

BDA Solvency Immersion Conference

Also known as “Let’s Do BDA Together”

Conference Survey Results
January through June 2021
53% Survey Response Rate

This a summary of participant surveys for a 26-session intensive cycle of recovery workshops for Debtors Anonymous and Business Debtors Anonymous members who own, operate, manage, or work for businesses, either for-profit or not-for-profit (using conference-approved literature from DA, BDA, and AA and workshop materials developed by active BDA members in 2020 and revised in 2021)

THE BDA SOLVENCY IMMERSION CONFERENCE

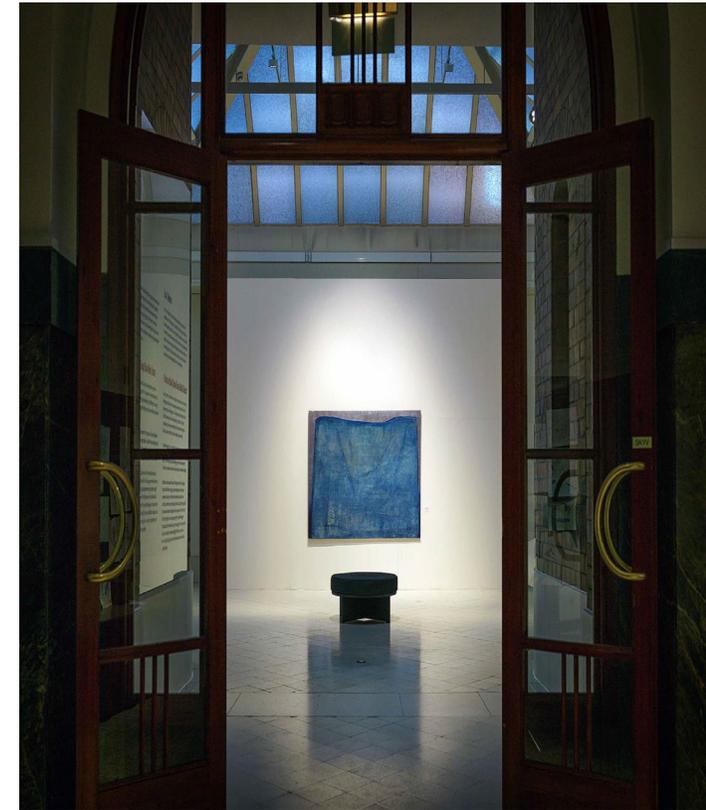
During this BDA Conference, we covered most of the 12s in DA and BDA — Steps, DA Tools, Traditions, BDA Tools, Concepts, and DA Promises (see our contact page at www.bdaworkshops.org/contact for downloadable pdfs of each list).

For the primary program principles, tools, and promises, we offered specific applications for DA and BDA members who own, operate, manage, or work for businesses, either for-profit or not-for-profit.

Each numbered set of recovery topics (i.e. Step One, DA Tool One, Tradition One, BDA Tool One, Concept One, and Promise One) was allotted two workshop sessions.

NOTES: All pictures in this survey report / presentation are stock images. We hold our workshops by video conference, and no pictures are ever taken; we do record audio. Our anonymity is vital to our recovery.

The theme for this report is the “*Art of BDA Recovery.*”





OUR SURVEY INCLUDES THREE DISTINCT PARTS

- General Experiences
- Connections and Cycle Goals
- Progress in the DA and BDA Program

We asked a total of 25 questions, including 19 opportunities to give ratings of 1—5 where:

1. Poor
2. Okay
3. Good
4. Great
5. Excellent

Two questions related to service for future cycles are not included here.

OUR NUMERICAL SCORES FOR GENERAL EXPERIENCES



Communication from the host and guest speakers before and during the BDA Conference

Rating: 4.43 of 5 88.6% of 100 B+

Workshop materials

Rating: 4.63 of 5 92.6% of 100 A-

Workshop sessions

Rating: 4.75 of 5 95% of 100 A

Overall scores for part 1: Rating: 4.6 of 5 92% of 100 A-

Do you have any advice to offer future BDA Conference participants?

Easy does it. Your best is good enough.

I think this was so well run; not sure I have any advice.

Find someone to work with — stick with the workshops; don't quit; the work will change your life.

No advice for future participants [other] than to not quit.

This is a process. Take it one week at a time. You don't need to know everything all at once — it is overwhelming to try to figure it out upfront. Be willing to admit you didn't get here by accident — that your relationship with money is not working and be open to the materials and suggestions from people who have been where you are and are recovering from a hopeless state of mind.

I highly recommend the workshop.

Jump in and do the work; the more you put in the more you get out. It can feel fast and like a lot, but it is manageable and has had a huge impact on me and others. Show up, be open and honest, trust the process and the HP, and let the results unfold. The meetings are more fun and engaging when people share what their takeaways were from the topics of the week.

To stay on track each week with reading and answering questions. To book time off for 1-3 hours [each week] to do that. To get a sponsor or buddy to assist, motivate, guide, and stay accountable.

It may be helpful for them to schedule the preparatory time into each week, along with the [BDA Conference] itself.



Do you have any advice to offer about improving the BDA Conference?

Not at this time, if I do, will email you.

Change the spacing on the word docs.

[No advice] on improving the cycle.

There seems to be some confusion around the terms study buddies, sponsors, and then the person who takes you through the workshop materials — especially for those new to recovery. Maybe a glossary of sorts with these terms would be helpful so they don't keep asking the same questions over and over again.

NOTE: For anyone unclear on how we're approaching taking the Steps during these BDA Conferences, please visit the relevant page on our website at <https://www.bdaworkshops.org/taking-the-steps>.)

No.

Nothing really concrete.

No, I think [this] was laid out well. I like how there is a team of trusted servants and it's growing.

