

Puget Sound InterGroup 2015 Member Surveys

**Survey Questions Prepared by PSIG Public
Information and Approved by PSIG Members**

**Data Collection by
PSIG Web Team**

**Reporting by
PSIG Public Information**



Love. Grow. Serve.

Submitted to PSIG on January 9, 2016

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Response Rate

We received 33 survey responses from an estimated 150 members. That is, a 22% response rate.

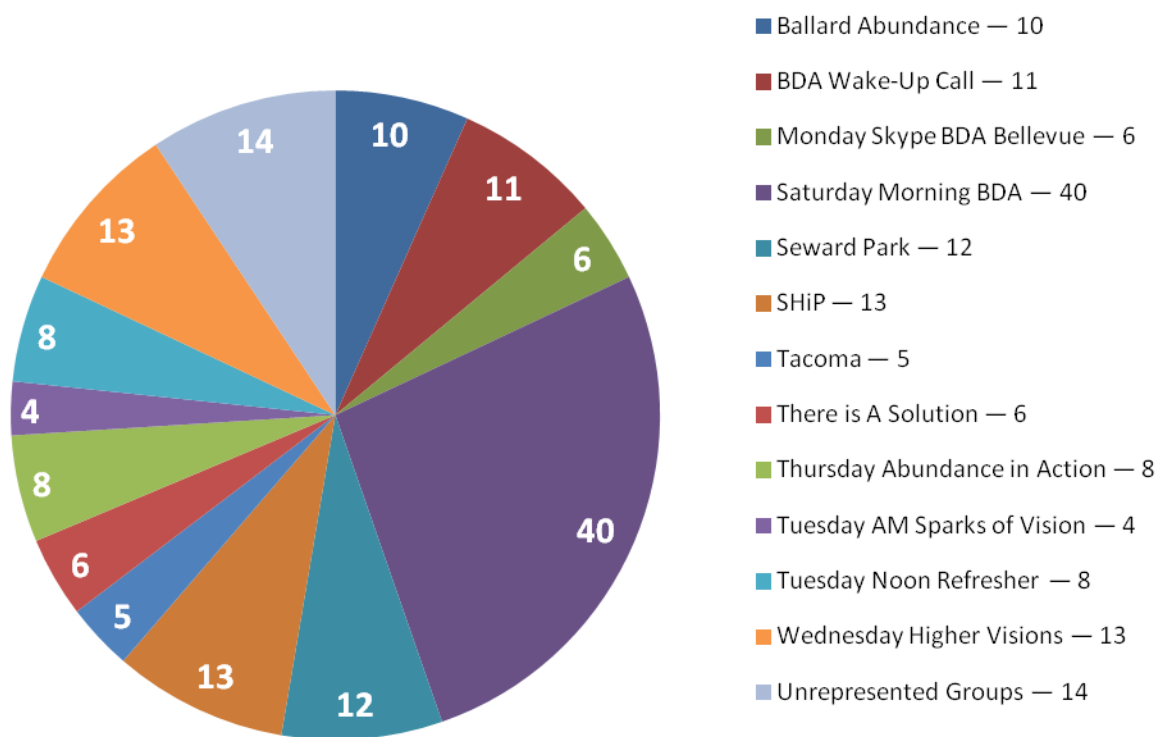
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Estimated Members per Group as Reported by Group Members



Groups with no responses submitted: Spokane, Everett, Port Townsend, Missoula, San Juan Islands, Olympia, Vashon Island, Speaker Meeting — 8 groups, some of which may be no longer in existence.

For the purpose of the chart above, we have estimated those isolated members at 12 plus the 2 isolated outlier DA members who did complete the survey. We've reported "unrepresented groups" at 14 members.

We believe the survey has confirmed our regional DA membership estimate at 150 members.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Numerical data from member surveys sorted by groups – Part 1

While individual opinions are important, their value increases when brought into the context of the groups and the various groups' consciences. Most of the numerical data on this page, and the next will not be revisited by individual member. Those details are available in the individual surveys, though. Below you'll find group data for six of twelve participating groups, plus two outlying members without PSIG home groups:

Participating Groups & Numerical Responses	Ballard Abundance	BDA Wake-Up Call	Monday Skype BDA Bellevue	No PSIG Home Group	Saturday Morning BDA	Seward Park	SHiP
# surveys received	4	2	1	2	4	3	1
Average years in DA	7	3.5	4	4.5	5	7.5	5
Satisfaction with PSIG services	80%	80%	100%	80%	85%	93%	100%
Satisfaction with PSIG effectiveness	85%	80%	100%	70%	90%	93%	100%
Group has a PSIG Rep?	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
Difficult to fill the PSIG Rep position?	No	No	Yes	N/A	No	1 no, 2 dk	Yes
Group has a PI Rep?	1 yes, 1 no, 2 dk	1 no, 1 dk	No	N/A	Yes	Yes	No
Approximately how many group members (avg of responses)	10	11	6	N/A	40	12	13
What percentage of group members took survey?	40%	18%	17%	N/A	10%	25%	8%
Willing to do PI work to double membership?	3 yes, 1 dk	1 yes, 1 dk	Yes!	1 yes, 1 dk	3 yes, 1 dk	1 yes, 2 dk	Don't know
Familiar with DA's "One Member, One Action" initiative?	1 yes, 1 no, 2 dk	1 no, 1 dk	No	No	No	No	No
Attended PSIG special events?	Gratitude x 4	Gratitude x 1	Neither	Gratitude x 1	Fellowship x 1 Gratitude x 1	Gratitude x 2	Gratitude x 1

