



Draft Bylaws of Depressed Anonymous International

Approved by Board of Trustees on 12 June 2025
To be ratified by DA groups

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Article I. TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS

Depressed Anonymous (DA): A worldwide fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so they may recover from depression and to help others to also recover from depression.

DA Fellowship: See Depressed Anonymous.

Depressed Anonymous International (DAI): A fellowship which serves Depressed Anonymous by handling the financial, legal, and administrative needs of the Fellowship.

DA Member: Per Tradition 3, any person who has a desire to stop saddening themselves and identifies as a member of DA, is a member of DA.

DA Board of Trustees: A committee of trusted servants who have responsibility for DAI administration and serve as stewards of the DA Fellowship as a whole. They are directly responsible to those they serve.

Trustees: Members of the Board of Trustees shall be referred to as Trustees.

International Service Center (ISC): The primary place of business operations for DA. The special workers there are responsible for carrying out the office work necessary to support DAI and the fellowship.

DA Group: Any group of two or more DA Members that meets regularly to share their recovery through following DA's Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Helpful Concepts and other DAI literature.

Registered DA Group: A DA Group which is currently registered with DAI.

Intergroup: A service committee established by two or more DA Groups to coordinate shared tasks in support of their common DA purpose.

Membership Business Meeting: A gathering of Delegates and Trustees who discuss and vote on matters affecting DA as a whole.

Article II. ORGANIZATION NAME

The Fellowship which these bylaws define shall be known as Depressed Anonymous International.

Article III. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

Section 1. Nonprofit Purpose.

DAI is a public benefit Fellowship organized exclusively for charitable, spiritual, educational, or scientific purposes, and not for the private gain of any person or group.

Section 2. Specific Purpose.

The purpose of DAI shall be to:

1. Support DA in its mission to aid persons who suffer from depression by offering them a twelve-step program of recovery.
2. Assist DA Groups and individuals in any area of the world who follow the DA program.
3. Provide DA program information as requested.
4. Publish approved DA literature.
5. Conduct international affairs in support of DA.
6. To administer and execute the program of recovery for those affected with depression. We work with the depressed persons who have desire to stop saddening themselves and support their efforts to recover.
7. To be a leader in removing the stigma of mental illness from persons depressed. We serve as advocates to end discrimination of all persons with depression.

8. To serve as liaison with health care professionals, both serving in the medical and the mental health fields, providing information for new seeking group support, for depression around the world.
9. To serve as a source of information, on how an individual can use the tools to protect themselves from their relapse.
10. Depressed Anonymous attempts to fill an enormous void in the current medical health system to provide free group support for persons depressed, with far too many people having little or no medical or mental health coverage. For many it is simply not adequate or affordable presently those who are hospitalized for depression, one third of them will experience relapse within six months to a year. Depressed Anonymous has a proven track record of success for those who practice, on an ongoing basis, our principles of recovery. Our Fellowship operates on a daily basis, bringing the depressed together at in-person and online meetings, where they can share their experience, strength, and hope with the intentional depressed anonymous community. DA has no dues or fees and welcomes all who want to quit saddening themselves. Our community is a safe haven where can come and share their experiences with others while always remaining anonymous.
11. We believe that our fellowship is unique in helping persons to understand the nature of depression and how it adversely affects their lives. Depressed Anonymous actively promotes the forming of mutual help circles of hope for the depressed. We continue to offer information on how to gain the use of tools for overcoming depression. Through electronic devices and the Internet, our online zoom communities have been forming throughout the United States and internationally. Depressed Anonymous online meetings are available on a daily basis. Persons depressed from every continent on earth visit our Depressed Anonymous website at [DepressedAnonymous.org](https://www.DepressedAnonymous.org). Our fellowship is similar to every other fellowship that uses the 12 steps of recovery. Our members learn that they have the choice to either stay depressed or take responsibility for themselves, gradually finding freedom to live with peace and with the daily plan to stay undepressed.
12. Encourage the development of Intergroup's or similar structures to support the mission of DA around the world
13. DAI endorses the concept of World Service Meetings to be held at intervals as determined by the DA Board of Trustees.

Article IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Section 1. The Guiding Principles.

The fellowship of DA is based on the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, the Helpful Concepts of the DA program, and the Twelve Administrative Concepts for Depressed Anonymous.

Section 2. The Twelve Steps of Depressed Anonymous:

1. We admitted we were powerless over depression, 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 and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

(Permission to use the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Section 3. The Twelve Traditions of Depressed Anonymous:

1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on DA unity.
2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority: a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

3. The only requirement for DA membership is a desire to quit saddening themselves.
4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or DA as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose: to carry its message to the person who still suffers from depression.
6. A DA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the DA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
7. Every DA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
8. Depressed Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
9. DA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
10. Depressed Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence, the DA name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
11. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and film.
12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

(Permission to use the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous for adaptation granted by A.A. World Services, Inc.)

