

Absentee Ballot Louisville, KY May 20-21, 2010

Trustee:

Area:

Signature: _____

••• **Matt H. - Area 16**

For Against Abstain

1 Rules and Procedures - #26 Appointment of Parliamentarian for Interpretation

Current version: The Chairman of the Board of Trustees will appoint a member of Gamblers Anonymous as the Parliamentarian at the start of the Trustee meeting to aid the Chairs with the interpretation and application of Robert's Rules as well as the Trustee Rules and Procedures during the Trustee meeting.

Proposed Version: The Chairperson of the Board of Trustees may, at his or her discretion, appoint a member of Gamblers Anonymous as the Parliamentarian at any time during the Trustee meeting to aid the Chairs with the interpretation and application of Robert's Rules and the Trustee Rules and Procedures Manual during the Trustee meeting. The Parliamentarian acts in an advisory capacity only and the final decision lies with the presiding Chair. The Parliamentarian must maintain impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote.

••• **Richie S. - Area 6**

For Against Abstain

2 Rules and Procedures Manual.

REMOVE section #26 - Appointment of Parliamentarian for Interpretation

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees will appoint a member of Gamblers Anonymous as the Parliamentarian at the start of each Trustee meeting to aid the Chairs with the interpretation and application of Robert's Rules as well as the Trustee Rules and Procedures during the Trustee meeting.

••• **Bill S. - Area 3B**

For Against Abstain

3 Rules and Procedures - Literature Approval Process

Add item 9 to existing literature approval process

Any item submitted to the Literature Committee must be in an editable format (i.e. Word) including documents, CD's, etc. Please check with the Literature Committee Chairperson prior to submission to be determined that your document meets the required format.

••• **Marshall R. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

4 Reinstate Good and Welfare

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For Against Abstain

5 Rules and Procedures

To call any non-physical meeting of the Board of Trustees a "Quick Response Meeting", by removing "BOT Rules and Procedure item # 16, "Mail Meetings" and revising Item #24 "Quick Response Meetings" as per the attachment.

See Louisville attachment - #05

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For Against Abstain

6 Change Board of Trustees Rules and Procedures, # 24 Quick Response Meetings, bullet for "Submitting Ballots".

Present version:

24. Quick Response Meetings

- Submitting Ballots

All responses should be sent to the ISO in a clearly marked envelope.

Proposed version:

24. Quick Response Meetings

- Submitting Ballots

All responses sent by regular mail must be signed by the Trustee and sent to the ISO in an envelope clearly marked according to the instructions on the ballot. Original ballots signed by the Trustee, scanned and Emailed or Faxed to the I.E.S. at the I.S.O. will also be allowed. All Ballots must be received by the 15-day response deadline.

••• **Richie S. - Area 6**

For Against Abstain

7 To Add: The Chairman of the BOT will hold an Orientation Meeting with the newly elected Trustees, or returning Trustees prior to the Fall, even-year, Trustee Meeting. Time and place will be up to the Chairman of the BOT.

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

8 Rules and Procedures - Tabling

Add: 'without a motion pending' to the middle of the 1st sentence.

Current version: Any agenda item that is tabled over 2 successive Trustee meetings will not be automatically placed on the next agenda. If so desired, it must be resubmitted as a new agenda item.

Proposed version: Any agenda item that is tabled over 2 successive Trustee meetings, without a motion pending, will not be automatically placed on the next agenda. If so desired, it must be resubmitted as a new agenda item.

••• **Denis M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

9 Rules and Procedures - Head Table

Upon election, the Chairman, 1st and 2nd Co-Chairman and the I.E.S. shall have the same rights as current Trustees with regard to speaking on agenda items and raising a point of order or information.

•••

For Against Abstain

10 Election of the Board of Regents

••• **Linda S. - Area 3A**

For Against Abstain

11 A pamphlet containing Trustee Responsibilities and Guidelines gathered from many GA- approved and GA-appropriate sources to be presented to new Trustees by ISO upon election. This tool may also be available for current Trustees and those who think they might want to run for Trustee to review what the Trustee responsibilities and guidelines are (for sale by ISO).

Passed merit vote in Montreal

See Louisville attachment - #11

••• **Joe B. - Area 6C**

For Against Abstain

- 12 Approve as new literature, making up 6 separate cards, to be sold by ISO, like the current, 'Let it Stay Here' Card (4" X 7-1/2"- Doubled Sided Heavy Stock) with Slogans of the Program, these will be sold as a kit and the price set by ISO. They can then be displayed by the room, during the meetings.

Below are the 6 separate Slogans:

1. One Day At A Time
Keep Coming Back
2. Let It Begin With Me
3. I Can Only Change Myself
4. It Works If You Work It
5. Help Is As Near As My Phone
6. Work The Steps

Passed merit vote in Montreal

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For Against Abstain

- 13 Approve the 50 year history book written for the 2007 50th Anniversary Conference as approved G.A. literature.

Passed merit vote in Kansas City

See Louisville attachment - #13

••• **Ralph D. - Area 6A**

For Against Abstain

- 14 Introduction to the 'Twelve Steps of Recovery' CD

Passed merit vote in a previous Trustees meeting

See Louisville attachment - #14

••• **Mary-Lou L. - Area 11**

For Against Abstain

- 15 Towards 90 days, page 11, 1st paragraph

CURRENT VERSION: Now we must fill this void. Each member should try to find a way, which suits him or her best, but it is essential that they do find a way. Some take up long forgotten hobbies. Some return to sports they once had an interest in. Some resume education (this is something that can be done at any age).

