

**GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 16 & 17, 1997
MANHATTAN BEACH MARRIOTT
MANHATTAN BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

- A) **Welcome and opening comments - Tom M.**
Tom M. gave his opening comments. The people at the head table were introduced. All new Trustees and Alternate Trustees were welcomed and asked to stand and introduce themselves. The rules and procedures of the meeting were explained. Three Proxy's were received.
- B) **Remembrance of our departed brothers and sisters - Marshall R.**
Marshall R. read a list of all known members who had passed away since our last Board of Trustees meeting held in Chicago at the end of May. Johnny W. was then asked to lead us in the poem "Another Chance" while everyone stood and held hands.
- C) **Roll Call/Changes - Karen H.**
Karen H. took roll call and simultaneously changes were made to the Confidential Trustees Listing that was handed out prior to the start of the meeting. There are presently 43 eligible votes.
- D) **Approval of Minutes from the Chicago meeting**
The minutes of the Chicago meeting were approved as submitted.
Approved: 42 Against: 0 Passed
- E) **Committee Reports**
1. **Chicago Conference Report - Dan M.**
Dan M. gave a report stating that the Chicago Conference was very successful with a total profit of \$8,562.05, with G.A. receiving \$4,709.13 for their share. Dan stated that he had received a hand written report that was not clear. At that time Jerry G. gave the final figures.
 2. **Los Angeles Conference Report - Jim C.**
Jim C. gave a report stating all reports have been received. Bob W. stated everything is going smoothly, although we do not expect to make any money. We are expecting 400 at the Banquet on Saturday and 350 for Friday nights "Sock Hop".
 3. **Myrtle Beach Conference Report - Dan M.**
Dan M. reported on the Myrtle Beach Conference to be held April 24 - 26, 1998. All required reports are being submitted. Rob S. handed out a new brochure and explained the new registration procedures.
 4. **Orlando Conference Report - Jim C.**
Jim C. gave the report on the Orlando Conference to be held October 16 - 18, 1998 at the North Orlando Hilton. They are very organized. All reports have been submitted. Bob F. spoke and handed out sheets requesting stories for their Conference book.
 5. **Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Conference Report - Jim C.**
Jim C. reported on the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Conference to be held May 14 - 16, 1999 at the Drawbridge Estates in Northern Kentucky. All committees are being formed and they are on their way to hosting a very successful Conference.

6. **ISO/Lifeline Report - Karen H.**

Karen H. handed out her yearly chart showing the past years activity. The total figure is up over 15 percent from last year and the number of Lifeliners has increased to 408 members. Everyone was thanked for their continued support.

Bill B. from the Board of Regents gave a report on the status of the International Service Office handing out a "Comparison of Data" for the last four years. This showed that our expenses are on the rise (do to our increase as a fellowship) and if we keep up at this pace, we will definitely be in financial trouble before too long. It is prudent money management for us to have at least one year's budget in the bank. A letter was read by Mike M. from Halifax, Nova Scotia regarding opening new and helping existing meetings in large geographical areas and the amount of money it takes to do that. Discussion was held and many ideas were presented.

7. **Manhattan Beach Walk-A-Thon Update - Bob W.**

Marc L. reported on the Walk-A-Thon to be held Saturday. There will be two Walk-A-Thons, one at 6:30 A.M. and one at 3:00 P.M.

8. **BOR Report on status of Florida Restitution- Bob W.**

Bob W. handed out a "Reconciliation Report" showing the accounting of the financial status on the Florida situation since the beginning. We are receiving checks each month from the Department of Corrections for restitution from Dick D.

9. **History Booklet Update - Dan M.**

Danny M. gave an update on the current status of the History Booklet. Information is still being gathered and he will continue to work on this project.

10. **12 Step Video Tape Committee Report - Robert, David Joe**

No discussion. Item withdrawn.

11. **12 Step Audio Tape Committee Report - Larry G. & Ralph D.**

Ralph D. played a tape for review on Steps 4 & 5. Discussion was held. Committee will continue working on this project.

12. **Internet Committee Report - Rob S. & Geoff M.**

Rob S. gave a report on the Internet Committee. Two motions were made by Geoff M. We will vote on each one separately.

1. To approve that Gamblers Anonymous International Service Office manage the G.A. home pages on the internet, in an ongoing, permanent basis; and that the home page management be a part of the annual budget.

