

Trustee Line – Current Issue

April 2022

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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. BOT Agenda Item 55

April 12, 2022 – 2:57pm

My area is not a fan of item 55.

This is related to the proposed mission statement from the Virtual Meeting Committee.

Proposed Version: To support the creation, implementation, and technical oversight of any virtual (excluding telephone conference calls) Gamblers Anonymous meetings including, but not limited to, regular GA meetings, hybrid types, Intergroups, Board of Trustees, conferences, etc. This committee has no opinion on the desirability of virtual meetings vs. in-person meetings or influence on the acceptability of these meetings under the provisions of our guidance code. The committee only serves to help facilitate virtual meetings as required to better serve the fellowship.

Why is my area not a fan, because of the mission statement including that this committee will be responsible to support the creation, implementation, and technical oversight of any virtual meeting. This phrasing, while sounding innocuous, is very dangerous. There is no limit to what support could mean or not mean. The committees are supposed to be for supporting the board of trustees in their responsibility of handling matters that affect Gambler’s Anonymous as a whole. If Group A decides to meet in-person, and Intergroup X decides to meet in person, this committee has no bearing on them, however, if Group B and Intergroup Y want to meet virtually, they will have to worry about what kind of “support” will be given and what kind of oversight in facilitation will happen.

This current mission statement is out of bounds for the purpose of committees, as outlined in the rules and procedures: “The Chairman of the B.O.T, establishes committees to do the necessary and ongoing work of the B.O.T, in between B.O.T, meetings.”

This is not the on-going work of the Board of Trustees. This is offering “support” aka meddling, in the operation of SOME individual groups and intergroups. This should be voted out of order and replaced with a mission statement that serves GA as a whole.

Mike R. – Trustee – Area 6A – North/Central Florida

April 12, 2022 – 4:06pm

While I understand the need for some changes to help facilitate virtual trustee meetings, we have to be careful that the changes do not create new issues.

Current Version: To change the Twelve Steps of RECOVERY and Twelve-Step UNITY PROGRAM, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority by not less than the physical presence of 2/3 of the eligible voting members of the Board of Trustees at two (2) consecutive physical meetings.

Proposed Version: To change the Twelve Steps of RECOVERY and Twelve-Step UNITY PROGRAM, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority by not less than 2/3 of the eligible voting members of the Board of Trustees at two (2) consecutive meetings.

This proposed version changes the requirement from 2/3 of the physically present Trustees to 2/3 of all eligible voting Trustees. This would mean that if there are 100 Trustees and 60 attend the virtual meeting, and 10 submit absentee ballots, that would be 70 votes, however you still have 100 eligible voting members. this would mean 66 of the 70 would need to vote yes, since it would be 66/100, NOT 66/70.

The original intention was to have major changes like this only be voted on by those members that could hear the discussion on the floor. This change would allow absentee ballots from those members who wouldn't otherwise count as physical presence.

I will not be able to attend in person, but I would suggest an amendment to add something like "present": To change the Twelve Steps of RECOVERY and Twelve-Step UNITY PROGRAM, it shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority by not less than 2/3 of the present, eligible voting members of the Board of Trustees at two (2) consecutive meetings.

The problem with this, is that it changes the meaning of the agenda item. In the past, that has made an item out of order, so this has to be considered, as well. I hope it wouldn't mean that, but I don't know. Unfortunately, this did not come from committee, so the 2-year rule would apply if this is voted down or out of order. Please do not let that be the reason you vote for this. No Trustee should feel pressured to vote for something because "time is of the essence" or "we need this or we can't go forward". Those are the same impulsive reasons why I need and want GA, to live my life free of those triggers.

Mike R. – Trustee – Area 6A – North/Central Florida