The readings at the beginning could maybe be trimmed down after a while.

About improving the workshop sessions in general?

Just encouraging everyone to reach out to anyone that resonates and creating deeper relationships with attendees for greater support. It would be neat if there was a way to breakout rooms and quicker pair shares, to get to know others better, but not sure where that would fit in all honesty.

None.

I have a problem with some of the non-conference approved writings especially when it's opinion based.

NOTE: For anyone unfamiliar with the experience-based workshop materials we've developed for these BDA Conferences, please visit the relevant page on our website at <https://www.bdaworkshops.org/workshop-overview>, for a sample.

I think they have been going very well. I like the rotation of service. It's better to have speakers from previous cycles rather than the current cycle in my opinion.

No. It keeps getting better.

I think things are getting dialed in, especially with getting the service positions filled in sooner. Makes things smoother in the [workshops].

The PDF content and the "questions-only" [documents are] quite different. I went up to Step 5, I think, just focusing on the questions sheets, not realizing I was missing a lot in the PDFs. I wonder if I am not the only one confused about this. It would be good to address it and see if others had a similar experience.

NOTE: For anyone unfamiliar with the "questions-only" versions of the workshop materials we've developed for these BDA Conferences, please visit the relevant page on our website at <https://www.bdaworkshops.org/workshop-overview>, for samples of both the pdf and document versions referenced in this survey response, in the case of these samples, specifically for the Ones. The matching recordings from this cycle are available there, too.

No.



About improving any specific workshop sessions or components?

I personally LOVE the promises. I wonder if we could read them at the beginning of each workshop.

None.

No.

The *After Party* might be better attended if it wasn't hosted; could be more of just a fellowshiping time, that lets BDAers share about whatever.

NOTE: For anyone unfamiliar with the *After Party* that follows each weekly workshop, please visit the relevant page on our website at

<https://www.bdaworkshops.org/about-after-party>.

Weekly Fellowship Drop-in is a separate event held each Thursday, 5-6pm pacific, 8-9pm eastern, etc.

How was communication from the host and guest speakers before and during the BDA Conference?

Host — Information & email communication: 5. During the cycle and on workshop 1 and 2. Guest Speakers — 4/5

The host's communication was always very clear and concise which was not always the case with some of the Guest Speakers — probably lack of experience and recovery.

From my experience as a guest speaker — Bob helped me prepare very well.

I don't understand the part about the guest speaker.

I'd say communication from the host was good. It would be nice to make the "Click Here to Join" bigger and bold and put it at the top of the zoom emails.

NOTE: The emails being referenced are sent directly from zoom and are not editable by users, as far as we know. If anyone has additional information about revising the emails zoom sends out to pre-registered workshop participants, please share it with us via bdaworkshops@gmail.com.





How were the workshop materials?

Getting them out a little earlier on some occasions would have been helpful, but I know there was lots going in to serve the greater good during a period there and it's tons to manage.

Except for the differences between the two (PDF and questions), yes.

Great!!! Maybe remove the agenda and stuff that's read in the workshop from it.

How were the workshop sessions?

Good — I found two hours is a long time to sit in a Zoom session, so I was antsy to get moving instead of staying for the *After Party*. Maybe a 5-10 minute break in the two hours would give people time to stretch, bio break, etc. and have more staying power.

Excellent.

Were there any sessions that stood out as your “favorites” or most productive for you?

Step 10.

Personally, I loved the sessions that focused on Steps 1, 2, 3, 4 (the one I lead), 8 and 10 and 11.

All the sessions were productive.

My favorite was the Fours.

The Sevens.

I have done the [conference] a few times, and there is a timeliness and a favorite almost all the time.

They were all good in different ways. I liked that there was a different speaker on each [set of topics every other] week; it kept the perspectives / experience fresh and interesting.

I really loved the 6 and 7s.



Were there any sessions that stood out as your “least favorites” or least productive for you?

No ... all productive and helpful!

None.

My least [favorite] was the Fives.

There were a couple where I didn't like the Guest Speaker's message — that's why it's good we have Bob.

No.

Some of the work was harder emotionally, which is easy to label as my least favorite, but that is also where the growth is.

None come to mind.

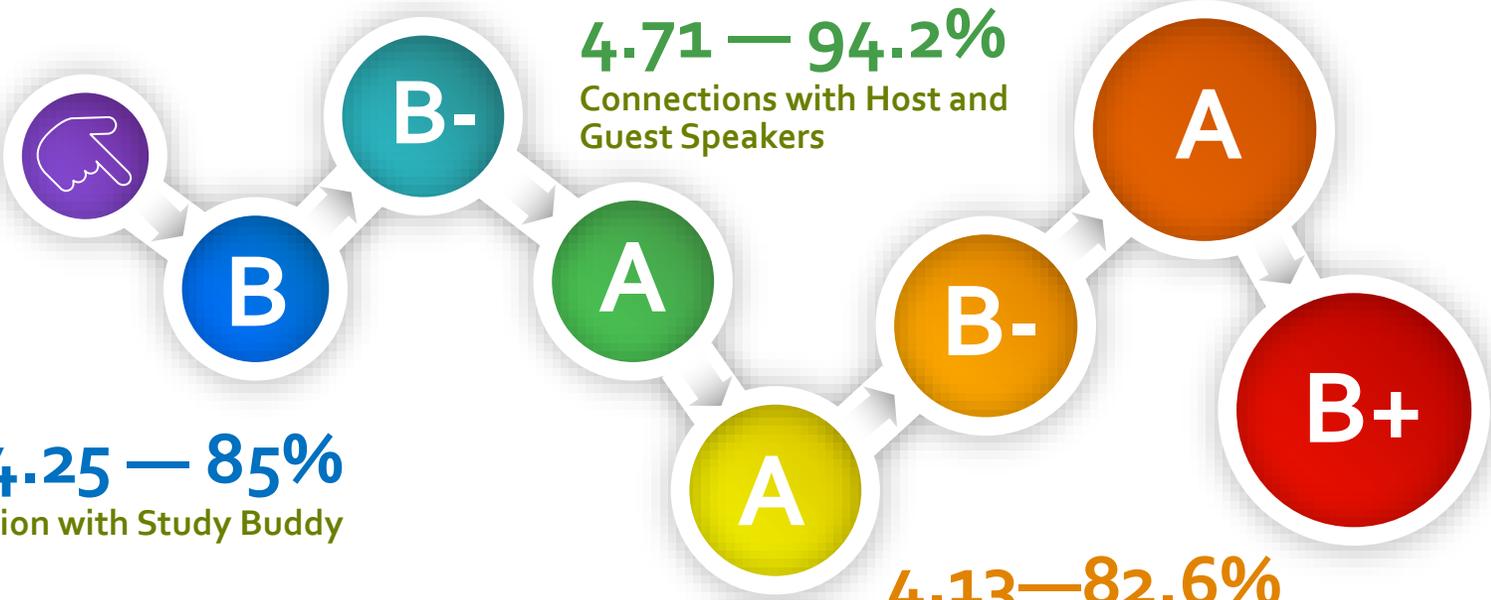
Not really.



