

Life-Line Bulletin

Select Language | ▼

[Life-Line Bulletin](#)

Main Menu

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

Phoenix, Arizona - Spring 2016
Information Section

[Phoenix Conference Info](#)

Rolling Agenda

- [Phoenix Absentee Ballots](#)
- [Agenda Information](#)
- [Conference Bids](#)

Submit an Agenda Item

BOT Committees

[Monthly Committee Reports](#)

- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [BOR/BOT Revenue Review](#)
- [Conference Oversight](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [Hotline Implementation](#)
- [Hotline Files](#)
- [Intergroup](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prison - Canada](#)
- [Prison - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [RSO](#)
- [Telephone Conference Call](#)
- [Trustee Election Guidelines](#)
- [Trustee Removal Merit Panel](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Video Meeting Format](#)

International Areas

- [Africa](#)
- [Australia](#)
- [Eastern Asia](#)
- [Europe](#)
- [Pacific Rim](#)
- [South America and Mexico](#)

[International Event Flyers](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

- [Trustee Line Home Page](#)
- [Login For The Trustee Poll](#)
- [Trustee Poll](#)
- [>>Trustee Information Update<<](#)
- [Trustee Website Tutorial](#)
- [Area Event Flyers](#)
- [Local Area Questions & Answers](#)
- [Local Area Website Guidelines](#)
- [Local Area Help Flyer](#)
- [New Area/Trustee Accommodation Fund](#)
- [Board of Regents News Page](#)
- [Trustee Memorial Honor Roll](#)

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Trustee Line for April 2016

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 4/30/16.

Questions and Answers Involving Individual BOT Committees

Any GA member can contact the Chairs of the Committees listed below with any questions or concerns they might have. The Chairs will answer the emails and the resulting issues will be posted under each committee involved in the email. This will serve as help for other members, Intergroups or areas, who may be going through the same situations. The emails will not breach anonymity and will be redacted to make sure names and areas are not included in this section. You are also invited to click the individual committee links on the left margin, for more information.

- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [BOR/BOT Revenue Review](#)
- [Conference Oversight](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [Hotline Implementation](#)
- [Intergroup](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prisons - Canada](#)
- [Prisons - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [RSO - Regional Service Offices](#)
- [Telephone Meeting Conference Calls](#)
- [Trustee Election Guidelines](#)
- [Trustee Removal Merit Panel](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Video Meeting Format](#)

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.

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	Unity Step 2 Discussion	4/8 9:31 AM	1
2.	Area Trustee Voting	4/17 5:14 PM	3
3.	Treatment Centers	4/20 4:45 AM	2

Unity Step 2 Discussion

4/8/16 - 9:31 AM

Hey Paul and Joe,

I agree with Joe T, but lets go a step further. The guidance code should be scrapped and the Group handbook should be our guideline. The BOT should consist of 1 person from each intergroup. Nothing would change on a group level and any votes should be handled at the Intergroup level. There should be a paper ballot that is discussed and voted by each intergroup.

This would free up monies for ISO (our real problem) and rid ourselves of the ambiguity of the guidance code.

I travel to a lot of meetings and most rooms are successful because the message of hope and caring among the members, not the rules of the GC.
And another thing,

The fact that we have 2 International trustee conferences is ludicrous and a total waste of time and money. NOTHING has changed at the room level since I've been involved and if the BOT trimmed the fat only positive things would happen

Joe B. - Area 15. New York

Area Trustee Voting

4/17/16 - 10:27 AM

I attended 3 separate meetings that included the Trustee Election for Area 6. I only voted once but others voted at that particular meeting and at another meeting or other meetings too. I am not aware of any instructions regarding how many times an individual should vote. My take is that one vote per member at one meeting makes sense. What is proper?

Bill B. - Area 6, Southern Florida

4/17/16 - 3:50 PM

Bill,

I'm no expert but I have a strong recollection of a guideline roughly as follows : Any member of a group may vote once per issue at that group on every issue, but where a member attends several groups they may only vote in one group where the issue affects G A as a whole.

That is, where a group votes on it's own issues, each attending member qualified to vote gets one vote, but where a group votes on an issue that affects G A as a whole, no member should cast a second vote under any circumstances. That raises the question, in your example, as to whether your issue affects G A as a whole. In my book it does, as to have a number of people effectively canvassing and multiple voting on any issue seems wrong. but others may disagree.

Odie. B. - Area 36, Ireland, S/E

4/17/16 - 5:14 PM

Bill, Great topic. It underscores how meetings are not given the guidance for so many things. 3 years ago, in Vancouver, we formed the Intergroup Guidelines Committee. If you go back and review the minutes of all the meetings after that, in addition to the monthly committee reports submitted since Cancun, you will see that virtually nothing has been done to further that committee's efforts to fulfill the charge they have received. This has happened with other committees, but this committee had a real need among the Intergroups.

This is also giving weight to the idea of how valuable a complete rewrite of the Group Handbook is becoming. Such questions should be part of that new book.

However, in the absence of any written procedures, there is a need for fair representation for all GA members. This starts with what some would say is unnecessary – a written room format. I'm not talking about the opening announcements. This is already covered in the Group Handbook. It should be a document that memorializes all group conscience decisions about how everything is done in that particular room. That is deliberate so egos don't get in the way and the 'long timers' don't push the rest of the room around by saying "This is the GA way." When in actuality it is the will of one or a few members, imposing their will, in defiance of Unity Step 1.

