

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report

August 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. July saw between 1 and 4 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 2 participating weekly on each call.

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

The summer has continued to see an increase in callers who regularly attend physical GA meetings who are vacationing or otherwise unable to attend their home meetings.

The platform that we are currently using has developed some glitches that are troublesome to the moderators but that do not impact the callers. We are investigating a way to solve these problems without having to change to another related platform, as that would entail developing a new phone number, which has proven to be problematic in the past. Unfortunately, it looks as though a change will be necessary in the next quarter. The Committee will be asking the members of the BOT for help in making sure the word is spread about this when the change occurs.

We continue to ask the BOT members to share information about the Telephone Conference Call with their respective fellowships. We are also always interested in training new moderators, as even with 5 people, schedules are sometimes difficult to accommodate.

Jeannie B.

Telephone Conference Call Meeting Committee Chair