

BDA (Business Debtors Anonymous) Intergroup

August 2020 Business Meeting Agenda

Date: **August 23, 2020, noon to 2pm eastern, Conference call, (701) 802-5415, Access code: 8946796#**

NOTE: We record our business meetings, have them transcribed, and then summarized into minutes. All three files will be posted to our website at <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/business-meeting-minutes>. Please speak clearly and be protective of your anonymity and the anonymity of our fellows during these meetings. No contact info on the recordings, please.

Up to 10 minutes — Open with Serenity Prayer plus BDA and DA readings:

Ask for a spiritual timekeeper to help us follow this agenda, then read the following from pages 3 and 4 of this agenda:

- 12 Traditions including introduction from the DAMS
- Current BDA Intergroup Purpose, Mission, and Vision
- Current BDA Intergroup Spiritual Ground Rules

Up to 10 minutes — Introductions from present participants

Names (first only), solvency dates, BDA home groups, and geographic locations only, please.

Up to 60 minutes — Urgent business and review of agenda by Meeting Leader (Secretary for August)

Urgent business is any business (decisions and actions, etc.) which cannot wait until the next or future months:

Our Chair, Treasurer, Tech and Web Chair, and Parliamentary Coordinator have all resigned in the past month, leaving us with only our Secretary and Newsletter Coordinator. As the last remaining elected officer, the Secretary will lead this meeting. Based on a 2/3 resignation rate since our July business meeting, the two of us remaining elected trusted servants have discussed and will propose a new approach to service by this BDA work group going forward: the “BDA Intergroup Startup Project.”

To support this proposed new approach to service, we will present a new project document, a “letter of agreement,” to replace the existing *BDA Intergroup Service Handbook* and will approve the new document. These two changes — the new approach and the new handbook — will be made simultaneously.

See <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/post/approved-bda-intergroup-service-handbook-and-elections-on-july-26>), our unanimously adopted current structure, by which only our two current elected trusted servants will have the right to vote today, and are presenting as a 2-person committee for the purposes of following “Robert’s Rules” for the moment. The motion to adopt the new approach and project document has already been made and seconded, and we can immediately begin discussion. All present at our August 23rd business meeting will have the opportunity to participate in discussion.

If the above is approved, we will also want to elect a Project Leader at this time. (See below for relevant details, monthly reporting, etc.) Nancy has nominated Bob, and he has accepted her nomination.

Up to 15 minutes — July minutes and treasury at a desired 5 minutes each, with a 50% cushion for overages

We will simply review these reports, answer questions, receive and discuss edits and, finally, work through objections to accepting these reports and publishing them to the website as approved.

Prepared by Bob A — Review and approve minutes from July business meeting. Minutes are available at <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/business-meeting-minutes>. Please read them ahead of time and come prepared with questions and amendment requests. Minutes will be summarized for review, **not** read aloud.

Prepared by Bob A — Review and approve July treasury report. Treasury reports are available at <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/treasury-reports-and-plans>. Please read them ahead of time and come prepared with questions. The treasury is in transition; we do not know our current total or fund balances.

Up to 10 minutes — Coordinator project reports (for August, Newsletter Coordinator only)

Most months each coordinator will have 5 minutes to report on their project activities in the past month and their intentions for the next month. This is the time for coordinators to ask for and receive help from other BDA Intergroup project coordinators and from other volunteers at the current business meeting.

If more time is needed, specifically if there is a decision or group conscience approval to be made by the project team, it can be requested — at least **5 days** ahead of a business meeting — via email. Over time, more active coordinators will be allocated more time on these agendas as a matter of course. Please be prepared; please be brief; please simply state if you do not have a report to give or if you and your team have not completed anything in the past month; please do not fill your whole time allocation unnecessarily.

Newsletter Coordinator — up to 10 minutes in August, including review and formal approval of September 2020 issue of our newsletter, **Doing Business Without Debting**, see <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/doing-business-without-debting> for proposed September 2020 newsletter.

