

The Bottom Line is a collection of recovery stories written by D.A. members, announcements, and quotes from DA and AA literature. It is free on the Intergroup website, in print, and by subscription in your Inbox. The latest issue, as well as The Bottom Line Archives can be accessed online at <http://danyc.org/bottomline/bottomline.htm>. Please feel free to make copies and bring them to your group for those who may not have Internet access. Printed copies of The Bottom Line may be obtained at the DA Intergroup meetings. A free subscription can be sent to your Inbox by writing at the address below.

You are encouraged to contribute your own story of recovery in 300-500 words so that it may benefit others. DA announcements will be appreciated as well. Deadline is 2 months before publication. The deadline for the September issue is July 1, 2018.

For submissions of stories of recovery or announcements, for a free subscription, and/or for further information, please write bottomline@danyc.org.

IG ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Intergroup meeting will be held on May 31, 6:45-8:45 pm at the Crossroads Episcopalian Church, 410 West 45th Street (bet 8/9 Aves.), in Manhattan.

The Intergroup has open service positions: Public Information Coordinator, and positions on the Special Events Committee. All positions require 6 months solvency and 2 pressure relief meetings.

The Wednesdays BDA meetings 5:30 pm Beginners and 6:40 pm Regular meetings. have moved from St. John the Baptist to the Manhattan Plaza Health Club, 482 West 43rd St. between 9/10 Aves. NYC.

BIG BOOK CORNER

"We usually conclude the period of [daily] meditation with a prayer that we be shown all through the day what our next step is to be, that we be given whatever we need to take care of such problems. We ask especially for freedom from self-will, and are careful to make no request for ourselves only. we may ask for ourselves, however, if others will be helped. We are careful never to pray for our own selfish ends. Many of us have wasted a lot of time doing that and it doesn't work. You can easily see why." BB p. 87.

The Debtors Anonymous of Greater New York Intergroup Meets

The Last Thursday of Each Month

June 28, July 28; August 30 / 6:45 - 8:45 pm

At the Crossroads Episcopalian Church, 410 West 45th Street (bet 8th/9th Aves.), New York, NY

The Nearest Trains are the A,C,E, to 42nd Street (8th Ave.). Take the 44th Street Exit.

Or the 1,2,3 to 42nd Street (7th Avenue)

WSC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the World Service Conference's Public Information Committee, the video, The D.A. Signs Come to Life, can be seen at debtorsanonymous.org. Click on "Getting Started" and then "Welcome Video." This video can serve a great tool in 12 Stepping your family and friends. .

The 30th anniversary and latest issue of D.A. Ways and Means, a quarterly newsletter of the worldwide fellowship of Debtors Anonymous, is now available at <https://debtorsanonymous.org/download/2nd-qtr-2018/?wpdmdl=1888>

Going on vacation? The DA World Service helps members keep program at their fingertips. Finding a meeting overseas, reading the Stories of Recovery, or simply perusing through the website, debtorsanonymous.org can help a debtor stay connected to the fellowship.

World Service is looking for writers for DA Big Book and a DA Step Study book, both now in the works. Send resume to solventandfree@gmail.com or, better yet, see the announcement on Page 8 of D.A. Ways & Means newsletter for more detailed information. <https://debtorsanonymous.org/download/2nd-qtr-2018/?wpdmdl=1888>



THE BOTTOM LINE

June 2018

A Publication of Debtors Anonymous Intergroup of Greater New York / www.danyc.info

Chief Editor: Rosita L. Assistant Editors: Marje and Dennis; Tech Support: Jonathan; Dana: Web Liason

HELLO, AGAIN!

The Bottom Line is the newsletter of the Greater New York Debtor Anonymous Intergroup. After a 5-year hiatus, and with a volunteer editor and a newsletter committee, we hope to publish quarterly on paper and online. That will be June '18, September '18, December 18, March '19. We are looking for short submissions of stories of recovery as well as newsworthy items you'd like to share with the larger body of recovering debtors in 200-250 words. The deadline is the beginning of the month, 2 months prior. For example, the deadline for the September issue will be July 1. For submissions of stories of recovery and announcements, for a free e-subscription and/or further information, please write to the bottomline@danyc.org.

The DA Newsletter Archive may be seen on the website under "Newsletter Stories" or click here: <http://danyc.org/bottomline/bottomline.htm>

SERVICE OPS

The Big Book reminds us that there is no greater insurance against debting than doing service. Be it setting up the chairs before a meeting, chairing or filling the positions of the group, or sponsoring, service helps us come out of ourselves and be there for others.

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.

WHAT IS INTERGROUP?

The Intergroup is a service body authorized by Tradition 9: ". . . but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." As such, the Intergroup is responsible to all the 82 groups for which it provides services. The Debtors Anonymous of Greater New York Intergroup was formed, perhaps, before you joined DA. You found DA, partially or totally, through the work of the Intergroup.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The Intergroup relieves each group and each of its members from the daunting tasks of compiling, maintaining, and publishing a Meeting List on line and on the phone line; maintaining a website; publishing a newsletter; responding to queries from individuals, professionals, and the media; maintaining a Speakers' Bureau; and creating special events such as the Share-A-Day. Tradition 5 states that "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers. The Intergroup helps the individual members to focus on their personal recovery and the groups to focus on their primary purpose.

WHO SUPPORTS IT?

