

**GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 2 & 3, 2000**  
**SHERATON LAVAL, QUEBEC, CANADA**

**A) Welcome and opening statements - Tom M., Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by Tom M., Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Members at the head table were introduced. A seat was reserved at the head table for Lou K., a current member of the Board of Trustees from Cleveland, Ohio who had passed away two days prior to the beginning of the meeting from Cancer. This meeting is being dedicated to Lou. Procedures for the meeting were explained including that we would follow Roberts Rules of Order, and if that doesn't work, we will follow Tom's Rules of Order. Eight proxy votes were distributed as follows: Area 2, from Pete V. given to Dennis M.; Area 2A, from Henry I. given to Tom M.; Area 3, from Ron D. given to Howie C.; Area 3C, from Marcene W. given to Tom M.; Area 3D, from Steve M. given to Marilyn L. (former Trustee); Area 6B, from Teddy R. given to Rick B. (former Trustee); Area 8, from Allan S. given to Frank K.; Area 13, from Neil F. given to Mike L. Two absentee ballots were received, one from Keith M, Area 3B and one from Marlene O., Area 5A. Marc L. will vote the choice of Keith M. and Karen H. will vote the choice of Marlene O. If they have abstained on any items no vote will be recorded. All members of the Board were welcomed and newly elected Trustees were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Larry G. and the Conference committee were thanked for having us.

**B) Remembrance of our departed brothers and sisters - Marshall R.**  
Marshall R. read a list of members who has passed away since our last Board of Trustees meeting in the Catskills. Time of abstinence and the area where they were from was also read.

**C) Reading from "A Day at a Time" book - Walt H.**  
Walt H. read the Reflection for the Day for November 2nd.

**D) Reading of the "12 Steps of Unity" - Gerry M.**  
Marc L. read the 12 Steps of Unity.

**E) Roll Call - Changes - Karen H., International Executive Secretary**  
Karen H. took roll and simultaneously changes were made to the Confidential Listing of Trustees. There are currently 83 votes to begin this session.

**F) Approval of the Minutes from Ellenville, New York**  
The minutes of the meeting held in Ellenville were approved as submitted.

Approved: 72      Against: 0

**G) Committee Reports**

**1. New York Conference Final Report - Jim C.**

Jim C. called on Chuck R. to give the final report on the 2000 Spring Conference held in the Catskills at the Nevele. Chuck gave the final report on the Convention as follows:

Conference 2000  
Final Financial Statement

Income from Nevele (room profit)	\$ 33,100.78
Income from conf. books, day registrations, etc.	<u>3,201.61</u>
Gross Income	36,302.39

Expenses by committee:

Book and Program	4,987.54
Give-a-ways	6,524.96
Transportation	2,352.31
Reservations	1,446.70
Signs	1,200.50
Opening and Closing/Workshops	464.02
Steering	746.38

Misc. Expenses

Bank Service Charges	267.80
Tips	3,140.00
Meal Refund (1)	30.00

Total Expenses 21,160.21

Net Conference Profit \$ 15,142.18

G.A./Gam-Anon Split (55% / 45%)

Payable to G.A. I.S.O.	8,328.20
Payable to Gam-Anon I.S.O.	6,813.98

**2. Montreal (Laval) Conference Report - Dan B.**

Dan B. reported on the Montreal Conference stating that he has been following the progress of this Conference with Larry and his committee and everything seems to be in order. All items have been submitted as required by the current guidelines. They have done a wonderful job and everyone is looking forward to a great weekend.