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Numerical data from member surveys sorted by groups – Part 2

Below you'll find group data for six participating groups, plus extrapolated PSIG responses:

Participating Groups & Numerical Responses	Tacoma	There is A Solution	Thursday Abundance in Action	Tuesday AM Sparks of Vision	Tuesday Noon Refresher	Wednesday Higher Visions	Extrapolated PSIG Responses
# surveys received	1	1	2	1	6	5	33
Average years in DA	1	2.5	20	10	12	6.5	7.5
Satisfaction with PSIG services	80%	100%	80%	60%	73%	92%	84%
Satisfaction with PSIG effectiveness	80%	100%	80%	60%	77%	80%	83%
Group has a PSIG Rep?	Yes	Yes	1 yes, 1 no	No	4 yes, 1 no, 1 dk	Yes	Yes
Difficult to fill the PSIG Rep position?	No	Yes	1 yes, 1 no	Don't know	3 yes, 1 no, 2 dk	No	Yes
Group has a PI Rep?	No	No	No	No	2 yes, 3 no, 1 dk	2 yes, 3 no	No
Approximately how many group members (avg of responses)	5	6	8	4	8	13	136
What percentage of group members took survey?	20%	17%	25%	25%	75%	38%	24%
Willing to do PI work to double membership?	Don't know	Yes!	Don't know	Don't know	2 yes, 1 no, 3 dk	Yes!	No
Familiar with DA's "One Member, One Action" initiative?	No	Yes	1 no, 1 dk	No	1 yes, 5 no	1 yes, 4 no	No
Attended PSIG special events?	Neither	Gratitude x 1	Gratitude x 1	Neither	Gratitude x 2	Gratitude x 4	Fellowship x 1 Gratitude x 18

Again, groups with no responses: Spokane, Everett, Port Townsend, Missoula, San Juan Islands, Olympia, Vashon Island, Speaker Meeting – 8 groups, some of which may be no longer in existence.

For the purpose of estimating our regional membership, we have estimated isolated members at twelve plus the two isolated outlier DA members who did complete the survey. We believe the survey has confirmed our regional DA membership estimate at 150 members.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

How did you first hear of DA?

Taken from individual responses, combining like responses when possible, and sorted by frequency, for most useful approach by PI and outreach efforts:

Through a friend or family member, usually a DA member at the time of referral (x 11)

Sponsor from another fellowship (x 7)

Online (x 6)

Other 12-step programs (x 4)

Therapist (x 3)

I saw it in a newspaper article back in 1985.

I can't remember.

There was a meeting in the same church as my primary work.

From a client; later from my significant other

Book by Jerrold Mundis

I read about it in the book "Spent" by Sally Palaiian,PH.D

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

What keeps you coming back to DA?

Taken from individual responses, the responses were too unique and personal to summarize:

Thanks to DA, money is no longer my Higher Power. I don't want to go back to the life I was living when money was god. A cold, merciless, unfair, self-righteous god. Plus I'm happier as an active DA member than I ever was before.

I have close friends in the fellowship

Death.

Fear of returning to where I was when I got here AND I feel I owe it to newcomers to be there for them like people were there for me.

Poverty and wanting not to debt and not to use a credit card but to be solvent.

People and conversation and structure

TO maintain my recovery and not debt, the community, support, and fun

The DA calm and the magic.

Support and Sanity

I need the support

Recovery. People. Pain. Fear. Inspiration.

The support of the people in DA, my service commitments, my sponsor and sponsee

Fellowship, tools, wanting to grow in solvency

Fellowship

The gift of recovery, clarity, and concept of HP. Service.

Egalitarianism, friendliness, place where I can get some clarity from listening to others

Tired of suffering financially; want to feel hopeful about the future

Staying on track

I need and want what I get here. I don't want what I've seen this disease do unchecked.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

What keeps you coming back to DA? – continued

The promise --and the growing experience-- of clarity. Clarity about the numbers first, and then more and more about other things like making and keeping commitments, how much energy I can sanely expend, and what it means to care for others and to be cared for by others.

Relief, fellowship, hope for my future

DA is the most thriving 12-step fellowship in my life today, despite membership in six total S-fellowships. It is the love, support, accountability (from PRG's), endless learning about how to grow up with money, and the examples set by those who are finding a spiritually enlivening way to be with money that keep me coming back. I love DA! I always seem to find room to grow in this program.

I keep messing up...it works when I work it.

DA saved my life and, one day at a time, saves my sanity. I don't ever want to go back to the drama and pain of living in my debting disease.