OUR NUMERICAL SCORES FOR CONNECTIONS AND CYCLE GOALS

4.13 — 82.6%
Connections with Fellow Participants

4.71 — 94.2%
Fundraising for GSB and BDA Intergroup



4.71 — 94.2%
Connections with Host and Guest Speakers

4.25 — 85%
Connection with Study Buddy

4.45 — 89%
Overall Scores for Part 2

4.78 — 95.6%
Synthesis of 72 DA and BDA Program Elements

4.13 — 82.6%
Strengthen BDA Fellowship

How was the availability of and connection with your study buddy, if you had one?

I didn't have one.

We have been meeting every week, except for one.

It got difficult to coordinate three schedules partway through; should have kept it to two people.





How was the availability and connection with fellow BDA Conference participants?

3 — My not reaching out to others.

Very good — I have the best PRG ever ... now if we can just get Marc down to CA to visit it will be even more amazing!!! :)

It was good. Seeing people on Zoom vs over the phone was great. I wish more people used the video to help with that. Whenever I reached out the people made themselves available. Would have been a 5 – and not a reflection on the workshop leaders, but just not perfect due to the lack of video use and the couple people who seemed to use the workshop as an audio book instead of actively participating.

Great — their availability has been good. I found a PRG trio that I really like.

Good, might be nice to email out a list of phone numbers to participants.

NOTE: We maintain an up-to-the-minute list of conference participants who have volunteered for outreach on our website and available to all conference registrants. Each participant is responsible for using the resources we provide if they wish.

How was the availability and connection with the host and guest speakers?

Did not reach out.

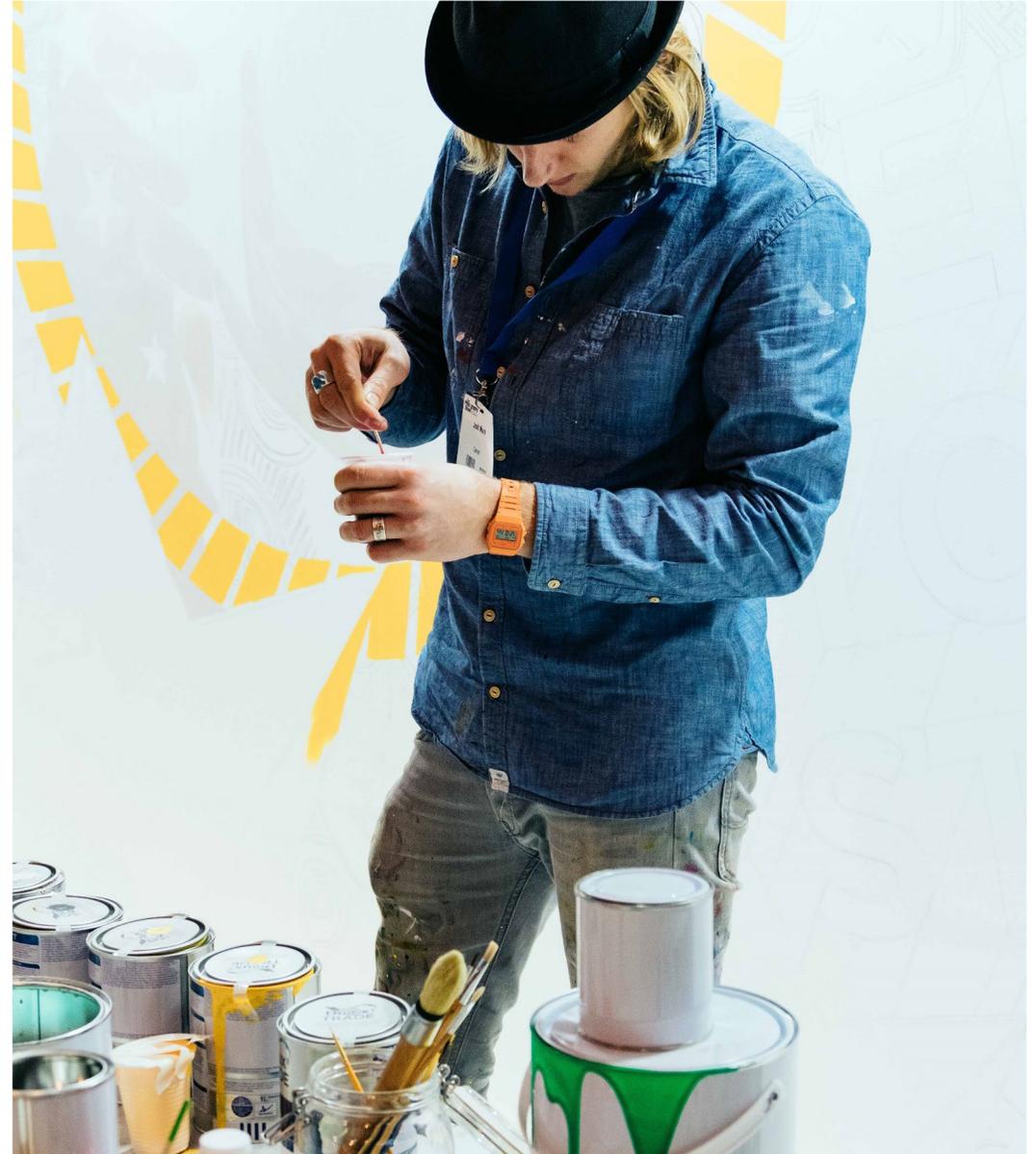
Excellent — [the host] is my sponsor.

