

**GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS TRUSTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15 & 16, 1990
THE MONTELEONE – NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

The Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order by Dan B., Chairman of the Board of Trustees at 1:30 P.M., November 15, 1990.

A) ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by Karen H.

B) INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Dan B. welcomed all members and asked all new Trustees and Alternate Trustees stand and introduce themselves.

C) STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

Dan B. gave an opening statement explaining how the meeting would be conducted and that “Roberts Rules of Order” would be followed to the best of our ability. He also urged all members to participate.

D) MINUTES OF THE BOSTON MEETING

The minutes of the Boston Meeting were approved as submitted.
Approved: 28 Against: 1 Abstained: 2

E) COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Conference Committee

Larry G. gave a report that the conferences seem to be running very well. Attendance here (New Orleans) looks to be about 400. Detroit is exceptionally well organized. San Diego has flyers out already. Montreal is starting to fill up very quickly.

2. Literature Committee

Danny M. gave a report on the Literature Committee. He stated that there is no new literature except for the Sponsorship piece that will be presented at this meeting. The one new piece that has gone around since Boston is the Trustee Line. It has gone out twice and so far the response has been favorable. The function of the Literature Committee is not necessarily to create literature but to clean it up.

3. I.E.S. – Lifeline report

Karen H. gave a report on Lifeliners and handed out a graph giving an overall view of Lifeliner activity for the past year.

F) OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Establish guidelines (and insert in the Guidance Code) for selecting cities for hosting National and International conferences. Tabled from Boston.**

Move to accept above.

Approved: 3 Against: 12 Abstained: 12 Failed

(1st vote)

- 2. Can a Gamblers Anonymous member count time of abstinence from gambling prior to attending his/her first G.A. Meeting as accumulated time toward their Gamblers Anonymous anniversaries? Tabled from Boston.**

Motion to add “over a 12 month period beginning from the day he/she joins G.A.” to Section 4; Article VII, to be inserted after “Gamblers Anonymous meetings”.

Amendment – to add “over the previous”.

Approved: 7 Against: 14 Abstained: 11 Failed

On the motion

Approved: 5 Against: 23 Abstained: 4 Failed

- 3. “Abstinence From Gambling The G.A. Way” proposed as new G.A. literature. 2nd vote.**

Approved: 1 Against: 31 Abstained: 2 Failed

(1st vote)

- 4. “Public Relations Fact Sheet”, as new literature, (includes 3 approved amendments) 2nd vote.**

Approved: 25 Against: 1 Abstained: 7 Passed

G) COMBO BOOK

- 1. Page 6: Unity Step #6 – remove the words... “related facility or...” Tabled from Boston.**

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 4 Against: 26 Abstained: 4 Failed

- 2. Page 17: Heading – delete “particularly the new Gamblers Anonymous members.**

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 6 Against: 26 Abstained: 2 Failed

3. **Page 17; #5 – add the word “twelve” after “the” and before “steps”.**
Motion to accept above
Approved: 1 Against: 31 Abstained: 3 Failed
4. **Page 13; 7th line – Can a Compulsive Gambler ever gamble normally again? After abstaining for a period of time, some members unfortunately returned to gambling. What generally starts as small bet experimentation inevitably ends in disaster. Our Gamblers Anonymous experience.....**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 4 Against: 27 Abstained: 2 Failed
5. **Page 14; Definition of gambling – remove the words “...or wagering....”.**
Motion to accept above. The motion died for lack of second.
6. **Page 2; 2nd paragraph – remove entire 2nd paragraph.**
Motion to accept above. The motion died for lack of second.
7. **Page 17; paragraph 3 – after “Don’t gamble for anything”, add Gambling includes; playing the stock and other financial markets, commodities and options; buying lottery and raffle tickets; flipping a coin; and entering any sports pool**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 0 Against: 29 Abstained: 4 Failed

H) GUIDANCE CODE

1. **Page 8; Article VIII; Section 22; Clarification – “Any Trustee or Alternate Trustee who misses three (3) consecutive Board meetings is automatically removed...” Upon a new term, does this wipe the slate clean? If you go from Alternate to Trustee, does this wipe the slate clean?**
Discussion only – No motion made.
2. **Page 5; Article VII; Section 4; to be inserted after”...Gamblers Anonymous meetings...” add the following “over a 12 month period on a regular basis, beginning from the day he/she joins G.A.”**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 5 Against: 12 Abstained: 7 Failed
3. **Page 5; Article VIII; Section 1; Increase the number of “Trustees and Alternates to 40. Also, adjust any other area of the Guidance Code to reflect this change.**
Motion to remove limit of 36 Trustees/Alternates.
Approved: 6 Against: 19 Abstained: 7 Failed

