

Main Menu

- [Home Page](#)
- [Trustee Guidelines](#)
- [GA Reference Material](#)
- [Keyword Search](#)
- [Download Center](#)
- [Contact Administrator](#)

**Boston - Spring 2012
Information Section**

[Boston Conference Info](#)

Rolling Agenda

- [Agenda Information](#)
- [Conference Bids](#)

Submit an Agenda Item

BOT Committees

- [Anonymity](#)
- [BOR Procedural Review](#)
- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [Conference Oversight](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [GA/Gam-Anon Conference](#)
- [Hotline Implementation](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Member Retention](#)
- [Online GA Meeting](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prison - Canada](#)
- [Prison - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Rules and Procedures](#)
- [Trustee Area Demarcation](#)
- [Trustee Poll Agenda](#)
- [Trustee Removal Procedure](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Video Conferencing](#)
- [Website Revisions](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

- [Trustee Line Home Page](#)
- [Login For The Trustee Poll](#)
- [Trustee Poll](#)
- [Area Event Flyers](#)
- [Local Area Website Guidelines](#)
- [New Area/Trustee Accommodation Fund](#)
- [Local Area Help Flyer](#)
- [Board of Regents News Page](#)
- [Trustee Memorial Honor Roll](#)

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Trustee Line for January 2012

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 1/31/12.

Thoughts From The Trustees - Current and Past

The subjects listed below are themes that have been submitted by other Trustees. You may respond to any of them, or start an entirely new subject

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	Unity Step I	1/10/12 12:55 PM	2
2.	Agenda Mandate or Self-Awareness?	1/19/12 2:24 PM	2

Unity Step I

1/7/12 - 9:18 AM

Unity Step One

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on group unity.

I would not be able to abstain from gambling if there were no GA groups for me to attend. I had nearly 17 years experience with the recovery steps in another fellowship, I was active, I have a sponsor, and I worked through the steps several times for that addiction. But I continued to gamble. I finally surrendered and went to my first GA meeting and I haven't gambled since. So my personal abstinence is dependent on my attendance at GA meetings.

This unity step tells me that I must put aside my selfish needs and desires when they affect my group's unity. The primary purpose of the group is to help the compulsive gambler who still suffers. People like me who walk into the room for the first time. My recovery depends on me helping the newcomer; it gives me the gratitude and serenity to keep my desire to gamble at a comfortable distance. Listening to the newcomer reminds me of the insanity that awaits if I want to try some small bet experimentation.

The other important thing about this step is that it says "should" not "shall". The people that wrote these steps originally understood that we really don't have the power or authority to make any individual member do anything. What they found was that people who did not follow the principles of the unity and recovery steps willingly, would eventually return to their addiction of choice. I know that if I do not work the recovery steps and do my part to keep GA strong and alive, I would probably return to gambling.

So the questions I ask myself about this unity step are:

1. Am I doing anything that creates disharmony in my groups or GA as a whole?
2. Am I welcoming the newcomer to the meeting?
3. Does my therapy contain experiences and suggestions to help the new member abstain from gambling?
4. Am I doing service for my group to reach out to the suffering compulsive gamblers who haven't found our rooms?
5. Am I supporting GA members at other groups in my area?
6. As a Trustee, am I trying to serve my Area by getting their input on agenda items and bringing their concerns to the Board of Trustees Meeting?

My own inventory on this step points out to me that I don't do enough beyond my own home group. As a Trustee and GA member, I need to go to more than one meeting a week and my recent travels have shown me that groups in my area are struggling to stay open. I need to call other members and encourage

them to keep showing up and get involved in service. I need to do my part in Public Relations to let people know that GA exists and it works. Check back in a few months and see if I am "walking the talk".

What are your thoughts on this step?

Paul S. - Area 17 Trustee, Connecticut

1/10/12 - 12:55 PM

Happy New Year to all my GA Brothers and Sisters.

Paul, when I read your post from December stating that you planned to write your thoughts on our Unity Steps, I was very intrigued and excited. I feel that in Gamblers Anonymous this vitally important portion of our program is often misunderstood, overlooked and sometimes even ignored, especially at the group level.

Although I am not a member of AA, I have read the Big Book and the 12 x 12 numerous times. What I have learned about the Unity Steps (or Traditions, as AA calls them), is that a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, along with some difficult trials and tribulations went into compiling them. Each and every one of the Unity Steps are based on experience and a lot of hard work done so many years ago, and are as relevant today as they were some 70 or so years ago.

I found that I agree with all of the points you made in your posting, and you have inspired me to make sure that I, as a member of GA as well as a Trustee, must do my best to follow these Unity Steps and talk more about them at the meetings I attend. My home group has already agreed to set aside time once a month for discussion on a Unity Step, beginning this month with Step 1.

