

**SECTION 6**  
**2009 ISSUES AND CONCERNS REPORT**

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DA groups, Intergroups, and individual members sent the following items to the 2008 World Service Conference (WSC) to be considered by the WSC Committees, the General Service Office, and the General Service Board. Each item begins with the text of the issue, followed by a response from the committee or DA entity to which it was assigned. Some responses may be reported at the 2009 WSC.

**Committee assignment key:**

CC: Conference Committee  
GSB: General Service Board  
FCC: Fellowship Communications Committee  
IOC: Internal Operations Committee  
PI: Public Information Committee  
LIT: Literature Committee  
INTERGROUP: Intergroup Caucus  
TECH: Technology Caucus  
HIP: Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons Committee  
RDC: Resource Development Committee

## **ISSUE 1: Cost of World Service Conference**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Look. I have to tell you something here folks. The Boulder Colorado DA groups have decided to not attend the WSC over the past 5 years because we think the costs for this conference are outrageous, irresponsible and completely not with keeping of the spirit and principles of any 12 step fellow ship. We have brought this up at the state level and at our own conferences and group business meetings. I am not sure if any Colorado GSRs will attend. We also feel the exclusivity of this conference is off mission with the primary purpose; it is not inviting. Only certain people can attend... there is no sobriety, solvency or practicality with the yearly WSC of DA. We voted to not attend to send a letter of protest. Until you get the price down to multi level ranges, open up the conference we are never coming. We have heard the excuses, reasons etc by DA WSO...and quite frankly...we are not buying ..get it. We are not buying. Get the price down to \$50 to \$100 for reps and lower for daily attendees ...and open the damn thing up to the general fellowship.PS We are not stupid in boulder. We have put on conferences and are business people too...but we feel the WSC is so seriously out of touch with reality ...traditions, steps etc...that we boycott the WSC. PSS You need a pressure relief meeting with somebody besides your selves. ☺) Jann S. GSR for 2 years/ just a member now. (Anonymous.)

**IOC:** Review WSC registration packet to clearly indicate purpose and function of the conference, who can participate, distinguish the difference between service activities and fellowship days.

**BDA:** Thank you for taking the time to write to us. We are sad to hear that this is your experience of the World Service Conference in the last five years. We agree that a multi-range of costs could be considered for future conferences. For example, we could hold the conference at a lower-cost university or non-profit conference center, and those who wish to stay at nearby

hotels could do so. Attached is a copy of the Conference Report from 2007, which provides information on the many activities during the WSC. There are many costs of the WSC, including ten meals for each attendee, use of technology such as computers, printers, and copy machines as well as conference rooms for the many committees, caucus groups, and other activities, as well as the Parliamentarian services during the convocation. We hope that you will apply for the John Henderson scholarship, which funds groups to attend the conference. We hope to see you in Dallas in 2009.

**FCC:** We want you to be here. We need you here. Your input is valuable. The more people who attend the WSC, the more it represents DA issues as a whole. The issues you raised are very important to the survival of DA as a fellowship. We can assist you with fundraising ideas and service opportunities are available outside of the Conference. Thank you for communicating your issue and concern. We encourage further communication. Thank you.

**LIT:** Keep coming back. We suggest that the author(s) of this letter arrange a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference call with some board members to sort out the issues. A possible format for the call/meeting could be to put all the issues through the 12 steps.

**PI:** After extensive discussion, the PI committee does not have a position on this item at this time.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS:** 1. We suggest that the GSB contact the Colorado Intergroup to see if they know about this concern. Have they addressed it? 2. We suggest an outreach effort to the individual and discuss this issue one on one. 3. Let us be reminded of our suggested closing statement from our meeting format that "We talk to each other, reason things out with one another, let there be no gossip or criticism of one another, but only love, understanding and companionship."

## **ISSUE 2: JOHN H. FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can the John Henderson selection process be defined: Was prior attendance and committee work taken into consideration. What is considered an under-represented area? Who decided the formula for the scholarship? Are partial scholarships given or only entire scholarships? If scholarship selectees do not make it to Conference, what happens to that money? In love and service, (Andrea R. Front Range BDA 443, Denver.)

**CC:** Is John Henderson selection process defined: Yes. It was defined and provided to the 2008 Host Committee.

**CC:** Was prior attendance and committee work taken into consideration? No, it was not part of the selection criteria.

**CC:** What is considered an under-represented area? People from under-represented areas who are given preferential consideration are Middle America and International DA groups.

**CC:** Who decided the formula for the scholarship? Conference Committee recommended the criteria to the 2008 Host Committee.

**CC:** Are partial scholarships given or only entire scholarships? Only partial scholarships are given to allow more GSRs/ISRs to attend Conference and given to groups who have made an effort to raise the money.

**CC:** If scholarship selectees do not make it to Conference, what happens to that money? If they do not attend Conference, money remains in scholarship fund or is awarded to others who want to attend Conference.

## **ISSUE 3: UNDEREARNER'S CAUCUS**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Form an Underearner's Caucus—more experience, strength and recovery about this issue is desperately needed in our fellowship. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**CC:** It has been explored in the past year in an Underearners subcommittee of the Conference Committee. In light of a creation of Under earners Anonymous, it may be determined that it is something is not needed, but the Conference Committee Underearners subcommittee will be considering it for another year.

## **DA CHIPS AND MEDALLIONS**

**ISSUE 4** DA needs to have conference approved chips & annual medallions. (CADA Intergroup, 132)

**ISSUE 5** DA needs to have Conference approved chips and annual medallions. (CADA Intergroup 132, Washington, D.C.)

**FCC:** FCC will respond to the group after the conference.

## **ISSUE 6: PRIMARY PURPOSE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** How as a fellowship are we focusing on DA's primary purpose? (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**FCC:** Our response will be to send a personal letter to the group and the FCC will publish an article in the Ways & Means. This is a core issue this year. It's so important that all the GSRs were surveyed this year to get a read on where we stand on this issue. It's not a simple answer. We are fully committed to gaining clarity around DA's primary purpose. It's a big part of the agenda this year, and our main focus as a Conference is Steps, Sponsorship and Service.

## **ISSUE 7: OUTSIDE LITERATURE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** WSC position on mentioning outside financial books, videos, etc. in meetings. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**FCC:** FCC will respond to this after the Conference.

### **ISSUE 8: USE OF JOHN H NAME**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Refer to "John Henderson" as "John H" in the spirit of anonymity, similar to "Bill W" in AA. When we refer to John H. by his full last name, it creates confusion as to whether last names should be used. (South Minneapolis DA1101.)

FCC: FCC will respond to this question after the Conference.