Balance, learning about myself and how money affects my spiritual life.

Results

Results. peer support. wisdom. spiritual growth. peace around money. also painful experiences if I don't follow my programme!

Examples of people who inspire me and have what I want, incredible fellowship

Fellowship and the fact that the 12 steps work

I know that whenever I let my program slide my life starts to deteriorate pretty fast!

Recovery, fellowship, support

Being in a group with other people struggling with the same issues around debting.

I need it! I've had miracles; changes in me that weren't occurring whilst working other fellowships.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about services provided by our InterGroup

Not entirely sure what purpose intergroup serves, esp. when new people join.

I don't really know what InterGroup does.

I retired from service above the group level 5 years ago. As far as I am aware, there is literature available when needed, programs and speakers are available, and so on

I don't think most people know what Inter Group contributes to their DA life. I don't always know either!

While I hear about InterGroup activities/events at my home meeting, I do not have an understanding of what services InterGroup provides.

Good job with tech stuff and outreach.

I enjoy attending intergroup sponsored events

Not sure what they are

Excellent work. Thanks for your service.

I really appreciate the level of communication between IG and the meetings. All the groups I've attended regularly have an IG Rep, which helps a lot. I enjoy the speakers' meeting when I get to it, which isn't very often I'll admit. And the NW Conference is fantastic. I realize the Conference is a separate committee and not formally part of InterGroup. But if we didn't have such a strong IG I'm pretty certain the Conference would not be happening, at least not at the level it has been. Upgrades to the website over the last couple of years are vastly appreciated as well!

IG and its related bodies (e.g. NWDAC) run amazing, high quality events.

I am learning how to be of service to my group and how to be a productive participant in a business meeting.

I prefer workshops to events

I'm sorry to say I haven't participated to date but I appreciate their great efforts toward organizing fellowship events and recovery opportunities

I'm not always sure what services they do provide.

Always room for improvement

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about the effectiveness of our InterGroup

I don't really know what Intergroup does.

Sorry, I have been mostly disengaged since I turned 70 and 'retired'. When I was IG rep and Lit Person, things ran very smoothly. I hope that continues to be the case.

If you are just noticing intergroup how do you answer these questions

While I hear about Intergroup activities/events at my home meeting, I do not have an understanding of what services Intergroup provides.

Great group

I'm not involved enough with intergroup to answer this question

Go Team!

For such a small fellowship (in this region) I am astounded by how much our Intergroup gets done, and by the strength of recovery in the NW.

I'd like to see more evaluation by IG of the effectiveness of our various projects. Sometimes it seems like we move from one project to the next without enough time to reflect on the effectiveness of what we've just done. Maybe this is being done within the committees but I'd like to see the information shared at the all-IG level as part of our responsibility for the health of DA in the region.

I feel we listen to our group's and other's needs, discuss how to best serve others and implement a group decision.

I think they do a good job of letting us know when Da events will be coming up.

Always room for improvement

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Most important services our InterGroup provides to our community

PI resources, active and attractive website, special events, literature sales, cooperation with the NWDAC, connection with world service, community engagement and leadership

I hope it provides a way for all groups to grow, increase recovery, bring the message.

No clue. The conference? If it's the conference, I should know this but I don't.

I'm not really active in InterGroup so don't feel equipped to answer this.

Connection between us and national

Maintaining support for individual meetings by supporting and publicizing their meetings and events, maintaining a vibrant website with meeting information, event information, all the DA information possible to list (steps, tools, promises, various articles from DA), provide for reduced cost purchase of DA literature, promote outreach and outreach materials via public information, support new meetings by helping get the word out and with new meeting literature packet

I have not yet gone to the conference, but it is referred to with a reverence that makes me really want to go in 2016.

Literature and meeting information

Public outreach

Getting people together. And supporting new meetings.

PI

P.I. Outreach

Not sure what they are, what InterGroup is, what it's supposed to do

Meeting directory, monthly speakers

Programs to gather all groups

Connection between area meetings. Coordinated effort to help the debtor who still suffers both inside and outside the rooms. Opportunity to practice team work in a service setting.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Most important services our InterGroup provides to our community – continued

* Web site and meeting schedule(s). * Fiscal management and oversight. * "Clearing house" for information flowing both directions between groups, IG, and WSB. * Support -- be it logistical, financial, or just "moral"-- for special events. That includes events put on by individual meetings, as well as the NW Conference (see previous comment). * Coordinated literature orders and discounts. * Monthly speakers' meeting.

Website, hands down, as an outreach tool. Bringing groups together; funnel for necessary information, friendship-building (a side benefit of working together in service). Not sure the current role of literature--if groups order via IG or directly. I think the outreach materials are gorgeous, but they don't seem to be being used by the groups yet that I've seen; at least at our Sat. meeting they just sit in a pile on the table. We need to get on that!

Maintaining web site and phone lines. I appreciate the speakers meeting and the Thanksgiving feast.

