

Approved Minutes from BDA Intergroup Startup Project
Business Meeting on May 23, 2021

8am pacific / 11am eastern — Open with Serenity Prayer plus BDA and DA readings

Readings and member introductions

Name, solvency date, BDA home group, and geographic location:

- ✓ Nancy from San Ramon, CA; April 1, 2020; home group is **BDA Workshops** (bdaworkshops.org)
- ✓ Bob A from Seattle by way of San Francisco and Portland; August 8, 2014; **Sunday BDA Phone** (sundaybdaphone.org) and **BDA Workshops** (bdaworkshops.org)

Reviewed business meeting agenda

Chair reviewed our agenda for the rest of our abbreviated one-hour meeting, including descriptions of and time increments by section:

Up to 17 minutes — Readings, introductions, and review of agenda by Project Lead

Up to 3 minutes — None this month.

Up to 20 minutes — April minutes and treasury at a desired 5 minutes each, with time for reading and overages

Up to 15 minutes — Coordinator project reports — Literature Coordinator and Newsletter Coordinator

Up to 30 minutes — Old business

1. Update on radio outreach media plan — reporting will continue through September 2021.
2. Review of upcoming events with the Summer Visioning Mini-Conference up next.
3. We've agreed to create a BDA Intergroup phone list. Let's discuss details and next steps.

Up to 30 minutes — New business

1. Brainstorming additional ideas for outreach and public information for both DA and BDA for 2021.
2. Anything else?

Up to 5 minutes — Close the business meeting

April minutes and treasury

Bob summarized April 2021 minutes and requested objections. There were none. **Minutes approved.**

Bob summarized April 2021 treasury report and requested questions:

Regarding our April and YTD profit and loss — Our total income for April was \$6,981.20, which was \$3,031.20 (or 76.7%) above our April income plan of \$3,950. April income was made up of \$2,754.61 in distributions from BDA Workshops; \$25 in general contributions from members; \$141.50 in earmarked member contributions to literature; \$1,560.09 in earmarked member contributions to public information; \$400 in earmarked group contributions to PI; and \$2,100 in event proceeds from the events we're hosting, including some pre-registrations.

Total YTD contributions by groups through April 30, 2021 is:

Group # 968 — *Sunday BDA Phone* — 1,235.00 (workshop proceeds plus \$300 in earmarked funds for the radio outreach project)

Group # 1395 — bdalist on groups.io — 400.00 (earmarked funds for the radio outreach project)

Group #112319 — *BDA Workshops* — 7,947.14

For total group contributions of \$9,582.14

Total YTD member contributions, both general and earmarked, are \$3,584.69.

Total BDA Intergroup event income is \$5,810.

For a combined total income of \$18,976.83 for the months of January through April.

Our expenses for April included: \$495 for 45 eBooks; \$300 pre-imburement to our literature coordinator; \$59.74 for transaction fees; and \$13,500 in contract payments to the special workers for our radio outreach project (which has been paid in full a week before the due date).

Regarding our YTD spending plan comparison for the month of April — We were \$326.83 (or 1.7%) over our income plan and \$242.47 (or almost exactly 1%) over in expenses. We are currently \$85.36 behind in income over expenses for the first four months of 2021.

We were over by \$1,055.35 in literature expenses for January through April. That is, our plan was \$4,400 and our actual was \$5,455.35. Since this is one of our two primary service areas, we consider this a good overage. Our literature service is being well-used by the fellowship. Our ending literature fund balance at April 30th was \$106.54.

Regarding our balance sheet — Our total available balance in all funds at April 30, 2021 was \$279.10. The radio outreach project has been paid in full; we did have to do some transfers from other funds to pay the final invoice. Dollars will be transferred back to their original funds as money comes in in May and June. Our ending unallocated balance in our General Fund was \$40.67.

