

Trustee Line – Current Issue

November 2018

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 11/30/18.

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.	Vacation?	11/1/18 – 11:00 AM	1
2.	Problems in a Room	11/8/18 – 9:30 AM	1
3.	Article VIII, Section 7	11/12/18 – 11:15 AM	1

11/1/18 – 11:00 AM

Vacation?

Hi All,

Just returned from the Board of Trustee Meeting in Orlando. My first meeting as a new Trustee. Let me know if you hear anyone say, "Oh, those Trustees just go on two wonderful vacations a year. They party and have fun." If you hear this, I will personally travel and set them straight. This was not a vacation. It was focused and dedicated work. I have been sharing at meetings I attend that all of the trustees in the meeting were there to keep our Gambler's Anonymous organization strong and viable. So much good work took place. It was important for my own recovery to hear like minded folks working hard to keep the sanctity of the meetings protected. Differing opinions on matters were welcomed and considered. I loved my experience. Looking forward to more. And I strongly encourage others to consider this avenue of service.

Our trusted servants and leaders who facilitated the meeting were awesome. Such dedicated, kind, caring people.

Clair W – Area 2B, California

11/8/18 – 9:30 AM

Problems in the room

If a member during his therapy (or otherwise) threatens to do harm to a room (not necessarily the room that he is in) how should it be handled? Also, should a member state that he is carrying a weapon, how should that be handled by the room?

Also, how do you handle a person making racist comments and violent threats?

Stuart B. – Area 14 – New York

Article VIII, Section 7

I was greatly appreciative of being an Area 12 Trustee and representing my area at the recent Orlando conference. The Fall BOT meetings right after the Trustee election can often times be compared to an echo chamber. With many new Trustees, the room can get very quiet as each item comes up for discussion. Remembering my first Trustee meeting, I understand the inner fear of standing up before the entire room and being fearful of saying the wrong thing. This is part of the learning process. Trustees who have a loud voice during their Intergroup meetings, many times become somewhat mute during their first Trustee meetings.

What is important to remember is a seldom referenced section in our Guidance Code, which is the title of this thread. "The Board of Trustees primary function shall be to insure the most effective exchange of thoughts and ideas between all Gamblers Anonymous groups and to act

for our Fellowship in an official and executive capacity on all matters affecting Gamblers Anonymous as a whole, except in matters coming under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents or International Executive Secretary.”

I will generalize with this statement, but I believe it is safe to say that virtually all Intergroups do NOT have written rules and procedures for how everything happens their Intergroup meetings. The absence of such a document naturally brings about chaotic meetings, where the loudest and most persistent people generally get their way. BOT meetings have order and structure, which for many is perceived as a negative and something that restricts the ability to speak one’s opinion. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The BOT orientation meeting in Orlando stressed getting up to the microphone to give your opinion. The rules and procedures specifically call for alternating opinions after a motion is made and seconded. The problem is that the new Trustees are generally a bit hesitant to be the first ones to the microphone to say what’s on their mind. No doubt, there must be a certain sense of satisfaction for some to sit back and wait for someone else to say to themselves – “Oh, someone else just said what I wanted to say.” That may be the case, but delaying getting up to the microphone may shut you out of the discussion because others are in line ahead of you. Get in line to speak and if someone does say what you were thinking, you can always take your seat.

If you study the items on the agenda and write down your thoughts ahead of time, either pro or con, you will feel more motivated to jump out of your chair, once any item is presented by the author. You may not represent the source for falling in line with the ultimate majority opinion, but if you make a cogent argument about your position, you may be the one person that wakes up the sense of doing the next right thing for all the Trustees present in the room. Then again, you may not have much if any effect. The important point is not whether your item passes, but that you execute the foundation of what Article VIII, Section 7 stresses.

Make the Louisville BOT meeting your time to step up and be heard. It doesn’t matter if it about a position you have on an item or for a procedural issue with what the front desk is doing. Besides, the more people get up to the microphone, the less everyone has to hear from me.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey