

D.A. Workshops and the Traditions

The General Service Board would like to remind members to exercise discretion when choosing D.A. and B.D.A. events to attend.

While most workshops organized by members, groups, Intergroups, and WSC committees are wonderful resources for recovering debtors and newcomers, we are occasionally notified of events that are using the D.A. or B.D.A. name, but appear to violate the Traditions.

Tradition 4 grants groups significant autonomy in how to run meetings and workshops, but does not give permission to make decisions that affect D.A. as a whole. A meeting or workshop that uses the D.A. or B.D.A. name but does not follow the Traditions risks the reputation of D.A. as a whole, and risks discouraging or confusing newcomers and members.

Some suggestions of warning signs to watch out for:

- A workshop or meeting that charges a fee rather than a suggested donation. This includes pressuring members who choose not to pay the full 'suggested donation'. (Tradition 3)
- Workshops that advertise and/or feature a professional person in their professional capacity, e.g. a counselor speaking as a counselor rather than simply as a debtor sharing their experience, strength, and hope. (Tradition 8)
- Workshops that:
 - focus on outside issues,
 - use literature that is not approved by the D.A. World Service Conference,
 - are connected to other 12 step programs (Traditions 4 and 10)
- Workshops that are described as D.A. or B.D.A. but not organized by a registered D.A. group, Regional Area Group, Intergroup, WSC Committee or the GSB (Tradition 1)

All members are, of course, free to attend any workshops they choose. This notice is simply a reminder to read the full details of an event and ask questions if necessary before registering or attending.

Groups that repeatedly organize events that violate the Traditions may need to be delisted from the Debtors Anonymous meeting list in order to protect D.A. members and D.A.'s reputation.

If a member announces a workshop that may use outside literature, may be affiliated with business enterprises, or may risk any other Tradition violations, members are encouraged to kindly but clearly state their concern and to bring up the concern at the next business meeting for group discussion.

However, please do keep in mind the [Board's Statement on Race and Tradition 10](#), which states that we do not consider it to be a violation of Tradition 10 when members share about how their race, gender identity, or other personal traits affect their debtors experience.

Together we practice the principles of D.A., which includes the Twelve Traditions. In this way we observe the First Tradition: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon D.A. unity."

Sincerely,

Debtors Anonymous General Service Board

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