

# Trustee Line – Current Issue

July 2019

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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

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.	Guidance Code	07/17 – 7:30 PM	2
2.	Blue Book	07/17 – 7:40 PM	1
3.	–	–	–

Guidance Code

07/17 – 7:30 PM

Summer Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

Recently I deleted the email from Andy R, pointing out that we (meaning not just me, but you, too) had not been writing our thoughts in to the Trustee Line, especially in reference to items on the agenda marked for "Discussion only". Also, I'm sure Andy, and, hopefully, others, would like to know how we feel about the BOT meetings and conference in Louisville.

First, let me say to the folks in the Louisville area, you did a great job. The Galt House is very nice, the accommodations super, the food very good, and the staff friendly. Gary and his friends had hosted us in Spring 2010, and it showed. This time was even better! So, to Gary and all the folks in Area 10B, Well Done, and thank you!

About the BOT meetings: First, congratulations to Andy R, Steve F, and Pete K on your elections to the Executive Board for the next 2 years. I personally look forward to working with you for the good of the fellowship.

Now the bad news: I don't think the pi—ing contest between Area 12 and the vast majority of the Trustees could have been more embarrassing. I say the vast majority, because when a roll call vote was taken to do away with the Guidance Code, 90 voted to keep it, 8 want to throw it out, and (most disturbing) 3 abstained! Question: does "I abstain" mean "I don't understand the item" or "I don't care"? (I'm sure that last sentence will generate some discussion.) As a Trustee, I have an obligation and responsibility to serve the entire fellowship. If I abstain on a vote, do I go back to my area and tell them that I didn't understand the question, or I just don't care?

And what about the 8 trustees who voted to throw the guidance Code out. Since the board voted to keep what little structure we have in place, did those 8 immediately resign and leave on principles? No, they stayed. What about principles? If I honestly don't believe in the Guidance Code and am not willing to uphold and defend it, how can I stay and disrespect the document that binds us all together worldwide? Did they go home and tell their brothers and sisters that it's ok to make up your own rules, even though making our own rules is pretty much what got us all into G. A. in the first place?

The bottom line: In my opinion, the second Area 12's intergroup decided to hold a trustee election in violation of the Gamblers Anonymous Guidance Code (the ONLY Guidance Code that matters) the entire election became invalid and a disgrace. I personally believe that New Jersey Intergroup has shown itself to be detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous in its area. I think that they should be informed that the members they elected to be trustees are not recognized and those members will be erased from the Trustee Listing.

To my fellow "legitimate" trustees, we need to update our Guidance Code, listing specific penalties for specific violations. We're (the BOT) a "tiger with no teeth". Presently, we have rules (really very few) with no way to enforce them, and no way to deal with violators. We should remedy this situation. SOMEBODY has to be in charge; our fellowship needs to have an authority to deal with situations that threaten our Unity. To me that's the Board of Trustees.

God bless us all. If we don't do something, God help us all.

Your friend in recovery,  
John B, Trustee, Area 13 – Pennsylvania

7/23 12:15 PM

To my good friend and colleague John B, I say BRAVO. I couldn't have said it better. However, let's take a closer look at what just happened. John is indeed correct that the fellowship voted against doing away with the Guidance Code by a vote of 90-8. What I don't understand, and what I wish someone would explain to me, is that following that monumental roll-call vote, the Trustees, by

another roll-call vote of 38-29, REFUSED to nullify the same Area 12 election that started this discussion in the first place. Are we saying that the Guidance Code is good (in fact, REAL good based on that vote) but having the temerity to make Intergroups follow it is bad? To me, this is like being a little bit pregnant. That second vote was not about abolishing Area 12 and sending their Trustees back to New Jersey on the next plane. It was simply about nullifying an election that was held under conditions incompatible with the Guidance Code. Area 12 could have held an emergency election consistent with the Guidance Code the following week, elected the SAME Trustees, and everything would have been copacetic. Instead, by a vote of 38-29, the Trustees went on record as saying it's OK (or in the alternative, not that harmful) for an Intergroup to violate the Guidance Code if they have a good faith belief that it does not meet their immediate needs. What's next? We should all be scared to find out.

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

### Blue Book

07/17 – 7:40 PM

I am writing to urge the trustees to APPROVE the revised Blue Book as presented! If there are corrections or changes suggested, do so the same way that other existing literature is changed (as individual agenda items).

I know this is not the same thing because the Day At A Time book comes to us from an outside publisher, BUT The Day At A Time book was approved “as is” and is one of our most widely used recovery tools.

We can do the same thing with the Blue Book! Please give this idea your consideration.

Norm B. Area 10A – Pennsylvania