

FALL INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
November 16-17, 2023
Chicago, Illinois

A) Welcome –Pete K. Chair, Board of Trustees

Pete opened the meeting at 10:00 am and introduced the front table. Sitting at the front table is 1st Co-Chair, Steve F., 2nd Co-Chair Harold A., International Executive Secretary KC B., and the Board of Regents Chair Bob W.

Some housekeeping items were discussed about using the microphones, points of interest and order. He went over the motion sheets needed each time a motion is made. Pete also mentioned that KC had some pins for sale during the trustees meeting.

Pete reminded us why we are all here, to help the compulsive gambler who is still suffering. He reminded us that our fellowship elected us to be here at the meetings and do work for the program.

Pete asked the new trustees present to go up to the mic to introduce themselves:

Roxanne D. – Area 3D

Andy R. – Area 12

Terry D. – Area 2H

Barb L. – Area 8E

There were 32 absentee ballots sent in:

Area 2	Jared H.	Area 17	Ronny W.
Area 2	Tita M.	Area 19	Elena D.
Area 2B	James B.	Area 19	Hector H.
Area 2G	Chris M.	Area 19	Jorge C.
Area 2J	Patricia D.	Area 19	Julia A.
Area 3B	Paul G.	Area 21	Francisco AM
Area 5	Frank P.	Area 21	Pedro TM
Area 6C	Thomas K.	Area 23	Joao Carlos R.
Area 11	William C.	Area 23A	Clecio S.
Area 13	Mike M.	Area 28	Hector T.
Area 14	Ira C.	Area 28	Marymar V.
Area 14	Maury C.	Area 29	Konstantin U.
Area 14	Mitch M.	Area 29A	Oleg I.
Area 15	James G.	Area 29B	Eduard U.
Area 15	Jesse C.	Area 33	William S.
Area 15	Stanley C.	Area 38	Belinda L.

B) Remembrance of our departed members

Marc L., Area 3D, read the names of our departed members.

Area 1A	Fenton T.	Area 11	Roy L.
Area 2A	Terri H.	Area 11	Mary K.

Area 2A	Denise W.	Area 11	Brandon B.
Area 2B	Josh H.	Area 11	John Z.
Area 2B	David A.	Area 11	Jim O.
Area 2G	Jim S.	Area 11	Marie
Area 2K	Deiter M.	Area 11	Deb R.
Area 2K	Terri H.	Area 12	George L.
Area 3	Rudy S.	Area 12	Ray C.
Area 3	Brenda Joy R.	Area 12	Phil G.
Area 3	Jim F.	Area 12	Mike G.
Area 3	Nick V.	Area 12	Zully S.
Area 3	Caesar	Area 13	Bill P.
Area 3C	Jo B.	Area 13	Kim C.
Area 5B	Claude C.	Area 13	Mike V.
Area 5B	Ginette L.	Area 13A	Bob F.
Area 6	Neil R.	Area 13A	Dave C.
Area 6	Randy C.	Area 14	Paul C.
Area 6B	John O.	Area 15	Bill B.
Area 9	Marianne M.	Area 28	Ricardo G.
Area 9	Diane S.	Area 28	Domingo D.
Area 10	Jerry S.		

C) Roll Call – KC B., International Executive Secretary

KC B. did roll call. With the absentee ballots, we have 80 votes available right now.

D) Reading of the "12 Steps of Unity"

Ara H, past trustee Area 1, read the Unity Steps on the first day.

Alan A., Area 6A trustee, read the Unity Steps to begin our second day.

E) Reading from "A Day at a Time Book"

Andy G., Area 13B, read the reflection of the day on the first day.

Dianna R., Area 8 trustee, read the reflection of the day on the second day.

F) Approval of Minutes from Cleveland

Motion made to accept the minutes from Cleveland as written.

Item passed; minutes approved.

G) ISO / Lifeline – KC B.

KC B. gave her report with a printout of a 12-month window of Lifeline donations. For the entire 12 months, we are down 1.16% for all lifeline donations. We had a total of 308 Lifeliners for the 12-month period. 35 of them were trustees. There are some Lifeline cards and envelopes on the table in front.

H) Report from the Board of Regents – Bob W., BOR Chair

Bob W. opened the floor for questions and answers to the trustees. We've been running in the black for the last several months, as opposed to running in the red. At least 50% of worldwide meetings have closed their doors due to the pandemic and never reopened.

Bob W. let us know that the I.S.O. is also looking at changing the shipping process so that it not only saves the office money, but it saves the membership money as well when it comes to shipping costs.

I) Trustee Meeting Report-KC B., IES

1) Cleveland-Spring, 2023

There were 78 people registered for the Board of Trustees meeting. 73 of them were trustees and the other five were executive board members.

There was a total of \$3,900 collected for registrations; \$1009.15 was collected from all sessions; and \$660 collection from Lifeliners at the meeting. There were several new and current Lifeliners that gave at the meeting as well.

J) Committee Reports

Committees with Harold A. as Co-Chair Liaison
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Conference Oversight and Assistance Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Wendy B. - Area 1A

Co-Chair – Norm B. – Jack R. – Area 1A

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: To oversee all processes dealing with International Conferences and to encourage and provide assistance to Areas seeking to host an International Conference as well as to provide advice and assistance after a Conference has been awarded.

The Chicago area has done a phenomenal job with the fall international conference.

Everything has been done in accordance with our guidelines.

There have been no other bids or inquiries as to future international conferences.

This committee is available to answer any questions and/or offer guidance to any area that is thinking of hosting a conference.

Report submitted online.

Digital Strategy Committee

Committee Chair – Reba L. – Area 8

Committee Co-Chair – Butch G. – Area 3

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: The purpose of this committee is to give guidance and suggestions to the Board of Trustees on the most efficient use of digital media in order to share our message with the compulsive gambler who still suffers.

The Digital Oversight Committee had only one item that it worked on since the Trustee meeting in Cleveland. That item was forming the What's App group originally named the Trustee Line, currently named Trustee What's App Group. The purpose of this group was to have an experiment to improve communication between Trustees in between meetings.

Within 1 week after the meeting in Cleveland, every current Trustee and executive board member was invited to join this Group. So that everyone would know what the purpose was, we named it the What's App Trustee Line, the purpose was not to confuse anyone, it was just the name we came up with and it stuck, for lack of any other ideas on what to name it. Marc L. raised an objection, and the name was changed to the "Trustee What's App Group."

Originally 34 current Trustees signed up to the group. Currently 49 Trustees are members. 7 are members outside of the United States or Canada.

There have been 31 conversations ranging from introducing ourselves to complex topics regarding how things are done regarding Gamblers Anonymous issues in different areas. Responses have been as few as one or two, but many have been 8 or more. Topics rarely last longer than one day, before another topic is introduced.

The use by current members has been overwhelming in that not only are the members using the platform, the number of overseas participants truly makes this feel like an international organization. The conversations have felt organic, with honest back and forth without a feeling of being put down or somehow out of place. It has achieved exactly what we were hoping for, on a much larger scale.

Report submitted online.

Pressure Relief Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Bruce W. - Area 1

Committee Co-Chair- Alvin F. – Area 1

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: To provide leadership and support throughout Gamblers Anonymous by coordinating, educating, training, and clarifying the Pressure Relief Group Process that will aid in fostering an atmosphere of continuity, cohesiveness, and unity as well as understanding within our Fellowship which will bring about an alleviation of pressures for our members and thus strengthen and empower Members, Groups and Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

The committee has met on multiple occasions and discussed numerous topics while deciding the following courses of action going forward:

- 1. The Mission Statement is being reformulated and will be presented at the spring 2024 conference**
- 2. A emphasis is made on training women to conduct Pressure Relief Meetings**
- 3. An emphasis on alleviating general pressures through sponsorship, Gam-Anon joint meetings and encouraging connection.**
- 4. The continued effective use of Zoom while conducting PRGM.**
- 5. The execution of use of spreadsheets to be provided in conjunction with the PRGM workbook.**
- 6. The suggestions of a moratorium approach while conducting PRGM.**
- 7. Emphasis on PRGM workshops to better educate our members of the availability and importance of PRGM**

This committee is vibrant and active. We look forward executing the above measures and continuing to provide service.

Report submitted online.

Prison Committee – Canada – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Jean-Marc L. – Area 5B

Co-Chair – Aldo I. - Area 4

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: To provide telephone, email, and an in-person resource (as feasible) to the Trustees or their designees for the purpose of assisting when a prisoner or institutional staff member is requesting to start an "inside" meeting, or an Intergroup and its committee are outreaching to prisons, jails, etc. Also, to compile in the ISO office an unpublished JIP

meeting directory as a much-needed resource for federal, state, and local judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, and clinicians.

No report submitted.

Prison Committee, US – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Ed G. - Area 10

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: To provide telephone, email, "snail mail", and an in-person resource (as feasible) to the trustees or their designees for the purpose of assisting when a prisoner or institutional staff member is requesting to start an "inside" meeting, or an Intergroup and its committee are outreaching to prisons, jails, etc. Also, to compile in the ISO office an unpublished JIP meeting directory as a much-needed resource for federal, state, and local judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, probation and parole officers, and clinicians.

The Prisons Committee meeting was held on October 15th and the following items were discussed.

- 1. Since the last trustee meeting in Cleveland, two (2) prison meeting starter kits have gone out. SCI-Waymart Waymart, PA, and Shakopee MN- Dept. of corrections Shakopee, MN. Women's Prison.**
- 2. Deb M. (Area 8A) made initial overtures at Shakopee by giving them a new blue book. They in turn requested that a contingent come and talk with their inmates. A couple of 8A members are going through the paperwork and processing to do just that.**
- 3. It was reported that New York State won't allow 12 Step programs into prison due to their "religious affiliation", however, Joel G. (Area 6B) clarified that the actual issue is the recognition of compulsive gambling being on the level of alcohol and drugs and the catch all "security concerns".**
- 4. Maxine S. provided a list of five California prisons who expressed interest in "receiving more information". We will follow up to ascertain exactly what information they desire.**
- 5. It was a general consensus of those in attendance that the higher the security classification of a facility, the more difficult it is to find staff receptive to our program. So far, all success has been with level I and Level II facilities.**
- 6. For those at the meeting for the first time, the procedure for issuance of prison starter kits, GA literature, and prisoner communications was discussed.**
- 7. Lastly, the geographical remoteness of most correctional facilities in relation to outside meetings was discussed.**
- 8. An updated (unpublished) list of prison meetings was sent to ISO.**
- 9. A letter from the London meeting chair was read. Meeting on Friday mornings is up to about 15 weekly attendees.**

Report submitted online.

