

**36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What are the dates of the World Service Conference (WSC) in 2022?

- a. *The WSC will begin on Wednesday, August 3rd in the early evening with dinner at the hotel, followed by an evening plenary session. The WSC will end on Sunday, August 7th, following the WSC Convocation and voting around 1 p.m. (See Question 11 for information regarding flight arrival and departure times.)*
- b. *Lunch is **NOT** included on Wednesday or Sunday. Delegates will be on their own for lunch on these two days. The hotel and nearby Terminal 4 have restaurants.*
- c. *The WSC Registration Desk will open at noon on Wednesday, August 3rd.*

2. Where is the WSC being held?

- a. *The WSC will be held at the **Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 4 Hotel** Terminal 4, Hounslow TW6 3AF, United Kingdom*

Tel: +44 20 8759 7755

****Do not call to make a reservation. Use the online link below.** (See Q.6)**

*(Note: Hilton has more than one property at this airport. You will be at the **Terminal 4 hotel**).*

This hotel is adjacent to the Terminal 4 Building and is connected by a covered walkway. The Tube Station in Terminal 4 is on the lower level. From the Tube to the hotel is about a 10-15 minute walk depending on your walking speed.

3. With the previous two World Service Conferences being held virtually, it is more expensive to attend one in person. How does this year's WSC compare in costs to the last in-person conference?

- a. *The GSB has worked hard over the past two years with the London Host Committee and the Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 4 Hotel to keep prices as low as possible. The pandemic and other current world events have placed pressure on supply chains and fuel. Excluding air or rail transportation costs, the difference between the 2019 WSC in Los Angeles and 2022 WSC in London for the WSC Registration Fees and hotel accommodation is about \$60.00USD higher (assuming single occupancy).*

4. Why is the World Service Conference in England and not the United States like it has always been?

- a. *The 33rd WSC in Los Angeles in 2019 voted by substantial unanimity to support the WSC to be held in England, the first time it will be held outside of the United States. Debtors Anonymous is now a world-wide fellowship. We recognize that for some in the USA, international travel is uncomfortable or unobtainable for various reasons. The same holds true for non-US delegates who may not be permitted to enter the USA. We look forward to insights provided by many international delegates this year as we grow the fellowship. The 37th WSC is scheduled for 2023 in the Greater New York City area. The 38th WSC location will be voted on during this year's Convocation.*

**36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions**

- 5. Will there be a virtual component to the WSC for delegates so they do not have to travel?**
- a. *No. The General Service Board of D.A. examined this very carefully since our last two WSC were held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions. To host a hybrid conference with some delegates in-person in England and others virtually throughout the world was determined to be cost-prohibitive for a fellowship of our size. The GSB has a fiduciary responsibility to the fellowship regarding funds and to hold a hybrid conference would have placed the WSC at a price-point out of reach for the delegates, both in-person and attending virtually. In addition there are technology challenges, requirements for additional parliamentarians in a hybrid version and the time zone differences to account for. This conference will be based on British Summer Time. As a result we recognize that the attendance for this year may be lower than the past years, but will have an influx of many international voices.*
- 6. How do I book a hotel room using the WSC block of rooms at the negotiated rate?**
- a. *It is best to use this link as provided by the hotel to D.A.:*
<http://eventsathilton.com/show/62754c822a5a867f10d1082a>
The hotel rate is £100.00 (British Pounds-UKL). This rate includes the Value Added Tax (VAT) (single or double occupancy is the same rate). You make your selection of room type on the booking link.
- 7. Can I share a room with another delegate?**
- a. *Yes, you can. There are a limited number of twin bedded rooms available at this hotel. Most rooms have one “king” sized bed. A room with two beds is an option on the booking link (limited rooms available with two beds). The hotel rate is £100.00 (British Pounds-GBP). This rate includes the Value Added Tax (VAT).*
- b. *Yes the Host Committee is facilitating roommate matches or finding*
- i. <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HcycpbhbVYA4WURz7tYDS8>
- 8. Can I book extra days at the negotiated rate before or after the WSC?**
- a. *Yes, the hotel has made available 5 ‘shoulder nights’ at the same rate for before and after the WSC. (July 26th to August 12th) Based on hotel availability. The hotel rate is £100.00 (British Pounds-GBP). This rate includes the Value Added Tax (VAT).*
- 9. Can I use my Hilton Honors points?**
- a. *Yes, you may use these points towards payment of your hotel costs only. There is an option on the Hilton link (Question 5 above).*
- 10. Can I book the hotel outside the D.A. block?**
- a. *No. The only way to book is through the link above in question 5 to guarantee the discounted price made available to our Fellowship.*