### **ISSUE 9: COUPLES IN DA STORIES SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Stories of couples where one of the couple is not in recovery (from compulsive debting) (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

FCC: FCC will submit article(s) about Love & Money in Ways & Means.

### **ISSUE 10: HEALTH CARE IN DA**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Health care is extremely expensive. Living with life threatening conditions affects my thinking. When I learned I could die from my infection in 1985, I stopped saving for retirement. In 1994, I participated in a clinical trial for a new class of drugs that were FDA approved in 1996. I resumed saving and was faced with changing my attitude from dying with a positive attitude to preparing to age as a productive baby boomer US citizen. This was very confusing. From 1994 to 2004, I had daily diarrhea - a side effect of the life saving medications. It was not until 2004, that I had solid stool, which I had often taken for granted before 1994. I am very grateful for the advances in medical science, however, the new drugs are costly. I applied for and received help from New York State with the stipulation that my income not exceed \$44,000 a year, modest for NYC living. During my first PRG, my PR man and woman asked me why my spending plan was so low and I told them I could lose my medical coverage if I earned more without earning such a great deal more that I could afford to pay medical and dental insurance

premiums, annual deductible, medication co-payments in addition to the doctor and clinical test co-payments I already pay. New York State has GREAT patient rights laws so, even with my pre-existing conditions, I can get private insurance if I can afford it. My PRG people gave me the action of preparing a spending plan that matches my vision as if I had comprehensive private medical coverage. I want to do that and I need resources - other people who have addressed a similar concern. Health care is very expensive and, therefore, critical in probably for any DA spending plan and certainly for those of DA members living with life-threatening chronic medical conditions. (Health issues Telephone, Tuesday 3:00 p.m.)

FCC: The FCC is bringing a motion to the WSC to create a health care and Debt Caucus. The FCC has committed to writing a personal letter to this individual.

### **ISSUE 11: NAMING HIGHER POWER**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is it an "outside issue" to name your Higher Power in a meeting? For example when sharing about Step 3. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN)

FCC: Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

### **ISSUE 12: HEALTH CARE IN DA**

TEXT OF ISSUE: There has been a strong desire by the group to have some of the issues that the people in DA with health and disability issues to be heard at the WSC2008. We have started to put them in draft form at this time and were hoping that we could have a little more time to complete them. Medical Costs are incurred constantly with people with disabilities or like myself with cancer. It's not that we intentionally are trying to go into debt, but ever time we go to a doctor, hospital, treatments or medical tests there is another debt. Some of us are fortunate

enough to have good health insurance and then it's not as bad. The other possibility is that we are able to negotiate a payment plan with any of these expenses. Most people, including our family and friends sometimes do not understand these issues as they haven't experience them.

**THE LIMITS OF OUR BODIES:** We are often exhorted to deal with our 12-Step issues by being willing to, "go to any lengths." It is a hallmark of our PRG's, to accept and act upon "Action Steps," suggested to increase our earnings, reduce our expenses and be free of unsecured debt. Negotiating for what we need, teaching others to respect our disabilities, even as we gain tolerance for ourselves takes precious stamina. However, for people with health issues and disabilities, esp those not obvious to others, as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and some other illnesses, it is equally important to learn to listen carefully to our bodies, accept and work within our limits.

**MEDICAL COSTS AND EARNINGS:** Finding a realistic balance between managing our finances and our physical limits is particularly true for those for whom medical and caretaking expenses are an issue. Those of us without adequate income, may be willing to press ourselves past a manageable balance, further endangering a fragile situation. Desperation to solve our problems and fear of failure, even bankruptcy can confront us with contradictory needs to take care of ourselves financially and physically. Sometimes, actions suggested by others in program are inappropriate or impossible.

**RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS:** It may help us to remember to live in our recovery with loving forgiveness and detachment. Well-meaning program people may press us past our boundaries or trivialize our concerns. Family, friends and other program people may become impatient with us, unfairly judge our motives or confuse our concerns with resistance. It is important to our recovery to attain clarity about freedom from blaming either ourselves or others

when this happens. Our realities can trigger old issues from our families of origin and feelings of rage, deprivation, shame, self-hate, self-pity, despair, suicidal hopelessness and panic. Even when we have empathetic people in our lives, at times, our health issues can be isolating and discouraging. Often this can mean accepting grief, when we realize what has been lost due to our disabilities. It is critical for us to separate grim realities we cannot control from those character defects we must release or only make a difficult situation worse. At such times, it is most useful to show up and work our program, accept what we cannot control, reach out when we can and open ourselves to our Higher Power for guidance. It is important to choose our battles. This is a gentle program.

**HOPE:** In the worst of circumstances, our Higher Power can still give us opportunities for gratitude, love, service and hope towards a life of abundance. Despite our difficulties, many of us have found creative solutions to underearning and other financial issues. It is important to work all 12 steps so that we can attain serenity with a loving Higher Power, as we negotiate to find solutions to our problems. Many of us have found working the relationship programs or professional counseling helpful. With the help of program and our Higher Power we can survive, thrive and our struggles can serve to inspire others. A lot of members have health insurance and therefore can handle the finances for their doctors, hospitals, medical tests (cat scans, MRIs, X-rays, etc.), and treatments with only having to pay their co-pays. A serious problem occurs when someone sustains a very serious illness or accident which causes them to be confined to a wheelchair or even worse paralyzed. In this situation a person goes through surgeries to save their life. There are needs for transplantations and hospitalization for longer periods of time. After these surgeries there is obvious needs for professional caregivers and even later more surgery. In this type of situation it

has happened that insurance companies have informed the patient/patients that they have been informed that they have exceeded their yearly cap and they can no longer get any assistance from the insurance companies. Then it causes the patient/patients to try to fight the insurance companies so that they may live. I know that these hopefully are a minor amount of our DA family, but it does happen and it is unconscionable. This is a special and important problem for our DA family and will keep the WSC aware of the continuing issues as we address them. We are hoping that this work will and can become a pamphlet to help other DA members face the issues of health. We also realize that this is not only a problem in the United States, but since DA is a international program we also need the input from our members in these other areas. We do have three members that are international, therefore we will address how their health issues are handled also. (Tuesday afternoon DA Health Meeting 1176.)

**FCC:** The FCC is bringing a motion to the WSC to create a health care and Debt Caucus. The FCC has committed to writing a personal letter to this individual.

