

**DA-HOW
Intergroup Meeting
Sunday, February 23, 2014
4:00pm Eastern**

Leader: Allison H.

Secretary: Rebekah M.

Opened with Serenity Prayer, “we” version.

Introductions: Secretary did not record all names. Representation from every DA-HOW phone meeting. No representation from DA-HOW Minneapolis face-to-face meeting.

Reading of Twelve Traditions of Debtors Anonymous

Opened floor for Agenda Items (listed as suggested)

1. Format of a HOW Format Meeting
2. Size of fellowship and how many meetings that can support
3. Continuity of DA-HOW questions and step process
4. A website for DA-HOW Intergroup
5. Whether non-DA-HOW participants can participate/vote at business meetings
6. Whichever phone meeting is our “home” meeting, we need to support all HOW meetings
7. What constitutes “working a DA-HOW program” and whether there is a certain type of meeting and who determines that.
8. Difficulties finding a temp sponsor and what if there’s an emergency and we don’t reach anyone. What do you do if you genuinely can’t reach someone in DA-HOW?
9. Where do we find the 4th Step questions and beyond, more guidance with the Steps.
10. What to do when non-DA-HOW persons want to lead or speak at meetings?
11. Increasing DA-HOW Unity
 - a. All directions, resources, questions, etc. in a single location
12. Is there a mechanism to organize leaders and speakers?
13. Can DA-HOW Intergroup organize a treasury to send a representative to World Service?

Agenda Items—Thematic Groups (grouped by Meeting Secretary)

- 1) What constitutes DA-HOW?
 - a. What is a DA-HOW Meeting?
 - b. Who can lead and/or speak at a DA-HOW Meeting?
 - c. Who can participate/vote at DA-HOW Business Meetings?
 - d. Continuity of the questions and Step process beyond the first 90 days
- 2) How can we create more DA-HOW Unity?
 - a. Intergroup?
 - b. Central online location/site for all materials
 - c. Mechanism to organize leaders/speakers for all meetings
 - d. Ways to reach sponsors in emergency situations

- e. Support other meetings/not deter people from attending meetings
- f. Create a treasury to send a representative to World Service

Item 1: Are we here to address BDA-HOW as well?

- A) Clarification: The Friday evening meeting which is entitled “DA HOW for Business Owners/Sole Proprietors - BDA Tools/Pamphlet Meeting” is often thought of as “BDA-HOW.” In fact, it is not a part of BDA. It is a DA-HOW group with a BDA focus.
- B) Suggestion: We are here to discuss DA-HOW. Subsequently, how the Friday night BDA-focused meeting wishes to position itself is up to the group conscience of that meeting.
- C) Concern: There are tools in BDA that aren’t in DA that might be very helpful for DA-HOW members. Consider having some access to these through the DA-HOW Intergroup site or in some way make them available for those interested.

Item 2: DA-HOW Unity

In order to address the second group of agenda items, establish a committee to investigate and organize a single, online location for all DA-HOW materials. Group will meet to determine scope of service, intended outcome and report to whole group.

Volunteers: Allison H., Anneh S., Dennis R., Rebekah M., Sharon S., Shawn C.

Item 3: Define DA-HOW/ What, exactly, constitutes a “DA-HOW Meeting?” Is there one, single format that is acceptable?

- A) At its most basic, DA-HOW is a simply a means of sponsorship and is comprised of a specific, disciplined and structured way of using all the tools of DA.
- B) Experience in another fellowship, from which DA-HOW was formed, which has consistent meetings, with the caveat that this member is clear that DA is NOT the same as any other fellowship.
 - a. Member feels that the enormous growth and strength of this other HOW fellowship is strongly supported by the consistent structure of meetings. Feels that DA-HOW has suffered from inconsistency in this regard.
 - b. Meeting reading “The How Concept” states, “...much of our strength is to be found in the structure of meetings...” but nowhere is this structure clearly delineated.
 - c. In the book Alcoholics Anonymous, in the chapter *A Vision for You* on page 160, it suggests that the purpose of meetings is to be there to provide the solution to newcomers. As such, feels it is critical that meetings be consistent in presenting exactly how the DA-HOW program works.
- C) Expressed regret that this wasn’t made clear five years ago when many DA-HOW meetings were starting. Conceded the general point, but thought there could be some variety without watering down the program.
- D) Expressed experience with meetings in other avenues and concerns about meeting health. Suggested that if meeting leadership does not rotate regularly

- and strong sponsor support is not present, meeting health is in jeopardy and perhaps it should be evaluated for various meetings.
- E) DA-HOW is a means of sponsorship. What's at the crux is the way the people work the program and the relationship with the sponsor. That's more than what meeting is attended or the structure of meetings. It is critically important to have some cohesive literature about what the DA-HOW sponsor process is and how we use the tools, but then it's up to the individual meeting's group conscience to work out their structure. That is more beneficial in this DA's experience.
 - F) Expressed concern that some sponsors are limited in ability to attend more than one specific meeting. While leadership rotation is important, it is better to have some kind of meeting than no meeting. It might not be best for one sponsor to lead a meeting for months on end, but if it's keeping that leader sober, and there is no one else stepping up to help, what's the alternative? There are frequently many people listening in to the particular meeting in question, but no sponsors to do service. If there were more sponsors involved, there would be more people coming into DA-HOW through that meeting.
 - G) Expressed agreement that it's discouraging when there aren't sponsors on the meeting mentioned above. Doesn't understand why it isn't working out. Not sure why we have added a new meeting without talking to other sponsors about it. Expressed concern about how many meetings our fellowship can support as we are spread too thin.
 - H) Thinks it's important to hear all the tools. But expressed concern that people are being told they aren't working HOW because they aren't attending a certain type of format meeting. Has all past recovery in DA-HOW been false if they haven't been attending a certain kind of meeting? Echoed the concern about how much service is realistic with the size of our fellowship.
 - I) Expressed dismay that anyone is judging anyone else's recovery. We do what we must to keep our abstinence. We are in this together and we are all doing our best to work the DA-HOW program. We can only sponsor the way we are sponsored, and only work the program the way it is modeled for us. This DA started a new meeting because she felt strongly that *for her own recovery* she needed a certain format that closely followed the HOW format from her other fellowship. Was encouraged by her sponsor and network to choose a day and time that worked for her to provide this service.
 - J) Leader Synthesis: Summed up that in general, all were in basic agreement about what constitutes the DA-HOW program, but there is still some disagreement about what constitutes a DA-HOW meeting. Further discussion will be needed.
 - K) Last Comment (approximate quote): Look at how we've all shown up because

this is a program that has impacted our lives. We want to make it more available to more suffering compulsive debtors who need it. From my experience, many people who get together who are very different, like in any situation, may decide on a course of action but may have different reasons for deciding on that course of action. I don't see our differences as an impediment to taking action and following through and making a contribution to the work that we came here to do.

Action Plan:

- 1) All to think/pray about this process
- 2) Allison H. to schedule next meeting in 1 month
- 3) Committee to explore a central location for all DA-HOW info and report back

Closed with Serenity Prayer, "we" version.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebekah M.