

# Trustee Line – Current Issue

March 2020

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 03/31/20.

## 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 does not constitute an endorsement or statement of approval or acknowledgment 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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## 1. Virus Impact

March 2, 2020 – 9:00am

In the early 2000's our International Conference in Toronto attendance was seriously impacted by the SARS virus scare. Many potential attendees declined to participate because of news coverage of this virus. This was before the age of social media. With the current clamor over Coronavirus and the 2 recent deaths in Washington I am concerned the Seattle conference might experience a financial shortfall with last minute cancellations. Any one else have thoughts or any knowledge of contingency plans?

Pat M. – Area 3D – Arizona

March 5, 2020 – 1:10pm

Has any decision been made about Seattle? I knew the eminent danger Area 12's Guidance Code posed to G.A. yet there is a medical scare in this country but no word from the Executive Board on this upcoming conference? Flights and rooms need to be booked without worry about losing money. Can someone please respond!!

John F. – Area 12 – New Jersey

March 5, 2020 – 8:23pm

This might be the time to see if electronic voting might work? We just had a success in a vote on an item.

We in Minnesota Think that travel might not be the best at this time due to the this virus that is spreading. We would like to hear from other areas.

Ernie N. – Area 8A – Minnesota

March 6, 2020 – 11:44am

The conference should be canceled for all of the right reasons. GA will close for missing a single conference. We can accept this agenda for the next conference and not add anything to the next.

There too many senior members, people with all different illnesses. Even to be on a roundtrip plane ride is a risk.

This is a gamble by our own definition of gambling.

We should be proactive.

Gary S. – Area 12 – New Jersey

March 6, 2020 – 6:46pm

The merits of holding a Trustee meeting in the face of such a serious a public health issue notwithstanding, it would be timely prudent to assess whether or not we would even have a quorum to conduct business.

If the answer is no or not likely, it is clear that at the very least, the Trustee portion of the conference should immediately be cancelled.

Jack R. – Area 1A – California

March 6, 2020 – 8:48pm

I think it is a risk/gamble to proceed with the conference. I really agree that any items on this agenda can be handled in the spring. (However, I say that not having seen the agenda in its final form with all the attachments, etc.)

Nonetheless, I think it would be wise to cancel the conference.

Terry D. – Area 3C – Nevada

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## 2. Seattle Conference/Trustee meeting

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March 6, 2020 – 9:52pm

In just under 7 weeks we are scheduled to begin our Trustee meeting ahead of the Conference in Seattle, Washington.

There have been a lot of members reaching out to the ISO, Executive Board and the Conference committee asking if the conference/Trustee meeting is going to be canceled because of the covid-19 virus.

There is no doubt that Seattle is facing a difficult time right now dealing with an outbreak of the covid-19 Virus. I'm being told that businesses and schools in Seattle are closing their doors in an effort to contain the virus until 3/31.

The conference Chair and I have been in constant contact since the first case was detected in the United States. We are both in agreement that the safety of our members is first and foremost.

Although the safety of our members is first, we still have an obligation to the fellowship and to the hosting area, Seattle. We must be diligent in our decision making taking everything into consideration.

Part of that consideration is the fact that the conference is nearly 7 weeks away. Anything can happen between now and then. It is too soon to consider cancelling the conference/Trustee meeting at this time.

We are monitoring the situation in Seattle as well as everywhere else. We are going to wait until 3/21 before making any decision on the future of the conference/Trustee meeting in which time we will give an update.

This is a difficult time for all of us, but none as difficult as to what the Seattle conference committee is dealing with.

Once a decision has been made, an update will be posted to this thread and will also be emailed to all current Trustees.

Thank you,

Andy R. – Area 13B – New Jersey

March 7, 2020 – 10:26pm

I have read many concerns addressing the Seattle BOT meeting and conference by trustees from several areas. I am just as concerned for the safety and health of our membership.

Many corporate companies are addressing the Coronavirus by having their employees working from home and not going to the office to work and cancelling trade shows as well as their company meetings. They want the least amount of possible exposure to an employee or vendor. Is Gamblers Anonymous more knowledgeable than these corporate giants and disregard what others are doing? These companies are not panicking they are just being proactive not to spread the virus or have their employees exposed. Many of the companies have been located in Washington State while others are out of state limiting employee travel. Is our fellowship being diligent and having proper discretion knowing what is already known that the virus is spreading more and more each day?