NEW VERSION: Now we must fill this void. Each member should try to find a way which suits him or her best, but it is essential that they do find a way. Many members attend more than one meeting per week. Some take up long forgotten hobbies. Some return to sports they once had an interest in. Some resume education (this is something that can be done at any age).

Passed 1st Vote in Montreal

••• **Larry B. for Angelo M. - Area 15**

For Against Abstain

- 16 COMBO BOOK, PAGE 10 - #3 IMMATURITY - SENTENCE 1

Current Version: A desire to have all the good things in life without any great effort on their part seems the common character pattern of problem gamblers.

Proposed Version: A desire to have all the good things in life without any great effort on their part seems the common character pattern of compulsive gamblers.

Passed 1st Vote in Montreal

••• **Larry B. for Angelo M. - Area 15**

For

Against

Abstain

17 COMBO BOOK, PAGE 13 - SECOND LINE

Current Version: When it comes to gambling, we have known many problem gamblers who could abstain for long stretches, but caught off guard and under the right set of circumstances, they started gambling without thought of the consequences.

Proposed Version: When it comes to gambling, we have known many compulsive gamblers who could abstain for long stretches, but caught off guard and under the right set of circumstances, they started gambling without thought of the consequences.

Passed 1st Vote in Montreal

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

18 Guidance Code, Article VIII, Section 25

Change 'the identical' to 'any similar'.

Current version: Upon the defeat of a motion, the identical motion may not be brought up for a vote for a period of two (2) years.

Proposed version: Upon the defeat of a motion, any similar motion may not be brought up for a vote for a period of two (2) years.

Passed 1st Vote 89-18 in Montreal

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

19 Group Handbook - Insert new section after 'Establishing a GA Group' on page 6

Compiling a Written Room Format

See Louisville attachment #19

Passed 1st Vote in Montreal changing 'personality' to 'personalities'

••• **Lou W. - Area 3B**

For

Against

Abstain

20 Make the following changes to the Pressure Relief Spreadsheet on CD

1. Add a "cell" to the Member Info Sheet for the telephone number of the Member.
2. Add a formula in the Children's Activity and Clothing List sheets to convert a yearly amount [entered by the Member] to a monthly amount to be carried forward to the Expense sheet.
3. Revise the List of Creditors sheet so that the "present balance" column amounts are not automatically used in their entirety to compute the pro rata amount for repayment within the Repayment sheet - rather the List of Creditors sheet allows for choices to be made by the PR Committee as to which debts will be paid initially and those debts are then automatically used to compute the pro rata amount for repayment within the Repayment sheet - then repeat the process for the remaining debts.

See Louisville attachment #20

Passed 1st Vote in Montreal

••• **Andy R. - Area 13B**

For

Against

Abstain

21 Approve Step 1 Workbook

See Louisville attachment #21

Passed 1st Vote in Kansas City

... **Lucio L. - Area 25**

For Against Abstain

- 22 GA Italia requests a financial support of \$1,200.00 (twelve hundred) to help covering the cost of the translation into Italian of the three books: "Sharing Recovery Through Gamblers Anonymous", "A New Beginning" and "A Day At The Time" and of the booklets: "The Pressure Relief Group Meeting Handbook", "Gamblers Anonymous Pressure Relief Group Meeting Pamphlet and Financial Forms", "Hosting an International Conference", "Working the Steps Pamphlet" and "The First Forty Years".

Motion pending

... **Andy R. - Area 13B**

For Against Abstain

- 23 Discussion: Live video conferencing of the trustee meetings to trustees outside of North America.

... **Sal S. - Area 16**

For Against Abstain

- 24 Combo Book, Page 8, What is compulsive gambling? Paragraph 2

Change 'can recover' to 'can experience recovery'

Current version: The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are really very sick people who can recover if they will follow to the best of their ability a simple program that has proved successful for thousands of men and women with a gambling or compulsive gambling problem.

Proposed version: The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are really very sick people who can experience recovery if they will follow to the best of their ability a simple program that has proved successful for thousands of men and women with a gambling or compulsive gambling problem.

... **Bill B. - Area 6**

For Against Abstain

- 25 Gamblers Anonymous International Service Office will post the monthly bulletin on the ISO website each month. Bulletins will be archived on the website for a period of 12 months.

Motion is pending

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For Against Abstain

- 26 Bi-annual Trustee and Area Realignment

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For Against Abstain

- 27 The Fall '11 Western Conference is open to all areas

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For Against Abstain

- 28 The Spring '12 Eastern Conference is open for bids

... **David M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

- 29 All Board of Regents meetings will incorporate the use of a conference calling service to allow all interested GA members an opportunity to hear the meetings as they happen.

... **Donatas Z. - Area 31**

For Against Abstain

- 30 Intergroup of Lithuania asks approval to translate the following literature into Lithuanian:

1. G.A. Combo book
2. Suggestions for Coping with Urges to Gamble
3. Your First Meeting
4. Towards 90 Days
5. Young Gamblers in Recovery
6. A Newcomer Asks?
7. 20 Questions Booklet - Are You a Compulsive Gambler?
8. Questions and Answers about Gambling
9. Awareness Pamphlet - There is Help
10. Pressure Relief Group Meeting Forms

••• **Marshall R. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

- 31 Discuss having each current Trustee in attendance speak on at least one issue at some time during the Trustee meetings.

••• **Denis M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

- 32 Discuss the GA Helps Hotline

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

- 33 Gamblers Anonymous By-Laws, Article III, Section 6.

Current Version: Five (5) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. A proxy cannot be used to determine the presence at a meeting unless such Regents permanent residence is in excess of 200 miles from the International Service Office. If a Board member resides within 200 miles of the International Service Office, physical attendance constitutes presence. If the Board member resides more than 200 miles from the International Service Office, physical or telephonic attendance constitutes presence. A maximum of two (2) Regents residing outside of 200 miles of the International Service Office who do not physically attend meetings can be seated at one time.

Proposed Version: Five (5) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. No proxies will be used to determine presence at a meeting. Board of Regents members who are part of the conference link of each meeting will be considered as present for the meeting.

••• **Joe B. - Area 6C**

For Against Abstain

- 34 By-Laws, Article XVII- Order of Business, New Section 3

All votes taken at any Board of Regents meeting will be by roll call, unless unanimous. The Recording Secretary will be responsible for detailing the roll call vote results in the monthly minutes.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

- 35 By-Laws, Article III, Section 2, Remove 2nd sentence.

Current Version: This Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have completely abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. However, two (2) members of this Board may be non-members of Gamblers Anonymous. This Board shall be elected by the members of Gamblers Anonymous in the manner provided herein.

Proposed Version: This Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have completely abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected by the members of Gamblers Anonymous in the manner provided herein.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

- 36 By-Laws, Article III, Section 2.

Current Version: This Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have completely abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. However, two (2) members of this Board may be non-members of Gamblers Anonymous. This Board shall be elected by the members of Gamblers Anonymous in the manner provided herein.

Proposed Version: This Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Regents of twelve (12) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have completely abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected by the members of Gamblers Anonymous in the manner provided herein.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

- 37 By-Laws, Article III, Section 3

Current Version: The term of office of Regents shall be one (1) year.

Proposed Version: The term of office of Regents shall be two (2) years.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

38 By-Laws, Article III, Section 6

Current Version: Five (5) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. A proxy cannot be used to determine presence at a meeting unless such Regents permanent residence is in excess of 200 miles from the International Service Office. If a Board member resides within 200 miles of the International Service Office, physical attendance constitutes presence. If the Board member resides more than 200 miles from the International Service Office, physical or telephonic attendance constitutes presence. A maximum of two (2) Regents residing outside of 200 miles of the International Service Office who do not physically attend meetings can be seated at one time.

Proposed Version: Six (6) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. The Chairman of the Board of Regents can only vote to break a tie.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

39 By-Laws, Article III, Section 8

Current Version: Board of Regents members shall be limited to two (2) elected terms served consecutively, but may be re-elected after one (1) year of non-service on the Board of Regents.

Proposed Version: Board of Regents members shall be limited to two (2) elected terms served consecutively, but may be re-elected after one (1) term of non-service on the Board of Regents.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

40 By-Laws, Article IV, Section 2

Current Version: The term of office of all elective officers shall terminate at the end of the fiscal year.

Proposed Version: The term of office of all elective officers shall terminate June 30th of each odd year.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

41 By-Laws, Article IV, Section 3

Current Version: The newly elected Regents will be required to attend the June Board of Regents meeting prior to the start of their July 1st term. At the close of the said meeting the newly elected Regents shall elect the Officers of the Corporation for the next fiscal year and their service shall commence on July 1st.

Proposed Version: The newly elected Regents will be required to attend the June Board of Regents meeting prior to the start of their July 1st term. At the close of the said meeting the newly elected Regents shall elect the Officers of the Corporation for the next term and their service shall commence on July 1st.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

42 By-Laws, Article V, Section 1

Add the word "odd" before the word "year" in the first sentence of this section.

Proposed Version: On or before February 1st of each odd year any member of Gamblers Anonymous that has abstained completely from gambling for at least two (2) years and has attended Gamblers Anonymous meetings regularly - 39 meetings per year is eligible to submit their name, previous service as a Regent of this Corporation or as a Trustee of Gamblers Anonymous, total abstinence from gambling and home group, along with a biography not to exceed 200 words and phone number (both optional) to the International Service Office to be included on the Board of Regents ballot. These biographies will be an attachment to the ballot. Any member that is presently a member of any International Board of Gamblers Anonymous, but whose term ends on June 30, of the same year, is eligible to be included in the Board of Regents ballot; if their term has one more year to run, they must resign before submitting their name for the Board of Regents ballot.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

43 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 1

Add the word "odd" before the word "year" in the first sentence of this section.

Proposed Version: The International Executive Secretary of the Corporation, on or before March 1st of each odd year, shall submit in writing a ballot of all eligible members wishing to run for the Board of Regents. Previous service as Regent of the Corporation or as Trustee of Gamblers Anonymous, total abstinence as of March 1st of that year, and home group of nominee shall be listed along side the name of each nominee.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

44 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 2

Current Version: The Board of Regents of this Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees at the Spring Conference. The term of office shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing July 1 and ending June 30.

Proposed Version: The Board of Regents of this Corporation shall be elected every two (2) years by the Board of Trustees at the Spring Conference. The term of office shall be for a period of two (2) years commencing July 1 of the odd years and ending June 30 of the next odd year.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

45 By-Laws, Article III, Section 4

Remove the part of the first sentence that is in parentheses. (non G.A. members excluded)

Current Version: Any Regent (non G.A. members excluded) is automatically removed from office for gambling. For the purpose of these By-Laws, gambling is defined as follows: any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or skill, constitutes gambling.

