

THE BOTTOM LINE

June 2007

A Publication of Debtor's Anonymous Intergroup of Greater New York

Editor's Notes

Hi, Folks,

I love opening up Bottom Line mail & finding stories, thoughts, descriptions of DA events, fragments of our NY history -- it makes my day!

Just like recovery in DA, I can't do it without you.

Please remember this is YOUR Bottom Line.

Send me your wonderful DA experience, strength and hope as text in the body of an email to:

bottomline@danyc.org

Send typed or hand written submissions to:

**Bottom Line
c/o Gretchen Altabef
420 Wyncoop Ct.
Holland, PA 18966**

"I feel the gifts of DA are threefold. First, I stopped the debting cycle and gained the esteem of taking responsibility for my own life. Second, I built a community of support and friendship, so that I will not be alone. Third, I had a spiritual awakening, a renewed gratitude, and a communion with my Higher Power out of the ashes of my dysfunction and depression. Oh, and four, I opened up to a belief in visions and passions that has transformed the physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual areas of my life in magnitude." -- A Currency of Hope, pg. 97

peace & prosperity,
Gretchen

The 2007 DA World Service Conference

The 2007 World Service Conference will be held at:

Sturbridge Hotel & Conference Center
on Cedar Lake, Sturbridge, MA.

Dates: Wednesday, August 15, 2007 -
Sunday, August 19, 2007

The WSC registration packet is available on the DA Web site: <http://www.debtor-sanonymous.org/events/events.htm>

If your group's GSR did not receive a registration packet, please ensure your group's information is up-to-date with the General Service Office.

NOTE: All group concerns and agenda items must be submitted in writing, preferably via email, to the WSC Host Committee by July 16, 2007. Email your group's issues, questions, and agenda items to dawsc_07@yahoo.com.

How dark it was before the dawn

On the way out the door on my way to work I stopped at the incinerator room and deposited a bag of very old papers I no longer needed: a whole lot of collection notices, court summons, copies of welfare vouchers requested by creditors, delinquent notices, a bankruptcy kit a lawyer friend had helped me acquire for \$13 so that I could file myself, a free needs assessment I got from a financial institution, and a list of my debts I had no means or hope of paying at the time.

HP, via a hungry pussycat, woke me up half an hour earlier this morning. Too angry to return to slumber, I prayed about what to do. The answer came quickly that I could utilize the time by investigating the contents of that large folder full of papers that had been waiting to be put away after the disruption caused by laying new linoleum seven months ago.

In it, I found the memories of ten through fourteen years prior, when I was in the thicket of my financial woes. "How dark it is before the dawn." (Bill W., *Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*)

I saved payment agreements and settlement letters with handwritten accounts of check numbers, amounts, and dates sent for posterity. They will stay with me as reminders that the hurricane has, indeed, stopped blowing and that I am well into the reconstruction period of my finances.

I only need the papers I kept because they warm my heart and fill me with hope for they are tangible proof that, today, I can continue to be a responsible citizen with a little help from my friends in DA and a whole lot of help from my Higher Power (HP).

Today, I can get up ½ an hour earlier to deal with the 1st piece of clutter.

Today, I can pay my bills and have money left over every month.

Today, I can hold a job for ten years when before DA, I was unable to hold one for more than 3-6 months.

Today, I can look the world in the face and feel I have finally grown up and taken full financial responsibility for myself while enjoying abundance of love and income.

Today, I have begun a dialogue with family members about painful early youth work-related experiences that lay unspeakable through a conspiracy of silence.

As I crossed the street a tear escaped my right eye and remembered being ripped off in the family business that took away my playtime and sunshine, and my mother's presence; that caused me trauma through 2 industrial accidents (one

Debtor's Anonymous Intergroup of Greater New York

P.O. Box 452 • Grand Central Station • NY, NY 10163 • 917-319-2819 • www.danyc.org

©2007 Debtor's Anonymous Intergroup of Greater New York.

