

Main Menu

[Home Page](#)
[Trustee Guidelines](#)
[GA Reference Material](#)
[Keyword Search](#)
[Download Center](#)
[Contact Administrator](#)

Houston - Fall '08

Trustee Agenda

[Houston Conference Info](#)

[Agenda Information](#)
[Unfinished Business](#)
[Committee Related Issues](#)
[Request for New Committees](#)
[Steps](#)
[Literature Changes](#)
[New Literature](#)
[Procedures](#)
[2-Conference Bids](#)
[Overseas Areas](#)

[Houston Rolling Agenda](#)
[42 - Items](#)

[Submit an Agenda Item](#)

BOT Committees

[Current Committees](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

[Trustee Line Home Page](#)
[Trustee Orientation](#)
[Local Area Help Flyer](#)
[Board of Regents News Page](#)
[Intergroup Trustee Funding](#)
[Public Relations Area Ideas](#)

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Trustee Line as of June 20, 2006

Some Opening Thoughts

The Trustee Website Committee is proud to publish this 1st Internet edition of the Trustee Line. A new change to the format is that we are now including updates from the 18 committees that are in effect as of the Boston '06 Trustee meeting. But more important is the ease of access this venue offers everyone in the fellowship. Current and past Trustees are the only ones allowed to post items in the Trustee Line, but this entire website is unrestricted and that means we can now touch all points of the compass with our every expanding International Fellowship. With this format, we don't have to worry about the size of the items the Trustees send in.

Having said that, we now need everyone to respond for the next issue which will be release on 7/20. We can only stress 3 words about the Trustee Line...Pass it on. If you are moved one way or another about something that was submitted in this issue, make your thoughts known. In the beginning of our recoveries, we are told not to make any decisions without discussing them with other members. Here is your opportunity to exercise that wisdom. Say what you think and then throw it out for others to maybe impart some additional perspective. The Trustee Line can be yet another learning tool for all of us.

To submit a response to something written in this issue or have a new item added to the next Trustee Line, [click this link](#). You can even use the link for any comments or suggestions regarding what has been done or what you would like to see done in the future.

Thanks for all your entries,
The Trustee Website Committee

From The Chairman Of The BOT

Dear Trustees,

So many good things are happening in the Gamblers Anonymous world and so much needs to be done it is always difficult to decide how best to use this space, and this opportunity to write to you.

I have decided to focus my attention on July 1 and I ask you to do the same. July 1 is transition day for many of you. Many of our brothers and sisters will be ending their term of service to the Board of Trustees and many will be joining us for the first time. I ask each of you to give some thought as to how you can help with this transition.

I suppose that the local work involved in being a trustee has not changed much over the years and even those joining us for the first time have some idea of what is involved just by watching what has taken place around them.

But those who have served in the past may be amazed at the way things have changed in how we function as a board and by the types of things we are now involved in. Those joining us for the first time may not even know where to begin.

So I am asking each of you to spend some time with the newly elected trustees and give them an idea of what the Board of Trustees of 2006 is about. Perhaps a good place to start is by sharing a copy of this Trustee Line with them. Let them know about the trustee website and all of the resources available to them there. Bring them up to date on the many committees we now have and the work that each committee is doing. Explain the agenda process and how the meetings are conducted. (You can even tell them how to challenge the chair). Talk about the Board of Regents and the ISO and the role they play in enabling our fellowship to function as it does.

I remember how nervous I was the first time I entered a BOT meeting. I remember how unprepared I felt and how difficult it was to catch on to what was happening, how things worked and who was who. I have heard many of you express the same feelings. Let's see if we can change that for those who join us in the future.

For those who will not be returning to the Board, on behalf of a very grateful Fellowship, let me thank for your service and your support.

Best Regards,

From The 1st Co-Chair Of The BOT

For me the Boston conference was great. I am always awed and inspired by the honesty, the caring, and the recovery present when so many dedicated to recovery gather together. I am always so grateful and filled with respect for the Trustees who dedicate their time and talents to do what each one can to serve and strive to protect and improve the program—to ensure that the message of recovery is carried. I am also very grateful to Denis, Chuck, Karen and Tom for their service and for all the work that they do that goes above and beyond; each one has contributed immensely to my recovery and to the program as a whole. Thank you.

Also for me the Boston BOT meeting clarified that GA is growing and changing. The trustee meeting needs to keep pace. The committee work is increasing—which is a great sign and I believe vital to the program. As such, I believe there are many ways in which the committees' work and reports can be improved. Denis, Chuck, and I are already discussing ways in which to make the committee reports more time efficient and increase their effectiveness given the time frame in which we have for the BOT meeting.

Thank you also to all the committee chairs and members who take the extra time to work to improve the program. I see a lot of very good work being done and believe that it will have a very positive impact on GA as a whole. And a great example of committee work is the Trustee Line now being published on the Trustee Website. Thanks to David M. and his committee for this great improvement and resource.

Being a Trustee takes an enormous amount of dedication and, yes, financial support. I believe that we all have a responsibility to make the most effective use of the BOT meeting that we can. Our areas depend on us to process the business at hand and be the communication source for them. I am very mindful of the difficulty that many areas have in even having a Trustee. The first hurdle is to convince an area to support a Trustee and the next hurdle is to encourage a member who is willing to make the commitment of service necessary to fulfill the Trustee duties. And, finally, the Trustee is expected to attend two BOT meetings each year and either fund it individually or convince the area to reimburse the Trustee's expenses. The reality is that the expense involved in attending two meetings a year is the single biggest obstacle to having Trustees from all areas. Of course, we still have a very good representation of Trustees that are either fully reimbursed from their areas or make the financial commitment themselves. So, making the most of the Trustee meetings is vital. I feel our biggest challenge is to make the Trustee meetings more efficient and effective so that the business is taken care of and the unity of the program is strengthened.

As a final thought and one on which feedback would be appreciated, I believe that finding time for good and welfare will go a long way towards reminding each of us what is truly important in the program. But because the BOT is growing and changing, I think the good and welfare process may also need some changes. I am not sure exactly how, but would like to open up the topic for discussion.

Yours in recovery,
Michelle J. - 1st Co-Chair BOT

From The 2nd Co-Chair Of The BOT

As the former Editor, it gives me great pleasure to see that we are now using the Trustee Website to publish the Trustee Line. It was certainly disappointing to have received so few submissions when I did it - perhaps now we can expect greater participation. It is not a great task to send in a letter or suggestion to the Trustee Line. It merely takes the initiative to sit down for five or ten minutes, express your thoughts and e-mail them. One of the things I have learned in my tenure in the program is that nothing in life nor GA is static. Things are always changing. Sometimes when I think that a particular system or method works just fine, along comes another to take its place and improve on it. Therefore, I am looking forward to a whole new Trustee Line with lots of us sharing our thoughts and ideas.

As the BOT Co-Chair overseeing the upcoming Florida Conference, let me give you an update. The committee (chaired by Richie S.) has been in regular communication with the hotel. They have secured an amphitheatre style room for the Trustee meetings which we should all find quite unique and well suited to our needs. The facility itself is a luxury resort for which Richie has obtained non-luxury rates. To see the hotel, go to bonaventureftlauderdale.com.

My other current conference oversight is the 50th Anniversary in LA. The committee has been meeting regularly and it looks like it will be a very special event. They have been superb in forwarding to me all the minutes of their meetings as well as regular financial

reports.

It is no secret that many of us were disappointed with the Boston Trustee meeting. Denis, Michelle and I have been in regular contact talking about ways to improve the procedures and format. If any of you have workable ideas, we are certainly open to suggestions.

Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any Trustee issues or concerns.

Sincerely,
Chuck R. - 2nd Co-Chair, BOT
Area 15

From The Chairman Of The BOR

My Dear Brother's and Sister's

As I write this message to the Trustee Line I have mixed emotions. This will be my last message as Chairman of the Board of Regents and as such I would be remiss if I did not thank Karen, Keith, Israel, and Jason for their dedication and hard work at the International Service Office. Their efforts help us reap the rewards everyday of continuing to help the Compulsive Gambler who still suffers.

I want to thank the other members of the Board of Regents for their dedication to the fellowship and their stewardship of the finances of Gamblers Anonymous. I want to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for all they do for the fellowship.

I want to thank each of you for allowing me to be of service to this great fellowship. As we move towards the conference in Florida I want you all to make your reservations as soon as possible so the conference committee can prepare properly for our arrival.

I also would hope that you would take into consideration two items that I am asking to be put on the agenda for Florida. So Denis take note these are the two items I want on the agenda.

1. Items submitted to the agenda must be in the form of the motion that will be voted on by the trustees.

I have always felt that the only fair way for our membership to take a stand on the agenda items is to see the original agenda item as it would be. This also gives our brother's and sister's from the other countries the ability to vote an absentee ballot on each item. Yes, this would mean no amendments to the motion.

2. The only people allowed to speak at the trustee meeting would be the current trustees, the Chair and two Asst. Chairs if they were not current trustees and the International Executive Secretary to answer questions if asked.

We elect the trustees why not give them the responsibility to make the decisions and cut back on much of the debate that goes on when an item is submitted. Think what it would be like if we all went back to congress to speak.

With that being said I hope you all have a great summer and you and your families are blessed with peace and happiness.

Tom M. - Chairman Board of Regents
Area 2

From The International Executive Secretary At ISO

Hi Everyone,

It was really good seeing all of you who were in Boston. And I look forward to seeing even more of my G.A. brothers and sisters in Ft. Lauderdale.

During the first week of June all of you should have received the Board of Trustees minutes from the Boston meeting, either by email or snail mail. If you haven't received these please let me know so we can make sure that we have the correct information for you. My email is karenh@gamblersanonymous.org

I also need your help receiving information for the Trustees who have been elected to represent their Area beginning July 1, 2006. I have received information from less than half of all Areas. Even though Article XVIII, Sections 3 and 4 of the Guidance Code allude to the fact that the election needs to be completed by May 15th and I should be notified before June 1st, I do realize that we just had a realignment and a few Area elections haven't taken place yet, but most Areas should have held their elections by now, which as I write this is June 17th. So please let me hear from your Area as soon as possible.

The information we need is:

- First and last name
- Spouses first name (if married)
- Complete mailing address
- Telephone/Fax number(s)
- Date of abstinence (month-day-year)
- Email address

It takes a while to compile everything, so please as soon as you have this information let us hear from you.

I have been compiling all of the information for the 2006 - 2008 Board of Trustees. I have received correspondence from approximately 48% of the 57 Trustee areas. Yes you did read that correctly, we now have 57 Areas with 129 allotted Trustee positions. For the 52% of areas who have not sent in your election results, I ask that you do so at your earliest convenience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your help and support over the past two years. I believe Gamblers Anonymous is a better place because of members like you and I'm looking forward to having the privilege of working with many of you again.

Love to all,

Karen H. - International Executive Secretary of Gamblers Anonymous

From The Committees

90 Day Room Committee

Dear Trustees:

Throughout Area 12 and throughout the state of New Jersey we have experiencing problems with member retention, especially new member retention. I am sure this problem is not unique to only our area. On a room level, we have started a 90 Day Room with some very good results. Not only are the new members staying, but they are participating in the program and they are getting involved. We try to make them feel like part of the room and it seems to be helping. I cannot help but notice, as I travel around the area, that at best, the rooms are fragmented as to the format and information used in the 90 Day Room or even if they utilize this tool at all.

