

Trustee Line – Current Issue

March 2023

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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

Submit an item to the Trustee Line

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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.	Virtual Meetings & Assessments from Groups	3/13/23	6
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1. Monthly Assessment and donations from Groups-

Sunday, March 4, 2023-6:00 pm

NOTE: This item is a continuation of a earlier discussion here on the Trustee Line.

February 24, 2023 – 11:00pm

Our intergroup assesses a monthly charge to each group in our area that meets in person based on the average monthly attendance for that group to cover its expenses. Our intergroup would like to charge an assessment to a group that used to meet in person before COVID-19 that presently meets on Zoom. Since our intergroup only assesses groups in our area that meet in person and since virtual meetings are still temporarily sanctioned GA meetings, our intergroup wanted me to ask and see if there was anything in the Guidance Code that would prevent it from charging a monthly assessment based on average attendance to a virtual meeting? Please respond by March 10th so that I can respond back to our Intergroup at our Intergroup meeting on March 12th. Thanks

James B. – Current Trustee – Area: 2B – California

February 25, 2003 – 10:00pm

Guidance Code Article X Section 5.8 states:

The Intergroup should be supported financially by the member groups.

How that level of support is up to the groups who appoint representatives to the Intergroup. A mandatory assessment of a Zoom meeting might be a bit controversial, but financial support from Virtual meetings is going to be required to keep this fellowship solvent. For some Intergroups who have lost live meetings due to Covid, financial support may be more difficult.

Bob C -Current Trustee -Area: 3A – CA

February 28, 2023 -5:15pm

I am writing in response to the post by James B. I was surprised that your Intergroup charges a fee to groups belonging to your Intergroup. I think this is a wrong way to get support. By charging groups a fee, you are by extension charging members a fee. This is in violation of Unity Step 3 and our Guidance Code in my opinion. Our Intergroup in New England runs on group and personal donations and all groups are welcome to participate, whether or not they can make a donation. I think what your Intergroup is doing should end immediately. Would love to hear what other people think on this subject.

God Bless all my brothers and sisters in the program and wish you a life time of recovery

Joe L -Former trustee- Area 11- New England

March 4, 2023-6:15 pm

I was not aware of this type of collecting contributions. As far as I know, my area Intergroup (8A-Minnesota) receives voluntary meeting contributions. Some meetings contribute regularly and some seldomly or not at all.

Along with the thoughts from others expressed earlier with regards to Unity Principles, I also would ask if the Virtual meeting in your area collects regular donations from its members? If not, then that would be a limiting factor in expecting regular Intergroup donations.

Renee G. – Trustee – Area 8A – Minnesota

March 5, 2023 – 6:30 pm

In response to James B I would like to add that our intergroup, which the voting members are the groups in our area made the decision to have an assessment as a way to manage expenses that the intergroup may incur. They decided as a whole to ensure that all members benefit from the assessment. It pays for insurance, special events that are held, literature that a group may not be able to afford, expenses for trustee meetings. The group as a whole makes the decision not the intergroup board.

Charlene L -Current Trustee- Area: 2B -California

March 5, 2023 – 6:30 pm

I wanted to point out that our groups in Area 2B agreed to the monthly assessments by voting on the assessment through group representatives at Intergroup. The assessment allows Intergroup to provide necessary services for the groups and members in area 2B. The Guidance Code says that groups should support their Intergroup financially. Since the groups approved the assessment at Intergroup, I do not feel Unity Step 3 was violated since all donations at groups are voluntary.

Currently, most of the meetings that are meeting virtually in Area 2B are in-person meetings that have been unable to return to their meeting place due to COVID-19. These meetings still voluntarily collect donations from their members, and these groups still donate to Intergroup when they can. However, these groups are not being assessed by our Intergroup because only meetings that are meeting in person currently are being assessed each month by the Intergroup.

I host a virtual GA meeting in our area that is not currently a member of our Intergroup. Since virtual meetings are still considered temporary in GA, I did not think we could join the Intergroup. Also, this virtual meeting has no expenses, so we do not collect donations from members at this time.

James B. – Current Trustee – Area 2B -California

March 13, 2023 – 2:30 pm

The issue of Zoom meetings not having any expenses is not the point. The members that participate in the meeting are there because they need help with recovery from gambling. Gamblers Anonymous is the tool they are using and at the least contributions could be made to the ISO for the work they do for all of us. If not contributing to the zoom meeting everyone should become a Life Liner so the Fellowship can pay their bills. The number of members that send in monthly Life Liners is insulting to the GA Program. Shame on all those who DO NOT.

Gary G -Past Trustee -Area: 6C -North Carolina

2. Zoom Meeting Question

Monday, March 20,-10:30 pm

I am seeking some information for a fellow GA member. He is seeking a Virtual/Zoom meeting that offers Close Captioning or translation. He is hearing impaired with Cochlear implants. I know this is a easy setting to offer on Zoom, however I couldn't tell him of a meeting that currently offers it.

Can anyone help?

Renee G-Trustee-Area 8A-Minnesota
