

# Trustee Line - Current Issue

December 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

**[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.

**Trustee Line Note:** This was a topic presented in November with new comments in December.

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

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December 5, 2022

Trustee Line Submission: Marc L's Step Changes

I am not advocating one way or the other on these changes, just offering my thoughts. I don't have a vote.

Some thoughts on Recovery Step 2:

The word "sanity" seems to be a stumbling point for many.

It was explained to me many years ago that the restoration to "sanity" does not mean that we are or were insane. It addresses the insane way of thinking and acting when we are gambling. The acts are irrational because they are self-destructive, or insane.

I was told, after being abstinent from my addiction for a period of time, and knowing that my life is starting to improve, that making the decision to place the first bet of what will be a series of bets, is an act of irrational behavior. Abstinent, to place the first bet, that can eventually kill me, just does not make sense. These thoughts are irrational, self-destructive, or insane. GA steps in and stops the compulsion to place the first bet. The compulsion leaves, and I am starting to live rationally, or sanely again.

Does "a normal way of thinking and living" equal "sanity"?

Some thoughts on Recovery Step 12:

There is a reason that this step comes after the previous 11 Steps.

The proposed version speaks directly of the results of an action. Using the definition of spiritual on page 1 of the Combo Book, these are the attributes that one may achieve as a result of working these steps, therefore possibly being better able to carry the message to other compulsive gamblers than one was before. Working being the operative word. I'm not saying that one cannot carry the message without working the steps. Just airing some thoughts.

The current version "Having made an effort to practice these principals in all our affairs" seems to me that an effort to practice, does not imply that one has attempted to work the previous steps, with a sponsor, as the GA literature suggests. Action and results, versus "I tried".

I know some will not agree with me. I'm only offering my thoughts

Scott S. – Past Trustee – Area 13 -Delaware Valley

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December 14, 2022

I do not want to change our steps. We are compulsive gamblers and our steps have worked well in our fellowship for many many years. I believe in God but there have been many new members who don't. Changing Higher power could, has and will affect members who come to our meetings to stop gambling. Why do anything that could create a conflict to not only new members but those that have come in to our rooms. Our main purpose is to help the compulsive gambler who is suffering. Instead of changing our steps, highlighting words on page 17 and worrying about all this stuff, we need to get back to our reason for Gamblers Anonymous. Too much time is spent at the BOT meetings on wording in our documents.

Jo K - Past Trustee - Area 8D - MO-IL

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2. Intergroup Question

December 14, 2022

Can anyone direct me to information/rules regarding attendance by Gam-Anon members at a GA **Intergroup** meeting? If you can point me to already available documented information that would be the best.

Thanks.

Terry D- Current Trustee-Area 3C- NV



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### 3. PDF Combo Book?

December 20, 2022

Several members in my area have asked about how they can obtain a pdf of the combo book. In our area, we have several GA meetings on Zoom, and a lot of members do not have access to a combo book since it is not a physical meeting. A GA group that meets on Zoom in our area asked me how we could get a pdf of the combo book on the gamblersAnonymous.org website. My question is how would I go about getting a pdf of the combo book on the gamblersAnonymous.org website? Thanks.

James B.- Current Trustee- Area: 2B - California

