

International Relations Committee Report

Los Angeles, California

October, 2011

"Assist the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous with International matters and help create a World Wide United Gamblers Anonymous"

Our committee of 24 members presents to the Board of Trustees of Gamblers Anonymous the following report of our work and efforts done from the close of the last Trustee meeting until the Los Angeles Trustee meeting. This covers the period between May - September 2011.

ISO Overseas Emails

Our committee has answer 173 emails since May 2011 from 41 different countries.

ISO has sent out 10 starter kits for new meetings, as follows: (5) Mexico, (1) Portugal, (2) Quito, Ecuador, (1) Paraguay and (1) Sofia, Bulgaria. Before ISO sends a starter kit, our committee makes contact with the person(s) making the request to be sure it has come from a compulsive gambler. Additionally, we look to guide them with the process of starting a new meeting. We want to make sure each new meeting is going to be in full compliance with the Guidance Code and keep contact with them as long as is needed.

ISO received 19 international group meeting information forms: Waterford (Ireland), Mexico City and Puerto Vallarta (Mexico), Montevideo and Minas (Uruguay), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), and Sofia (Bulgaria). Bulgaria is a new country for the committee and we hope to integrate the countries and the meetings into our Fellowship in the future. The Dominican Republic has meetings, but they were not currently listed on the Gamblers Anonymous International Meeting Directory. Thailand's meeting was reopened, and the only meeting in Romania was closed. Serbia is still struggling opening a meeting.

Members from the committee are working with compulsive gamblers trying to start meetings in different countries where there is no GA presence, in addition to expanding the number meeting locations in countries that already have GA meetings.

Overseas Trustee Sponsorship

Members from our committee have volunteered to keep in contact with all overseas Trustees to help those areas with any G.A. related issues.

Area 34 - Venezuela Trustees Elections

At the annual GA Venezuela Conference held in July 2011, 3 Trustees were elected: Sister Jeysa V, Brothers Fabio F. and José L.

Area 33 - Colombia Trustee Elections

At the summer GA Colombia Conference held in June 2011, 2 Trustees were elected: Brothers José M. and Luis S.

Digital Version of the Absentee Ballot- Los Angeles 2011

We are guiding the overseas Trustees with the process for them to know the existence of the Digital version of the Absentee Ballot. We hope they will use it and send their votes in new and much more simplified format.

G.A. World Database Questionnaire

From the information gathered from the questionnaire, our committee has been able to help areas and countries on the following issues:

Update meetings information at GA International Meeting Directory.

Buying literature from the ISO online store available through the ISO website.

Update contact information from groups, intergroup and countries.

Answer specific questions.

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Spanish Translation of the Trustee Agenda

The Los Angeles BOT Agenda is available in a Spanish version; it was finished almost one month before the LA BOT Meeting and sent to all GA Hispanic recognized areas, so they will have more feedback from the area's groups.

News from G.A. Worldwide

Area 23 - Brazil
March 16-18, 2012

2º Encuentro Hispano-Latinoamericano
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Area 18B - Australia
August 24 - 26, 2012

Australian National Conference "Celebrating 50 Down Under"
Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

IRC Los Angeles meeting will be held on Wednesday October 12th at 9:30 pm.

Submitted by:
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Area 28 México
IRC Chairperson