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## Trustee Line for November 20, 2006

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If you would like a PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, [click here](#).

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## General Submissions From The Trustees

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Submit a response to the [Trustee Line](#) because of something you have read in this or any other issue.

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Response to David F's item to the [September 20, 2006 Trustee Line](#) - 3rd item in the 'From The Trustees' section:

Just a note in regard to children in meetings. Personally i've never liked it, why can't people find a babysitter or someone in their family to watch their children for a couple of hours? At times it's very disruptive to have children running around or even a baby crying while someone speaks. My question has always been how in the world did they gamble with children? I know some women came into GA before the baby was due and don't have someone to help them. I know you can't take a child into a casino to gamble, why are they allowed to bring them to a meeting?

My answer is why not? If that's the only way to get to a meeting to bring children with them, then so be it. Yes the children may move around a lot and so do members who want to hold them which may be disturbing when we share, if that's a problem here in Vegas we can usually find another meeting within a few hours. There should not be any rules about children in meetings let the local groups handle it and hopefully with peace, sanity and serenity.

Thank You,

Ron S. - Area 3

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Hi Brothers and Sisters,

I am a new Trustee for Area 18, which as Steve R noted in a previous issue of the Trustee Line is one of 2 Areas, and I am one of 2 Trustees whom cover 3/4 of Australia and also includes New Zealand. Yes, its a big Area, though we are hopeful of making a submission for the next realignment session to change this by adding another Area. To give you an idea, of how big this Area is, I am about to go and visit 4 Groups in a 4000km round train trip.

I was so thankful though that both Steve R and Tom P and their partners came to visit us for our recent National Conference in Australia. Myself and many other members gained so much experience just from the many emails before, their actual presence at the conference and the contact since the conference.

I have been reading with great interest about the 90 day room. I would be most grateful for further information, as it is my understanding that it is up to the Compulsive Gambler to decide if they want what we have? I would have thought that Sponsorship was more important? As I said would love to know more about the 90 day room.

I do also welcome any emails or phone calls from any Trustee from anywhere. I am also already excited about coming LA in October, 2007. I am hopeful to meet many of the people I already correspond with. Till another time.

Kind Regards  
David McA - Aussie Brother - Area 18

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Hi brothers and sisters.

Being a new trustee I would like to submit a brief impression of the just concluded Florida Conference. I had been warned by others that the trustee meeting could be long and tenuous. And to be ready for continuous talk about small details, information and procedures. I could say that I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of the meeting. Every session had it's interesting moments that kept me at the edge of my seat. I was kind of disappointed of the length of the committee reports, then I understood that we were done in record amount of time compared to the meeting in Boston. It did take me a bit to get the courage to step up to the microphone and start speaking, once I did it became easier.

I was later interested in joining the international relations committee, though I have not been involved much in the last two weeks since the conference, I did offer them translation service when needed.

Being a trustee is a honor and a privilege that I don't take lightly. In my area there are many who want to serve as trustee. A couple of months ago we had one vacancy from a newly elected trustee who could not put the time to serve, so we had six members run for that one position. And I was told the vote was very close.

I am already looking forward to Chicago, then the 50th anniversary in Los Angeles.

Have a great Holiday Season.  
Ara H. - Area 1

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Dear Fellow Trustees,

As was mentioned in the e-mail from David, the 'after glow' from the Trustee meetings still is there. I want to personally thank all of you for making our job at the head table so painless. It was really an honor and a privilege to be there and to see my fellow Trustees from that perspective. You are to be commended for your service to the program.

Several thoughts on agenda items...

Although we all have the right to suggest changes to our literature, I feel it is important that we always keep the new member in mind when proposing something new. I know from my own experience when I entered my first meeting, it was fairly evident that I was in the right place. If there were a word or two different in the combo book, it would have made absolutely no difference.

Therefore, when we try to tweak a sentence or two, are we really doing anything to benefit the compulsive gambler who still suffers? If somebody enters our fellowship in pain, they are going to be pretty receptive to whatever we have to tell them. My point is that we spend numerous hours on agenda items involving combo book changes, when making those changes will have little or no bearing on our retention rate. Let's try to focus on that new person and what will help them understand our fellowship and its benefits. I would recommend that everyone have copies of 'Gamblers Anonymous - Your First Meeting'. It goes a long way toward making the new member feel comfortable and accepted, as well as talking about our 'sameness' to the new entrant.