Section 4. Helpful Concepts of the DA Program:

1. We come to DA to learn how to live a new way of life through the twelve-step program of Depressed Anonymous which consists of Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, concepts, the Serenity Prayer, slogans, DA literature, weekly meetings, telephone and personal contacts, and living the program one day at a time. We do not come for another person - we come to help ourselves and to share our experience, strength, and hope with others.
2. We are experts only on our own stories, how we try to live the program, how the program works for us, and what DA has done for us. No one speaks for Depressed Anonymous as a whole.
3. We respect anonymity—no questions are asked. We aim for an atmosphere of love and acceptance. We do not care who you are or what you have done. You are welcome.

4. We do not judge—we do not criticize—we do not argue. We do not give advice regarding personal or family affairs.
5. DA is not a sounding board for continually reviewing our miseries, but a way to learn to detach ourselves from them. Part of our serenity comes from being able to live at peace with unsolved problems.
6. We never discuss religion, politics, national or international issues, or other belief systems or policies. DA has no opinion on outside issues.
7. Depressed Anonymous is a spiritual program, not a religious program. We do not advocate any particular belief system.
8. The steps suggest a belief in a Power greater than ourselves. This can be human love, a force for good, the group, nature, the universe, God, or any entity a member chooses as a personal Higher Power.
9. We utilize the program - we do not analyze it. Understanding comes with experience. Each day we apply some part of the program to our personal lives.
10. We have not found it helpful to place labels on any degree of illness or health. We may have different symptoms, but the underlying emotions are the same or similar. We discover we are not unique in our difficulties and illnesses.
11. Each person is entitled to his or her own opinions and may express them at a meeting within the guidelines of DA. We are all equal—no one is more important than another.
12. Part of the beauty and wonder of the DA program is that at meetings we can say anything and know it stays there. Anything we hear at a meeting, on the telephone, or from another member is confidential and is not to be repeated to anyone—DA members, mates, families, relatives or friends.

Section 5. The Twelve Administrative Concepts for Depressed Anonymous:

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for Depressed Anonymous International (DAI) shall always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Depressed Anonymous (DA) Fellowship.
2. The DA Membership Business Meeting shall be, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Fellowship in its world affairs.

3. To ensure effective leadership, we should endow each element of DA—including the DA Membership Business Meeting, the DA Board of Trustees, the International Service Center (ISC), its staff, committees, and executives—with a traditional “Right of Decision.” This means that each trusted servant has the ability to decide how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises, which problems they will dispose of themselves, and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions.
4. Throughout our Fellowship, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and grievances receive careful consideration. This permits any person in the Fellowship, whether paid or volunteer, to petition for redress of a grievance by appealing directly to the Board of Trustees, without prejudice or fear of reprisal.
5. The Fellowship recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most DAI matters should be exercised by the DA Board of Trustees as guided by the DA Membership Business Meeting.
6. The Bylaws of DAI are a legal instrument, empowering the Trustees to manage and conduct DAI affairs world-wide.
7. The Trustees are planners and administrators of DAI policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of active services.
8. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary DAI leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees.
9. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.
10. DAI should always have the best possible Trustees, committees, service directors, executives, staff, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

11. All levels of DA organization shall observe the spirit of DA Traditions, taking care that they never become the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be their prudent financial principle; that they place none of their members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that they reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that their actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that they never perform acts of government; that, like the Fellowship they serve, they will always remain democratic in thought and action.
12. All levels of DA organization shall observe the spirit of DA Traditions, taking care that they never become the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be their prudent financial principle; that they place none of their members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that they reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that their actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that they never perform acts of government; that, like the Fellowship they serve, they will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Article V. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Requirement for Membership.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop saddening yourself.

Section 2. Registered Groups.

1. DAI shall maintain a list of Registered DA Groups.
2. DAI shall maintain a directory which allows the public to search for local and online meetings.
3. In order to be eligible to be a Registered DA Group, a DA Group must hold regular meetings, at least monthly. Meetings may take place in-person or virtually via teleconference or phone, where members can be seen or heard in real-time. A text-only group, conducted through means such as email, instant message, or online message board, is not eligible to be a Registered Group, but may be included in the online directory.

