



Notes
from the
Chair

Vol. 2, Edition 1, Winter 2017

by Chris S.

Welcome to the First Edition for 2017 of the “Clarity Chronicle”, the Minnesota Debtors Anonymous Intergroup newsletter. For those who subscribed last year, the focus is changing. In 2016, we highlighted the 12 Traditions and 12 Signs of Debtors Anonymous each month. This year, we are moving to a quarterly newsletter and will feature members’ DA stories as well as information and members’ thoughts on Tool 9, Awareness. Of course, we will still keep you posted on activities and workshops for 2017.

The MN Intergroup Theme for 2017 is inspired by Promise 3 of Debtors Anonymous: “We will live within our means, yet our means will not define us.” As such, our workshops and events for 2017 will focus on the fundamentals of Debtors Anonymous. Living within our means is essential to our DA program. We make a start toward that end with our first workshop of 2017, Recording Keeping and Spending Plans. Join us January 28, 1 – 4 pm at the St. Anthony Park Public Library, 2245 Como Av, St. Paul, and Minnesota. For more details see [DA Minnesota Events](#).

A graphic of a whiteboard with three spotlights. The whiteboard is white with a black border and is mounted on a black stand. The word 'EVENTS' is written in large, bold, black capital letters at the top center. Below it, the following text is listed:

- Jan. 28 - Record Keeping and Spending Plan Workshop
- Apr. 1 - Living in Recovery Day
- Sept. - Pressure Relief Party
- Oct. - Earning Workshop
- Oct. 29 - 2018 Intergroup Planning Meeting

At the bottom of the whiteboard, the text 'Check the website for more information.' is written in bold. The background behind the whiteboard is dark blue.

MEMBERS SHARE

Lisa F. shares her DA story with us this quarter. [Click here](#) to read.



Service:

“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 so generously has been given to us.”

2017 Call to Action:

- Committee Chair and Committee members to plan Living in Recovery Day, April 1
- Second Co-Chair to plan PRG Party (we have one Co-Chair volunteer)
- Committee Members to plan Increasing Earning Workshop

Open Intergroup Service Positions:

- Co-Treasurer
- Workshop Coordinator
- Intergroup Service Representative (ISR)

[Click here](#) to check out the "About Us" for more information.



Tool 9: Awareness

We maintain awareness of the danger of compulsive debt by taking note of bank, loan company and credit card advertising and their effects on us. We also remain aware of our personal finances in order to avoid vagueness, which can lead to compulsive debting and spending.

By Anonymous

One of the aspects of Tool 9 asks us is to be aware of credit card advertising and its effects on us. I've been in the program close to 17 years and I still get a little hitch in my breadth when I get mail with credit card offers. Most of the time, I am able to toss them unopened. However, once in a while, I open them. When I open those mailings, my mind starts doing strange things. I think, maybe I can use credit cards normally. I will pay off the balance monthly. That's a laugh. I've never in my life paid off my credit card balances monthly. I imagine I will be in control this time and debting will not get the best of me this time. I start dreaming of all the things I could do with that credit card; new doors and windows on my house, a Bose sound system, or perhaps a spring break vacation. The list is endless. There I am right back in my magical thinking.

I am reminded of the advice in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, it basically says, an alcoholic doesn't necessarily have to avoid a place where there is drinking, but they have to ask themselves, "if they have a legitimate reason or being there". When I pause and consider how this credit offer is affecting me, I understand – I never have any legitimate reason to have credit cards. I am a debtor and I will eventually end up in the same situation as the day I walked in to DA.

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