2 took away four of my sister's fingers; the other shook up pretty badly my one-year-old brother with the machine axle); that caused me consternation through managerial/parental abuse (my retarded sister got beaten for not having the motor coordination to package the soap right); that provided me no remuneration or job safety; that put sex discrimination in my face and other job-related issues I was too young to process. My mother was my 1st boss, imprinting my boss/employee relationship with a myriad of authority issues.

My adult work experience was indeed a fiasco and my debting spree seemed like a viable solution to my underearning at the time. Work was an obligation I resented, not a means to actualization or to becoming financially stable, nor did I see the connection between (the lack of) work and (the lack of) money in my pocket until I entered recovery.

Tricks I devised as a child to finish work faster so I could go out and play caused havoc in my adult work place because bosses only piled the work higher and began wondering why my co-workers were not up to my speed, thus causing resentments

on all sides.

Today, I can brace myself with compassion and understand why I grew up to avoid the world of work and to be anorexic about money. Thus, I became an underearner, and then a debtor.

Today, I know that the crux of my adult financial problems was not what happened in my childhood, although that was very sad and unfortunate.

Because of my work in DA, today I know that my adult financial problems were caused by what I did with that intolerable experience. At a very early age, I got ripped off by the people I loved most dearly who forgot their job of protecting me and teaching me to take care of myself financially. So I set out to get over everyway I could. My attitude towards my creditors was, "Catch me if you can, sucker."

Mine was the revenge of the powerless to do myself in. Mine was the revenge of a vengeful child who wounded myself and those who were closest and dearest to me through deprivation and the risk of legal repercussions.

My sister went on to make a mint

without the 4 fingers the soap grinding machine ripped off her pre-pubescent hand. My brother, who had his shirt caught in the axle and got spun violently, went on to be a successful manager in a financial firm. I sat and cried and stayed a lot under the covers and was afraid to participate in the world of work. Debtors Anonymous has been Divine Intervention to me. Financial sanity has been given to me and I gratefully share my experience so that those who may still be afflicted by the disease of debting and underearning may take heart.

I sobbed quietly in the train during my ride to work. I gave thanks for my new behaviors at the start of my day; for my cat who wakes me up looking for food and affection more reliably than my alarm clock; for the bankruptcy kit I did not use; for the desire HP gave me to get out of debt; for this whole new experience of having extra cash in the bank; for Debtors Anonymous who helped me find the path to HP; for the papers I no longer need and the ones that still warm my heart.

-- Rosita

© Copyright 2007

New York Intergroup's *NEW* DA Archive

We are happy to formulate the mission of the DA Archives, under the auspices of New York Intergroup & modeled on AA's Archives. It is our proposal to document permanently the work of Debtors Anonymous, make the history of our organization here in New York City accessible to DA members and other researchers, and to provide a context for understanding DA's progression, its principles and traditions.

Through the courtesy of the

Abundance Group of DA, the Archives will be kept at

Gracie Square Hospital
426 East 76th Street
New York, NY 10021

They can be viewed in Room 100, by appointment, on Mondays at 8 PM.

Appointments must be made in advance with the New York Intergroup's Archive Coordinator at archivist@danyc.info.

You can help us as through donation of historical material. We welcome you, your support, and your submission of additional DA historical items. Written submissions must be sent to:

The New York Intergroup Archive
PO Box 452
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Electronic submissions can be sent to archivist@danyc.info.
--Archive Coordinator

Parenting issues and DA, *NEW* Telephone meeting--CORRECTION

Tuesdays at 8:30pm Eastern time. There is a new Telephone meeting. It focuses on parenting issues and DA. All DA members are welcome. The phone number is 1-712-432-2000 and the access code is MONEY9# (666399#). -- R

Service is vital to our Recovery

Jan's Dec. 2006 Bottom Line article inspired me to think about what DA service means to me.

It is service in DA that has helped me grow more than anything else.