I feel totally included.

The host was available for additional help outside the workshop during *After Party* [and] in-between meetings, and the guest speakers were good about being available as well if asked.

Good — I always could connect with Bob, and my sponsor, and texting and calling with others.

Good. The guest speakers don't always respond to texts.



How did we do on ... connecting the various elements of the DA program with the practical aspects of our BDA approach to doing business, developing a more complete recovery experience using the spiritual Principles, Promises, and Tools available to us.

I liked working on two pairs of three topics.

So well rounded and cohesive and the themes were helpful.

Extremely useful — I would not engage with this material otherwise.

It was a lot over a short amount of time, but given how much there was to cover, I think it was great.





How did we do on ... strengthening our BDA membership through the Steps, one-on-one support, and connection of national and international members through a focused, committed recovery and sharing environment.

I developed two solid connections for the future. Will ask someone to sponsor me when I get back from my travels.

80/20 rule.

4 not a 5 only due to the fact there seems to be more people wanting to take what they can than share what they have been given (from the attendees or past attendees, not the leadership).

Yes, all was offered, whether people used the opportunity and tools was up to them. High attrition, but I'm guessing that is normal [for] anything that requires commitment over time, and effort.

Didn't really do that for me.

How did we do on ... supporting the GSB and BDA Intergroup in the growth and development of our DA and BDA outreach and support services (through fundraising, vision set last December for the January through June 2021 cycle was \$7,200 in pre-expense contributions in six months, actual is \$7,315 — Thank you all for your incredible generosity!).

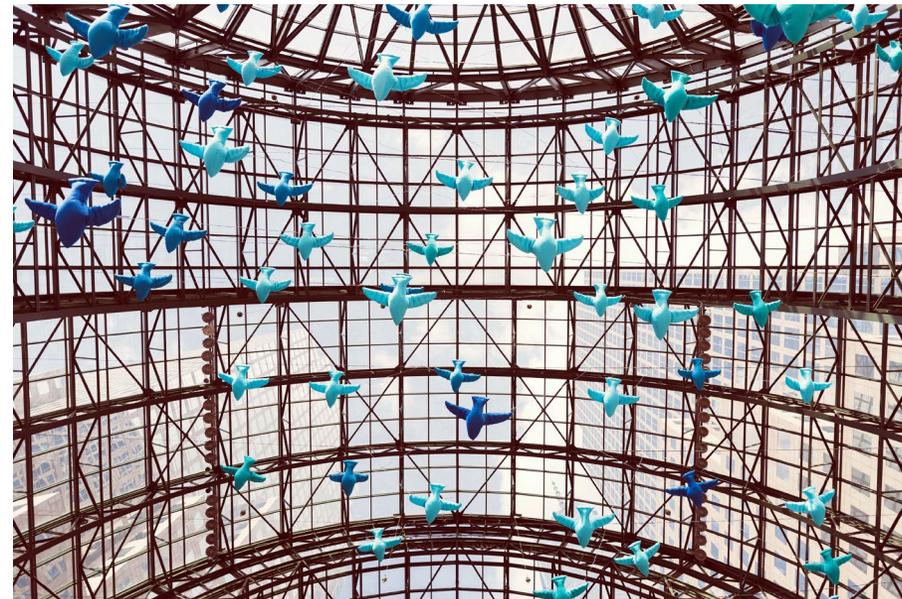
NOTE: Visit <http://www.bdaworkshops.org/fundraising> for treasury reports.

I'm glad money is being raised for awareness and 12-Step work.

This is awesome.

Amazing! Goal achieved!

Cool.



OUR NUMERICAL SCORES FOR PROGRESS IN THE DA AND BDA PROGRAM

Did you make progress on the Steps?

Rating: 4.38 87.6% B

Did you complete the Steps?

Rating: 3.5 70% C-

Did we help prepare you to be a sponsor?

Rating: 4.33 86.6% B

Did we help prepare you to be a trusted servant beyond your group?

