

# Trustee Line – Current Issue

November 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

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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.Virtual Meetings-Feedback Wanted

November 8, 2022-4:30 pm

The Virtual Meeting Committee would like your feedback regarding the temporary guidelines for Virtual Meetings. For those of you who have taken part in a virtual GA meeting, especially those who have hosted a virtual GA meeting, what are some suggestions you have for these guidelines? Is there anything you think should be added or changed? Please provide your feedback!

Patrick G.- Past Trustee-Area: 9- Detroit/ Toledo, Ohio

2. Prison Meetings

November 10, 2022

I am requesting information on any known prison meetings currently being worked. We are compiling a list for ISO. Please include GA member contact information if possible.

Ed G. - Current Trustee - Area: 10 - Ohio

3. Guidance Code

November 21, 2022

To my Fellow Trustees,  
 It has been a few weeks since I attended my first BOT meeting in Cancun, so I have had enough time to absorb all that occurred. I appreciated all of it, but was disturbed by the results of the vote taken on Item 37 of the Agenda.

Under NEW BUSINESS - GUIDANCE CODE, Jack R of Area 1A proposed to remove the commas in the parentheses currently reading "(exceptions can be made, via group conscience decisions, for medical reasons, or active military duty)".

The proposed version is, "(exceptions can be made through group conscience decisions for medical reasons or active military duty)".

This Item passed by a 30-5 margin, and I understand that it will come up for a second vote at the Cleveland BOT meeting. I am asking for all Trustees to vote AGAINST this proposal for the following reasons:

If acceptance of this proposal goes forward, the Board of Trustees has overstepped our obligations by interfering in the autonomy of the groups. It is the groups' right to make a group conscience decision to award a coin to a member who may or may not completely meet the suggested 39 meetings. You are telling the group that their decision can only be made in the cases of medical or military. If you were to tell that to me, I might have to go a DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

We are in the business of helping gamblers stop gambling. Any roadblocks you put in front of a gambler who wants to feel pride in his or her accomplishments hurts compulsive gamblers and Gamblers Anonymous.

Please let me know if you will support a proposal which eliminates the extraneous wording in the parentheses, i.e., "exceptions can be made through group conscience decisions)". This language would automatically include exceptions for medical and military service AND return autonomy to the groups.

Dave M - Current Trustee -Area: 2G - Oregon/SW Washington

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November 24, 2022 - 10:50 am

Trustee Line Submission: This is in response to David M's submission regarding Cancun Agenda Item 37. Allow me to make a couple of points here. First and foremost, the 39 meeting rule, while inarguably arbitrary, was made DECADES ago to prevent situations in which someone would show up for their first meeting, not attend meetings (anywhere) for several months to an entire year, and suddenly ask a meeting to celebrate his or her abstinence. Fortunately, this has not been a common occurrence in the 35 years I have been in the program but it DOES happen. And if we are honest about it, this cheapens the the act of celebrating a milestone for someone who did not have "regular attendance at meetings" (our omnipresent mantra).

Second, while the 39-meeting rule appears prescriptive for how a room must handle birthdays, all it really does is tell the room that the birthday will not be acknowledged at the "international level" via the ISO bulletin unless certain conditions are met. Nothing prevents a room from taking a group conscience and honoring that member at the "room level" in any way they so choose. It happens in my area all the time and we are no worse off for for it. There is nothing onerous about Cancun Agenda Item 37 if one looks at the substance of it. It simply re-frames the original intent of something that has been around longer than most of the Trustees have.

Jack R - Current Trustee - Area 1A - California

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4 Step Changes

November 23, 2022

Hello Brothers and Sisters,

I didn't think I would ever be a Trustee again, but I make plans and G-d laughs. I'm honored and privileged.

In the past I was I proponent of changing the Steps similarly to their original form as Alcoholic Anonymous wrote them. I usually put one or two on the agenda. One time I got close to 50% on one item, but far from two thirds.

I speak to members in my Area, and many would like to see the Steps changed to reflect their original intentions. And if you know me, and like talking Program, this subject often comes up and I get a lot of positive feedback.

I'm hoping this receives plenty of feedback. I worked with David M to get the Trustee Line approved for the purpose of saving time at the Trustee Meeting - by working things out beforehand.

The changes I'm talking about are as follows:

Change Recovery Step 2: Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.

Change Recovery Step 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Change Recovery Step 6: We're entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Change Recovery Step 12: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to compulsive gamblers, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.

Change Unity Step 2: For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Note: Higher Power, or God as we Understand Him can be substituted for God.

Note: We don't have to change them all.

I'm hoping that if you're not sure about this – Please investigate and read the AA Big Book and the 12&12. They contain the original instructions for 24 Steps that have changed myself and the worldwide recovery community!

Kindly,

Marc L - Current Trustee -Area 3D - AZ

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November 24, 2022 - 1:59 AM

In response to Item #4, I am probably fortunate to know very little about AA. However, your proposal seems reasonable. I would be willing to sound out, without bias, the groups in my area to determine how much support the proposal has. I will give you my results before Cleveland. Hopefully other Trustees will do the same.

Dave M - Current Trustee - Area: 2G -Oregon - SW Washington

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November 24, 2022 - 1:22 pm

This is with regard to Marc L's post on Step Changes:

I guess my question is "why". Is there something about our Steps that are inherently wrong or not accurately descriptive of who we are and what we are trying to accomplish? If there is, let's address them one-by-one and make them right. Using another 12-Step program's "Steps" as an exemplar does not accomplish this. Quite the contrary, emulating THEIR Steps leads us away from an honest re-examination of the Steps OUR fellowship currently has.

Jack R - Current Trustee - Area: 1A - California

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November 24, 2022 - 10:36 PM

The request to have the word GOD replace Higher Power in the steps would be a big mistake. AA is not GA's Sponsor; we have our own issues to deal with. Christians are not the only religion in the world and it would be insulting to make these changes. The Higher Power term allows each member to seek their Higher Power not have a step worded as to offend any group of members.

Gary G. - Past Trustee - Area: 6C -North Carolina -NC/SC