Should we as trusted servants be asking if members that plan to attend the Conference, have they decided not to attend or they can't attend because of work restrictions? The same question would hold true for the BOT meeting. Shouldn't the Seattle conference committee know this information sooner than later? I would hate to see an area lose money if they have another option to prevent that from happening. In fairness to them they should be informed.

An interesting question was posed to me from a member whose work travel has been restricted without knowing the answer. Their question to me was How many trustees have been told by their employer or spouses/significant other not to travel for non essential travel? How many were told they would need to be cleared after they or their spouse traveled to level 3 countries and the State of Washington or other US state by their medical department to return to work?

I would appreciate if any trustees that have been told this or if the executive board can answer this question for the membership.

Walter G. – Area 13 – New Jersey, Northern Pennsylvania

March 10, 2020 – 10:12am

Here in Area 2A I have been watching this virus very carefully and have talked with the planning committee for the Seattle Conference and they also have been watching what is happening in their area.

I know they are quite vigilant at keeping up to date on what is happening daily and monitoring what the health officials are putting out to the public.

I am praying that within the next few weeks the virus will be on the downslide as the members in our area are so looking to be able to attend this conference as it is a two hour drive for us to get there.

Let's all say a prayer for all the people affected and that we can enjoy the upcoming conference.

Paul N. – Area 2A – British Columbia

March 12, 2020 – 8:32pm

Asking members of the Board of Trustees whether they would be attending the upcoming Seattle BOT meeting/conference would have been a valid reason to have a quick response vote.

Bob C. – Area 3A – California

March 13, 2020 – 8:08am

Instead of using the Trustee Line to snipe at others, perhaps a better use of it would simply be to find out who is planning on going to the conference and Trustee meeting (assuming it is a “go”) and who is planning on staying home and voting absentee. That should give everyone a pretty good idea if we'd even have a quorum to hold the meeting.

Speaking for myself, up until last week, I told my Intergroup I would be open to whatever was decided on March 21 but at 70 and with pre-existing conditions, my wife, my doctor, and I decided it would be felony stupid of me to even think about getting on that plane and flying to ground zero of the epidemic. Color me absentee. What about everyone else?

Jack R. – Area 1A – California

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### 3. Meeting Room Closures

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March 13, 2020

We have a true emergency that is affecting Gamblers Anonymous as a whole requiring a quick response vote and one that should even be handled urgently than the current procedure as conditions are rapidly changing daily.

Rooms are being shutdown by their meeting places due to the Covid-19 virus. Trusted servants of groups have been calling their trustees to see if they can have GA meetings by phone or zoom/Skype meetings.

A question should be asked of the trustees.

“Should the BOT allow these groups that have been told by their house of worship or meeting location they have to suspend their meetings. These groups shall be allowed to continue with their meetings remotely, until further notice that the global pandemic is over and the groups are allowed back to their location.

Should the BOT also allow the groups that still are able to meet be allowed to have members that do not want to physically attend or been medically advised to be at home be able to call in.

Groups shall temporarily be allowed to have phone meetings only, no video conferences. The call in member must be alone unless with other gambler anonymous members to use speaker phone. If there's are other non GA members present at their location they must not use speaker phone. The groups need to protect the other members anonymity.“

I humbly request the Chair to call the above question to have groups temporarily be able to meet remotely.

Gamblers Anonymous still has the responsibility to carry out its primary purpose, even if we aren't allowed to meet in our current locations.

In Area 12 many members have shown concern about exposure of the Covid-19 virus at our Gamblers Anonymous meetings in our local area, and concerns have been heard by other area members. Area 12 Intergroup Gamblers Anonymous being proactive to the prevention of the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) is recommending that for the next 2 months that handshaking, hugging, touching, and the holding of hands or locking of arms during the closing of the meeting while reciting the inside prayer and the Serenity prayer be curtailed.

The group may also consider cleaning their combo books and storage cabinets before and after each use, if possible. Should any groups not be able to hold a meeting in the event your facility suspends any outside groups to meet at their location temporarily please notify Intergroup.

Walter G. – Area 12 – New Jersey

March 13, 2020 – 5:29pm

I concur that it is imperative we come up with an online/phone solution. I ask that the Exec Board immediately allow any current rooms to transition to an online/phone platform as long as at least one trusted servant is able to run the meeting and they keep the meeting format. That means no outside literature, no cross comments, same guidance rules that apply for their regular meetings.

We urgently need a solution to help our current and future members because people are stressed out and can not leave their homes. In person meetings are not recommended or possible at this time but recovery should still be an option. We need to combat the desire to gamble that will come from worry, trouble, boredom, loneliness, grief or loss, which are magnified due to our current situation.

Please act now.

Beth Z. – Area 2 – California

March 14, 2020 – 1:59pm

My home room is having a telephone trusted servants meeting to discuss feasibility of using a moderated call in platform for meetings.

Stuart B. – Area 14 – New York

March 15, 2020 – 8:16pm

I am from area 11, representing New England, I live in Massachusetts and just got done watching Governor Baker stating that for at least the next 3 weeks that no groups of 25 or more should meet. That means that most of our meetings in New England are suspended until further notice.

This is not a joke this is a serious situation in the United States, not just New England, and I feel bad for the brothers and sisters who put on this conference in Seattle and who have worked hard and diligent. I am not apologizing for not attending and I am exercising my good judgement and common sense by not taking any chances to attend this conference.

I have already cancelled my hotel and am getting a refund from the airlines for my tickets. I will be asking for an absentee ballot representing area 11.

I wish everyone well and hope for the best.

Best Regards,

John L. – Area 11 – Massachusetts

March 22, 2020 – 5:40pm

Real World Hits Meeting. The question of the virus became real for us at our meeting where a member tested positive after attendance. I wanted to write this to ask our fellows to consider the balance between the need for physical meetings and the risk to our GA members. As the rate of infection continues to grow considering closing to allow social distancing should be considered. Fortunately at our meeting all impacted are recovering (one additional person has tested positive and others are awaiting results from testing) or are showing no reaction. The ages range from the 30's to the 50's. This incident has led to contact by the county health offices to support the individuals. Additionally, communication with the church that sponsors our meeting has been ongoing. The meeting had followed church guidelines and wiped with disinfectant tables, door knobs and stair railings following the meeting. The original infected member had attended another event where a person unknowingly was positive for the virus and spread it to our member. In turn that member (of many years with the program) attended the meeting and did not shake hands. Nevertheless, additional people were exposed and contaminated. As one of the folks over 70 I had made the decision that I could not risk attending that meeting. I love my brothers and sisters and

hope that all in each meeting will make individual or group decisions that keep them and their families safe.

Bob F. – Area 13A – Maryland

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#### 4. Meeting Closures due to COVID-19 (coronavirus)

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March 15, 2020 – 5:00pm

There is no higher priority to the Fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous than the well being of its members during this difficult time.

The Fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous is not responsible for meetings that have had to close because of the COVID-19 (coronavirus). Our ISO (International Service Office) is doing it's best to keep up with all the meeting closures throughout the world.

In an effort to help those members whose meetings have closed as a result of the COVID-19 (coronavirus), the Telephone Conference Call Committee has expanded the Wednesday night meeting to include every night of the week from 9:00-11:00 PM Eastern time. The call in information for the Wednesday night meeting is: Phone Number 712-770-4160 – Access Code 611704#.

Access Codes for all other meetings will be updated Wednesday via the Trustee Line on the Trustee website or by request using the following email [telephoneconferencemeeting@gmail.com](mailto:telephoneconferencemeeting@gmail.com). They have also added a meeting to be held on Fridays from 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern time. Call in information will also be provided by Wednesday.

The committee has also provided an email address to any member/group looking to start a temporary phone meeting until such a time when your meeting reopens. Such meetings are for the purpose of continuity so that members can still “attend” meetings, but would not be considered a recognized GA meeting until such a time they met all of the criteria as set forth by the Board of Trustees. The committee will also be offering several options for training webinars. That email Address is [telephoneconferencemeeting@gmail.com](mailto:telephoneconferencemeeting@gmail.com).

Reach out to one another regularly using your phone lists, email lists, etc. Become part of the solution and volunteer your time to the Telephone Conference Call committee. The **need for volunteers** has never been so crucial as it is now during this health crisis!

For further information of COVID-19 (coronavirus), please refer to the CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the WHO (World Health Organization).

