

The Telephone Conference Call Committee Report

July 2018

The Conference Call Committee has continued to facilitate and moderate the weekly Wednesday night Telephone Conference Call. The call usually sees about 50-70 individual callers per week. After general announcements and readings 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. Typically, about 15 people per meeting share. Up to three participants (with 90 days or more clean time) can give comments after each share; however, people who choose to comment are limited to 3 comments for the entire meeting. There are usually 10 plus people who offer comments.

The meeting demographics generally show about 50% of the attendees being women. 25% are under 90 days. The locations of the members covers the US and Canada, with occasional calls from other countries.

If there are more than 3 newcomers to GA in attendance, another room is opened in order 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.

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

Those who call from an unidentified phone line are not permitted to share/give therapy nor to comment on others' sharing. Currently, 2 to 4 callers per week call in on an anonymous phone line. There are also usually 2 to 3 callers who choose not to identify themselves even though they are calling from an identifiable number. These callers are also not permitted to share or comment.

The committee currently has 5 trained moderators, with at least 3 participating weekly on each call.

The weekly announcements include instructions to contact the administrators if anyone feels they are experiencing harassment. In July, one of the meeting attendees contacted the administrators with a claim of harassment by another attendee who had signed up to offer help and support. Additional attendees stepped forward to report similar experiences with this person. Meeting administrators met to decide how to address this. After consensus was reached among the committee, decisive action was taken by several committee members to deal with the credible issues that were raised. The person who had been identified as the harassing party was contacted by 2 of the administrators and voluntarily stated that he would no longer attend the weekly meeting. The following statement was read at the July 25th meeting:

"The Wednesday Night Telephone Conference Call Committee administrators want to let all attendees know that this meeting is a safe place where harassment will not be tolerated. *Focusing on personal recovery is very difficult, if not impossible, when one is dealing with harassment.* We encourage everyone to notify us if there is a problem of this nature occurring so that it can be addressed by the committee.

Gamblers Anonymous works because it is a place where compulsive gamblers can feel free to share their experiences with each other openly and honestly. Our Unity Steps tell us that "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon group unity". The admins of this meeting take these

steps very seriously and will always put the welfare of this meeting in the forefront of any conflicts or issues that arise.”

Jeannie B.

Telephone Conference Call Meeting Committee Chair