

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report

January 2019

The Conference Call Committee has continued to facilitate and moderate the weekly Wednesday night Telephone Conference Call. The call usually sees about 50-70 individual callers per week. After general announcements and readings from GA literature, a topic is introduced. Meeting participants can share about the topic, the Day at a Time reading or anything that is concerning them, as long as it relates to gambling. Typically, about 15 people per meeting share. Up to three participants (with 90 days or more clean time) can give comments after each share; however, people who choose to comment are limited to 3 comments for the entire meeting. In January, comments were offered by an average of 5-6 participants per meeting.

The meeting demographics generally show about 50% of the attendees being women. About 25% are under 90 days. The locations of the members covers the US and Canada, with occasional calls from other countries.

If there are more than 3 newcomers to GA in attendance, another room is opened in order to facilitate the asking of the 20 Questions and to give the newcomers the time and attention that is essential to anyone entering the program. January saw between 1 and 3 newcomers each week.

Attendees are strongly encouraged to attend physical GA meetings. It is stated that the Telephone Conference Call meeting is not meant to be a substitute for physical meetings.

Those who call from an unidentified phone line are not permitted to share/give therapy nor to comment on others' sharing. Currently, 2 to 4 callers per week call in on an anonymous phone line, although the first week in January saw an unusually high number of anonymous callers. Callers who have an identified number must give the moderators their names before being allowed to share.

The committee currently has 5 trained moderators, with at least 3 participating weekly on each call.

The weekly announcements include instructions to contact the administrators if anyone feels they are experiencing harassment.

The committee had an informal meeting with the moderators to assess the meeting. It was decided that the current policy of allowing 3 comments per therapy and that of limiting any one participant to 3 comments per meeting be kept in place. The committee intends to submit an agenda item for the spring BOT meeting that the meeting be placed on the ISO website. Moderators will also encourage participants with 90 days or more of clean time to comment if they are moved to do so in order to hear from a greater range of participants. It was also decided that if a participant is reluctant to make an admission to being a compulsive gambler, they be asked if they have a desire to stop gambling. It was also decided that the ending time of 10:30 Eastern be more strictly observed, as some meeting had been running over by several minutes.

Jeannie B.

Telephone Conference Call Meeting Committee Chair