Public Relations Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Cindi M. - Area 8

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: Communicate information relating to the existence of Gamblers Anonymous meetings to outsiders. Spread the awareness of the Gamblers Anonymous Program with others when requested.

We had a zoom meeting in September attended by Cindi C. Alyssa C., Deb M. Anthony K., Ed G.

Ed G. participated in meetings and activities of Cuyahoga Problem Gambling Coalition (CPGC)

Summer Symposium.

Inquiries from:

- Vice News
- Elk Grove CA Reporter
- New York Times
- Tulsa KRMG
- New Mexico Problem Gambling Outreach
- Telemundo
- Kentucky WLAP
- Iowa KCRJ
- News Nation Chicago
- Newsday

Our goal with the inquiries is to get them to use our website link and hotline number. We include any local websites and hotline numbers.

We turned down several interviews in regard to “gambling safely” and “harm reduction”.

Deb M. discussed using the new Blue Book for distribution at counseling services, medical facilities etc. She also shared a flyer used for new meetings to aid in letting the public know the meeting exists.

We had a discussion about compiling a collection of resources including a “press kit” available to intergroups.

Ed G. shared the use of business cards with the hotline # and website info.

Other topics:

The use of podcasts

PSA production and distribution

App development

Report submitted online.

Virtual Meeting Committee

Committee Chair – Patrick G. - Area 9

Committee Co-Chair- Butch G. – Area 3A

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement: To develop guidelines for regularly scheduled video online G.A. meetings, including but limited to how to start a meeting, technical requirements, and suggested meeting formats.

The Virtual Meeting Committee has accomplished it’s Misson Statement and would like to expand its purpose see agenda item 76 for this.

Report submitted online.

Website Meeting Audit Committee:

Committee Chair – Ed G. Area 10

Committee Liaison Chair – Harold A.

Mission Statement pending

The inaugural meeting of this committee was held on June 7th, 2023.

Meeting minutes attached.

2. Created an Excel Sheet to accommodate details of the meeting information collected. Area 8 and Area 10 ran a Beta test to determine functionality and ease of use. (Copy Available to Trustees on Request)

3. Sent Jason a copy for his information.

4. Created and submitted the following mission statement to be added to the agenda: *To assist the International Service Office with maintaining an accurate and current listing of active group meetings by providing the following:*

A. Create a Master (unpublished) list of all known and verified active meetings and a means of contacting a trusted servant from the same.

B. Provide a central point of contact to provide meeting additions, closures, and changes to provide intergroups, Trustees, and ISO web administrator with timely and accurate information.

C. Provide ISO web admin with periodic consolidated list of changes that occurred within that period.

D. Provide an Email address where updates can be sent that is exclusively for this purpose.

GA.MeetingAuditCommittee@gmail.com

E. To the extent possible, verify groups not represented or underrepresented by an Intergroup/Service Board.

Report submitted online.

<p style="text-align: center;">Committees with Steve F. as Co-Chair Liaison</p>
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Chronological History Committee:

Committee Chair – Andy D. - Area 18

Committee Liaison Chair – Steve F.

Mission Statement Pending

Mission Statement To write the history of Gamblers Anonymous.

Progress has been slow.

We are aiming to produce a book with: -

i)The chronological history (start dates for GA in different states and countries, lists of senior office bearers (chair BoT and BoR, IES etc.), national conference details and significant dates in our history. Much of this work was done by Steve R for the 50th anniversary. There are some gaps and some errors that need to be corrected).

ii) The broader history of the fellowship. This is likely to include some writings (for example, Jim's Story) from previous GA publications.

iii) The development of GA philosophy and spirituality.

This may end up as one book or we may split it into two. We are keeping our options open as the book progresses.

Report submitted online.

Group Removal Merit Panel Committee

Committee Chair – Cheryl R. – Area 2E

Committee Chair Liaison – Steve F.

Mission Statement: To guide groups and Intergroups on how to address the issue of non-adherence to the Guidance Code and/or other Trustee decisions per Article VII, Section 1 and Article VIII, Section 1A of the Guidance Code.

No report was submitted.

Hotline Implementation Committee:

Committee Chair – Andy G.- Area 13B

Committee Liaison Chair – Steve F.

Mission Statement: To provide assistance in implementing a Gamblers Anonymous Hotline and oversee the operations.

- Give support and help when needed to local areas using the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline provider.
- Assist local areas in developing guidelines for hotline volunteers.
- Follow up on voicemails on the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline for areas that do not have a hotline.
- Maintain the routing information for all areas using the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline.
- Review areas that use another hotline system.
- Review the data usage on the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline and report at each Board of Trustee meeting.
- Maintain communication with the Executive Secretary of the I.S.O. regarding usage and payments to the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline provider.
- Maintain information on the Trustee Website for the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline.

Since the Spring 2023 BOT Meeting in Cleveland, OH the committee continues to hold monthly meetings. Our committee member numbers have decreased, averaging 5 members in attendance. Highlights from those meetings are as follows: • Scott S., Chuck R. and Paul S. have continued to work with Ring Central (RC) to identify avenues to help reduce area hotline costs. RC's solution to our situation would be to move our RC accounts to their new platform. We are currently grandfathered in and staying on our current platform allows the most flexibility with managing our accounts and proved the most cost effective for areas on RC. • The new RC platform requires volunteers to be limited to 10 calls per line. If a volunteer accepted more than 10 calls, the area would be charged for a new license. Scott S. explored alternative systems to replace our current RC Hotline but setup, training, testing, etc. would not be cost effective. • An alternative to our dilemma with RC and to also reduce area hotline costs is to migrate areas to the National Hotline. Scott S. has migrated Area 13B's area codes to the new National Hotline que. Scott S. and Andy G. will be testing this process and if successful, other areas will migrate to National, thus reducing costs for areas migrating. • Recommendation made that we need to have backup persons identified for area hotline coordinators in the event hotline coordinator leaves, no longer wishes to serve, dies, etc. • Scott S. worked with Doug K. to create new email address for HotlineCommittee1, HotlineCommittee2, etc. Change was made to have Hotline Chair be default email. • Next Hotline Committee meeting scheduled for November 7, 2023, at 8:30 pm est.

Report submitted online.

International Relations Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Ara H. – Area 1

Co-Chair – Igor K. – Area 3

Committee Liaison Chair – Steve F.

Mission Statement: Assist the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous with International matters and help create a worldwide united Gamblers Anonymous.

The IRC has been busy at work since the last trustee meeting. We have answered phone calls and emails from all over the world.

In Africa we answered a few emails about requests for help. Including Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria. We have had a few requests from these countries and tried to connect the requests.

We have had personality issues dividing groups in Greece and the Philippines. We have tried to moderate the disputes, but it has been difficult to do so. As for the Philippines, we just added a few online and in person groups to our ISO website since they have agreed to follow and adhere to our guidance code. They had been using outside literature and ending meetings with the “promises” but have stopped doing so. It was a difficult process that we had to have our Chairman Pete K get involved to help the committee deal with the issue. It has been resolved now.

We have had two of our committee members work with Turkey, who had a facility and counselor try to start a group. We had to explain to them that we would need to have two problem gamblers to establish the group. They understood and asked us to send them a new group form. As of today, I am unaware if they have found two people who are willing to start a group.

We have been in constant contact with Russia, they have three areas with many groups. I was fortunate to be able to have a zoom meeting with them and answered many questions regarding groups, intergroups, iso and the trustee program and process. I like to thank our co-chair Igor for helping translate and keeping in touch with Russia.

Sweden has been in the process of uniting the groups and being able to be represented by a common body. Possibly an intergroup. Our committee member Tommy S. is keeping me informed of the progress there.

Area 33 Colombia had an issue with members of their area regarding harassment. Our committee member Elena made contact with them, but it ended not moving forward after a few virtual meetings with the members involved.

Area 23 Brazil contacted us to have feedback on how to handle problems with the RSO financial matters. Elena and other ex trustees from Argentina had a virtual meeting with Brazil Trusted Servant and things as far as we know were resolved. Also, we were invited to participate in a virtual event for Gratitude week. Mainly they were looking for someone to explain what ISO does. I was happy to participate, and Elena was also there.

Area 28 México had their National Conference on October 13, 14 & 15 in Mazatlán they had about 100 persons. Area 28 has two new groups one in Veracruz, Veracruz and the other in Durango, Durango, paperwork has been sent to ISO. Héctor T has been in contact with the members of both groups.

Members of the RSO from Spain, Argentina and Mexico are about to finish the translation of the new Blue Book, they hope to complete the task by the end of 2023. Then the file will be sent to KC and Israel to review the format to be sent to the printer.

I would like to thank Martha and Elena who have been handling South America and Mexico. I would also like to thank all the members of the IRC committee who have helped and contributed to this report.

Report submitted online.

Literature Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Debra B. – Area 2E

Committee Liaison Chair – Steve F.

Mission Statement: To encourage the creation of new Gamblers Anonymous literature as needed and to revise, edit and or update existing Gamblers Anonymous literature.

No report submitted.

Spanish Literature Committee

Committee Chair - Julian F. - Area 3F

Committee Liaison Chair – Steve F.

Mission Statement: To unify the literature translation efforts with all the Spanish speaking areas in our G.A. fellowship that are authorized to translate and print G.A. approved literature such that all areas that use the same language will coordinate a revision of existing translated literature that meets all area requirements.

Our Spanish Literature Committee has been working on the Red Book (“A New Beginning”).

We are facing a few challenges that our committee has to overcome. This is one of the largest projects we have undertaken. The Red Book has 110 pages! We have seen the need to divide it into sections assigned to smaller groups for each one of our Spanish speaking areas: USA (Spanish Speaking Area 3F), Argentina (Area 19), Mexico (Area 28), and Colombia (Area 33). We have noted that the English version is on the 5th edition (2007) while our Spanish version is only on the 2nd edition (1993). We have to do a lot of updates due to the difference in these editions. But we have also run into issues where changes already approved on other GA literature are not yet in the English version of the Red Book which is our reference. Our Spanish Literature Committee decided to take into account the changes already approved by the BOT on other literature such as the Combo Book, the GA Guidance Code, the Pressure Relief Group pamphlet, and the Group Handbook. We need digital copies of the English and Spanish versions of the GA Approved literature above to complete our work of translation/updating the GA Red Book. We already have the English and Spanish digital version of the Combo Book and GA Guidance Code.

But we are now asking the ISO to help us get a digital copy of the English and Spanish versions of the Pressure Relief Group Pamphlet and the Group Handbook.

Once we get these, we expect to complete the new GA Spanish Red Book by the end of this year.