36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions

11. Is there a preferred airline that I should book to attend the WSC?

- a. *No, Debtors Anonymous has not negotiated any special rates with a preferred airline. You are welcome to select your preferred airline and routing that best meets your needs.*

12. How much time do I need to allocate between my flight times and the WSC times?

- a. *A very good question.*
- **Arrivals.** *The first plenary session begins around 6:30 p.m. after dinner on Wednesday, August 3rd. There will be an optional 12 Step meeting before dinner. Assuming that you are arriving at London Heathrow (LHR) Airport from overseas, you should plan on at least two hours to clear Customs and Immigration and baggage claim. As most flights from North America depart in the evening and arrive the following day, you may wish to consider arriving one day early to adjust to any jet lag. Depending on which terminal you arrive at you will need additional time to transfer to the hotel, which is adjacent to Terminal 4. See question 31 below for inter terminal transfer options at London Heathrow Airport. The Registration Desk will open at noon on Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022.*
 - **Departures.** *The Convocation will end by 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 7th, 2022. If you are departing from London Heathrow that day allow sufficient time from the end of the Convocation to transfer to the appropriate terminal. **It is recommended that you check-in with your airline at least three (3) hours prior to departure.** In other words, flights departing London Heathrow from **5 p.m. or later.** Most flights departing London for North America have early morning departures. You may want to consider departing on August 8th or later.*

13. I see that London has five airports. Which one should I choose?

- a. *Ultimately, the choice is up to you. The WSC is being held adjacent to London Heathrow Airport. If you arrive at one of the other airports, you will need to allow time for ground transportation to get you to the hotel. There is a direct bus transfer from London Gatwick Airport to London Heathrow Airport (for a fee). For other airports you may need to consider connecting through the City of London and utilizing the Heathrow Express train from Paddington Station (15 minutes, but more expensive) or using the London Underground (Tube), (60-90 minutes depending on where you start, but less expensive.)*

14. Why has an airport area hotel been chosen rather than a central city location?

- a. *The Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 4 Hotel was selected after an exhaustive search and onsite inspections of several properties in and around the London area. A property that was large enough to accommodate the necessary hotel rooms, plus up to 12 concurrent meeting rooms and an event space large enough for the Convocation and Gala Dinner and Talent Show, food and*

36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous Frequently Asked Questions

beverage capabilities plus providing some parking facilities was required. The price point of the hotel and meeting rooms plus food and beverage was also factored into the selection. This hotel did provide very attractive pricing and flexibility regarding the uncertainty of COVID-19. London central hotels are much more expensive in the busy summer tourist season.

15. What tools should I bring with me to the WSC?

- a. *If you have a smartphone and a laptop computer, these will be very useful for you as Committee and Caucus reports will be uploaded to a shared drive. The hotel has WiFi. Please also bring a notebook and your preferred writing instrument. You may wish to bring D.A. literature with you for referral. The 2022 edition of The Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service will be available as a free download from our website and sent to you in advance of the conference. It will also be available as a print on demand option (e-book) at a fee. **Please note that the Conference “Binder” will be electronic and not paper-based. This will reduce paper use and weight issues for checked baggage.***

16. What language will be used to conduct the business of the WSC?

- a. *The WSC will be conducted in English.*

17. Will translation be provided if I am not fluent in English?

- a. *The WSC will not be providing simultaneous interpretation.*

18. Can I bring a translator with me to assist?

- a. *Yes, should your group or intergroup decide to send with you a translator, we can accommodate that request. Their hotel accommodations, meals, conference fees and transportation costs would be the responsibility of your group or intergroup.*