I'm going to say organizing the NWDAC even though I know IG doesn't actually sponsor it, because so many of the same people provide service at both. I would like to explore how PSIG could have some responsibility for the oversight and evaluation of the conference because it so closely parallels the PSIG mission. Aside from NWDAC, all of the standing committees provide good service to the community - especially Special Events and PI.

Reaching out, sharing our experience, strength and hope with newcomers. The new website is absolutely amazing!

Information out to individual meetings and unifying events

??? keeping the region connected and informed.

Outreach, special event coordination, DA unity, admin services/connection to WSO

Detailed, informative website. The handbook explaining DA lingo for newcomers. yearly gratitude dinner.

Information.

Unity! Information, support, friendship.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Most important for InterGroup to do next

Do some paid advertising, participate in health fairs and other events where we might be able to attract debtors; the winning party!

More workshops, more fellowship activities.

We have enough time, enough money and enough love. I don't understand Intergroup well enough to say or understand what the function should be. I think an electronic newsletter is great. I'd have to look at the traditions and get to know Intergroup more to really say. If it's the conference, then that is already doing a great job.

Those PRG workshops we used to have were very helpful for many people.

Have monthly daylong workshops and weekend workshops on a quarterly basis.

Semi-annual learning events money and our humanity around it.

Return to doing workshops. Identify ways to study/discuss/experience the new 12 Steps of DA. Would like us to have a Fellowship event in winter (January/February/March) - actually a fellowship event every quarter (we have the Gratitude Dinner in the 4th quarter, so that counts as one) Someday it would be nice to have a DA recovery retreat.

A visions workshop! Back to basics! Sponsorship workshop!

Outreach to debtors in the community

Television PSA or social media page

Bring da to smaller communities further out from Seattle

Bring DA into prisons

Create a DA home office for meetings, workshops, book store, IG meetings and fully staffed by volunteers.

Collaborate with other fellowships such as gamblers anonymous to let them know DA is available

Bring in out of town leaders, esp from NYC

Find a way to get the message to the debtors who still suffer who are affluent. We live in a part of the world with profound wealth and yet the rooms are populated by a relatively thin strata of class. And for that matter, think tank the racial component as well- the rooms are mostly white.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Most important for InterGroup to do next – continued

Personally, my biggest concern about DA in Seattle the past 2 years has been scarcity of sponsors and PRG participants, especially men. Anything IG can do to help reverse this trend would be deeply welcome!

More of same. The conference is outstanding, so collaborating on that with the conference committee is a wonderful service. I guess I'd wonder about what larger fellowships than DA have done as they have grown; perhaps IG could research that and what has worked to advance the primary purpose--carrying the message to the debtor who still suffers...

(1) Weekend Step conference - all 12 Steps in 2 days. (2) Creation, testing and production of new Stepping Together study materials. A group of volunteers from WHV is developing a pilot program for a Step Study using the new 12 Steps book. (3) Travel by PSIG members to other regions to learn the best of what each region is doing, bringing back information and inspiration. The reports coming back from WSC, while essential to the functioning of DA, seem to me to be about the minutiae of committee meetings as opposed to showcasing all the best ideas from around the country for growing, nurturing and strengthening the local DA communities. (4) A workshop on sponsorship, led by the woman (recorded on CD) who gave a workshop on that topic at a recent WSC. Staci S uses the approach this woman described in her sponsoring, to good effect. Also - development of written materials to help propagate these ideas.

Can't think of anything at the moment!

More get-togethers to bring in speakers from all over the world

Workshops. keep community connected. more skype meetings. more gatherings so that smaller groups can meet other members. I don't like events per se. I'd prefer pop up meetings.

I have no specific requests.

Encourage, support and help set up a system for Step Study workshops. Also, host other workshops about ongoing DA issues.

Provide qtrly workshops around Spending Plans, Mini PRGs and the importance of keeping your numbers and how to do it. I think newcomers need to have this.

More PI, More Special Events

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about our InterGroup reaching debtors in our community

There's been a recent uptick in newcomers at many of our meetings.

I don't see any PSAs around town. How can people find DA?

I, personally, think the only thing any 12 Step fellowship needs to do for PI is make sure there's enough printed materials everywhere they need to be: debt counseling offices, the library, all the 100s and 100s and 100s of nonprofits that help people with their finances that exist in Seattle--just do a Google search to find them. I think the speaking and the visits to prisons and groups are too much, too much promotion and after 10 years of 12 step programs I have never, ever heard someone say they came in because someone went and talked to them in jail. There could be one person, I don't know everything, but I think it's a pretty ineffective way to reach people. Highly socially, but not a great return on investment. It's a bit proselytizing to me, which is promotion.

If IG were reaching the debtors in our community, all our meetings would be full to overflowing!

Our small meeting folded as no one was in recovery. Now there are no meetings. I get all my support via phone meetings. They work for me.

More effectively than in other areas

Recent outreach efforts are impressive - have only heard positive comments about the outreach materials.

I've seen a lot of people show up for their first meeting. I don't know how they're arriving. But they seem to be absorbed back into the ether after that first meeting.