We would like the BOT to consider a last-minute discussion item as follows at the Fall Trustee Meeting 2023:

Discussion Item – When updating a specific GA Approved Literature, we should take into account newer changes already made to other GA Approved Literature such as the GA Guidance Code, The Combo Book, the Pressure Relief Pamphlet, and the Group Handbook. As usual, we want to point out the pamphlets/booklets which our committee has already translated/updated this year: 1) Beyond the 90 Days, 2) Your First Reunion, 3) Questions and Answers, 4) Suggestions for Retention of New Members, 5) Suggestions for Coping with Urges to Gamble.

Report submitted online.

<p>Committees with Pete K. as Co-Chair Liaison</p>

Fourth Step Inventory Review

Committee Chair – Jeanne B. – Area 8A

Committee Co-Chair – Debra B. – Area 2E

Committee Chair Liaison – Pete K.

Mission Statement: Review, revise, and rewrite the Gamblers Anonymous publication “A Guide to Fourth Step Inventory” to create a more robust and effective tool of recovery for the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous that addresses both moral and financial inventories.

The mission of the Fourth Step Inventory Revision Committee is to review, revise, and rewrite the Gamblers Anonymous publication “A Guide to Fourth Step Inventory” to create a more robust and effective tool of recovery for the fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous that addresses both moral and financial inventories.

The committee meets every other week. We meet virtually and through screen sharing we can write and edit in real time. Currently the committee has finished the introduction, a section on the benefits of doing a Searching and Fearless moral and financial inventory and completed our draft on identifying and finding our piece in creating or maintaining Resentments, Fears and Harms. We provide clear instructions and examples pulled from the experiences of other Compulsive Gamblers. We will now begin the work of describing how members can use the information uncovered in this Moral Inventory process.

As we make our way through writing this process, we try to write for the member who has not practiced this step before. We are careful to use inclusive language and to honor different life experiences.

We are open to accepting new members on this committee.

It is expected that this process will likely take between 2-4 years in order to produce a workable publication for use by the GA Fellowship.

Report submitted online.

Guidance Code Audit Committee

Committee Chair – Bob C. – Area 3A

Committee Chair Liaison – Pete K.

Mission Statement: To review and verify the Gamblers Anonymous Guidance Code for compliance with the Unity and Recovery Programs and on a practical level for the sustainability of Gamblers Anonymous.

I was asked by our wonderful leader of over 2 years, Anita R (Area 1B), to pick up the Committee leadership role. Checking in with current committee members resulted in a total of three remaining members. Having completed a thorough two-year audit and submitting eighteen agenda items at the spring 2023 board meeting, many of which were passed awaiting second vote, I believe the remaining members can continue to generate additional agenda submissions at future Trustee meetings.

We received feedback from several non-committee Trustees on several of our agenda items that were tabled or withdrawn requiring review and rework. The committee will submit these changes at the Spring 2024 Trustee only meeting.

We look forward to continuing our work ensuring uniformity and consistency amongst our various literature and guiding documents.

Report submitted online.

GA Restructuring Committee

Committee Chair – David M. – Area 12

Committee Co-Chair – Jack R. – Area 1A

Committee Chair Liaison – Pete K.

Mission Statement: Review the current structure of the corporation and fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous to research and recommend a possible plan to restructure all related entities.

Since the Spring Trustee Meeting in Cleveland earlier this year, the committee has been reconstituted with membership being reduced from 9 members to 5. The first action of this reconstituted committee’s focus was to address the Articles of Incorporation, referred to in this report as “AI,” which includes all subsequent filings with governmental agencies

associated with the AI. The committee's initial finding was that the AI is confusing, incomplete, and has at least one section that should have been updated with the California Secretary of State but wasn't. We believe we must address the AI before taking a deeper dive into the By-Laws. Much of the work of the committee will be in following our mission statement guidelines to both rectify and clarify the AI along with the By-Laws.

The balance of the time and effort of the committee was, and will continue to be, pointing out all areas of the Fellowship that are missing procedures, actions, and longer-term strategies, all of which are essential to ensure the long-term survival of GA and allow us to more effectively carry out our primary purpose.

This committee report meets the requirement of the submission deadlines for Chicago's Trustee meeting; however, at the time of the Trustee meeting and the actual presentation of the committee report, a handout will be distributed dealing with 16 different categories that comprise most of the area of focus for the committee's continuing efforts. They will be findings that will be followed up with recommended actionable solutions for the Trustees to consider for at the Spring 2024 Trustee meeting.

We hope the Trustees will use the time between Chicago and the Spring 2024 meeting to review the committee's handout and email us with thoughts and additional areas of focus that the committee may not have as yet identified.

Please send such emails to: GANJUSA@gmail.com. Please title all emails as:

GA RESTRUCTURING. You will receive prompt attention by the committee in its consideration of all ideas and suggestions.

Report submitted online.

Telephone Conference Call Committee

Committee Chair – Jeanne B. – Area 8A

Committee Chair Liaison – Pete K.

Mission Statement: 1) To administrate the creation, implementation, and oversight of all conference call meetings from the Gamblers Anonymous website. These meetings will be sanctioned by Gamblers Anonymous, but will not carry the distinction of being classified as a group, as per the Guidance Code.

2) To formulate, implement and maintain rules and procedures covering all aspects of the telephone conference call meetings, with Board of Trustee approval.

3) To be responsible for coordinating the Gamblers Anonymous members who will administrate the individual telephone conference call meetings.

4) To actively seek out any known phone meetings and try to assist in making them compliant with current rules and procedures covering all aspects of the telephone conference call meetings. Make changes to such procedures whenever necessary, with Board of Trustee approval.

5) Look at other platforms being used and make changes to the rules and procedures covering all aspects of the telephone conference call meetings, with Board of Trustee approval.

We start our report by asking for your help. The Telephone Conference Call Committee needs two or three people who are interested in serving as a meeting administrator once or twice a month.

This is a GREAT opportunity for people who want to creatively enhance their recovery and make a difference in our GA Fellowship.

We have a great team of admins who give generously of their time and talents to keep the twice-weekly meetings up and running. In order to maintain our flexibility in scheduling, we would greatly appreciate just a little more help.

Admin duties include chairing one of these meetings every three-four weeks or so and assisting the meeting chair once a week or every other week. All the admins on the call assist in welcoming newcomers.

We are easily able to accommodate requests for admins who need to take a week or several weeks off, if necessary.

The conference call admin team is kind, caring, patient, and really fun! These people are rock stars of recovery and a joy to work with.

If you know anyone in your area that you think is ready to step up for a unique service opportunity, or you are interested in joining us yourself, get in touch with us. We have trained many people in using our platform and there are always other admins present who can help anyone who has trepidation about the technical aspect of the meeting call.

Contact us at weeklycallhelp@gmail.com

We require 2 years of active clean time.

Now, the report: The Telephone Conference Call Committee and meeting administrators currently host 2 meetings a week: Wednesdays from 9-11 PM Eastern and Fridays from 3:00-4:00 PM Eastern. The phone number is 264-807-9601; the participant code is 9131957# The Wednesday night meeting is a comment meeting. Attendees who have 90 days or more of clean time are allowed to make up to three comments per meeting; those who give therapy are allowed to receive up to 3 comments.

Those who are new to the program and claim a desire to stop gambling are read the 20 Questions, either in the main room or in a newcomer's room.

At the Friday afternoon meeting, newcomers are welcomed and read the 20 Questions following the meeting.

At both meetings, members with 90 days or more of clean time are encouraged to make comments sharing their experience, strength, and hope with the newcomer.

Attendance at the Wednesday night meeting ranges between 40-60 callers per meeting. On Fridays, the range is from 25-40 callers. Attendees range from newcomers up to those who have 40 or more years of clean time.

The importance of attending a physical meeting if at all possible is stressed at each meeting. It is stated that telephone conference calls are not meant to replace physical meetings.

Those who would like help between meetings are urged to reach out to others using a list of volunteers who offer support, which is obtainable by email request. We are careful not to call those offering support as "sponsors," as this relationship happens at physical meetings—another reason to make every effort to attend a physical meeting.

The US meetings use the same email address for all meetings: weeklycallhelp@gmail.com We receive between 1 and 10 requests for assistance or information a day.

The US meetings are always interested in training additional moderators. Again, please contact the Committee Chair.

The Canada-wide meeting continues to meet three times per week. Canadian meetings are held on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday.

Moderators for these meetings have been trained by members of the Telephone Conference Call committee and their formats have been approved. These meetings are also included on the list found on the Trustee Website. (Meeting times are listed by the local time of the originating cities.)

A full list of Telephone Conference Call meetings and contact information can be found on the Trustee website.

Report submitted online.

Trustee Removal Merit Panel – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – John B. – Area 13

Committee Liaison Chair – Pete K.

Mission Statement: This is a standing panel with a 2-year term coinciding with the new term of Trustees. It will become active when an official action is presented to the Chair of the Board of Trustees to request the official removal of a current Trustee due to acts thought to be detrimental to GA as a whole, as provided for by the Guidance Code under Article VIII, Section 4. There is a specific document entitled 'Trustee Removal Procedures' available to all members for reference. The panel will consist of 5 GA members, selected from 5 geographical regions, along with 1 backup Trustee for each area.

No report submitted.

Trustee Website Committee – Standing Committee:

Committee Chair – Ed G. – Area 10

Committee Liaison Chair – Pete K.

Mission Statement:

1) – To oversee the Trustee website.

2) – To periodically review all websites that infer or imply membership or representation of the Fellowship or Corporation of Gamblers Anonymous and evaluate the websites for compliance with approved Local Area Website Guidelines. Trustees and area trusted servants will be made aware of any deficiencies that need to be corrected. Websites from outside entities are not included.

3) – To review new designs, features, enhancements, and any other changes that would be demonstrated to the Board of Trustees for approval and deployment to any website approved by the Board of Trustees.

Recently we added a CAPTCHA to the forms for submitting information on the website after we started receiving large volumes of robo-spam mail.

CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) is a type of security measure known as challenge-response authentication.

Otherwise, Walter, Renee and Butch continue to do an awesome job of adding to the website as they are able. Much appreciation for their efforts!

If you are a committee chair, please do not hesitate to check your committee's webpage for updates, and do not hesitate to send changes, big or small. Also, I can add any documents to your page for downloads.

Others continuing to contribute and editing the website: (Thank you!)

Walter G Memorial

Renee G Trustee Line

Butch G Rolling Agenda

SHORT TERM GOALS:

1. Keep the existing website up and running, essentially maintaining the site as needed
2. Outlining all the roles others have in helping to maintain the site, encouraging others to help, as able
3. Maintain trustee mail lists, current and past.
4. Provide information to trustees about the process of forming the agenda
5. Respond to all inquiries that come into the website, forward as needed

LONG TERM GOALS: (rolled over from previous trustee meetings)

1. Review the current local area website guidelines and propose possible amendments.
2. Once finalized, send the updated guidelines to all areas, especially those with websites, and perform a review of those sites to assist in compliance. (would require additional help)

3. Find new members to volunteer for the website.

Report submitted online.