Again, thanks to all the Trustees for a job well done. To the new Trustees, you are to be commended for taking the risk of accepting what can be a difficult position. We appreciate your work and the time and effort you have taken in this responsibility.

With best wishes for continued abstinence and recovery,  
Chuck R. - 2nd Co-Chair, BOT  
Area 15

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Dear Fellow Trustees-

My congratulations to Richie and his committee members for a great conference...What a beautiful facility!!! Also, my hat is off to the BOT members and officers for 'banging out' all the agenda items we were faced with and only having to table one item for Chicago.

However, I see by the first two items submitted for the Chicago agenda that we are again "nickle and diming" the Combo book. What about the bigger issues that need to be addressed? I, for one will have agenda items posted for Chicago and it will not be to add this word or bold that word. I see that the BOR has approved the cost of the National Hot line and it is up to us, fellow Trustees, to come up with creative and ingenious methods for funding this Hot line. Gary S, Area 12 is putting together an informal committee (that I'm pleased to be a part of) to come up with ways to fund this Hot line, especially for those areas not "flush with members or money". I like the idea of having a designated day (close to GA's anniversary date) for all areas to host a walk-a-thon, with proceeds going to the Hotline.

Also, it is my contention that it is time to expand the definition of gambling that is found on page 14. Unfortunately, there appears to be a difference of opinion among members in my area of the difference between contests and competitions. It seems that members believe that if they are not 'giving up anything of value' (I consider my abstinence and recovery to be of value to me) or paying any money to participate, then they are not gambling. There are members who do not feel that they are gambling by calling in to radio shows and being the '7th caller' and winning dinner/show tickets. Although I believe that this is a form of gambling, it is my opinion, but unfortunately our definition of gambling on page 14 does not account for these 'contests'. Fellow Trustees, these are just a few of the real issues that we should be addressing.

With respect to my fellow BOT members,

Karen L. - Area 3

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I liked the set up for the last meeting except for the lack of enough mics. It seemed to take up a lot of time between speakers because of the march to the mic. I also would like to suggest that the Trustees mix up the seating so that we are not sitting next to the same people that we see all the time. I think this would help us meet people we really don't get to see during the year.

Bill B. - Area 15

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Hey, I'm so pleased with receiving the minutes from the BOR meetings. They keep coming up with fun stuff. These past minutes from the 10/27/06 meeting now has listed how we now have a contest going on with other States in our fellowship, ' California is by far the largest contributor, making up to 39% of the total contributed.'

I hope in the next meeting minutes there is list of the prizes for the contest. I wonder how the states with Lifeliners feel that may only show 4 or less when they see what the BOR wrote. They may decide to drop out and stop giving, as they may feel they have no chance in this contest.

We know that lifeliners are a direct way of helping support the ISO, and we can never give up the need to speak about this in our areas, but I don't accept rub-offs from Mickey D's, so please BOR, don't make this contest. Although some may not feel that its GAMBLING, I do know that contests are not part of my program.

Joe B. - Area 6C

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Hi,

I have never written to the Trustee line before. However after reading the BOR minutes for October, I really feel I must.

As I read the monthly discussion on the Lifeliners it occurred to me that the BOR was sending a message that all the areas were in a competition to see who could get the most Lifeliners. The fact that California's success happens to be more than the total of the next 6 states should not make the efforts of those state or any other areas less important. Discussions like this serve no purpose other than to make others feel like their efforts are a waste of time. All of us do the best we can. Could we all do more in the area of getting more Lifeliners, of course, but to compare any area to any other is so totally wrong.

When I spoke to a certain member of the BOR I was informed 'Well we push for Lifeliners.' Well so do we in our area, and I'm sure others do in their areas. What was written in the minutes is insulting to all of us as GA members, not to mention the statement from the BOR member being a put down.

I really do think we are owed an apology by the BOR.

Thank you,  
Liz N. - Area 3

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Dear Trustees,

It was so great to see everyone again and to meet some new people. I am already looking forward to Chicago.

As for the trustee meeting...I think we should all be very proud of the work that was accomplished at this Trustee meeting. My new co-Trustee probably thinks that I am not working a program of honesty; since I told him these meetings were always completely crazy and we never get through the agenda. Well, I appreciate the fact that I was made to look untruthful.

