

What is Business Debtors Anonymous?

Business Debtors Anonymous (BDA) is a distinct and dynamic but not separate part of DA, created to focus on the recovery of members of the fellowship who are business owners. Together, members of BDA support one another in applying the DA principles and tools when owning and running a business. However, as part of DA, there is no separate membership for attending Business Debtors Anonymous meetings. It is understood that paying bills for goods and services rendered according to agreed upon terms does not constitute debting.

How do you know if you are a compulsively debting business owner? Some of the experiences and behaviors that led to compulsive debting were:

- We neither knew when bills or taxes were due, nor did we remember if and what we had paid or still owed.
- We confused our personal finances with our business finances.
- We often did not know the exact costs of our overhead, operating expenses or profit margins.
- We had no business plan.
- We lived in a state of deprivation for the sake of our business.
- We under valued and under priced our goods and services.

In BDA we learn to operate our business along spiritual lines and find that operating in integrity and being of service is profitable. We accumulate cash reserves, pay our bills and employees on time, and build a thriving, prosperous, debt-free and financially solvent business.

Additional tools for Business Debtors Anonymous:

- We keep separate professional and personal financial records and bank accounts.
- We keep clean, orderly and accurate financial records.
- We pay ourselves a salary.
- We pay our bills and invoice our clients promptly.
- We remain mindful that dollars spent should generate revenue and compare prices before making purchases.

This material is excerpted from Business Debtors Anonymous, a pamphlet which can be ordered from the DA General Service Office.