K) Voting and Discussion Items:

RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. RULES AND PROCEDURES

Section 33. Time, Time limit, Committee, New item:

Current Version: None

Proposed Version: When time has expired for a committee report and no further time is allotted or no other speakers are willing to speak, the presenter of the committee report will be offered an additional 2 minutes only to address and summarize any of the items that were not answered during the oral report.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey and Northeast Pennsylvania

Motion reads – When time has expired for a committee report and no further time is allotted or no other speakers are willing to speak, the presenter of the committee report or a designated committee member will be offered an additional two (2) minutes only to address and summarize any of the items that were not answered during the oral report.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair. 1st Co-Chair.

ITEMS UP FOR SECOND VOTE

2. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #33 in Cleveland

Other Existing Literature – Gamblers Anonymous Pressure Relief Group Meeting Flyer approved 10/18 printed 01/22 the 2nd paragraph of the flyer which says “From our Gamblers Anonymous Literature” the word “legal” has to be removed. With reference to our updated Combo Book Page 17 the word “legal” has been removed from #8.

Current Version: “We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a Pressure Relief Group meeting as it offers guidance towards a normal way of thinking & living. The Pressure Relief Group Meeting may help alleviate financial, legal, employment & personal pressures. Adherence to it may help in your recovery.”

Proposed Version: “We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a Pressure Relief Group Meeting as it offers guidance towards a normal way of thinking & Living. The Pressure Relief Group Meeting may help alleviate financial, employment & personal pressures. Adherence to it may help in your recovery.”

Deborah S. – Area 7A – Austin, Houston, Gulf Coast & South Texas

Item Passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

3. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #34 in Cleveland

Existing Literature – Gamblers Anonymous Combo Book

Current text on page 2 (Preamble) of the Yellow Combo Book

Current Version: “GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other ...”

Proposed Version: “GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other ...”

Ronnie W. – Area 17 – Connecticut and Western Massachusetts

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

4. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #39 in Cleveland

Other Existing Literature – GA A New Beginning Page 47 – Paragraph 3. Remove the word “legal.”

Current Version: This pressure relief meeting can cover marital, legal, and financial areas.

Proposed Version: This pressure relief meeting can cover marital and financial areas.

Deborah S. – Area 7A – Austin, Houston, Gulf Coast & South Texas

A roll call vote was called for on this item. A raise of hands was done instead, and each hand counted then added to absentee.

For 53 Against 38

Item passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

5. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #40 in Cleveland

Other Existing Literature – GA A New Beginning Page 14 – Pressure Relief Group Meeting – 2nd Paragraph. Remove the word “legal.”

Current Version: The meeting deals with financial, personal, employment and legal pressures that have developed in personal relationships with others.

Proposed Version: The meeting deals with financial, personal and employment pressures that have developed in personal relationships with others.

Deborah S. – Area 7A – Austin, Houston, Gulf Coast & South Texas

Item passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

6. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #45 in Cleveland

Guidance Code Article XVI – To change article XVI – International Executive Secretary of I.S.O. Article title to reflect the movement of duties from the International Executive Secretary to the Office Manager.

Current Version: Article XVI – International Executive Secretary.

Proposed Version: Article XVI – International Executive Secretary and the Office Manager of the I.S.O.

Item passed. 1st Vote. For 61 Against 2

Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California

Item passed.

For 77 Against 2 Abstain 1

2nd Vote

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

7. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #46 in Cleveland

Guidance Code Article XVI – Section 9 – International Executive Secretary, Section 9 – reflecting the movement of duties from the International Executive Secretary to the Office Manager.

Current Version: – The International Executive Secretary will be responsible for the safekeeping of all minutes of the Board of Trustees and Board of Regents and Books and Records of the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Proposed Version: The Office Manager will be responsible for the safekeeping of the minutes of the Board of Regents and Books and Records of the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Item passed. 1st Vote. For 64 Against 2

Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California

Item Passed.

For 88 Against 2 Abstain 1

2nd Vote.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

8. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #49 in Cleveland

Guidance Code Article XVI – Section 3 – International Executive Secretary, Section 3 – reflecting the movement of duties from the International Executive Secretary to the Office Manager.

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary shall be solely responsible for the efficient operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.). He or she will be under the guidance and direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Proposed Version: The Office Manager shall be solely responsible for the efficient operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.). He or she will be under the guidance and direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Item passed. 1st Vote. For 54 Against 3

Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California

Item passed.

For 85 Against 2 Abstain 3

2nd Vote.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

9. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #50 in Cleveland

Guidance Code Article XV – Section 2 – International Executive Secretary, Section 2 – reflecting the movement of duties from the International Executive Secretary to the Office Manager.

Current Version: The operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.) shall be the responsibility of the International Executive Secretary, who will be under the guidance of the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees. However, all business affairs of this office shall be under the direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Proposed Version: The operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.) shall be the responsibility of the Office Manager, who will be under the guidance of the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees. However, all business affairs of this office shall be under the direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Item passed. 1st Vote. For 72 Against 2

Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California

Item passed.

For 84 Against 1 Abstain 3

2nd Vote.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

10. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item #51 in Cleveland

Guidance Code – Article VII – Section 3A – replacing the content with a more detailed explanation of receiving electronic funds. Since there is no current Guidance Code “regulation: on how contributions are to be received, this motion will reinforce reliance on the Unity Steps to protect group unity.

Current Version: Electronic forms of payment can be accepted as long as guidance code regulations are followed.

Proposed Version: In accordance with Unity Step 7, every Gamblers Anonymous Group ought to be self-supporting, declining outside contributions. Contributions can be made in any manner including electronically, but protection of anonymity is essential for group unity.

**Item passed. 1st Vote. For 80 Against 4
Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California**

Item passed.

For 86 Against 2 Abstain 2

2nd Vote.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

11. BOT DECISION – Item #27 in Cleveland

BOT Decision – Not Covered by Any Other Category

Change status of the Gamblers Anonymous By-Laws from approved literature to appropriate literature

Jack R. for John C. – Area 1A – Orange County, California

The Chair ruled this item out of order.

Challenge to the chair. Vote taken in favor of the Chair.

For 29 Against 26

Roll call vote called for on the challenge.

Area 1	Alvin F.	No	Area 7	Iris D.	Yes
	Alyssa C.	Yes		Leanne W.	Yes
	Bruce W.	No	Area 7A	Mike H.	Yes
Area 1A	Dean W.	No	Area 8	Cindi C.	Abstain
	Jack R.	Yes		Dianna R.	No
Area 1B	Anita R.	Yes		Donna M.	No
	Wendy B.	No		Mary W.	No
Area 2	Beth Z.	No	Area 8A	Renee G.	No
	Ray J.	No	Area 8E	Jeff R.	No
Area 2A	Paul N.	Yes		Barb L.	No
Area 2B	Charlene L.	Yes	Area 9	Carol K.	Abstain
Area 2G	Dave M.	Yes	Area 9A	Patricia D.	Yes
Area 2H	Doris S.	Yes	Area 10	Anthony K.	Yes
	Terry D.	Yes		Ed G.	Yes
Area 2K	Steve L.	Yes	Area 10A	Jeff H.	Abstain
Area 3	Igor K.	No		Loreane S.	Abstain
	Mark S.	No	Area 10B	Gary B.	Yes
	Rob P.	No	Area 11	Jodi P.	No
	Steve D.	No	Area 12	Andrew R.	Yes
Area 3A	Bob C.	No		Ted S.	Yes
	Butch G.	Yes	Area 13	Marla J.	No
Area 3C	Terry D.	No	Area 13A	Tijuana MT	Abstain
Area 3D	Marc L.	Yes		Rick L.	Yes
			Area 13B	Andy G.	Yes
				Ron P.	No
	Roxanne DW	Yes	Area 14	Stuart B.	No
Area 4	Debbi R.	Yes	Area 15	Alan J.	Yes
Area 5B	Marc C.	Yes		Mark D.	Yes
Area 6	Neal G.	No	Area 16	Carl D.	No
	Steven C.	Yes	Area 16A	Dan L.	Yes
Area 6A	Alan A.	Yes	Area 17	Robert A.	Yes
Area 6B	Rick B.	No	Area 28	Luis O.	No
Area 6B	Steve P.	No	Area 37	Hamid K.	Yes

Area 6C	Mike A.	No			
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For 32 Against 27 Abstain 5

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

TABLED FROM CLEVELAND

12. 2nd Vote – Item 7 in Cleveland

Cancun agenda item #57 passed the first vote, the item was tabled in Cleveland.

CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature: Big Steve on DVD

The Board of Regents is requesting to remove the Big Steve DVD from its inventory.

Valerie D. – Area 1A – Orange County – California

Motion as written.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

13. Discussion Item – Item 24 In Cleveland

BOT Decision – Not Covered by Any Other Category

The world has changed significantly but our guidelines have not kept up. Our Trustee Areas and Intergroups are based on geography, but virtual meetings can be held worldwide. Some virtual meetings support the I.S.O. but what about Intergroups and Trustees? Questions such as, should virtual meetings be part of an Intergroup? Are virtual meetings entitled to vote in the Trustee elections? Should a committee be struck to update our guidelines in order to answer their questions in regard to virtual meetings?

Paul N. – Area 2A – British Columbia and Alaska

Discussion only.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

14. Current Literature – Item 29 in Cleveland

Combo Book

Page 17 item #5 Bold and Capitalize twenty questions.

Current Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY steps often and continuously review the twenty questions.

Proposed Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY steps often and continuously review the TWENTY QUESTIONS.

Paul N. – Area 2A – British Columbia and Alaska

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

15. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item 41 in Cleveland

Toward 90 Days – Page 5 Understand and Apply the 12-Step Program

Change the word “Handbook” to “Combo Book.”

Current Version: Most meetings will, as often as possible, have discussions on various parts of the Gamblers Anonymous Handbook, all of which will relate to a particular step or steps.

Proposed Version: Most meetings will, as often as possible, have discussions on various parts of the Gamblers Anonymous Combo Book, all of which will relate to a particular step or steps.

Paul N. – Area 2A – British Columbia and Alaska

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

**16. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item 42 in Cleveland
Other Existing Literature – Public Relations Fact Sheet
Change Title/Description**

Current Version: Public Relations Fact Sheet

Proposed Version: Public Relations Volunteer Questions.

