

Life-Line Bulletin

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Trustee Line for May 2016

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 5/31/16.

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.

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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.

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Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
I.	Investigate The Feasibility Of Restructuring The Semi-annual Meetings Of The BOT	5/19 10:30 AM	2
Investigate The Feasibility Of Restructuring The Semi-annual Meetings Of The BOT			

5/1/16 - 4:12 PM

As a current Trustee for Area 8A and Treasurer for the Area 8A intergroup I have a clear view of the financial impact on our area to fund two trustees for two BOT meetings per year. We have a long standing tradition of fully funding our Trustees so that any qualified member can serve regardless of their personal financial situation. This commitment makes funding our Trustees the largest budget item for our finances by far. Nothing else comes close. Group donations do not generate enough for this so we have two to three fundraisers per year to make up the difference. We are a healthy GA recovery community and we manage the funding but it places a huge burden on our local fellowship. I wonder if this is true for other areas, particularly for our growing number of International brothers and sisters. It is difficult enough for a domestic area to fund two meetings per year but the burden of international travel only increases the cost.

Can this financial burden be the cause of the large numbers of absentee ballots which are impacting the ability of the BOT to conduct business? Can this financial burden be impacting areas ability to donate to ISO?

Important questions that I hope the BOT can address for the good of all and the long term financial health of Gamblers Anonymous and the International Service Office.

Sincerely,
Arlene R. - Area 8A, Minnesota

5/19/16 - 10:30 AM

Arlene, I share your concern. Fortunately, I too represent an area that is sufficiently funded to send both our Trustees to all International Conferences. However, given both the semi-annual nature of BOT meetings and the fact that they are linked to the International Conferences, we may have inadvertently created three classes of Trustees: (a) Trustees whose areas are capable of fully funding them, (b) Trustees who have the financial means of funding themselves, and (c) Trustees who must rely on absentee ballots in order to have their voices heard (and not very well I might add). Perhaps we should begin to investigate the use of technology which many organizations are now using such as webcasting from a central studio. Surely, there is technology available that can act as a surrogate for what we do in the rooms which is to present, listen, discuss, vote, and perhaps even argue a bit. Trustees could attend this type of meeting separately or, in the alternative, attend in groups from the area they represent. All it would take is a little tweak to the technology that most of us already have. Certainly, it would be much less expensive than paying for hotel rooms, airfare, and meals. Perhaps some of those areas that are in the CTL whose Trustee listing reads "vacant" might suddenly come to life? If we are going to continue to be the face of GA, we are going to have to get more creative in how we do things.

Jack R. – Area 1A, Orange County, California