Proposed Version: Any Regent is automatically removed from office for gambling. For the purpose of these By-Laws, gambling is defined as follows: any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or skill, constitutes gambling.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

46 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 3

Current Version: The annual election of the Board of Regents shall be by written ballot. Each recognized Gamblers Anonymous meeting should be contacted by their area Trustee(s) so that the groups, at their option, have involvement in the voting process. Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than nine (9) proposed Regents from the list on the ballot.

Proposed Version: The election of the Board of Regents shall be by written ballot. Each recognized Gamblers Anonymous meeting should be contacted by their area Trustee(s) so that the groups, at their option, have involvement in the voting process. Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than nine (9) proposed Regents from the list on the ballot.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

47 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 3

Current Version: The annual election of the Board of Regents shall be by written ballot. Each recognized Gamblers Anonymous meeting should be contacted by their area Trustee(s) so that the groups, at their option, have involvement in the voting process. Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than nine (9) proposed Regents from the list on the ballot.

Proposed Version: The election of the Board of Regents shall be by written ballot. Each recognized Gamblers Anonymous meeting should be contacted by their area Trustee(s) so that the groups, at their option, have involvement in the voting process. Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than twelve (12) proposed Regents from the list on the ballot.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For

Against

Abstain

48 By-Laws, Article VI, Section 11

Current Version:

The one year term of the newly elected Regents shall begin as of July 1st.

Proposed Version:

The two (2) year term of the newly elected Regents shall begin as of July 1st of the odd years.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For

Against

Abstain

49 By-Laws, Article IX, Section 1:

Delete from the first sentence the following: (non-Gamblers Anonymous member excluded).

Current Version: Any member of the Board of Regents or appointive officer must be terminated for gambling (non-Gamblers Anonymous member excluded);

Proposed Version: Any member of the Board of Regents or appointive officer must be terminated for gambling;

••• **Arnie B. for Mark M. - Area 8**

For

Against

Abstain

50 COMBO BOOK, PAGE 11, SENTENCE #6 UNDER "WHAT IS THE DREAM WORLD OF THE COMPULSIVE GAMBLER?"

CURRENT VERSION: SERVANTS, PENTHOUSES, NICE CLOTHES, CHARMING FRIENDS, YACHTS AND WORLD TOURS ARE A FEW OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER AFTER A BIG WIN IS FINALLY MADE.

PROPOSED VERSION: NICE GIFTS, BIGGER HOMES, CHARMING FRIENDS, AN ELITE STATUS, AND DEBT RELIEF ARE A FEW OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER AFTER A BIG WIN IS FINALLY MADE.

••• **Gary S. for George L. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

51 Combo Book Page 16 - bottom of page - last sentence

Current version: Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions.

Proposed version: Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions. Some of these questions you may feel does not apply to you - YET.

••• **CJ D. - Area 2B**

For

Against

Abstain

52 Combo Book - Page 8 - Paragraph 2

PRESENT VERSION: The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are really very sick people who can recover if they will follow to the best of their ability a simple program that has proved successful for thousands of other men and women with a gambling or compulsive gambling problem.

PROPOSED CHANGE: The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are really very sick people who can recover if they will follow to the best of their ability a simple program that has proved successful for hundreds of thousands of other men and women with a gambling or compulsive gambling problem.

••• **Arnie B. for Scott D. - Area 8**

For

Against

Abstain

53 Combo Book, Question 19

CURRENT VERSION: NOW READS "DID YOU EVER HAVE AN URGE TO CELEBRATE ANY GOOD FORTUNE BY A FEW HOURS OF GAMBLING?"

PROPOSED VERSION: DID YOU EVER HAVE AN URGE TO CELEBRATE ANY GOOD FORTUNE BY A FEW DAYS OF GAMBLING

••• **Nick S. - Area 6A**

For

Against

Abstain

54 Combo Book, Inside Front Cover, Prayer

Current version:

I sought my soul,
But could not see,
I sought my God,
But He eluded me,
I sought my brothers and sisters,
and found all three.

Proposed version:

I sought my soul,
But could not see,
I sought my God,
But I eluded He,
I sought my brothers and sisters,
and found all three.

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For

Against

Abstain

55 Combo Book, Page 17, # 6

Capitalize PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For

Against

Abstain

56 Combo Book, Page 7, Unity Step 11- Delete entirely.

Proposed New Version: 11 Our public relations policy is to make the public aware of the gambling problem and GA; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films & TV.

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For

Against

Abstain

57 Combo Book, Page 16

Current Version: Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions.

Proposed New Version: These questions are a guide to determine if you are a compulsive gambler.

••• **Norman B. for Bob B. - Area 10A**

For

Against

Abstain

58 Combo Book, page 15, Question 1

Current Version: Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?

Proposed Version: Have you ever lost time from work, school or home due to gambling?

••• **Carol K. - Area 9**

For

Against

Abstain

59 Combo Book, Page 12, add the following sentence after the 3rd sentence in the paragraph.

Many compulsive gamblers have found that their self-esteem has been destroyed causing depression, which has lead to suicide attempts and other self-destructive behavior.

Proposed Version of Paragraph: No, compulsive gambling is an emotional problem. A person in the grip of this illness creates mountains of apparently insolvable problems. Of course, financial problems are created, but they also find themselves facing marital, employment, or legal problems. Compulsive gamblers find friends have been lost and relatives have rejected them. Many compulsive gamblers have found that their self-esteem has been destroyed causing depression, which has lead to suicide attempts and other self-destructive behavior. Of the many problems created, the financial problems seem the easiest to solve. When a compulsive gambler enters Gamblers Anonymous and quits gambling, income is usually increased and there is no longer the financial drain that was caused by gambling, and very shortly, the financial pressures begin to be relieved. Gamblers Anonymous members have found that the best road to financial recovery is through hard work and repayment of our debts. Borrowing and/or lending of money (bailouts) in Gamblers Anonymous is detrimental to our recovery and should not take place.

