

**GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS TRUSTEES MEETING
OCTOBER 10 & 11, 2002
SHERATON WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**

- A) Welcome and opening statements – Tom M., Chairman, B.O.T.**
The meeting was called to order by Tom M., Chairman of the Board of Trustees at approximately 1:00 P.M. on October 10, 2002. He asked all new Trustees to introduce themselves and state what Area that are from. There are presently 36 new Trustees to the Board. Rules and procedures of the meeting were explained. The definitions of points of order and points of information were given. Richie S. was called on to welcome everyone to the Conference. Twelve proxy votes were handed out as follows: Area 2A, from Henry I., given to Jim C.; Area 3, from Mike P., given to Roger T.; Area 3C, from Marcene W., given to Sam C.; Area 6A, from Jerry A., given to Nick S.; Area 7A, from Chuck S., given to Richard B.; Area 10A, from Josh L., given to Norm B.; Area 10B, from Joe D., given to Jim G.; Area 11, from Steve J., given to Don R.; Area 14, from Al O., given to Brad B.; Area 18, from Andy D., given to Tom M., Area 18, from Shirley T., given to Tom M. and Area 22, from Louis M., given to Tom M. Members at the head table were introduced and just to the left of the head table was a table where four name placards of recently departed members of the Board of Trustees, George A. from New York, Dennis T. from San Francisco, Joe S. from Phoenix and Bill C. from Portland were remembered.
- B) Remembrance of our departed brothers and sisters – Marshall R.**
Marshall R. read the names of members who had passed away since our last Board of Trustees meeting in Vancouver. Their time of abstinence and where they were from was also read. A moment of silence was observed in their memory.
- C) Reading from “A Day at a Time” book – Laurie R.**
Laurie R. read the Reflection for the Day for October 10th.
- D) Reading of the “12 Steps of Unity” – Bob. O.**
Bob O. read the 12 Steps of Unity.
- E) Roll Call – Karen H., International Executive Secretary**
Karen H. took roll and there are presently 92 votes to begin the first session.
- F) Approval of the Minutes from Vancouver**
The minutes of the meeting held in Vancouver were approved unanimously as submitted.

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G) Committee Reports

- 1. Vancouver Conference Report (2002 Eastern) – Denis M.**
Denis M. gave a report on the Vancouver Conference stating that the Hotel has been paid in full. At the present time no accounting has been received.
- 2. Florida Conference Report (2002 Southern Fall) – Denis M.**
Denis M. reported on the Southern Conference that will begin Friday evening. Everything asked for has been complied with. They have done a great job. Richie S. reported that they have over 500 reservations and 249 rooms have been sold. They are looking forward to a magnificent weekend.
- 3. Toronto Conference Report (2003 Midwestern Spring) – Jim C.**
Jim C. gave the report on the Toronto Conference that will be held May 2 – 4, 2003 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. Everything seems to be going well. The flyer has been reprinted. Jim will be meeting with the committee during this weekend.
- 4. Los Angeles Conference Report (2003 Western Conference Fall) – Denis M.**
Denis M. gave the report on the Western Conference to be held at the Marriot in Irvine, California the weekend of October 17- 19, 2003. Everything is going well and reports are being received on a timely basis.
- 5. Montreal Conference Report (2004 Eastern Spring Conference) – Jim C.**
Jim C. reported on the Spring Conference to be held April 30 – May 2, 2004 at the Sheraton in Laval, Quebec. Contract with the hotel has been finalized and 200 rooms have been reserved.
- 6. I.S.O./Lifeline Report – Karen H.**
Karen H. reported on Lifeliners stating the difference between last year's total of \$48,688.87 and this year's total of \$44,494.02. She encouraged everyone to get involved and spread the word and thanked those that are already doing so for their support. Marshall R. spoke and stressed the importance of being a Lifeline.
- 7. Florida Walk-A-Thon Report – Richie S.**
Richie S. gave the report on the Walk-A-Thon to be held Saturday morning beginning at 7:00 A.M. Forms are in the hospitality room. Everyone is to meet in the lobby at 6:45 A.M. They are looking forward to a great walk.