Besides the website, which is passive (ie people have to be searching to find it), I don't know how else Intergroup proactively gets information to debtors.

Social media

I've never heard of or seen any mention of DA outside of the 12-Step community. People in other fellowships know about DA (though I think in general they consider us a little nuts), and that is good -- it is how I came to DA. I'm not sure carrying the message beyond that scope is only a matter of advertising, either, though that may be part of the solution.

I like the idea of posting the tear-offs at coffee shops and word of mouth.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about our InterGroup reaching debtors in our community – continued

I was in 12 step programs for 13 years before I stumbled across DA. best place to start would be notices at all meeting locations of other 12 step meetings, or asking if we can speak at their inter groups. other option is pop up meetings at locations that have 12 step meetings.

Probably not reaching African American, Hispanic, and Asian populations.

Create and support DA groups in lower income neighborhoods

I like the new handouts to place at various locations.

Can always do better.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about our InterGroup doing all it can to carry DA's message

There is always more to be done. Attendance and participation in our monthly PI meetings are still very low.

If they as members are work on themselves and their recovery, have a spending plan, work the steps and go to meetings, then yes. If not, then no, I don't.

Clearly it is not or as I said, the rooms would be overflowing!

We have improved immensely in the last 2 years

We are doing a lot, but a lot has been discussed and not implemented.

Is it possible to do outreach in different fellowships? Like have a public interest rep speak at an AA business meeting?

I would like to see ALL DA publications be available for free on the Internet as PDFs. If our primary goal is to reach debtors, let's make it as easy as possible for them to get information. Particularly, as we move into a paperless society.

I think because of attraction rather than promotion there is only so much that can be done

There are so many things in DA that are talked about by their acronyms; even though I've been in the same group for some months, I can't keep it all straight

More publicity would be great

Intergroup is doing an excellent job of carrying the message

Question: Who is DA's "target audience"? What is the "profile" of a compulsive debtor vs. someone who is simply in debt and unhappy about it? Tens of millions of people in this country are in significant debt. What distinguishes those millions from those who would really benefit from what DA has to offer? Or does DA offer something to all those people?

IG is awesome! Those outreach materials are a lovely tool, if only the groups will use them!

And like all voluntary organizations there is no end to what people can do. I have seen a lot of people do a lot of superb work.

But we're definitely making progress

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about our InterGroup doing all it can to carry DA's message – continued

Intergroup needs better PR. perhaps focus more on the chance to improve your recovery rather than the seemingly onerous chore of being a member. perhaps shorter terms, perhaps pair more experienced members with newer ones from other groups to encourage pollination.

Seems like IG has achieved so much this year - kudos to this current batch of members

Always room for more!

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

How can InterGroup best serve groups' PI resource needs?

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' needs, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – Supplying the info, the pieces needed to distribute to professionals, etc

Ballard Abundance – The new handouts are great. Many of our groups could do a better job of focusing on the DA message specifically. I include myself in that criticism. Since so many of our members come from other fellowships, I think many of us blur the lines in our sharing. I know personally I can still use help understanding the disease of compulsive debting vs. the other forms of addiction I suffer from. How do they differ? How are they the same?

DA Outlier Member – By providing info on phone meetings to all. By also having a workshop on DA HOW method of sponsorship at the annual conference

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – Provide literature with suggestions. a PIC packet. make it as easy as possible for people to spread the word. also look at internet marketing.

Saturday Morning BDA – A PI rep to our group might add help by really taking the lead and coordinating handing out those materials to people who agree to put them up around town, and following up for accountability. It's easy to forget, but so important. Maybe throw a big outreach party, where everyone meets, gets materials, takes off around the area to place them, then comes back to the original place to report on their success and have tea and cake. :)

Saturday Morning BDA – I am not interested in this topic at all. I think if someone's higher power leads them to DA, they will find DA. If not, then not. I think our part is just to make sure the materials are out there and let go from there. This isn't that fun and exciting to make sure brochures are stocked at the library but I think this is most effective and most in line with our tradition of attraction and not promotion. This makes PI go from a show to an errand. In general DA loves shows, not so much errands. I know, it's not sexy, but that's what I believe is most effective.

Saturday Morning BDA – Maybe having collateral (fliers, pamphlets) on hand? Not sure if you already do this.

Seward Park – I have to ask them first!!

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

How can our InterGroup best serve groups' PI resource needs? – continued

SHiP – Free literature for newcomers: one free pamphlet that most concerns their immediate needs. Also, could IG design a more comprehensive newcomers kit?

Thursday Abundance in Action – Try stuff? I never completely understood attraction vs promotion? Perhaps people have their own God...if they are to find us they will? This time of year newspapers and magazines often get ahold of us to write an article about (Christmas) debt?

Tuesday Noon Refresher – Please keep the free PI materials coming; we're a small group and need all the help we can get.

Wednesday Higher Visions – My group is well connected at Present, with three of its regulars serving at IG, and having other group members that are well connected to DA as a whole. We need to get groups who don't have a group rep linked up to PSIG in other ways, always with the hope of getting someone to actively serve.