Motion to accept #3 above as stated.
Approved: 30 Against: 0 Abstained: 1 Passed (1st vote)

4. **Page 7; Article VIII; Section 11; eliminate entire section.**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 18 Against: 11 Abstained: 4 Failed
(2/3 vote needed)
Motion to change Article VIII, section 11 to “65 days prior to the first physical meeting after the election of the Board of Trustees”.
Approved: 11 Against: 16 Abstained: 5 Failed
5. **Page 7; Article VIII; Section 10; after “shall” insert “nominate and”, and (2nd sentence) after “The” insert “nominations and”.**
Motion to accept above.
Amendment – To make any changes in the Guidance Code that this motion contradicts.
Approved: 23 Against: 3 Abstained: 6 Passed
On the motion.
Approved: 24 Against: 6 Abstained: 3 Passed (1st vote)
6. **Page 11; Article X; Section 9 (#f); replace entire paragraph as follows – “Duties of the Pressure Relief Group Chairman shall be to be responsible for educating the groups on Pressure Relief, maintaining updated forms and giving assistance to groups where needed. 2nd vote.**
Approved: 32 Against: 1 Abstained: 1 Passed
7. **Page 18; Article XVI; Section 2 (line 13); remove the word “appoint” and replace it with the word “elect”, also at (line 15) take out the word “appointment” and replace it with the word “election”. 2nd vote.**
Approved: 25 against: 3 Abstained: 4 Passed
8. **Page 19; Article XVI , Section 4; delete “and Board of Trustees”. 2nd vote.**
Approved: 27 Against: 0 Abstained: 6 Passed
9. **Page 20; Article XVI; Section 14; insert “within 60 days in the Lifeline Bulletin”. 2nd vote.**
Approved: 24 Against: 0 Abstained: 7 Passed
(1st vote)
10. **Page 20; Article XVIII; Section 1; eliminate the entire section. 2nd vote.**
Approved: 25 Against: 0 Abstained: 9 Passed
11. **Page 8; Article VIII; Section 22; at the end of the last sentence add: “Absentee ballots by overseas members of the Board of trustees will**

count as attendance at the Board of Trustees physical meetings. 2nd vote.

Approved: 30 Against: 0 Abstained: 3 Passed

12. Page 8; Article VIII; Section 17; Remove the first 16 words – to read: “Any item(s)...etc.” 2nd vote.

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 33 Against: 0 Abstained: 1 Passed

D) NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve up to \$3000 for the translation of “A New Beginning” into French.

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 32 Against: 0 Abstained: 2 Passed

2. Amend Step 5 of the Unity Program as follows: “Gamblers Anonymous has but one primary, and one secondary purpose. They are:

1. To assist its members to maintain their desire to refrain from gambling; and

2. to carry its message of hope to the compulsive gambler who still suffers”.

Motion to accept above. The motion died for lack of a second.

3. Coins to commemorate annual anniversaries. Two coins were presented for approval.

Motion to accept first coin.

Approved: 5 Against: 22 Abstained: 5 Failed

Motion to accept second coin.

Approved: 11 Against: 19 Abstained: 3 Failed

4. Conference site selection – SOUTH.

Motion to hold the 1992 Southern Conference in Miami if they want it. If not Texas will have it and let us know within two months the details.

Approved: 15 Against: 16 Abstained: 3 Failed

Motion to accept Dallas/Houston’s bid for the Southern Conference in 1992. Details to follow within two months.

Approved: 25 Against: 2 Abstained: 5 Passed

5. Approve Korean version of Combo Book.

Motion to accept and not exceed \$200 for Korean translation of Combo Book.

Approved: 32 Against: 0 Abstained: 2 Passed

6. Translate Combo Book into Japanese and Armenian.

Motion that any translation of any approved literature be referred to the Board of Regents.

