

Trustee Line - Current Issue

October 2023

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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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1. Agenda item #23

October 20, 2023 - 9pm

Agenda Item #23

Discussion Item: The BOT makes a public statement that the July 19 reading from Day at a Time does not meet the spirit of Unity Steps 1,3,5, and 10.

I am confused about this agenda item. The G.A. program uses the term God within our recovery steps, explaining that the G.A. programs calls God the Higher Power, and it is always up to the individual member to interpret who or what God is, through their own understanding.

Also, the idea of faith is not religious in nature. Faith is defined as: "confidence or trust in a person or thing." <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/faith>

Step 1, Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon group unity.

The passage discusses the group mindset of needing a Higher Power in God (as we understand Him).

Step 3, The only requirement for Gamblers Anonymous membership is a desire to stop gambling.

I haven't found in the passage where it says a member is required to do something different to be a member. Step 3 is focused on the idea that you do not need to have any special ritual or dues paid or anything else to be a member, Unity Step 3 speaks nothing about what is needed from the member to find recovery in G.A.

Step 5, Gamblers Anonymous has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers.

What is the message? Guidance Code Article III, Section 1 says:

The specific and primary purposes for which this Fellowship is formed are as follows:

To contact compulsive gamblers no matter where they may be and help them overcome a gambling problem.

To carry the message of Gamblers Anonymous to the compulsive gambler who still suffers, through the medium of personal contact, telephone, mail, newspapers, films, radio, television, houses of worship, charitable organizations, service clubs, Internet and by whatever dignified method that is approved by the Board of Trustees within the framework of the Unity Program.

To distribute Gamblers Anonymous literature to compulsive gamblers and to any person, organization or institution which desires some.

To encourage interest and knowledge of the activities and program of Gamblers Anonymous with the peace officers, educational institutions, penal institutions, judges, probation officers, parole officers, doctors, newspapers, motion picture companies, radio broadcasting companies, television broadcasting companies, houses of worship, charitable organizations and service clubs of the world.

I am not seeing where this particular passage is failing to do this.

Step 10, Gamblers Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the Gamblers Anonymous name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

What is the outside issue here? G.A. has, in Guidance Code article IV, Section 1, stated: Section 1:

We are dedicated to the proposition that a structurally sound Fellowship based and granted in democratic and spiritual principles will not only strengthen us, but will win the confidence, respect, and help of people everywhere, as we extend a stronger hand to compulsive gamblers in every part of the world. Therefore, in order to build the greatest strength for ourselves and others we set forth the following principles for our recovery, unity and guidance.

G.A. declares it is a spiritual organization. That means it does not profess or push one religion over any other, or over no religion at all, rather, it does profess that a belief in a Higher Power is critical. Agnostic and Atheism are not religions, but could, possibly (not always), signal a lack of spirituality.

I am unsure why this particular passage was singled out. Are we going to start redacting and banning passages from our readings now? I sure hope not.

Mike R- Past Trustee- Area: 6A- Florida