We have formed the committee from members throughout North America and our International members, to collect positive, productive suggestions that will help us in our efforts to improve our format and use of information in the 90 Day Room.

With reference to Unity Step 4, I believe freedom of choice is paramount to group conscience and so very important to each room. I am not trying to dictate to any room whether to use the 90 Day Room or not. I would like to offer some positive, uniform suggestions to any room wanting to start a 90 Day Room.

The culmination of these results would be collected and offered as a 'Suggestions for a Successful 90 Day Room' pamphlet to be used at the room's discretion, or added to existing G.A. literature. A recommendation would be made by the committee. I believe that this effort could help G.A. as a whole get a clear, consistent, positive message to our members new and old.

Andy D. - 90 Day Room Committee Chair
Area 12

Big Steve Film Committee

I am the chair of the proposed new 'Big Steve' video/DVD. After speaking with Henry I., I realized that this project will probably cost somewhere in the area of \$40,000 to \$50,000. I would like some feedback before I go too much further into making it, whether you feel that there is a chance that the B.O.T. would be willing to spend the money that is needed. What are your personal thoughts on this? I think we need this. It could be used for late night T.V., for G.A. groups around the world, and even treatment centers would want to buy it to use in their programs. I hope to get 'some' feedback before we all meet in Florida in October.

Sincerely, your friend and brother through fellowship,

Howie C. - Big Steve Film Committee Chair
Area 3

Blue Book Revision Committee

Hi Everyone,

Our committee is currently reviewing the existing GA Blue Book "Sharing Recovery Through Gamblers Anonymous" to determine if revisions, updates and deletions are needed in order to best present a GA text that represents our principals of recovery and our fellowship as a whole.

One area that we believe needs to be changed is that more personal stories from actual GA members need to be placed in the book. To accomplish our goal in this area we will need help from the Trustee's and from members in their area. In the near future, we "the committee" will be contacting each Trustee for their assistance.

Your GA Brother,

Gary B. - Blue Book Revision Committee Chair Area 10B

International Relations Committee

We would like to start by saying thank you to the many people who spoke highly in Boston of the work we have done so far. This is truly rewarding, looking at our program grow from all areas of the globe. It would be so simple to just say the language barrier keeps us from helping most of the time, but that is not the "GA Way".

Since we met in Boston the IRC with the help of Andre G. from Area 5B of Montreal, Quebec have been assembling a master list of volunteers who speak and write (translate) other languages. This will assist us in helping everyone we can anywhere we can. To date the list includes French, Arabic, Spanish, Armenian, Cantonese, German, Greek, Hebrew/Yiddish, Indian, Korean, Portuguese, Farsi and Philippino languages. If any of you out there can add to this list please don't hesitate to contact us. We are also looking into translation software by a company called Ectaco electronic Translators.

There has been communication with Russia (Denis M. wants to go!), France, Poland and the Netherlands just recently. The Netherlands has a group of members that are not entirely happy with the way meetings are not sticking to only GA approved literature. They are setting up a new meeting to correct this.

Trustee Leo R. of Argentina has recently received emails from Columbia and Bolivia asking for help and our committee is looking into these requests as we speak.

I have also been working with Iceland and Poland on literature lately. My new sponsee Zdravko Z. in Slovenia has just finished Step One, as we are working the steps by email. It appears that his friend from Croatia, Marko P. will also join us soon in the step study. Zdravko is planning on coming to L.A. in 2007 and by then our step work should be extensive. As I look back to the pre GA years and the insanity that was my gambling I can't imagine ever thinking I'd be doing all this. Simply amazing.

The committee welcomes all input on what we are doing and what we could do in the future. Please don't forget if you have other languages that you speak or know of members who do please step forward and help out.

This new forum for the Trustee Line is just what we needed on the Board. It provides an "easy" way to communicate..no stamp, no phone call etc. (No more B.S. excuses those of you who have been along just for the ride. Express yourself in this media and our Trustee Meeting Time can be trimmed down a bunch. Congrats to David M. (the gentle harasser) and committee for their work.

Steve R. - International Relations Committee Member Area 2B

Literature Committee

Hi Everyone,

I am very excited about this new form of communication that has been presented to us through the Trustee Line. One of the goals of the committee is to keep the Trustees updated on our progress, so that when it comes time to give our committee report, it can be presented in a very timely fashion.

Just a reminder, at the San Diego Conference, we made a change in how new literature is presented, reviewed and accepted or rejected by the BOT. Here are the steps for bringing forth and adopting new GA literature:

1. Any member wishing to submit a new piece of literature, must have the literature placed as an item on the BOT agenda.

2. Every Trustee serving on the BOT is to receive a copy of the said literature at least 30 days before the BOT convenes.
3. At the BOT meeting the Trustees will vote to approve or disapprove the merit of said literature.
4. Upon approval at BOT meeting each Trustee has 30 days to advise the literature committee of his or her recommendations to improve the literature.
5. The literature committee will edit and produce a final version and submit the literature to the subsequent BOT meeting for a final two vote passage.

Our committee is currently reviewing and making suggested changes to Part One of the Australian Blue Book. Our focus of change has been centered around the steps of recovery and unity. We are hoping to come to a consensus with the Australian writers in order to present this text to the Trustees that embrace the principals of our steps.

On another matter, we have received a request for input concerning a possible update to an existing piece of literature "Young Gamblers in Recovery". We are waiting for direction in regards to the members request.

Any questions, comments or input are gladly accepted.