I have a feeling that when you start getting into some of the other steps (I don't think I have to spell out which steps I am referring to), you will get some very interesting and perhaps opposing viewpoints. I look forward to this, as I still believe that an intelligent exchange of ideas is what is best about the Trustee Line. So, please keep up the postings, and I will chime in from time to time on my thoughts about them as well.

Your Brother in Recovery,

Levi B. - Area 2, Northern California

Agenda Mandate or Self-Awareness?
--

1/7/12 - 9:55 AM

Happy New Year to all!

As we come into a new year, also comes a time for reflection. For me, I simply ask myself, what have I learned in the past year? What do I need to work on in the coming year? Most of the answers for me revolve around my recovery. I have truly enjoyed being a trustee and I have learned more in this last year from all of you than I ever thought I would! Even when I am in a disagreement, I can still walk away with something new. For that, I want to say Thank You!

As I have looked over the rolling agenda for Boston, I have noticed a few items that are meant to save us time in our BOT meetings. I think that we can each do things on our own as well to make sure that our meeting goes smoothly and keeps moving forward. My thoughts are:

1. If speaking either for or against an item, if what you want to say has already been said, then pass your turn. Hearing the same thing more than once isn't going to change someones mind. If you don't know which way you want to vote on an item, listen and learn.
2. Review the agenda with your area before coming to the BOT meeting. If you have questions on what the writer intended, ask the writer before the meeting. A great place to do that would be on the Trustee Line. Others could then see it and add more to the discussion.
3. Use the Trustee Poll to get a feel of how the vote may go on an item. If a large number of votes swing in the negative direction, perhaps start a discussion and find out why.

I am hopeful that this in itself will start a discussion on the Trustee Line. I have posted the following questions to some other current and past trustees and now I want to post it to all of you: Do YOU use the Trustee Poll and Trustee

Line as a tool as a trustee? If you read the Poll, do you vote? If you read the Trustee Line, do you respond? Why or why not?

Your Sister in Recovery,
Karen E. - Area 8A, Minnesota

1/19/12 - 2:24 PM

I'd like to thank Karen E for her submission this month. It pushed a button with me, thus eliciting a response. First, let me answer her questions:

1. Do I use the Trustee Poll and Trustee Line as a tool as a Trustee?

Absolutely! I'm not the brightest bulb in the box, and so I need and appreciate hearing the opinions of others, regardless of whether they have more or less time in recovery than me.

2. If I read the Poll, do I vote? Yes. It's my way of telling the author that I've read his/her item, and giving the feedback he/she is asking for.

3. If I read the Trustee Line, do I respond. Why or why not? Yes, I read it, and sometimes, like now, I respond. If I agree with something I read, I may want to thank and encourage the author. If I disagree, I may want to express my point of view. Some examples:

a. I agree with your suggestion that if you want to speak on an item, and while waiting for your turn someone says substantially what you wanted to say, you should pass.

b. I also agree with you that each trustee should review the agenda BEFORE the meeting. To come into the meeting unprepared is a dis-service to one's area.

c. Additionally, I agree with David M's submission to the Trustee Poll regarding committee reports. Actually, I'd go a step further, and ask that when the committee chair give the report, PLEASE don't read me the report I'm holding in my hand. I printed it out from the Trustee website at home, and read it before I got here. Mr. Chairman, if you haven't got something new to add, then just accept any questions.

I might not respond if I am afraid of offending another trustee. Example:

1. I fully realize and understand that we (GA) were founded by members of another fellowship. Although I appreciate their efforts, discussions of these other fellowships, even just referencing them, does not belong in meetings, and especially on our Trustee Line or Poll. When it comes to GA, it shouldn't be relevant how long someone has been in another program, and I don't want to hear them talk about it. I'm here to recover from a gambling problem. Although I congratulate them, it's also been my experience that some of them might walk into our room with an "I already know all that from my other program" attitude. (We have one member who I've reminded several times that we don't have "traditions")

The first two Trustee Line entries this month reference another program. I'm sure the brothers who submitted them are honorable people, who only want what's best for our fellowship, but I believe their entries should not have been posted.

2. I believe that Matty C's Trustee Poll posting, suggesting we "Discontinue all changes in the combo book", is mis-guided, and just plain wrong. I have not been a GA member for 45 years, but I would hope that 34 years from now, if I'm still here, I would still be open to change. To not want to even entertain the ideas or suggestions to change something flies in the face of our entire program. Personally, I have been against most of the changes in the Combo Book that have taken place since I've been a trustee, and have voted accordingly. That means that 2/3 of the trustees at 2 consecutive meetings disagreed with me in order to pass those changes that have taken place. I will continue to vote against a change if I disagree with it. However, I will NEVER vote to take away the opportunity to make a choice.

Marilyn and I look forward to seeing you all in Boston.

Your friend in recovery,
John B. - Trustee, Area 13, Philadelphia
