

MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

JULY 19th, 20th, and 21st, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 4 P.M. by Bill B., Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

ROLL CALL: Designation - Trustee (T), Alternate Trustee (A), and Alternate Trustee - Acting Trustee (AT).

PRESENT: William K.B. (T), Harry D.P. (T), Bill M. (T), Douglas M. (T), Sydney L. (A), Marge C. (A), Dave R. (T), Larry S. (T), Howard C. (A), Hank K. (T), Martin K. (A), Bill W. (T), Felix DiB. (A), Ben L. (T), Ralph G. (A), Leroy N. (T), Mike K. (A), Ed A. (AT), Bob S.(T), Bill G. (T), Elmer M. (A), Jack L. (A), Norman W. (T), Sam B. (T), Irwin S. (AT), Charles D. (A), Max K. (A), Bob K. (T), Joseph I. (A), Jack F. (T), Joe S. (T), Al C. (T), Bob F. (T), Gerald A. (AT), Nathan A. (A), Seymore S. (A), Sandy C. (A), and Bill S. (AT).

OLD BUSINESS

1. BIG BOOK: The letter dated May 26, 1977 from Gamblers Anonymous attorney, Donald R. Dummer, to Mr. Alexander regarding Alcoholics Anonymous/Gamblers Anonymous was discussed; the Board of Trustees disapproved of Page 2, Paragraph 3b and 3c which was as follows:

P3b G.A. will not further publish, or print, or otherwise reproduce the G.A. Book in any manner or form, directly or indirectly, or individually or in conjunction with anyone else, nor will G.A. authorize or permit anyone else to publish, print, or otherwise reproduce the G.A. Book in any manner or form.

P3c G.A. will not further copy, or reproduce (or otherwise use), any part of the A.A. Book in any manner or form, directly or indirectly, or individually or together with anyone else, without the prior written permission of A.A. in each instance.

Motion was made to agree to give copyright credit to A.A. in G.A. Big Books that remained in stock. Also, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees should contact Bob Pearson in New York and agree not to use Explanations of the 12 Steps as related to coping stories in A.A. books in future printings of the G.A. Big Book. Motion by Dave R. and seconded.

FOR - 24

AGAINST - 0

ABSTAINED - 0

2. ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Nominations: Jim Z. Motion was seconded by Bill M. Lee N. moved that the nominations be closed. Jim Z. was nominated by acclamation.

3. G.A. PINS: Voted to remain the same size with letters "G.A." and years (5, 10, 15, & 20) with base metal changed to silver.

FOR - 14

AGAINST - 7

ABSTAINED - 0

4. SECOND VOTING: Change the word "movement" to "fellowship" in G.A. Combined pamphlet on page 1, 3rd paragraph, next to the last line.

V FOR - 23

AGAINST - 0

ABSTAINED - 0

NEW BUSINESS

1. ✓ ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER A VOICE VOTE OR A PHONE VOTE ON MAIL MEETINGS
DEFEATED
2. COMBO BOOK - PAGE #3, PARAGRAPH 1; Eliminate the phrase "To a man"
(first voting)
FOR - 24 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 0
3. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 9, PARAGRAPH 3; Eliminate "and trying to understand"
and replace with "and following" (first voting)
Motion by Joe S. Seconded by Hank K.
FOR - 16 AGAINST - 4 ABSTAINED - 0
4. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 17; Proposal to change the sequence of the sentences so
that in Step 5 the last sentence will be "If you have any questions.."
Motion by Nat A. Seconded by Bob F.
FOR - 21 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 3
5. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 5, STEP 12; Proposal to have the first word to be "after".
Motion by Sandy C. Seconded by Bob F. *Defeated*
FOR - 5 AGAINST - 19 ABSTAINED - 0
6. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 17, STEP 3; Change the word "acquaintance" to "people".
Motion by Bob F. Seconded by Norman W. (first voting)
FOR - 23 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 1
7. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 15; Put "most compulsive gamblers" etc. to the end of page
16 after question #20. Motion by Howie C. Seconded by Joe S.
FOR - 11 AGAINST - 13 DEFEATED
8. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 14, PARAGRAPH 2; Heading changed from "World Series" to
"sports pool". (DEFEATED) Motion by Joe S. Seconded by Bob F.
FOR - 5 AGAINST - 15 ABSTAINED - 4 ✓
9. ✓ SHOULD CONFERENCES RESTRICT SOCIAL ACTIVITIES &/or BE ONLY FOR G.A. MEMBERS?
Motion by Dave R. Seconded by Joe S.
FOR - 0 AGAINST - 24 DEFEATED
10. ✓ "AID TO THE RECOVERY PROGRAM", behavioral, objectives, changes, etc.
Motion to table.
FOR - 22 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 2
11. ✓ IS THE STOCK MARKET INVESTING OR GAMBLING? Can a period of time for holding
stocks eliminate the gambling aspect?
Motion to drop from the agenda by Dave R. Seconded by Hank K.
FOR - 20 AGAINST - 4 ABSTAINED - 0
DROPPED
12. ✓ WHAT IS "THE MESSAGE"? The entire G.A. Program is everything that is written
plus our experience to the new person coming in their thoughts. Most people
take the entire program as a fellowship of men and women who share their
strength, hope, and experience with each other.
Motion by Hank K. Seconded by Nat A. to drop from the agenda
FOR - 19 AGAINST - 1 ABSTAINED - 4
DROPPED