Wednesday Higher Visions – Develop a booklet (in addition to the business cards and bookmarks, etc) that concisely summarizes DA's principles and some of the tools, maybe with a brief member story, for use primarily in spreading the word about DA to other 12 Step fellowships - something more substantial and stand-alone inspirational than what we currently have.

Wednesday Higher Visions – We're on the right track. We need to stress the importance of PI at our meetings so members know that our groups are only as good as our strength in InterGroup. This may hopefully inspire members to be of service in InterGroup.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

What else can InterGroup do to support groups' efforts?

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' needs, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – Help sponsor our GSR for trip to WSC so we don't have to do so much fundraising every year

Ballard Abundance – Keep the IG reps educated of their role.

Ballard Abundance – Keep it simple

Ballard Abundance – I support IG's initiative of growing our membership. Without more members I think we are kind of held in check by lack of momentum; not enough meetings; not enough sponsors; etc. So I think IG is on the right track! Keep up the good work!

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – Be less exclusive. promote it more as a gathering of groups for the benefit of spreading the message (primary purpose) rather than tiresome admin. the thing I dont like about events is that they focus on members we already have. what about providing talks at libraries? public meetings are just that - why not public talks, if we speak at areas where we are not known, we will aid in anonymity.

There Is a Solution – Come and visit and give a little talk about Intergroup and DA traditions

Thursday Abundance in Action – We are well supported. Easy access to literature has been helpful if someone is willing to do that service.

Thursday Abundance in Action – PRG lists and newcomer packets

Tuesday Noon Refresher – Provide us with a PSIG service handbook, so that our members better understand what's happening at IG.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about the difficulty of filling the InterGroup Rep position

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' experiences, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – He could be better prepared when giving the info back to the home group! Add more whilst at the IG meeting!

Ballard Abundance – We haven't had trouble filling it, but then it seems like the same 3 or 4 people keep doing the IG-related service. That isn't altogether healthy.

DA Outlier Member – My particular phone meeting doesn't have a rep but there is a rep that is for all DA phone meetings so I am presuming she is rep. for my meeting too.

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – No one wants extra work. it feels like a chore, not an opportunity for mutual support and fun and a fast track to recovery.

Saturday Morning BDA – I'm not sure how frequently our rep attends the meetings though.

Saturday Morning BDA – People don't want to go to an unknown meeting, especially a business mtg... Maybe making it a dinner at a restaurant or something would make it more enticing? For me personally, Ballard is hard to commit to w/o a car. I also think job description has traditionally been vague and people may be intimidated by not having full clarity about what they're committing to.

Thursday Abundance in Action – We are a very small meeting mostly of old timers.

Tuesday Noon Refresher – We're still not quite hitting the mark on attracting IRs. Hopefully this survey will provide some answers.

Tuesday Noon Refresher – It seems to me that the Tuesday noon meeting has always had a good IG rep since I have been a member.

Tuesday Noon Refresher – I think we have a GSR but not an IR...see, that's what I mean. Letters!

Wednesday Higher Visions – It's not been a problem in my group for a long time, but it often sounds like a big commitment, giving up a Saturday each month to do the work of DA - until you have been hooked up with IG for a few meetings, you don't realize that you receive as much or more than you give.

Wednesday Higher Visions – In the past the way when I said how fun it is. We haven't had trouble getting IRs.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about groups' interest in doing service at the InterGroup level

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' experiences, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – We've talked a little about it, but no one has any real ideas. I myself have not been willing (yet) to serve on IG or as a rep, though that may change next year. I think this boils down to the same issues that have limited the number of available sponsors, and that sometimes make it hard to find PRG support. We are all stretched thin in our lives, and adding more commitments is difficult. I know in my own case as I have grown in DA, I've also become less willing to jump into service commitments. I can't say for sure, but I think I see this same reluctance in others. As we develop clearer boundaries and fuller lives, perhaps this manifests in being more "choosy" about service? Is this healthy or not? I'm not sure.

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – No one wants extra work. it feels like a chore, not an opportunity for mutual support and fun and a fast track to recovery.

Seward Park – Need to educate them more and then have conversation

Tuesday Noon Refresher – Our group has a long history of participation at IG.

Wednesday Higher Visions – This is a disease of feeling "not enough".

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about groups' current involvement in PI service

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' activities, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – Used to when PI was more visible.

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – We talk about it, but it is not organised. delegate to us a list of tasks and give us the literature to do it.

Saturday Morning BDA – But it's someone already involved in World Service. We do have another group member who got very interested once the GSR established a monthly committee meeting, though, which is awesome. People may just need a leader to follow.

Seward Park – Only because Susan S is in the group!

Tuesday Noon Refresher – I am pretty sure Bob is the PI rep. There.

Wednesday Higher Visions – We did, and then our PI rep reneged.

Wednesday Higher Visions – But several individuals in the group regularly do PI work even though we don't have a rep.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments about groups' interest in growing their memberships

These are individual responses but focused on specific groups' experiences, so sorted by group. Most likely the same responses apply to many groups, so we can review via multiple viewpoints.