Paul N. – Area 2A – British Columbia, Canada

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

17. CURRENT LITERATURE – Item 47 in Cleveland

Guidance Code Article XVI – Section 8 – International Executive Secretary, Section 8 – reflecting the movement of duties from the International Executive Secretary to the Office Manager.

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary, or other designated individual, in coordination with the International Executive Secretary as determined by the Board of Regents, shall be responsible to provide receipts for donations made to the International Service Office (I.S.O.) unless group or member making the donation requests that no receipt be sent. The International Executive Secretary, as determined by the Board of Regents, shall mail Gamblers Anonymous literature and/or Gamblers Anonymous pins within 5 business days after donation or requisition is received in the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Proposed Version: The Office Manager shall be responsible to provide receipts for donations made to the International Service Office (I.S.O.), unless group or member making the donation requests that no receipt be sent. The Office Manager, or other designated individual, as determined by the Board of Regents, shall mail Gamblers Anonymous literature and/or Gamblers Anonymous pins within 5 business days after donation or requisition is received in the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Bob C. – Area 3A – San Diego, California

Motion amended with the following added to the end of it – “The International Executive Secretary may provide receipts for donations or receipt of funds made during a trustee meeting or international conference.”

Item Passed.

For 57 Against 2

1st Vote.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

NEW BUSINESS

CONFERENCE BIDS

18. – Spring 2024 Conference

The Spring 2024 Conference is open for bids.

This will be a Board of Trustees meeting only. It will be located in Pleasanton, California on May 5 - 6, 2024. More information to be posted on the Trustee Website soon.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

19. – Fall 2024 Conference

The Fall 2024 Conference is open for bids.

This will be a Board of Trustees Meeting only. Location to be determined at a later time.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

20. – Spring 2025 Conference

The Spring 2025 Conference is open for bids.

There were no bids for the Spring 2025. This will remain open for bids until Spring 2024.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

21. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: Should live and Zoom Gam Anon meetings be listed on local area websites and meeting lists?

Jodi P. – Area 11 – Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire
Discussion Only.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

An item was added to the agenda due to mistakenly being removed when the agenda was done originally. It's listed as item 77.

77. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: Should live and Zoom Gam-Anon meetings be listed on local secretary reports?

Discussion Only.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

22. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: Making hybrid meetings recognized meetings.

Adrien R. – Area 5B – All French meetings in Quebec

Item withdrawn.

23. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: The BOT makes a public statement that the July 19 reading from Day at a Time does not meet the spirit of Unity Steps 1,3,5, and 10.

Cindi C. for Brian M. – Area 8 – Illinois and Northern Indiana

Discussion only.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

24. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: What can we do at the intergroup level when somebody puts their anniversary on the calendar and has not attended 39 meetings, virtual or in person in the last 12 months?

Dean W. – Area 1A – Orange County, California

Discussion only.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

25. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion Item: As a current BOR member I am currently looking into the possibility of converting the Big Steve DVD into MP4 format to be put onto a USB port. This item then could potentially be sold by ISO. “Because this is literature it will need to be placed on Agenda in Spring if favorable.” At this time, I’m checking with the BOT to see if this would be desirable, affordable, and useful to our membership. Please share your feedback & suggestions for preserving this DVD.

Valerie D. – Area 1A – Orange County, California

Discussion only.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

LITERATURE CHANGES

26. CURRENT LITERATURE

Existing Literature – Gamblers Anonymous Combo Book

Current text on page 2 (Preamble) of the Yellow Combo Book. Change the word people to Individuals.

Current Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other...

Proposed Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other...

Andy R. – Area 13B – South Jersey – New Jersey

Item withdrawn.

27. CURRENT LITERATURE

Existing Literature – Gamblers Anonymous Combo Book

Current text on page 2 (Preamble) of the Yellow Combo Book. Change men and women into Individuals.

Current Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other...

Proposed Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of individuals who share their experience, strength and hope with each other...

Andy R. – Area 13B – South Jersey – New Jersey

Item withdrawn.

28. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Inside Front Cover – Poem under the Table of Contents – Wording in the poem.

Current Version: I sought my soul, but could not see, I sought my God, But He eluded me, I sought my brothers and sisters, and found all three.

Proposed Version: I sought my soul. But could not see, I sought my God, And He led me, to my brothers and sisters, which unlocked the key.

Cindi C. for Jerry P. – Area 8 – Chicago, Illinois

Motion as written.

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

29. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 16 between questions 19 and 20. Add Question 20: Have you ever lied to hide your gambling? Change current Question 20 to Question 21. Changes to apply to all other literature/digital media regarding the 20 Questions.

Current Version:

19 Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling? 20 Have you ever considered self-destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

Proposed Version:

19 Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?

20 Did you ever lie to hide your gambling?

21 Have you ever considered self-destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

Marc L – Area 3D – Arizona

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

30. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book Page 15 Combo Book. Change “TWENTY QUESTIONS” to “TWENTY-ONE QUESTIONS” Changes to apply to all other literature/digital media regarding the 20 Questions.

Current Version: TWENTY QUESTIONS

Proposed Version: TWENTY-ONE QUESTIONS

Marc L – Area 3D – Arizona

Item withdrawn.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

31. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book Page 17 after Number 7 “As a result of diligently following Page 17, we had a spiritual awakening. PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES AND CARRY THIS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO OTHER COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS.” (capitol letters in bold). Make present number 8 to number 9. Change number 8 “Be Patient...” to number 9.

Current Version: 7. Adherence to it will aid in your recovery.

8. BE PATIENT!

Proposed Version: 7. Adherence to it will aid in your recovery.

8. As a result of diligently following Page 17, we had a spiritual awakening. PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES AND CARRY THIS MESSAGE OF HOPE TO OTHER COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS. (capitol letters in bold)

9. BE PATIENT!

Marc L for Kevin K.- Area 3D – Arizona

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

32. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book Page 17: Number 7, Remove “..... The PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING may help alleviate financial, employment and personal pressures. Adherence to it may aid in your recovery.” Add to Number 7: Add “.....This recovery tool helps alleviate financial, employment and personal pressures.”

Current Version: 7. We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING as it offers guidance to a normal way of thinking and living. The PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEET-ING may help alleviate financial, employment and personal pressures. Adherence to it may aid in your recovery.

Proposed Version: 7. We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING as it offers guidance to a normal way of thinking and living. This recovery tool helps alleviate financial, employment, and personal pressures.

Marc L for Kevin K. – Area 3D – Arizona

Item withdrawn.

33. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book Pages 10 and 11. Change the order on page 10-11 to create a better transition to the “dream world of a compulsive gambler”. Number 1 is now number 3, number 2 becomes number 1, and number 3 becomes number 2.

Current Version: What are some characteristics of a Person who is a compulsive gambler?

1. INABILITY AND UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT REALITY. Hence the escape into the dream world of gambling.

2 EMOTIONAL INSECURITY. A compulsive gambler finds he or she is emotionally comfortable only when “in action.” It is not uncommon to hear a Gambler’s Anonymous member say: “The only time I felt like I belonged was when I was gambling. Then I was secure and comfortable. No great demands were made upon me. I knew I was destroying myself, yet at the same time, I had a certain sense of security.”

3. IMMATURITY. A desire to have all the good things in life without any great effort on their part seems the common character pattern of compulsive gamblers. Many Gamblers Anonymous members accept the fact that they were unwilling to grow up. Subconsciously they felt they could avoid mature responsibility by wagering on the spin of a wheel or the turn of a card, and so the struggle to escape responsibility finally became a subconscious obsession. Also, a compulsive gambler seems to have a strong inner urge to be a “big shot” and needs to have a feeling of being all powerful. The compulsive gambler is willing to do anything (often of an anti-social nature) to maintain the image he or she wants others to see. Then too, there is a theory that compulsive gamblers subconsciously want to lose to punish themselves. There is much evidence to support this theory.

Proposed Version: What are some characteristics of a Person who is a compulsive gambler?

1. EMOTIONAL INSECURITY. A compulsive gambler finds he or she is emotionally comfortable only when “in action.” It is not uncommon to hear a Gambler’s Anonymous member say: “The only time I felt like I belonged was when I was gambling. Then I was secure and comfortable. No great demands were made upon me. I knew I was destroying myself, yet at the same time, I had a certain sense of security.”

2. IMMATURITY. A desire to have all the good things in life without any great effort on their part seems the common character pattern of compulsive gamblers. Many Gamblers Anonymous members accept the fact that they were unwilling to grow up. Subconsciously they felt they could avoid mature responsibility by wagering on the spin of a wheel or the turn of a card, and so the struggle to escape responsibility finally became a subconscious obsession. Also, a compulsive gambler seems to have a strong inner urge to be a “big shot” and needs to have a feeling of being all powerful. The compulsive gambler is willing to do

anything (often of an anti-social nature) to maintain the image he or she wants others to see. Then too, there is a theory that compulsive Gamblers subconsciously want to lose to punish themselves. There is much evidence to support this theory.

3. INABILITY AND UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT REALITY. Hence the escape into the dream world of gambling.

Marc L for Kevin K. – Area 3D – Arizona and New Mexico

Motion as written.

Item failed.

Roll call vote called for.