### **ISSUE 13: GROUP SERVICE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** The above meeting has now closed. The reason is SERVICE. People seemingly are not effortful on service. Yes, I know we have a pamphlet on this. If DA is dwindling it's because of lack of service. Please help us. Why are not members stepping up to the plate and giving service. In AA, as well you know, one of the first things an AA sponsor is likely to do is give the sponsee marching orders for doing service work. If a new meeting starts for the first time in an area where there has been no previous meetings, the requirements for service positions are simply DO IT. I am a long timer—I got tired of carrying the load of the meeting's service positions. When I stepped down,

Creating the Good Life meeting closed a couple of months later because of lack of willingness to do the service. Other meeting are also on the verge of closing because of this issue. Help. AND.... blessings on all JUNE 20, 2008. (Creating the Good Life 1028 Mill Creek Washington.)

**FCC:** Our response to this group will be that: FCC recommends to our fellow GSR and ISR delegates that each one of us identifies someone in our meeting to be their Alternate GSR and to encourage our Alternate to participate in the committee work we are doing.

### **ISSUE 14: PRESSURE TO REPAY DEBT**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Would like a rigorously honest discussion at W.S. level of the issue that in some groups and areas of DA there is "pressure" put on newcomers to pay off debt ASAP, and whether this is truly the spirit of DA Recovery-and that sometimes moratoriums are prudent. (Sunday Night Integrity Meeting 259.)

**FCC:** Please refer to pamphlet "Communicating with Creditors" and "Debt Repayment." Also refer to the "Numbers Booklet" in the order of spending categories noting that spirituality is first and debt repayment is last.

### **ISSUE 15: PRIMARY PURPOSE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** How to stress doing the steps, getting and staying solvent and the record-keeping tools to newcomers. How to keep the main focus of all meetings, regardless of the topic, on the primary purpose, which is to stop incurring unsecured debt. (Creating Your Vision 303.)

**FCC:** Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

### **ISSUE 16: OUTSIDE ISSUES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: What are "outside issues"? Also, what is a good way to address "outside issues" when they come up during a meeting? (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN)

FCC: Please refer to the Spirituality Pamphlet for discussion and clarification. Also a personal letter will be sent to this DA group.

### **ISSUE 17: OLDER DA MEMBERS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Members of the Fellowship of Debtors Anonymous who are 50 years of age and older currently support one another in applying the D.A. principles and tools primarily through the use of the Wednesday night telephone meeting, individual use of the telephone and the internet outside the meeting environment and in PRG/PRM settings. The 50 Plus DA Wednesday Night Telephone Meeting (DA Group #1187) suggests that the DA 2008 WSC consider the special issues, needs and concerns of members of the DA Fellowship who are 50 years of age and older either within the framework of the existing Diversity Caucus OR through the creation of a new, unique caucus operating under one of the existing Conference Committees. (50 Plus DA 1187 Telephone Meeting.)

FCC: We referred this issue to the Diversity Caucus. The Diversity Caucus referred us to the PI Committee who indicated that are planning to address this issue.

How to stress doing the steps, getting and staying solvent and the record-keeping tools to newcomers. How to keep the main focus of all meetings, regardless of the topic, on the primary purpose, which is to stop incurring unsecured debt. (Creating Your Vision 303.)

### **ISSUE 18: PHONE MEETINGS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is there a phone meeting intergroup? If not, would it be helpful to set one up? (Anonymous.)

FCC: We referred to the Intergroup Caucus.

**INTERGROUP CAUCUS:** The Intergroup Caucus will craft a statement to send out via eNews, pending GSB approval, that it has been suggested that the phone meetings might benefit from forming an intergroup, and invite anyone who would be interested in that to contact the Intergroup Caucus for assistance.

### **ISSUE 19: QUALIFYING AT MEETINGS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: When someone qualifies by saying "I am a debtor" they are confirming the negative. Can DA encourage people to say "I am a recovering Debtor"? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

FCC: We will respond back to this group and there will be an article about this issue in the Ways & Means.

### **ISSUE 20: SECURED DEBT ISSUES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Secured debt: DA says that secured debt is 'okay', in that the creditor is protected. But many of us find secured debt (like home equity loans) to be just as dangerous as unsecured. Should DA address this issue, by pointing out that although secured debt protects the lender, it does nothing to protect us from our debting selves? (Anonymous.)

FCC: We will write a letter to this group indicating that "FCC recommends that the Literature Committee considers creating a pamphlet that defines unsecured debt in relation to DA and also looks at the risks and problems of secured debt."

### **ISSUE 21: KEEPING A MEETING ALIVE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I will make reference to two different meetings that are located in Los Angeles. I would like to remain anonymous. But I will say that there are many meetings which have somehow worked their way out of twelve step format (especially with regard to the traditions) in Saturday am 9:00 in Brentwood and at Sunday

night in Silverlake. I will tell you that property prestige and religious faiths infiltrate those meetings. I had some childhood success which seems to haunt me at these meetings. It happened that I was on the cover of a magazine many years ago. But when the Sunday group organized the DA visions board day, I was left out. There is intimidation and competitiveness like no tomorrow. At the Saturday the same people hold service positions and share over and over again. This really applies to the Saturday morning BDA meeting in Brentwood, 9:00. I am talking over a 10 year period the same people raise their hands, make up a core click and are elected to service positions. My father was born in Brentwood and he is very much a debtor and still I feel unwelcome at that meeting over and over again. People mention the names of the companies, their occupations, names of famous producers and what have you. The people at meeting are very focused on competing against others. When they are threatened by someone because of their god given gifts they do not call on them. There is little rotation in leadership and meeting in Los Angeles are very clicky. The focus becomes on who is in which movie/commercial and they get the attention. One meeting in Brentwood at 900am sat in particular. I have been attending off and on for 10 years plus and I have never gotten called on. People need to take their issues of jealousy and narcissism outside of meetings. There is lots of gossip. The traditions are a necessity not just to be read but studied and analyzed and discussed at length. Herb Kaigan teaches a class on the traditions. Please keep this note anonymous. Thank you. (Anonymous.)

**FCC:** FCC recommends that you refer to the pamphlets "How to Keep Your Meeting Alive" and "Group Inventory" in the Service Literature Section of the DA Website. FCC will respond to this after the Conference.