March 18, 2020 2:45 PM

Temporary Conference Call Meeting Information

As of Wednesday, 3/18, 2020, Gamblers Anonymous will have an accommodation for all Gamblers Anonymous members who have been told that their regular meeting facilities have been closed due to the current health emergency. The Board of Trustees Telephone Conference Call Committee has



been operating a weekly Telephone Conference Call meeting for the last 6 years. With the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the committee has volunteered to hold daily meetings.

Accordingly, there will be a telephone conference call meeting every day of the week at 9:00 PM New York Time, which is GMT -4, lasting for 2 hours.

These will meetings are designated as approved Gamblers Anonymous meetings. These meetings are scheduled to continue for a 2-week period, but may be extended additional weeks, if required.

[Click Here for the attached flyer with call-in information](#)

Telephone Conference Committee

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## 5. Expansion of Teleconference Meetings

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March 16, 2020 – 12:42am

I read about the committee expanding the use of the conference call meetings during the current crisis. A question. Are the administrators for the additional meetings the same as those for Wednesday night? If not is the criteria for administration vetting and training being waived? I look forward to the committee's response.

Pat M. – Area 3D – Arizona

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## 6. Trustee Comments and Questions

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March 20, 2020 – 3:30pm

First, Let me thank our Conference Call Committee members for their dedication and willingness to not only continue, but actually expand the meetings during this troubling time. In our current situation, these meetings will be the only opportunity for many, if not most of our members to share their experience, strength and hope.

Next, I have some questions that I'm sure others have, and maybe we can share the answers here.

First, I realize that according to our Guidance Code and the Conference Call Committee instructions, these phone-in meetings don't count towards the '39-meetings' rule for anniversaries, etc. Is there some way, without changing the Guidance Code, (which would require a 2/3 majority vote at 2 consecutive BOT meetings) that we could have these meetings count during these extraordinary times, at least temporarily?

Next, since we are to elect our Trustees prior to May 15th (Article VIII, Section 3), my area, 13 (Delaware Valley Intergroup, which meets on the 3rd Monday of each month)) holds our election in

April. This may not be possible this year. Is there a “plan ‘B’”?

Last (for now), although a great procrastinator, I like to plan well ahead when it comes to my International Conferences. The information on the San Diego Fall Int. Conference has our BOT meetings starting on Wednesday, 10/14 instead of Thursday. Is this correct?

Personal for Mike and your committee: Thank you folks for giving us this avenue to communicate with each other. To me, this comes under the heading “Use the Telephone List”.

May God grant us all some Serenity during these times.

Your friend in recovery,

John B. – Trustee – Area 13 – Pennsylvania

March 20, 2020 – 8:09pm

John,

The dates I have on the website are from the last trustee meeting minutes. I have asked for an updated flyer for the fall conference but have not received one yet to confirm the actual dates. I agree that I think it should start Thursday, but I have to go based on the minutes, without an updated flyer. If someone from the San Diego conference committee can send me the correct flyer, I will update immediately.

Thanks,

Mike R. – Trustee – Area 6A

March 20, 2020 – 11:23pm

If your area has more than 1 trustee how do you handle another trustee that has possibly violated their responsibilities or duty of maintaining the integrity of the Gamblers Anonymous fellowship prior to a formal complaint to the Board of Trustees Removal Merit Panel.

I strongly encourage a response from the executive board as well as my brothers and sisters.

Walter G. – Area 12 – New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania

March 24, 2020 – 10:35am

When mentioning the 39 meeting requirement to celebrate an anniversary, the Guidance Code does say that the requirement can be waived via group conscience decision for medical reasons. If this doesn't count as a medical reason, then let's make a group conscience decision about it.

Stuart B. – Area 14 – New York

March 24, 2020 – 12:35pm

I'd like to submit a response to both John and Walter.

First, Walter. The only option I see in regards to your question is going thru the Trustee Removal Merit Panel.

To answer John about the 39 meeting requirement, the Guidance Code, Article VII, Section 4, allows for exceptions to the 39 meeting requirement. Namely, medical reasons and military stationed overseas. In my opinion, a pandemic that has shut virtually everything down, would fall under the medical exception.

Pete K. – Area 13B – South Jersey

3/25/2020 – 1:00pm

As of Wednesday, 3/18, 2020, Gamblers Anonymous will have an accommodation for all Gamblers Anonymous members who have been told that their regular meeting facilities have been closed due to the current health emergency.

