

THE BOTTOM LINE is a collection of recovery stories written by DA members. It also includes DA announcements, and quotes from DA and AA literature.

It is available, for free, in print and online, on a quarterly basis:
March, June, September, and December.

The latest issue, as well as the Archives, can be accessed online at
<http://danyc.org/bottomline/bottomline.htm>.

Printed copies may be obtained at the DA Intergroup monthly meetings and at your home group --
at the literature table and in the Beginners Packet.

For a free subscription in your Inbox, write happyjoyousdebtfree123@gmail.com

Please feel free to make copies and bring them to your meetings for those who may not have
Internet access. Keep-it-close-to-your-heart tool for 12 Stepping.

You are encouraged to contribute your own story of recovery in 300-500 words so that it may
benefit others DA announcements are greatly appreciated.

Deadline is 2 months before publication.

The deadline for the December issue is October 1, 2018.

HIP AWARENESS

World Service DA held a HIP Awareness Day last July 14 to raise awareness within Debtors Anonymous, that we ought to do outreach to Hospitals, Institutions, and Prisons to carry the DA message to those who cannot come to us. But not to worry; every day is HIP Awareness and action day. World Service suggests that each individual member, group, or Intergroup may choose to bring awareness of the hope offered through the DA program by:

- Donating DA literature to a hospital, institution, prison, or shelter, recovery house, etc.
- Carrying the message by calling and/or visiting local institutions.

World Service offers help in supporting your plans by writing to HIP@debtorsanonymous.org

Their Mission Statement reads: "The Hospitals, Institution, and Prisons Committee carries the message of DA to the debtor who still suffers within hospital, institutions, and prison systems.

The Debtors Anonymous of Greater New York Intergroup Meets

The Last Thursday of Each Month

September 27, October 25, November 29 / 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)



THE BOTTOM LINE

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WELCOME BACK!

NYC DA Intergroup welcomes everyone back from The staycations or go away vacations, a precious time to reconnect with family and friends. September is a time to renew our commitments to school, jobs, and the work of recovery--not that it ever stopped. We hope everyone had a relaxing time and is returning fully recharged, solvent, and abundant.



SERVICE

The topic of this issue is **SERVICE**, inspired by a list of possible service activities, "50 Ways to Be of Service." If the list smacks of a tune like 50 ways to leave your lover, it is probably because service helps us say good-bye to debting, say good-bye to our beloved drug of choice. The list was originally printed in the World Service newsletter, "Ways & Means," 2nd Quarter 2013. You can find the list online at the World Service Website: <https://debtorsanonymous.org/download/50-ways-to-be-of-service/?wpdmdl=1552>.

Because of the limited space of these pages, this issue will deal only with a selection of optional personal and home group level service. It's huge! The opportunities for service are many.

DA PICNIC!

On Sunday, August 5th, the NYC DA Intergroup had a picnic in Central Park. After weeks of agonizing what weather we'd have on picnic day, the heavens graced us with scorching weather without a cloud in the skies and the earth with plenty of shade to shelter us. It turned out to be small and intimate and not the fundraiser it has hoped to be for a Share-A-Day but a great service.

Fun was had by all with enough food to stuff our bellies, music for our ears, and games for our souls. The food included junk as well as healthy foods and lots of water and soda to quench our thirst.

A most stimulating game was an impromptu role playing about personal secrets. Always, the surprise element was most hilarious.

Songs? There were so many! One that stuck out was "DA Blues" about someone seeing a trinket on a store window they had to have and, then, the debting blues and loss of solvency set in. The sponsor said they were doomed to suffer the DA blues.

Thanks to Dennis and to the Special Events Committee for coordinating such

a day of fun and solvency and friendship. Oh, it turned out it was Friendship Day! It was a happy day for the Friends of John H.



DA SERVICE ON THE GROUND LEVEL

By Rosita L.

WHY DO SERVICE?