My DA recovery was in a rut, and I couldn't seem to get solvent, after 5 years back in meetings! It was just too hard! First time around DA, I was single and only had myself to take to PRG's and meetings, only MY creditors to negotiate with - now as a DA couple, negotiations now happen in my own home!

My early days in NYDA, I held many service positions, phone & correspondence (how incredible to speak with people who were looking for DA), Literature Committee, Party Committee, GSB Trustee, Intergroup secretary, sponsor, PRG meetings. Without a doubt I now know that it was letting go of service commitments that led to my relapse!

When I found my way back to DA, now in the Philly area, I found wonderful sponsors & PRG folk who are incredibly generous with their time and recovery.

To get out of my recovery rut I had to

accept that I needed to make some changes. I had to leave my small, safe local meeting, get up early on Sat. mornings & travel a distance to a large meeting filled with recovery. & I love to sleep late on Sats.!

Then, because I began in DA in NYC, I physically, emotionally, spiritually needed to travel home and reconnect with NYDA via annual Share-a-Day's. & To say, "YES!" when I was asked to get the Bottom Line going again.

This newsletter has kept me connected with NYDA, and with my own DA history. I couldn't get solvent again until I stopped denying my early years of recovery & until I let go of the shame of relapse. The time it takes to create the Bottom Line is a joy, even when life seems too busy.

Early DA folk believed in service. John H. became my 1st DA sponsor because he shared at meetings, "Ask for what we need & stick with the winners." Somehow this got through my fear of success and fear of successful people. It gave me the courage to ask him to be my sponsor. & Because John always said "YES!" to service, his sponsorship was the most generous gift I have ever received.

Joan M. was also my sponsor. She is most gracious and giving. I basically lived at her W. Village apartment, eventhough mine was uptown. The Literature committee met and created early DA literature in her warm home. & Every year, she opened her doors to wonderful DA Thanksgiving Dinner's.

Her home was always open to her sponsees and friends, I remember stopping by many times in pain over recovery actions that I feared didn't go well, Joan would point out where they did. She'd help me get my head straight, as my thinking was so twisted by the way I had lived for so long.

John and Joan together, sponsored a lot of early DA folk, they taught us to do service. John spoke about service at meetings all the time. We don't do that much these days. Why don't we start? Sharing about what service has done for our individual recoveries just might help other compulsive debtors reach out for this amazing tool and find aspects of recovery that will lead them & us beyond our wildest dreams.

Thank you all for the gift of solvency!
-- Gretchen

The Bottom Line is looking for Reporters

We need DA folk who are interested in taking notes for the Bottom Line, at NY events like the PRG workshop, the Old-timers workshop, Share-A-Day, etc.

This will greatly expand our coverage of NY events. Email me if interested in helping out, bottomline@danyc.org

Some ideas for note taking can include:

1. Names of the presenters
2. Title of their workshops
3. Notes on speakers & group feed-

back, if possible

4. Quotes of DA wisdom gleaned from workshop participants
5. Workshop handout materials

All of the above or any part of it, along with personal DA thoughts of the workshop would be wonderfully welcomed by the Bottom Line. This would also give us the chance to share some of the wisdom from NY workshops with those who missed them.

One person need not cover the whole event, just one meeting. & It

could be one time or on-going.

Please send this as text in the body of an email to:

bottomline@danyc.org

Send typed or handwritten submissions to:

**Bottom Line
420 Wyncoop Ct.
Holland, PA 18966.**

Thanks for your help!

Join the DA e-News List

Would you like to receive the *DA Focus and Ways and Means* free, hear about the newest DA Literature for sales and receive other announcements from the DA General Service Office? Sign-up today for the DA e-News List. To date, 1,700 members have signed up. Do so at the DA website: www.debtorsanonymous.org.

The Bottom Line need's your DA stories

As a voice of NY DA the Bottom Line can't exist without your help. Please contribute any writings you may have that pertain to DA, your individual stories of recovery, emails, qualifications, thoughts, wishes, visions, spending plan & recordkeeping or tools stories, and DA's history (present or past).