Area 1	Alvin F.	No	Area 9	Carol K.	No
	Alyssa C.	No	Area 9A	Patricia D.	Yes
	Bruce W.	No	Area 10	Anthony K.	Yes
Area 1A	Dean W.	Yes		Ed G.	Yes
	Jack R.	Yes	Area 10A	Jeff H.	No
Area 1B	Anita R.	No		Loreane S.	Yes
	Wendy B.	No	Area 10B	Gary B.	Yes
Area 2	Beth Z.	Yes	Area 11	Billy C.	No
	Jared H.*	Abstain		Jodi P.	No
	Ray J.	Yes	Area 12	Andrew R.	Yes
	Tita M.*	Abstain		Ted S.	No
Area 2A	Paul N.	Yes		Walter G.	No
Area 2B	Charlene L.	No	Area 13	Marla J.	No
	James B.*	No		Mike M.	No
Area 2G	Chris M.*	No	Area 13A	Rick L.	No
	Dave M.	No		Tijuana MT	Yes
Area 2H	Doris S.	Yes	Area 13B	Andy G.	Yes
	Terry D.	Yes		Ron P.	Yes
Area 2J	Patricia D.*	No	Area 14	Ira C.*	No
Area 2K	Steve L.	Yes		Maury C.*	No
Area 3	Igor K.	No		Mitch M.*	No
	Mark S.	No		Stuart B.	Yes
	Rob P.	Yes	Area 15	Alan J.	Yes
	Steve D.	No		James G.*	No
Area 3A	Bob C.	No		Jesse C.*	No
	Butch G.	No		Mark D.*	Yes
Area 3B	Paul G.*	No		Stanley C.	No
	Ron G.	No	Area 16	Carl D.	Yes
Area 3C	Terry D.	No	Area 16A	Dan L.	Yes
Area 3D	Marc L.	Yes	Area 17	Robert A.	Yes
	Roxanne DW	Yes		Ronny W.*	Yes
Area 4	Debbi R.	No	Area 19	Elena D.*	No
Area 5	Frank P.*	No		Horacio P.*	No
Area 5B	Marc C.	Yes		Jorge C.*	No
Area 6	Neal G.	Yes		Julia A.*	No
	Steven C.	Abstain	Area 21	Francisco M.*	Yes
Area 6A	Alan A.	Yes		Pedro M.*	No
Area 6C	Mike A.	No	Area 23	Joao Carlos*	No
Area 7	Iris D.	No	Area 23A	Clecio*	No

	Leanne W.	No	Area 28	Hector T.*	No
Area 7A	Mike H.	Yes		Luis O.	No
Area 8	Cindi C.	Yes		Marymar V.*	Abstain
	Dianna R.	Yes	Area 29	Konstantin U.*	No
	Donna M.	Yes	Area 29A	Oleg I.*	No
	Mary W.	Yes	Area 29B	Eduard U.*	No
Area 8A	Renee G.	Yes	Area 33	William S.*	Yes
Area 8E	Jeff R.	Yes	Area 37	Hamid K.	Yes
	Barb L.	Yes	Area 38	Belinda L.*	No

For 42 Against 51 Abstain 4

Absentee ballots *

Item failed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

34. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 17 Number 2 Add the words “or text” to the current statement.

Current Version: Telephone other members as often as possible between meetings. USE THE TELEPHONE LIST!

Proposed Version: Telephone or text other members as often as possible between meetings. USE THE TELEPHONE LIST!

Roxanne DW – Area 3D – Arizona and New Mexico

Motion as written.

Item failed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

35. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Change of combo book language- 2. on page 17. Replace “Telephone” with “Connect,” Replace “Use the telephone list” with “STAY CONNECTED!”, Bold and Capitalize “STAY CONNECTED!”

Current Version: 2. Telephone other members as often as possible between meetings. Use the telephone list!

Proposed Version: 2. Connect with other members as often as possible between meetings. STAY CONNECTED!

Alyssa C. for Eric F. – Area 1 – Southern California

Motion as written.

Item passed.

1st Vote.

For 48 Against 40 Abstain 2

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

36. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Add the following pages to the end of the Combo Book before the current items on page 17. Add the 10 “Just for Today” quotations from pages 22 and 23 from the orange “Questions and Answers about the problem of Compulsive Gambling and the GA Recovery Programme” which is published by Gamblers Anonymous in the UK. Add sequential numbers for each item and put them as the last 2 pages, before the current items on page 17 of the Combo Book. Adjust page numbering accordingly. The Board of Regents shall get any necessary approvals from Gamblers Anonymous in the UK. All relevant spelling and grammar corrections will be done by the Literature Committee.

Current Version: Combo Book

Proposed Version: See pages 22-23 of attachment.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey and Northeastern Pennsylvania

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair., 1st Co-Chair.

37. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – History – I would like to see a modification to HISTORY, in the Combo Book, by changing the word men with more nondescript options.

Current Version: The fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous is the outgrowth of a chance meeting between two men during the month of January in 1957. These men had a truly baffling history of...

Proposed Version: The fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous is the outgrowth of a chance meeting between two people during the month of January in 1957. These individuals had a truly baffling history of...

Ray J. – Area 2 – Northern California

No discussion.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

38. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – translate into Braille.

Current Version: None

Proposed Version: Translate the entire Combo Book from English into Braille.

Rob P – Area 3 – Southern Nevada; Mesquite, NV; St. George & Cedar City, UT; Bullhead City, AZ; and Pahrump, Beatty, and Overton, NV

Motion as written.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

39. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 17 – Section 5 – Change the word steps to Programs.

Current Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY steps often and continuously review the Twenty Questions. Follow the steps in your daily affairs. These steps are the basis for the entire Gamblers Anonymous Program and practicing them is the key to your growth.

Proposed Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY Programs often and continuously review the Twenty Questions. Follow these Programs in your daily affairs. These Programs are the basis for the entire Gamblers Anonymous Program and practicing them is the key to your growth.

Alyssa C. for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

40. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 4. Item Number 2. Based on the original text, re-add the first sentence.

Current Version: 2. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Proposed Version: 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority — a loving Higher Power as expressed in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Alyssa C. for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

41. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 3. Section Gamblers Anonymous. Add a line to the last paragraph.

Current Version: Therefore, in order to lead normal happy lives, we try to practice to the best of our ability, certain principles in our daily affairs.

Proposed Version: Although there is no organizational affiliation between Alcoholics Anonymous and our fellowship, we are based on the principles of AA. Therefore, in order to lead normal happy lives, we try to practice to the best of our ability, certain principles in our daily affairs.

Alyssa C. for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

42. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 3. Gamblers Anonymous. Change the word “normal” to “healthy.”

Current Version: Therefore, in order to lead normal happy lives, we try to practice to the best of our ability, certain principles in our daily affairs.

Proposed Version: Therefore, in order to lead healthy happy lives, we try to practice to the best of our ability certain principles in our daily affairs.

Marc L for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

43. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 17. Item 7. – Change the word “normal:” to “healthy.”

Current Version: We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a PRESURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING as it offers a normal way of thinking and living.

Proposed Version: We encourage every Gamblers Anonymous member to have a PRESSURE RELIEF GROUP MEETING as it offers a healthy way of thinking and living.

Marc L for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

44. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 17. Item Number 5. Line 1. – Change “steps” to “Programs” in Line 1.

Change “steps” to “Principles” in Lines 2 and 3. As in the last line of our Preamble.

“Therefore, in order to live normal happy lives, we try to practice certain principles in our daily affairs.

Current Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY steps often and continuously review the Twenty Questions. Follow the steps in your daily affairs. These steps are the basis for the entire Gamblers Anonymous Program and practicing them is the key to your growth.

Proposed Version: Read the RECOVERY and UNITY Programs often and continuously review the Twenty Questions. Follow these principles in your daily affairs. These principles are the basis for the entire Gamblers Anonymous Program and practicing them is the key to your growth.

Ara H for Arthur F. – Area 1 – Central California, Los Angeles Area, and Hawaii

Motion to table.

Item tabled.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

45. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 2, paragraph 1 – Change the words “men and women” to “people”.

Current Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem.

Proposed Version: GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from a gambling problem.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

46. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 8, What is compulsive gambling? second paragraph – Eliminating “really very” and change “men and women” to “people”. Also, delete “gambling or”

Current Version: Before coming to Gamblers Anonymous many compulsive gamblers thought of themselves as morally weak, or at times just plain “no good.” The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are really very sick people who can recover if they will follow to the best of their ability a simple program that has proved successful for thousands of other men and women with a gambling or compulsive gambling problem.

Proposed Version: Before coming to Gamblers Anonymous many compulsive gamblers thought of themselves as morally weak, or at times just plain “no good.” The Gamblers Anonymous concept is that compulsive gamblers are sick people who can recover if they will follow to the best of their ability, a simple program that has proved successful for thousands of others with a compulsive gambling problem.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

47. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 10, Section 2, Emotional Insecurity, 1st paragraph – Change “he or she is” to “they are.”

Current Version: A compulsive gambler finds he or she is emotionally comfortable only when “in action” ...

Proposed Version: A compulsive gambler finds they are emotionally comfortable only when “in action”

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

48. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 13, Section: Can a compulsive gambler ever gamble normally again? paragraphs one and two – Change “he or she falls” to “they fall” and change “he or she” to “they.”

Current Version: No. The first bet to a compulsive gambler is like the first drink to an alcoholic. Sooner or later he or she falls back into the same old destructive pattern.

Once a person has crossed the invisible line into irresponsible uncontrolled gambling, he or she never seems to regain control...

Proposed Version: No. The first bet to a compulsive gambler is like the first drink to an alcoholic. Sooner or later, they fall back into the same old destructive pattern.

Once a person has crossed the invisible line into irresponsible uncontrolled gambling, they never seem to regain control...

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

49. CURRENT LITERATURE

Combo Book – Page 14, Does this mean I can’t even participate in a little penny ante game or a world series pool? Add “or casino” in the second sentence.

Current Version: This includes internet gambling, bingo, the stock market, commodities, options, buying or playing lottery tickets, raffle tickets, flipping a coin, fantasy sports or entering the office sport pool.

Proposed Version: This includes internet or casino gambling, bingo, the stock market, commodities, options, buying or playing lottery tickets, raffle tickets, flipping a coin, fantasy sports or entering the office sport pool.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

50. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code, Article VII, Section 8.

Add the following to the end of the section: The International Executive Secretary will compile and update the list of appropriate material, designated as such by the Board of Trustees, on the Trustee website on a separate page.

Current Version: Section 8 – Gamblers Anonymous appropriate literature is limited to local area member telephone lists, meeting and direction lists, flyers regarding events sponsored by the local rooms(s), Intergroup(s), surrounding area(s) or conference committees. Other appropriate material must be designated as such by the Board of Trustees.

Proposed Version: Section 8 – Gamblers Anonymous appropriate literature is limited to local area member telephone lists, meeting and direction lists, flyers regarding events sponsored by the local rooms(s), Intergroup(s), the surrounding area(s), or conference committees. Other appropriate material must be designated as such by the Board of Trustees. The International Executive Secretary will compile and update the list of

appropriate material, designated as such by the Board of Trustees, on the Trustee website on a separate page.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey

Motion as written.

Item failed two-thirds.

For 20 Against 58 Abstain 7

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

51. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – See pages 22-23 of attachment – tried to work.

Current Version: Having made an effort to practice these principles in all our affairs, we tried to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers.

Proposed Version: Having made an effort to practice these principles in all our affairs, we work to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers.

Neal G. – Area 6 – South Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed.

Challenge of the Chair calling this item in order. Vote in favor of the Chair ruling this in order.

For 17 Against 70 Abstain 1

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

52. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code Article VII, Section 4, Page 6

Change entire wording.

Current Version: Abstinence from gambling and regular attendance of at least thirty-nine (39) Gamblers Anonymous meetings (exceptions can be made, via group conscience decisions, for medical reasons, and military stationed overseas) in the prior 12 months, by the member's own admission, is required for pinnings and for all successive anniversaries. Date of abstinence starts from your first meeting after your last bet.