Bob next asked for objections to approval. There were none. **Treasury report approved.**

Coordinator reports

Literature Coordinator — Nancy presented a literature report through May 22nd, including inventory:

<i>A Currency of Hope – Second Edition</i> / paperback	79 @ 10.00 = 790.00
<i>The Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts of D.A.</i> / paperback	65 @ 10.00 = 650.00
<i>Visions</i> pamphlet	85 @ 1.00 = 85.00
<i>Business Debtors Anonymous</i> pamphlet	88 @ 1.00 = 88.00
<i>Underearning</i> pamphlet	86 @ 2.00 = 172.00
<i>The Tools of Business Debtors Anonymous</i> pamphlet	84 @ 2.50 = 210.00
<i>The Twelve Promises of Debtors Anonymous</i> pamphlet	89 @ 2.50 = 222.50

Total literature inventory at May 22, 2021 = \$2,217.50

Literature fund balance at May 22, 2021 = \$193.38

Nancy reported that 194 literature requests had been fulfilled so far in 2021.

We have provided physical and digital literature to the following locations so far in 2021:

AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, IL, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MS,
NC, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, TX, UT, VA, WA, WI
Australia; Canada (AB, BC, NB, ON, QC); Greece; New Zealand; South Africa; United Kingdom

The following pieces of DA and BDA conference-approved literature have been provided so far in 2021:

Conference-Approved Literature

Titles	Digital	Paper	Total
DA 12, 12, and 12 book	66	61	127
DA's A Currency of Hope	69	69	138
DA's Pamphlet Collection (digital only)	106		106
BDA pamphlet (paper only)		43	43
BDA Tools pamphlet (paper only)		43	43
DA Promises pamphlet (paper only)		41	41
DA Underearning pamph (paper only)		48	48
DA Visions pamphlet (paper only)		50	50
	241	355	596

As a reminder: As long as there are available dollars in the Literature Fund, the Literature Coordinator does not need to ask for additional approval to place literature orders or to receive additional pre-imburements for supplies and postage. Requests for spending beyond the balance in the Literature Fund must be brought to a monthly business meeting for review and approval.

Coordinator reports — continued

Newsletter Coordinator — We have not published a newsletter since the April edition. With the kickoff of the current BDA Conference and the BDA Tool Two workshops both on the first weekend in April, there has been no time or energy available to spend on the BDA Intergroup newsletter.

Miscellaneous discussion — We had changed our name to “BDA Intergroup Startup Project” at one point, volunteering to downgrade ourselves from an Intergroup to a group, in an attempt to compromise with the GSB. That compromise went nowhere. We also offered a couple months ago to limit our services to phone and internet meetings, in an attempt to overcome the GSB’s objection that we are not a regional Intergroup. That compromise went nowhere, too. So we’re saying it loud, we’re saying it proud. We are the BDA Intergroup. If it looks like and Intergroup and serves like an Intergroup, it’s an Intergroup. We are an Intergroup. **Approved unanimously.**

Old business

1. Update on radio outreach media plan — reporting will continue through September 2021.

Nancy posed the question: So how will we be able to track if this [the radio outreach project] worked?

Through our discussion, we’ve agreed that’s the wrong question. We’re doing the footwork, and we are doing good work. Did all of us stay solvent? Did the people who came to these recovery events through which we’ve raised the funds to pay for this distribution work? Did they stay solvent? Did they get better? Have we added more people to our “sponsorship family”? Have new “sponsorship families” been created through these events and fundraisers? That, to us, is aligned with the 12th Step. As we do service and work with newcomers, if we stay solvent, if we get better, our work has been solid.

This is not a marketing effort or activity. This is not an advertising purchase. This is spiritual outreach in which we do our work and trust our Higher Powers for outcomes and results, while employing special workers in the PSA distribution field, which is supported by our 8th Tradition.

Having said that, we are not satisfied with the audio news release (ANR) element of this outreach project. That was \$8,000 of our \$18,000 media contract and provided for guaranteed placement on every Sunday in April. If we were to have seen a spike in web traffic, this would have been the generator of that spike. The positive outcome is the production of the 60-second ANR recording which is too long for traditional radio but may be useful in getting placements on some nonprofit websites, specifically offering the ANR for placement on the resource pages of websites.