4. Each DA Group that wishes to become registered must elect or choose one or more Contact Person(s) who agrees to inform the ISC of any meeting information changes. These persons are the main point of communication between DAI and the Registered DA Group, relaying information or requests to or from their group.
5. To register, a DA Group Contact Person must provide DA International with contact and meeting information.
6. DAI may remove information for Registered Groups which are no longer active. DAI may remove information for any Registered Group which does not meet the definition of an DA Group set forth in these Bylaws, as determined by a majority vote of all current Trustees. No Registered Group shall be delisted without notice and an opportunity to be heard.

Section 3. Appeals.

Each DA Member and Registered DA Group has a right to appeal any decision made by the Board of Trustees.

Section 4. Appeals Process.

Procedures for appeal are as follows:

1. Must be submitted in writing to the current President of the Board of Trustees.
2. Must include contact information for the member(s) or group(s) making the appeal.
3. Working with the member(s) or group(s) making the appeal, the Board of Trustees will address the appeal in a timely manner.
4. If the member(s) or group(s) making the appeal are not satisfied with an appeal outcome, they may place their appeal issue onto a Membership Business Meeting agenda by following the process described in Article VI.

Article VI. DA MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING

Section 1. The Membership Business Meeting.

1. A Membership Business Meeting shall take place at least once annually, organized by the Board of Trustees or Membership.
2. At least annually, the Board of Trustees shall give a report to the Membership Business Meeting on the activities and financial condition of DAI.

3. The Board of Trustees shall notify the Fellowship of a Membership Business Meeting at least forty-five (45) days in advance via Registered Group contacts and by notification on the DA website.
4. A Membership Business Meeting may have a physical location, but accommodations shall be made to ensure that participants may also attend virtually via teleconference.
5. The Delegates at a Membership Business Meeting may not vote without a quorum. A valid quorum consists of one more Delegate than the total number of Trustees. To make a quorum, Delegates may be present physically or virtually via live teleconference.
6. A Membership Business Meeting may be called by the Board of Trustee OR by a minimum of fifty (50) DA members OR by ten percent (10%) of the Group Delegates.

Section 2. Delegates to the Membership Business Meeting.

1. One Delegate is selected by each Registered DA Group to represent them at the Membership Business Meeting.
2. Each Delegate is allowed one vote either for or against each action item at a Membership Business Meeting.
3. No Delegate may represent more than one Registered Group.
4. Each Registered DA Group must provide DAI with the name of its Delegate at least seven (7) days before the Membership Business Meeting.
5. Each Registered Group may also designate an Alternate Delegate.
6. No proxy votes are allowed.

Section 3. Trustee votes.

1. Each member of the Board of Trustees is allowed one vote per action item at a Membership Business Meeting.
2. A member of the Board of Trustees may not also vote as a Delegate.

Section 4. Agenda.

1. The Board of Trustees sets agenda items for a Membership Business Meeting.
2. Additional agenda items must be proposed by at least two (2) Registered DA Groups for inclusion in the Membership Business Meeting. Proposed agenda items must be submitted by the Groups' Delegates to the DAI Board of Trustees at least sixty (60) days in advance of the Membership Business Meeting.

3. The Board of Trustees shall inform the Fellowship of the Membership Business Meeting agenda, along with any action items submitted for a vote, at least thirty (30) days before the Membership Business Meeting. This allows sufficient time for group members to discuss action items, and provide guidance to their Delegate before the vote.

Section 5. Remote Voting.

1. Whenever there is insufficient attendance at a Membership Business Meeting to make a quorum, all action items which would normally appear at the Membership Business Meeting shall be submitted to a remote vote of all Group Delegates and Trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees shall notify all Registered Groups and Trustees within ten (10) days after the Membership Business Meeting that a quorum was not present, and give notice of the action items requiring a remote vote and the voting deadline.
3. Group Delegates and Trustees shall have up to four (4) weeks after such notice is given to lodge their votes on each action item with DAI.
4. At the conclusion of the remote voting period, all valid votes shall be tallied. Each action item shall be decided by a simple majority of votes received, unless a greater majority is required by other provisions of these Bylaws.
5. DAI shall notify all Registered Groups and Trustees of the results within ten (10) days after the conclusion of the remote voting period.

Article VII. ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Board of Trustees.

1. **Responsibilities.** The Board of Trustees is responsible for effecting the organizational purpose set forth in Article III of these Bylaws by: (a) overseeing the financial, legal, and administrative affairs of DAI worldwide; and (b) serving as stewards of the DA Fellowship as a whole.
2. **Authority.** The Board of Trustees shall have all necessary powers to carry out their responsibilities as guided by: (a) the DA principles set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws; and (b) the conscience of the DA Fellowship.
3. **Number.** The total number of Trustees serving on the Board of Trustees shall consist of no fewer than three (3) nor more than twelve (12). Non-Member Trustees shall not exceed two (2) Trustees at any time. The number of Member Trustees shall always exceed the number of Non-Member Trustees.

