PLAN: $1,800
  - ACTUAL: $1,850
- **Misc. Income**
  - PLAN: $125
  - ACTUAL: $50
- **World Service Conference**
  - PLAN: $3,500
  - ACTUAL: $-

**Total Revenue**

- PLAN: $89,565
- ACTUAL: $80,134

**Cost of Goods Sold**

- **Literature**
  - PLAN: $12,918
  - ACTUAL: $17,266
- **Ways & Means**
  - PLAN: $750
  - ACTUAL: $-

**Total Cost of Goods Sold**

- PLAN: $13,668
- ACTUAL: $17,266

**Gross Profit**

- PLAN: $75,897
- ACTUAL: $62,868

**Expense**

- **Board Administration**
  - PLAN: $3,000
  - ACTUAL: $1,413
- **Board Travel**
  - PLAN: $13,650
  - ACTUAL: $5,349
- **ACM Admin**
  - PLAN: $860
  - ACTUAL: $-
- **General Administration**
  - PLAN: $14,273
  - ACTUAL: $9,241
- **Office Administration**
  - PLAN: $11,060
  - ACTUAL: $4,083
- **Payroll Expense**
  - PLAN: $26,562
  - ACTUAL: $23,992
- **Conference Committees**
  - PLAN: $3,250
  - ACTUAL: $183

**Total Expense**

- PLAN: $72,655
- ACTUAL: $44,261

**Net Income from Operations**

- PLAN: $3,242
- ACTUAL: $18,607

**Less Proposed Expenses**

- **JH Scholarship Fund**
  - PLAN: $2,500
  - ACTUAL: $-
- **WSC Expense**
  - PLAN: $700
  - ACTUAL: $1,226

**Subtotal**

- PLAN: $3,200
- ACTUAL: $1,226

**Surplus/(Deficit)**

- PLAN: $42
- ACTUAL: $17,381