8. **Literature Committee Report – Chuck R.**
Chuck R. reported that Towards Recovery in Prison is the only piece of literature for consideration at this Conference.
9. **Florida Restitution Report – Bill M., Chairman, B.O.R.**
Bill M. gave a little history on what happened at the St. Petersburg Conference in October 1994 and how the restitution is being handled by handing out a report that shows the payments that have been made through September 30, 2002. The total receipts are \$29,171.61 and the current amount owing is \$9,781.73.
10. **Prison Committee Report – Rick B.**
Richie S. gave the report. There will be a Prison Committee meeting on Saturday afternoon.
11. **Stock Market, I.R.A.'s, 401 K's et.al Report – David M., Chair**
David M. gave a report on the Stock Market Committee. The committee is working on a pamphlet with a "20 Questions" format regarding investments. They should have the finished product in Toronto.
12. **Internet Committee Report – Alan S.**
Allan S. gave a report and presently nothing is happening with the chat room.
13. **Committee Report of Placing Other G.A. Literature on Tapes – Jimmy D./Marc L.**
Tom M. reported for the committee stating that Jimmy and the committee is working on the tapes.
14. **Proxy Vote Committee Report – Bob W.**
Bob W. gave the Proxy Vote committee report stating that in Vancouver the people were asked to respond. The committee spoke to about 12 people from California to Long Island. Item 11 of New Business will give the committees recommendations. Tom M. thanked Bob and Eddie L. for their work on this.
15. **Hotline Committee Report – Gary S.**
Gary S. gave the committee report on the hotline. Surveys were sent to several areas. Not all surveys have been returned. The committee will continue working on this as they feel it a very important and much needed item.

16. **Map Committee Report – Dan B. (Tom M. will report)**
Tom M. gave the report for the Map committee. Dan B. is working on a map for each Trustee area. Something will be available in Toronto to look at.
17. **Pressure Relief Group Meeting Report (Ralph D.)**
Ralph D. gave a report reading the history of the Pressure Relief Committee.
18. **National Conferences (Tom M.)**
Tom M. appointed a committee to report on the process and responsibilities of National Conferences. Bob W., from Southern California will Chair the committee with the committee members being Denis M., Larry G. and Allan S.

H) OLD BUSINESS

1. **Discuss the responsibility of electing or appointing our International Executive Secretary. (Tabled from Montreal and Vancouver) (Toronto Area Item)**
Discussion only.
2. **Q & A pamphlet page 9, 4th sentence from the bottom change the word “tolerance” to “kindness”. (Passed first vote 47-18)**
Passed (2nd vote)
3. **Approve the pamphlet “Towards Recovery in Prison” with appropriate acknowledgement to our brothers and sisters of Great Britian Gamblers Anonymous. (Attachment. Passed first vote 77-3)**
Passed (2nd vote)

I) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Red Book, page 41, line 7 of Step 5 and also line 7 of Step 5 in the Gamblers Anonymous Working the Steps pamphlet, change “selecting someone to help you with the fifth step is the next chore” to read “selecting someone to help you with the fifth step is the next task”. (Alan S. Area 8)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed

2. Attachment #2 regarding the running of the meeting in an area and the authority of the room or Chairperson. (Joe B. Area 6C)

Motion made that the meeting rooms By-Laws or Standing Rules cannot dictate what a person can say or not say while they are giving therapy. However, they may suggest that the speaker refrain from using foul language and also talking derogatory about another room or a fellow member.

The Chair ruled this motion out of order. The Chair was then challenged. Vote on the challenge fails therefore the Chair is in order and the motion is out of order.

3. Have one physical Trustee Meeting annually. (Irwin S. Area 12)

Motion made to have one physical National Conference and Trustee Meeting annually.

