

Trustee Line – Current Issue

March 2018

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Thoughts From The Trustees – Current and Past

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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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Intergroup Meetings

3/2 – 9:00 AM

I am hoping to get some feed back on an issue our Inter-group is having. Our group meets at a central location, but we have about seven groups south of us that feels the location is too far, so they do not participate at the monthly meeting. A suggestion was made that perhaps they could call into the meeting or maybe use Skype. Has any one tried these and how effective has it been. Any feed back or suggestions on how to get these groups involved with Inter-group would be appreciated.

Thanks

Joe L. – Area 11 – Massachusetts

Unapproved Materials

3/8 – 12:00 PM

At a recent Intergroup meeting a member requested permission to put up a poster from the Nevada Council on Problem Gambling that announced March as Problem Gambling Awareness month. The chair of Intergroup asked me for my opinion on this. I said that my understanding was that only GA approved material was allowed to be posted in the room. Based on that the chair denied the member permission to put up the poster. The member desiring to put up the poster was visibly upset and called the decision “crazy”. While I empathize with that member I believe that my statement was correct and in conformance with the guidance code. Could there be something I have missed that might have allowed the posting of this piece? It seems that even though it is not a

GA approved piece, might it not be appropriate and therefor allowable?

I seek thoughts and opinions on this from other Trustees on how they have handled similar situations.

Thank You,

Terry D. – Area 3C – Nevada

3/9 – 12:00 PM

Article VII, Section 8:

“Gamblers Anonymous appropriate literature is limited to local area member telephone lists, meeting and direction lists, flyers regarding events sponsored by the local rooms(s), Intergroup(s), surrounding

area(s) or conference committees. Other appropriate material must be designated as such by the Board of Trustees.”

What part of Article VII, Section 8 is confusing?

In my opinion, when the member asked about hanging up a Council poster, he should have been handed the Guidance Code. When the chair of the intergroup asked the Trustee for his opinion, the chair should have been handed the Guidance Code. Personally, I think it's a shame that most members aren't familiar with what our Guidance Code states, and/or just don't care; but that's the way it is. However, when a member chooses to become an Intergroup Rep, Group Secretary, or officer or Chair of Intergroup, and still doesn't study the Guidance Code, it borders on disgrace. Gamblers Anonymous has very few rules, but the ones that exist are important and, as in Article VII, Section 8, usually very specific. Also, hanging a poster from ANY outside organization would definitely be seen as us endorsing that entity, a clear violation of Unity Steps 6 and 10.

Suggestion: A short time ago, Delaware Valley Intergroup (Area 13) purchased enough copies of the Guidance Code to provide all of our groups with one. The object of the exercise is to ensure that all members, especially the group secretaries, become familiar with the material. (Now, if only we could ensure that the material will be read.) My opinion: You didn't miss a thing, Terry. Its absolutely NOT allowable. (No wiggle room)

John B, Trustee, Area 13

3/26 – 9:00 AM

Connecticut Intergroup covers Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.

I (As a Current Trustee) would not allow anything from the Connecticut or Massachusetts councils on compulsive gambling or any other outside issue inside a Gamblers Anonymous Room!

Reason 1 – For five years we never got any calls on our old GA Helpline. Because the Connecticut council on compulsive gambling had put on every city and towns board of educations websites this statement . If you have a gambling problem contact Gamblers Anonymous at 1-888-789-7777, this was and is the Connecticut problem gambling helplines number. What a screw job.

Reason 2 – I just received a brochure from the Connecticut problem gambling services. On page 12 they list their correct number 1-888-789-7777 and two wrong numbers for Gamblers Anonymous and Gam -Anon 1-877-974-6442.

A Gam-Anon member did some research on the two numbers and they are old toll free numbers from Minneapolis, MN. Really!

Reason 3 – I had a meeting about one year ago with marlene who heads up the Connecticut and Massachusetts councils on problem gambling.

She assured me she would contact me to get GA Speakers for educational events. I haven't heard from her in over a year!

Reason 4 – A GA Member set up a meeting with GA speakers for a Ct council on problem gambling member. He said this meeting was a GA function being held by GA members and the brochure could be handed out at Intergroup and other meetings. NO! Then why was there a request to send \$10 to Donna at the Ct council for your lunch if this was a GA function.

Reason 5- This really should have been Reason 1 we have no opinion on outside issues!

Why are these two councils so afraid of GA? Is it because they won't get paid their fees. Anyone who works for these councils worth their salt should tell their GA clients that they highly recommend Gamblers Anonymous attendance.

Any Trusted Servant who sees any inappropriate (Outside Issue) material in any GA Meeting should have it removed immediately.

Ronny W. – Area 17 – Connecticut