On a more serious note I must mention one thing that did weigh heavily on my heart. I think it is extremely important to remember why we as Trustees attend these conferences. I was very disappointed on the first day when the board voted down the option to purchase the room for Friday evening and Saturday morning. We were very fortunate to get through this agenda, but that is not very typical. Bottom line is, I am sent there to represent area 6B on matters affecting the program which in return has saved and continues to save many lives. And we as a board seem to have forgotten that business should come first ABOVE ALL the other functions that take place at these conventions. I enjoy the dinners and workshops, but first and foremost I am there to conduct business even if that means missing out on some of the social aspects that we get at these conventions.

Lastly, I would like to put my two cents in on 'how to better use the trustee line.' It seems to make complete sense that we can use this site to submit committee reports. This way we do not have to spend one day on committee reports. I love the committees

and I respect and feel there is a need for them all, but we can all read about the work that they are performing here on the trustee line.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Chicago.

Love,  
Dina P. - Area 6B

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I just received the Nov 06 Bulletin & the Trustee listing. Why do we have only 255 lifeliners? Why are there 16 vacancies (10 from USA) for the BOT? Why do we get LESS than \$ 1 per month from group contributions? We lost over \$2,000 last month at the ISO - is the reason that we haven't got Trustees elected in some areas - lack of money to support them? Why don't BOT members of Committees attend the Committee meetings or at least contribute online or in writing? I have just started using the 25th letter of the alphabet because I would like to see some things changed and I without the reasons for the above I am at a loss to know how to improve the situation.

Bill B. - Area 15

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Hello to all Trustees and former Trustees,

Richie S here and I have quite a few items to get off my chest. So first things first.

My hat's off to the BOR for approving the GA Hotline 1-888-GA-HELPS, It has been a long road, but the process works! The BOT approved it and now the BOR, and on Jan 1st, it will probably be the single most important thing that has happened to our Fellowship to 'Help the compulsive gambler who still suffers.' Also we all owe a debt of gratitude to Gary S for all his hard work, patience, and perseverance. Thank you Gary for staying course. There will be a lot of work ahead in getting the number out to all the proper places, newspapers, TV, radio etc. I for one am looking forward to doing my part.

Also, a hearty thanks to all the Trustees and the Chairs for getting through the agenda in a timely matter. When chairing a conference it is always a concern that the Trustee meeting goes well and the conference that follows goes smoothly too. The two are related. So thanks to all for all working diligently and smoothly and in the end the fellowship is the one that gains all the benefits.

On to the Southern Conference, the preliminary final report is done, and we are working hard to meet the deadline. I am confident it will be done on time and accurate, unlike previous conferences.

The Southern Conference Committee, I am proud to say, provided scholarships for 20 GA members from area 6 and we still made a small profit. We are waiting for all the checks to clear, working on the refunds and we have paid all the bills. When the next statement comes in, we will get the final report finished and send them off to the appropriate overseers. At such time, the final 2 checks will be written, 1 to Unity, and 1 to GA.

Well enough from me for now. I hope everyone who attended the conference experienced some terrific fellowship and continued recovery.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone with continued health and serenity,  
Richie S. - Area 6  
Southern Conference Committee Chair

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I would like to bring up the subject of 'advertising'. Are we able to put signs up giving people merely information about where meetings are or what number to call? There are now 7 Casinos in and around Edmonton and there are literally thousands of people suffering here! Plus we have VLTs in almost every bar on every street corner! I don't call that Attraction--I call that giving people the information they need.....what do you think? I am doing good with 9 and a half years in the program and continue going to 1-2 meetings a week in my area. I also attend Intergroup and listen to how things are taken care of in our area, with our great new Trustee-- Bob C! Hi to all my old friends. Sorry I didn't get to Florida but maybe I will get to Chicago?

Cindie T. - Area 2A

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As I write this there is just less than six months before our next meeting. This gives all of you a lot of time to get your agenda items to me but my experience tells me that most of you will wait until the last week. As I am sure you can imagine a great deal of work goes into putting the agenda together and it would be very very helpful if you can get you items to me sooner rather than later.

Along with our regular agenda items it will be time once again to elect a chairman and two co- chairs. These positions are a wonderful opportunity to give back to the fellowship and I ask all of you to think about these positions very carefully. Perhaps you might be interested in one of these positions yourself or you may want to encourage a

fellow trustee to 'throw their hat into the ring'.

If any of you would like to talk to me about the responsibilities and rewards of being chair or co- chair, I would be happy to discuss them with you and I am sure Michelle and or Chuck would be glad to do the same. Give it some thought, the fellowship needs all the help it can get.

Denis M. - Chairman BOT  
Area 12

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Fellow Trustees,

I wanted to take a minute to share some of my thoughts on the recent Florida Conference. I thought the BOT Meeting went as smoothly as any I have attended. I thought we got several important things accomplished. As always, there were things that I would have liked to have seen passed that weren't. I enjoyed meeting a lot of the new Trustees and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Chicago conference.

I thought the resort was among the nicest we have ever been in. However, I would like to see different workshops offered. It seems that conference after conference that the same people are presenting the same workshops. It would be nice to have local members from the host area doing the majority of the workshops. For me, that would make for a better conference. I would also like to see workshops offered on Sunday morning besides the meditation workshop. I think more of our brothers and sisters would stay around as opposed to catching an early flight out.

It was nice that a few of our brothers and sisters from outside of North America were able to make this past conference. I hope we can continue to have representation from other countries present at our BOT meetings and conferences. I think it adds so much. Looking forward to seeing you all in 177 days in Chicago.

Alan J. - Area 15

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Hello Everyone,

This is a last minute entry to serve as my last 'beg letter' for GA history that I don't have so far for the 50th Anniversary 2007 Conference booklet.

For countries, I am needing any or more information on the following:  
Ethiopia, India, Japan, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Russia, Puerto Rico, Switzerland and Trinidad.

If someone could get me in touch with a Japanese speaking member I would be grateful. I believe I can get their history off their website but it is only in Japanese and they are not responding to any communication I do.

For States I need more information on the following:  
Connecticut, Idaho, Kansas, Maine, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin & Wyoming.

I have now collected 461 of a possible 553 monthly GA bulletins (83.5%). I need the following from you elder statesmen out there that save everything:

1960 NOV, DEC  
1961 JAN, FEB, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, SEPT, DEC  
1962 JAN, FEB, MAR, APR, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUG, SEPT  
1963 JAN, FEB, APR, MAY, JUN, JULY  
1964 FEB THROUGH OCTOBER AND DEC  
1965 FEB, MAR, MAY, JUNE, AUG  
1966 APR, JUN, JULY  
1967 FEB, APR, JUN THRU AUGUST, OCT THROUGH DEC  
1968 FEB THRU APRIL, JUNE, AUG THRU NOV  
1969 FEB THRU APR, JUNE, JULY, SEPT THRU DEC  
1970 FEB THRU APR, JUNE, OCT THRU DEC  
1971 FEB, APR, MAY, NOV  
1972 JUN, AUG  
1974 APR, JULY  
1975 JAN, SEPT THRU DEC  
1976 FEB THRU MAY  
1979 DEC  
1984 NOV & DEC

IF ANY OF YOU OUT THERE CAN HELP PLEASE EMAIL ME or call my cell as per the information available from the Confidential Trustee Listing.

Thank You and have a great Thanksgiving, we all have a lot to be thankful for.

Steve R. - International Relations Committee Chair  
Area2B

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Thanks to everyone who participated in the Florida conference for making it such a success! I am very grateful to be in recovery and the conferences and BOT meetings always prove to come at exactly the right time in my recovery.

As promised, I will give a brief update on the status of the upcoming and past conferences.

Boston: I have not received any contact from the Boston committee since the Florida conference. No additional detail has been provided for the final report, despite previous requests. I have reviewed the bank statements they provided me at the Florida conference and have sent them a list of questions that I have. The last bank statement provided to me had a balance of \$128.41 and was for the months of August 2006 to September 2006. I have requested that they provide me with an accounting for these funds and to explain when the account will have a zero balance.

Chicago: I have not received any reports from Chicago since the last conference, but I did receive an e-mail from one of the contacts saying that he is behind on the reports and that an updated report will be provided to me by this weekend.

Portland: I have been in touch with the contact for the Portland conference who indicates that the hotel contract is signed (they are sending a copy to me); the committee had a meeting last week and elected chairs for all the committees and that the check signers were designated for the bank accounts. I will begin receiving written reports and confirmation of the check signers prior to the December report, so everything is on track in Portland.

Michelle J. - Co Chair BOT  
Area 8B

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Dear Trustees:

It has always been great to be at a national trustee conference. I would like to thank Richie S. and his entire committee for a top-notch conference in a top-notch hotel. The best of the best. The atrium was without question the VERY best to have our meeting. I was able to focus and hear everything that was being said. I also believe that it added control to the meeting for the same reason.