The Board of Trustees Telephone Conference Call Committee has been operating a weekly Telephone Conference Call meeting for the last 6 years. With the approval of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, the committee has volunteered to hold daily meetings. Accordingly, there will be a telephone conference call meeting every day of the week at 9:00 PM New York Time, which is GMT -4, lasting for 2 hours. These will meetings are designated as approved Gamblers Anonymous meetings. These meetings are scheduled to continue for a 2-week period, but may be extended additional weeks, if required.

Below are the details to call in for all the meetings.

I'm thinking that they are "approved GA meetings " according to this ?

Andy G. – Trustee Area 13B – South Jersey

March 28, 2020 – 12:33am

I have a question about how your intergroups hold your elections. We vote at meetings and tally the vote there. Then two trusted servants sign the ballot and turn it at intergroup as one vote. Then the count is done based on how the group voted. We do not do the popular vote. If you do a popular vote, how are you going to handle that during this pandemic situation? How is that controlled? We would like to hear from your area.

Thanks,

Ara H. – Area 1 – California

March 28, 2020 – 2:57pm

Ara, our process is very similar to yours except ours is a popular vote facilitated through the groups and not a group vote. When we had to close all of our rooms, our Chair and two Trustees had a telephone meeting and agreed that we HAD to trust a neutral party to gather and count the ballots and that neutral party would be our Intergroup secretary, someone everybody in our Intergroup likes and trusts. Then we handled the voting as follows:

1. All paper ballots that had been marked before the meetings closed were to be scanned and sent to the secretary along with the first name and last initial sign in sheet. The secretary would then keep a record of both the vote and the person voting so they could not vote again later on.
2. Anyone who had not already completed a paper ballot was invited to directly submit their choices via email to our Secretary. Again, the secretary would keep a record of both the vote and the email address of the person sending it in to preclude multiple votes.
3. In both cases, the secretary maintains all voter-related emails in a separate file for reference purposes. Only the secretary will have access to that file.
3. Our voting period was extended by a month to give everybody a better chance of getting something in but the deadline to cast ballots was still well inside the limits of the Guidance Code.
4. At the time the ballots are counted, the Secretary will bring in one more witness to validate the count. Once the count has been validated and the two Trustees are named, the entire file will be destroyed.

The feedback we have gotten from our members was extremely positive and there were no issues regarding anonymity of voting because only one person would see the ballots and all records would be destroyed once the voting was official.

Jack R. – Area 1A – California

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7. When is Ga going to catch up with any other 12 step fellowship and get out of the early 20 century?

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03/27/2020 – 7:30am

I would like to understand how Pete K got his information that the approved GA phone meeting is a group meeting? They are not according to the phone committee and their own set of laws or how they governed, as well as the BOT GC. Please look below.

Purpose:

1) To administrate the creation, implementation, and oversight of all conference call meetings from the Gamblers Anonymous website. These meetings will be sanctioned by Gamblers Anonymous, but will not carry the distinction of being classified as a group, as per the Guidance Code

Plus, if we are transparent and stand on principals and not on own ego personalities, let us discuss what the phone meeting is and what allows them to be GA Approved.

I have been stating from the very beginning that they are not Ga Approved. Nor should they exist in its current form.

Point 1:

Let us start with the first significant question? What are they, and wherein our GC or any other approved literature is it? Please let me know when you find it. The fact is, it is not anywhere. According to our GC. If it is not part of either one of them – therefore it is not part of GA. It was never voted as literature. It only had one vote round. It is hidden and buried on the trustee site. Yet, it has immense power on how our fellowship is a secret entity all of itself.

Point 2:

How does the BOT permit to change something that does not exist anywhere in any of our literature or GC? That no member can see, read, or voice their thoughts?

Point 3:

The committee has the sole right to train and approve any one person to Chair. That also has the right to kick off any one person if they do not follow their set of laws or procedures. It is NOT a requirement by any other GA room. How was this ever approved when it is against anything that is in the GC or any other literature?

Point 4:

There must be 5 GA members that have been trained by the committee. Why does this phone meeting have more power than is in our GC? The law below states mandatory objectives that is a MUST. Our GA clearly states that no room can be stricter than in the GC. Didn't we just have an Emergency meeting about this same thing?

How do I start my own meeting?