••• **Debb W. - Area 2G**

For Against Abstain

60 Trustee Area Demarcation Committee requests funds from the general fund to cover the cost for the purchase of mapping software. The total cost would be \$305.00, which includes shipping.

••• **Doug L. - Area 1A**

For Against Abstain

61 Discussion: Is it appropriate for children (especially young children) of Gamblers Anonymous members to attend regular weekly open meetings?

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For Against Abstain

62 Should a GA Member, who wrote a book about their life, e-mail other members in an attempt to sell it?

••• **Paul C. - Area 14**

For Against Abstain

63 Group Procedure/Discussion:

Is it appropriate for group names to be referenced or identified by a gambling term?

••• **Joe B. - Area 6C**

For Against Abstain

64 Guidance Code, Article VIII, Section 6

Current Version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

Proposed Version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Absentee Ballots and Proxies shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

65 Guidance Code Change, Article VIII, Section 6

Current version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

Proposed Version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees, from the Continental USA and Canada, present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies shall be counted from the Continental USA and Canada as well as absentee ballots from all over the world, to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

••• **Bill S. - Area 3B**

For Against Abstain

66 Guidance Code, Article XVI, Section 6, International Executive Secretary of ISO

CHANGE - mail copies-- change to distribute copies (via US mail, email or other means)

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary shall be responsible to publish a monthly Gamblers Anonymous Bulletin and mail copies of same to each group in our Fellowship. Number of copies sent to each group shall be set by the Board of Regents.

Proposed Version: The International Executive Secretary shall be responsible to publish a monthly Gamblers Anonymous Bulletin and distribute (via US mail, email or other means) copies of same to each group in our Fellowship. Number of copies sent to each group shall be set by the Board of Regents.

••• **Bill S. - Area 3B**

For

Against

Abstain

67 Guidance Code, Article VIII, Section 9, 4th sentence

Remove the word 'physical' twice

Current version: To change the Twelve Steps of RECOVERY and Twelve Steps of UNITY PROGRAM, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority by not less than the physical presence of 2/3 of the eligible voting members of the Board of Trustees at two (2) consecutive physical meetings.

Proposed version: To change the Twelve Steps of RECOVERY and Twelve Steps Of UNITY Program, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority by not less than the presence of 2/3 of the eligible voting members of the Board of Trustees at two consecutive meetings.

••• **Gary S. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

68 Article VIII, Section 13A, Item 1

Current version: Obtain approval of the Board of Trustees to translate the literature.

Proposed Version: Any GA Area has the right to translate the literature.

••• **Gary S. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

69 Guidance Code, Article VIII, Section 13, Second paragraph

Move the second paragraph

The Board of Trustees will have the right to approve the translation to a foreign language any audio, video, or written approved Gamblers Anonymous literature it deems necessary to meet the needs of our entire International Fellowship.

Move it to be the first paragraph in Section 13A.

Adjust rest of Section 13A to accommodate.

••• **Pete K. - Area 13B**

For

Against

Abstain

70 Add the words "or email" in Article IX, Section 3 of the Guidance Code.

Current version: Board of Trustees meetings may be conducted by mail, however twenty (20) or more votes are needed for a quorum. A majority vote of the quorum shall carry any measure voted upon except as provided for in Section 2 of Article XVI and Article XX.

Proposed version: Board of Trustees meetings may be conducted by mail or email, however twenty (20) or more votes are needed for a quorum. A majority vote of the quorum shall carry any measure voted upon except as provided for in Section 2 of Article XVI and Article XX.

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

71 Guidance Code, Article VIII, New Section 4A

An area has the right to remove any of its Trustees without the approval of the Board of Trustees, providing the area follows the written procedures to do so approved by its area membership. Any removal must be done with a two-thirds majority of the area's eligible voting members, as defined by each area. ISO must be notified of any changes in the Trustees from that area.

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For

Against

Abstain

72 Guidance Code Change, Page 7, Article VIII, Section 6

Current version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

Proposed version: Two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies and Absentee ballots properly sent in and received by the Chairman of the BOT prior to the meeting from anywhere as well as physical attendance, from all Trustees in good standing shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum.

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For

Against

Abstain

73 Guidance Code Change, Page 11, Article VIII, Section 21

Current version: Any Trustee who misses two (2) consecutive Board meetings is automatically removed from the Board of Trustees, and the area in which he or she serves shall be duly notified to elect a new Trustee. A quick response meeting will count for attendance at the Board of Trustees meeting. Absentee ballots and proxies from Board of Trustees members from areas outside of the U.S.A. and Canada will count as attendance at the Board of Trustees physical meetings.

Proposed version: Any Trustee that misses (2) consecutive Board meetings is automatically removed from the Board of Trustees, and the area in which he or she serves shall be duly notified to hold an election for that vacant Trustee position. A quick response meeting will count for attendance at the Board of Trustees meeting. Absentee ballots and proxies from Board of Trustees members from areas outside of the U.S.A. and Canada will count as attendance at the Board of Trustees physical meetings.

••• **Andre G. - Area 5B**

For

Against

Abstain

74 Guidance Code, Article XI, Regional Service Office (R.S.O.) Section 5

Change the words "are required to have" for "should have".

