

Trustee Line – Current Issue

December 2020

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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.

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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. BOT Spring Meeting Options

Dec. 2, 2020 – 3:42pm

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Day, unique as it was for many of us this year. Trustees, past trustees and other trusted servants reading my submission thank you for your dedication and service to our fellowship as you continue the Gamblers Anonymous program’s primary purpose to stop gambling and to help other compulsive gamblers do the same. I count my Blessings and give God my thanks for you, for the members that came before me and for the members that will come after me to share their message of hope.

Even with the great promising news of a vaccine for Covid-19 and the distribution plan for the vaccine, the uncertainty of continued state shutdowns with uncertain government restrictions Gamblers Anonymous should have a defined plan for the Spring Board of Trustees meeting. The wait and see plan in place now is the same type of plan I incorporated the date of my last bet over 31 years ago at the blackjack table waiting to see what card the dealer was going to flip over. Or other times when it was the bottom of the ninth, two outs, 3-2 count, bases loaded trailing by 10 runs telling my wife just wait I have to see what is going to happen. The wait and see plan may be a great plan for a few, but is the wait and see a great plan for most compulsive gamblers in recovery. For me, today’s wait and see plan is the same plan when I was in action. Now that the Board of Trustees has temporarily approved on-line meetings which put all of us in compliance with the guidance code “39 meeting rule requirement” to serve as a trustee.

Would it serve our Gamblers Anonymous programs best interest not to be proactive and have a solid BOT meeting either physical or virtual plan? This question should be a decision made by the trustees. Should the trustees have the executive board plan for a physical BOT meeting or plan for a virtual on-line video Board of Trustees meeting for the spring?

Celebrating another Day,

Walter G. – Trustee – Area 12 – New Jersey

Dec. 8, 2020 – 4:00pm

I do agree somewhat with Walter about the wait-and-see attitude bringing back memories of gambling. However, in this case, it is the only thing we can do. If the meeting is to be virtual, it would be a huge mess. Imagine having to “raise your hand” by clicking on one color to make a point of reference, and another to make a point of information? How about “getting up to speak”. You’d need another color hand to speak “no” and still another to speak “yes” on a topic. I can see an online BOT meeting taking a week of all day work. I cannot imagine sitting at a desk for a week to do this.

On the other side, if we have a physical meeting, it has to be with the knowledge that the vaccine has been widely distributed and is working. I know I wouldn’t be comfortable sitting in a room filled with everyone’s hot air unless I knew that everyone tested negative prior to leaving home and once they got to the meeting.

If we cannot have a safe in-person physical meeting, my opinion is that we wait until later in the summer or to fall.

If there are any pressing items that need to be decided before then, we can have a quick response vote.

That’s my 2-cents (which I still have because I stopped gambling 14 years ago).

Stuart B. – Trustee – Area 14 – New York

Dec. 10, 2020 – 6:45pm

Both Walter G and Stuart B are on target with a virtual meeting that should have been set up for the fall 2020 meeting. Being that the executive board controls the forum, they could quickly answer all of Stuart B’s concerns if they wanted to.

If the school systems and teachers worldwide can handle millions of students, then certainly we can. Teachers have zoom programs that can quickly be adopted for our needs.

I’ll add significant benefits to a virtual meeting –

1. it would be the very first truly international meeting that any country can join.
2. It would save our area and the fellowship up to or more than \$50,000.
3. No hotel commitment.
4. No concerns for any health issues.
5. Our entire fellowship can see what their trustee actually does and hopefully encourage more to step up to be a trustee. We need new blood.
6. We would always have a quorum.
7. We could have a reasonable schedule and not be on any time constraints. Imagine a 6-hour meeting on multi-days.

8. No carry over items.
9. No travel and time off from work that allows more to be a trustee to part take.

These are just a few, and there are many more.

Let's do this or the better question to the executive board – WHY NOT DO THIS?

Gary S – Past Trustee – Area 12 New Jersey

Dec. 14, 2020 – 11:30 AM

I agree with having a Zoom Trustee meeting. I don't think we should wait and see. The agenda is just getting too long. Even though the vaccine for COVID is coming we don't have any idea when people will be comfortable traveling. There's not been enough communication due to the lack of trustee meetings. We also have elections for the BOT officers at the spring meeting. It's important for all of us to have our leadership in place moving forward during this critical time.

Jo K. – Trustee – Area 8D Missouri