Failed

4. Combo Book, page 17, number 6. Delete the current language and change to: "A Pressure Relief Group Meeting will alleviate legal, financial, employment, and marital pressures. It will aid in your recovery". (Larry B. Area 15)

Motion made to change Combo book, Page 17, Number 6 – Delete all and change to "A Pressure Relief Group Meeting will help alleviate legal, financial, employment and personal pressures. Adherence to it will aid in your recovery".

Amendment to change the word "will" to "may" in both places.

Approved: 39 Against: 34 Passed

A roll call vote was requested for the amendment with the results as follows:

Area	Trustee	Vote	Area	Trustee	Vote	Area	Trustee	Vote
1	Bruce R.	Yes	6	Richie S.	No	11	Don R.	Yes
	James B.	Yes		Morty F.	Yes		Don R.	Yes
	Lanny R.	Yes		Sandy L.	Yes	12	Carol L.	No
	Laurie R.	Yes	6A	Nick S.	Yes		David M.	No
	Ted K.	Yes		Nick S.	Yes		Bill S.	Yes
	Wendy B.	Yes	6B	Bob Q.	No		Bob W.	No
2	Ed E.	No		Tom T.	Yes	13	Denis M.	Yes
	Sandy T.	Yes	6C	Thom M.	No		John D.	No
	Luis M.	No		Joe B.	Yes	James D.	No	
	Isamu T.	No	Gary G.	Yes	David S.	No		
2A	Jim C.	Yes	7	Kathy S.	Yes	13A	Kevin O.	Yes
	Richard C.	Yes		Judy N.	Yes		Jim D.	Yes

2C	Debbie W.	Yes	7A	Richard B.	No	14	Dennis M.	No
2G	Sharon W.	Yes		Richard B.	No		Brad B.	No
	Richard L.	Yes	8	Allan S.	Yes		Mike A.	No
3	Gail L.	No		Scott D.	Yes		Brad B.	No
	Roger T.	No		Bob O.	Yes	15	Chuck R.	No
	Paul H.	Yes		Brian B.	Yes		Bill B.	No
	Roger T.	No	8A	Roger S.	No		Marty D.	No
3A	David F.	No		Kim L.	Yes		George G.	No
	Malcolm B.	No	8B	Michelle G.	Yes		Ray H.	No
3B	Keith M.	No	9	Jim M.	Abstain		Mike R.	No
3C	Sam C.	Yes		Daryl R.	Yes		Marino S.	No
	Sam C.	Yes	9A	Joe S.	Yes		Larry B.	No
3D	Tom P.	No	10	Glenn F.	Abstain	16	John N.	Yes
4	Elaine D.	No		Mary M.	No		Dennis C.	Yes
5	Herb B.	Yes	10A	Norman B.	No	17	Walt H.	No
5A	Irene S.	Yes		Jim P.	No		Ron W.	No
5B	Jean-Marc L.	No		Norman B.	No	18	Tom M.	Yes
	Etienne C.	Yes	10B	Jim G.	Yes		Tom M.	Yes
5C	John L.	Yes		Jim G.	Yes	22	Tom M.	Yes
	Approved:	50	Against:	41	Abstained:	2	Passed	

A member asked to have this amendment ruled out of order. The Chair said the amendment is in order. The Chair was then challenged.

Vote on the challenge fails therefore the Chair is in order and the amendment is also in order.

On the motion.

Passed (1st vote)

5. **Combo Book, page 17 – heading. Eliminate the words “particularly the new Gamblers Anonymous members”. (Larry B. Area 15)**

Motion to accept above.

Failed

6. **Combo Book, page 17 change “new members...” to “guide for all members...” (Larry G. Montreal)**

Motion to change on inside cover from “New Members” to “Guide For All Members”.

Passed (1st vote)

7. **Combo Book, page 17, #1 eliminate the word “but” after possible. (Morty F. Area 6)**

Motion made to change Combo book Page 17 #1 from “but at least one full meeting per week. MEETINGS MAKE IT” to “at least one per week. MEETING MAKERS MAKE IT!”