Current version: Trusted servants are required to have abstained from gambling for at least two years.

Proposed version: Trusted servants should have abstained from gambling for at least two years.

••• **Denis M. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

75 Guidance Code, Article IX, new Section 2a

Upon election, the Chairman and 1st and 2nd Co-Chairman shall have the same rights (including voting rights) duties and responsibilities as all other Trustees.

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For

Against

Abstain

76 Guidance Code, Page 12, Article IX, Section 3

Current version: Board of Trustees meetings may be conducted by mail, however twenty (20) or more votes are needed for a quorum. A majority vote of the quorum shall carry any measure voted upon except as provided for in Section 2 of Article XVI and Article XX.

Proposed version: Board of Trustees meetings may be conducted by mail, however a majority of current Trustees are needed for a quorum. A majority vote of the quorum shall carry any measure voted upon except as provided for in Section 2 of Article XVI and Article XX.

••• **Steve R. - Area 2B**

For

Against

Abstain

77

Guidance Code, Article XIX, Section 2.

Current Version: On any issue affecting Gamblers Anonymous as a whole, which necessitates a vote by the Board of Trustees and /or groups, the ballots will be returned in a sealed envelope to the International Executive Secretary of the International Service Office (I.S.O.), who will tally votes and notify each Trustee and group of the result of voting. This Section does not apply to the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Version: On any issue affecting Gamblers Anonymous as a whole, which necessitates a vote by the Board of Trustees and /or groups, the ballots will be returned in a sealed envelope or original ballot signed by the Trustee scanned and emailed or faxed to the International Executive Secretary of the International Service Office (I.S.O.). The I.E.S. and at least 5 members of the Board of Trustees or the Board of Regents will tally votes and the I.E.S. will notify each Trustee and group of the result of voting. This Section does not apply to the physical meeting of the Board of Trustees.

••• **Gary S. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

78

Discuss adding a new section to the Guidance Code, Article XVIII, Section 3A

To maintain a balance and fair voting right, all areas are entitled to have up to 3 trustees.

See Louisville attachment - #78

••• **John B. - Area 13**

For

Against

Abstain

79

Guidance Code; Article VII, Section 1.

Delete last sentence, and add: Any member/s wishing to start a new meeting in an area represented by an established Intergroup, should notify the Intergroup Chairperson, who will request a starter kit for the new meeting from the International Service Office (I.S.O.), and the starter kit will be sent to a Trustee from that area. For a new meeting in an area not represented by an intergroup, the member/s wishing to start a new meeting should request the starter kit through their area Trustee, and the starter kit will then be sent to the Trustee. If possible, at least one of the members starting the new meeting should have a minimum of one (1) year of abstinence.

Current version: Whenever two or more persons with a desire to stop gambling meet together on a regular, weekly scheduled basis to discuss their gambling problem, they will be known as a group, only if they commit themselves to follow Gamblers Anonymous' Guidance Code and limit their use, display and distribution to only approved and appropriate Gamblers Anonymous literature. They are also to notify the International Service Office (I.S.O.) of their existence.

Proposed version: Whenever two or more persons with a desire to stop gambling meet together on a regular, weekly scheduled basis to discuss their gambling problem, they will be known as a group, only if they commit themselves to follow Gamblers Anonymous' Guidance Code and limit their use display and distribution to only approved and appropriate Gamblers Anonymous literature. Any member/s wishing to start a new meeting in an area represented by an established Intergroup, should notify the Intergroup Chairperson, who will request a starter kit for the new meeting from the International Service Office (I.S.O.), and the starter kit will be sent to a Trustee from that area. For a new meeting in an area not represented by an intergroup, the member/s wishing to start a new meeting should request the starter kit through their area Trustee, and the starter kit will then be sent to the Trustee. If possible, at least one of the members starting the new meeting should have a minimum of one (1) year of abstinence.

••• **David F. - Area 3A**

For

Against

Abstain

80 Guidance Code, Article VIII, Board of Trustees, Section I

Change first sentence two (2) year requirement to four (4) year requirement and immediately follow with new second sentence to not have the change be retroactive for current Trustees.

Current Version: This Fellowship shall be guided by a Board of Trustees who are members of Gamblers Anonymous and have completely abstained from gambling by their own admission for a period of two (2) years and have had regular attendance at Gamblers Anonymous meetings.

Proposed Version: This Fellowship shall be guided by a Board of Trustees who are members of Gamblers Anonymous and have completely abstained from gambling by their own admission for a period of four (4) years and have had regular attendance at Gamblers Anonymous meetings. (Second new sentence to be included) This shall not be retroactive for those who are currently Trustees or have just been elected for the term beginning on July 1, 2010." (continued with) Board of Trustees defines regular attendance for International officers as thirty-nine (39) meetings per year. This does not include Intergroup meetings or picnics but does include Birthday meetings. This Board shall not exceed as many Trustees as deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees.

••• **David F. - Area 3A**

For

Against

Abstain

81 Guidance Code, Article VIII - Board of Trustees, Section 4

Change in the second sentence from 2 years to (4) years.

Current Version: Any Trustee is automatically removed from office for gambling by his/her own admission. Current or past Trustees who return to gambling and subsequently come back to G.A. should not have a voice at the BOT meeting until they have 2 years of abstinence, the same qualification as becoming a Trustee. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or "skill" constitutes gambling. Or he or she may be removed for other acts on his or her part which are detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole, or for not attending Gamblers Anonymous meetings. Removal requires 2/3 vote for expulsion by the Board of Trustees at the next physical meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Version: Any Trustee is automatically removed from office for gambling by his/her own admission. Current or past Trustees who return to gambling and subsequently come back to G.A. should not have a voice at the BOT meeting until they have four (4) years of abstinence, the same qualification as becoming a Trustee. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or "skill" constitutes gambling. Or he or she may be removed for other acts on his or her part which are detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole, or for not attending Gamblers Anonymous meetings. Removal requires 2/3 vote for expulsion by the Board of Trustees at the next physical meeting of the Board of Trustees.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For

Against

Abstain

82 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 1

Change the date of the election to the Spring Conference of the odd years indicating that the term will be 2 years.

Current Version: The International Service Office (I.S.O.) shall be guided by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected at the Spring Conference.

Proposed Version: The International Service (I.S.O.) shall be guided by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected at the Spring Conference of the odd years. (Every 2 years).

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

83 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 1

Change the number of Regents from 9 to 12.

Current Version: The International Service Office (I.S.O.) shall be guided by a Board of Regents of nine (9) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected at the Spring Conference.

Proposed Version: The International Service (I.S.O.) shall be guided by a Board of Regents of twelve (12) members of Gamblers Anonymous who have abstained from gambling for at least two (2) years. This Board shall be elected at the Spring Conference of the odd years. (Every 2 years).

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

84 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 2

Current Version: Regents should be elected from the area within the Fellowship who are within reasonable traveling distance from the International Service Office (I.S.O.), so that they may be able to attend every meeting and be available on immediate notice for any emergency meetings which may become necessary.

Proposed Version: The Board of Regents should be elected from within the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

85 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 3

Current Version: The term of office of Regents shall be for one (1) year starting on July 1st and including June 30th of the following year.

Proposed Version: The term of office of Regents shall be for two (2) years starting on July 1st of the odd years and ending on June 30th of the following odd year.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

86 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 6

Current Version: Five (5) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. Only a written proxy shall be counted in determining the number present for the purpose of a quorum.

Proposed Version: Six (6) members of the Board of Regents shall constitute a quorum. A member of the Board of Regents must be present at a meeting, in person or part of a conference call, to be considered as part of a quorum. The Chairman of the Board of Regents can only vote to break a tie.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

87 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 7

Current Version: Two (2) members of the Board of Regents may be non-members of Gamblers Anonymous if approved by the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Version: Eliminate this section completely and re-number the rest of the sections in Article XIII, i.e. Section 8 becomes Section 7, etc.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

88 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 10

Change the last sentence to instruct the areas through the Trustees to elect 12 Regents instead of 9.

Current Version: Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than nine (9) proposed Regents from the list of nominations and/or from a write-in list of their own selection.

Proposed Version: Each Trustee, based on guidance from their groups and their personal knowledge, will be able to select no more than twelve (12) proposed Regents from the list of nominations and/or from a write-in list of their own selection.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

89 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 11

Change the first sentence by taking out the word "annual".

Current Version: The annual election of Regents shall be by written ballot.

Proposed Version: The election of the Board of Regents shall be by written ballot.

••• **Herb B. - Area 5**

For Against Abstain

90 Guidance Code, Article XIII, Section 12

Eliminate this section completely because it is the same as Article XIII, Section 3

••• **Mike R. - Area 15**

For Against Abstain

91 Guidance Code - Article VII, Groups, New Section 1A.

Whereas the only requirement for Gamblers Anonymous membership is a desire to stop gambling, no group can exclude any member from attending any meeting, with the exception of any member who is abusive or harasses any other member in the meetings.

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For Against Abstain

92 Should A GA Member, who is a paid/unpaid counselor, withhold information about GA from their client.

••• **Ron W. - Area 17**

For Against Abstain

93 Discuss Bettors Choice & Connecticut Council's Help Line.

••• **Paul C. for Mary R. - Area 14**

For Against Abstain

94 Intergroup Procedures/Discussion:

Can an Intergroup cease financial support of a room the does not financially support the Intergroup?

••• **Bill S. - Area 3B**

For Against Abstain

95 The ONE TIME DONATION section in the Monthly GA Bulletin shall continue as is, except no individual name shall be listed as the donor. Areas, Intergroups, Walkathons, other fundraisers, meetings, and anonymous are acceptable for listing who its from and no changes in who or how to honor person's or events.

••• **Linda S. - Area 3A**

For Against Abstain

96 DISCUSSION: The illegal use of the Gamblers Anonymous logo and trademark on websites with public access. How does this affect GA as a whole? Is anonymity in jeopardy? Is there anything being done to monitor this type of activity?

••• **Bill S. - Area 3B**

For Against Abstain

97 Add to the GA web site www.gamblersanonymous.org a section that would allow private access by password (using a state code or intergroup code, or individual code to be determined) to a members only section that would allow the following for example a. posting of the monthly bulletins

••• **Ara H. for Lanny R. - Area 1**

For Against Abstain

98 Add "Twelve Steps of Recovery" as new literature.

See Louisville attachment - #98

••• **Ed E. for Richard F. - Area 2**

For Against Abstain

99 Request the consideration of Twenty (Recovery) Questions as GA- approved literature and passage of the new literature merit vote. This proposed literature is intended to be a 3-page pamphlet and to serve as a reminder about "living in the solution" through the principles of the Gamblers Anonymous Recovery Program.

See Louisville attachment - #99

••• **Mike M. for Pam K. - Area 3D**

For Against Abstain

100 Request the Board Of Trustees accept, for merit, the "Step Writing Exercises" as approved GA literature and send it to the Literature Committee for the next step in the approval process.