NEW BUSINESS (page 2)

13. INSURANCE AT THE MEETING LEVEL Liability insurance will be demanded at a lot of our meeting places. Go to someone local for this insurance. This Liability insurance is available, do not panic, consult legal council and/or look into it.
14. CONTRADICTION AS TO PRIMARY PURPOSE Two places in the Combo Book give two different primary purposes. Motion was made to have both read the same; "Our primary purpose is to stop gambling and to carry our message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers".
Motion by Hank K. Seconded by Ed. A. (first voting)
FOR - 17 AGAINST - 2 ABSTAINED - 5
15. IS THE N.S.O. SITUATED IN THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP? Geographical location does not make much difference. Other points brought up included: post office box had been the same for 19 years, dedicated people are working diligently to operate it, and nothing could be gained by the move. This issue stimulated many people's thoughts but the final consensus was a vote of confidence; yes, it is doing a good job, it is in the best place, and no improvement could be made by such a move. A suggestion was made to create more Regional Offices, the only one at the present time is E.R.I.C., and there could be five.
16. COMBO BOOK - PAGE 12, LAST PARAGRAPH: remove "and believe this to be a life-time job."
Motion by Charles D. Seconded
FOR - 2 AGAINST - 17 ABSTAINED - 5
DEFEATED.
17. A. SOME FORM OF RECOGNITION AFTER NINETY DAYS ON THE PROGRAM.
90-day Plateau with: BIG BOOK FOR - 11 AGAINST - 11 ABSTAINED - 2
90-day Plateau with: KEY CHAIN FOR - 12 AGAINST - 12
Votes recounted/remained the same
Motion to show recognition after SIX MONTHS made by Howie, Seconded by Bill W.
DEFEATED
- B. WE COULD HAVE A NEW DESIGN TO FORM A SLOGAN AND POSTER DESIGN TO BE USED NATIONALLY IN PUBLIC RELATIONS.
P.S.A. Storybook Sketches will produce a 30-second spot announcement for public relations. The P.S.A. spot-on-tape announcement will be available for approximately \$30.00 to 40.00. Monies from Group pledges were accepted. Individual contributions of \$1000.00 were refused. The production of "Merry-Go-Round Thesis" is to make people, from all over the world, aware of the fellowship of G.A.
Motion was made that this film be sold at cost to the groups, seconded, and approved unanimously.
A special thanks is given to Delaware Valley Intergroup; the State of Connecticut approved placing signs at the dog track, Hieleah, etc.
The 30-second spot will be called "No Face Gambler" and will read "If you have a gambling problem, call Gamblers Anonymous."
Motion to accept this film and to make it available to all groups through the N.S.O. at cost.
FOR - 20 AGAINST - 1 ABSTAINED - 3
Motion to send a letter of thanks for contributions of \$100.00 and suggestion to donate to the persons favorite charity - REJECTED

NEW BUSINESS (page 3)

Motion to call and contact contributors - ADOPTED.
Majority vote was made to word our slogan regarding public relations as follows: "If you have a gambling problem or know someone who does, contact Gamblers Anonymous." word "contact" - 12 votes "call" - 7 votes
A motion was made by Joe S. to use the logo we have now & seconded by Nat H.
FOR - 20 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 4
Slogan "If you have a friend or relative who has a gambling problem and is is interested in doing something about it, we can help." ELIMINATED
Slogan "If you want to gamble that is your business; if you want to stop gambling, that is our business - call Gamblers Anonymous!" ELIMINATED
Slogan "If you have a gambling problem, contact Gamblers Anonymous." ELIMINATED
Slogan "If you have a gambling problem or know someone that does, contact Gamblers Anonymous." APPROVED by majority (15)

18. CHAPTER GUIDELINES CONCERNING MEMBERS WHO ADMIT TO BEING IN RACE TRACKS OR O.T.B. OFFICES.
Motion by Bob F. Seconded by Seymour S.
FOR - 3 AGAINST - 21 ABSTAINED - 0
19. IS THE EXPEDITER PROGRAM WORKING TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE FELLOWSHIP; IF NOT, HOW SHOULD IT BE CHANGED? A comment was made that there was a lack of instructions to the new members and to all members.
A. Motion to change name FOR - 17 AGAINST - 2 ABSTAINED - 5
Motion for name to be "Life-saver" FOR - 10
" " " " " "Life-liner" For - 11 ADOPTED
B. Letter to be submitted to each group and to be put in Bulletin.
Motion made by Hank K. Seconded
FOR - 16 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 8
Also adopted was a plan to send each Trustee envelopes, cards, etc.
Quarterly print name of Life-liners in Bulletin
FOR - 2 AGAINST - 20 DEFEATED
Motion to sign in each group of Life-liners was passed unanimously.
20. CONSIDERATION OF A PROFESSIONAL PRINTED NEWSLETTER TO GO TO TRUSTEES ON A MONTHLY BASIS. Motion by Hank K. and seconded by Sandy C for a professionally printed newsletter to all trustees on a monthly basis and written by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.
FOR - 12 AGAINST - 7 PASSED
Motion to have newsletter sent to the Editor-In-Chief and be printed in the Bulletin and called "Trustees Page".
Motion by Lee N. Seconded by Joe S. DEFEATED
A Motion was made to have a copy sent to the Board of Trustees prior to printing in the Bulletin. DEFEATED
FOR - 10 AGAINST - 11 ABSTAINED - 3
21. PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHIC TRUSTEE MEETING IN ADDITION TO PHYSICAL MEETING AT CONCLAVES. It was accepted that a physical Trustees' meeting was necessary at a local level to get other people involved with the fellowship. A number of days and weeks were suggested. The following was voted on:
eight weeks - defeated, one hundred days - defeated, ninety days - defeated,
65 DAYS PRIOR TO THE PHYSICAL CONCLAVE MEETING - ACCEPTED
FOR - 20 AGAINST - 0 ABSTAINED - 4

NEW BUSINESS (page 4)

22. GROUP TELEPHONE LISTING: WHAT SHOULD BE ON IT AND WHAT SHOULDN'T BE ON IT?
- a. Remove the name of Gamblers Anonymous from the phone list.
 - b. List the meeting place and time of meeting
 - c. List the member's telephone number only.
 - d. Do not list members that do not wish to be on the list.
 - e. The name of the group and the address should be on the list.
 - f. The spouse's name should be on the list.

FOR - 12

AGAINST - 8

ABSTAINED - 4

Also suggested was (g) printing the date prepared, (h) identifying the Trusted Servants' phone numbers, and the emergency phone number of the meeting. It was mentioned that Chicago does not have a phone list.

23. SILVER ANNIVERSARY IN 1982 - It was suggested that it be called the 2nd International Conference, however most Trustees felt that it was too soon after the 1st International Conference to decide. Other items to be discussed at the next meeting are the cost of the 1st International Conference and whether or not the conference was too long.

24. CONSIDERATION OF PREPARATION OF THE NEW BIG BOOK - A committee was appointed and included the following persons; Sandy C., Norman W., Lee N., and Bill S. It was decided that the committee should select a chairperson to report to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees to enable all trustees to be kept informed of the progress of the committee.

25. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 4; change the heading - eliminate the three words "are suggested as". Motion by Howie C. to table. Seconded by Joe S.

FOR - 17

AGAINST - 5

ABSTAINED - 2

26. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 15; eliminate the sentence at the top before the question. Motion to leave as is.

FOR - 23

AGAINST - 0

ABSTAINED - 1

27. ✓ COMBO BOOK - PAGE 17; eliminate the heading, "Here are some additional suggestions". Motion by Bob F. Seconded by Hank K.

FOR - 17

AGAINST - 2

ABSTAINED - 5

28. CHANGES IN THE COMBO BOOK WHICH WERE APPROVED BUT NOT CHANGED ON SUBSEQUENT PRINTINGS:

- ✓
- a. Movement to fellowship (three times)
 - b. Corrections on Pages 9 (4/22/76 & 12/2/76) and 14
 - c. Spelling on page 12, line 10
 - d. Page 17, Establish
 - e. Change "he" or "man" to "member" or "compulsive gambler"

It was decided that each member of the Board of Trustees should receive a new Combo when printed.

29. TRUSTEE, REPRESENTING THE DELAWARE VALLEY INTERGROUP, EXPLAINS SITUATION INVOLVING THE HARRISBURG G.A. The events that led up to this was as follows: A member of Gam-Anon felt she was a compulsive gambler and began attending the Harrisburg G.A. meetings. During her absence, the group voted to not allow this person to attend. Attempts from the Intergroup to discuss this action with the members failed. Two trustees attended a meeting but were unable to resolve the situation when the meeting was cut short. POINT OF

NEW BUSINESS (page 5)

DISCUSSION: Is the Harrisburg group right in their actions? Should the Delaware Valley Intergroup exclude the Harrisburg G.A. from their services? It was decided that the Chairman of the Board of Trustees contact the members involved before the next physical meeting of the Delaware Valley Intergroup to attempt to resolve the situation.

30. It was decided that there will be a REALIGNMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS FOR TRUSTEES at the first physical meeting of 1978, to be held on June 23rd through June 25th.
31. HOW TO RUN A MEETING? Should something be added to the group handbook? If a chairman is only three months on the program it is very important that he be helped by the secretary. It was suggested that the following 14 points or portions thereof be read before each meeting.
- a. Whatever is said in the room must remain in the room.
 - b. Do not admit to any past or present crimes that you can still be prosecuted for.
 - c. If anyone in G.A. either offers or asks you for money refuse the person and notify the secretary or a trusted servant.
 - d. A member coming into the room for the first time should only be talked to about financial matters by the trusted servants of the group.
 - e. There will be no soliciting or selling of any merchandise in a G.A. room at any time.
 - f. At no time will any member say anything derogatory about any chapter or any other member while giving therapy.
 - g. Anyone found actively bookmaking or shylocking in any G.A. room will have his name brought to the attention of the trusted servants of the chapter and proper action will be taken by them.
 - h. If any member has a desire to speak, please raise your hand and you will be called upon by the chairperson as soon as possible.
 - i. With the exception of emergencies, please do not enter or leave the room while a member is giving therapy.
 - j. There is no room in our program for rumors; do not spread any about other G.A. members.
 - k. Confine your talk to your own thoughts and personal experiences.
 - l. Limit your talk to three or five minutes unless you have a pressing problem.
 - m. One of primary purposes is to stop gambling, not control gambling.
 - n. All persons should refrain from using offensive language.
- A. CHICAGOLAND REPORT on INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - The Board of Trustees wishes to express thanks for a job well done. It was also mentioned that this conference had been in planning for the past five years.
A MAXIMUM OF 85 PLANS GOING UP FOR CANCELATION - It was noted that the bank charges \$25.00 for cancellations. A vote was taken regarding retaining the balance of deposits to offset costs when the Conference had not been notified that the reservations were to be cancelled. FOR - 20
A motion was made to refund the balance to those members who did notify the Conference to cancel their reservations. FOR - 20
- B. WHAT CAN BE OR SHOULD BE SAID OR SHOULD NOT BE SAID IN THERAPY - The following suggestions were made; a member should be allowed to talk on anything except personal experiences that could be self-incriminating, avoid preaching, use common sense, use the G.A. Group Handbook as a guide, and state the time you have been on the program and absent from gambling.

