

DA HOW Intergroup Business Meeting

January 9, 2022 @ 10am PT

Meeting Start Time: 10:00 AM PT

Meeting End Time: Approx. 11:30 AM PT

Business Chair: Rene

Attendees: Andy, Lynn, Maria, Domingo, Nancy, and other members were present, but I was not able to capture names.

NOTE: January's meeting was a modified format to make space for a Q&A with the Chair and Vice Chair of the DA Service Board. The Chair & Vice Chair agreed to meet with us to address questions and concerns about the board's decision not to renew our registration as an Intergroup. The DA representatives stated they made this decision because we do not represent a set of meetings in a geographic location per the definition of an Intergroup in the Debtors Anonymous Manual for Service (DAMS) – Chapter 3 and the Intergroup Service Handbook - Section 1, page 4 - (ISH) which states "The Intergroup is a gathering of D.A. members who represent D.A. groups throughout a geographic region. An Intergroup can also serve the needs of members who attend meetings on the telephone (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG), or on the internet."

Background: On 12.16.2021, Domingo submitted the Intergroup registration form to update our group contacts and meeting time information. On Tuesday 12.21.2021, he was notified by a GSB representative that they reviewed our designation as a DA Intergroup.

The D.A. Service Board determined that when the DA HOW Intergroup originally applied for the Intergroup designation, the proper approval process was not followed on their end and we were assigned the Intergroup designation by mistake. That, according to the Intergroup Service Handbook, we do not meet the qualifications to be designated as an Intergroup because one of the key characteristics of an Intergroup is that it be formed to represent DA meetings from a specific region. That is a characteristic we do not meet. We were also advised that we can continue to meet as a representative of a group of DA meetings but that we can no longer use the term Intergroup in our name.

Q&A with DA Chair Sharon and Vice Chair Josie:

Sharon began by providing the following info: Back in 2014 DA HOW applied to create a DA Intergroup and was given that designation. The DA contact person who was assigned to approve designation gave us the designation. It is not sure who that was. DA HOW Intergroup was given the Intergroup status in error. Recently a BDA group has asked for Intergroup status and pointed to DA HOW Intergroup as an example of an Intergroup that is not geographic.

The bottom line is that the WSC, per the DAMS, has designated that an intergroup is a regional based group and the board must uphold that does not have the ability to change that.

Josie spoke about how she empathies with our situation and that a lot of the points that we have made are very detailed and thought out.

Andy asked to clarify the comment about ISRs and whether they attend WSC? Sharon clarified that in DA ISRs can send a representative to the WSC. Her comment was that other fellowships do not allow ISRs to attend but DA does.

Josie spoke briefly about representation.

Maria asked if there was any way that we could get a reconsideration sometime in the future or if there was a way that the D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) could review and reconsider. Sharon – stated that yes, we can submit an issue and concern that would be taken up at the next WSC in Nov 2022.

Sharon stated that they are going to ask all current Intergroups, and any new group seeking Intergroup designation, to re-submit their application for approval. The DA Board will review all requests and grant the Intergroup designation based on the criteria in the DAMS and the ISH.

Sharon & Josie had to leave at 10:30am to attend another meeting so Domingo asked if the board could send the basis of their decision in writing because we there was still some outstanding questions. The DA HOW Intergroup members did not have time to get all their questions and concerns addressed and there was still a lot of lack of clarity as to what was happening, why, how, and when any change was going into effect. Sharon & Josie agreed to answer any further questions via email and noted they would provide the answers to the best of their ability keeping in mind their have a lot on their plate.

Further comments & questions on this topic after the DA Board representatives left the Intergroup meeting:

Sarah had a question about Sharon's comment regarding the in-person meeting in Minnesota. She was not sure what the comment meant. She stated that this is the 3rd time that someone has come to tell us that we cannot be Intergroup. It was further clarified that they were not members of the DA GSB but were members of the DA HOW fellowship.

Melissa said that she felt this was a violation of tradition 2 and that the designation of an information group is not acceptable to her. She also felt that this was a unilateral decision by the DA Board and that it was not fair that they were not available to fully speak about their decision and answer all the questions and concerns. She also stated that she feels this decision is coming from a fear perspective now that groups in DA, some of them from unrepresented groups, are asking for representation. Melissa said she believes that these groups that are not asking for representation is a good thing for the program and needs to be addressed

Patricia said she wanted to know how the funds of the DAHOW intergroup are spent. She is not clear on the financial aspect.