Ballard Abundance – Already willing to distribute fliers and such and do!

Ballard Abundance – It would help to know what that looks like. I know for myself that PI work is the *last* form of service I would ever volunteer for! That's a reflex, not a reasoned decision. To make a reasoned decision I would need more info and maybe some support. Maybe we should have a special event for members on the topic?

Monday Skype BDA Bellevue – We get lazy, and we lose commitment when the group gets smaller. the itinerant nature of newcomers is also disheartening, its hard to remember that we reach out for our own benefit. we need to be reminded that we need newcomers to keep our solvency.

Saturday Morning BDA – If we had consistent leadership in this area.

Saturday Morning BDA – I won't. I really dislike hearing this double membership thing. The whole thing just screams promotion to me. If you understand the tradition, I don't believe this would even be on the table like it is.

Seward Park – Will ask at biz meeting

Thursday Abundance in Action – We are somewhat limited by space

Tuesday Noon Refresher – After a long period of stagnation, our group has grown this year. I think we would love to continue growing.

Tuesday Noon Refresher – I can't speak for the group, but I would be.

Tuesday Noon Refresher – I think people are interested in doing that...we're certainly getting new people every other week or so...

Wednesday Higher Visions – Already developed the PI tear-off flyers that IG adapted for the Puget Sound area.

Wednesday Higher Visions – Came up in group inventory. Created flyers for bulletin boards.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Creative ideas for growing DA's membership in our region and beyond

Outreach calls to relevant helping professionals throughout our region; continue reaching out to members we used to see but don't anymore; create an eZine focused on the joy and gratitude we feel for our recovery. More ideas to come ...

Maybe a poster about signs of a debtor? Many people think debting is only extreme debting. Also underearning is not debting but do we want underearners too? Do we speak to those issues enough? Also recovery is about quality of life too...do we talk about that enough?

No and I'm highly suspect of any new "initiatives." What is wrong with the traditions? They already address this. Nothing new needs to be created. We really go wrong here, in my opinion, as a fellowship, every time we start creating something new--which DA seems to be the program most susceptible to this thinking. Always trying to get creative, when the path is already laid out for us. It's the getting creative that got me here. I don't need any more creativity. I need recovery.

Semi annual education meetings.

Holding some events in outlying areas (Tacoma, Lynnwood/Everett) to pull in members from areas with fewer or no DA meetings, maybe taking PSIG on the road every so often, and have PSIG meet in one of the outlying areas once in a while and inviting folks from that region to attend, maybe offer an in-person meeting for the day, even if the area has a small meeting already, just to give those members a meeting with other voices for the day to hear other messages of hope and recovery.

Wallet cards for every DA member to carry and give to anyone who might be interested. Offer a list of very tangible and manageable ways members can help with outreach. Ask home groups/members to commit to one way they can help. I don't have the time to join a committee or have an ongoing volunteer commitment, but I could commit to a discrete task if given a list of options.

Workshops, sending flyers to other fellowships, outreach to local therapists

* Repeat last year's publicity campaign for the NW Conference. I think it was all good stuff; professionals may respond if they see the same message again. People are busy busy busy. It takes repetition sometimes! * Special event to help members understand what PI is and how to "work" it. * Regional inventory about sponsorship and PRG participation. We are seriously falling down in this area! * Discuss who we are trying to reach? Demographics, definition of the disease? Also, is DA useful for those in poverty? If not, does DA need to change if it is to be relevant? I mean, AA is considered a first line of defense for the gutter drunk. If DA can't serve a similar role maybe we are missing the point somehow? I don't know, but I wonder sometimes.

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Creative ideas for growing DA's membership in our region and beyond – continued

Public speaking in key places, like Doug and Sam are doing. I would be willing to join a public speaker's bureau if I could just show up somewhere with another member and tell my story, if someone would coordinate the event with me and at least one other speaker. Willie W. and I (Staci S.) did this at a halfway-rehab house for women and it was wonderful to serve in this way, but he set it up. Coordinating these kinds of events would be a GREAT service for someone and I'm sure several people who like to tell their stories would sign up. You could look at who has shared in the Saturday Speaker's meetings for ideas on whom to ask to be on the PI Speaker's Bureau--that has been a great practice for all of us!

I'm currently gathering information on the history of DA that appears to have important implications for growing DA in our region, e.g. weaknesses that cropped up in DA on the local and national level that resulted in membership decline. I'll share what I'm learning when it's appropriate.

More special events, maybe during the high shopping months like before Christmas,

I think P&I outreach is a great start; reaching out to youth and college campuses is probably another. I'd love to see work with local community centers that support low-income Seattle communities.

Continuing to educate, inspire and motivate sponsees, IG reps, home group members in our shares, meetings, special events, PI work, etc. Always keeping the debtor who still suffers within our immediate sight! Still want that Winners Party! Don't be afraid to tell someone about DA/leave a contact card at another fellowship!

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments or suggestions about PSIG special events

The event designations below reflect the event (or neither) that survey respondents attended in 2015. None of the respondents attended both surveys.

November Gratitude Potluck – I loved, loved, loved this event! Would love to have more PSIG fellowship opportunities, both social and educational. Thank you to Linda and Jim, a wonderful team!

November Gratitude Potluck – More and in the summer!

Neither event – I don't go to any events that aren't recovery focused and too many DA events in my opinion are social opportunities and not recovery opportunities. As nice as everyone might be, a social opportunity isn't going to save my life. I'm hardcore. I get that this disease kills me, so when I see more parties being thrown, to me, it's like someone stopping chemo so we can hold a dance. It's the opposite of recovery to me and I don't need it and I honestly don't appreciate it.

Neither event – Most events seem to be at night or at locations not easily accessible by bus.

November Gratitude Potluck – Liked alot

November Gratitude Potluck – As I said above, would love to see a Fellowship event every quarter.

Neither event – My life/schedule is very full. I have little available time for socializing. I did, however, attend the summer Conference.

November Gratitude Potluck – Have the sound system figured out way ahead of time.

November Gratitude Potluck – Love them.

Neither event – They are all in Seattle, it would be nice to have a few a little further south. I realize the bulk of membership is up there though

Neither event – A car pool would help. I live in West Seattle, have no car, and have tried a few nighttime events I had to get to by bus -- there was not always (or even often) a way to catch a ride back in a car, which sometimes meant waiting in between buses for a half hour or more, or leaving a meeting early (which meant no talking to people after) to catch an hourly bus.

Neither event – Like monthly potluck

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments or suggestions about PSIG special events – continued

November Gratitude Potluck – The Gratitude Potluck was a little frenetic this year. I did not enjoy it except for giving service, which I did.

November Gratitude Potluck – They are awesome and I know take a lot of work - thanks to the planners!!!!

November Gratitude Potluck – GP was truly outstanding - an 11 out of 10!

November Gratitude Potluck – I think a Spring Event would be fun...when the sun starts to shine!

Neither event – I have my own friends and activities. I meet 12 step people for program work, not socialising. Members come and go, but the program stays. its also hard to attend an event if you are an introvert or don't know anyone.

September Fellowship Picnic – Always enjoy the events.

November Gratitude Potluck – It would have been better for me if there had been an appetizer table to tide me over while mingling and waiting for the dinner to be ready. To me it felt chaotic and as a result I felt less comfortable and safe than I usually feel in the fellowship.

November Gratitude Potluck – Really enjoyed the Gratitude Potluck. I suggest there is a quarterly event.

November Gratitude Potluck – Loved it! Loved that IG was seen by sharing at the mic! Special Events did a great job!

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments that were not encouraged by survey questions

I LOVED this survey.

Other intergroups do holiday stuff, camping, new years, etc. Are there times of year that are esp consumptive? Holidays? January is usually a time when people have to reconcile debts...good time for a 101 workshop?

I don't understand where this doubling membership comes from and why people think this is a good idea. The tradition is attraction, not promotion. I think anyone working on trying to "bring people into DA" needs to read the traditions in the 12x12 before taking on this or any other endeavor. Personally, I think anyone doing service, especially significant service, needs to not only be "committed to working the steps" they need to have worked the steps, in my opinion, AT LEAST up to Step 5. Otherwise, all this stuff that takes the fellowship off track gets focused on this. And in my opinion, the thrust of the DA fellowship is seriously off track. We help others by helping ourselves first and some groups in DA are barley helping themselves at all, so when new people get here, this doubling thing, what really do they have?

As I fill this in I realize I would like to be more clear about what and how we offer our groups support. It seems to me a bit in the background.

When I tried to enter comments, the site would keep sending me back to home page

Thank you for your service.

See above. The public transit situation in Seattle is not great; getting around at night (and for some, in daytime) can mean an hour travel time each way. Some kind of car pool setup would be a help.

I marvel at the commitment and sincerity of our Intergroup's trusted servants. You guys rock! Don't forget it!

This is the best survey I've ever taken! :)

Most fellowships seem to be smaller than AA? The appropriate balance between marketing and attraction has been interesting to me. Sometimes I do the balance well. Sometimes I waste a lot of time working with people who are not motivated enough to do it work it takes to recover? Your all motivated to push this drive to up membership numbers ... I pray your works are healthfully wildly successful!

2015 PSIG Member Surveys

Comments that were not encouraged by the survey questions – continued

Look into match a member - pair members with those who are in isolated areas. more circulation of the PRG list, more pop up meetings, more emailing of information direct to members, as not everyone has an intergroup rep, and we forget to check website. more outreach calls to members we haven't seen in a while.

Not right now. Thanks for executing this survey and for your service.

It's important to explain the purpose of Intergroup and what their role is and isn't. I know they meet once a month ; provide information at DA meetings, sponsor some events, and are trying to increase public awareness of DA.

It feels like IG is sometimes running too much like a real business instead of a 12 step fellowship. Think we need to be careful about this. I know it's similar....just my opinion.