3. **Pittsburgh Conference (2001 Midwestern) Report - Jim C.**  
Jim C. gave a report on the Pittsburgh Conference to be held May 4 - 6, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel. He has received all of the necessary information according to the Conference guidelines and everything looks to be in order. Norman B. stated that they are just about ready for the Conference, but won't really know that until they start getting registration forms. He asked the Trustees to set an example and please register. The seed money received by the committee was returned to the I.S.O.
4. **San Francisco Conference (2001 Western) - Jim C.**  
Jim C. reported on the San Francisco Conference to be held September 14 - 16, 2001 at the Westin Hotel San Francisco Airport. Copies of all checks and statements have been submitted as required. So far 6 reservations have been received. Ed E. let everyone know of some of the activities that are planned and that they are looking forward to a great Conference.
5. **I.S.O./Lifeline Report - Karen H.**  
Karen H. gave her semi-annual report on Lifeliners handing out a chart showing the States and number of members who contributed during the past year. The handout showed a decrease from last years figures of \$48,393.61 and 405 members contributing. This year the total amount received was \$47,288.07 with 321 members contributing. An explanation of what a Lifeline is was given and how important it is so that we can continue to carry the message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers. Everyone was thanked for their continued support.
6. **Montreal Walk-A-Thon Report - Larry G./Marc L.**  
Marc L. reported on the Walk-A-Thon which will take place Saturday morning at 6:45 A.M. He also gave some history on the Walk-A-Thon and how, since 1994, we have collected over \$35,000.00.
7. **Internet Report - Allan S. (Chair)**  
Arnie B. gave a report on the feasibility of establishing a Chat meeting room that would be hyperlinked to the G.A. official webpage. Since a motion cannot be made during a committee report, Tom stated that he would add item 26 to the agenda and this would be discussed under New Business. He also thanked Arnie for all of the work on this. It was then pointed out that under New Business, Item 25, from Kentucky, May 1999, there had been a motion made that was defeated regarding the G.A. website containing a chatroom. Per the Past Trustees Decisions from Orlando, 1988, if a motion is defeated, it cannot be re-introduced again for a period of two years. Therefore this item does not meet the two year rule and no further discussion was held.

8. **12 Step Audio Tape Committee Report - Ralph D.**  
Ralph D. gave a report and handed out the completed tapes with all 12 Steps. Tom M. stated that these tapes will be on the agenda for Pittsburgh and decide at that time whether or not we want to make it official G.A. literature. The question was asked, would it be appropriate to have a motion to accept the concept of having these tapes approved now, and vote in Pittsburgh after having a chance to listen to them? The Chair stated that we could not accept the concept of approving the tapes at this meeting and it would take two votes. The Chair was then challenged. Vote on the challenge fails (12 - 68) and the Chair is in order. Item will be on the agenda in Pittsburgh.
9. **Literature Committee Report - Chuck R.**  
Chuck R. gave a report on the Literature committee and their functions. The way formatting, spelling, grammar and approved changes are done was also explained. The Literature committee and the I.S.O. work together regarding any new or changed pieces of literature. We are going to try to get a letter explaining what a Lifeliner is, out with cards and envelopes to all groups sometime in the future. If anyone would like to submit an item to become approved literature, please forward to Chuck R.
10. **Florida Restitution Report - Bob W., Chairman B.O.R.**  
Bob W. gave a report on the restitution from Florida. An accounting was handed out as of October 31, 2000. Bob gave everyone the details of what originally took place financially after the 1994 Florida Convention held at the Tradewinds Hotel in St. Petersburg. Restitution is currently being made.
11. **Prison Committee Report - Ed W.**  
Rick B. gave the Prison Committee report. Rick will again be the Chairman of this committee. A letter requesting someone from all Trustee areas to be a prison liaison has been received by the Trustees. During roll call for the third session of this meeting, areas will be designating someone to serve in the above capacity. There will be a meeting on Saturday with all of the new prison liaisons and anyone else who is interested. Several prison meetings have been started in the past six months and requests for Prison Starter Kits keep coming into the International Service Office. All letters for help from prisons are forwarded to the Prison committee.

12. **Pressure Relief Committee Report - Ralph D.**  
Ralph D. gave a report on the Pressure Relief committee. Recommendations were read. The committee is looking for input from other areas. The handbook recommendations should be ready for the Pittsburgh agenda.
13. **Update on G.A. in Argentina, Uruguay, Spain - George G.**  
George G. gave a report telling the history of the groups in Argentina, Uruguay and Spain. He explained what has transpired over the past years and where they are today, Argentina with 54 groups, Uruguay with 7 groups and Spain with 26 groups.
14. **Update on Trustee Line.**  
Jim C. gave a short report on the Trustee Line and stated that he will have copies available and in the mail to all Trustees by November 21, 2000.

