

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

Please read Concept Six 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 Six. 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 Six: “The Conference acknowledges the primary administrative responsibility of the Debtors Anonymous General Service Board.”

- 1) Who has primary administrative (day-to-day enforcement of policies, rules, and conduct of affairs in an organization) responsibility in my business or workplace?
- 2) Who has legal and fiduciary authority in my business or workplace?
- 3) When I don’t have the people, time, or money to carry out a much-desired action at work, what do I do about that? Wait? Force the action? Develop creative approaches?
- 4) “Here, the operative principle is humility.” Have I found humility in DA and BDA? Have I been able to practice humility in my business or workplace?
- 5) Have I had any experience “beating a recalcitrant reality into submission”? What was the outcome? How did that feel?
- 6) Who is the voice and conscience of my business or workplace? Do I trust that voice?

We’ve noticed wide swings in leadership energy, communication, activity, and spending as each new General Service Board (GSB) Chair rotates out and the next one takes office. The swings are so wide, we’re not sure we know what healthy leadership or spending by our GSB would actually look like.

We bring this up because the Chapter on Concept Six in our 12, 12, and 12 book tells us that active management of all DA (and BDA) service activities “should be left to the management and supervision of the General Service Board.” Unfortunately, as described by our experience above, the management and supervision abilities are completely inconsistent from year to year. We would likely be better off following the lead of AA and do most of our service activities at the Intergroup, group, and member levels with decisions made by the members who will fund and provide the proposed services. To surrender our wills and service lives to the GSB, as suggested in our DA text, is to make them our Higher Power.

Personally, we are fans of grassroots service, whether it’s grassroots outreach projects or regional and online recovery conferences. We encourage every member, group, Intergroup, and grassroots service committee to honor their own group conscience and to provide the best service they can to both existing members and to the debtors who still suffer. We think our best plan of action is to follow the GSB **and** to trust our ultimate authority as expressed through our member, group, and Intergroup group conscience decisions, upholding substantial unanimity and minority opinion. (See Tradition Two and Concept Five for much more information about developing healthy, fair, and spiritually based group conscience decisions.)