

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report

April 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.

The meeting demographics generally show about 50% of the attendees being women. About 25% are under 90 days.

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. Callers who have an identified number must give the moderators their names before being allowed to share.

The meeting 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.

February has seen an increase in experienced GA members who are new to the Telephone Conference Call. This is encouraging; word is finally getting out about the Telephone Conference Call among the GA community.

Vancouver, BC has taken steps to host and moderate an additional Telephone Conference Call meeting. Members of that Area have attended the Wednesday night meeting and have received training on the conference call platform, though this area is looking at another provider for their platform. Anonymity is paramount to their considerations of platforms.

Mexico is also looking at initiating a Telephone Conference Call meeting, but members are having difficulty in finding a platform that is not cost-prohibitive and still meets the requirements of anonymity.

The Committee has also fielded a request from Montreal, which is looking into starting a meeting.

We continue to ask the BOT members to share information about the Telephone Conference Call with their respective fellowships.

Jeannie B.

Telephone Conference Call Meeting Committee Chair