**H) OLD BUSINESS**

1. **"Beyond 90 Days" Passed first vote 68 -14 (attachment #1)**  
Approved: 54                      Against: 18      Passed (2nd Vote)
2. **G.A. in addition to having pins available for anniversaries also have a G.A. medallion available through the I.S.O. that could be given out. Tabled from Nevele.**  
Motion to table until Pittsburgh.  
Approved: 56                      Against: 5      Passed
3. **Have 12 steps of recovery and unity printed on shades which could then be hung on display at each G.A. meeting. Passed first vote 46 to 38.**  
Approved: 35                      Against: 39      Failed
4. **Approve as official G.A. literature the songs and music titled "Journey of Recovery" (attachment #3) Tabled from Nevele to allow writer to distribute song sheets with words matching exactly the songs on the CD (attachment #2)**  
Motion to accept the lyrics as written.  
Approved: 10                      Against: 60      Failed

**I) NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Can the G.A. groups in Iceland publish "Sharing Through Recovery" in Icelandic. This area also want to know if they can accept outside money to pay for the cost of this, such as starting some interest groups to help with this project. (Area 5A)**  
Motion that Gamblers Anonymous pay to publish the literature Iceland has requested in Icelandic and cost to include purchasing translation.  
Approved: 35                      Against: 32      Passed



2. Combo Book, page 17, after "entering the office sports pool" add "or joining a fantasy football league". (Area 12)  
No discussion.
3. Change the election of the Board of Regents from the Board of Trustees electing the Board to the individual rooms electing the Board. (Area 15)  
Motion to table until later in this meeting.  
Approved: 62            Against: 5    Passed  
Motion to accept above item.  
Approved: 4            Against: 67    Failed
4. New member comes into the program and is told not to do anything for 90 days. At the end of the 90 days, at his Pressure Relief meeting he is told to get rid of his stocks. Does he lose his 90 days of abstinence? Request for a straw vote. (Area 15)  
A straw vote was taken and it is the consensus of this Board that he does not lose his 90 days of abstinence.
5. Suggested format for submitting literature, Combo Book, Guidance Code & By-Law changes. (attachment #3) (Area 10A)  
Motion to accept above (with line down middle).  
Approved: 60            Against: 20    Passed
6. Combo Book, pages 15-16, change questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 11, 13, 16, & 17 from the current wording to the wording proposed in (attachment #4) (Area 10A)  
Motion to accept above.  
Approved: 10            Against: 63    Failed
7. Combo Book and all other places in G.A. literature where it appears, change the wording in Steps 5 & 12 of the Recovery Program from the present format to the proposed changes in (attachment #5) (Area 10A)  
Motion to add God to Step 5 of the Recovery Program.  
Approved: 33            Against: 46    Failed  
Motion to change Step 12 of the Recovery Program to read "Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers and to practice these principles in all our affairs."  
Approved: 37            Against: 45    Failed
8. Guidance Code, Article XIX (voting) section 7 add. "An area can designate any current member of the Board of Trustees to be assigned as proxy or an area can designate a past Trustee, in good standing, from the same area to act as a proxy for a Trustee unable to attend a Board of Trustee meeting. Any Trustee designated as a proxy, in addition to his own vote, may have a maximum of one proxy

vote. The Chairman must be notified in writing 10 days prior to the intended meeting. (Area 1)

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 11 Against: 68 Failed

9. Guidance Code, Article VIII, section 6, change to, "two-thirds (2/3) or more members of the Board of Trustees present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum. Proxies and absentee ballots shall be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum. (Area 1)

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 5 Against: 70 Failed

10. Discussion on how Gamblers Anonymous can address issues facing new and old members relating to the stock market, I.R.A.'s, 401 K's and all related financial activities. (Area 1)

Discussion was held. Tom M. appointed a committee to look into the above. Jim C. will Chair the committee that will include Marc L., Area 1; Rich R., Area 9; Richie S., Area 6; David M., Area 12 and James D., Area 13.