Failed

8. **Discuss the need for actual hand counts for every agenda item. (Denis M. Area 12)**

STRAW

A straw vote was taken and it is the consensus of this Board that we should not count the vote on each individual item unless the hand count is too close to call.

Approved: 49 Against: 39 Passed

9. **Discuss the need for guidelines for areas wishing to operate a "Gamblers Anonymous" website. (Denis M. Area 12)**

Discussion only. Tom M. appointed a committee consisting of Richard L., Chair and committee members David M., Daryl R. and Mike V. to establish guidelines for areas wishing to operate a "Gamblers Anonymous" website.

10. **Combo Book, page 14, change the definition of gambling to read: "Gambling for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, or any betting or wagering by others for you, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is dependent upon chance or "skill" constitutes gambling. (Ed W. and George W. Area 12)**

Motion to table until Toronto.

Passed

11. **Discussion of proxy vote from the committee report. (Bob W. Area 12)**

Motion made that proxies shall only be counted to determine the number present at any meeting for the purpose of a quorum without a vote.

Approved: 64 Against: 18 Passed (1st vote)

This would be a Guidance Code change to Section 8, number 6.

Motion made to use suggested proxy procedures 1 - 7 as presented by the committee as follows:

1. Only Board of Trustee members may be appointed as a proxy.
2. No Board of Trustee member may be allocated more than one proxy.
3. A proxy should be appointed from the same area when possible.
4. The Trustee shall notify the International Executive Secretary and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, as to their choice of a proxy, at least three days prior to the start of the Board of Trustees meeting.
5. After being asked by the Trustee, and accepting, the proxy shall notify the International Executive Secretary and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees at least three days prior to the start of the Board of Trustees meeting.
6. The International Executive Secretary shall keep a log of the time and date that a proxy is allocated.
7. A proxy will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

Passed

12. **Do away with the mailing of the B.O.R. agenda and minutes to the B.O.T. members. (Sandy T. Area 2)**
Motion made to eliminate the mailing of the Board of Regents agenda and minutes to the Board of Trustees members.
Failed
13. **Discuss what can be done to attract and retain younger members. (Howie C. Area 3D)**
Discussion only.
14. **Now that permission has been given to print G.A. literature in Canada, approve allowing the sale of literature in Canada. (Cindie T. Area 2A)**
Motion that Canada have permission to sell Gamblers Anonymous literature printed in Canada.
Amendment that all literature printed and sold in Canada should be sold for the same mark up as the International Service Office and profit to be sent to the International Service Office.
Passed.
On the motion.
Passed
15. **Combo Book, page 8, change the word "desire" to "commitment" the sentence would then read "Our experience has shown that the Gamblers Anonymous program will always work for any person who has a commitment to stop gambling". (John N. Area 16)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed
16. **Combo Book, page 17, #6 change to read as follows, "the trusted servants will conduct a Pressure Relief Group Meeting or re-evaluation for you and adherence to it will aid in your recovery". (Michele R. Area 12)**
A member asked to have this item ruled out of order. The Chair said the item is in order. The Chair was then challenged.
Vote on the challenge fails therefore the Chair is in order and so is the item.
Motion to accept above.
Failed

