

# Trustee Website Committee Report

## January 2017

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As we come up on 30 days until the close of the Trustee Agenda for Cherry Hill, our agenda is sitting at a rather weak number of 37 total items. The agenda will close at midnight ET on the evening of March 1. That is the 60-day period before the Trustee Meeting begins.

What seems to be an unsettling problem with the agenda submission process, is that most Trustees are not following the procedures that have been in place from many years. The very obvious omission is item 5 on the list of 10 steps to submit an item. For those who are still planning on submitting agenda items, be advised that they will not be accepted for posting if they are submitted improperly. If anyone has any questions about the process, please contact the Trustee Website Admin, through the many links available on the Trustee website.

As mentioned in Phoenix, the Trustee website is heavily underutilized, regarding new features that have been added over the years. Accordingly, the BOT was made aware that the unused features would be removed. There was no objection from anyone. This same presentation was made in San Diego with the same response. There was a question of whether or not the Trustee Line would be removed. By all rights it should be, but it will survive the cut, as the saying goes.

As of this report, a number of features have been removed with the unanimous approval of the committee members. 1) Trustee Poll, 2) Trustee Website Tutorial, 3) Area Event Flyers, 4) Local Area Questions & Answers, 5) Trustee Memorial Honor Roll, 6) International Area Links, and 7) International Events Flyers. Committee contact links in other areas of the site, have also been removed, but have remained intact on the individual committee website pages.

As the person who has consistently given the committee report at each conference, the challenge has always been given to the BOT, to come up with innovative ideas on how better to make the Trustee website. That opportunity still exists. If anyone has an idea, float it past the committee for possible deployment. Who knows, maybe someone will provide the basis of a new and widely use feature.

There is a troubling issue that happened since the last monthly report, that has to be disclosed. The revised feature that was added to the site regarding Local Area Q&A Conference Calls was shut down on the orders of the Chair of the BOT. This is an action that the committee felt was a breach of authority, by the BOT Chair, as the feature was an amplification of a previous version of something that had been on the website for over a year. The feature did not violate the mission statement of the committee, nor did it violate any Unity Steps or any other decisions of the BOT.

The committee is granted authority to come with new features and ideas between conferences and is allowed to deploy them for viewing and use by the Trustees, in order to have them become familiar with the feature. If there is a problem, then the BOT would indicate so and the

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feature would be removed. This is highlighted in the Trustee Website Guidelines, last updated in Montreal '09 and reads as follows:

The Trustee Website will be under the control of a standing Trustee Website committee made up of either current or past Trustees, 2 of which must have website programming experience. The committee will maintain the content and administrate the Trustee website. It will also give reports at each Trustee meeting of new additions and modifications that the committee would like to have approved for deployment on the Trustee website. Any such changes may first be implemented on the Trustee website between Trustee meetings for the members to use, in order to help render a more informed decision by the B.O.T. at the next physical meeting, regarding an approval or denial of the new changes. During that period, the committee will be under the guidance of the Chair of the B.O.T. as to appropriateness of the new features that are pending B.O.T decisions.

The BOT Chair, issued a 'Cease and Desist' statement, for what he felt was an inappropriate feature. The BOT Chair acted in a manner that was outside the bounds of his authority, but the decision was made not to continue this matter, as it would be more appropriate on the BOT floor. The feature was removed under unanimous protest by the committee.

In closing, the Trustee website platform is in need of a complete overhaul and to be moved to a new platform. The most appropriate platform is called Word Press. To make this change will require people who understand Word Press. If we are fortunate enough to find someone with these skill sets, we may be able to run a parallel site that would have minimal functionality in its development stage. It would also be nice to have that GA member personally volunteer their services in pursuit of this changeover. The current committee members do not possess such skills.

Until that happens, we will have the continued services of the current workhorse platform that has satisfied our needs for the last 14 years.

David M. – Trustee Website Admin