You must arrange for a minimum of 5 GA members who have the same qualifications as an International Trustee. That includes 2 years of abstinence and regular attendance at physical GA meetings. This group must agree on a day and time for their meeting and then submit their desired format to the Telephone Meeting Conference Call Committee for approval. Training for the website portal must be created before the meeting can begin and be listed on the ISO website.

This law and other points stopped so-called non-approved GA phone and Zoom meetings because of the control and power this committee has.

In my 23 years in GA, along with over 35 international and over 7 national meetings, my GA principal viewpoint is that ALL meetings should be the same as a physical meeting. It is no different than what our combo book, Group Handbook, and any other GA approved literature and GC requires.

The BOR had spent \$4,000 and probably over, to have this in place. This service should not be allowed governed by a single committee, nor the BOT. It is the members who paid for it, yet has zero input in this matter. So 20 plus and growing phone and Zoom rooms, in the USA alone, are tarnished by the committee, and BOT that they are not OFFICIAL GA APPROVED MEETINGS.

It is this single reason why we are in this tragic Emergency. It is the single reason for over 6 years we only had a single meeting for all of this time.

We have never been proactive in any of our thinking. That is why there are over 30 phone, chat, or internet meetings worldwide that the GA telephone committee and the BOT do not sanction.

The small handful of members has nothing to do with principals, only egos and what they perceive as their principals.

This question is just one of a dozen examples of –

When is Ga going to catch up with any other 12 step fellowship and get out of the early 20 century?

Sincerely Yours with deep regret.

Gary S. – Area 12 – New Jersey

PS. I would welcome feedback or you can call me. Which I prefer.

March 27, 2020 – 10:52am

It's hard to know where to begin with the points made in this post but you absolutely lost me at Zoom. Zoom meetings? Zoom rooms? I am quite familiar with Zoom because one of the classes I teach now uses Zoom exclusively and I have been trained on it as a moderator. It's a great medium for teaching classes or even holding virtual business meetings but as a substitute for a "room" or even a well-controlled telephone meeting??? Are you kidding me? I know they are (regretfully) going on as we speak but please note the following excerpts from Zoom's privacy policy AS OF A WEEK AGO:

Whether you have Zoom account or not, we may collect Personal Data from or about you when you use or otherwise interact with our Products. We may gather the following categories of Personal Data about you:

Information commonly used to identify you, such as your name, user name, physical address, email address, phone numbers, and other similar identifiers.

Information about your job, such as your title and employer.

Credit/debit card or other payment information.

Facebook profile information (when you use Facebook to log-in to our Products or to create an account for our Products).

General information about your product and service preferences.

Information about your device, network, and internet connection, such as your IP address(es), MAC address, other device ID (UDID), device type, operating system type and version, and client version.

Information about your usage of or other interaction with our Products ("Usage Information").

Other information you upload, provide, or create while using the service ("Customer Content"), as further detailed in the "Customer Content" section below.

How's that for the concept of anonymity for the members AND for the fellowship? Why not just hold a meeting with amplification at the food court of your local mall (when it is allowed open up again)!

Jack R. – Area 1A – California

March 27, 2020 – 11:43am

Gary, I'd like to respond to your posting. First, when did I ever use the word "group" in an earlier submission to the trustee line? Facts matter. And stating I said something that I clearly didn't is just wrong. Anyone who reads that posting I made can see I never mentioned the word "group." I was simply stating what the Guidance Code said as it pertains to the 39 meeting rule. At no time did I mention this was considered a "group." I think an apology is owed to your misleading and false statement.

Second, the platform and the phone meetings that are GA approved were voted on by the BOT. I'm sorry if you don't like the outcome of that vote 6 years ago, but everything we follow in these meetings was approved. If you're unhappy with this, then do what you feel is necessary through an appropriate agenda item. These meetings, and the guidelines were approved by the BOT at the Orlando BOT meeting in 2013.

Third, as to the point of being stricter than the Guidance Code, that is when it comes to election of trustees. The 5 admin requirement is based on making sure the room(s) open every week. There are weeks members who are trained can not make the meeting. And it helps to have a second admin on the call in case there are technical difficulties with the person running that meeting that night.

Fourth, as it relates to zoom and other platforms, we have taken great steps to ensure our members anonymity. We found these other platforms don't do that. The internet is not the same as a physical room, therefore different guidelines need to be formulated in order to protect our membership.

Pete K. – Area 13B, South Jersey