Approved: 41 Against: 0 Passed

2. Any changes to the G.A. home pages, whether they be enhancements, additions, modifications or deletions (other than typos and directory modifications) be first brought before the Board of Trustees and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Approved: 37 Against: 4 Passed

13. **Prison Committee Report - Rick B. (attachment #5)**

Rick B. gave a report on the status of the newly formed Prison Committee. The committee has several members and all gave reports on their perspective Areas. The committee will continue.

F) **Old Business**

1. **Establish appropriate procedures where the G.A. name is used with regards to contracts or payment of monetary funds is to be received. (From Literature Committee) See enclosed "Hosting a Gamblers Anonymous Conference" (attachment #1)**

Linda O.

Motion to approve attachment # 1 to replace the two other pieces "Let's Host A Mini Conference" and "So, You Want To Host A Conference".

Approved: 30 Against: 8 Passed (1st Vote)

2. **Guidance Code, page 23, article XVIII, section 5. Change "even" to "odd" and remove..."after the election of Trustees". (2nd vote - passed first vote 45 - 0)**

Approved: 41 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)

3. **If change in article XVIII, section 5 is approved, current term of Officers to be extended 6 months, making the next election to take place at the Spring Conference of 1999. (2nd vote - passed first vote 45 - 1)**

Approved: 43 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)

4. **Combo Book, page 16, question 20, change "self destruction" to "suicide". After an amendment the new question would read..."Have you ever considered self destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling". (2nd vote - passed first vote 30-14)**

Approved: 40 Against: 3 Passed (2nd Vote)

5. **Delete Q & A: Are there more compulsive gamblers in certain occupations than in others? And replace it with "Are there more compulsive gamblers in certain groups than in others?" (page 6 and homepage) (2nd vote - passed first vote 29-10)**

Approved: 36 Against: 7 Passed (2nd Vote)

6. **Delete Q & A: How many compulsive gamblers are there in the United States? (page 6 and homepage) (2nd vote - passed first vote 38-3)**

Approved: 42 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)

7. **Discuss attachment #2 and determine if it is appropriate to create a drop in center and outreach program with the use of the G.A. name with outside funds. Tabled from Chicago. (attachment #2)**

Motion made that it is appropriate to create drop in center and outreach programs with the use of the G.A. name with outside funds.

Approved: 0 Against: 46 Failed

8. **Discuss adopting "How it Works" from the A.A. literature as presented in the G.A. form. (attachment #3) Tabled to Literature Committee to check if there was any copy right problems with this piece.**

Motion to table to Myrtle Beach.

Approved: 32 Against: 1 Passed

9. **Request that in accordance with the Guidance Code, article X, section 2, to expel the Anaheim Tuesday Korean meeting from the Fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous. To further direct them not to use the Gamblers Anonymous name in reference to their meeting. This request is for continued violations of Guidance Code, article VII, section 1. Also violation of Unity Step 4. Tabled from Chicago.**

**Note: The group in question had a member go to the L.A. Intergroup meeting and stated all the problems have corrected since the Chicago Conference.

Item withdrawn.

10. The following items passed the first vote as a group to change them to "gender neutral".
1. G.A. Sponsorship Manual.
 2. A New Beginning - pages 26-36 to match Sponsorship Manual.
 3. A New Beginning pages 47, 49 and 66.
 4. G.A. Info Packet change chairman to chairperson.
 5. G.A. Info Packet change clergyman to clergy.
 6. Towards 90 Days change "he" to "they" page 5.
 7. Towards 90 Days change "him" to "him/her" page 11.
 8. G.A. Judiciary change page 2 to match the twenty questions in the Combo Book.
- (2nd vote - passed first vote as a group 36-5)
Approved: 39 Against: 1 Passed (2nd Vote)
11. Delete page 26 paragraph 2 of "A New Beginning" book. (2nd vote - passed first vote 42 - 1)
Approved: 37 Against: 2 Passed (2nd Vote)
12. Delete "and the Eastern Regional Information Center" from page 26, middle of the 3rd paragraph of "A New Beginning" book and any other place it might appear. (2nd vote - passed first vote 44-0)
Approved: 42 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)
13. Motion that we replace the "Establishing a G.A. group" on page 6 of the Handbook with "Establishing a G.A. group" from page 1 of the Info Packet. This motion tabled from Chicago.
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 0 Against: 37 Failed
Motion to replace "Establishing A G.A. Group" from page 1 of the Information Packet with "Establishing a G.A. Group" on page 6 of the Group Handbook.
Approved: 39 Against: 0 Passed (1st Vote)
14. Motion to change suggested meeting format procedures paragraph in the "Info Packet" page 2, to be the suggested meeting procedures in section 7, in the Group Handbook. (2nd vote - passed first vote 42-1)
Approved: 37 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)
15. G.A. Info Packet & Group Handbook - make "Meeting Agenda/Format" for both the same (page 3 of Info Packet and page 7-8 of Handbook) (2nd vote - passed first vote 36-4)
Approved: 38 Against: 1 Passed (2nd Vote)
16. Group Handbook - discuss under open meetings, 2nd paragraph, line 12, "at open meeting, families are not permitted to participate in the meetings." Tabled from Chicago - Chuck R. and Bill B. will prepare something for Manhattan Beach.
Chuck R. presented a one page handout titled "Open Meetings and Closed Meetings". A motion was made to accept this piece as a replacement for 2nd paragraph, line 12 "at open meeting, etc." in the Group Handbook.
Approved: 17 Against: 22 Failed
17. Motion that we move summary paragraph at the bottom of page 9 of the Group Handbook to the inside front cover and title as "The future growth of G.A." (2nd vote - passed first vote 36-4)
Approved: 37 Against: 0 Passed (2nd Vote)

