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Trustee Line for December 2014

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 12/31/14.

Thoughts From The Trustees - Current and Past

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

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	Reputation - Real Facts or Make Up Your Own	12/18/14 12:15 PM	2

Reputation - Real Facts or Make Up Your Own

12/12/14 - 2:46 PM

Last evening, I was summoned to a GA meeting to 'defend' my position on the 2 items that I authored in Tampa regarding Gam-Anon. Although I didn't start this segment to air out the Gam-Anon issue, I did encounter a vigorous level of antagonism, mixed with a heavy dose of the wrong facts, regarding the perception of how the Trustees waste the monies of our Intergroup. What was so disturbing is how many members think the Trustees do nothing of value for this Fellowship.

I am most concerned with those who have no idea what goes on at the Trustee meetings, and how the Trustees have been pigeon-holed as trying to add the word 'the' to many items, or other similar actions. Our discussion included the possible agenda items that might come to the Cherry Hill agenda, regarding a change to Unity Step 6, to include Gam-Anon. To this statement, it once again fell back to the Trustees are only wasting their time and Intergroup's money by just looking to change a word or two.

An interesting point is that this particular group does not send any monthly contributions to Intergroup, as if to say, we don't approve of what the Trustees do, but we are still going to heavily criticize the entity we don't support. The information this room gets from the monthly Intergroup meetings is only from one member, who has been very clear about how 'his rooms' are very pissed off that the Trustees voted themselves a vacation to go to Cancun. It brings to mind what the bias and accuracy is of the rest of the information coming back to the rooms each month.

I suppose the real message here is that the general membership doesn't know what the Trustees do, and maybe even more important, don't care what we do. NJ Intergroup Trustees are constantly talking about how the Rolling Agenda shows all the items that will be part of the official Trustee agenda for the next Trustee meeting. The Trustees have asked for members many times to come to separate meetings with the Trustees to discuss any items on the agendas. That strategy has been an abject failure.

Future Conferences

Upcoming Conferences

I'm glad that the 2 items I brought to the Tampa Trustee agenda have fostered such emotion from the general membership. Group conscience on the floor of the Cherry Hill Trustee meeting, will prevail, as it has since this Fellowship was started. However, the collateral issues of constant condemnation of the Trustees for doing the jobs they were elected to, is something that will probably not go away for a long time to come. For right now, it appears that any efforts by the Trustees to disabuse the membership of these feelings, is tantamount to trying to turn an ocean liner around singlehandedly. Are we as Trustees staring at the true example of 'Don't confuse me with the facts' when we talk to our area members?

I can't be alone with these thoughts of what others feel about the Trustees.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

12/18/14 - 12:15 PM

To All Current and Former Trustees:

David M:

I find it extremely difficult to see you standing alone on the Trustee Line concerning this subject. No, I cannot change others' opinions, nor should I try. However, I believe lack of education is a key in this current dilemma. Page 17 advises me to 'get involved and be of service' and I have tried to do that - physically, mentally and spiritually.

1. ANY member can attend a Trustee meeting - I have, even though I was not a trustee at the time - I know of others who have done the same. It was important for me to know what was being said, why, and how any vote will or will not affect my group.

2. ANY member can read the Rolling Agenda or the Agenda itself far in advance of a vote. If I don't understand it, I can call or write the author for a better explanation of their intent - or contact a trustee to obtain that same information.

3. ANY member can contact his/her trustee and express approval or disapproval of any such agenda item. No, I cannot tell the trustee how to vote, but should enough people contact the trustee, the trustee will have a very valid feeling of how their membership feels on the issue. After all, it's their membership they are supposed to be representing at the trustee meeting.

4. ANY member can submit or author an agenda item.

5. Do I approve of all votes at the trustee meeting? No, but once voted upon, I accept the vote as the largest group conscious available to me in the Fellowship.

6. Can I change that decision? Yes, by agenda item at the next trustee meeting - or in 2 years time if that is appropriate, but it can be changed.

You mentioned that one word additions bothered this group. Did the addition of "internet" to Unity Step 11 bother them as well? I heard once in a Trustee meeting: "It was good enough in 1957, it should be good enough now." I shudder to think of the advances our society has made since 1957 that we should ignore.

To criticize, after the fact, is so easy. However, I choose to be pro-active and try my best to do what's right for the Fellowship. My father taught me that 'anything worth having is worth working for.' I choose to work FOR the Fellowship - it saved my life, and hopefully, it has made me a better person.

Linda S. - Area 7C, Oklahoma

Former Trustee, Area 3A, San Diego