Gary B. - Literature Committee Chair
Area 10B

Literature On CDs Committee

Hi everyone,

We are throwing this out to all the members of this wonderful fellowship, through the Trustee Line, what would you like to see the Literature on CDs Committee work on next? What piece of GA Literature would you like to listen to, as you are driving around town, or going to a meeting, or coming back from one, or even while driving to Intergroup? I know for me at times I do need a meditation CD for that (LOL). We would like someday to have all our Literature on CDs but after we got finished with the Towards 90 Days & Beyond 90 Days, which hopefully will go on sale through ISO very shortly, we as a committee have kicked around a few ideas, such as maybe now working on the Suggested New Member Packet, and placing that on CDs. So we are asking for some suggestions. We also thought about the Combo Book, but I can't remember a Trustee meeting that there wasn't a change. If we did place it on a CD, we would not be able to keep up with all the changes. We would really like to hear from you all. Again, what would you like to listen to???? Thanks!!

Joe B. - Literature on CDs Committee Co-Chair
Area 6C

North American Telephone Hotline Committee

No submission was made

Past Trustee Decisions Committee

I recently visited Sharon B., wife of our departed G.A. brother Dan B., to retrieve map committee material from Dan's home office and download related files from his PC. While my mission was primarily to help the Trustee Area Mapping Committee carry on with its BOT work, my intense desire to find every possible piece of map-related material was put into perspective when Sandy and I later had lunch with Sharon. I was humbly reminded about the importance of "just being there" for Sharon during her grieving process and understood my mission that day was at a more fundamental level. I am grateful for having the opportunity to be of service in this great Fellowship -- in whatever capacity, be it as trusted servant or G.A. brother to a Gam-Anon sister.

As a trusted servant, I want to let you know about Past Trustee Decisions Committee matters, which Dan had left in the capable hands of the following members: Al O., Bill B., Don D., Ed E., Joe B., Keith M. and Leanne W.

Background

The Past Trustees Decisions Committee was formed at the Connecticut meeting in the spring of last year and commissioned to address the following:

- How should "Past Trustee Decisions" be handled?
- Should "Past Trustee Decisions" be considered G.A. policy?
- Should "Past Trustee Decisions" be considered suggestion only?
- How do we determine which "Past Trustee Decisions" are policy and which are suggestions?

Based on the foregoing, the committee agreed that its goal would be to recommend a

mechanism that provides a clearer distinction among all the decisions -- keeping in mind the precepts of the G.A. Guidance Code, 12 Steps of Recovery and 12 Steps of Unity -- particularly Unity Step 4 that "Each group should be self-governing except in matters affecting other groups or Gamblers Anonymous as a whole." Subsequently, the committee developed its mission statement:

The Past Decisions Committee is committed to providing viable recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the "Past Trustee Decisions" as to their authority and application within the parameters of G.A.'s Guidance Code, 12 Steps of Recovery and 12 Steps of Unity. The committee shall initiate a long range planning process in conjunction with the Executive Board and review and analyze Trustee decisions for suggested revisions to the Board.

Our strategy

The committee's approach has been to review and analyze each past trustee decision and classify each of them into a category that better characterizes the intent of the decision. We determined that the past decisions fall into 6 different categories or boxes, as we call them:

- Box 1-Matters affecting other groups or G.A. as a whole
- Box 2-Matters related to individual groups' self-governing rights
- Box 3-Matters that are Board meeting and procedural in nature
- Box 4-Matters that are purely suggestions
- Box 5-Matters that are historical and paper-trail in nature
- Box 6-All other matters

Undoubtedly, each of the committee members has had his or her belief and opinion on matters we have discussed. However for purposes of our committee work, we recognized that whether we agree or disagree with a particular past trustee decision is irrelevant. In our discussions, we attempt to determine the intent of the Board when it reached consensus on a particular issue and documented its decision. Ultimately, although we may hold firmly to our personal convictions, we continually remind ourselves of the concepts of group unity in Unity Step 1 and group conscience in Unity Step 2.

What we've accomplished to date

The committee has reviewed, debated and voted on the 216 past trustee decisions of the listing through the Connecticut meeting. At this juncture, the committee has identified 27 decisions that we determined belong in "Box 1-Matters affecting other groups or G.A. as a whole".

Our recommendation

Based on the committee's goal to recommend a mechanism that provides a clearer distinction among all the decisions, we conclude "Box 1" items to be Unity Step 4-related and therefore strongly recommend that they be placed in the G.A. Guidance Code in a manner consistent with current guidelines.

We believe the Guidance Code is an appropriate "home" for these 27 decisions because not only would they "carry more clout" as to their authority by being contained in the Guidance Code; but also, if approved by the Board, they will have been passed by two-thirds (?) of the votes cast at two consecutive conference meetings, and not just by simple majority or straw vote.

Additionally, the listing of past trustee decisions is published and distributed for the use of current Trustees. While its contents are not confidential or restricted to the Board, the listing is not made available to the general G.A. membership in the same manner that approved G.A. literature is offered. Clearly the Guidance Code is made available to every member of the Fellowship.

Moving toward the Florida BOT meeting

Of the 27 decisions in "Box 1" that we recommend for inclusion in the Guidance Code, 10 were placed on the agenda for the Boston BOT, but time constraints prevented the committee from introducing them to the Board for consideration and approval. These same 10 decisions however are on the Fort Lauderdale Rolling Agenda.

There is still a great deal of work ahead for the committee. We will continue to review all the past decisions, add new ones from recently-concluded BOT meetings and categorize them in what we believe would be the appropriate "boxes". And we will report our findings and recommendations to the Board at subsequent conference meetings. Currently we are in the process of updating the listing that will include decisions from San Diego and Boston, which we hope to have posted on the Trustee Web site in the next few weeks.

Summary

It is with the hope that sharing here in the Trustee Line about Past Trustee Decision Committee matters will lead Trustees to examine the significance of all that has been discussed above. Please take the time to review the committee's 10 agenda items, and we encourage you to contact any of us with your questions, concerns or suggestions.