18. All literature - add fax & "e"mail address everywhere our regular address is. Tabled from Chicago.
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 43 Against: 0 Passed
19. G.A. Judiciary, etc...change page 2 top line, "believe" to "belief". (2nd vote - passed first vote 40-0)
Approved: 38 Against: 1 Passed (2nd Vote)
20. G.A. Judiciary etc...change page 3, 4th paragraph, line 2. "Without help no compulsive gambler can overcome this hopeless phase once attained". (2nd vote - passed first vote 29-10)
Approved: 32 Against: 6 Passed (2nd Vote)

G) New Business

1. Discuss the possibility of providing all cruise lines with our G.A. literature so that regular G.A. meetings could be held during the cruises, similar to the A.A. meetings that are conducted. (San Diego)
Motion to provide every cruise ship in the world with G.A. literature.
Amendment to provide every cruise lines with G.A. literature.
Approved: 2 Against: 35 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 1 Against: 38 Failed
2. Combo Book page 13 change from, "adherence to spiritual principles seem..." change to, "adherence to spiritual principles seems..." (Northern California)
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 33 Against: 5 Passed (1st Vote)
3. Combo Book inside cover 5th line, change to read. "I sought my brothers and sisters, and found all four". (Northern California)
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 4 Against: 33 Failed
Motion to table to Myrtle Beach.
Approved: 9 Against: 31 Failed
Motion to change Combo Book, inside cover, 5th line to read: I sought my brothers and sisters and found all three".
Approved: 30 Against: 13 Passed (1st Vote)
- 3A. Change Step 2 in the Recovery Program from, "normal way of thinking and living" to "sanity". (San Diego)
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 15 Against: 27 Failed
4. Discuss when a Trustee or Alternate Trustee or former Trustee or former Alternate Trustee loses their abstinence, must they be re-elected to the Board before they have the rights afforded current or past members who are in good standing such as the right to address the Board on issues they have not personally put on the agenda. (San Diego & North. California)
Motion made that when a Trustee or Alternate Trustee or former Trustee or Alternate Trustee loses their abstinence they must be re-elected to the Board of Trustees before they have rights afforded in good standing such as the right to address the Board.
Amendment to add. "or be abstinent for two years before allowed to address the Board".
Approved: 9 Against: 23 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 13 Against: 30 Failed