19. Am I required to attend all sessions of the WSC?

- a. *You will be a representative of your group or intergroup at this annual business meeting of Debtors Anonymous. All plenary sessions during the conference, your committee and caucus meetings and the Convocation where voting is undertaken are critical elements of determining a collective group conscience for Debtors Anonymous. You must be present to vote in person at Convocation. A quorum, which is required to determine substantial unanimity, is based on the total number of delegates registered. Your absence would then affect the voting outcome. Fellowship Day, the Gala Dinner and Talent Show, Conscious Contact sessions, and 12-Step meeting opportunities are all optional. There will also be some free time on Friday night.*

20. I cannot travel to England for the WSC because of (medical reasons, lack of a passport, felony convictions, lack of vacation time, fear of flying, or some other reason). I have been elected as the GSR/ISR. Can an alternative person be

**36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions**

appointed to attend the WSC, but I then attend the Committee meeting during the service year?

- a. *Your willingness to serve is appreciated. The structure of our WSC and the commitment to serve during the upcoming service year (monthly committee/caucus meetings) are integral to our D.A. structure. The person attending the WSC will be the one to attend the ongoing committee/caucus meetings throughout the year. The direction of each committee and caucus is set by those attending the WSC. Our D.A. Manual of Service indicates that GSRs and ISRs follow a service year from August to the following July. If you are unable to attend this year's event, we hope you will consider serving your group at the 37th WSC scheduled for 2023 in the Greater New York City area.*

21. What day is the Fellowship Day and is this open to non-delegates of the WSC?

(Note: Delegates will be in Convocation in the morning. They are able to attend afternoon sessions. Advance payment is available on the delegates Registration Form).

- a. *The 2022 Fellowship Day will be also open to non-delegates. It is on Saturday, August 6, 2022. The suggested amount is £20.00 full day or £12.00 for half day at the door. No one will be turned away from the Fellowship Day for lack of funds. Only cash will be accepted at the door.*
- b. *Lunch is available for £25.00*
- c. <https://buytickets.at/dafellowshipday2022/690040>

22. Is the Gala Dinner and Talent Show open to non-delegates?

- a. *Yes, non-delegates can purchase a ticket to the Gala Dinner and Talent Show. Prepayment is required as the hotel needs advance numbers for room set up and food preparation. The Gala Dinner with Speaker will cost £55.00 This will occur at the hotel on the evening of Saturday, August 6, 2022.*
- b. *See link from Question 19.*

23. The cost of the Gala Dinner and Talent Show is higher than at the 2019 WSC in Los Angeles. Why?

- a. *While we have endeavored to keep costs to similar levels of the 2019 WSC, the annual rate of inflation, the pressures on supply chains due to pandemic and the situation in Eastern Europe, increased liability insurance costs and currency exchange rates have required this modest increase.*

24. Will the Fellowship Day be broadcast live for others around the world to participate remotely?

- a. *Unfortunately, it will not be possible to broadcast live the Fellowship Day sessions. However, they will be recorded and uploaded to the Debtors Anonymous website.*

25. What currency will be used at the WSC?

36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions

- a. *The official currency of the United Kingdom is the British Pound (GBP). Purchases made in the hotel and elsewhere will be in this currency. While some point of purchase locations may accept other currencies, exchanging your currency in advance to GBP will likely provide you a better exchange rate. Payments for the WSC itself are determined in United States dollars (USD).*

26. Do I need a passport (and visa) if I am traveling from outside of the United Kingdom?

- a. *Yes, you will need a passport. It must be valid for at least six months beyond your stay in England. The question is best answered by consulting with travel professionals or the U.K. Government websites depending on your country of origin. Some citizens may require an additional visa issued in advance by the United Kingdom. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-border-control>*

27. Do I need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)?

- a. *At the time of this writing (May, 2022), the United Kingdom no longer requires proof of vaccination for entry into the country, nor a COVID-19 test upon arrival. This could change. **HOWEVER**, some countries may require proof of full vaccination in order to board flights to or from that country. It is the traveler's responsibility to remain vigilant about these requirements and the rapid changes which may occur due to the uncertainty around the pandemic. This is a decision you will need to make with your medical practitioner and travel planner to determine your level of risk and responsibility. Additionally, be sure to check requirements for returning to your home country. The requirements may be different than in the UK.*