11. Discuss the forming of a committee to create a new piece of literature to answer questions and to give information on topics relating to the stock market, I.R.A.'s 401 K's and the Gamblers Anonymous members. (Area 1)

See Item 10.

12. Eliminate the practice of G.A. rooms not allowing any G.A. members who have attended more than 39 meetings in one year, not to celebrate an anniversary. (Area 14)

A straw vote was taken and it is the consensus of this Board that it is O.K. for a person to celebrate their Pinning/Anniversary at any room.

13. Combo Book, page 17, #7, second sentence, change from "...and abstain from gambling, your recovery will really accelerate". Change to, remove the word and after meeting insert a comma and the new sentence shall read, "abstain from gambling and work the 12 steps of recovery with a sponsor, your recovery will really accelerate". (Area 8)

Motion to accept above.

Approved: 10 Against: 65 Failed

14. Combo Book, page 2, 3rd sentence from the bottom, change the word "every" to "most". (Area 3)

Died for lack of motion.

15. Approve as new literature "Compulsive Gambling - The Sickness" (attachment #6) (Area 3)  
 Motion to accept above.  
 Approved: 8 Against: 58 Failed
16. Delete Article VIII, section 24 of the Guidance Code in it's entirety. "A member of the Board of Trustees or the Board of Regents may be a member of other committees outside Gamblers Anonymous concerning compulsive gambling. (Area 1)  
 Motion to accept above.  
 Approved: 18 Against: 48 Failed
17. Allow realignment and/or establishment of Trustee positions for "New International (non-U.S.) meetings and Intergroups at the fall Board of Trustees meetings in support of the rapid International expansion. (Area 15)  
 Motion that there be an emergency realignment of areas outside United States and designation of Trustees.  
 Approved: 79 Against: 1 Passed  
 Motion to remove Argentina from Area 15A making them new Area 19 with two Trustees.  
 Approved: 76 Against: 3 Passed  
 Motion to remove Uruguay from Area 15A making them new Area 20 with one Trustee.  
 Approved: 70 Against: 7 Passed  
 Motion to give Spain their own Area 21 with two Trustees.  
 Approved: 69 Against: 5 Passed  
 Motion to give South Africa their own Area 22 with one Trustee.  
 Approved: 69 Against: 3 Passed
18. Combo Book and all other place where "dream world" is mentioned change to "fantasy world". (Area 3)  
 Item dies for lack of a second.
19. Step #2 change to, "Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to a well adjusted and healthy way of thinking and living". (Area 3)  
 Item dies for lack of a second.
20. Any past Trustee can vote extend time or not to extend the time limit on discussions. (Area 3)  
 No discussion.
21. "New Beginning" (Red Book) paragraph entitled "Pins" delete the words "or mentioned". (Area 17)  
 Item dies for lack of motion.



22. **Site selection for the Spring 2002 Eastern Conference. This is an open bid since no area bid this at the Nevele.**  
 (Chairman)  
 Motion to accept Vancouver's bid for the Spring Conference to be held at Harrison Hot Springs May 3 - 5, 2002.  
 Approved: 70                      Against: 1      Passed
23. **Site selection for the Fall 2002 Southern Conference. Open to all Southern Areas.**  
 (Chairman)  
 No bid was made, therefore this item will be on the agenda for Pittsburgh and open to any area wishing to present a bid.
24. **Board of Regents election Guidance Code, Article VIII add section 27 to read, "The Board of Trustees shall elect the members of the Board of Regents at the Spring Conference. The term of office shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing July 1 and ending June 30. The Trustees should seek the guidance of the meetings in their area prior to election".**  
 (Chairman)  
 Motion to accept above.  
 Approved: 80                      Against: 3      Passed (1st Vote)  
 A vote was taken regarding reprinting of the Guidance Code. It was the overwhelming decision of this Board that we hold off printing the Guidance Code until after the Pittsburgh Board of Trustees meeting.
25. **Discuss "commodities" and consider changing the Combo Book so that it says "commodities futures contracts". (ie. the collecting of gold coins is considered a futures is this what we mean?)**  
 Motion to turn the above over to the commodities committee and have this as part of their report.  
 Approved: 57                      Against: 14      Passed  
 (Please see New Business, Item 10.)