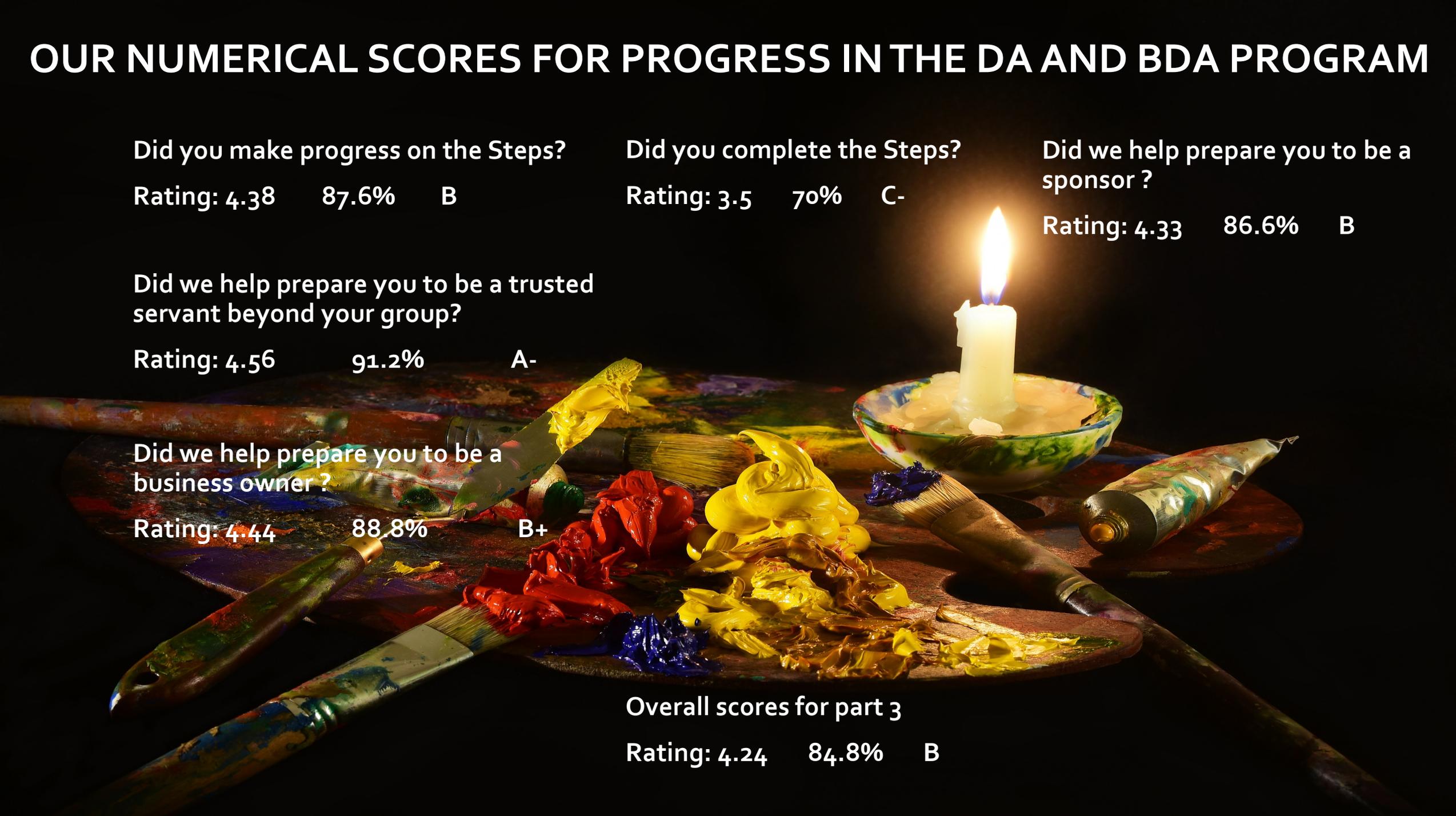
Rating: 4.56 91.2% A-

Did we help prepare you to be a business owner?

Rating: 4.44 88.8% B+

Overall scores for part 3

Rating: 4.24 84.8% B



Did you make progress on the Steps during this BDA Conference?

Yes, I'm in the middle of step 4 with my sponsor and started this workshop on step 2.

3 — I could do better but look forward to pursuing with a sponsor.

3 — [Based] on my focus.

5 — I did. I had done them previously in another cycle, but still continued to deepen my understanding and better implement all of it into my life.

5 — Yes — currently on Step 12 this week.

4 — Yes.



Did you complete the Steps during this BDA Conference?

Almost — Step 12.

Not yet.

Not yet.

No, but I did a pretty deep dive into Step 4.

Yes, I will have.

I stalled out on [Step] 11. I did call in my 10th step every night for two weeks but didn't have a sponsor or sharing partner for the rest.

NOTE: Please visit www.bdaworkshops.org/taking-the-steps. If you want to take the Steps, please ask us to help. We will.



Did this BDA Conference help prepare you to be a sponsor or a more confident sponsor?

Yes.

Yes.

YES

Yes, the well-rounded understanding of the program definitely helps me feel more confident and have more experience to share.

Yes.

Yes.





Did this BDA Conference help prepare you to serve beyond your group or to be a more confident trusted servant?

Yes.

No change. I give a fair amount of service.