Proposed Version: Date of abstinence starts from the first meeting after a member's last bet, and this will remain the member's anniversary date as long as they don't gamble.

Anniversaries will be celebrated either on the date or the first meeting after a member's anniversary date. Members, by their own admission of the date of their last bet, may celebrate no matter how many meetings they attend as long as they give their group notice of when they will be celebrating.

Neal G. – Area 6 – South Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed.

For 21 Against 63 Abstain 3

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

53. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article X, Section 5 add Item 16 – Add to Article X Section 5 Item 16: Any monies paid by Area Intergroups to fund Trustees for conferences, must be reported to the ISO office within 60 days of the reimbursement. Reimbursements to be listed in the monthly ISO bulletin.

Current Version: None

Proposed Version: Article X Section 5 Item 16: Any monies paid by Area Intergroups to fund Trustees for conferences, must be reported to the ISO office within 60 days of the reimbursement. Reimbursements to be listed in the monthly ISO bulletin.

Marc L for Amy S.- Area 3D – Arizona

Motion as written.

Item failed.

For 10 Against 73 Abstain 8

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

54. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article VIII – Trustees, Section 13. Add new Section 13A

Section 13A:

The Board of Trustees will only have one (1) mandatory Trustee meeting per year that will be held in the first half of each calendar year, or during the same time as any Spring International Conference to coincide with other established Trustee voting requirements, per the Guidance Code. A second Trustee meeting, which would be held during the second half of the year, must be approved by the BOT each time. Quick Response Meetings may be held at any time.

Current Version: None

Proposed Version: Section 13A:

The Board of Trustees will only have one (1) mandatory Trustee meeting per year that will be held in the first half of each calendar year, or during the same time as any Spring International Conference to coincide with other established Trustee voting requirements, per the Guidance Code. A second Trustee meeting, which would be held during the second half of the year, must be approved by the BOT each time. Quick Response Meetings may be held at any time.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey and Northeastern Pennsylvania

Item withdrawn.

55. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article IV, Section 1, Item #12 change one word from tried to work.

Current Version: Having made an effort to practice these principles in all our affairs, we tried to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers.

Proposed Version: Having made an effort to practice these principles in all our affairs, we work to carry this message to other compulsive gamblers.

Neal G. for Herman G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

56. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article 6, section 1, paragraph 1 – change “he or she has” to “we have” and “he or she” to “we” and “him or her” to “us”. Also, change “his or her” to “our”.

Current Version: No one is more important in this Fellowship than the individual member. He or she has no ruler or superior, but he or she may select a person or group of persons to represent him or her and his or her rights in this Fellowship.

Proposed Version: No one is more important in this Fellowship than the individual member. We have no ruler or superior, but we may select a person or group of persons to represent us and our rights in this Fellowship.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed two-thirds.

For 33 Against 39 Abstain 3

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

57. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article 8, Section 4, first paragraph – change “his/her” to “their”

Current Version: Any Trustee is automatically removed from office for gambling by his/her own admission.

Proposed Version: Any Trustee is automatically removed from office for gambling by their own admission.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Motion as written.

Item failed two-thirds.

For 38 Against 41 Abstain 1

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

58. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article 13, Section 4, paragraphs 1 and 2 –

Change “his/her” to “their” and change “he or she” to “they”. Also, change “his or her” to “their”.

Current Version: Any Regent is automatically removed from office for gambling by his/her own admission. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or “skill” constitutes gambling. Or he or she may be removed for other acts on his or her part that are detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for expulsion by the Board of Trustees at the next physical meeting.

Proposed Version: Any Regent is automatically removed from office for gambling by their own admission. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler, is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or “skill” constitutes gambling. Or they may be removed for other acts on their part that are detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole. Removal will require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for expulsion by the Board of Trustees at the next physical meeting.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Item withdrawn.

59. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article XVI, Section 2, page 24, first paragraph – change “his/her” to “their” twice

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary is automatically removed from office for gambling by his/her own admission. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler is defined as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or “skill” constitutes gambling, or other acts on his/her part that are detrimental to Gamblers Anonymous as a whole...

Proposed Version: The International Executive Secretary is automatically removed from office for gambling by their own admission. Gambling, for the compulsive gambler is defined

as follows: Any betting or wagering, for self or others, whether for money or not, no matter how slight or insignificant, where the outcome is uncertain or depends upon chance or “skill” constitutes gambling, or other acts on their part that are detrimental to Gamblers

Anonymous as a whole...

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Item withdrawn.

60. Current Literature

Guidance Code – Article XVI, Section 3, first paragraph page 24 – change “he or she” to “they”

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary shall be solely responsible for the efficient operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.). He or she will be under the guidance and the direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Proposed Version: The International Executive Secretary shall be solely responsible for the efficient operation of the International Service Office (I.S.O.). They will be under the guidance and the direct supervision of the Board of Regents.

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Item withdrawn.

61. CURRENT LITERATURE

Guidance Code – Article XVI, Section 6, page 24, first paragraph – Change “his/her” to “their”

Current Version: The International Executive Secretary shall attend all International Conferences and International Meetings or the Board of Trustees. His/her expenses to these meetings shall be paid by the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Proposed Version: The International Executive Secretary shall attend all International Conferences and International Meetings or the Board of Trustees. Their expenses to these meetings shall be paid by the International Service Office (I.S.O.).

Neal G. – Area 6 – Southern Florida

Item withdrawn.

62. CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature – Group Handbook – Change “his or her” to “their”, change “he or she is” to “they are” and change “himself or herself” to “themselves”.

Current Version: An essential piece of understanding is that this person is not speaking as a representative of Gamblers Anonymous but as a member of Gamblers Anonymous speaking about his or her own experience, strength, and hope.

...Ideally, the person being interviewed might even want to use a different name, just to eliminate another possibility of someone identifying who he or she is. However, if the person being interviewed refers to himself or herself as a member of Gamblers Anonymous in any way, the person’s face cannot be shown, nor can the person’s full name be used.

Proposed Version: An essential piece of understanding is that this person is not speaking as a representative of Gamblers Anonymous but as a member of Gamblers Anonymous speaking about their own experience, strength, and hope.

...Ideally, the person being interviewed might even want to use a different name, just to eliminate another possibility of someone identifying who they are. However, if the person being interviewed refers to themselves as a member of Gamblers Anonymous in any way, the person’s face cannot be shown, nor can the person’s full name be used.

Neal G. – Area 6 – South Florida

Item withdrawn.

63. CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature, add: Attend Meetings, to the bottom of page 23 of the Working the Steps Pamphlet right after; Following are some of the many ways by which one can practice Step Twelve:

Current Version:

Following are some of the many ways by which one can practice Step Twelve:

Be an example of quality abstinence.

Accompany another member on a Twelve Step call.

Visit sick members.

Phone members.

Chat after meetings with new members or those with problems.

Assume some of the duties, obligations and responsibilities of the fellowship.

Explain your disease and how you arrested it to relatives, doctors, and employers.

Tell your story to help a fellow member.

Do public relations work.

Practice the Gamblers Anonymous program.

Proposed Version:

Following are some of the many ways by which one can practice Step Twelve:

Attend meetings.

Be an example of quality abstinence.

Accompany another member on a Twelve Step call.

Visit sick members.

Phone members.

Chat after meetings with new members or those with problems.

Assume some of the duties, obligations and responsibilities of the fellowship.

Explain your disease and how you arrested it to relatives, doctors, and employers.

Tell your story to help a fellow member.

Do public relations work.

Practice the Gamblers Anonymous program.

Jodi P. – Area 11 – Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire

Motion as written.

Item failed majority.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

64. CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature – Toward 90 Days – Front Cover – Replace the word, “anyone” with the words “any problem gambler.”

Current Version: When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of GA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

Proposed Version: When any problem gambler, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of GA always to be there. And for that I am responsible.

Paul N. – Area 2A – Alaska and British Columbia

Motion as written.

Item failed.

A trustee asked for a count on this item.

For 44 Against 49

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

65. CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature – Hosting an International Conference – Change Conferences and physical Trustees meetings to once a year -either in the spring or fall.

Current Version: HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

International Conferences are held twice a year with the location determined by a vote of the board of Trustees.

The voting takes place two years prior to that conference. Conferences should be scheduled as close to the first of May and the first of November. Conferences are based around the Trustees meeting which starts on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. local time. These meetings quite often go through Friday and on occasion into Saturday.

During the spring conference, provisions must be made for Gam-Anon to hold their meeting of Delegates. Out of respect for all our members to ensure the largest possible member participation, close attention should be paid to holidays so the Trustees meeting and the Conference will not conflict with any national or religious holidays.

Proposed Version: HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

International Conferences are held once a year, either spring or fall, with the location determined by a vote of the board of Trustees.

The voting takes place two years prior to that conference. Conferences should be scheduled either as close to the first of May or the first of November. Conferences are based around the Trustees meeting which starts on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. local time. These meetings quite often go through Friday and on occasion into Saturday.

Provisions must be made for Gam-Anon to hold their meeting of Delegates. Out of respect for all our members to ensure the largest possible member participation, close attention should be paid to holidays so the Trustees meeting and the Conference will not conflict with any national or religious holidays.

Marc L. for Amy S. – Area 3D – Arizona

Motion as written.

Item failed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

66. CURRENT LITERATURE

Other Existing Literature – Hosting an International Conference – Page 4 Introduction – Change Conferences and physical Trustees meetings to once a year -either in the spring or fall.

Current Version: HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

International Conferences are held twice a year with the location determined by a vote of the board of Trustees. The voting takes place two years prior to that conference. Conferences should be scheduled as close to the first of May and the first of November. Conferences are based around the Trustees meeting which starts on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. local time. These meetings quite often go through Friday and on occasion into Saturday. During the spring conference, provisions must be made for Gam-Anon to hold their meeting of Delegates. Out of respect for all our members to ensure the largest possible member participation, close attention should be paid to holidays so the Trustees meeting and the Conference will not conflict with any national or religious holidays.

Proposed Version: HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

International Conferences are held once a year, either spring or fall, with the location determined by a vote of the board of Trustees. The voting takes place two years prior to that conference. Conferences should be scheduled either as close to the first of May or the first of

November. Conferences are based around the Trustees meeting which starts on Thursday at 10:00 A.M. local time. These meetings quite often go through Friday and on occasion into Saturday. Provisions must be made for Gam-Anon to hold their meeting of Delegates. Out of respect for all our members to ensure the largest possible member participation, close attention should be paid to holidays so the Trustees meeting and the Conference will not conflict with any national or religious holidays.

Marc L. for Amy S. – Area 3D – Arizona and New Mexico

Item withdrawn.

