

# Prosperity Times

The Northern California Debtors Anonymous Newsletter of Experience, Strength and Hope

Feb.-April 2004

## Frequently Asked Questions

By Deb Tor

**Q: What's the difference between an "open" and "closed" meeting and who may attend each?**

**A:** Closed meetings are for admitted compulsive debtors and those who want to know more about the program as it applies directly to themselves—those who suspect they may have a problem, even though they may not be convinced they need D.A.'s help. Open meetings may include the curious and those whose interest in D.A. is professional but not personal. *This information is from the D.A. pamphlet on Meetings.*

**Q: What is World Service Month?**

**A:** April is World Service Month for Debtors Anonymous. During April, many groups and individuals celebrate the anniversary of Debtors Anonymous with special fund raising activities and contributions to the General Service Board to carry out the work of Debtors Anonymous. Formerly called Week of International Support and Hope or WISH week.

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Winter Lights

#### Prosperity and Serenity Will be Ours

*Sunday, February 8, 2004*



Come to Winter Lights, an afternoon of D.A. fellowship, experience, strength and hope. There will be speakers, a candle light vision session, and fellowship members from around Northern California and possibly farther!

Date: Sunday, February 8, 2004

Registration: Noon

Program: 12:30—5:30

Where: Ventana Ballroom, Golden Gate Club, Presidio, San Francisco

Suggested Donation: \$15. No-one will be turned away for lack of funds

### 2004 World Service Conference

The World Service Conference will be held in the Sacramento area in 2004. All D.A. members interested in volunteering are invited to join the Host Committee. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month, in Sacramento. *For more information email: snoda@golygon.com.*

### Weekly Teleconference Meetings

*Sundays, 2:30 pm Pacific Standard Time*

Find it hard to get to a meeting? Pick up the phone and dial into one! Every Sunday you can join other D.A. members for a D.A. telemeeting. A suggestion: As the call-in number is an East Coast number, check your long distance rates to see if calling the meeting fits into your spending plan. How to dial in:

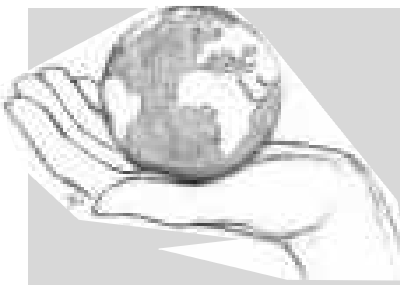
1. Disable call waiting, Press \*7
2. Dial 212-461-5860
3. Press 8922 (pin number)
4. Mute to listen: mute button or press \*6
5. Unmute to speak: press \*6

### Letter from the Editor

Dear Debtors Anonymous Members,

My name is Melissa and I'm privileged to be the current editor of *Prosperity Times*, formerly the *Outta Debt Gazette*. This is YOUR newsletter, so please send in contributions to *Frequently Asked Questions*, *Shared Recovery*, *Your Program in Action*, and *The Lighter Side of D.A.* Also send questions, comments, updates, corrections and notices. See the Submission Guidelines on the back page for details. *Thank you!*





## Your Program in Action

### Service is Vital to Our Recovery

*We perform service at every level: personal, meeting, Intergroup and World Service. Service is vital to our recovery. Only through service can we give to others what has been so generously given to us.*

Want to accelerate your recovery? Consider these service opportunities:

#### **SERVE Your Local Meeting**

When your D.A. meeting needs service, hold up your hand: welcome newcomers, set up chairs, volunteer for the role of secretary or treasurer, or sit on another D.A. member's Pressure Relief Group (PRG). While some positions have abstinence requirements, many do not. So hold up your hand—your fellowship will thank you and you'll feel great!

#### **SERVE as an Intergroup Representative**

D.A. Intergroup is a group of representatives from D.A. meetings throughout Northern California. The mission of Intergroup is to carry the message and to serve these meetings. Intergroup:

- Provides a forum for discussion between meeting representatives.
- Maintains and distributes regular meeting lists, and D.A. literature.
- Maintains a telephone information line about local meetings.
- Maintains the Northern California D.A. web site.
- Acts as a liaison between the group and the public media.
- Sponsors two recovery events each year—Do D.A. Day and Winter Lights—that are open to the whole membership.

Intergroup meets on the 4th Saturday of each month, except in November and December when the meeting is held on the 3rd Saturday. Intergroup meets at the main branch of the SF public library in the 3rd floor conference room. The meeting begins at 10:15 am and ends at 12:45.

#### **SERVE as a General Service Representative (GSR)**

General Service Representative's main functions are to carry information from the World Service Office to local meetings and vice versa, attend the annual D.A. World Service Conference and work on Conference committees. Visit the next meeting and find out about the D.A. Meditations Book, outreach to Spanish speaking communities, the Hospitals and Prisons committee and the Business Debtors Anonymous subcommittee. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the San Francisco Public Library Main Branch in the third floor conference room. The next meeting is February 14, 2004. Call Jack at 650-879-3261 to confirm.

## Prosperity Times: *Submission Guidelines*

Submissions will be published as space allows and may be edited to fit.

Email: registrar@ncdaweb.org  
 Or mail: NCDCA, PO Box 31224, San Francisco CA 94131  
 Attention: Prosperity Times Editor  
 Send by: April 15th, for inclusion to the May-July, 2004 edition  
 Include: Your name, phone number and email address, in case we need to contact you for further information.

*Thank you for your contributions.*

## Shared Recovery

*Ideas to Strengthen Your Program*

### Start a Step-Study Meeting

by Suzanne

For the last three months I've attended a step-study meeting. It's been a valuable experience, not just for working the steps but also the planning and organizing of it. We have four people and meet every other week for an hour and a half. Interested in starting a group? Here's how we conduct our meeting:

1. Open with the Serenity Prayer.
2. Check-in, 3 minutes or so each.
3. Read about the step we're working.
4. Approximately 10-minute shares each on our step homework—usually a combination of reading and writing. We often share more than once; shorter, more frequent shares spark ideas.
5. Decide on the step-study exercise for the next meeting.
6. Close with the Serenity Prayer.

We also have agreed:

- No cross-talk while sharing.
- No food or beverages, so that we stay focused on the meeting.
- Have a rotating secretary who leads three consecutive meetings.
- Our group is co-ed. Some advised against it; so far it's working for us.
- For reading material we use the Big Book from AA and the AA 12 & 12.

We meet in one member's home, a place convenient to all. Our challenges are commitment and scheduling meetings that fit each person's schedule. A step-study group is a great way to deepen recovery and I highly recommend it.

*Do you have a D.A. practice or tool that has made a difference in your recovery? Send in your story to share your experience, strength & hope.*

### *The Lighter Side of D.A.*

"Last night in a meeting as the D.A. Tools were being read, instead of Prayer and Meditation I heard the words Prayer and Medication."

—A San Rafael Tuesday night member