Intergroup is supported through the 7th Tradition contributions from members of the 82 groups in the Greater New York Area which it serves, as well as from direct personal contributions from its members. In accordance with the 7th Tradition, DA declines outside contributions.

The 7th Tradition Blurb

by Rosita L.

My group had been flailing for a long time; we owed rent going back two years. The center where we held our meetings was pressuring us to pay up or move on. The management had taken to taping an envelope at the door as a reminder that we had to catch up with our rent. As debtors and underearners that we were and still are, we were baffled because, during the 7th Tradition collection, we'd announce that our rent was \$15 and our basket would produce \$10, \$12. Sending the basket around a second time would produce a couple more dollars--sometimes covering the rent, sometimes not. We had not made a contribution to the DA Intergroup, the World Service, or the General Service Board for over ten years.

Our prudent reserve was zilch; zero. We were not making the rent or any other obligation.

We requested financial help from the Intergroup but were reminded that each group is self-supporting through its own contributions. Someone suggested holding a special event using vision boards and inviting all New York City meetings to participate, but some of our own members were uncomfortable that it might not be in sync with the Traditions. Even as that idea was being developed full steam, alternate ways of becoming solvent were explored. The vision board event was scrapped because we didn't even have the money to buy boards or scissors or glue, though the cut-up magazines were being donated. There was, of course, no guarantee that funds would result from such an endeavor or that the center would trust that we could pay for a larger room at an even higher rent when we could not pay our measly \$15.

Another alternate idea which also caught traction was making the group more attractive by adding a speaker. We cut down on the meditation time and add a speaker because they bring their friends to hear their friends to hear them speak, and more people would become aware of our existence and, maybe they'd keep coming back.

What pulled us through was one of the alternate ideas that we had brainstormed. And, that was to take a look at our 7th Tradition Announcement. We'd say, that we had no dues or fees but we had expenses, and then proceed to state that our rent was \$15 and that, in addition, we sent contributions to Intergroup and World Service [NOT!].

I looked into the World Service website hoping for a better suggested 7th Tradition blurb but it seemed like our group had taken its cue from them.

“In less than a year, we had paid all of the back rent and began to build a prudent reserve. There was a motion at the next business meeting to amend the 7th Tradition Announcement of the Meeting Format, again, to remove the back rent as an expense. It passed very quickly without much discussion and with a whole lot of gratitude.”

The rent expense gets mentioned, and then the contributions to the service bodies get quietly mentioned as an afterthought.

A motion was made, and subsequently carried, that we change our 7th Tradition Blurb to reflect our expenses more accurately. The motion was to state \$25 as our weekly expense which included current rent, back rent, prudent reserve, and contributions to the service bodies.

Some group members felt it was dishonest; that we were concealing the actual rental expense. Others were able to assuage that concern by assuring that, when asked, we'd spell out the amounts to all our expenses. With trepidation for some, the motion carried and we proceeded to carry it out.

“The group gained in confidence that we could do this; that we could pull out of debt and contribute, one week at a time.”

We changed the Meeting Format to accommodate a new 7th Tradition Announcement to reflect the higher requested amount and the same old same old list of expenses that were not being mentioned before.

As predicted, ears perked up in subsequent meetings when the higher expense amount was stated. I was the Treasurer at the time, and I made sure to make time for questions so people could see and hear our actual weekly expenses. Rent, I explained, is \$15 a week.

The other \$10 are to cover our other expenses which are: back rent, prudent reserve, World Service, Intergroup, and GSR.

Surely, if we divided equally the \$10 a week we were requesting beyond the \$15 for current rent, we'd be putting something like \$1.75 in each of those envelopes, weekly. We had time to let all that sink in.

I repeated myself for three or four weeks because not all members show up all the time. To my surprise, no one asked what do the service bodies do that we have to support them? I expected resentment but I didn't get any. When explained, slowly, so people could understand the breakdown, I was met with reasonableness because the higher amount was reasonable.

Lo, and behold, people began to dig deep in their pockets and our regular collections jumped to \$30, \$45, on a weekly basis. While I was the Treasurer, I split the \$10 evenly and was able to send the service bodies \$5 each for the following few months. It was not a lot, but it was more than we had been doing for the previous ten years. The group gained in confidence that we could do this; that we could pull out of debt and contribute, one week at a time.

The Treasurer who took office after me, had different ideas. He felt that the service bodies can wait; that we had to take care of our expenses first. Not being the Treasurer any more, I had to let go.

In less than a year, we had paid all of the back rent and began to build a prudent reserve. There was a motion at the next business meeting to amend the 7th Tradition Announcement of the Meeting Format, again, to remove the back rent as an expense. It passed very quickly without much discussion and with a whole lot of gratitude.

I agree that we have to put ourselves first but in that, I also detect scarcity consciousness. I hear a lot of words that never get expressed like we don't have enough; resentments that do not get verbalized like who's getting fat off of our contributions; questions, perhaps, that do not get formulated like, What DO they do over there? The unspecified contribution to the service bodies suggested at the local, Intergroup, and World Service levels feeds into our eternal vagueness. Topple that with the myriad of unmentioned tasks provided quietly by the service bodies in the background.

Someone, who is not a regular, made the motion that the Treasurer is to take care of our expenses first and contribute to our service bodies only from our surplus [of which, at this time, we have none]. We do that.

The group decided to raise a 3-month prudent reserve. We are on our way.