

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report
January 2020

The Wednesday Night Telephone Conference Call Meeting continues to convene on Wednesday evenings from 9:00-10:30 Eastern Time. The call is facilitated by members of the Committee. **The phone number for the call is 712.770.4160. The access code for participants is 611704.**

The Wednesday night call usually sees about 40-70 unique callers per week. After general announcements and reading from GA literature, a topic is introduced by the moderator. Meeting participants can share about the topic, the reading from "A Day at a Time" or anything that is concerning them, as long as it is related to gambling. All callers who call from an identifiable phone number are encouraged to share. The meeting is a comment meeting; those who give comments must have 90 days or more of clean time. Up to 3 people may comment per person sharing. There are usually about 15 attendees who share per meeting and typically 5 to 10 attendees offer comments.

Those who have never attended any GA meeting are asked the 20 Questions and encouraged to share with the group. A newcomer is allowed 5 comments. This happens about midway through the meeting, in order for the newcomer to listen to members and to get a feel for the meeting and the GA program. If there are more than 3 newcomers, a second room is opened to ask the newcomers the 20 Questions and to give them the time and attention that is essential to anyone entering the program. The second room is opened after a few members have given therapy in order for the newcomers to hear what happens at the meeting and what the program is about. Members with clean time are encouraged to move to this second room to share their own experience, strength and hope with the newcomers.

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

Of the callers, about 50% of those attending are women. The locations of most callers cover the US and Canada, with occasional calls from other countries. More than half of the callers are considered "regular" attendees, many of whom have been attending the meeting for 4 years or more.

Those who call from an unidentified or "anonymous" phone number are not permitted to share nor to offer comments. They are encouraged to call from an unblocked number if they wish to participate.

There are currently 6 trained moderators who take turns chairing the meeting and running the web-based platform.

In January 2020, there was a definite increase in attendees on this call, with one call registering over 90 participants. In recent weeks, there also appears to be an increase in attendees who are not themselves compulsive gamblers who are seeking insight for compulsive gamblers they know.

The platform has been plagued by some technical issues in the last 3 weeks. The Chair is working with freeconferencecallhd.com to resolve this issues and progress is being made. Callers have been impacted only slightly with these issues.

The Canada Wide meeting is up and running. The Canada Wide Tuesday night Phone Meeting has been working very successfully since July 30 of this year. The meeting has been getting 13-14 calls a night on the average and growing. Calls have come from Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, New York, Fort St. John,

Williams Lake, High Prairie Alberta and Thailand as well as the Vancouver area. Several callers are not able to attend physical meetings. The Canada Wide meeting sends GA-approved literature to those in need. The call begins at 6:45 pm Pacific Time. Any questions can be sent to friend@gabc.ca. This meeting is not a comment meeting; newcomers are read the 20 Questions. Readings from GA literature are read at the beginning of the meeting.

The Telephone Conference Call Committee would greatly benefit from Trustees spreading the word about the conference call meetings. **We request that the BOT members share information about the meetings with their fellowships.**

Additionally, if BOT members would like to refer GA members to serve as moderators, we would be happy to train them and welcome them to the committee.

The Telephone Conference Call Committee is willing and eager to assist GA members who are interested in starting and maintaining additional Conference Call Meetings. Many of those who call have asked about additional meetings; the need for more meetings on other mornings, afternoons or evenings is great. The nature of the online platform and the demands of running a meeting require that 5 GA members commit to running a meeting. More Telephone Conference Call meetings would certainly serve many current and potential GA members who, for whatever reason, have difficulty in attending regular physical meetings or who could benefit from additional meetings to strengthen their recovery.

Submitted by the Telephone Conference Call Committee