4. **Member Trustee Qualifications.** Member Trustees shall: (a) have a minimum of two (2) years' participation in one or more twelve-step programs, with at least the most recent year in DA; (b) regularly attend one or more DA group meetings; (c) practice the DA program in their daily lives; (d) have an understanding of and experience with DA's group conscience process, and (e) experienced working each of the 12 Steps.
5. **Non-Member Trustee Qualifications.** Non-Member Trustees shall: (a) possess one or more identifiable skill, talent, knowledge, background, or experience which will help DAI achieve its goals; (b) demonstrate their awareness of and willingness to be guided by the DA principles set forth in Article IV of these Bylaws; and (c) have an understanding of DA's group conscience process.
6. **Restriction.** No two Trustees related by blood, marriage, or domestic partnership within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity may serve on the Board of Trustees at the same time.
7. **Application.** Candidates to become Trustees shall apply in writing to the Board of Trustees.
8. **Election by Trustees.** The Board of Trustees shall review each application with appropriate due diligence before voting to accept or deny it. A majority vote of all current Trustees is required to elect a new Trustee.
9. **Confirmation by Membership.** The election of a new Trustee by the Board of Trustees is provisional until confirmed at the next Membership Business Meeting. The Membership Business Meeting shall hold a vote on the confirmation of the provisional Trustee. The provisional Trustee may be confirmed by a simple majority using the procedures outlined in Article VI of these Bylaws. Provisional Trustees may not vote in their own confirmation.
10. **Alternate Trustees.** Either the Board of Trustees or the Delegates at a Membership Business Meeting may elect Alternate Trustees to fill future vacancies with unexpired terms on the Board of Trustees, using the procedures for election of Trustees set forth in this Section. Each body may elect up to three (3) Alternate Trustees to serve for a term of one (1) year, and shall designate the order in which their Alternate Trustees would fill such vacancies for the remaining unexpired term.
11. **Terms of Office.** Trustees may serve up to two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms. To the extent possible, Trustees' terms should be staggered so that approximately one-third (1/3) shall expire each calendar year.

12. **Renewal.** Upon a Trustee's request, the Board of Trustees may, by a simple majority of all current Trustees, vote to renew that Trustee for another consecutive term. However no Trustee may serve more than six (6) consecutive years. Trustees who have served the maximum term must wait at least one (1) year before again serving as a Trustee.
13. **Vacancies.** Vacancies with unexpired terms shall be filled whenever possible by Alternate Trustees in the order designated under Section 7.1.10, alternating between those elected by the Trustees and the Membership. If no Alternate Trustee is available, able, or willing to serve as a Trustee for the remaining unexpired term, the Board of Trustees may fill such vacancies by a majority vote of all current Trustees, subject to confirmation at the next Membership Business Meeting, as set forth in Section 7.1.9.
14. **Meetings.** The Board of Trustees shall meet in person or virtually, or some combination thereof, at least twice each calendar year. Attendance at a Membership Business Meeting shall not count toward this requirement.
15. **Quorum.** A quorum to conduct business at a meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be half (50%) of the current Trustees plus one additional Trustee. Except in genuine emergencies, the Board of Trustees may not vote without a quorum.
16. **Voting.** Each Trustee shall have one (1) vote on all matters before the Board of Trustees. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each matter shall be decided by a simple majority of those Trustees present for the vote, unless a greater majority is required by other provisions of these Bylaws.
17. **Actions without a Meeting.** Any action which may be taken at a Board of Trustees meeting may be taken without a meeting using electronic communication technology so long as every Trustee is provided advance notice, possesses the means to participate, and has a reasonable opportunity to participate, including proposing, discussing, objecting, and voting on any such action. Unless exigent circumstances require a shorter period, Trustees shall have seven (7) days to vote on such an action once the chair shall call for the final vote. All such actions must be ratified in the next Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

18. **Removal.** A Trustee may be removed at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of either (a) all current Trustees or (b) the Membership Business Meeting, if in the judgment of either body the best interests of DAI or the DA Fellowship would be served thereby. A Trustee whose removal is sought must receive written notice of the proposed removal at least ten (10) days in advance of the vote and be given a reasonable opportunity to present a defense or justification to the voting body before the removal vote is taken.
19. **Liability & Indemnification.** To the extent authorized by law, Trustees shall be personally immune from civil liability for actions taken or omissions made in good faith within the scope of their duties as Trustees. DAI shall indemnify Trustees or former Trustees against expenses actually and necessarily incurred to defend against any action, suit, proceeding, or appeal by reason of their service as Trustees. DAI shall purchase and maintain insurance to effect such indemnification.
20. **Compensation.** Trustees shall not receive any compensation for their service as a Trustee, but may be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred by reason of their service as Trustees.