See Louisville attachment - #100

••• **Matt H. - Area 16**

For Against Abstain

101 Approve meeting format rules as appropriate literature.

••• **Linda S. for Carol K. - Area 3A**

For Against Abstain

102 Information Packet: "90 Day Plateau":

Replace the word "Plateau" with "Recognition."

••• **Richie S. - Area 6**

For Against Abstain

103 Hosting an International Conference Pamphlet, Page 1 and 2 under Eligibility, Who can bid and when?

Current Version: Spring conferences in odd years are only open to midwestern areas or Intergroups. Fall conferences in odd years are only open to western areas or Intergroups. Spring conferences in even years are only open to eastern areas or Intergroups. Fall conferences in even years are only open to southern areas or Intergroups. In the event no area bids for a certain conference that conference becomes an open conference and is open to bid by any area/intergroup in any region of the North American continent at the next trustee meeting.

Proposed version: All International Conferences up for bid at a BOT meeting will be OPEN to all areas or Intergroups, in any region of the North American continent. There will not be any geographical restrictions on the Fall or Spring conferences of any year.

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

104 Group Handbook, Page 6, new item 4 making the current item 4 into item 5.

4. Meetings in which all the members have spoken before the advertised ending time of the meeting, must remain open until that ending time to accommodate late arrivals and/or new members.

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For Against Abstain

105 Hosting an International Conference. Page 6, 2nd paragraph. 2nd sentence.

Current version: In the event of a profit the proceeds are divided with 55% going to GA ISO and 45% going to Gam-Anon.

Proposed version: However, in the event of a profit, the hosting area will be entitled to 15% of the gross profit of the conference up to a maximum of \$1,000. The remaining proceeds are then divided between GA ISO and Gam-Anon in a percentage equal to the number of attendees from each Fellowship.

••• **David M. - Area 12**

For

Against

Abstain

106 Hosting an International Conference, Page 1, Introduction, new sentences at the end of this section.

Any International Conference that does not receive bids at 2 successive physical Trustee meetings will be canceled. The Executive Board will be responsible for selecting a site to host just a Trustee meeting in lieu of the International Conference.

••• **David F. - Area 3A**

For

Against

Abstain

107 Group Handbook, Page 7, Suggested Meeting Format, Item 11.

Change to include asking the Twenty Questions to the new member.

Current Version: Chairperson calls upon new members if they desire to speak.

Proposed Version: Chairperson or a designated member reads the Twenty Questions to any new members and when finished asks the new member if they desire to speak.

••• **David F. - Area 3A**

For

Against

Abstain

108 Group Handbook, Page 8, Suggested Meeting Format continued from Page 7

Add new Item to become Item 14 and renumber current Items 14, 15 and 16 to become Items 15, 16 and 17.

Proposed New Item 14: Regular attendance at meetings means a complete meeting from the beginning to the end. The Chairperson should not encourage members to leave early by asking who has to leave at the break

••• **John V. - Area 16**

For

Against

Abstain

109 Group Handbook, Page 3, Public Relations Representative
Add the following at the end of the existing text.

The Public Relations Representative should be available to guide any of the members in the group as to how to behave when doing any public relations work. An essential piece of understanding is that this person is not speaking as a representative of Gamblers Anonymous, but as a member of Gamblers Anonymous speaking about his or her own experience, strength and hope. The work of public relations is to carry the message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers. Doing so requires discipline as to how one should conduct oneself, always being conscious of maintaining anonymity.

Anonymity, especially when appearing or functioning in the public eye, is not a subject for debate. It must be preserved at all cost. The person that is the subject of the interview must decide if they are speaking as a compulsive gambler or a member of Gamblers Anonymous. Both positions can make others aware of the problems associated with compulsive gambling, but how the interview is conducted is what dictates how the person being interviewed should act. If Gamblers Anonymous is never mentioned or referred to, then there are no restrictions on how the person should act or what is said. However, if the person being interviewed refers to him or herself as a member of Gamblers Anonymous in any way, the person's face cannot be shown, nor can the person's full name be used. Additionally, in such situations, Gamblers Anonymous literature cannot be visible, nor can a Gamblers Anonymous telephone hotline be displayed. Ideally, the person being interviewed might even want to use a different name, just to eliminate another possibility of someone identifying who he or she is.

••• **Lucio L. - Area 25**

For

Against

Abstain

110 GA Italia requests the permission for substituting, in the Italian version of the book "Sharing Recovery Through Gamblers Anonymous", Appendix II, III, and IV with a single Appendix II containing statistical reports and studies specific to the gambling issue in the Italian society. In the event we couldn't find anything appropriate, we ask permission for bypassing altogether those 3 Appendixes.

••• **Don Y. - Area 2**

For

Against

Abstain

111 Discuss: "Carry the message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers." We are now in the digital age. GA now has a website, but cannot stop there. We need to carry the message any way possible and as the computer is a great way to communicate in today's world we should discuss creating "Facebook," "Myspace," and "Youtube" videos.

••• **Ray H. - Area 6**

For

Against

Abstain

112 Request a committee to formulate and reinstate the alternate trustee.

113

Combo Book page 6 and all other GA literature where the Unity Program appears:

Add 7 words to the beginning of Unity Step 6

CURRENT VERSION: Gamblers Anonymous ought never endorse, finance or lend the Gamblers Anonymous name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

NEW VERSION: With the sole exception of endorsing Gam-Anon, Gamblers Anonymous ought never endorse, finance or lend the Gamblers Anonymous name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.