**J) ANYTHING OMITTED FROM THE AGENDA**

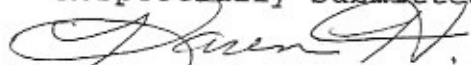
26. **To approve a G.A. chatroom hosted online.**  
 Out of order. Does not meet the two year rule.

**K) GOOD AND WELFARE**

The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer at 4:10 P.M. The collection for the four (4) sessions was \$ 778.00.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held May 3, 2001 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen H., International  
 Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

AREAS	SESSIONS	AREAS	SESSIONS	SESSIONS
1	Marc L. 4	8	Scott D. 4	
	Marvin F. 4		Arnie B. 4	
	Jimmy D. 4		Frank K. 4	
	Ted K. 4	8A	Brian B. 4	Chairman, B.O.T
	Laurie R. 4		Janae L. 4	Tom M. 4
	Manny E. 4	8B	Charlie O. 4	1st Co-Chair, B.O.T
1A	Tom B. 4		Patrick N. 4	Dan B. 4
2	Ed E. 4	8C	Marty J. Absent	2nd Co-Chair, B.O.T
	Pete V. Absent *	9	Rich R. 4	Jim C. 4
	Dan B. 4		Joé C. 4	Chairman, B.O.R.
	Chris C. 4	10	Glenn F. 4	Bob W. 4
2A	Henry I. Absent *	10A	Norman B. 4	International
	Cindie T. 4		Jim P. 4	Executive Secretary
	Don M. 4		Josh L. 4	Karen H. 4
2B	Dick G. Absent	10B	Jim G. 4	
	Bernie A. 4	11	Jim C. 4	
2C	Gerry M. Absent		Bob G. 4	*Proxy or Absentee
	Debbie W. Absent	12	Carol L. 4	Ballot Received
2G	Sharon W. 4		David M. 4	
	Bill C. 4		Marshall R. 4	
3	Ron D. Absent *		Bob W. 4	
	Gail L. 4		Denis M. 4	
	Jan A. 4	13	James D. 4	
	Howie C. 4		Neil F. Absent *	
3A	Deborah R. 4		David S. 4	
	Larry D. 4		Mike L. 4	
3B	Keith M. Absent *	13A	Kevin O. 4	
3C	Marcene W. Absent *		Jim D. Absent	
3D	Steve M. Absent *	14	Joe B. 4	
4	Marguerite P. 4		Dennis M. 4	
5	Jerry T. 4		Ira C. Absent	
5A	Marlene O. Absent *		David J. Absent	
	Mark D. Absent	15	Chuck R. 4	
5B	Andre G. 4		Bill B. 3	
	Jean-Marc L. Absent		Marty D. 4	
6	Richie S. 4		George G. 4	
	Sandy L. 3		George A. Absent	
6A	Jerry A. 4		Ray H. 4	
	Frank M. 4		Joseph O. 4	
6B	Lenny L. 4		Mike R. 4	
	Teddy R. Absent *		David M. 4	
6C	Mike B. 4		Abe C. 4	
	Regina H. 4	16	John N. 4	
	Toni M. 4		Sal S. 4	
	Joyce J. 4	17	Walt H. 4	
7	Charlean S. 4		Ron W. 4	
	Kathy S. 4	18	Carol S. Absent	
7A	Richard B. 4		Geoff P. Absent	
	Chuck S. 4	18A	Jenni K. Absent	
7B	Rocky M. Absent		Richard H. Absent	
8	Allan S. Absent *			