Finally, on behalf of the committee members, I express the same sentiment which Dan B. had written in his letter that continues to serve as a working guide for the committee: "... I'm humbled by the nature of our important task and responsibility -- very simply, I am truly grateful to be of service!"

Ed E. - Past Trustee Decisions Committee Chair
Area 2

Pressure Relief Online Forms Committee

For those of you who have gone through Pressure Relief, it is clear that the members of the Pressure Relief committee are many times walking into a financial minefield. The ability of those who are conducting the budget have an equally daunting task of trying to get the member back to a normal way of thinking and living.

The blue booklet containing the financial forms have helped to make the financial accounting a bit easier, but they are manual entry based and don't offer the members of the Pressure Relief committee members the exact calculations that are necessary to help the member and his/her family. The online forms are structured around a spreadsheet that has active links throughout all the segments. This means that if any number is entered and then changed, all the calculations change with it throughout the forms where applicable. Gone are the day so calculators or longhand division or any other calculations regarding repayment.

The committee is not looking to replace the blue booklet, but merely to offer an alternative to those who wish to use an interactive spreadsheet. Part of what has been a problem with the printed booklet is the uniform explanation of what each field represents. This is now the job of this committee. Through the members, we plan on having all fields on the financial forms contain a description of the meaning or purpose of any field or function. This effort will be a joint effort with all the committee members. We 10 committee members, this will be a challenge to distill the wisdom of the committee members into final explanations, but it is what we must and will accomplish.

As a reminder, when the work is completed, we intend to submit a motion to have the financial forms application and all other pertinent GA-approved literature burned to a CD that will be sold by ISO, at a price to be determined by ISO. As we move forward, we will use the Trustee Line for updates as they occur. Since Boston, the committee has not had any meetings, either via conference calls or through the Internet.

David M. - Pressure Relief Online Forms Committee Chair
Area 12

Prison Committee

No submission was made

Public Relations Committee

In reference to the committee that is working on a Public Relations booklet, not much has been accomplished. I take most of the blame for that. But I feel that this is still a very worthwhile project. The purpose is to have a booklet that the membership, world wide can turn to, to get guidance on how to do Public Relations, and some do's and don't's. It will also point out what is attraction vs. promotion, how to approach Radio & T.V. stations to put on spot announcements, etc. etc.

The booklet might be about 15 to 20 pages in length, maybe less. I figure that IF I get on the ball, that maybe we (the committee) can have something to show the B.O.T. in Chicago. That is my goal now, and I AM starting to get busy with this now.

Sincerely,
Howie C. - Public Relations Committee Chair
Area 3

Trustee Area Mapping Committee

There is no current chair for this committee
No submission was made

Trustee Meeting Rules and Procedures Committee

For those of you who have attended Trustee meetings, you know the obvious problems with rulings by the 3 Chairs and how the 'Chair's Discretion' issue can vary the rules and

procedures that are used between the Chairs and also between meetings. The Chairs use their best efforts to be as consistent as possible, but as we all know, there is a difference between the concept and the practical deployment of such issues.

The rules and procedures committee was put together to compile, maintain and amend a manual that will outline the rules and procedures for the Trustee meetings of Gamblers Anonymous. This way uniformity will hopefully prevail and there may end up being fewer points of order, challenges to the chair, and generally a more productive Trustee meeting that runs more efficiently.

The process of compiling this manual is an enormous task, as you might imagine, and the committee has decided to first tackle this by coming up with an outline of what we felt needed to be covered. This is where we need help from the other Trustees. If you feel that a specific procedure should be listed in this manual, please let the committee know. Once we have the topics listed, we will bring a number of specific recommendations to the BOT meetings for motions to be added to the manual. Completing this process will take many years. Any BOT procedure that has been previously passed and did not make it to the Guidance Code will be included, if applicable.

The committee has utilized the Trustee Website to list this outline. You can get to this page for review and possible additions you want included by [clicking this link](#).

Herb B. - Trustee Meeting Rules and Procedures Committee Chair
Area 5

Trustee Realignment Committee

There is no current chair for this committee
No submission was made

Trustee Website Committee

This is certainly an auspicious occasion to be part of the inaugural Internet version of the Trustee Line. With the subsequent issues, the committee hopes to continue to innovate with features that will help to improve communications between the Trustees during the 'off seasons'.

The BOT heavily carried the motion to adopt the guidelines for the Trustee Website, which indicates its willingness to make better usage of the tools available to everyone through Internet applications. There are numerous new possibilities, which the committee hopes to showcase to the BOT in future meetings. We understand that some Trustees are only just starting to get used to using email, and the thought of adapting to new technologies is somewhat of a daunting task. For those of you to whom this applies, rest easy. We will have simplified functions that will indeed be 'user-friendly'.

Important to the efforts of this committee is that we will always be thinking of enhancements for the Trustee website. Visual presentations will be critical to everyone's understanding of each of them, because it is essential for the BOT to understand how each one works and what benefits they can bring to the Trustees, before they vote on whether to approve them.

Every Trustee can be of immeasurable help by just taking a moment and writing to the committee with one of those 'Hey, you know what would be really great? If you could do...' Ideas are what will fuel the improvements in this website.

Looking forward to some feedback

David M. - Trustee Website Committee Chair
Area 12

Walk-A-Thon Committee

No submission was made

Website Guidelines Committee

Dear Trustees,

I want to thank all of you for your interest in our committee's work. I have received many inquiries in reference to the Guideline Checklist distributed at our last Trustee Conference in Boston. Without much analyzing of the inquiries, I realize your eagerness to practice the Principles of our Unity Program. These principles ALWAYS seem to work well in our recovery process and ALWAYS "Carry the message" If we use those Guidelines

as submitted, we WILL BE carrying the Gamblers Anonymous message.

Our intention is to pass this Checklist on to the Literature Committee so that we may move forth with the acceptance of these Guidelines by the BOT.

We continue to look forward to you questions and thoughts.

Michele R. - Website Guidelines Committee Chair
Area 12

Website Revisions Committee

Many thanks to the Trustees for their support with the passing of the motion to revise the look and feel of the ISO website. I want to say it once again, that this change is not to diminish the efforts of those who originally put together the ISO site as we know it today. When the Internet first got started, it was imperative for any company or organization to have a presence. That later changed to having content. What the Internet has now evolved into is functionality and appearance.

The purpose of the new revisions is to draw the viewer into the site and be made to feel that it is a comfortable and safe place to better understand compulsive gambling and Gamblers Anonymous. The changes involve no new features or functionality. The committee hopes to get to that part of our mission statement after the resolution of this new directive to change the site's appearance.

The status of where we stand with this committee is that the BOR has this item and will most likely put out requests for bids with other website development companies. This presents a somewhat strange situation because of what the potential is for design changes. The Trustees voted for the motion based on the visuals presentation the committee made in Boston. If another firm is selected through a bid process, the committee will have to review that firm's design specifications. It would seem that an additional presentation would be warranted to show the Trustees in Fort Lauderdale, so that the committee can get a general consensus as to the Trustees' level of acceptance would be for a new design.

I would like to remind everyone that previous changes were made to the website and were done without subsequent approval of the actual visuals after the original motion to proceed were passed. It is our hope that the company that submitted the visual changes shown in Boston will be the firm that actually makes the changes, but this process of selection has yet to unfold from the BOR.

David M. - Website Revisions Committee Chair
Area 12

From The Trustees

I DEFINITELY AGREE ABOUT THE GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME THAT IS SPENT ON COMMITTEE REPORTS. I LOSE FOCUS AND GET AGGRAVATED THAT CARRIES FORWARD WHEN WE FINALLY REACH IMPORTANT ISSUES. MY TAKE WOULD LIMIT COMMITTEE REPORTS TO 15 MINUTES MAX.

LET US MOVE FORWARD

ALEX B. - HOUSTON, TX - Area 7A

First of all, thanks to David M. for making this format possible so there cannot be any excuse but to write at least one time in the Trustee line during the year!

Denis, point of order! The items that were not covered in Boston were not tabled so they cannot be carried over to the next meeting. They officially died because we did not take any motions to table those items. I do believe they can be resubmitted because no action was taken on the items and I know someone will correct me if I am wrong.

Now to my other issue: The Board of Regents please wake up and start listening to your members! I just received the May minutes and there were 8 members "present" but at times only 7 votes were listed on some votes and 8 on others! Also we asked in the last BOT meeting for more information in the minutes and it is not happening! I have many meetings here in my area that want some accountability of what is going on in Los Angeles but until that happens they will not contribute to ISO! They want to know how and why of GA including budgetary decisions!

Finally I have a suggestion for all committees: Write a presentation out and e-mail to all the trustees before the conference so that they are prepared and reports can be a lot more concise and understanding so they we don't have another repeat of what just happened in Boston

Ian S. - Area 6D

Hello Trustees, new Trustees, and former Trustees.

The Fort Lauderdale conference is just weeks away and I am looking forward to seeing all of my old friends and making new ones.

The Trustee meeting will be in a facility that will be like no other; an amphitheater style room tailor made for your comfort and perfect for our semi-annual meeting. The resort is looking better and better, and I am sure you will be impressed upon your arrival, so if you have not made your reservation yet, please do so. You need to call the hotel directly and then send in your conference registration to the conference committee.

The best airport to arrive into is Fort Lauderdale - airport code FLL. There will not be any organized transportation to the hotel. You can rent a car, take a taxi, or the super shuttle, which will be the least expensive. The golf outing will be on Thursday morning at 7 AM and another one on Friday afternoon (sorry, but you will be in Trustee meetings then). There are still some openings for some workshops. If any Trustee would like to do one, please contact me via the information on the conference flyer, as we are looking for a nationwide array of topics. This will be the second conf. in area 6 in 4 years, and I am very proud of that. I am sure we will all have a great time of fellowship and recovery here in Fort Lauderdale.

If there are any questions please contact me as soon as possible, so we can ensure you a terrific stay. See you soon. As always, peace and good health to all.

Your brother,

Rich S. - Fort Lauderdale Conference Committee Chair
Area - 6

Hey Ya'll,

It has been almost 10 months since I had to evacuate my home and run from Katrina. First of all I would like to thank each and every one of you for all of your support that you have given me. Shortly after the storm I received so many calls and e-mails that it was overwhelming to think that people could care as much as you guys do. Your love and support is what kept me going at that time and continues to keep me going now.

When I left on Aug. 28th I took my computer because it had all of my e-mail addresses and all of my GA information. I also took along the literature that I had for the New Orleans Intergroup as I was the literature chairperson. This program has done so much for me that I take all of my responsibilities very seriously.

Secondly I would like to thank you for all that you have done for my area. Your support has helped us to get back on track. I have to tell you how proud I am of my area. Although a lot of our members lost all or part of their homes it did not stop them from moving on and getting meetings started back up. They had to search for places to have meetings because a lot of our meeting places were destroyed but they were persistent. We have three active Intergroups in our area, Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Lower Coast Mississippi. Two of the Intergroups were in devastated areas and could not get started back up right away. Baton Rouge Intergroup helped pull us through by taking over what the other Intergroups could not do. Gary S. talked about making Intergroups from good to great and how do we do it. Seeing the Intergroups in my area and going to their meetings I can tell you that it is communication and suiting up and showing up. Planning things that get everyone involved, such as picnics, unity weekend campouts and pinnings or speaker meetings. Realize that we only have half of the meetings back in New Orleans and Mississippi. We had a mini conference scheduled for the end of January 2006, but because of the storm we did not have enough time to plan for it. Well guess what some of us got together and decided to have on anyway, but at the end of July. If we all work together it is amazing what can be accomplished no matter what the situation. We should remember this in all that we do, especially in the Trustee meetings.