This has been my 15th conference in 8 years, I always walk away with a sense of accomplishment and pride in all of them, and I am very sorry to say "EXCEPT FOR THIS ONE." I consider myself a very positive dedicated member in the program that literally saved my life, respect my fellow trustees and all the hard work that our committees and chairs do to help make positive steps forward.

I am afraid what message we are stating when we are more concerned about being authors, editors and copywriters than trying to improve our membership, rooms, intergroups and GA as a whole.

Almost 80% of items on the agenda were related to changes on literature with over half of them failing and out of the half that failed - half of those failed with under a 70% approval.

Now, committees can only make a presentation of only 15 minutes. What message are we saying to the hard work dedicated members of our committees? Most committee's spend hundred's of hours of personal time working on their respective committees, set aside valuable time from families, work or just time to live a normal life. NOW WE TELL THEM YOUR COLLECTIVE TIME IS ONLY WORTH 15 MINUTES A MEETING OR 30 MINUTES A YEAR! Some of the motions that were on the agenda were related to the hard work from these committees. I heard negative comments that related to the committees to find a better way to present those items so they did not take SO much wasted time in the BOT! I for one will think twice before taking on another role in a committee.

The one item that I had presented to make our Intergroups better, didn't even make it to a discussion. Yet we all can complain and act surprise about how our Intergroups and members do not support the trustees.

Are we blinded by our own egos?

Are we just concerned about the 4-5 days at the BOT meetings a year and really do not care about the rest of the 360 days?

Why do we ask ourselves why our Intergroups and members do not care what goes on at the BOT conferences? Why should they? When we are JUST authors, editors, and copywriters!

When are we going to wake up and look in the mirror at the real problem? Ourselves? If we do not change our approach, ways, and thoughts, we will never really improve our program.

I say this out of love and respect, and do not mean to offend anyone. However if the shoe fits - - - -

Respectively,  
Gary S. - Area 12

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## Trustee Hot Button Topic for November

### How to use the Trustee website to speed up the BOT meetings

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Kudos to the new electronic formatting of the Board of Regents agenda & minutes!

I was very impressed to not only have the minutes forwarded to me via e-mail, but a comprehensive outline of the minutes of business that were discussed at the BoR meeting. Saves time, stationary and money!

Keep it up!

Thanks Karen and Denis,  
Alan S. - Area 2E

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Dear Fellow Trustees,

On September 1st, I participated in a conference call demonstration with several of my fellow Trustees that was set up and coordinated by David M. from Area 12. I would just like to offer my thoughts on this demonstration. I believe this will be an invaluable tool as we move forward. The conference call is a free service. There may be a cost to the individual caller depending on your long distance service.

Four Trustees participated in the call with David acting as the moderator. It was clear and concise and we were all able to get our questions asked and answered quickly and efficiently. The methods to ask those questions were email or AOL, YAHOO and MSN instant messenger. I know David has investigated a private label configuration that would allow us to put this application on the Trustee website. I think that is a great idea!

This tool would be very beneficial for each of us as Trustees to communicate regarding potential items on any BOT agenda item, as well as, should there ever be a need for an emergency BOT meeting, this would be an ideal forum.

I would like to thank David for asking me to participate and I think this is definitely something the BOT should consider.

I did not get a chance to see many of my friends in Florida as I was unable to attend the conference. I hope it was successful and enjoyable.

Jim D. - Area 13A

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Having been around the block a few times as a Trustee, I must admit that the Fort Lauderdale Trustee meeting was surprisingly uncharacteristic of what I have witnessed since my first meeting as a Trustee in Montreal '00. There is no question that the flow of the meeting was vastly better than we have seen in a long time, which I believe is due to the simple reason of how speakers were handled. Unlike previous meetings where people were raising their hands to be put on a list to speak, the alternating microphones really worked. This left the front desk without the distractions of looking for those who wanted to be recognized in favor or helping to expedite the flow of the discussions. I hope this will be the case for all meetings moving forward.