Or be spontaneous & create something right now!

The Bottom Line is published monthly by the Intergroup of Greater NY, available in Web form at www.danyc.org & Where NYDA literature is sold every Monday from 7:00 - 8:30pm

**Gracie Square Hospital
420 East 76th Street - first floor, room 100
(between 1st Ave & York)**

Send your submission as text in the body of an email to bottomline@danyc.org

Send typed or handwritten submissions:

Bottom Line
c/o Gretchen Altabef
420 Wyncoop Ct.
Holland, PA 18966

August 3-5 DA Retreat at Wilson House

DA Retreat at Wilson House
E. Dorset, Vermont
August 3-5
STEPS TO SERENITY

Please complete the registration form, including the Food Option choice, and enclose a non-refundable check or money order for \$65.00, made out to:
Rick Cuneo
130 Spruce St.
Princeton, NJ 08542

Rick would appreciate for anyone that can, please e-mail him at rickyc64@msn.com so that he has a cross reference

and can expect your registration form and retreat fee in the mail.

All Registrations must be received and paid in full by July 8, 2007. No walk-in's. Everyone must be pre-registered.

Any questions please call Brenda Marceau at 802-338-1170.

FEES:

Retreat Fee: \$65.00

Food Option:

NON-Vegetarian _____

Vegetarian _____

REGISTRATION FORM

- D.A. Retreat
- August 3-5, 2007
- Wilson House, E. Dorset, VT

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

(Please indicate how late you can be called and if it is safe to leave messages)

Email address: _____

Intergroup News

General Service Board Meetings

General Service for Greater New York meets at 6:30pm at St. Bartholomew's Church on the last Tuesday of each month. 109 East 50th Street (between Lex. and Park Avenues).

Check information board in entrance lobby for room number. All elected GSR's receive a newcomer's orientation packet. All DA members are welcome to attend.

Literature News: Time change!

Sales at Gracie Sq. Hospital are now Monday's from 7 - 8:15 pm
420 East 76th Street
- first floor, room 100
(between 1st Ave & York)

Service opportunity:

Help newcomers! Volunteer to answer the DANYC cell phone (on-call support line). One week service rotation.

Requires 6 mos. solvency & 2 pressure relief meetings. Contact cellcoordinator@danyc.info to volunteer.

Service positions open:

Intergroup meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month from 6:45 to 8:45 pm at:

St. Bartholomews Church
109 East 50th St.
New York, NY
(between Lexington and Park)

All those interested in serving and sustaining the local DA community are welcome to attend.

Intergroup is made up of 16 elected positions in addition to 2 individuals elected or appointed to represent each meeting. All positions require 6 months solvency and 2 pressure relief meetings. Those positions are:

Intergroup President
Vice President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Phone Volunteer Coordinator
Literature Coordinator
Website Coordinator
Meeting List Coordinator
Phone Bank Coordinator
Correspondence Coordinator
Bottom Line Coordinator
Special Events Coordinator
ISR Coordinator
Outreach Coordinator
Spanish Language Coordinator
Archivist

Intergroup's Financial Information

In March 2007 Intergroup voted to publish Net Worth and Group

Contributions on a quarterly basis.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your group's Intergroup Rep, or come to the monthly Intergroup meeting.

Net Worth as of 3/29/07:

CommerceBank Checking
\$ 830.31
CommerceBank Savings
\$8,687.25
Total:
\$9,517.56

Group Contributions, 1st Quarter 2007 is available as a downloadable PDF file at www.danyc.org.

New/Changed Meetings:

Sun. Creating Your Vision Now
Time change: 12:15

Tues. Sunrise Visions (Bklyn)
-- New location

Wed. Westchester DA 7pm
-- New location

Thur. Night Nuts & Bolts
-- New location & time

Fri. Syosset, LI 6:45 Beginners Mtg.
-- New

Sat. 4pm From Debt to Wealth --New

Closed Meetings:

Mon. 7:30 Croton DA Basics

Wed. 7pm Westchester BDA

Wed. 7:30 Croton Steps to Solvency

Sponsor Wisdom

I have been blessed with the most crystal clear sponsors, yet my compulsive debtting disease makes me stupid at times, that's when I need to hear basic sponsor wisdom like this...

