

Telephone Conference Committee Report

March, 2018

The Telephone Conference Call Meeting continues to convene on Wednesday evenings from 9:00-10:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The call is facilitated by members of the Committee. The phone number for the call is 712.770.4160.

The call usually sees about 40-70 unique callers per week. After general announcements and reading from GA literature, a topic is introduced. Meeting participants can share about the topic, The Day at a Time reading or anything that is concerning them, as long as it relates to gambling. All callers who call from an identifiable phone number are encouraged to share. This meeting is a comment meeting; those who give comments must have 90 days or more of clean time. Up to 3 people may comment per person sharing. There are usually about 15 people who share per meeting. The number of people commenting varies, although there are typically between 5 and 10 people who offer comments.

If there are more than 3 newcomers to GA in attendance, another room is opened to facilitate the asking of the 20 Questions and to give the newcomers the time and attention that is essential to anyone entering the program. Members with clean time are encouraged to move to this second room to share their own experience, strength and hope with the newcomers.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to attend physical GA meetings. It is stated that the Telephone Conference Call meeting is not intended to be a substitute for physical meetings.

Of the callers, about 50% of those attending are women. About a quarter of callers have less than 90 days of clean time. The locations of the members cover the US and Canada, with occasional calls from other countries. It may be interesting to note that more than half of the callers are considered regular attendees, many of whom have been attending the meeting for 2 years or more.

Those who call from an unidentified or “anonymous” phone number are not permitted to share nor to offer comments.

There was an upsurge in new callers the last two weeks of the month, as members who were impacted by bad weather were encouraged by others in their area to use the conference call as a recovery tool in the face of cancelled meetings.

The Telephone Conference Call Committee is willing and eager to assist in GA members who are interested in starting and maintaining additional Telephone Conference Call meetings. The platform can support a virtually unlimited number of meetings and the Committee would like nothing better than to see more offerings for those who, for whatever reason, have difficulty in attending regular physical meetings or who could benefit from additional meetings to strengthen their recovery.

The committee is also seeking 1-2 people who are willing to be trained as moderators. There is a two year clean time requirement. Those who are interested can contact the committee at: wednesdaynighthelp@gmail.com

Submitted by the Telephone Conference Call Committee