28. If my returning country requires me to prove I am COVID-19 negative, where can I get the necessary tests?

- a. *At the present time (May, 2022) there are several options available in and around the London Heathrow Airport. Speed of results and price points vary. It is up to you as the traveler to confirm your returning country's requirements as to the type of test required and how many days in advance you will need to do the test. Cost of the test is the responsibility of the traveler. More information can be found here: <https://www.heathrow.com/covid-19>*

29. Will you require mask wearing at the WSC?

- a. *At the present time, the United Kingdom does not have a mandatory masking requirement. Anyone is welcome to wear a mask, should they choose to do so during the WSC. We strongly recommend you wear a mask at WSC sessions. Please bring your own supply of masks (N-95 or similar is best) for your own comfort and safety level. We will not have masks available for delegates. We recommend that you have some with you should UK Public Health requirements change suddenly. At the present time, masks are required by some countries for international flights.*

**36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions**

30. What if I am nervous about being with other people who may not be wearing a mask?

- a. *No doubt, people have varying degrees of comfort levels based on their own health concerns and experiences. The London Host Committee is considering implementing a color code on the name badges of delegates, so that at a glance you will be able to know the comfort level of the other person. Some may prefer physical distance, others may be fine with an elbow bump, others a handshake, and others closer contact, such as a hug.*

31. I have special dietary requirements. Can these be accommodated?

- a. *The hotel can usually accommodate dietary restrictions or preferences, such as diabetic, vegetarian, vegan, Kosher, Halal, etc. You do need to indicate special requests in advance on your registration form. All buffet selections will be clearly marked with the ingredients. If you have strict food requirements, please consider including extra funds in your spending plan to make sure you can meet your dietary needs. Other restrictions cannot be guaranteed.*

32. Will there be free time at the WSC for me to visit some tourist attractions?

- a. *Friday night has been scheduled free of conference events. The Host Committee will have suggestions or you are welcome to make your own plans. To see more of what England has to offer, you may wish to consider extending your stay.*

33. Is there public transport available to/from the hotel?

- a. *Yes, there is public transport available. You will have several options:*
 - i. *The London Underground (Tube) has a station within Terminal 4 at London Heathrow Airport to the city centre. More information can be found here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/maps/track/tube> and here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/>*
 - ii. *Transfers within the Heathrow area (between airport terminals)
Please note that a Transport for London Oyster card or contactless payment mechanism is required to activate the ticket gates on London Underground services, but you won't be charged for your journey as long as you only travel between terminals. If you are using Heathrow Express or TfL Rail, please obtain a free Inter-Terminal Transfer ticket from one of the machines in the station for your journey.*
 - iii. *Various airport hotels and the four terminals at London Heathrow are connected by a shuttle bus service called Hotel Hoppa. More information can be found here: <https://www.hotelhoppa.co.uk/tickets-fares/>*
 - iv. *Taxis and private car services are available at your expense.*

34. Is Terminal 4 at London Heathrow and the Terminal 4 Tube Station open right now?

36th World Service Conference of 2022 for Debtors Anonymous
Frequently Asked Questions

- a. *Terminal 4 and the Tube Station beneath the terminal will reopen for public use on June 25, 2022.*

35. Should I purchase travel cancellation insurance and out-of-country medical insurance?

- a. *While the GSB and the WSC Host Committee cannot recommend a specific insurance provider, we have a Duty of Care obligation to advise you that such insurance should be a consideration and be part of your spending plan. It will be up to you as a traveler to determine whether you have sufficient out of country medical insurance on any existing policies that you may have and what the conditions are for that coverage. Some airlines have partnered with travel insurance companies offering special insurance that covers COVID. Separate policies are also available.*

36. The Funding Guidelines for the John H. Scholarship Fund states that there are 50 and 55 days between the decision to award and the early registration deadline. Why is this not being followed this year?

- a. Due to delays caused by the global pandemic, the deadlines have been extended as follows:
 - i. *John H. Scholarship application deadline June 5, 2022.*
 - ii. *John H. Scholarship recipients notified by June 10, 2022.*