Your program suggests that you take one day at a time.

Let God handle all of that self hate and self loathing.

Write a gratitude list when you feel like this. Just keep writing until you get the sense of relief.

Also, do what the Big Book suggests and do something for someone else to help get out of yourself.

Sometimes it is only one moment at a time.

Remember that all of that self criticism is a lie that your disease is telling you. It isn't real no matter how much you convince yourself that it is.

There is always hope!.. Have a peaceful day.

God Bless!

--Anonymous

DA Publications Advisory Statement

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

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

6

Solvency is freedom — freedom to say, “No, thank you” to that thing that isn’t on my spending plan because my desires have been changed. I used to spend because I couldn’t say no, and I couldn’t stop. Solvency frees me to choose what I spend my money on.

Solvency is inner peace and clarity of

A Many - Sided Treasure

mind to see that cravings, confusion, emotional binges, and fear are what I’m giving up.

Solvency is a gift from God. It’s the number one action in my life so that God can be in the center. Solvency frees me to hear God speak through others and through readings.

Solvency is strength and power. God’s power has become available because of my powerlessness. The longer I am solvent the stronger new habits become and the faster old destructive fantasies fade from my mind. It establishes a new way of life.

--Anonymous

News From DA GSO

We are changing the website to make it more user freindly and to help you find important documents more quickly.

We now have a Service Page, where service related documents will be found for download.

Please visit the new Service page

today for the 2007 World Service Conference Registration Packet and the 2007 - 120 Day Charter Amendment Motion.

Go to the website:
www.debtorsanonymous.org

and then click on the Service link on the left side of the page.

Also, on the *Ways and Means* page are links to a *Ways & Means* letter and flyer. Just click on the link on the right side of the web page.

Sincerely,

The Debtors Anonymous General Service Office and the Board of Trustees

Suggested DA Group Contribution Policy

After each group has paid expenses (rent, literature, etc.) Please send 7th Tradition donations to:

DA of Greater NY (45%)
P.O. Box 452
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

DA General Service Board (45%)
PO Box 888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

DA GSR of Greater New York (10%)
PO Box 1215 Murray Hill Station
New York, NY 10156-0605

Back Issues Of DA Publications Sought

The DA General Service Board has begun a vigorous effort to preserve the history of the fellowship by collecting items related to DA history.

A recent cataloguing of archives at the General Service Office in Needham, Mass. revealed a number of old documents, including a few very old copies of New York Intergroup’s Bottom Line newsletter, and the national DA newsletter *Ways & Means*.

The GSB Archives Committee is vital-ly interested in compiling and preserv-

ing complete sets of *Ways & Means*, *The Bottom Line*, and other national and regional newsletters. Anyone with anything ranging from a complete set to a single issue who would care to donate them to the national DA archives, is urged to send them to the DA General Service Office at PO Box 920888, Needham, Mass. 02492. Please mark “For Archives” on the outside of the mailing container.

The committee is in the process of sorting, cataloguing, and storing all kinds of documents, audio tapes, and

other materials related to the history of the fellowship. It is in the process of renting a climate-controlled storage facility near the GSO in Massachusetts so that these materials can be properly preserved for the future, and eventually made available to researchers, historians, and the fellowship as a whole.

Anyone with questions about the archive effort can contact GSB Trustee Jan S. at stillsolvent@yahoo.com or 802-862-6927.

This is your newsletter. We are always interested in your contributions, comments and experience in the D.A. way of life. Publication of any contributions or editorial opinions does not imply endorsement by D.A. as a whole, but of the individuals who wrote them. Material submitted cannot be returned.