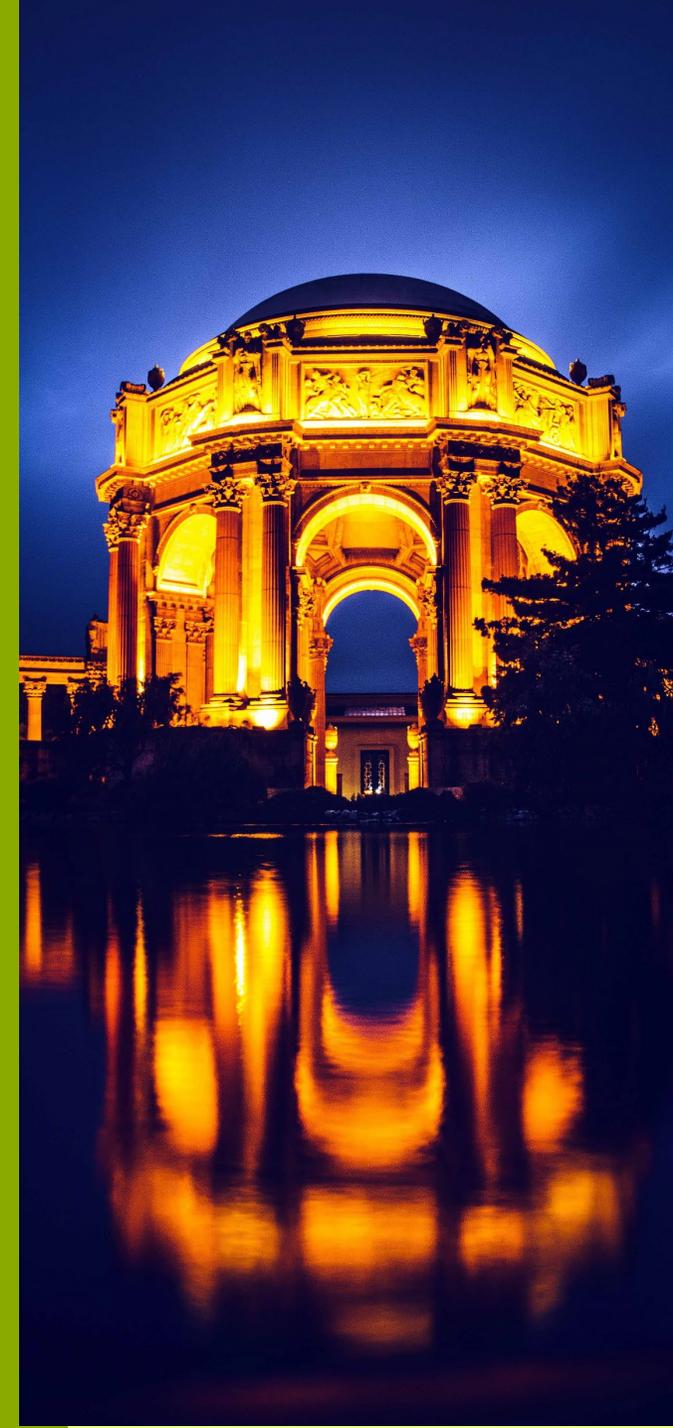
YES

Yes. Extremely helpful to my being of service.

Yes, better understanding the Concepts and Traditions will be helpful.

Yes. It gave me good experiential examples, [including] watching my attitude and behavior in the group and [the attitudes and behaviors] of others.

Yes, learned more about the Concepts and DA GSB.



Did this BDA Conference help prepare you to be a business owner or a more confident business owner?

Yes.

Work needs to be done.

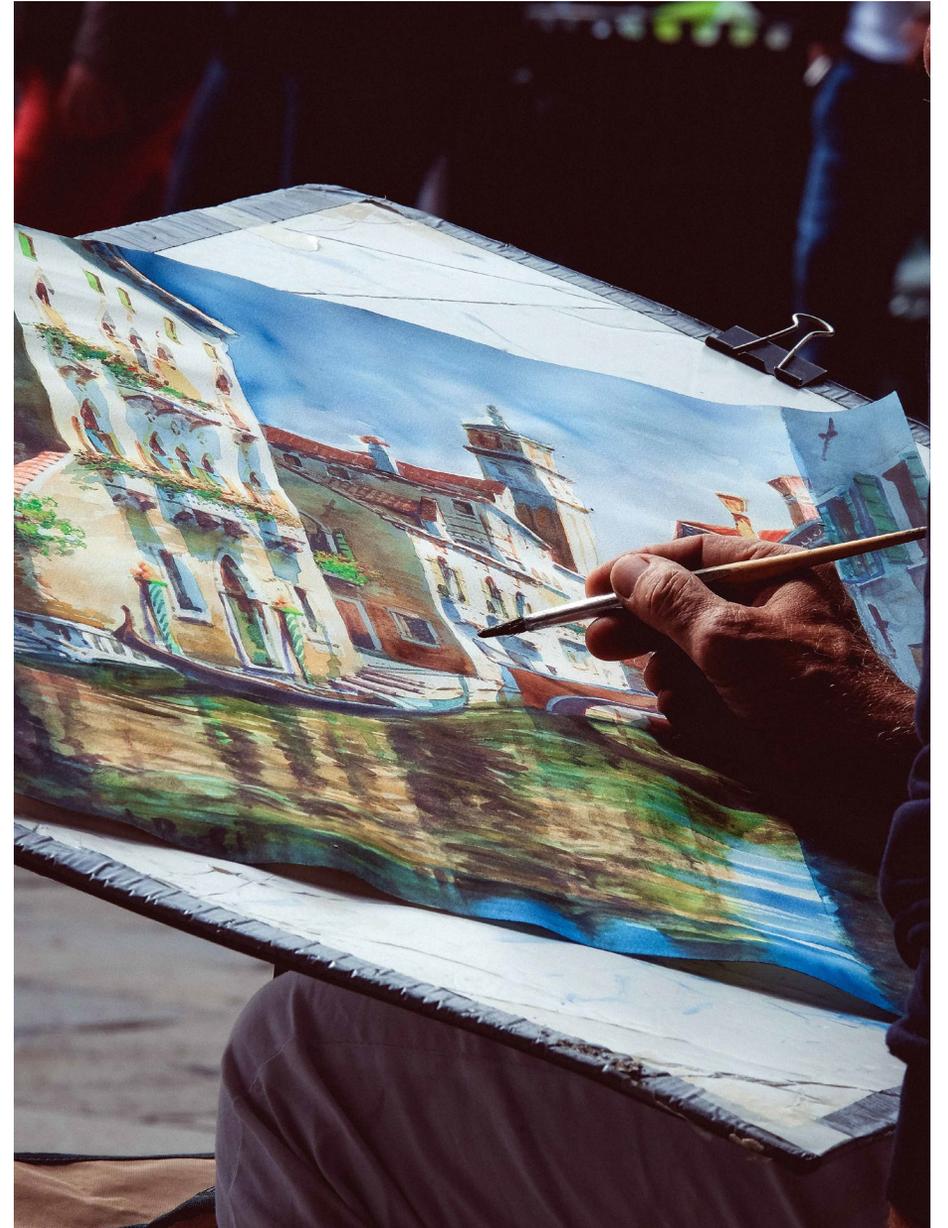
YES

Yes. Taking responsibility.