Domingo made a motion to create a sub-committee to continue to address the issue about our Intergroup designation. Motion passed unanimously. Domingo will give his phone number and email for anyone who wants to be part of the subcommittee. 562.587.7306 (sendit2domingo@gmail.com) Anyone who wants to receive a copy of the meeting minutes can also send an email request to the meeting secretary.

Treasurer's Report: Andy is the Interim Treasurer – This position is still open for interested members.

Current PayPal Balance as of 01/09/2022 = \$2,525.77

Money in the past 30 days: \$113.85

Money out the last 30 days: \$0

Intergroup Service Representative: Domingo was voted in this meeting as the new ISR during the Dec meeting.

Website Chair: Andy

Website Co-Chair: Mari was voted in as the new Website Co-Chair during the Dec meeting.

Phone List Chair: Lynn

Phone List Co-Chair: Jessica was voted in as the Phone List Co-Chair during the Dec meeting.

E-mail Announcement Coordinator: Melissa was voted in as E-mail Announcement Coordinator during the Dec meeting.

Old Business

- Would like to explore the possibility of meeting on Zoom going forward instead of the telephone for the monthly DA HOW Intergroup Meetings.
 - **Discussion on this topic from the Dec 2021 Intergroup Mtg**
 - Andy listed the advantages of going to Zoom meetings for our Intergroup Meeting and answered questions regarding this motion.
 - Domingo and Melissa brought up the point that there may be an existing Zoom account that the Intergroup is paying for already. Andy shared some info regarding on the Zoom account may be being paid for.
 - Melissa asked that we get clarification from Tuesday DA HOW meeting coordinator to see if the Intergroup is still paying for that Zoom account. Andy said he would take up that action.
 - This business was tabled until the January Intergroup meeting
 - **Discussion on this topic from the Jan 2022 Intergroup Mtg:**
 - Andy moved that we create a new Zoom account for Intergroup purposes and pay the annual subscription of \$149.90 and then create a subcommittee to consider granting use of the Zoom account to other DA HOW groups.
 - The motion was seconded.
 - Discussion was had and motion
 - Opportunity was given to the minority report to re-state their objection. The minority opinion stated that they felt it was not fair that the Intergroup to accept donations from the DA HOW groups it supports but not take the 5 minutes to give them a Zoom id and password.
 - The motion stood as originally voted upon.
 - Andy moved that we pay 60\$ per year for a paid website that allows us to make changes to the website that will allow us to better serve the fellowship.
 - Melissa let us know that 1 year ago last September this issue was already approved.
 - The consensus was that we re-vote on this issue with the current trusted servants.
 - Motion went to a vote and passed unanimously.

- Andy made a motion that Intergroup meeting introductions include what the persons role in at intergroup is. That each member state whether they are a trusted servant, GSR representative, or a visitor.
Motion was seconded and voted on and passed unanimously.

New Business

- Lynn and Jessica are rebuilding the phone list from scratch. They are asking that all Intergroup meeting attendees announce this at their meetings and direct members to the DA-HOW Weebly site to be added to the phone list to receive a copy.
- After talking to the representative listed for the Tuesday zoom meeting, she let me know she no longer attends, the person who created and manages the zoom account no longer attends. The zoom account is funded by an old DA HOW Intergroup PayPal account - that I and no past treasurer I know have access to. I was told by the Tuesday meeting listed rep, who no longer attends. that members have likely set up repeating contributions and while an account has those, PayPal will not close the account. I propose we create a DA HOW intergroup zoom account, buy an annual subscription for \$149.90 (monthly is \$14.99, annual saves 2 months, or \$29.98, or 17%)
- Melissa suggests that we add a blurb on our DA Website that we are part of DA as a whole and include a link to the DA website and let DA HOW members know that there are other meetings they can attend and DA resources available.

Old Business Carried Forward

- A new PayPal account is needed for every new treasurer. Andy is the interim Treasurer.
 - A member inquired as to the requirements for the position and stated their own experience and possible desire to step up and fill the Treasurer role. They will consider taking the new position and report back later.
- Rene stated that we needed access to the dashboard for the FreeConferenceCall.com HD Intergroup meeting number and asked if anyone had that info.
 - A discussion was had. No one on the call had that info.
 - Rene tabled this item for a later date and asked the Intergroup members present to ask members of their group to see if anyone has this info.
- Domingo would like to discuss the best way to bring up new business so that we can make the best use of our time. He suggested that new business items are sent to the meeting chair and secretary beforehand via email. Members could still bring up items extemporaneously at the meeting, and they would be addressed after the items that were submitted beforehand via email.