#### **ISSUE 22: DA 12 & 12**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** When is the DA Big Book/12&12 going to be published? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 23: DA WORKBOOK**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** What's happened to the DA Workbook? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 24: ELECTRONIC PURCHASE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can it be made easier to order DA literature from the US (by UK) by debit card or PayPal? (UK)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 25: FUNDING OPERATIONS FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** That the DA General Service Board commit to making a five year transition to becoming fully self-supporting for its operations and services from funds raised by Seventh Tradition contributions and other fundraising pricing DA literature at actual cost to encourage more DA members to purchase more at a more affordable cost. (NJPADA)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

#### **ISSUE 26: TRADITION REVISION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** I request we ask for AA's permission to modify the printing of the 12 Traditions to gender neutral language (see enclosed). Let's get with reality—both genders need honor, not just men, when we conceptualize God. Thank you! [Note: attachment offers alternative language for Tradition 2: Four our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as expressed in our group conscience. Etc.] (Seattle, WA.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 27: DA 12 & 12 EDITOR PROCESS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: It is confusing to me why an editor for the 12 and 12 has not been selected. I know viable candidates applied and yet it appears that they are STILL looking for an editor. Can you explain what the process is for selecting the editor, and what, specifically you need in such a person, if none of the candidates so far have been suitable. (CADA 132.)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 28: FUNDING OF GSB TO WSC**

TEXT OF ISSUE: It is my understanding that a portion of the funds paid by GSR's/IGR's is used to pay the way of the Trustees. If the Trustees were to create a category in the GSO's spending plan, the funds could be diverted to there and the price of the conference would make it more affordable for groups to send a representative. (Anonymous.)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 29: USE OF DA NAME BY OUTSIDE ENTITIES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: If you Google "Debtors Anonymous" some of the responses include the words "debtors anonymous" in their ad, but they appear to be paid debt relief services. (Technically, these appear to be Sponsored Listings that use dynamic linking to include your search term in the ad). Is there a way to stop this? (Anonymous.)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 30: PROMISES ON LITERATURE WEB PAGE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Add the Promises of DA on the literature page of the DA website: <http://debtorsanonymous.org/literature/literature.htm> and on the "Start a Meeting" page. [http://debtorsanonymous.org/start\\_meeting/start.htm](http://debtorsanonymous.org/start_meeting/start.htm) The Steps, Tools, Traditions, and Concepts

are there, but not the Promises. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 31: SEARCHABLE MEETING LIST**

TEXT OF ISSUE: This item is regarding the "Find a Meeting" page and the searchable meeting database on the DA website. Many of the meetings were not registered with zip codes (i.e., just the street address, city, and state). So when someone searches for a meeting using a zip code for example "within 50 miles of 55455", the meetings that were registered without zip codes do not appear in the search results. Two part solution: 1) add a line on the meeting registration form that stresses the importance of including the correct zip code. 2) if a meeting sends in a form without a zip code, have the person who is maintaining the database look up the zip code on the USPS website <http://zip4.usps.com/zip4/> and enter it into the database. (This service could be done by one of the "virtual volunteers" to the General Service Office) Helping people find a DA meeting is the most simple and important way to "carry the message to the still-suffering debtor". Let's get it right. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

**ISSUE 32: ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Making DA more electronically more accessible: Can't we make DA pamphlets downloadable for a fee instead of making people fill out a form, and mail it with a check, so pamphlets can be snail-mailed? We could still use them to generate income, and if necessary, we could set pdf security options so they could not be copied/pasted. We could even set them so they could not be printed, if we thought we needed to be that protective of the copyright. (Anonymous)

GSB: Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

### **ISSUE 33: DA WEBSITE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Clean up the DA website ([www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org)). It is messy, many of the links are broken, and it is hard to find documents because they are not grouped in an order that makes sense. Also, the main navigational links in the far left column are not consistent. For instance, when clicking on the "News Media" link, the BDA link goes away. This is rudimentary web design and is not that hard to fix, but makes a huge difference when trying to navigate the site. The quality of the website tells a lot about an organization. It doesn't have to have fancy bells and whistles, but let's make it clean, well-organized, and easy to navigate. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**GSB:** Response will be reported at 2009 WSC.

### **ISSUE 34: SPONSEE PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create a pamphlet on how to be a good sponsee (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. Meanwhile, please see free download of Sponsorship pamphlet on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org) which addresses the relationship between sponsors and sponsees.

### **ISSUE 35: CREDIT RATING PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create literature on how to build a credit rating while remaining solvent/debt free (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** In the program of Debtors Anonymous, our primary purpose is to stop incurring new unsecured debt one day at a time. Therefore, DA has no opinion on credit ratings and how to build a good credit rating because these are outside issues.

### **ISSUE 36: PRM FORMAT SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Create national level literature with a pressure relief meeting format (LA has a regional publication for this) (Sunday Silverlake 864).

**LIT:** GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature Committee to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. We welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

### **ISSUE 37: DA STEP STUDY GUIDE SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** The Dallas Texas Prosperity Group desires a single unified DA guide to taking the steps in DA and then applying the DA tools to those 12 spiritual steps. The problem: the canon of DA approved literature is fragments, parts and pamphlet pieces that were originally developed to use as companion pieces to the Alcoholics Anonymous Basic Text. DA as a whole fellowship seems to have pulled away from supporting that model as a way for beginners to work the 12-step program, as well as the template from which to sponsor. DA has even ceased publication of its own pamphlet on the tool of 'AA literature,' which was a vital document illustrating ways that the DA founders applied the principles to recovery from compulsive debt. Several intergroups, individuals and other fellowships publish non-DA -approved step guides; i.e. outlines, assignments or an order to follow. Some of these guides even tie the AA text to the corresponding DA pamphlets. DA members have also published non-DA approved books. But there is no one unified DA approved step guide for use DA fellowship-wide. Out of desperation, individual DA members are using these "varied" non-approved 12 step guides. DA members get into

"opinion" about weather is it is better to follow the 'Mundis' book, the 'So Cal' guide, an 'OA' guide or a plethora of other NON DA materials. Dallas DA Prosperity Group feels this is the most divisive and the most under addressed issue facing DA today. DA fellowships that self-publish or recommend non-DA guides & books see no urgency in addressing this issue as they have fallen into a pattern of settling for these pieces. Fellowships that hold copyrights on self published pieces of non-DA lit also have a financial incentive to continue this tradition-violating policy. Much of this sold material is not pure 12-step, but a hybrid of self-help, therapy, pop psychology & intellectualization. The original AA 12-step program was a document of the experience strength and hope of addicted alcoholics...that 10-20% of the population for whom self-help, therapy, pop psychology & intellectualization will not work...that is, the compulsive person who is beyond human aid and who must have a spiritual solution. DA is a 12 step fellowship but many members only ever read, if anything, a few of the DA tools pamphlets, have a PRG, and get temporary "relief." These individuals never actually work the spiritual program at all, and never have the spiritual awakening necessary to have mental obsession to compulsively debt removed. THE SOLUTION: Dallas Prosperity Group strongly recommends that the unified DA 12-step guide be a simple outline connecting the directions for taking the 12 steps as outlined in Text Book of Alcoholics Anonymous to the existing DA pamphlets. Our group further recommends that DA WSC give this vital document its undivided attention and take a moratorium from developing any additional literature, either new or in current process, until this unified DA step guide is complete, published and available to all DA members. This moratorium would extend to temporarily tabling the proposed "How it works in

DA" and DA 12& 12 books. (Prosperity 364 Dallas)

LIT: Regarding the Step Study Guide, the concept of this was approved in 2007 and the Lit Com at that time turned it over to Literature Services as called for in the Literature Approval Process. The next step is for Literature Services to find a writer (or writers) to move the piece forward. That writer would then write the first draft and that document would go through all the steps of the Literature Approval Process.