Yes, though I am not sure when I will get all this incorporated. "Progress not perfection," as they say.

Yes — it showed me what to focus on and what not to. It's slow going, but worth it.

Yes. I have more courage and vision.



If you could wave a magic wand and make three changes to the BDA Conference, what would they be?

Have a time that both USA and UK fellows connect weekly. (NOTE: We provided a second *Weekly Fellowship Drop-in* specifically for this purpose, but it was very sparsely attended.)

Read the promises at every meeting; have short random breakout rooms to have a little more 1:1 time with others (with a directed question).

None.

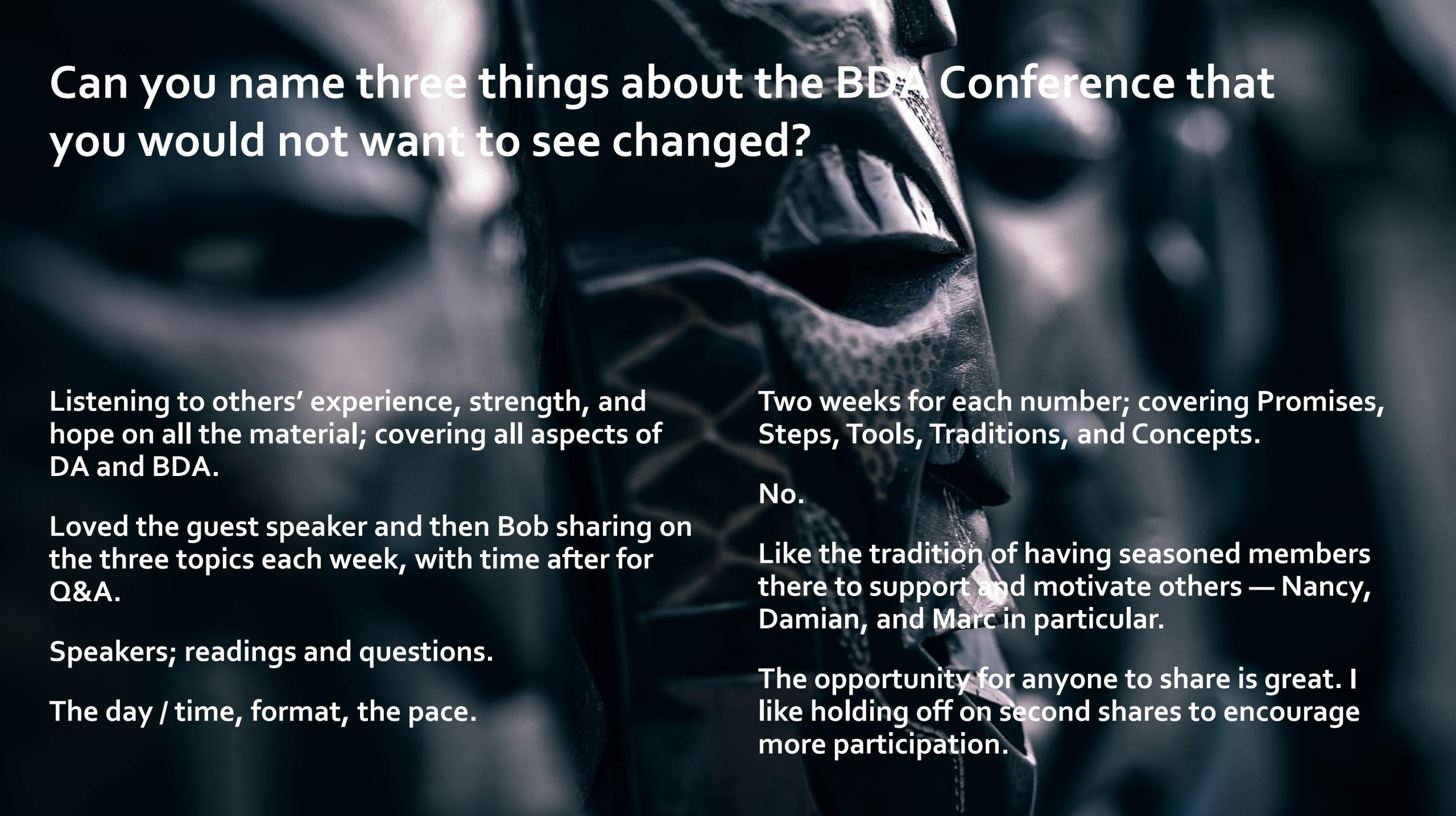
Less editorializing. Bob dominates too much. (NOTE: You say "dominates"; we say "leads." Tom-A-to ... Tom-AH-to ... or, more accurately ... apples and oranges.)

More people stay to recover and finish the workshop; more people get into service during and after [the BDA Conferences].

Make it so everyone shows up, fully committed to do the work and to actively participate each week.

Break in the middle of the session. More similarity between PDF and questions sheets. That's it!

Match people with sharing partners; match people with sponsors; have accountability of the Steps and tools throughout.



Can you name three things about the BDA Conference that you would not want to see changed?

Listening to others' experience, strength, and hope on all the material; covering all aspects of DA and BDA.

Loved the guest speaker and then Bob sharing on the three topics each week, with time after for Q&A.

Speakers; readings and questions.

The day / time, format, the pace.

Two weeks for each number; covering Promises, Steps, Tools, Traditions, and Concepts.