5. Discuss if a meeting or an area has the right to ban a member from attending meetings or suspend a member for a period of time and also what if any guidelines are established for doing this. Attachment # 4 - letter enclosed. (San Diego)
Discussion only.
6. Discuss adding a \$10.00 fee to the registration at conferences with that amount going to G.A. for the G.A. members or Gamanon for the Gamanon members this way the profit of a conference is never an issue. (So. Calif.)
Motion made that effective January 1999 all National/International Conferences will add \$10.00 per G.A. registration fee, with those funds (+\$10.00 each) being donated to the I.S.O. after the Conference ends.
Amendment to change beginning to July 1, 1999.
Approved: 11 Against: 25 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 8 Against: 32 Failed
7. Have a G.A. coin or medallion available at the I.S.O. to recognize members who are celebrating anniversaries other than the years for which pins are available. (No. Kentucky)
Motion that Gamblers Anonymous International Service Office make available to its members a recovery medallion recognizing years of service (particularly the years for which pins are not available). That the I.S.O. pursue a source and set a price for the medallion and that this be G.A. approved literature.
Motion to table.
Approved: 3 Against: 30 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 26 Against: 15 Passed (1st Vote)
Karen H. will get prices to be presented at Myrtle Beach.
8. Include in all contracts with hotels for National Conferences in the future the following language. "The management of the hotel agrees not to allow any form of gambling or gambling devices to be present on the premises and accessible to hotel guests during the Gamblers Anonymous Conference. Any breach of this agreement would result in the contract being null and void. For the purpose of this contract breaches would include, but not be limited to, lottery machines, lottery tickets, sports wagering, bingo or casino style gambling. It does not include recreational games and machines, i.e. videos games, that do not offer any form of payoff". (No. Kentucky)
Motion to accept above as written with typographical correction "any form of payoff" on last line.
Approved: 1 Against: 40 Failed
9. Combo Book page 17, paragraph #3. Add "trading in" in front of the words "stock market". (San Diego)
Motion to accept above including the word "the" in front of "stock market".
Approved: 13 Against: 28 Failed
*Note: This is the same item as New Business #11, which were put on by two different areas and were therefore taken as one item.
10. Combo Book page 16 change from "Most compulsive gamblers will answer yes to at least seven of these questions" to "Most (but not all) compulsive... (New York)
Motion to accept above.
Approved: 7 Against: 33 Failed

11. Combo Book page 17 #3 change from "this includes the stock market..." to "this includes trading in the stock market..." to be consistent with past decision of the Board of Trustees. (New York)
See item #9 of New Business.
12. Discuss Unity Step #3 and define what the word "desire" means in context of that step. (New York)
Motion to change Unity Step # 3 to read: The only requirement for Gamblers Anonymous membership is the recognition of a gambling problem.
Motion to table.
Approved: 1 Against: 35 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 5 Against: 37 Failed
13. Discuss Retirement Plan approved by the Board of Regents for the I.S.O. employees. (No. California)
Discussion only.
14. Combo Book page 14 change "world series pool" to "office sports pool". (Area 8A)
Motion to change page 14 of the Combo Book from "a world series pool" to "any sports pool".
Approved: 4 Against: 36 Failed
15. Approve "Gamblers Anonymous Your First Meeting" attachment #6 as approved G.A. literature. (Las Vegas)
Motion to accept above.
Motion to table to literature committee.
Approved: 39 Against: 3 Passed
Motion is pending and will be on Myrtle Beach agenda.
16. Discuss wording for hold harmless agreement for the Board of Regents liability insurance. To be distributed at the Conference. (Board of Regents)
Motion to table to Myrtle Beach for legal interpretation.
Approved: 27 Against: 10 Passed
17. Request to approve attachment #7 as approved G.A. literature, so that it can be handed out at the meetings. (Kansas City Area 8B)
Motion to approve attachment # 7 as approved literature so that it can be handed out at the meeting, but not necessarily be distributed by I.S.O.
Motion to table.
Approved: 9 Against: 32 Failed
On the motion.
Approved: 4 Against: 33 Failed
18. Combo Book page 1 "History" 2nd paragraph 2nd sentence, change, "certain spiritual principles" to "the 12 Step Recovery Program of Alcoholics Anonymous..." The new sentence would read. "In order to accomplish this, they used for a guide the 12 Step Recovery Program of Alcoholics Anonymous which had been utilized by thousands of people who were recovering from other compulsive addictions". (Area 8A)
Motion to table to Myrtle Beach.
Approved: 8 Against: 30 Failed
Motion to accept above.
Amendment made to delete the references to A.A.
The Chair ruled the amendment out of order because it would definitely change the motion.

...air is then challenged.

Vote on the challenge is 38-3 that the Chair is in order. Therefore the amendment is out of order.

On the motion.

Approved: 6 Against: 36 Failed

19. Approve that the "Big Book" of Alcoholics Anonymous and the 12 & 12 of Alcoholics Anonymous be recognized as approved G.A. literature.

(Area 8A)

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 11 Against: 27 Failed

20. Vote on the site of the 1999 Fall Western Conference.

Portland, Oregon and San Diego, California both presented bids for the above Conference in that order. A vote was taken by secret ballot and San Diego was awarded the Conference to be held October 8 - 10, 1999 at the Handlery Hotel & Resort in San Diego.