### **ISSUE 38: SPENDING PLAN SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please approve attached vacation/conference spending plan as Conference approved literature for all our members. [Worksheet shows Planned and Actual columns for Funds Available and for Conference Expense categories: registration, lodging, transportation, meals, miscellaneous, contingency, and Total] (Simple Abundance 496, Lima, PA.)

LIT: The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your suggestion into consideration.

### **ISSUE 39: DA TRADITIONS PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please write a pamphlet on DA Traditions like "12 Steps of Debtors Anonymous" pamphlet. (CADA 132, Washington, D.C.)

LIT: D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

### **ISSUE 40: DEFINITION OF DEBT SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please make a piece of information about forms of unsecured debt and forms of secured debt. (CADA 132.)

LIT: The General Service Board has considered preparing guidelines to clarify what constitutes

“debting” and at this time, has declined to adopt such guidelines. It is suggested to consult with your sponsor, your Pressure Relief Group persons, and other members of the fellowship for their experience, strength and hope.

#### **ISSUE 41: SERVICE QUALIFICATIONS**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We would like to have suggestions for abstinence requirements and qualifications for performing service at the group and intergroup levels. (Empire State Intergroup 608, Upstate New York.)

**LIT:** This information is contained in the Meetings pamphlet.

#### **ISSUE 42: STEP STUDY BOOK SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Literature (book?) Step Study for DA where we do not have to substitute DA for AA. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**LIT:** D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

#### **ISSUE 43: SPEAKER AUDIO FILES**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Can we have online downloads of speakers. I would as a consumer pay for it. (Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, San Francisco, CA.)

**LIT:** The issue is being discussed by the Technology Caucus.

#### **ISSUE 44: AA LITERATURE PAMPHLET REVISION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Revisit publishing the pamphlet “AA Literature.” I don’t see it on the website available to order or download. It is really helpful in guiding a new DA through the AA lit, especially the Big Book. (Prosperity 364, Dallas.)

**LIT:** Although the General Service Board decided not to make this pamphlet available as a free download, the Literature Committee will recommend to the General Service Board that

the pamphlet be made available as a temporary free download until we have a our basic text.

#### **ISSUE 45: DA 12 & 12 BOOK**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Instead of DA 12&12, to use the same 12&12 but replacing with DA words where appropriate. (419 California.)

**LIT:** D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A. To prepare D.A. literature by modifying A.A literature by substituting ‘debt’ for ‘alcohol’ and ‘debting’ for ‘drinking’ would constitute copyright infringement.

#### **ISSUE 46: DA 12 & 12 BOOK**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved 12 & 12 book, similar to AA’s 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. (On Prosperous Ground 226, Miami FL.)

**LIT:** D.A. currently is preparing a book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, which address the 12 Traditions in D.A.

#### **ISSUE 47: FOCUS ON PRIMARY PURPOSE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Please cease literature writing projects (even close to completion) that do not deal with our primary purpose of not debting one day at a time. procrastination and issues with time are, as the primary purpose statement clearly articulates 6th addressed in steps 6-9. (CADA 132.)

**LIT:** All printed and online pamphlets are being reviewed by the Literature Committee for updating, upon suggestion from our D.A. Board of Trustees at the 2008 World Service Conference. One of the guidelines we are using is: Does this pamphlet align with our primary purpose? D.A. projects and pamphlets in process are being reviewed by Literature Services using the same criterion.

### **ISSUE 48: CURRENCY OF HOPE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please begin work on A Currency of Hope II incorporating stories of long timers, business owners. (CADA 132.)

LIT: The concept of posting stories- including those about long-timers and business owners- on the DA website was approved at the 2008 WSC. There are no plans to produce a book titled Currency of Hope II.

### **ISSUE 49: DAILY MEDITATION BOOK**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved Daily Meditation Reader, with a page for each day of the year, similar to those produced by other 12-step fellowships. (On Prosperous Ground 226, Miami, FL.)

LIT: A D.A. Daily Meditation book is in progress.

### **ISSUE 50: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA 12 STEPS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please consider degenderizing the 12 Steps to remove the pronoun Him and to not use any pronoun at all. ( Providence Hope and Prosperity, Providence.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

### **ISSUE 51: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Replace "God" and "his & her" with Higher Power and "his or her" and "he or she" in our DA literature. If not "God", then at least de-generize the pronouns. It's high time we go "with the program" so to speak. (NOTE: I will explain to this member who hasn't been to

meetings in a while, that we are working on that with all new literature). (California 419.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

### **ISSUE 52: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I agree with the de-gendering God – instead of "him", just replace with God – or "Godess" – or it? (California 419.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

### **ISSUE 53: GENDER NEUTRALITY IN DA LITERATURE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: When will DA become God gender neutral? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral. That motion specifically excluded any changes to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions. A change to the 12 Traditions would entail a lengthy and complex process.

**ISSUE 54: NON-CONF. APPROVED LIT SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: If approved, please edit the Fear of Success Pamphlet for grammar. (Sunday Night Integrity Meeting 259 New York City. )

LIT: GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature Committee to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undergoing a thorough review of all DA pamphlets. We welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

**ISSUE 55: NEWCOMER'S PACKET**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved Newcomer's Packet, similar to those produced by other 12-step fellowships. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

LIT: This literature concept is currently in process.

**ISSUE 56: COUPLES IN DA PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Please write a pamphlet along the lines of the family afterward, or working DA as a couple. (CADA 132.)

LIT: We suggest that Literature services include a chapter on Relationships in the DA How it Works Book.

**ISSUE 57: PRG GUIDE SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA produce a conference-approved PRG Guide book, similar to the blue pamphlet produced by Southern California DA. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

LIT: GSB has requested that if your group is aware of non-Conference Approved Literature that is useful and can help the still-suffering debtor, please have it submitted to the Literature

Committee to go through the normal approval process for consideration. We are undertaking a thorough review of all DA pamphlets and we welcome all ideas, outlines and concepts for future publications.

**ISSUE 58: PROMISES REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Our 7<sup>th</sup> DA Promise states: "We will recognize that there is enough; our resources will be generous and we will share them with others and with D.A." I have always been uncomfortable with the last part "share them with DA". This does not seem like a promise of what I will experience in recovery. It seems more like an attempt to sneak in a request for money into the Promises. Of course, I am not saying we should not share our resources with DA, I'm just uncomfortable with that request appearing in the Promises. (Anonymous.)

