

Blue Book Revision Committee Report

Spring 2022 BOT Meeting

The current incarnation of the Blue Book Revision Committee began meeting over 9 years ago. There were some scraps and bits and pieces of work that had been done by previous versions of the Committee. After looking at the sparse content and after several meetings, the committee decided that a total rework of the Blue Book was the only way to proceed.

Members of the BOT and others in the fellowship were asked what they wanted in a Blue Book. The answer was that the fellowship sought a guide to recovery through Gamblers Anonymous—our own publication that would guide members new and old through the Gamblers Anonymous program.

In light of this, the committee set to work to rewrite the Blue Book as a coherent and thoughtful reflection of the Gamblers Anonymous Program, including the Recovery and Unity Steps. Additional information about our program was also considered important to include, as well as stories of recovery that reflect our diverse fellowship.

After presentation at the Louisville BOT meeting, the committee followed the suggestions of the BOT and a) sought more input from BOT members and b) reviewed the current Red Book to find information that could or should be included in the Blue Book. Committee members took in the feedback from the Louisville meeting and included these suggestions in writing and editing.

Additions and revisions that were made include rewriting the foreword (eliminating the quotation from Dr. Custer), adding clarifying information, fine-tuning some of the language, expanding the chapter on sponsorship, and adding material that is currently in the Red Book.

With these additions and revisions, we are now ready to submit the edited Blue Book for approval from the BOT.

All of the material except for the stories was written and rewritten by the current committee OR taken from current GA approved literature. Nothing has been “lifted” from other programs.

During the eight years of labor on this book, the committee members met two or, often, three times a month to discuss, edit, and re-edit the contents of each chapter.

We believe that this piece of literature fulfills the charge of the BOT in creating this committee so many years ago. The process was collaborative and, at times, difficult, as the committee strove to remain true to the precepts of the GA program, most importantly the Unity Steps.

Thanks to everyone who submitted stories for publication in the Blue Book. We feel that the stories in the book truly encompass the many types of gambler, the many experiences of compulsive gamblers, and the many geographical locations of compulsive gamblers around the world.

New sections that include Sponsorship, Relapse, and Suicide were included in this version of the Blue Book. The committee strongly feels that these are vital issues that face many in our fellowship and that addressing them honestly will help those in the fellowship.

The Blue Book Revision Committee has submitted the final product to the BOT for approval at the May 2022 Board of Trustees meeting.

Respectfully,

The Blue Book Revision Committee