

My Service Vision in Words

Dear God:

Here is my vision for DA and BDA, this or something better, if it is your will for us:

In my vision, every debtor who wants a solution to their problem of debting with money will hear of DA and BDA: through their therapists and doctors; through their bankers and through the bankruptcy systems; through their other 12-Step programs; through non-profit and government service agencies; through the outreach efforts of currently recovering debtors, including media outreach projects; and through countless other means of awareness and attraction.

Many debtors who hear of us will never have the courage (or humility or desperation) to attend a meeting, but those who do try our meetings will have an extraordinary chance of recovery and will be encouraged to recover using the DA and BDA program. That is: solvency first; Steps second; and everything else third or later. DA and BDA has grown up, setting aside distractions from recovery for debtors with money and exercising the discipline it takes to practice our own 36 principles — Steps, Traditions, and Concepts — in all our affairs.

Our individual members have surrendered to the Steps as the only solution DA and BDA have to offer to those who want to stop incurring new unsecured debt, one day at a time, no matter what. The tools and promises are great resources and helpers on our spiritual path, but the Steps are the priority for every member in DA and BDA. That is: solvency first; Steps second; and everything else third or later.

Our DA and BDA groups have adopted a commitment to “singleness of purpose” as suggested in our 5th Tradition and supported by all our other Traditions. Outside of meetings, in sponsorship and PRGs, in outreach calls and recovery events, we may discuss lots of other DA and BDA recovery-related topics — if they support our solvency — but our meetings are a place where we discuss one topic, and only one topic: recovery from debting with money, personally and in business, through the 12 Steps, and maintenance of our solvency. Our groups are growing and thriving, and home groups are the heartbeat of our fellowship.

Our Intergroups have stepped into their roles as regional or specialty (i.e., BDA Intergroup) service leaders. Their primary purpose is provision of services to members, especially newcomers, both directly and through the groups who send representatives to their monthly Intergroup business meetings. Their primary services are outreach to still-suffering debtors and provision of conference-approved literature, either for free or for purchase, to anyone who asks for it. Their secondary services are establishing support connections between groups and members and hosting recovery events. Intergroup business meetings are well-organized, peaceful, spiritual, inspirational, fun, and focused on service to others, not to the Intergroups’ members, either individually or collectively. All Intergroup service participants have taken the 12 Steps — all of the 12 Steps — in DA and BDA and provide their service from a foundation of experience, strength, and hope, not from their opinions and / or desire to control outcomes.

Our World Service Conference is both efficient and effective, in terms of both time and money. The WSC was hosted virtually due to the worldwide pandemic in 2020, and it has never returned to the unnecessary costs of national and international travel, hotels, catering, meals in restaurants, free-time entertainment, etc. Conferences which used to cost the fellowship more than \$180,000 per year, now cost \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year. The representatives, ISRs and GSRs, who attend WSC have all taken the 12 Steps — all of the 12 Steps — in DA and BDA. These are, with rare exceptions, “selfless trusted servants and leaders,” focused on the needs of the fellowship, of our groups, of our members, and of newcomers, not on their own needs or wants. They provide service with an attitude of gratitude and acceptance. Gratitude for the gifts of DA and BDA, and the spiritual lives we’ve found in this program, and acceptance of decisions made by group conscience, both in their committees and caucuses and during convocation.

Our General Service Board, too, has grown up, now leading the fellowship, through the WSC and our representatives, in making the best decisions for the future of DA and BDA, rather than making decisions for us. Our Class A debtor trustees have all taken the 12 Steps — all of the 12 Steps — in DA and BDA. The GSB leads us into and through our 36 principles — Steps, Traditions, and Concepts — in all our affairs. Our principles are not wishes, dreams, visions, or aspirations; they are the actions we take and the commitments we follow, even when no one is looking, even when it’s hard or uncomfortable. Our GSB is as perfectly aligned with our 36 principles as it is possible for humans, and debtors, to be. Some of the Concepts had to be rewritten to get to this point, and the GSB was willing to do the work and service to lead our fellowship through those changes. The GSB now operates in nearly absolute transparency, within our fellowship, and engages the fellowship in every aspect of DA and BDA services and decision making, rather than holding the fellowship at arm’s length and treating us like children. The GSB now shares its responsibility and authority with the fellowship, and the fellowship is more than up for the challenge. We’re growing and thriving and changing to provide the services to debtors with money that only we can provide.

This is my vision for DA and BDA, God. This or something better, if it is your will for us. If this is your will for us, please show me the right actions I can personally take toward manifestation of this vision. If this is not your will for us, please redirect my thinking and actions to make the service contributions to DA and BDA that you would have me make. Thank you, God.