Approved: 0 Against: 30 Abstained: 2 Failed

7. **Limit Trustees to 2 consecutive terms.**

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 6 Against: 24 Abstained: 2 Failed

8. **At the beginning of Gamblers Anonymous meetings, the “additional suggestions” should be unified.**

Motion to form a committee to look into establishing guidelines to present at the next meeting.

Approved: 15 Against: 15 Abstained: 2 Failed

9. **Lower the 39 meeting rule for Trustees.**

Discussion Only. No motion made.

10. **What is 1/2 meeting?**

Discussion was held regarding the minutes of the Orlando Meeting in October 1988. Item 5 of New Business “Should a member who attends 39 meetings per year but always comes in when it is half over, get full credit for those meetings”? Motion was approved 25 – 5 – 3 and it was stated at the end “Yes, with full credit”.

No motion on this item, discussion only.

11. **Do prison groups get voting rights within the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous?**

As per the Guidance Code, Article XX, Section 5 (Pg. 23) “Institutional Groups will not be allowed to vote on any issues which affect groups other than their own”.

12. **No G.A. member should be allowed to buy a G.A. pin (except in extenuating circumstances). Pins should only be sold to groups who intend to honor the member.**

Motion made that G.A. pins should only be sold to groups who intend to honor the member.

Approved: 2 Against: 26 Abstained: 5 Failed

13. **Limit a Trustee to 3 consecutive terms.**

Motion to accept above.

Amendment – Except if elected by acclamation.

Approved: 15 Against: 18 Abstained: 1 Failed

On the motion.

Approved: 9 Against: 23 Abstained: 3 Failed

14. **Recommendation that there be an independent audit or “watchdog” committee for all National Conferences.**
Motion made that there be an outside independent audit for all National Conferences.
Approved: 1 Against: 31 Abstained: 1 Failed
15. **Can a Trustee position be eliminated by other than the body who created it?**
Discussion only. It was the consensus of this Board that a Trustee position cannot be eliminated by other than the body who created it.
16. **Can a Intergroup restrict the number of terms their Trustee can serve?**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 10 Against: 21 Abstained: 3 Failed
17. **Create a International Committee to discuss common goals and objectives.**
No discussion.
18. **Should Trustees/Alternates that leave prior to convention be required to pay the registration fee?**
Motion made that Trustees/Alternates who leave prior to the Convention should be required to pay the registration fee.
Approved: 28 Against: 3 Abstained: 3 Passed
19. **Limit speakers at B.O.T. meetings to 5 minutes.**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 0 Against: 31 Abstained: 3 Failed
20. **Moratorium to Combo Book changes – every 2 years.**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 6 Against: 25 Abstained: 3 Failed
21. **Leave Combo Book “as is”, no more changes.**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 2 Against: 30 Abstained: 2 Failed
22. **Make the A.A. “Big Book” approved G.A. literature.**
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 1 Against: 26 Abstained: 4 Failed
23. **The Board of Trustees to reconfirm;**
 1. **Feeling toward the 30/30 rule regarding mini-conferences, marathons, etc. Last discussed in Cleveland 10/87 and not being adhered to.**

- 2. Action taken in Cleveland 10/87 that there be a committee to coordinate mini-conferences, marathons, etc. so they do not fall within the 30/30 of a National Conference.**
 Motion to print in Bulletin twice a year suggestions on the 30/30 rule.
 Approved: 24 Against: 5 Abstained: 3 Passed
- 3. Action taken in Orlando 10/89 that mini-conferences, marathons, etc. are local and will receive not bulletin advertising.**
 Motion – Only mini-conferences, marathons, etc. that fall within the guidelines of the 30/30 rule be advertised in the Bulletin.
 Amendment that Area 2A be included in the motion.
 Approved: 2 Against: 22 Abstained: 5 Failed
 Motion that all groups be allowed to advertise mini-conferences, marathons, etc. in the Life-line Bulletin.
 Approved: 28 Against: 1 Abstained: 1 Passed
- 24. “A chart of Compulsive Gambling and Recovery” as approved G.A. literature.**
 A motion to accept above without the names of Robert L. Custer, M.D. and the National Council on Compulsive Gambling, Inc., New York providing approval is obtained.
 Approved: 27 Against: 6 Abstained: 2 Passed
- 25. A procedure to be followed by group secretaries for signing attendance records for members who need verification and validation of meeting attendance (procedure to be placed in the Guidance Code).**
 Discussion only. No motion made.
- 26. Is it proper to list G.A , Gam-Anon, Gam-Ateen and Adult Children of Compulsive Gamblers on one meeting list card, whether it is paid in full or partial by G.A.?**
 Discussion only. No motion made.
- 27. Election – B.O.T. Chairman/Co-Chairmen.**
 The following members were elected to serve for a two year term through the fall Southern Conference in 1992.
 Chairman: Larry G. – Montreal, Quebec, Canada
 1st Co-Chairman: Paul A. – Ocala, Florida
 2nd Co-Chairman: Neil A. – New York, New York
- 28. Election – International Executive Secretary.**
 Karen H. was re-elected as I.E.S for a two year term.
- 29. Sponsorship Literature.**
 A piece of Sponsorship literature was presented and discussed. It will now go to the Literature Committee.