H) Anything omitted from the Agenda

New Business Items

21. Combo Book Page 14 "Definition of Gambling" Change to read: Gambling for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: "Any betting, wagering or intentional risking of anything of value for self or others, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends on chance or "skill" constitutes gambling." Palm Springs No Discussion.

22. Change the A, B, C's in our B.O.T. Areas to numbers. Las Vegas

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 13 Against: 22 Failed
Recount

Approved: 17 Against: 23 Failed

23. Change the last sentence of article VII, Section 4, Page 5 of the Guidance Code. "Date of abstinence starts from your first Gamblers Anonymous meeting after your last bet." Las Vegas

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 35 Against: 2 Passed (1st Vote)

24. Group Handbook, Page 2, Number 7, after the word abstinence put a comma, then (providing that they attended 39 or more meetings during the previous 12 months). Las Vegas

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 15 Against: 18 Failed

D) Good and Welfare

The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer at 3:19 P.M. The collection for the three (3) sessions was \$814.00.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held April 23, 1998 in Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen H., International
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

AREAS	SESSIONS	AREAS	SESSIONS
1	(T) Manny E. 3	8A	(T) Duane O. 3
	(T) Larry R. 3		(A) Tom W. 3
	(T) Johnny W. 3	8B	(T) Charlie O. 3
	(A) Sandy T. 3	9	(T) Danny M. 3
	(A) Linda O. 3		(A) Nick R. 3
	(A) Gary G. Absent	10	(T) Rosemary K. Absent
2	(T) Tom M. 3		(A) Lou K. 3
	(T) Neil W. 3	10A	(T) Jim P. 3
	(A) Pete V. 3		(A) Norman B. 3
	(A) Geoff M. 3	10B	(T) Fred O. 3
2A	(T) Henry I. Proxy		(A) Scott P. 3
	(A) Serge S. Absent	11	(T) Paul K. 3
2B	(T) Frank H. Absent		(A) Jim C. 3
	(A) Bill G. 3	12	(T) Denis M. 3
2C	(T) Gary K. 3		(T) Carol L. 3
	(A) Al L. Absent		(T) Mary S. 3
2G	(T) Terry H. 3		(A) Joe K. 3
3	(T) David F. 3		(A) Bobby P. 3
	(T) Laura P. 3		(A) Marshall R. 3
	(A) Candace R. 3	13	(T) Eileen B. 3
	(A) Ted W. 3		(T) Freddy S. 3
3A	(T) Joel K. 3		(A) Marie G. 3
	(A) Marilyn L. 3		(A) Eric B. 3
3B	(T) Brooks H. 3	13A	(T) Ralph D. 3
3C	(T) Robert K. Absent		(A) Concetta B. 2
	(A) Marcene W. 3	14	(T) Joe B. 3
4	(T) Terry H. Absent		(T) David J. 3
	(A) Jim C. Absent		(A) Lloyd A. 3
5	(T) Robert W. 3		(A) Dennis M. 3
5A	(T) Mike M. 3	15	(T) Chuck R. 3
6	(T) Sandy L. 3		(T) Susan S. Absent
	(A) Matt R. Absent		(T) George G. 3
6A	(T) Lany E. 3		(T) Bill B. 3
	(A) Bob F. 3		(T) Marty D. 3
6B	(T) Rick B. 3		(A) Morris S. 3
	(A) Leery L. 3		(A) Tom J. 3
6C	(T) Rob S. 3		(A) Jeff W. 3
	(A) Thom M. 3		(A) Joel K. Absent
7	(T) Tom W. Absent		(A) George A. 3
7A	(T) Rocky M. 2	16	(T) John N. 3
	(A) Bill P. Absent		(A) Sal S. Absent
8	(T) Allan S. Absent	17	(T) Walt H. 3
	(T) Joe M. 3		(A) Tom C. 3
	(A) Arnie B. 3	18	(T) Peter I. 3
	(A) Frank K. 3		(A) Shirley T. 3
Chairman, Board of Trustees		18A	(T) Denis K. Absent
Tom M. 3			(A) Michael B. Absent
1st Co-Chairman, Board of Trustees		Chairman, Board of Regents	
Danny M. 3		Bob W. 3	
2nd Co-Chairman, Board of Trustees		International Executive Secy	
Jim C. 3		Karen H. 3	