Section 2. Officers of the Board of Trustees.

1. The officers shall be: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
2. The term of office shall be one (1) year unless vacated sooner. Vacancies shall be filled at the next Trustees' meeting.
3. After Trustees have been elected, the Board shall elect its Officers from among its own members. A majority vote of all current Trustees is required to elect an Officer.
4. A person may hold no more than one office concurrently.
5. **President.** The President shall supervise all of the day-to-day business affairs of DAI, as mandated by the laws governing Kentucky Not for Profit Organizations. In consultation with the Board of Trustees ("the Board"), the President may sign any legal document which the Trustees have been authorized to execute. The President serves as the chairperson for Board of Trustees meetings and Membership Business Meetings, unless they choose to delegate this duty to the Vice President, or other Trustee. The President or the Board may also designate a Non-Trustee Presider, as laid out in these Bylaws. The President shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Board.

6. Vice President. In the event the President is absent or unable to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President. When so acting, the Vice President shall have all the powers of the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as assigned by the President or the Board.
7. Secretary. The Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Trustees and Membership Business Meetings. They are responsible for ensuring good communication and transparency between the Board and the Fellowship. The Secretary shall perform other duties as assigned by the President or the Board.
8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for general financial oversight, budgeting, and reporting for DAI. They will work with staff and outside auditors to ensure timely, accurate record-keeping and compliance with government regulations. They will regularly report DAI's financial condition to the Membership and Board of Trustees. They will offer guidance for responsible fiscal planning and decision-making. The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee, and perform other duties as assigned by the President or the Board.
9. Written approval by the President or Vice President will be required for checks, money transfers, or purchase or sales of investments exceeding ten percent (10%) of DAI's annual budget.
10. Removal of Officers. An officer may be removed from office when, in the Board's judgment, the officer is not serving the Fellowship's or DAI's best interests. Removal from office requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all Trustees present and voting at a meeting of the Board.
11. Non-Trustee Presider. A majority of Trustees voting at a meeting may elect a Non-Trustee Presider to serve as the chairperson of that meeting. The Non-Trustee Presider need not be a member of DA. The Non-Trustee Presider may not make motions, debate, or vote in matters before the Board.

Section 3. Committees.

1. Formation. The Board may form standing or ad hoc committees to conduct the business of DAI in keeping with these Bylaws.

Section 4. Staff.

1. The Board of Trustees may hire an Executive Director to manage the day-to-day operations of DAI and the ISC consistent with the goals and policies established by the Board. The Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees.

2. The Executive Director's duties shall include, but not be limited to: (a) responsibility for DAI receipts and expenditures of funds under the direction of the Treasurer, consistent with DAI's approved budget and standard accounting practices; (b) authority to hire, supervise, and dismiss additional DAI staff, contractors, consultants, and volunteers to accomplish DAI's goals; (c) attending all Board and assigned Committee meetings to report on the status of the organization and to answer Trustees' questions; and, (d) other duties as assigned by the Board.

Section 5. Parliamentary Authority.

Any question concerning parliamentary procedure at meetings governed by these bylaws shall be determined by the presider according to Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendment Proposals.

The DA Board of Trustees and DA Registered Groups may submit proposed amendments to these bylaws using the procedures outlined in Section 6.4.

Section 2. Notification.

The Board shall notify the Fellowship of the language and any rationale submitted by the authors of the proposed amendment as set forth in Section 6.4.

Section 3. Approval.

A proposed amendment may be approved by a three-fifths (3/5) majority of votes using the procedures outlined in Article VI.

Section 4. Amendments to the Guiding Principles.

However, Article IV, "Guiding Principles", may only be amended when ratified by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of votes using the procedures in Article VI. To amend the voting thresholds in this section (8.4) will likewise require a three-fourths (3/4) majority of votes using the procedures in Article VI.

Section 5. Effective Date of Amendments.

Amendments become effective immediately upon approval by the Membership Business Meeting, unless otherwise provided.

Section 6. Emergency Amendments.

In cases of natural disaster or legal emergency, the Board of Trustees may enact a provisional amendment to these Bylaws with a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote. The provisional amendment shall expire at the conclusion of the next Membership Business Meeting, unless ratified by the Membership Business Meeting using the procedures outlined above.

Article IX. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Trustees shall exercise their authority for the good of the Fellowship, DAI, and all Members, but not for personal benefit.

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