30. **Area 13A Trustee.**

Motion that this body recognize Dick R. as the Trustee for Area 13A.

Approved: 12 Against: 21 Abstained: 2 Failed

J) DISCUSSION

1. **Some meeting places such as utility companies, banks, Veterans Administration, clinics, and others, provide meeting rooms to G.A. as part of their community service program. These companies state that they are not equipped to accept, and decline to accept, any contribution or rental for the use of their facilities. These companies are given a token gift annually at Christmas time. Is this a violation of Step 7 of the Unity Program?**

Discussion – It was the consensus of this Board that it is not a violation of Step 7 of the Unity Program.

2. **Lower the cost of conferences and make them more affordable for more members to attend.**

Discussion only. A lot of good ideas were presented.

3. **Raffle tickets are being sold by the American Legion. An individual makes a donation by purchasing a ticket and entering his/her church's name on the ticket. Is this gambling:**

Motion made that “An individual makes a donation by purchasing a raffle ticket and entering his/her church's name on the ticket. This is gambling”.

Amendment – Entering anyone else's name on the ticket.

Approved: 9 Against: 18 Abstained: 7 Failed

On the motion.

Approved: 21 Against: 7 Abstained: 5 Passed

4. **Procedure for electing an Alternate Trustee in case of a vacancy.**

Discussion – It was the consensus of this Board to use the same election procedure for electing a new Alternate Trustee in case of a vacancy.

5. **Some meeting locations are requiring G.A. groups to secure a liability policy as a condition for future meetings. How are groups dealing with this?**

Discussion only.

6. **E.R.I.C. – discuss its responsibilities.**

Motion made that the International Service Office reassume the duties of E.R.I.C.

Approved: 16 Against: 10 Abstained: 7 Passed

Because of this motion passing, E.R.I.C. will no longer exist and all assets will go to the I.S.O.

7. **Did Long Island Intergroup violate Unity Step 7 by accepting \$200 from Gam-Anon (Unity) to help supplement one of their committees (Sunshine Fund)?**
No discussion.
8. **How can G.A. best meet the needs of prisoners reaching out for help?**
Discussion was held with a lot of ideas including correspondence and educating prison officials that there is a problem.
9. **New members in some rooms are not allowed to comment at a comment meeting unless they have 90 days clean.**
Discussion was held. Each group is self-governing. Topic was ruled “out of order”.
10. **Do you have to admit you’re a compulsive gambler as a requirement to attend a G.A. meeting?**
Motion to accept above without the first word “Do”.
Approved: 0 Against: 32 Abstained: 1 Failed
11. **Is it proper to tell Gam-Anon members things we suspect about other G.A. members?**
Discussion was held. It was the consensus of this Board that it is improper to tell Gam-Anon members things we suspect about other G.A. members.
12. **Is it proper to “set up” a G.A. brother/sister at a couples meeting? Are these meetings G.A. approved?**
Discussion was held. It was the consensus of this Board that it is improper to “set up” a G.A. brother/sister at a couples meeting.
13. **What is the purpose of a meetings treasury?**
Discussion only.
14. **Is selling chances or raffle tickets considered gambling?**
Discussion was held. It was the consensus of this Board that the above is not gambling.

K) ANYTHING OMITTED FROM THE AGENDA

L) GOOD AND WELFARE

The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer at 5:00 P.M.
Collection for the (4) four sessions was \$600.25
The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be May 2 and 3, 1991 in Detroit, Michigan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen H., International
Executive Secretary