One key issue is having a definition of what constitutes a member of that room. Whatever the requirement is, maybe attending 7 of the last 13 meetings in that

room, it will eliminate who can vote on issues that concern the room. Included in that is who can be an officer, who can vote for officers and of course, who can vote for Trustees, to name but a few possibilities.

If someone is going to make multiple meetings and meet the criteria for being a member of the room, then that individual should have a voice in what the room votes on. That includes all such rooms.

As it relates to voting for Trustees, it is the group conscience of the room that indicates what the room's intentions are when they decision is brought to the Intergroup, providing there is one. It's someone entertaining to think that your 'one member, one vote' idea would only work if people registered, almost like a real election. As so many GA members only want to go to meetings and not gamble, and certainly not to have such stringent rules about only voting one time. Would we need to have the results audited by Deloitte to ensure the voting was accurate?

Of course, I carried that last part a bit too far, but a little bit of structure would indeed go a long way to the process to which you seek an answer.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

Treatment Centers

4/20/16 - 8:47 PM

Hello Everyone,

My question is, do we have the right to deny a member from sharing in their therapy about the treatment center they were in, I mean giving the name of the treatment center and explaining about it, and also naming the addiction counselor they are seeing? I was under the impression your time is your own as long as you are sharing your own experience. I understand they can't mention the center or the counselor in the open meeting but is their therapy time to share their own.

In Louisiana we have a state funded treatment center, free for Louisiana residents, I think its a 36 day stay. There are GA meetings held on their site, and they also bus them to outside meetings. So I know they know what a sanctioned GA meeting is like, but I find when they enter the rooms I attend they want to talk about this treatment center. I truly think by having the meetings at the location the residents think GA is connected to the treatment center and they don't understand why they can't talk about the treatment center and refer members to that center and to the aftercare counselors they see.

I understand our unity steps and outside issues, but our therapy time is our own, to share our experience, their experience is different than mine. I know the rooms I attend the majority of the members are from this center. Is it an outside issue during their therapy?

Any feedback is welcomed, I am trying to find peace for these members and still live within the Unity Steps and the guidance code.

Your sister in recovery,
Betty S. - Area 7, Louisiana

Hello Betty,

I'm thrilled to see this topic up here, even though I'm no longer a member of the Trustee website committee I'm still one of the biggest fans of the Trusteeline.

The issue you raise is massive and widespread, bringing it up you may become an easy target for those who wish to spread disunity or subvert the purposes of our fellowship while at the same time all you are trying to do is help other members and the fellowship, to see proper use of our rooms and not put people off. It also becomes an emotive issue and I see your appreciation for the need to not unduly insult anyone or risk having a detrimental effect on new or existing members.

I salute you for having this courage and bringing it out for discussion.

I could write reams on your topic as it concerns a major issue in our area and is one that almost prevented the fellowship from surviving here, ultimately it has transpired that the real G A programme survives. I'll try to keep this compact and let you choose if you want to know more of our experience, let me know.

After much suffering, trial and error this is what we now do, At the start of each meeting a request is made to all of us present at that meeting, broadly in line with suggestions in the Group handbook, but including the following "...Please

do not mention by name any outside organisation, institution, centre, entity, profession, please do not mention by name any person who is not present, please confine your therapy to your own thoughts and experiences...

It doesn't always work but overall things improved once we did that. When people sometimes ask about it the general questions are as follows.

What can we talk about ? Our suggested answer is " You can talk about anything you want but we ask you to try and avoid talking about anyone or anything other than yourself, we are most interested to hear you talk about you, yourself, your gambling, your period in action, your recovery and how you interpret and use the programme of the fellowship. We have no interest in anyone else you talk about, just you, your experience and your strength "

But what about the help I got from ??? or at ??? centre ?

Our suggested answer is " They did not approach us to broadcast their offerings, if it's part of your experience then own it, do not name others, they did not ask you to tout their business, we did not ask their permission to broadcast their business or whether they are good or bad, maybe we are not the people they want broadcasting their business "

often later in time we will gently suggest that what they think their " Counsellor " told them is probably not what that person actually said or meant, the main point being it was meant for them at that time based on what they told their " Counsellor " As their mind clears they often see this themselves as we all do as the fog clears, not that I speak for anyone else.

We find that generally speaking, those that want recovery stick around until they discover this themselves, we are of course handicapped by doing things properly, to the best of our ability, of course we don't interfere with a person's right to be influenced at very vulnerable times by whoever will listen and guide them. Of course we don't say G A is the best and only thing for them.

All we say is, this room is provided for the purposes of Gamblers Anonymous, we do nothing else here, Gamblers Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues and we prefer to concentrate our efforts on stopping Gambling, staying stopped and helping anyone that wants help, through the program of Gamblers Anonymous, which can't be said often enough.

Don't be put off by people who cry from the higher moral ground or those who think big meetings and lots of meetings are the answer, you'd be surprised at how many so called Strong meetings are in fact dominated by the disingenuousity of well meaning but misguided members who live in a fantasy world of being special due to their supposed authority from these outside sources.

In all honesty, when they are asked who do they represent and where their authority comes from, it is just their own ego and character defects, they are truly sick just like us. Reject the behaviour but love them as Brothers and sisters, that is what they are.

Ultimately, it boils down to respect and honesty, respect for this fellowship and indeed the rest of the world, we have no opinion and they didn't ask us to have an opinion.

I support your quest for understanding, it will help.

I hope this helps.
Odie. B. - Area 36, Ireland S/E