STEP CHANGES

67. CURRENT LITERATURE

Change Step 11 to: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with the Power of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of this Power’s will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Current Version: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve out conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for the knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.

Proposed Version: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with the Power of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of this Power’s will for us and the power to carry that out.

Roxanne D. – Area 3D – Arizona and New Mexico

Motion as written.

Amended motion reads “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with a higher power of our understanding, praying only for knowledge of a power’s will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Amended motion failed – For 22 Against 38

Original motion failed – For 9 Against 75

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

BOT DECISIONS

68. BOT DECISION – NOT COVERED BY ANY OTHER CATEGORY

The item that needs a decision made on: Approval of a meeting called GAAAN: Gamblers Anonymous for Atheists, Agnostics, and Nones The approval would include new language for adapted Recovery and Unity Steps based on Humanist Principles.

Cindi C. for Brian M. – Area 8 – ILLINOIS AND NORTHERN INDIANA

Motion as written.

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

TRUSTEE ALLOCATION

69. BOT Decision – Not Covered By any Other Category

Orange County Intergroup (1A) would like to reduce its Trustee Allocation from two to one effective July 1, 2024.

Jack R. – Area 1A – Orange County, California

Motion as written.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Harold A., 2nd Co-Chair.

70. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Requesting additional trustee as the area is getting larger.

Currently one trustee

Proposed two trustees.

Belinda L, – Area 38 – Philippines

Item ruled out of order.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

71. BOT DECISION – NOT COVERED BY ANY CATEGORY

Area 8A requests having a 2nd Trustee position approved.

We used to have 2 Trustees and then it dropped to one during the pandemic. We have attached our area numbers of members and meetings.

Renee G. – Area 8A – Eastern Iowa, Southern Minnesota, Bay City, River Falls, and New Richmond, Wisconsin

Motion as written.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

COMMITTEE RELATED

72. NEW LITERATURE

Approve new literature from a committee – 1st Vote

Committee – Public Relations

New Literature – THERE IS HELP

Paul N. – Area 2A – Alaska and British Columbia

Motion as written for merit vote.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

73. COMMITTEE RELATED

Meeting Audit Committee – Change a committee mission statement.

Current Version: None

Proposed Version: To assist the International Service Office with maintaining an accurate and current listing of active group meetings by providing the following:

1. Create a Master (unpublished)list of all known and verified active meetings and a means of contacting a trusted servant from the same.

2. Provide a central point of contact to provide meeting additions, closures, and changes to provide Intergroups, Trustees, and ISO web administrator with timely and accurate information,

3. Provide ISO web admin with a periodic, consolidated list of changes that occurred within that period.

4. Provide an Email address where updates can be sent that is exclusive for this purpose. GA.MeetingAuditCommittee@gmail.com

5. To the extent possible, verify groups not represented or underrepresented by an Intergroup/Service Board.

Edward G. – Area 10 – Central and Northern Ohio (excluding Toledo), and Erie, New Castle, and Warren, Pennsylvania

Motion as written.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

74. COMMITTEE RELATED

Regarding the Trustee Website Guidelines visible under the Committee page for the Trustee Website, Section B, Item 1, add the following after the first sentence. “At least 2 of the committee members must be able to post agenda items to the BOT agendas, in conformance with the directions of a designated person from the Executive Board. Agenda item postings or changes must be made no later than 36 hours from approval of such items by the designated member of the BOT Executive Board.”

Current Version: The Trustee Website will be under the control of a standing Trustee Website committee made up of either current or past Trustees, 2 of which must have website programming experience. The committee will maintain the content and administrate the Trustee website. It will also give reports at each Trustee meeting of new additions and modifications that the committee would like to have approved for deployment on the Trustee website. Any such changes may first be implemented on the Trustee website with approval by the majority of the executive board as to appropriateness, between Trustee meetings for the members to use, in order to help render a more informed decision by the B.O.T. at the next physical meeting, regarding an approval or denial of the new changes. To remain on the Trustee Website, these changes must be submitted as an agenda item for final approval.

Proposed Version: The Trustee Website will be under the control of a standing Trustee Website committee made up of either current or past Trustees, 2 of which must have website programming experience. At least 2 of the committee members must be able to post agenda items to the BOT agendas, in conformance with the directions of a designated person from the Executive Board. Agenda item postings or changes must be made no later than 36 hours from approval of such items by the designated member of the BOT Executive Board. The committee will maintain the content and administrate the Trustee website. It will also give reports at each Trustee meeting of new additions and modifications that the committee would like to have approved for deployment on the Trustee website. Any such changes may first be implemented on the Trustee website with approval by the majority of the executive board as to appropriateness, between Trustee meetings for the members to use, in order to help render a more informed decision by the B.O.T. at the next physical meeting, regarding an approval or denial of the new changes. To remain on the Trustee Website, these changes must be submitted as an agenda item for final approval.

David M. – Area 12 – New Jersey and Northern Pennsylvania

Item withdrawn.

75. COMMITTEE RELATED

Virtual Meeting Committee – Change to the Mission Statement additional paragraph.

Current Version: To develop guidelines for regularly scheduled video online G.A. meetings, including but not limited to how to start a meeting, technical requirements, and suggested meeting formats.

Proposed Version: To develop guidelines for regularly scheduled video online G.A. meetings, including but not limited to how to start a meeting, technical requirements, and suggested meeting formats.

The Virtual Meetings Committee will give the Board of Trustees suggestions on which platform(s) a Virtual Trustee meeting will be held. These meeting(s) should have the same feeling and function as the physical meetings.

The committee will give suggestions on such items as procedural processes, functions of Roberts Rules of Order, how votes will be performed, and numerous other functions to make such meetings function to our standards. The committee will also have a trial “meeting(s)” to test these standards.

The committee will also give suggestions to the Board of Trustees when virtual platforms change or improve so that such changes and or improvements will be incorporated within the Trustee Meetings.

Butch G. – Area 3A – Committee Co-Chair

Motion to add the following to the mission statement “To develop guidelines and ensure the proper functioning of a digital/virtual trustee meeting.”

So, the entire mission statement would read: “To develop guidelines for regularly scheduled video online G.A. meetings, including but not limited to how to start a meeting, technical requirements, and suggested meeting formats. To develop guidelines and ensure the proper functioning of a digital/virtual trustee meeting.”

Item passed.

This item chaired by Steve F., 1st Co-Chair.

76. COMMITTEE RELATED

Digital Strategy Committee – WhatsApp Trustee Line

Results of the WhatsApp Trustee Line – Suggestion that all trustees be invited to the line.

Current Version: None (Just a test)

Proposed Version: Make this a functioning tool for Trustees to use.

Butch G. – Area 3A – Committee Chair

Motion as written.

Motion amended to “To make the trustee digital group a functioning tool under the Links/Tools section of the trustee website.”

Amended motion passed.

Original motion passed.

Item passed.

This item chaired by Pete K., Chair.

The meeting was closed at 11:02 am on November 17, 2023. The Spring Board of Trustees meeting will be in Pleasanton, CA in May 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

KCB.

KC B., International Executive Secretary

ROLL CALL

Area	Trustee	Sessions	Area	Trustee	Sessions
1	Alvin F.	4	9	Carol K.	4
1	Alyssa C.	4	9A	Patricia D.	4
1	Bruce W.	4	10	Anthony K.	4
1A	Dean W.	4	10	Ed G.	4
1A	Jack R.	4	10A	Jeff H.	4
1B	Anita R.	4	10A	Loreane S.	4
1B	Wendy B.	4	10B	Gary B.	4
2	Beth Z.	4	11	Billy C.	Absent*
2	Jared H.	Absent*	11	Jodi P.	4
2	Ray J.	4	12	Andrew R.	4
2	Tita M.	Absent*	12	Ted S.	4
2A	Paul N.	4	12	Walter G.	4
2B	Charlene L.	4	13	John B.	Absent
2B	James B.	Absent*	13	Marla J.	4
2E	Debra B.	Absent	13	Mike M.	4
2G	Chris M.	Absent*	13A	Rick L.	4
2G	Dave M.	4	13A	Tijuana MT	4
2H	Doris S.	4	13B	Andy G.	4
2H	Terry D.	4	13B	Ron P.	4
2J	Patricia D.	4*	14	Ira C.	Absent*
2K	Steve L	4	14	Maury C.	Absent*
3	Igor K.	4	14	Mitch M.	Absent*
3	Kirk L.	Absent	14	Stuart B.	4
3	Mark S.	4	15	Alan J.	4
3	Rob P.	4	15	James G.	Absent*
3	Steve D.	4	15	Jesse C.	Absent*
3A	Bob C.	4	15	Joe B.	Absent
3A	Butch G.	4	15	Mark D.	4
3B	Paul G.	Absent*	15	Stanley C.	Absent*
3B	Ron G.	4	16	Carl D.	4
3C	Terry D.	4	16	Wayne C.	Absent
3D	Marc L.	4	16A	Dan L.	4
3D	Roxanne D.	4	17	Robert A.	4
3F	Julian F.	Absent	17	Ronny W.	Absent*
4	Aldo I.	Absent	18	Andy D.	Absent
4	Debbi R.	4	18A	Mark C.	Absent
5	Frank P.	4*	18A	Yvonne R.	Absent
5B	Adrien R.	Absent	18B	Dorothy R.	Absent

5B	Marc C.	4	18B	Philomina V.	Absent
6	Neal G.	4	19	Elena D.	4*
6	Steve C.	4	19	Horacio P.	4*
6A	Alan A.	4	19	Jorge C.	4*
6A	Jim C.	Absent	19	Julia A.	4*
6B	Rick B.	4	21	Francisco M.	4*
6B	Steve P.	4	21	Pedro M.	4*
6C	Mike A.	4	22	Andrew B.	Absent
6C	Tom K.	Absent*	23	Joao Carlos D.	4*
7	Iris D.	4	23A	Clecio S.	4*
7	Leanne W.	4	28	Hector T.	4*
7A	Deborah S.	Absent	28	Luis O.	4
7A	Mike H.	4	28	Marymar V.	4*
8	Cindi C.	4	29	Konstantin U.	4*
8	Dianna R.	4	29A	Oleg I.	4*
8	Donna M.	4	29B	Eduard U.	4*
8	Mary W.	4	33	William S.	4*
8A	Renee G.	4	37	Hamid K.	4
8E	Barbara L.	4	38	Belinda L.	4*
8E	Jeff R.	4			

*Absentee ballot received

Chair B.O.T. – Pete K. 4
1st Co-Chair – Steve F. 4
2nd Co-Chair – Harold A. 4
Chair B.O.R. – Bob W. 4
I.E.S. – KC B. 4