LIT: At the 2007 World Service Conference, a motion passed that all new DA literature, including literature in process, be written in such a way that all references to Higher Power and/or God are gender neutral.

**ISSUE 59: PROMISES REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: I respectfully propose the following change to the text at the end of the "12 Promises": Replace: "Are these extravagant promises? We think not; they are well within our means...." With: "Are these reasonable promises? We agree they are; they are well within our means...." Discussion: I believe affirming the positive (instead of denying the negative) is more direct and powerful. I think it is a clearer expression of the spirit and true meaning of this statement. (California 419)

LIT: Review of all literature is in process

## **ISSUE 60: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** A suggested responsibility pledge: I want to be a DA asset. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of DA to be there. If that hand is mind, then I am a DA asset. (Anonymous.)

**LIT:** The concept of a Responsibility Pledge will be considered by the Literature Committee; however, the wording you suggest might require the permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services..

## **ISSUE 61: COUPLES IN DA PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We ask the WSC & GSB to create literature addressing Couples DA issues. (New Visions 317 Woodstock, NY.)

**LIT:** The Literature Committee has suggested to Literature Services that a chapter on relationships be included in the DA How it Works Book.

## **ISSUE 62: EARNING AND SPENDING REVISION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** In all DA literature, especially, but not limited to the Tools: insert the words "Earning and Spending Plan" for the words "Spending Plan. "Too often we focus on spending/expenses and not enough on earning/income and they are both equally important!!! (South Minneapolis DA 1101. )

**LIT:** All of the D.A. Literature is being reviewed this year by the Literature Committee and your concern will be considered carefully.

## **ISSUE 63: SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We would like to see DA produce formal guidelines for sponsorship containing DA Frequently Asked Questions, written assignments, advice to help with newcomers, etc. (On Prosperous Ground 226 Miami, Florida.)

**LIT:** The DA pamphlet on sponsorship is no longer available in print, however, there is a free downloadable version of the pamphlet available on the DA website at [www.debtorsanonymous.org](http://www.debtorsanonymous.org). Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

## **ISSUE 64: SPONSORSHIP PAMPHLET REVISION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Revise the sponsorship pamphlet text that is on the website (ie: make it better) and resume printing it as a pamphlet for sale. Very few people know it is on the website. Not having it on display for sale with the other pamphlets at a meeting makes it easy to overlook. This is one of the most important aspects of our program and people have many questions about it (especially those who don't have previous 12 Step experience). (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**LIT:** We will be reviewing the Sponsorship pamphlet as part of the overall literature review process. We will also consider recommending that it be returned to print. Groups have found it helpful to print out the pamphlet and make copies available on their literature tables.

## **ISSUE 65: STUDENT LOAN PAMPHLET SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** A pamphlet on student loans would be helpful. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

**LIT:** At present, there is no DA literature that specifically addresses student loans. However, as stated in "The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous (p. 1) "Our debting may have manifested in our lives in the form of unpaid credit card debt or student loans." As educational loans are generally not secured by any collateral, obtaining such loans is considered debting..

## ISSUE 66: TOOLS REVISION

TEXT OF ISSUE: In regards to DA Tool #2 about Using the Telephone and the Internet: Please expand the tool to include "answering the phone" and "returning calls and emails from other DA members". So many times I call people in my group for support and no one answers their phone. Also, I leave messages on their voicemail and I'm lucky if one person returns my call. This is very discouraging. I have heard this concern from many members of the fellowship, both from my area and from other parts of the country.

Current: 7. The Telephone and the Internet We maintain frequent contact with other D.A. members by using the telephone, e-mail, and other forms of communication. We make a point of talking to other D.A. members before and after taking difficult steps in our recovery. Proposed: 7. The Telephone and the Internet We maintain frequent contact with other D.A. members by using the telephone, e-mail, and other forms of communication. We make a point of talking to other D.A. members before and after taking difficult steps in our recovery. We also make an effort to answer the phone and return calls and emails from other D.A. members in a timely manner. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

LIT: All pamphlets are under revision at this time and this suggestion will be taken into consideration.

## ISSUE 67: DA TOOLS REVISION

TEXT OF ISSUE: Rewrite DA Tool #5. The current wording is awkward and it is obvious that the portions regarding income and savings were added as an afterthought. Current: **5. Spending Plan** The spending plan puts our needs first and gives us clarity and balance in our spending. It includes categories for income, spending, debt payment and savings (to help us build cash reserves, however humble). The income plan helps us focus on increasing our income. The debt payment category guides us in making

realistic payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. Savings can include prudent reserve, retirement and special purchases. Proposed: **5. Earning and Spending Plan** The earning and spending plan puts our needs first and It helps us focus on increasing our income and gives us clarity and balance in our spending. The debt payment category guides us in making realistic payment arrangements without depriving ourselves. The savings category helps us build cash reserves, however humble, and can include prudent reserve, retirement, and special purchases. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

LIT: All pamphlets are under revision for content, grammar and for adherence to DA's primary purpose at this time and your point will be taken into consideration

## ISSUE 68: DA TOOLS REVISION

TEXT OF ISSUE: Reformatting DA tools: Solvency is part of the description of the program instead of a tool so when tools are discussed, it ends up that there's no discussion of solvency. Is there some way to re-word the tools, so tools meetings meet and discuss the importance of solvency? The way it is worded now does not lead to a discussion about solvency when discussing each of the tools at tools meetings. We would like to re-word it so that solvency is discussed when discussing the tools at our tools meetings. (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307 New York. )

LIT: Solvency isn't a tool, just as sobriety or abstinence aren't tools, but are supported by the tools of each program. It IS important to have discussions about solvency, but not under the heading of tools. In the 2005 Conference, solvency was changed from a "tool" to a "starting point".

### **ISSUE 69: TRADITION REVISION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Tradition two suggested wording "A loving higher power as expressed in our group conscience" (California 419.)

LIT: The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your concern into consideration.

### **ISSUE 70: UNDEREARNING MATERIALS SUGGESTION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: More formal education materials on Underearning. (South Minneapolis DA 1101)

LIT: Although we don't offer formal educational materials, only experience, strength and hope, we assume you are asking for more literature on underearning (in addition to the pamphlet we currently have). The Literature Committee is beginning a process of re-evaluating our selection of pamphlets, and we will consider your request for additional literature on underearning. However many DA long-timers feel that the key to long-term recovery is to focus on our Primary Purpose: to stop debting one day at a time. When we don't debt, we are forced to increase our income.