No.

Like the tradition of having seasoned members there to support and motivate others — Nancy, Damian, and Marc in particular.

The opportunity for anyone to share is great. I like holding off on second shares to encourage more participation.

Did we focus enough on DA recovery in business and at work for your needs and wants?

Yes.

Yes!

Yes.

Yes, absolutely. The focus on my business recovery was welcomed and done well.

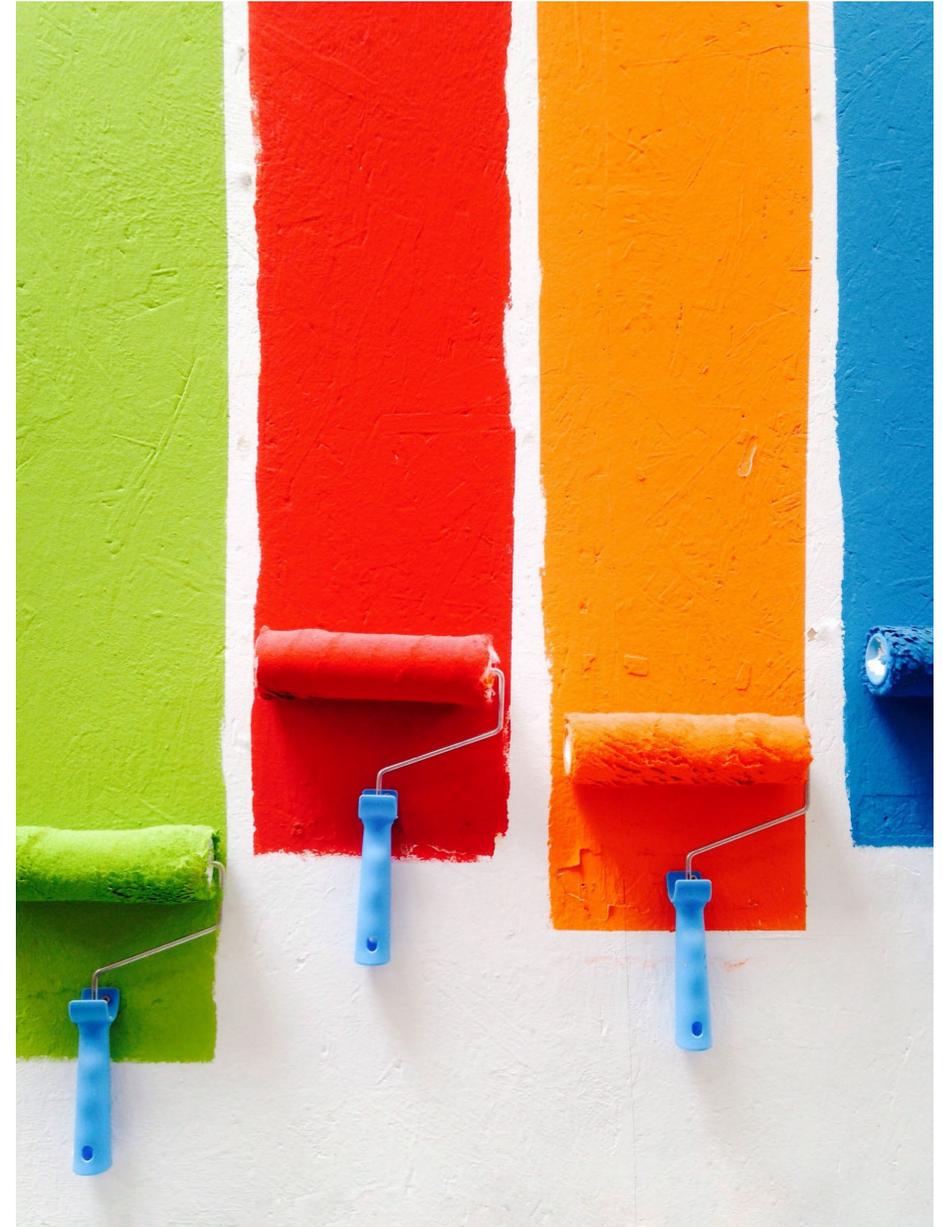
YES.

Yes.

Yes.

Yes.

I think so.



During a previous BDA Conference, we wrote BDA promises together.

Short form of our BDA Promises, submitted to WSC 2020 as an Issue and Concern:

1. We are committed to our recovery from compulsive debting.
2. We are growing spiritually and are unafraid of letting others know about our recovery.
3. We properly fund our personal lives and live within our businesses' means.
4. We are rapidly becoming free of shame.
5. We focus on learning from our experiences and grow to appreciate both positive and negative feedback.
6. We have positive self-esteem.
7. We can identify and define the contributions we make.
8. We see ourselves as equals with everyone we meet through our jobs or businesses.
9. We charge appropriately for our time and services.
10. We are clear about our limits; we set boundaries.
11. We are engaged in work that is fulfilling and rewarding.
12. We know that we are enough.

We have found that it is only through working the Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous that lasting solvency, recovery, and serenity may be obtained for our businesses and ourselves. Until we take all Twelve Steps, these promises for business owners and the other promises of DA will likely remain out of our reach. Please take the Steps and join us in the new life and experience described here.

BDA Solvency Immersion Conference

bdaworkshops.org

www.bdaworkshops.org/about-us

www.bdaworkshops.org/workshop-overview

www.bdaworkshops.org/about-after-party

www.bdaworkshops.org/fundraising

www.bdaworkshops.org/taking-the-steps

www.bdaworkshops.org/contact

Many more pages and resources are available in the registrants-only, password-protected area of our website. Please register and join us!



BDA Solvency Immersion Conference
— Next Cycle Starting Soon —
Saturdays, July through December 2021
Visit bdaworkshops.org for all the details.