Some of us still don't have our homes back together and some have not returned back home. Our membership is very low but we continue to support one another. After all isn't that what this program is about, caring, sharing, supporting and loving each other unconditionally. That is what we have received from all of you.

Before Katrina, I would sit in Trustee meetings and think, Oh My God why is it that we can't agree on things without challenging the chair and sometimes being rude to one another. When I went to the conference in San Diego and everyone was so concerned and caring I couldn't help but think that it's OK for us to fuss amongst one another because when a tragedy happens see how fast we come to the aid of one another.

Leanne W - Area 7

Dear Trustee Line,

I'm excited about the overwhelming acceptance of this new Trustee Line Format by the BOT. Cheers! For another growing process in progress.

I am so looking forward to our Fall Conference for many reasons....

- (1) Hopefully, we have gained some experience of the "What not to dos" and we can continue building on the "What to dos" for a truly successful Trustee Meeting.
- (2) I'm looking forward to meeting and greeting and welcoming all the newly elected Trustees. I believe it's our responsibility to help them by setting a strong example of how this magnificent Fellowship can work TOGETHER by practicing the Guidelines set forth in our Unity Program.
- (3) There were many items on our last agenda that I do hope will be either resubmitted or placed back on the agenda. Every agenda item is valid and important to discuss if even one member of GA believes it to be.
- (4) We have some Committees which I find very interesting and am looking forward to hearing the progress being made.
- (5) I always look forward to seeing my brothers and sisters that I do not have the opportunity to see but twice a year.
- (6) Florida's a great place to visit and I'll personally be taking advantage by staying some extra nights and will probably get to a meeting in the area as I do whenever I travel.

I received a notice from Denis M., Chair of The BOT that we will be meeting on Friday night and then Saturday morning, if necessary to give the agenda the time required to discuss all items. Committee Chairs, please only take the time necessary to give the information we need during your report. Trustees, please ask the pertinent questions you have. Please be considerate. Please don't solicit or have your Committee meeting during your report. It's more than disappointing, it's downright crippling to the progress we're there to accomplish when we continuously table items or withdraw them due to a lack of time. I'm there, number one, as a Trustee, and second, to be at the Conference. My vacation and fun begins after the work is done.

I had the opportunity to visit the ISO office in Los Angeles recently. Way to go Karen! How inspiring. What an office, great staff, and fabulous view. I would love to visit again, and maybe a tour can be made during the 50th Anniversary Conference in the Fall of 2007.

Looking forward to work and fun in the sun.
Michele R. - Area 12

I am constantly praising the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous for saving my life....restoring me to a normal way of thinking and living. Logically then, the more extensive my participation in the fellowship, the greater the rewards. As I depart each conference and Trustees Meetings, I feel totally exhilarated by the events of the previous few days, whether it be GA business or simple social pleasures. I am additionally grateful that another of these wonderful trips lies not too far down the road. So the slight imperfections that occur over four days pale in comparison to the ridiculous mess my life was in prior to GA. I think there are way too many Points of Information. I am still astounded at the lingering lack of understanding over what construes a Point of Order. And sometimes I think personal agendas take precedence over the real issue. But the Trustee experience on the whole is so valuable and important that these imperfections are a small price to pay for the opportunity to tackle the issues facing our fellowship....and its growth. Can we do better as a Board? Absolutely!! It is incumbent on everyone involved to examine the ways to improve the process AND the result. Remember that the goals of the fellowship are greater than the goals of the individuals that comprise it. I look forward to being a part of this evolution, contributing what I can and respecting the contributions of my brothers and sisters.

Peace and Fellowship,
Dave S. - Area 13

Dear Fellow Trustees-

First of all, I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you for your assistance during my 3 ½ terms as Trustee for Area 3. I truly enjoyed my experiences, and although I will not be a Trustee this next term, God willing I plan to be in Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

I am writing to the Trustee Line regarding a recent incident in Area 3 in which two members entered into a contest for the opportunity to win a \$40,000 Dream Wedding Giveaway. The controversy that has stemmed from this contest is the question of their interpretation of the definition of gambling. The two members insist that they did not gamble; that they participated in a competition, not a contest; did not have to pay an entry fee to enter this competition; and the public, not judges picked the winning couple (a popularity contest) through the Internet.

However, the first discrepancy arises from the Dream Wedding Rules posted on one of the sponsor's website on how the winners would be selected. The contest first required completion of an entry form, then, required both 'bride and groom' to be present at the drawing in order to win. Secondly, the top 16 couples would then participate in a 'Newlywed' game contest to eliminate 8 of the couples. Then, the remaining 8 couples would participate in an 'Amazing Race' format, televised for the purpose of voting by Internet for the most popular couple. In addition, all voters for the couple and the components of their wedding package (i.e. dress, honeymoon package, ring, catered dinner, etc) would then, in turn, be entered into a separate drawing for various prizes.

So, esteemed members of the Board...Did they in fact gamble? And, what of the fellow members and friends of Gamblers Anonymous that went to the website and voted, each now participating in a contest for prizes drawn randomly...Did they gamble too?

In researching this controversy, I searched out various definitions of contests, competitions, and gambling. One definition states: '...contests are for individual entries whereas competitions are normally between teams and don't necessarily involve tangible prizes'. Another definition of contest is defined as: '... an occasion on which a winner is selected from among two or more contestants'. And yet one more definition of gambling states: 'A contest is an event involving a competition of at least two opposing individuals or teams, to be awarded a prize to the champion.'