### **ISSUE 71: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We would like to see DA create, implement and use a statement similar to the examples below to inspire, guide, and unify the DA fellowship world wide. AA Responsibility Statement: "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible." Al-Anon Declaration: "When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help - let the hand of Al-Anon and Alateen always be there, and Let It Begin With Me." The OA Promise: "I put my hand in yours, and together we can do what we could never do alone. No longer is there a sense of hopelessness, no longer must we each depend upon our own unsteady willpower.

We are all together now, reaching out our hands for power and strength greater than ours, and as we join hands, we find love and understanding beyond our wildest dreams." (Paths to Prosperity 338 Salt Lake City.)

LIT: The Literature Committee is currently reviewing all existing literature and will take your suggestion into consideration.

### **ISSUE 72: OUTSIDE ISSUE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Issue and the reason We as a Group decided to send a GSR to Utah for the first time in our 8 year history. We felt strongly about Judith C. of NYC FOS/underearning ideas and how closely We as a group Identify. We heard she was a few votes short of being able to introduce her literature. We had the chance to go to Clutters Anonymous way but felt that topic did not serve our group beliefs whereas DA's ideas and principles hit the mark. The basic premise for our group is that "Clutter" is a physical, mental, emotional and spiritual manifestation of the debting disease. Its about how we self-debt. We lack love of self in the various forms. Whether its overspending, hoarding, pauperism, underearning or fearing success its all clutter. That we could not manage our own lives that GOD could and would if sought. By focusing on HP, GOD(Group of Debtors) etc.. we can reach out and start the process of de-cluttering our minds, souls and homes. By clearing the way via staying solvent in DA, we are able to find bills and checks and pay them on time. Thus paving the way to abundance and prosperity. Clutter builds walls that protects/ prevents us from dealing with the outside world thus keeping us in terminal vagueness and lacking clarity in all our affairs. It also keeps us debting by neglecting self-love. Or not taking the time for ourselves because we are too busy caring or doing for others. Once again debting to ourselves and our welfare. Our clutter whatever form it takes, your choice, keeps us from being happy, joyous and

free and being rocketed into the fourth dimension. Having too much, too little hinders our growth not only as individuals but as loving and giving members of society. Working the DA 12 steps and practicing these principles in all our affairs helps us to remove the clutter from our eyes and see clearly that we are not alone. Thank you very much for helping my group Clearing the Way in NYC to be heard at the 2008 WSC in Utah. Clutter is an outer manifestation of our inner turmoil. Clutter due to the disorganization of our homes and minds is a form of underearning. It deprives us of self-care, the best example neglecting health insurance or retirement account because we cannot focus due to our clutter. Focusing on Solvency is the first step towards de-cluttering. Please introduce this topic somehow, someday into the 2008 WSC. My group worked really hard to raise money to send me to Utah to represent this IDEA of clearing the way in relation to DA. (Clearing the Way in NYC 1213, NY.)

#### **ISSUE 73: PUBLIC INFO SERVICE POSITION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Create a standard job description for group level public information: procedures, publications, brochures and letters available. Only three people participate in the monthly national conference call for this. Instructions are too vague (Sunday Silverlake 864).

PI: No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 74: OUTREACH**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Can we provide outreach to high school and college kids and maybe even youngsters? For example, DA can have literature (you know like the I can read easy children's book series or Love Shouldn't Hurt pamphlets...) explaining how to write a check, what a debt is, the difference between a secured debt and an unsecured debt, living solvently, student loans, campus credit card recruiter tables, basic,

beginner topics like that for the financially isolated or beginner. It could detail hands-on bookkeeping for novices. In addition to the literature, there can be outreach to schools and community or religious youth organizations including Alateen discussing these topics, and they can be presented along with the literature. You know, like for the grace of God there goes I. (John H 7:30pm Prosperity Meeting 307, New York.)

PI: No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 75: OUTREACH**

TEXT OF ISSUE: For seniors, can we print literature and outreach explaining and referring them to programs and case management agencies that provide housing, transportation, food, senior centers, and case management assistance? (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307 New York.)

PI: No reponse at WSC.

#### **ISSUE 76: GROUP BANK ACCOUNT**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Create formal instructions on how to set up a group bank account (Sunday Silverlake 864).

RDC: This concern is addressed in the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval, under "OPENING A GROUP CHECKING ACCOUNT".

#### **ISSUE 77: NEWCOMERS' PACKETS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Newcomers packets that meetings can gift to newcomers? Perhaps encourage meetings to fund a minimum "newcomer gift" of their local where and whens and include it as part of the regular meeting expense. (CADA Intergroup 132)

RDC: RDC recommends that the Literature Committee create a standardized Newcomer Packet. Each group may decide by group conscience if their group spending plan should

include providing literature such as free Newcomer Packets to newcomers.

### **ISSUES 78, 79, 81: PURPOSE OF 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION FUNDS**

**ISSUE 78: TEXT OF ISSUE:** World Service needs to specify why they need \$37,000. It makes them seem greedy and out of touch with other debtors, especially when newcomers see the flyer. The only reason I know what it is about is because I attended CADA. (Grace of God/CADA Intergroup 132)

**ISSUE 79: TEXT OF ISSUE:** It just does not make sense to me all this asking for money and such large amounts. Not only do I think it is totally wrong not to state specifically what this money is earmarked for, I think it unacceptable to put a Flyer out which also does not state what the money is used for. And in the mother fellowship of AA, if we dont have enough we do without. Your comparison to a "non-profit" is especially disturbing. While we are a non-profit, we should not be "fundraising, period, and the Traditions tell us that emphatically. We are here to serve the Fellowship not to fund raise. We must live within our means, i.e. D.A. must be ok with literature funds and group donations. If groups dont give, there is something wrong with the Fellowship as a whole, which I believe there is. People in this program are obsessed with money and I see this play out in Intergroup and at World level in a big way. My own Intergroup tries to charge \$175 per person to be in a step study! This is pure nonsense and a distortion of DA principles. I would appreciate you passing this sentiment on at World. We want clarity, you dont just send out a Flyer asking for \$32,000 and not say what it is for? It is astonishing that the World level would be so vague about something so big, but on the other hand, from what I have seen in my short time of 2 years in DA, not surprising. Sometimes I wonder if recovery can

be had with so much greed. Many Thanks. (Marla L.)

**RDC:** Future appeal letters and flyers will include specifics (numbers) and/or pie charts.

### **ISSUE 80: 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** At its regular monthly meeting held on Sunday, June 29, 2008, the New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup of Debtors Anonymous passed the following resolution by unanimous voice vote: The New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup of Debtors Anonymous recommend to the General Service Board and the 2008 World Service Conference of Debtors Anonymous that the General Service Board begin within the six months to plan and implement a five year strategic campaign to stimulate the number and amount of Seventh Tradition contributions to be made at least quarterly from registered DA groups internationally. The purpose of this campaign is two-fold: (1) to increase the funds available for services to the membership, and (2) to reduce the GSB's reliance on profit from the sale of literature to provide for services. (New Jersey/Eastern Pennsylvania Intergroup.)

