

Report from 2021 World Service Conference

First of all, I want to thank the group for sending me to the World Service Conference. It was my third year. It was a pleasure. It was exciting to be returning to the World Service Conference by doing service and attend the second virtual World Service Conference for D.A. The World Service Conference is to do the business of the organization of Debtors Anonymous. There were over 600 people who attended the conference on Fellowship Day. There was a representation around the world like South Africa, Ireland and Spain to name a few. Doing service has given me the confidence to work on the Literature Committee and be on the Spiritual Sustainable Earning Caucus.

The outline of the conference was held for two weekends, August 6 through 8 and 13 through 15. Weekends were long with 15 minutes breaks. Everyone was enthusiastic. No one can work on the committee or caucus except GSRs, ISRs and Trustees. The last Saturday afternoon anyone can attend the Fellowship Day. The last two days were surrounded around the Convocations where motions were made, voted on and approved. We ended saying the Serenity Prayer in many languages. Being that we're a fellowship that has at its core a focus on numbers, I feel it would be incomplete for me to not speak about the finances.

The Finance Report is as follows:

Effective August 1, 2018 the Fellowship was provided the option of making group and individual contributions online through the D.A. website. For this fiscal year, \$68,025.90 in contributions were made online, representing 34.27% of all contributions received.

For the fiscal year, group and individual contributions received were \$198,483.37, or 52.67% over the plan, and 56.92% over the same period in the previous fiscal year.

Broken down, group contributions were 118.3% over the same period last year, and individual contributions were 23.61% over the same period last year. On behalf of the entire D.A. Fellowship, the Finance Committee thanks the D.A. groups and individual D.A. members who have contributed to D.A. during the last year. Those contributions were an essential part of improving the financial health of the Fellowship.

The Fellowship has received \$26,794.68 in electronic literature sale profits.

For the fiscal year, literature sales accounted for \$47,082.48, or 44.30% under the plan, and 28.39% under the same period in the previous fiscal year.

The GSB Finance Committee is pleased to report that the income and Spending Plan for 2020-2021 ended with a positive balance of \$98,777.57. This results in an increase of the Total Assets of the Fellowship by \$113,588.23 over fiscal year 2019-2020.

Recommendations to the 2021-2022 Finance Committee were to continue to assess the balance in the main checking account and make recommendations to the board on transferring funds into the prudent reserve until the nine-month goal is reached.

That the GSB Finance Committee continue to monitor actual income and expenses against the approved Income and Spending Plan.

That the GSB Finance Committee through its board liaison continue working closely with the WSC Resource Development Committee.

That the GSB Finance Committee continue developing and tracking action items throughout the year.

The analysis of the expenses is for the fiscal year, expenses for the Board, bookkeeper, operating the General Service Office, and WSC Committee and Caucuses were \$123,150.98 or 28.33% under the plan, and 19.11% under the same period in the previous fiscal plan.

I was given \$215 to attend the World Service Conference. I spent \$215. I will be sending nothing back to the GSR fund.

There were Issues and Concerns in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service that was given to GSRs and ISRs that attended the World Service Conference. For example, restrict using the word abstinence as opposed to solvency. Furthermore, the word "abstinence" used in O.A. be stricken from D.A. literature. Another one, is that D.A. re-examine how it was that taking out loans for flipping real estate was deemed not debting. We need to go back to the original program of resisting predatory mortgage loans and lending that the original founders of D.A. espoused very specifically in our charter. Another example, individual meetings have not been kind to GSRs in their spending plans. Many resort to reimbursing GSRs after the GSR shells out money and then spending months and months to reimburse them which is denying. D.A. should set up a format where the GSR does not put up their own money and is reimbursed as soon as possible after the Conference.

The committee that I am working on is the Literature Committee.

There were two Motions and no Recommendations for the Literature Committee.

I am also on the Spiritual Sustainable Earning Caucus.

There were two Recommendations.

The SSEC recommends that the GSB facilitate a fellowship-wide Fourth Step Inventory.

The SSEC recommends that the WSC Literature Committee consider the SSEC signposts documentation for publication as service literature.

The Motions that were made and carried were as follows at convocation:

Motion Last year the Literature Committee was referred the motion that the WSC approve the concept for a pamphlet on the theme of Race and Debt. Upon consideration the Committee recommends the motion be adopted. It passed.

The second motion was the WSC Literature Committee to identify instances within all existing D.A. Conference approved literature where gender specific language can be replaced with gender neutral language, except for literature subject to copyright by A.A. (Motion is intended for future printing after current supplies are exhausted.) It passed.

The Conference Committee moves onto accept the New York bid to host the 2023 World Service Conference. It passed.

Conference Committee moves that the WSC authorize the Board to implement an optional pilot program for committees and caucuses to make motions or recommendations to the World Service Conference General Service Assembly six months before the scheduled date of that year's World Service Conference in order to be distributed to the Fellowship's groups and Intergroups two months before that year's WSC. It passed.

There was a Summary of Recommendations from 2020.

This is an example of Recommendation that was submitted by Conference Committee. The Conference Committee recommended that the GSB authorize the committee to curate a Ways & Means issue to state the joys and benefits of World Service and WSC participation. *The WSC Conference curated the 2021 second quarter issue.*

The following is a Recommendation that the GSB Conference Support Committee create and translate into multiple languages a special email to serve as a cover letter to the WSC Registration Packet and on the website to generate interest from non-English speaking locations. *The Conference and the committee and caucus meetings throughout the year are conducted in English because this is the spoken language of a majority of our members. As a relatively small Fellowship, we do not have the logistics or resources to offer a Conference in multiple languages. In 2020, we were happy to have been able to distribute WSC schedules and Fellowship Day flyers in multiple time zones, which took much volunteer coordination. The truth is it takes a lot of time and effort to produce an annual Conference, and managing or even overseeing the translations of Conference materials cannot be a priority at this time. It's worth noting that A.A. did not start translating their Conference binder until 2018, and that is a 12-step fellowship with millions of members and a multi-million dollar annual spending plan. Our vision is that one day we will have an entire department at the GSO with paid staff dedicated to translations.*

The Resource Development Committee recommends that all General Service Representatives (GSRs) announce to their groups the various electronic methods for making individual and group contributions to World Service. *In response to the pandemic, many GSRs as well as meeting treasurers at virtual meetings have been announcing to their groups that they can make individual and group contributions online at <https://debtoranonymous.org/contribute>.*

Responses are on Debtors Anonymous Website to Issues Concerns for 2020 World Service Conference. They are the newest Issues and Concerns submissions for 2020.

In going forward rest of the year I'll be attending four calls monthly and doing work for the Literature Committee and Spiritual Sustainable Caucus. I have made a personal commitment to myself to work on a committee and caucus for the next year in order to help the suffering debtor. In order for me to be an active member it was a must to attend the World Service Conference. So, the support of the group to send me to the conference was

vital. Next year the conference will be in London and the following year it will be in New York.

Thank you again for your support. I know the work you guys have entrusted in me to do is an important responsibility.