We have already identified the definition of gambling on page 14 of our Combo Book. We have also identified that participating in newspaper contests is considered gambling (Ref. PTD, Farmington 2005). We discuss on page 14 that participation in 'penny ante poker game and world series pool' as being '... the first bet, one to avoid'. One definition of gambling as defined in Britannica states: 'Gambling is the betting or staking of something of value, with consciousness of risk and hope to gain.'

There is currently an agenda item for Ft. Lauderdale asking to include the phrase (Section 3, pg. 17)... 'This also includes all types of contests'. Bottom line as you consider this controversy as described here, the various definitions of contests/competitions/gambling and the proposed agenda item, it is my belief that it is time for us to expand the definition of gambling in our literature. This definition of gambling should specifically address radio and television contests as gambling, as well as any contest that would require active participation by the individual.

Gail L. - Area 3

Trustees are charged with the duty of being guardians of the steps. I see the Recovery Steps being for the GA members for their personal recovery, whereas the Unity Steps are for the membership and their continued recovery within the framework of the fellowship.

Too often Unity Step 4 is abused for the purposes of trying to sidestep the core philosophies of the fellowship. Many GA members are good at quoting chapter and verse regarding the Unity Step headlines, such as 'Each group should be self-governing except in matters affecting other groups or Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.' The straight forwardness of that statement is enough for many, but it is the 1st paragraph in the Red Book on this step that gives the step more depth. 'Each Gamblers Anonymous group has great latitude to conduct its affairs within the framework of the Fellowship. This preserves the freedom of choice that is so important to the group conscience. The conduct of each group is limited only to the extent that its actions would conflict with the Guidance Code of Gamblers Anonymous.'

I bring this up because earlier this month I was asked to participate in a 24 Step meeting, by speaking for 4 minutes about one of the Unity Steps. Flyers were passed out at our Intergroup meeting about this meeting. Since I am always willing to learn about new ideas in the program, I accepted.

Upon arriving at the meeting there were roughly enough people to speak on each of the 24 steps. The meeting started with someone reading a piece of non-GA approved material into a tape recorder. After that, the microphone was passed onto another GA member that spoke about Recovery Step 1. No names were mentioned and no admission was given by that member, the typical format that step meetings in our area use. The person spoke about their personal thoughts and experiences with the step and then passed the microphone to the next person to speak on the next step.

The entire time this was happening, the hairs on the back of my neck were sticking straight out with discomfort. In between the next speaker, while the microphone was off, I asked the organizer of the meeting who has in excess of 20 years in the program why the meeting was being recorded. His answer was that many other rooms were interested in the process and that he was going to send a copy of the tape to those rooms so they could better understand how it worked.

It was at that time that I got up from the table to go outside and call some other members to discuss what I felt was a serious breach of the Unity Program. One person told me that he had no problem with the format because it had been going on for years. Another member was speechless that any GA meeting would be tape-recorded. I went

back in and told one of the meeting coordinators that he would have to find someone else to do my Unity Step because I was uncomfortable with the use of the recording device. Some of the answers I received were 1) - just because I was uncomfortable with it, didn't make it wrong. 2) - I guess I should have told you before you accepted to speak that that meeting was being recorded. 3) - it didn't matter that I thought it was wrong, because the meeting would not be stopped anyway 4) - that this has been done for the past 5 years.

My problem with this event was compounded by the fact that there were 4 current Trustee at this meeting, with other past Trustees and many members with well over 20 years of abstinence that found absolutely nothing wrong with the recording. I was the only one that said anything about it being objectionable. This is a serious situation that reinforces the fact that stronger language needs to be incorporated into more of our literature supporting the fact that none of the meetings can be recorded, even if the group conscience agrees to the recording.

Here are a number of issues that I feel are critical to what went wrong with this recorded meeting and must be addressed: 1 - NJ Intergroup pre-opening announcements contain the provision that there are no cameras, tape recorders or recording devices of any kind allowed in the GA room at any time. 2 - 'Whatever happened to 'What is said in the room, remains in the room.' 3. - Distribution of the tape is a distribution of non-GA approved literature. No one has any control over what happens to that tape and it is being distributed to other members and other rooms, which constitutes a violation of the Guidance Code of Gamblers Anonymous. 4 - Announcing that the meeting is being taped in advance does not make it right. 5 - What if someone had admitted to something that could have gotten him/her into trouble?

Our NJ Intergroup monthly meeting will be held on June 26th, and this will be discussed in the Trustee meeting that is held 30 minutes before and also in the general meeting. I hope to reinforce the fact that tape recordings of any kind are not allowed and are certainly detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

I also will be submitting an agenda item for the Fort Lauderdale Conference that will hopefully be passed as a motion prohibiting this process and placing it in the appropriate GA literature that is use today. I would certainly like to hear from other Trustees about this subject in the future Trustee Lines.

David M. - Area 12

The Trustee Line in any form would not be complete without a Steve R. beg letter for History. So ta da, here we go.

On the US front I would still like to see some information from the following states; Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming. Needed is early meeting information like Dates, Locations, City and Founder.

On the International front I am looking for Canada (New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island), Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ethiopia, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa (Kwazulu Natal, Johannesburg/ Gauteng and Cape Province), Switzerland, Trinidad, Uganda and Wales (UK).

I will be pimping the 50th Anniversary Conference in L.A. in 2007 at the 2006 Australian National Conference on the Gold Coast in Queensland on August 25-27th. Just short of 35 years of marriage and finally taking my wife Mary Jo somewhere. We will be there for two weeks and I am looking forward to it bigtime. Thanks to GA.

Thanks

Steve R. - 2007 Conference History Booklet Committee Area 2B