The one thing that did get under my skin was how items on the agenda that turned into motions 'as written' got carved apart from objections to one word of the motion. I lost count of how many times Trustees got up to the microphone and said: 'I like this motion and what it is trying to accomplish, but I have a problem with the word....' It was that phrase that torpedoed many motions, as the majority of the room swooped down for the kill. I applaud the Trustees who were able to pick out these 'one word indiscretions' that might have ultimately brought some weakness or problems with interpretation into the motions were they to have ultimately been passed. However, I would like to know where these people were during the agenda- gathering period when the items were displayed for all to see.

As of the Monday after the close of the Fort Lauderdale conference, the Chicago agenda opened up. Without the items that passed the first vote and those that were tabled, there are 2 new items in addition to the 2 conference bids under the new business section. But it is the notice in bold letters at the top of the rolling agenda page that really cuts to the heart of my submission to this Trustee Line. The section is written as follows: Please consult your Confidential Trustee Listing to contact any of the Trustees that have listed items in this or any other section. Let them know your thoughts about

these items as they will be able to revise their items without limit and resubmit them up until 60 days prior to the next conference when the agenda will be finalized.

Apparently this simple process was not used for a significant number of agenda items that failed because of a word or two that may have been ill conceived. We all spend some very focused amount of time in these meetings. Why must we waste time and argue about a wrong word and then ultimately vote the item down? I know I participated in a number of dialogues with Trustees who submitted items that were a bit 'quirky' when originally submitted to the agenda. In discussing them with the authors, it became apparent that some minor tweaking was necessary, which the author did and most of those items passed with resounding numbers.

A few of my items were defeated because of a misplaced word. When I first became a Trustee, I took those situations very hard, but I have come to understand that the items fail on their own, irrespective of who submits them. But with input from the Trustees who understand what is trying to be accomplished with each item and a perspective on what needs to be changed for the betterment of the Trustees and the fellowship, we could no doubt make our Trustee meeting more efficient and far more productive. I urge each of you to contact the Trustees who submit agenda items and let them know how you feel about the items - good, bad or indifferent. If you genuinely don't like it, don't just wait to kick the tar out of the item in Chicago, try to fix it while it is still in the agenda-gather period. We each have until 60 days before the Chicago conference to help the authors of each agenda item with suggestions on how to make them better. That 60-day cutoff is March 18, 2007.

To help this process along, each item on the agenda is be coded with an email link to the Trustee Website Admin. Anyone who wants to reflect their feelings on an agenda item before the agenda officially closes will be able to click the Trustee's name on that item, which will trigger an email for you to say what's on your mind. The email will then get forwarded to the author to protect his or her anonymity, since the site is completely open to all GA members. As the GA saying goes...it works if you work it.

David M. - Trustee Website Admin  
Area 12

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Being a new Trustee, there are a couple of things that would be helpful for me to see on the trustee website.

First is to have some feedback from other Trustees (especially more experienced ones) about how to present items at the Trustee meeting. In other words, what they are looking for if someone presents an item to change, add, or delete something in GA. Like a conference bid, there are certain details that have to be addressed, and a great amount of preparation that goes into presenting it to the Trustees. What are some ideas that help someone's presentation of an agenda item at the meeting.

Secondly, I think seeing updates on how each committee is doing as new things happen (like with pressure relief, or putting the literature on CD, etc), would help to keep my area updated more frequently on the progress of GA happenings. Though I'm not sure if this is possible or relevant.

That's it for now, thanks for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,  
Tom S. - Area 7A

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I would like to elaborate on a tool available to all past and present Trustees that is not being utilized to its fullest advantage. The GA Trustee Website 'trusteewebsite.com' is there for all of to use. At this site we are able to see the updated progress of the work being done by the Board of Trustees and related committees. The upcoming conference (Chicago - May'07 ) agenda is updated with each submitted agenda item as they are recieved as well as the number of days remaining to submit items. The opportunity for anyone to communicate with the member who submits an item is there in order to improve any item (if necessary) or, perhaps to point out that the item is not relevant and possibly should be removed before the agenda is finalized. Committees appointed by the chairman of the board of Trustees are able to post their progress as it develops and all members (whether on said committee or not) are able to comment on this progress and add their opinion to the committee chairmen in order to improve the work being done. By visiting the trustee website regularly we will be able to be kept up to date with the progress of the Board of Trustees and thus make the semi-annual Trustee meetings flow much smoother and save time that is unnecessarily wasted. If anyone has any questions or needs assistance using our website do not hesitate to communicate with the site webmaster.

Keep well and I hope to see you all in Chicago.

Herb B - Area 5

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