17. **Combo Book, page 17, #6 Change to read as follows, "The trusted servants will conduct a Pressure Relief Group Meeting, or re-evaluation for you and yours, and adherence to it will aid in your recovery". (Irwin S. Area 12)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed
18. **Follow Steps 4, 6 and 7 of the Unity Program, G.A. Intergroups and individual meeting websites should not display advertising or cause a relationship with an outside group. (Mike V. Montreal)**
Motion to table until Toronto.
Passed
19. **Discuss the possibility of reducing the length of a G.A. meeting to one hour instead of the customary two hour meeting. Possible only have one or two speakers instead of the customary 10 or 20. (Dennis M. Area 14)**
A member asked to have this item ruled out of order. The Chair said the item is in order. The Chair was then challenged.
Vote on the challenge passes therefore the Chair is out of order and the item is also out of order.
20. **Add the word We in front of Recovery Steps 2 through 11 in the Combo Book as well as all G.A. literature where the steps are printed. (Dennis M. Area 14)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed
21. **Combo Book, page 17, heading place in bold print, "To all Gamblers Anonymous members". And delete the rest of the sentence. (Dennis M. Area 14)**
This item was handled in #5 of New Business.
22. **Combo Book, page 3 at the end of the 3rd paragraph add in bold print "One Day at a Time" after ...certain principles in our daily affairs. (Dennis M. Area 14)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed
23. **Combo Book, page 17 eliminate the following, "attend as many meetings as possible but at least one full meeting per week meetings make it". (Dennis M Area 14)**
Motion to accept above.
Failed

24. **Does the room have the right to ask a G.A. member to leave the room if the G.A. member states he or she has no desire to stop gambling? (Dennis M. Area 14)**

~~24. Does the room have the right to ask a G.A. member to leave the room if the G.A. member states he or she has no desire to stop gambling? (Dennis M. Area 14)~~
A member asked for a straw vote to determine if the room has a right to ask a person to leave the room if the person states he or she has no desire to stop gambling. The Chair stated he would not accept a straw vote. The Chair was then challenged. The vote on the challenge passes therefore the Chair is out of order and the straw vote is in order.

A straw vote was taken and it is the consensus of this Board that the room does not have the right to ask a person to leave the room.

25. **What are other groups throughout the country doing to retain women in the G.A. room for the 1st time? (Marshall R. Area 12)**

Discussion only.

26. **What are individual Intergroups doing to get more people involved on this level? (Marshall R. Area 12)**

Discussion only.

27. **Are any Intergroups having a problem getting people to sponsor a National Conference? (Marshall R. Area 12)**

Discussion only.

28. **Discuss having more promotion rather than attraction and put up billboards across the country stating, "If you have a gambling problem call Gamblers Anonymous". (Marshall R. Area 12)**

Discussion only.

29. **Combo Book, page 8, change to make gender neutral. So it would now read: "What is the first thing a compulsive gambler ought to do in order to stop gambling? Compulsive Gamblers need to be willing to accept the fact that they are in the grip of a progressive illness and have a desire to get well. Our experience has shown that the Gamblers Anonymous program will always work for a person who has a desire to stop gambling. However, it will never work for the person who will not face squarely the facts about this illness. (Dan B. Area 2)**

Motion to accept above.

Failed

30. **All items placed on the agenda must be in the form of a motion. The items would then be discussed and voted on as presented. (Tom M. Area 2)**
 Motion made that all items on the agenda be in the form of a motion, and amendments be accepted by the presenter only.
 Failed
31. **Discuss limiting the number of items an individual or an area can submit for the agenda. (Tom M. Area 2)**
 Discussion only.
32. **Extend Combo Book by two pages and add a new page 12 and 13. attachment #3 "Escape Gamblers". (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 Motion to accept above.
 Failed
33. **Replace Combo Book pages 4 and 5 with attachment #4 "How it Works" and if the Board sees fit, anywhere else in other literature that they deem fitting. (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 Motion to accept above with the approval of A.A.
 Failed
34. **Combo Book, page 12, take out "why can't" (on heading) and replace it with "can". (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 No discussion.
35. **Combo Book, page 12, 3rd sentence from the top, change the word "insolvable" to "unsolvable". (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 Motion to accept above.
 Failed
36. **Guidance Code, page 11, #5 eliminate the last two sentences. So you would end the sentence after the word "groups". (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 Motion to change Guidance Code, page 11, #5 and delete "other Intergroups, the Regional Service Office".
 Approved: 55 Against: 15 Passed (1st vote)
37. **Q & A, page 5 under the heading "How much does it cost to join G.A. after the word declines, add the word "any". (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 No discussion.
38. **Past decisions does 20 on page 10 contradict #18 on page 21? If not then eliminate #18 on page 21 altogether. (Howie C. Area 3D)**
 No discussion.

