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Trustee Line for March 2017

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 3/31/16.

Thoughts From The Trustees - Current and Past

Disclaimer - The Trustee Line is a function of the Board of Trustees of Gamblers Anonymous. It is intended solely as a forum for members of the Board of Trustees to share opinions on issues related to Gamblers Anonymous. Any postings in this or any other edition of the Trustee Line are not to be construed as the opinion of Gamblers Anonymous, as a whole. The publication of any items on the Trustee Line do not constitute an endorsement or statement of approval or acknowledgement by Gamblers Anonymous of what the contents are.

The subjects listed below are themes that have been submitted by other Trustees. You may respond to any of them, or start an entirely new subject

Subjects that receive submissions from at least 13 different people, will trigger an email blast to all the current and past Trustees, signifying a 'Hot Topic Alert' on the Trustee Line.

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Responsibilities of a Room Greeter

3/1/17 - 12:01 AM

I am a Trustee for Area 14 (Long Island) and I'm trying to find the responsibilities of a Room's Greeter. I'd like to know what is written when a "prospective/new" GA member should be approached and what should be asked at that first "supposed" meeting.

My reason: We had a room on Long Island that did not approach two individuals that seemingly were new to the program. They were approached at break and the two men told the Greeter that they were there looking for somebody that owed them money—not a good scenario. After telling these guys that he (the Greeter) did not know who they were looking for, they left. I feel this was a very dangerous situation for the room to be put in.

It's been my experience that whenever somebody new comes into the room, whatever is going on is stopped and the new person(people) are taken outside the room to be asked of their intentions for coming down to the meeting that night. The person then waits for the speaker his/her therapy to finish before re-entering the room. The Member then tell the Secretary or person officiating the meeting that a new man has joined the meeting, giving his name and meeting room if he/she/s attended a meeting before that night.

Please send me the text where I can see what the official word is on greeting someone new and after understanding what is expected, I may add a word or two if needed and submit as an agenda item.

Thank you,
Tom K. - Area 14, Long Island

3/4/17 - 12:06 PM

Hello all,

In reply to Tom K.'s request, the text he is looking for is in the GA Group Handbook and is titled: Greeting New Members. Here is what it says:

Everyone in Gamblers Anonymous is important, but extra attention should be made for the new member walking into the room for the first time. As the saying goes, you only get one chance to make a first impression. To do this, a room should have a New Member Greeter. This person should be the first contact with the new member. Ideally, this person comes to the meeting early and has the specific purpose of greeting the new member and trying to make that

member more comfortable about being at the meeting, explaining what happens in the meeting. The New Member Greeter should be responsible for providing the new member with all the literature to be read, along with a telephone list of the regular attending members of that room and a meeting list for the area. Other functions should be maintaining contact with the new member the next day and up until the next meeting. This can also help the new member in choosing a temporary sponsor. The purpose of the New Member Greeter is to initially help the new member, which in the process can greatly improve member retention. Of course, the benefits of this type of involvement speaks direct to the Guidelines of the Combo Book about getting involved and being of service. The room must realize that such a position does not relieve the other members of the room from calling the new members, but the New Member Greeter is a very strong way for that member to develop a strong sense of involvement with that specific room. Coming into Gamblers Anonymous for the first time is a very important event. Another important event is making the second meeting.

Hope this helps.

André G. - BOT 2nd co-chair
Area 5B - French Quebec

Item #81 New Business

3/11/17 - 12:01 AM

Let Common Sense rule and let the "A&H" Pamphlet stay in the shredder.

Bill B. - PT Area 6, Southern Florida
