

Report for Virtual Meeting Committee Fall 2022- Cancun

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Purpose

To develop guidelines for regularly scheduled video, online GA Meetings, including but not limited to, how to start a meeting, technical requirements, and suggested meeting formats

From the Chair

At the Spring 2022 BOT Meeting, this committee was formed as a separate committee to pick up where the previous Virtual Meeting Committee (now referred to as the Virtual BOT Meeting Committee) left off. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in finding a time that worked for all members to meet virtually together. Our members have been in contact separately throughout the past few months since Cherry Hill, and have discussed various topics, which will be mentioned later in this report. Unfortunately, having been unable to get the whole group together at the same time, we were unable to introduce any new agenda items for this meeting. We are hoping to build on the progress we have made, and hope to have some agenda items to introduce at the Spring 2023 BOT Meeting.

What was in Place

The Virtual Meeting Committee was a new committee formed in Cherry Hill at the Spring 2022 BOT Meeting. For this reason, there was nothing from this committee existing prior, however, the Virtual Meeting Committee, which became the Virtual BOT Meeting Committee, had been working on projects that are applicable to our mission statement. Our plan is to continue the progress made under that committee that applies to our own committee, and fulfill the mission of permanently recognizing virtual meetings as regularly scheduled, sanctioned GA Meetings.

Activities in Progress

1. We have obtained a copy of the temporary guidelines that were approved in 2020 through the quick response vote, and will review them as a committee in the near future to determine appropriate agenda items, if any, to submit for Spring 2023, based on these
2. We had discussed among the committee if we need to change how we define “virtual”, however our mission statement appears to outline this.

Looking Ahead

For the Spring 2023 BOT Agenda, we are considering multiple items, such as:

1. Drafting literature that mirrors the existing piece of literature titled “Gamblers Anonymous Group Handbook”. This new literature would contain information specific to virtual meetings, and would be distributed to new virtual meetings that form
2. The possibility of establishing a new area, specifically for virtual meetings in the US, to give representation to all virtual meetings and allow virtual meetings to utilize that representation to specifically address the unique issues faced by virtual meetings.
3. Submitting changes to the current language in the Guidance Code and other areas where necessary to make virtual meetings permanently recognized as official GA Meetings