39. Conference bid for the 2004 Fall Southern Conference.

No bid was presented. The bid will be open to any area wishing to bid in Toronto.

J) Anything omitted from the agenda

40. Good and Welfare.

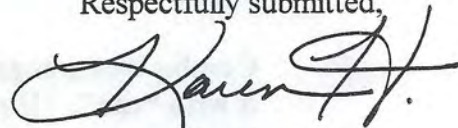
Tom M. asked for a consensus as to whether or not this Board wanted to have Good and Welfare at the close of the meeting.

The Board voted not to have Good and Welfare. Instead if anyone wants to write their Good and Welfare and send it to Denis M., he will include it in the next issue of the Trustees Line.

The meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer at 2:25 P.M. The collection for the four (4) sessions was \$841.20.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held May 1, 2003 in Toronto, Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen H., International
Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL			
AREA	SESSIONS	AREA	SESSIONS
1	Bruce R. 4	8A	Roger S. 4
	James B. 4		Kim L. 4
	Lanny R. 4	8B	Charlie O. Absent
	Laurie R. 4		Michelle G. 4
	Ted K. 4	8C	Pauline M. Absent
	Wendy B. 4	9	Jim M. 4
2	Ed E. 4		Daryl R. 4
	Sandy T. 4	9A	Joe S. 3
	Luis M. 4	10	Glenn F. 4
	Isamu T. 4		Mary M. 4
2A	Henry I. Absent *	10A	Norman B. 4
	Cindie T. 4		Jim P. 4
	Richard C. 4		Josh L. Absent *

2B	Terry Q.	Absent	10B	Jim G.	4
	Ted C.	Absent		Joe D.	Absent *
2C	Debbie W.	4	11	Steve J.	Absent *
2G	Sharon W.	4		Don R.	4
	Richard L.	4	12	Carol L.	4
3	Gail L.	4		David M.	4
	Mike P.	Absent *		Bill S.	4
	Paul H.	4		Bob W.	4
	Roger T.	4		Denis M.	4
3A	David F.	4		John D.	4
	Malcolm B.	4	13	James D.	4
3B	Keith M.	4		Michael F.	Absent
3C	Marcene W.	Absent *		David S.	4
	Sam C.	4	13A	Kevin O.	4
3D	Gerry M.	Absent		Jim D.	4
	Tom P.	4	14	Dennis M.	4
4	Elaine D.	4		Brad B.	4
5	Herb B.	4		Mike A.	4
5A	Irene S.	4		Al O.	Absent *
5B	Jean-Marc L.	4	15	Chuck R.	4
	Etienne C.	4		Bill B.	4
5C	John L.	4		Marty D.	4
6	Richie S.	4		George G.	4
	Morty F.	4		Abe C.	Absent
	Sandy L.	4		Ray H.	4
6A	Jerry A.	Absent *		Mike R.	4
	Nick S.	4		Marino S.	4
6B	Bob Q.	4		Larry B.	4
	Tom T.	4		Jerry L.	Absent
6C	Thom M.	4	16	John N.	4
	Joe B.	4		Dennis C.	4
	Dennis A.	2	17	Walt H.	4
	Gary G.	4		Ron W.	4
7	Kathy S.	4	18	Andy D.	4
	Judy N.	4		Shirley T.	4
7A	Richard B.	4	18A	Richard H.	Absent
	Chuck S.	Absent *	22	Louis M.	4
8	Allan S.	4			
	Scott D.	4		Chairman, B.O.T.	Tom M.
	Bob O.	4		1 st Co-Chair, B.O.T.	Jim C.
	Brian B.	4		2 nd Co-Chair, B.O.T.	Denis M.
				Chairman B.O.R.,	Bill M.
				International Executive	
				Secretary	Karen H.