NOTE: We will happily add specific details to this agenda, to support whatever will be reported by each of the coordinators, especially providing space for review and approval of projects, action plans, initiatives, support needs, and proposed spending outside of our approved plan. This may help fellow BDA Intergroup members to think and plan, and pray and meditate, for their participation based on what topics, subtopics, and requests for help we know are coming up at our next business meeting. Please submit relevant agenda details and items by email at least **5 days** ahead of the next business meeting.

Up to 10 minutes — Old business

1. **Deferred to our next business meeting on September 27, 2020:** Review and approval of our BDA Intergroup website. Please review our existing website at <https://www.bdaintergroup.org/> ahead of time and come prepared with questions and amendment requests.
2. Brainstorming next steps for the newly created “BDA Intergroup Startup Project,” including resubmission of our group registration as a group rather than as an Intergroup, pending organizational redevelopment for 2022.

Up to 10 minutes — New business (none for August)

Up to 5 minutes — Close the business meeting: Is there anything else that needs to be addressed today?

Confirm date, time, and location for next meeting:

Sunday, September 27, 2020 — Noon to 2pm eastern
Conference call, (701) 802-5415, Access code: 8946796#
All business meetings will be recorded and transcribed.

Close with the Serenity Prayer

The Twelve Traditions of DA

The Twelve Traditions begin with the idea of DA Unity, and it is this principle which is one of the surest guides to a proper attitude in Service. The Traditions help us to put into practice the principles we have learned from the Steps and enable us to live in harmony with our fellows.

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon DA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
3. The only requirement for DA membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or DA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose — to carry its message to the debtor who still suffers.
6. A DA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the DA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every DA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Debtors Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. DA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Debtors Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the DA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

BDA Intergroup Purpose, Mission, and Vision

BDA INTERGROUP PROJECT PURPOSE — In DA and BDA, our purpose is threefold: to stop incurring unsecured debt, to share our experience with the newcomer, and to reach out to other debtors.

BDA INTERGROUP PROJECT MISSION — To create and develop a spiritual service environment in which Business Debtors Anonymous and its members can grow and thrive.

BDA INTERGROUP PROJECT VISION — We are a peaceful, collaborative, high-functioning service team, energizing each other and fueling each other's recovery and participation. We are focused on the recovering debtor and business owner, plus those still-suffering, both inside and outside our DA and BDA rooms, and are enjoying great diversity, including ages, genders, cultures, and nationalities. We have fun in BDA service!

Spiritual ground rules for BDA Intergroup business meetings and interactions between business meetings

- ✓ We constantly remind ourselves and each other that Higher Power oversees our efforts and our interactions; we ALL attempt to channel the Higher Power's will for us, for our efforts and actions together, and for our fellow debtors and business owners.
- ✓ When our discussion grows heated, we are encouraged to ask for a "Serenity Moment" when we will stop the discussion and say the Serenity Prayer together before continuing.
- ✓ Our BDA Intergroup project leader and coordinators make recommendations and the BDA Intergroup project team makes decisions at business meetings. We are the group conscience for the BDA Intergroup project; we uphold the decisions we make together as Higher Power's will.
- ✓ New information provides opportunity for new group conscience. The opposite is also true: If there is no new information, there will be no re-treading — as in "treading water" — of topics previously reviewed and decided upon and no undermining of existing, documented decisions. "I was absent" and / or "I wasn't paying attention" will NOT be considered new information.
- ✓ Our business meetings are where we discuss and decide about the work we are doing individually and through coordination. BDA Intergroup business meetings are not usually where "the work" happens, yet there are exceptions when project details and actions must be worked out formally.
- ✓ We simply do not have available time nor desire to discuss every detail of every initiative; we trust our coordinators and project participants to guide us to the decisions we need to make together.
- ✓ We follow through on our commitments and constantly strive to do our best.
- ✓ We reason things out together, offering support and encouragement. We neither avoid nor unnecessarily create conflict either within or related to the BDA Intergroup project.
- ✓ We practice principles before personalities and seek **at least** third-party support before acting against and / or speaking against any of our BDA Intergroup project team members, either within the project team or outside of it.
- ✓ We have fun together and laugh at ourselves and each other a LOT. Bleeding deacons, drama kings and queens, Eeyores, Debbie Downers, and party poopers need not apply!