

BONUS — Concept Seven — OPTIONAL meditation and writings for conference registrants:

Please read Concept Seven in our “12, 12, and 12” book, then spend several minutes meditating on each of the questions below. We suggest answering every question we’ve posed; first in writing, then reading your answers aloud, sharing with a fellow BDAer or two. No long essays are necessary, just a paragraph or two in direct answer to a question. These questions are posed by the author and editors of the workshop materials based on our own experience, strength, and hope and a deep read of Concept Seven. Most if not all of the questions below can be applied to our personal and business lives, as well as to our interactions with our fellow DAers.

Concept Seven: “The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board serve as governing documents and that the Trustees have legal rights, while the rights of the Conference are spiritual, rooted in the Twelve Traditions. The Concepts are not legal instruments.”

- 1) Have I developed bylaws (or other organizing documents) for my business? Am I aware of the bylaws at my workplace? What are the general purposes of my business or workplace?
- 2) Who is responsible for policing and enforcing the bylaws where I work?
- 3) What other standards, principles, rules, and / or ethics are the leaders and followers in my business or workplace expected to uphold?
- 4) Who has veto power in my business or the place where I work? Do I?
- 5) Who can limit the rights and authority of the leaders in my business or workplace?

We’ve designated the Sevens as the set of principles, tools, and promises in which we, as recovering DA and BDA members, have and pursue a desire to change. Our practice of Concept Seven is a proof of this desire, clarifying our responsibilities and authorities inside and outside of the DA organization:

Within DA, the World Service Conference (WSC) is our primary authority, with voting rights distributed to our General Service Board (GSB), elected representatives from our Groups and Intergroups, and the paid Manager of our General Service Office (GSO). Through our votes, and generous provision of 7th Tradition funds, we guide the GSB’s decisions and GSO’s actions.

Outside of DA, the GSB, as the self-elected leaders of our fellowship, is our primary authority, following their own group conscience, of course. Only the GSB has the right and authority to sign a contract or make a verbal commitment on behalf of DA. The WSC, and its committees and caucuses, have no such right.

For those of us who have an innate and automatic reaction to fight against authority, the change we might desire is to trust our trusted servants, especially our elected leaders. For those of us who passively bow to leadership, avoiding conflict and refusing to acknowledge power imbalance at all costs, the change we might desire is to question authority, respectfully and thoroughly. If all of us desire to change, becoming the best that we can each personally be, we’ll meet in the healthy center of this and most every other principle of recovery.