

OVERCOMING UNDEREARNING MEETING FORMAT

Thursdays 9pm Eastern Time (515) 739-1423 (408137#)

(By default, the conference is in open conversation mode, which means all participants are unmuted.)

Opening & Serenity Prayer

Good evening, and welcome to the “Overcoming Underearning” phone meeting of Debtor’s Anonymous.

My name is _____, a compulsive debtor, and I’ll be the chairperson tonight.

Would all those who wish to, please join me in a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer.

(Pause)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Thank you. Now please wait a moment while I mute the line.

(Press *5 to mute all participants – participants may unmute themselves.)

This meeting focuses on the DA program and how it relates to underearning. However, it is open to anyone who is trying to recover from compulsive debting. All are welcome.

The Preamble of Debtors Anonymous

Debtors Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from compulsive debting. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt. There are no dues or fees for DA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. DA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stop debting one day at a time and to help other compulsive debtors to stop incurring unsecured debt.

Phone Etiquette

To keep our meeting serene, we ask that you practice the following phone etiquette:

- Please keep your phone muted throughout the meeting unless you are sharing. Pressing *6 mutes and unmutes your phone. After pressing *6 you will hear a recording say, “Muted” or “Unmuted”. If you do not hear the recording indicate your mute status, press *6 again to verify whether you are muted or not.
- Please do not put the phone meeting on hold. If you receive a call on call-waiting, please hang up from the meeting and the other call will ring through. You can call the meeting line back after finishing your other call. We suggest that you press *70 before calling into the meeting to block call-waiting.
- If there is background noise on the line, it is the chairperson’s responsibility to remind people to mute their phones.

Thank you in advance for your courtesy to the other callers on the line.

In order to clear background noise, the person using the host pin can **Press *5** to change the mute settings.

- Mute all participants. Participants can unmute themselves (by pressing *6).
- Mute all participants. (Participants are NOT able to unmute themselves.)
- Unmute all participants. (The conference is in open conversation mode, everyone may be heard.)

Introductions

We will now take a moment for callers to introduce themselves. All those who wish to, may press *6 to un-mute your phone and give your first name and where you are calling from. Also, please let us know if this is your first DA meeting or your first time at this meeting so we might give you a special welcome.

A Word to Newcomers

If you are having problems with money and debt and think you may be a compulsive debtor, you have come to the right place and we can help you. It is suggested that at first you attend at least six meetings over a period of two weeks to have time to identify with the speakers and absorb the DA concepts. If you then decide that DA is for you, after 3 months of participation, you can arrange to have your first Pressure Relief Meeting.

There will be a short Q&A period for newcomers and time to exchange phone numbers immediately after the meeting.

The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous

Would someone like to volunteer to read the 12 Steps of Debtor's Anonymous?

What is Underearning?

Underearning means not generating enough income to take care of our needs without debting. Underearning must be addressed if we are to recover from compulsive debting and live a prosperous life, free of financial crisis.

The Signs of Compulsive Underearning

Would someone like to volunteer to read "Signs of Compulsive Underearning" from the DA "Underearning" pamphlet (starting on page 2)?

Meeting Format Summary

Our meeting rotates through a 4-5 week cycle of topics during a one-month period. The topics are as follows:

- Week #1 is a Speaker Meeting.
- Week #2 we read the following 2 sections from the Underearning Pamphlet:
 - How is Underearning related to debting?
 - How do we know we are underearning?
- Week #3 we read the following 3 sections from the Underearning Pamphlet:
 - How did underearning affect our lives?
 - How can we recover from compulsive underearning?
 - Is it hard to recover from compulsive underearning?
- Week #4 (If it's not the last Thursday of the month) we read the following 2 sections from the Underearning Pamphlet:
 - How does the DA program help?
 - What changes can we look forward to?
- Last Thursday of the Month – General Shares followed by the Business Meeting, which starts at 9:25pm and ends at 9:55pm (participants are timed when speaking, so no one goes over 3 minutes):
 - Read Minutes from last meeting
 - Vacancies (Meeting Chair, Timekeeper, Business Chair, Business Secretary, Intergroup Rep)
 - Old Business
 - New Business

Sharing

The individual shares will be 3 minutes in length to allow everyone a chance to share.

Is our spiritual timekeeper on the line? (If not, ask for a volunteer to be spiritual timekeeper.)

The timekeeper will give a gentle reminder when there is one minute remaining, then state, "Time" when your 3 minutes is up. Please respectfully acknowledge the timekeeper at the "1 minute" and "Time" cues by saying, "thank you" or some other acknowledgment.

Who would like to share first...?

The person using the host pin can **Press *2** at any time to find out How Many Callers are on the Line.

End of Sharing

The time for sharing has ended. Thank you all for sharing. If you did not have the opportunity to share or would like to share more, please feel free to stay on the line for fellowship after the meeting.

