

Trustee Line – Current Issue

August 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

Submit an item to the Trustee Line

You can click this text to send your item to the Trustee Line. After doing so, you should receive a confirming email that your item has been received and should be posted to the current issue.

Should the link above not work, copy and paste this email address into a blank email:
trustee.site.admin@trusteewebsite.com

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. Happy 65th birthday GA!

August 22, 2022 – 6:15 PM

As a fellow in my home group says: “I’m so thankful that two guys got together 65 years ago, instead of a few years from now . . .” so that I had a place to find recovery and a better way of life.

As a past trustee and current BOR member, I know I am speaking to the right group: people like me, with a heart for our program that want to help the compulsive gambler who still suffers. Those of you who call in to the BOR meetings hear, and those of you who read the Lifeline Bulletin know, that currently the ISO monthly expenses are exceeding the monthly income. While the Finance Committee at the BOR is looking at ways to reduce expenses, the main way we increase income is by literature sales and donations. With that in mind, I’d like to encourage each person reading this to reach out to others in program, both at their meeting and intergroup level about making an additional monetary gift to the ISO in honor of the fellowship’s birthday. Perhaps we can all encourage our own Intergroups (IG) and meetings to make an additional donations. Wouldn’t it be awesome if 100% of the IGs made a donation? And let’s not stop there. Remind people they can individually make a donation for gratitude week. If every member gave \$6.50 (me trying to be “cute” and relating it to 65 years), how much funding could be raised to help the ISO for this 2022-2023 fiscal year?

This program taught me that I only have control over my own behavior and responses in situations. So I respectfully ask you to take action: remind people of our GA birthday and ask them to make a donation.

I would also love to hear ideas you may have or that your group is thinking about doing, to bring unity to your area and raise funds for the ISO for the 65th birthday!

YSIR,
Cathy F – Past Trustee – Area 1- Central California, LA area, and Hawaii – (formerly Area 8D)

August 24, 2022 – 9:15 AM

I read Cathy F's publication on the trustee line and I would like to encourage every member to follow her suggestions and contribute. I am a past Trustee and a current member of the Board of Regents. At the beginning of the year, we moved our ISO to a new address. This move will allow the ISO to save nearly \$100,000 over the next 5 years. And yet, it is not enough to balance our budget on a regular monthly basis. There is only so much we can do to reduce expenses and your BOR is working hard to implement cost saving solutions.

Increasing the revenues is mandatory if we want to reach our goal of balancing our budget. With the Gratitude Week coming up next month, it is your opportunity (and mine) to help our Fellowship survive financially, after a tough time during the pandemic. Personally, I will contribute to our Lifeline Program and for the Gratitude week as well. We are having our monthly business meeting next week at my home group, and I will also make sure that the message is heard.

Thanks in advance for your additional contribution.

André G – Past Trustee- Area: 5B – Quebec (Canada)

August 22, 2022 – 3:45 PM

“Welcome Home” A phrase I always love to hear at meetings. With gratitude ,as a past trustee and current BOR member , I too would like to encourage all of our members to reflect on where would you be today without GA?

My journey began in 1999 , the members who were trailblazers, some are no longer amongst us though they remain in our hearts. Their message of gratitude & appreciation for carrying the message of hope to anyone with a gambling problem has been a huge part of my journey and I enjoy hearing what has kept you all in the program.

Giving to the fellowship as a Life-liner (Commitment), one time donation or in meetings in the ISO can be a great avenue of support. This assures that the ISO can serve our fellowship & provide assistance to those who have not yet found us.

I can assure you that the BOR has been diligent towards exploring ways to increase revenue and decrease expenditures in the ISO.

The recent relocation, literature orders and finance committee are some of our current focal points for saving. We are always open to any suggestions.

As a current BOR member I would also like to encourage giving during our gratitude month every September.

So many of our members & others lives have been saved. We currently have meetings in 57

countries. We have endured the challenges of the pandemic and remain strong because of your sharing and caring.

Please know that Gamblers Anonymous needs your support as much as you need Gamblers Anonymous.

I would like to encourage your local areas: Members, Groups, Intergroup's & RSO's to join in supporting our fellowship.

Please share at your meetings and events the importance of supporting the ISO.

With Gratitude,

Val D – BOR Chair – Past Trustee – Area: 1A (formerly Area 1) – CA

2. Ring Central-Hotline

August 22, 2022 – 6:30 PM

Minnesota has been using the 855-2CALLGA (855-222-5542) Hotline number and the Ring Central service for years. Last year we noticed a significant jump in our costs for this service. We reached out to Ring Central reps for answers and support with limited success. This past summer I heard from more than one volunteer that they suspected problems with the service. Several times they got the announcement about it being a Gamblers Anonymous call and to press 1 to accept. After doing so, the call did not connect. It was just a dead line and the volunteer was concerned that the caller was left without anyone responding. Our local hotline chair and Intergroup chair planned to once again contact Ring Central with our questions and concerns.

We are wondering how the experience has been for other areas?

And for areas using a different hotline service than Ring Central can you share your experience?

I believe we have a Discussion item on our upcoming Fall Trustee agenda bringing up a similar issue.

Renee G. – Former Trustee- Area 8A- Southern Minnesota, Eastern Iowa, and Bay City, River Falls and New Richmond Wisconsin