

Telephone Conference Call Committee Report
June 2020

As it becomes evident that a timeline for a return to “regular” physical meetings still remains uncertain, the Telephone Conference Committee has decided to maintain the current schedule until the need has passed.

Nightly meetings continue to be held from 8:00-10:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The 10 trained moderators (including 2 newly trained moderators) have developed a rotating schedule that includes (for the nightly meetings): a meeting moderator, a timekeeper, a person who inputs caller information and someone who is ready to open a newcomers room in the case of 3 or more newcomers being in attendance at the meeting. 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 the newcomers room. Most of the meetings see at least one newcomer; it is not unusual to see 3-5 newcomers on any given evening. At the Friday afternoon meeting, held from 3:00-4:00 Eastern Time, newcomers are welcomed and read the 20 Questions following the meeting. This meeting lasts an hour.

Attendance remains fairly steady compared to the attendance seen in May. Current attendance ranges between 25-90 callers per meeting. There is a significant number of attendees who have 90 days or less of clean time in our program. Other attendees range up to those who have 40 or more years of clean time. In reaction to feedback from meeting attendees and in order to better serve the newer members, it was decided that two meetings a week would become comment meetings. These meetings are the ones held on Sunday and on Wednesday evenings. 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.

The U.S. committee members made the painful decision to silence one of the meeting attendees, who engaged in repeated use of offensive language during the meetings. The member was contacted about this behavior but refused to adjust their language. Attendees were informed of this decision by an announcement that was read at each meeting for a week which addressed harassing behavior and the policy of dealing with such behavior. The opening announcements were changed so that members were informed that their therapy could be stopped by a moderator if the moderator deemed it inappropriate.

The Canada-wide meeting continues to meet the challenge. They are maintaining meetings on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. This information has also been updated on the Trustee website.

Spanish speaking meetings originating from Mexico continue to be held on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Meetings from Madrid, Spain and Riga, Latvia held in their native languages have been added to the roster of approved meetings. 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 meetings can be found on the Trustee website.

Respectfully Submitted.

Jeannie B. Telephone Conference Call Committee