**RDC:** RDC moved to make increasing 7th Tradition contributions the focus of the committee in the upcoming year.

### **ISSUE 81: 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION SUGGESTION**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** World service needs to specify WHY they need \$37,000. It makes them seem greedy and out of touch with other debtors, especially when newcomers see the flyer. The only reason I know what it is about is because I attended CADA. (Grace of God/CADA Intergroup 132, WDC.)

**RDC:** Future appeal letters and flyers will include specifics (numbers) and/or pie charts.

**ISSUE 82: OUTSIDE ISSUE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: How will the US economic collapse change attitudes in DA? (Such as how much money people think they deserve?)

Business DA Daytime Meeting 604, (San Francisco, CA.)

RDC: RDC concludes that the "economic collapse" of U.S. is an outside issue. According to Tradition 10, DA has no opinion on outside issues, but suggests that as individuals we use the Twelve Steps, Sponsorship and Service as the way to guide our attitudes and actions around money.

**ISSUE 83: USE OF DEBIT CARDS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Creating literature about "How Debit Cards are Used" explaining how to avoid fees when using ATM machines or keeping minimum balances, using debit cards on line, i.e. booking airline tickets, are there times when debit cards can not replace a credit card, using cash or travelers checks, money orders and being mindful of new features and credit lines. (John H. 7:30 p.m. Prosperity Meeting 307, New York.)

RDC: Refer concern to Literature Committee.

**ISSUE 84: ELECTRONIC DONATIONS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Can we set up some way for DA to receive donations electronically? What about Paypal? This could be set up so as not to violate the 7th Tradition. (Anonymous.)

RDC: This concern is addressed in the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval, under "ELECTRONIC or ONLINE BILL PAY" and in the "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" section.

**ISSUE 85: GSR FUNDRAISING GUIDELINES**

TEXT OF ISSUE: It would be helpful to have DA guidance on what is appropriate for GSR fundraising events. I have heard some say that all fundraising events are considered outside events. If this was the case, then wouldn't a

group be violating the 7th Tradition by using the donations from the fundraising event to send their GSR to the WSC? (Serenity on Sunday 157 Mountain View, CA.)

RDC: This concern is addressed in both the Service Guide for Events and the Treasurer's Manual which the RDC has submitted to the GSB for approval.

**ISSUE 86: EARNING & SAVING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: How can we get on and stay on the path to earning more money, saving it and distributing it wisely. (Sunday Creating Your Vision NY, NY. )

RDC: The 12 Steps, Sponsorship, and Service form the foundation of our recovery in DA. Additionally, the 12 Tools of DA provide guidance on earning, saving, and spending money.

**ISSUE 87: WEBSITE MAINTENANCE**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Pay someone to clean up and maintain the DA website. This is too time-consuming of a job for someone to do on a volunteer basis. It is obvious from the current state of the website that it is not getting the time and attention that it needs. (South Minneapolis DA 1101 Minneapolis, MN.)

TECH CAUCUS: No response given at WSC.

**ISSUE 88: KEEPING MEETING INFORMATION**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is there a better way to keep meeting information (especially phone meeting information) up-to-date on our website. I've heard from several people that can't get on several of the phone meetings. (Anonymous)

TECH CAUCUS: No response given at WSC.

**ISSUE 89: SERVICE POSITIONS**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We are having a concern in some meetings that our service positions are not being filled. Meetings are actually folding due to lack of members offering to do service. We welcome any suggestions on how to attract more members to service positions to allow for more

rotation of leadership (SCGSR Regional Area Group).

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

### **ISSUE 90: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We must define the debting problem as an addictive compulsive behavior, not a circumstance. In Dallas, we get many newcomers in the debting "circumstance," who are actually addicted to other things: substance abuse, sex, underearing, etc. We must get clarity on this and cease publishing literature addressing other bad habits that result in debt "circumstance." I am once again suggesting a moratorium on publishing anything new until DA has a 12-Step Study Guide, preferably for studying the AA Big Book and taking the Steps according to the original directions. (Prosperity 364, Dallas.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

### **ISSUE 91: QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** We are concerned about the number of members who do service at the Conference level who do not meet the qualifications suggested on page 7 of the Debtors Anonymous Service Manual for GSRs and ISRs. (Empire State Intergroup 608, Upstate New York.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

### **ISSUE 92 DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** As far as I know, Debtors Anonymous does not have a definition of debt. Isn't that odd? We have defined 'secured' and 'unsecured', but I've never seen a DA definition of debt. And since our definition of abstinence is "not incurring unsecured debt one day at a time", that means we do not have a common definition of abstinence. (For example, many people regard

bounced checks as a break of abstinence, but many others do not.) Should we have a standard DA definition of debt and/or abstinence? If so, how should it be arrived at, given the huge variation in the definitions individual members have given to those terms? Or should we instead have a DA pamphlet on Debt/Abstinence that discusses the various definitions that different members have adopted, and encourages members to discuss these with their sponsor and other DA members to arrive at their own definitions? (Anonymous)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

### **ISSUE 93: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** I would like to see an official DA list of what is debting and what is not. I attend face-to-face meeting, and phone meetings, and e-mail meetings: I see consistently that members (both long-time and new) seem to think that debting means only debting on credit cards. (Cincinnati 618.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

### **ISSUE 94: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

**TEXT OF ISSUE:** Discussion point: Are student loans in forbearance considered debting? For example, the loan is in forbearance and no payment is being made, but the loan is accruing interest, which is being added to the principal balance. So the amount of unsecured debt is continuing to grow. (South Minneapolis DA 1101.)

**WSC:** This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 95: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: Is paying a bill past the due date considered an unsecured debt? Is it equal to using a credit card? Should you lose a service position because of it? (Womens Meeting 147 Santa Monica CA.)

WSC: This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.

**ISSUE 96: DEFINITION OF DEBTING**

TEXT OF ISSUE: We ask the WSC & GSB to create guidelines regarding solvency and the following issues: 1.) Library book and video rental late returns; 2.) Bounced checks; 3.) Late payment of bills; 4.) Rent or other bills not paid on due date but within "grace period"; 5.) Bank overdrafts; 6.) Paying taxes late; 7.) Accepting money in advance for services not yet rendered. (New Visions 317 Woodstock, NY.)

WSC: This item was given to all the committee and caucuses.