As soon as we first ever set a foot into the DA program, we begin to hear the call for service. Just calling out the word “Service” will quiet a room and assemble to start a meeting. Indeed, meetings are the first form of service we encounter. The meeting Chair and all the other officers are performing service as well as every attendee.

Doing service helps us come out of ourselves to lend a helping hand to others. Many a member of DA has discovered that making a commitment to do service at their home group becomes a strong nudge to get out of the comfort of one’s home and off to the meeting. Once there, they are reminded of the importance of attendance for ourselves, how important their service is to others, and how glad they are to be there reconnecting with old and new faces.

Attending a meeting, by itself, is doing service because our presence helps in the group’s Primary Purpose which is to “. . . carry its [DA] message to the debtor who still suffers.” (5th Tradition) Newcomers remind us of the despair we brought with us the first time we came to DA and how all that misery has a return guarantee if we want it back. All we have to do is to stop working the program. We share with the newcomers the difficulties that have been taken away from us and pray “. . . that victory over them may bear witness to those we would help . . .” (3rd Step Prayer, BB p.63)

LIVING PROOF

Bearing witness of what DA has done for us shows the newcomers what DA can do for them, as well . . . when they keep coming back . . . and they work the program. We give the newcomers hope and assurance that they are in the right place. By speaking with them, we make them feel welcome. When we follow up with a phone call in the days to come, we are establishing a connection and an opportunity opens up for 12 Stepping. And, thus, we “have discovered the joy of helping others.” (BB p. 164) We are the message.

WHAT KINDS OF SERVICE?

“What kind of service is right for me?” you may ask. The most basic form of service is to attend a meeting because everyone’s presence allows the meeting to happen. The first AAs who were learning to pray *NOT* for themselves *ONLY*, but in ways that would also benefit others, thought of the idea to “. . . meet frequently so that newcomers can find the fellowship they seek.” (BB p.15). How novel and how simple. We show up to a meeting so that one can take place and so that those who are still suffering can find us. The right service feels good. It is a good sign that we are doing the right thing.

We may volunteer to get there early, unlock the venue, set up the chairs, and welcome others, especially the newcomers.

WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

Many other opportunities present themselves at the personal and group level. We may get a sponsor who can hear our concerns and guide us in the working of our program. Although the benefits to the sponsee are more obvious, it is the role of the sponsor that is most beneficial in that the sponsor needs to recap and relay to the sponsee what has worked the most for her and reminds herself what she needs to continue doing.

In witnessing the suffering of the program newbie, the sponsor may become filled with compassion and understanding for the other and then the self because the sponsee is but a mirror to the sponsor’s own compulsive behavior around money. Despite any intense feelings, the sponsor remains on task of showing the sponsee how she achieved solvency and how she refrains from compulsive debting one day at a time.

Signing the We Care List and making phone calls reduces the isolation of the caller and the one receiving the call.

BIG BOOK CORNER

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from debting as intensive work with other debtors. It works when other activities fail. Carry this message to other debtors! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.” (BB p.89)

“Ask Him in your morning meditation what you can do for the one who is still sick. The answers will come, if your own house is in order. But obviously you cannot transmit something you haven’t got. See to it that your relationship with Him is right, and great events will come to pass for you and countless others. This is the Great Fact for us.” (BB p.?)

NAME A FEW MORE

Maintaining awareness of the newcomers and framing our shares accordingly.

The Chair leads a meeting in orderly fashion.

The Timekeeper keeps the shares timely.

The Treasurer takes the 7th Tradition collection, pays the rent, and distributes monies to Intergroup and World Service.

Becoming the group’s Secretary.

Participating in business meetings may learn us how to navigate better in the world.

Liaison between the group/venue office.

Representative to Intergroup, WSO, GSR, ISR.

The Literature Coordinator orders and sells books, etc.

Contributing a story of recovery to **THE BOTTOM LINE**, encouraging others to do so, and distributing the newsletter at meetings.