

BDA Workshops Business Meeting Agenda and Details

How we make decisions together

We make most of our decisions based on an element of Robert's Rules of Order known as "general consent," in which there are no objections to a proposed course of action. In other words, with rare exceptions, we make all decisions by unanimity. Our process:

- 1) A steering committee member proposes or suggests an action or change in action for the direct benefit of those we serve (Tradition 9). For the group, BDA Workshops, those we serve are still-suffering debtors. For the BDA Solvency Immersion Conference, those we serve are participants who participate in alignment with our orientation document. Proposals made with no direct benefit to those we serve will not be considered.
- 2) After a two-minute description of the proposal or suggestion, the business meeting chair will ask "Is anyone else interested in considering this proposal?" That question aligns us with the spirit of a motion and second without the faux formality and potential politics and people pleasing too often found in 12-Traditions-based business meetings. This question also allows us freedom from hostage taking by one member's agenda.
- 3) If yes, there are at least two people interested, we can then participate in discussion of the proposal, usually a round-robin sharing opportunity in two-minute increments on the proposal at hand, returning to the proposer for final comments. Next, the chair would ask "Are there any objections to moving forward with this proposal?"
- 4) If no objections, we've just made a unanimous decision together and then move on to plans and commitments for implementation. If there are objections, we work together to resolve them. Our ideal is unanimous decisions made with no outstanding objections. Only if we reach an impasse, unable to resolve objections, do we vote, and then requiring substantial unanimity, or two thirds approval, to move forward.

How we add members to the steering committee

For those who meet the qualifications for this service opportunity (see next page) and ask to join, we invite them to our next business meeting and give them a 15-minute interview, asking questions and sharing information in both directions. At the end of the meeting, or in the two weeks to follow, the steering committee can check in on whether or not to move forward with the potential new member. Like our other decisions, we make steering committee decisions by unanimity. In this case, an objection would pause the invitation to service. In the case of objection(s), the participant would be advised of the reasons for the objection(s) and invited to apply for committee membership again in six months or a year.

Our monthly steering committee business meeting agenda

- 1) Are we experiencing any problems — people or situations — especially in the conference? What are possible solutions?
- 2) Are we experiencing any successes — both conference and outreach? What's going well?
- 3) Are there any suggestions for change for the direct benefit of those we serve? Or unresolved suggestions from previous meetings?

BDA Workshops Business Meeting Agenda and Details — continued

Qualifications for steering committee members

Our steering committee serves BDA Workshops (bdaworkshops.org), the hosts of the BDA Solvency Immersion Conference (bdasolvency.org) and provider of other services. The primary direct service recipients of BDA Workshops are still-suffering debtors; the primary direct service recipients of BDA Solvency are conference participants who complete their Step work in the conference and stay to recover. Qualifications for and services by our steering committee:

These members have been solvent for at least two years (often longer), have taken the Steps using the conference materials at least once, have guided at least two other compulsive debtors through the Steps using the conference materials, have participated in our two most recent 11th Tradition outreach projects, have submitted surveys for the two most recent conference cycles, attended the two most recent wrap-up sessions, and are registered for and actively participating in the current conference cycle. We define active participation as attendance in at least 12 of 26 workshops per cycle AND at least one workshop per month; we believe these two measurements are complementary. We'll check in on steering committee membership each mid-cycle for the next cycle. Our steering committee is our primary leadership.

These members lead us in maintaining our unity and common welfare (Tradition 1), following our group conscience decisions as an expression of our Higher Power's will for us (Tradition 2), and protecting our singleness of purpose (Tradition 3). We practice all of our 36 principles, 24 tools, and 12 promises to the best of our ability, and we have found these first three Traditions especially imperative to the well-being of the conference and its participants.

The steering committee makes the decisions for our events and other services, unless there is a change made during a conference cycle that is a change from what we had told participants when they registered. (We have taken two decisions to the participant group over the past six years.) In practice of Tradition 9, most of our decisions are initiated by participant responses to our surveys. We are responsible to those we serve and, for the conference, those we serve are those recovering debtors who complete what they start.

The trusted servants on our steering committee have no titles; they're just members among members. But they do hold responsibility for a number of different tasks for our conferences and steering committee, and all serve as leaders in our virtual BDA community.

Our steering committee provides services including: facilitation of our group conscience; treasury and registration; service coordination; technology coordination, including website updates and monthly messaging to our subscriber list; creation and revision of all written materials and templates for our events; hosting and share shepherding during our Saturday workshops; moderation of [After Party](#); and distribution, collection, collating, and reporting of end-of-conference surveys.

Our steering committee members generously and gratefully contribute \$250 or more to our group treasury each conference cycle as part of our registration.