Announcements

Does anyone have any announcements for the good of DA?

DAUNDEREARNING-subscribe@yahoogroups.com (hyphen)

Literature

Reading the literature is a useful tool for practicing the program. You may also find it helpful to have copies of the literature we use in order to volunteer to read, or to just follow along.

All literature used at this meeting, may be purchased by going to www.debtorsanonymous.org. Just click on the "Literature" link for the order form.

The website also has the 12 Steps, Traditions, Tools, Promises, Concepts and Preamble in the literature section.

Most of these items are also available if you go to a local face-to-face meeting.

A list of meetings is available on the Debtors anonymous website.

Fellowship and Exchange of Phone Numbers & E-mails

We will have time for fellowship after the meeting. That is a time for newcomers and others to ask any questions. Directly after the meeting, all who wish to may exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses-or provide their contact info to receive calls or emails. ~~You may also provide your e-mail to be added to our Yahoo group list. This is a good way to begin to answer some of the questions you might have about working the DA program.~~

At this time, would all those who wish to get someone's phone number or e-mail address, please press *6 to un-mute your phone and state your name and whose information you would like to receive? I will make a note of the requests and facilitate the exchange of contact information after the close of the meeting.

Seventh Tradition

According to DA's 7th Tradition, *"Every DA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."* This meeting has no formal expenses at this time, but we do wish to contribute to the good of DA, which makes these phone meetings possible.

If you wish to make a donation, we ask that you give to the DA General Service Office at the following address:

Debtors Anonymous
PO Box 920888
Needham, MA 02492-0009

Please note on your check that it is from DA group **#1065**.

We would like to emphasize that dues are not a requirement for DA membership – the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt.

Closing Statement

Our 12th Tradition states, *"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."*

The opinions expressed here today are strictly those of the individuals who gave them. The things you have heard here are spoken in confidence and should be treated as confidential. We do not take outside this meeting what we have heard here. If you'll try to absorb what you have heard, you are bound to gain a better understanding of the way to handle your problems. Talk to each other, reason things out with someone else, but let there be no gossip or criticism of one another, only Love, Understanding and Companionship.

I'd like to thank all those who gave service to the meeting tonight through reading or sharing.
(Mention names of those who read and what they read, if possible...)

And remember, even if you did not speak at all on this meeting, just your presence on the line is a service to the group, so keep coming back!

Serenity Prayer

To help close our meeting, please press *6 on your phone to un-mute yourself and join me in the Serenity Prayer.

(Pause)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Post-Meeting Fellowship

Our formal meeting is now closed. The line will remain open for post-meeting fellowship.

First we will have our phone number and e-mail exchange followed by a 5-minute Q&A for newcomers & others.

I will now call out the names of the people whose contact info has been requested. If your name is called, please un-mute yourself and share your contact info or let us know if you don't prefer to share it at this time. Afterwards, those who would like to share their contact info with the group to receive outreach calls or e-mails, may do so.

(Call out the names one by one...)

(After Requests) Would anyone like to share their contact info with the group to receive outreach calls/e-mails...?

(After Phone/Email Exchange Complete) This is now the time for newcomers and others to ask questions...

(After Q&A) We are now open for fellowship. If you didn't get a chance to share or wanted to share more, now is the time.

The Twelve Steps of Debtors Anonymous

1. We admitted we were powerless over debt - that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.
8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.
9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.
12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to compulsive debtors and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Signs of Compulsive Underearning

In addition to the signs of compulsive debting, underearners exhibit some of the following symptoms.

1. Resenting low pay or a bad job situation, yet not asking for a raise or changing jobs.
2. Feeling inadequate to perform a job well, while secretly feeling superior to others.
3. Believing your salary is not important, yet worrying about money constantly.
4. Feeling too discouraged to apply for a job.
(For instance, thinking, "I won't get it anyway, and if I do, I'll hate it".)
5. Having trouble finding resumes or job notices in piles of bills and unopened mail.
6. Feeling ashamed of your work history and sick with anxiety over job interviews.
7. Stealing from employers because you believe they owe you more money than they pay you.
8. Spending hours daydreaming but not even minutes working towards your dreams.
9. Overcommitting time and energy to volunteer activities.
10. Overworking – spending hours to do a job more perfectly than you are getting paid to do.
11. Being too fearful of failure to get more training or attempt a new career.
12. Believing no one will pay you for anything you enjoy doing.

If you find that many of these symptoms describe you, then you are probably a compulsive underearner.

Tools of Debtors Anonymous

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| 1. Meetings | 7. The Telephone and the Internet |
| 2. Record Maintenance | 8. D.A. and A.A. Literature |
| 3. Sponsorship | 9. Awareness |
| 4. Pressure Relief Groups and Pressure Relief Meetings | 10. Business Meetings |
| 5. Spending Plan | 11. Service |
| 6. Action Plan | 12. Anonymity |