

# Trustee Line – Current Issue

## September 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.

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	<a href="#">Gratitude Week Response</a>	09/04/22	1
2.	<a href="#">GA Restructuring Committee</a>	09/17/22	2
3.	<a href="#">Trustee Election Process</a>	09/13/22	1
4.	=	-	-
5.	=	-	-
6.	=	-	-
7.	=	-	-
8.	=	-	-

## 1. Gratitude Week Response

September 04, 2022 2:45 pm

This post is in response to the Aug 22, 2022 6:25pm Trustee Line (attached below) requesting “Gratitude week ideas”. Avoiding longer term Finance shortfalls also discussed.

**Note:** Amounts used are estimates as the ISO/BOR data is not available to me or may not exist. The important takeaway in the following options is the concept.

### 1) Request the GA membership to increase contributions for Gratitude week

Pro’s: This is a great idea! Along with the \$12K that is donated each year, perhaps another \$12K can be added this year.

Con’s: Only a temporary/partial solution. The GA shortfall could be \$100K per year based on last few months of statements (not including one-time donations)

### 2) Other methods to increase revenue:

#### a) Offer new GA Literature

Pro’s: Promotes unity as groups come together to achieve a common cause

Con’s: Revenue impact in the first year may not be significant

#### b) Increase membership

Pro’s: Achieving pre-pandemic levels would help. Going beyond would keep GA financially sustainable

Con’s: Difficult to rebound from the pandemic as live meetings are being replaced by GA virtual meetings and non-GA Zoom meetings appear to be a viable alternative in supporting the compulsive gambler that still suffers.

#### c) Increase Literature prices

Pro’s: Easy for the ISO to change. Impact would be immediate. Inelastic demand.

Con’s: Prices would need to increase by over 50%.

### 3) Decrease normal expenses

Comment: The BOR continually finds opportunities to decrease expenses. In 2015 the Lifeline bulletin was distributed as a PDF document saving \$40K per year and recently the warehouse was moved to a smaller facility saving \$20K per year. There may not be many impactful opportunities remaining.

### 4) Convert all or most Literature to a PDF format and make it free

Pro’s: The ISO would be able to reduce labor by 50% and eliminate the facility cost. GA members would have free and immediate access to the Literature and more likely to read the content. Inventory obsolescence would not be an issue. UK Gamblers Anonymous, Overeaters Anonymous and other 12 step programs have successfully reduced cost with this model.

Cons: Would be inconvenient to those members who do not have internet access or need to read a printed document. Would be a major paradigm shift making some members feel uncomfortable.

### 5) Wait

Comment: GA has a reserve balance of \$400K and can absorb a few more shortfall years. Large one time donations of \$100K – \$250K over the last 10 years have been an important revenue source and are likely to continue in the future.

These ideas/concepts do not belong to me alone. They have been accumulated through discussion with other GA members as well as experiences in committees like the BOT/BOR Revenue committee formed by Herb 11 years ago.

I am aware that the BOR has recently formed a Finance subcommittee that is likely to focus on the prospect of longer term shortfall issues. I thought that this type of analysis may be helpful.  
Doug E – Past Trustee – Area 3a- San Diego, CA – Past BOR

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### **Original Post**

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 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)

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## 2. GA Restructuring Committee

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September 12, 2022 5:45pm

An item was brought to the Board of Trustees Meeting in the Spring at Cherry Hill. The item highlighted the problems and turmoil that currently exist within the GA world, more specifically in the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents. This is not about Intergroups or individual groups. After a discussion among the Trustees, the Chair of the Board of Trustees went ahead and formed a committee that was officially named the GA Restructuring Committee. I gladly accepted the Chair’s request and was appointed the Chair of the Committee, making the committee 9 members strong. Committee member representation is 55.5% BOT Trustee members (current and past) and 44.5% BOR members (also current and past). Our mission statement is up for approval in Cancun as follows: “Review the current

structure of the corporation and fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous to research and recommend a possible plan to restructure all related entities.”

The purpose of this posting is to advise the Fellowship at large that everyone has the ability to post their thoughts as to what they feel needs to be changed. The committee will review all entries and of course, take all suggestions to aid the committee with its task and consider the merits of such submissions within the framework of the mission statement.

This posting is not meant for people who want to stop any such efforts by the committee. It’s not meant for people to vent their objections. The committee will forge on with its objectives, irrespective of possible negative postings. People who are inclined to tear down the efforts of the committee or even threaten legal action (yes, someone already has), should start their own thread. Hopefully the Trustee Website Admin will abide by this request.

As of this posting, the committee is researching a number of options that involve the core structures of other prominent 12-step programs. Whenever the committee is finished with its charge, it will make public what those recommendations are at a Board of Trustees meeting. At that time, a vote will be taken as to how to accept and implement those recommendations. The committee members are open-minded about any and all options. I ask that those who wish to respond keep that theme in mind, so that everyone is working for the collective good of the Fellowship.

Best,

David M.-GA Restructuring Committee Chair-Past Trustee-Area 12-New Jersey

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September 17, 2022

I am pleased to hear that there is an active Restructuring Committee (hybrid) in place to identify opportunities designed to benefit Gamblers Anonymous. My prior posting was designed to solicit ideas related to creating a sustaining business model to prevent future Financial shortfalls. This would be a subset of the Restructuring Committee’s mission statement.

I am looking forward to the recommendations that the Restructuring Committee will soon be sharing.

Doug E – Past Trustee-Area 3a- CA

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September 13, 2022

I am working with members of my local area 8A intergroup to review our Intergroup Guidelines. One area we are reviewing is our Trustee Election Process and we are seeking feedback from other GA intergroups.

What are your procedures if, after the nomination process, you have the same number of candidates as open Trustee seats? Do you proceed with same process as when there are a number of candidates running? How do your members votes? Ballots mailed to meetings? Votes counted at Intergroup meeting?

I know some areas changed some procedures during the pandemic. We are wondering if you have made more permanent procedure modifications?

Looking forward to reading your responses and appreciate your willingness to share your experience.

Renee G.-Former Trustee-Area 8A-Minnesota