

April 2021

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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

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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. Hybrid Meetings

April 12, 2021 – 9:54pm

Has anyone noticed rooms returning to in-person and keeping some sort of connection with the new members that may have found them during the pandemic? Specifically, does anyone know of a successful hybrid meeting, where a laptop or phone is used to link remote members to those sitting in person?

Thanks for any tips or hindrances you have encountered, as we are all trying to navigate what the future will look like.

Your sister in recovery,

Beth Z. – Trustee – Area 2 – California

April 14, 2021 – 12:08pm

I appreciate you bringing up this point of conversation as it has come up in my area also. Members are wanting to continue some of the amazing ways we've been able to support each other in recovery and reach newcomers by expanding digital opportunities, while at the same time having safe options to gather together in person.

At this time I am not aware of any "hybrid options" that have started in our area, however the question has arisen. And some members have brought in the experience they have from other recovery programs that they have found to be successful and thus the questions.

Renee G. – Trustee – Area 8A – Minnesota

April 18, 2021 – 11:08pm

In New Jersey, there are several hybrid meetings, and all of them are running great. Leave it up to the rooms, and they will make it work with just the group conscience. Try it – it works.

I believe the first one to have it is the very best way to run one.

The facility will only allow 20 members to the physical meeting place when the room usually gets 30+ BC. Anyone after that usually goes to their car or sits outside with other members. The reality when you think about it. A meeting outside and inside simultaneously worldwide is pure Unity Steps, Strength, and Hope. What GA power by its share experiences. So now the room has over 40 members every week.

Here is why I think this room is better for keeping to our Unity, Recovery steps, and the combo book. If a new member or under 90-day shows up and the room has 20 members in it. One of the regular members will go outside and let the new member in the physical space. How great is that?

In my mind, this hybrid meeting should be adopted as a regular meeting in our fellowship. The benefits of the Zoom(digital) meeting have saved our fellowship for over 13+ months.

THANK YOU, Butch G; for motion #54, I believe you are the only trustee, member, or executive board, has addressed the Zoom/Digital meetings directly.

Suppose #54 does not pass for whatever reason. In that case, the rooms will keep doing since Covid 19. The rooms have been doing it even before the chairman called for an emergency meeting to 'TEMPORARY" allow Zoom meetings solely based on the document emailed out after the emergency meeting.

Think about this: If Butch G did not put up his motion, would Zoom meetings continue to be allowed by the BOT? I ask that question cause the BOT allowed the temporary meeting until the BOT could vote on it. NO motion + no vote = temporary document is removed and no more Zoom meetings. One would think that the Executive Board would have added it to this Agenda?

Sorry, Beth Z and Renee, I got off the subject, there should be many hybrid Zoom and or digital meetings, and they should be in the exact definition as a live physical meeting. A meeting is a meeting no matter where it is held. We have seen this working for all of COVID 19 without any GC laws. I say let the rooms and area come up with its conscience. The rooms all seem to be doing it correctly for the last 13 months.

With our Unity Steps solid in its fabric of the digital meetings

Stay safe and healthy,

Gary S. – Past Trustee – Area 12 – New Jersey

April 19, 2021 – 1:32pm

Gary, your interpretation of the English language is astonishing.

You wrote:

“Think about this: If Butch G did not put up his motion, would Zoom meetings continue to be allowed by the BOT? I ask that question cause the BOT allowed the temporary meeting until the BOT could vote on it. NO motion + no vote = temporary document is removed and no more Zoom meetings. One would think that the Executive Board would have added it to this Agenda

I'd like to know how you came to the following conclusion “NO motion + no vote = temporary document is removed and no more Zoom meetings”?

If there is NO motion + no vote, as you would put it, then things would remain the same, hence your statement “the BOT allowed the temporary meeting until the BOT could vote on it”.

I also believe in giving the body (The Board of Trustees) the opportunity to fix, correct, alter, etc. any decisions they have made.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I have the ability to add an item or multiple items to the agenda anytime I see need for such an item. I have used this provision in our Guidance Code sparingly and only for special circumstances.

There was a committee assigned with the task of putting together temporary guidelines which we, as a board passed. I'm sure they are continuing their work to come up with more permanent guidelines.

I will or will not add an item dealing with virtual meetings based upon their committee report. You would have known this, if you just called and asked.

It's funny how you have no problem calling me to have a conversation about pretty much anything to do with GA... But when you're trying to create a divide, a controversy or dare I say, some people find good practice in attempting to put others down to try and make themselves look better, you look to a more public place.

Trust me, based upon recent communications, this seems like the “in thing to do”.

In the end, whether or not virtual meetings continue or not, whether they are hybrid or not will come down to a group conscience of the Board of Trustees. Until such a time, nothing changes...

Working my way through recovery,

Andy R. – Chair, Board of Trustees – Area 13B – New Jersey