On the other hand, we are very satisfied with the PSA element of our project, for which we paid \$10,000. We are getting plays across the US in a wide variety of markets. We would like to do PSA distribution every six months for the next several years, if Higher Power is willing.

The DC Intergroup has contacted us to receive copies of the outreach audios and information on the radio stations to which the PSA had been distributed and those that had played it. Any member, group, or Intergroup is welcome to request this information and these outreach resources if it will help them to carry the message of DA and BDA.

Old business — continued:

2. Review of upcoming events with the Summer Visioning Mini-Conference up next.

We are moving away from the “Mini-Conference” naming convention. We have been “playing small” to avoid further negative and demeaning treatment from our currently toxic GSB. We need to stop being manipulated in this way. Although this appears to be personal, we think it is about BDA, and keeping BDA small and manageable by the GSB. We are now hosting conferences, beginning with the Summer Visioning Conference. **Approved unanimously.**

As part of this discussion, we reviewed the committee and caucus structure of WSC, in which BDA is represented by one committee. We, as committed recovering BDA members, would love to see every committee create both BDA and Intergroup subcommittees. (Caucuses could consider having these subcommittees, too.) The way things are now BDA is represented by a single committee and Intergroups are represented by one caucus, which makes both underserved and underrepresented. We believe that the GSB prefers to keep BDA and Intergroups small. We will not continue to participate in that preference.

Back to the event itself — the Summer Visioning Conference — we’re looking at having one “committed participant” share a prepared vision during each of our eight conference Sundays, then receive feedback, and finally answer questions about the process used to develop the visions. Bob would be workshop leader and have 10 minutes to setup each workshop before the “committed participant” is introduced. This would be the first hour each week, then we would have a second hour of other conference registrants sharing their visions and receiving support and encouragement. If we have more volunteers to share than can fit into the second hour, we will stay up to two EXTRA hours, ensuring those who have brought their visions and want to share them have that opportunity. **Approved unanimously.** More details to come as they are developed.

There was a lengthy discussion of some changes made to the BDA Tool Two workshops, introducing a shortcut set of calculations, to abbreviate the planning process and to provide guidance on profitability problems earlier in the planning process. There were no objections to this shift in approach as a trial in support of our business planning registrants.

We discussed the possibility of having one “committed participant” for the next round of the BDA Business Planning Conference in September through November, in which they would do their business planning as an example for the rest of the conference registrants. We are also considering interjecting as many of the BDA Tools as possible into the next conference series. The first round of these workshops had a laser focus on BDA Tool Two. The second round added coverage of BDA Tools 9 through 12. We would like to cover more of the BDA Tools in the business planning conferences going forward. We will also continue to do drop-in sessions on the topics of goal setting, income generation, and work-life-recovery balance. This planning will continue as we move toward the first workshop in this conference cycle in early September.

NOTE: All of the business planning done with the registrants between workshops is being done for fun and for free. We are strict adherents to the 9th Tradition: No one should get paid for doing and providing service in DA and BDA.

We are not yet ready to begin talking about events for 2022. Our schedule is full through 2021.

Old business — continued:

3. We've agreed to create a BDA Intergroup contact list. Let's discuss details and next steps.

Actions have been taken to invite BDAers to put themselves on the new contact list, but not a lot of progress have been made. To maintain a contact list of active DA and BDA members we will ask for regular confirmations that folks want to stay on the list via every 60 days. We will send emails by bcc every 60 days with requests for confirmation via reply. **Approved unanimously.**

New business

1. Brainstorming additional ideas for outreach and public information for both DA and BDA for 2021.

We need more volunteers before we take on more activities. The leader of the radio outreach project is working on some next ideas for outreach.

9:55am pacific / 12:55pm eastern — Closed with DA Promises and Serenity Prayer

Agenda for June 29, 2021 (new day and time) BDA Intergroup business meeting

Due to scheduling conflicts, we did not hold a business meeting in June 2021.