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Trustee Line for March 2010

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From The Trustees

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

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Submit a response to the [Trustee Line](#) because of something you have read in this or any other issue.

Should the link above not work, copy and paste this email address into a blank email: trustee@trusteeonline.com

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Just Another Board of Regents Procedural Road Block

3/6/10 - 9:35 AM

Okay everyone, it's time to chime in with a vote of exactly where all of you stand on an issue that involves the Board of Regents. Let me lay out the landscape of how things are done regarding the BOR minutes and the BOR agendas.

The BOR has it's meeting on the 3rd Friday of each month. They do their thing and the minutes come out on the 1st Friday of the following month. Whether you like the content of the minutes or not is an entirely different issue for another time. Along with the release of the minutes from the previous month's meeting is the agenda for the current month's BOR agenda. Once it is sent, the agenda isn't amended to take on new business. (But if the BOR Chair wants to, there is room. When the request comes from outside the BOR, the answer is that the agenda is already set and it will be heard on the next agenda.) That means if you spot something in the minutes that you didn't like, you can put an agenda item on for the NEXT month's BOR meeting. Here's an example:

If you look at the January minutes, which were released on Feb 5th, you will see an extensive amount of space dedicated to issues regarding the national hotline. Statements are made in the minutes saying, "...the International Service Office no longer has any financial obligation for the Hotline, the Board of Regents agreed that the oversight of the Hotline should be with the Board of Trustees or some place other than with the Board of Regents." Additionally, "...Benni had talked with Denis M., Chairman of the Board of Trustees, telling him of the intent to give the oversight of the Hotline back to the Board of Trustees prior to the Trustees meeting in May 2010." The last paragraph of the minutes on that subject was "Benni F. will look into how we can transfer the Hotline to the Board of Trustees based on his discussions with Denis M. May 1, 2010 is the target date for this transaction to be completed."

The minutes from the February BOR meeting were released yesterday, March 5th, along with the agenda for the March BOR meeting. Evidently, there was no report given for the national hotline, nor was there any discussion of any

kind on the national hotline, including any transition details. Looking at the agenda for the March meeting in 2 weeks, there is no mention of anything to do with the hotline, so it would be safe to say that nothing will be discussed in this month's BOR meeting. If you are concerned about the future of our not so 'national' hotline, and want to have something discussed because of the February minutes, it's already too late for you to get something on the BOR agenda for this month. That means it can first be heard during the April meeting. That is the only meeting left before May 1st deadline set forth by BOR Chair Benni F in January. And what is worse is that you won't know anything about what happened in the April meeting because aside from the BOR meeting being classified as a Top Secret, the minutes will be released on May 7th, 6 day after the BOR transition deadline of May 1st. What is wrong with this picture?

By the way, if you think I am overly dramatizing the Top Secret status of what actually transpired at a BOR meeting, try getting the BOR members to go on record with EXACTLY what happened in the meeting PRIOR to the release of the minutes. Leaks may happen, but nobody wants them traced back to the source. I guess we have a GA firing squad for those who would give up such information before the notes are officially released.

Here is the solution. Since the minutes come out on the 1st Friday of the month and are sent to the current Trustees, in addition to being posted on the Trustee website, there should be a 1 week delay from the current procedure before the agenda for the coming month's BOR meeting is finalized and sent out. This way it will give everyone a chance to react to the minutes of the previous meeting and get in touch with either Karen at the ISO or the BOR Chair to have items added to the upcoming BOR meeting.

I can see it now. Someone is going to say that such a procedure is not workable because the Regents need time to study the agenda before the meeting. Please, just please - someone write back and defend such a position, I beg you. Please try and convince me how anyone needs more than 2 minutes to 'study' this month's BOR agenda, or for that matter, any BOR agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. LIFELINERS.
- B. BOARD OF REGENTS I.E.S. COMMITTEE.
- C. PROCEDURES FOR B.O.R. REPLACEMENTS.
- D. INFRINGEMENT OF G.A.'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CHANGE DATE OF MAY 2010 B.O.R. MEETING.
- B. SEPTEMBER'S INTERNATIONAL WALK-A-THON.
- C. OFFICE LEASE UPDATE.

The current time period for this 'review' is 2 weeks. Putting in the 1 week pushback on the submission of the new BOR agenda gives the Regents 1 week to 'study' the agenda. If a Regent has a problem with only having a week, then maybe they should think long and hard about whether they should even be a Regent. For any current Regent or Regent Nominee for the next term is reading this that has a problem with on 1 week, well there is still time to have your name removed from the BOR Ballot before the May Trustee meeting where the ballots will be counted. To all the Trustees, go to a BOR meeting yourself and you'll see why 1 week is MORE than sufficient time to be prepared before the BOR meeting.

Back to the issue behind this topic. Send in your thoughts about how you feel regarding having a week to submit items to the BOR agenda to be heard after reading the BOR minutes from the previous month. You don't have to be as wordy as I usually am, but let's make this similar to the turnout we got when the employees at the ISO office had their bonuses stripped away by the BOR a few years ago, after then had already been approved in the new fiscal budget. Let's see how responsive the BOR is to ideas to make the BOR more efficient and member friendly, before procedures like this get put into the mix without the BOR's ability to change it.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

3/7/10 - 1:27 AM

David, David, David, my friend, again you have said something that I agree with The present Board of Regents keep talking about a topic about the hotline and never come back to report on the results.

As examples:

1. September it is reported that "Gary is presently negotiating with Erlang for the universal packages that would apply to everyone who has signed up with

Erlang, but it would be based on minutes used." No mention again of the outcome of these negotiations.

2. October: "Benni F. gave a report stating that he is compiling as much information as possible about the National Hotline to see what changes, if any, are needed." No mention again of the outcome of problems from the hotline administrators except an email from someone about anonymity being broken on the hotline.

3. "The current Hotline Committee is Benni F., Chairman and committee members Gary S., New Jersey and Ed K., Southern California." I thought that Gary S was Chairman of the committee - when was he replaced? No mention of that event; not even at the trustee meetings. did I miss something?? I wasted 70 days trying to get our hotline administrator "information" changed by contacting Gary and Erlange! I have an outline if anyone is interested. No wonder Gary never responded to my emails or telephone call; he was only a committee member. I should have been pestering Benni..... thanks for repoding to my emails Benni and helping me out --- NOT a word; NOT A HELP AT ALL.....

4. December Gary reports that a hotline newsletter is coming Benni says in January that the newsletter is dead. Wow something about the hotline that was answered!!!!

5. From January "Benni F. will look into how we can transfer the Hotline to the Board of Trustees based on his discussions with Denis M. May 1, 2010 is the target date for this transaction to be completed." So in February, The Board should have continued the discussion on transferring to the hotline. I am sure that there must have been dialogue between the BOR Chairman and BOT Chairman. Nothing is said about the hotline or its transfer....

Who is responsible for making the Board of Regents agenda? OLD BUSINESS must include topics brought up previously and discussion not completed yet. Our fellowship doesn't deserve this malarky that this Board is giving us or rather not giving us. Come on Benni, make sure these items from September, October and January are discussed in March at the meeting. Let me check my schedule, maybe I should pop into the Board of Regents meeting to get these questions answered... Ah darn, my work schedule won't permit me to come on short notice....

See everyone in Louisville. It will be a fun trustee meeting!

Thanks Richard C. - Calgary Alberta Canada - Past Trustee 2A

3/7/10 - 1:42 PM

I enjoy reading David M's, information posting to the Trustee line, I get a true picture whenever he writes something for the Trustee Line or his agenda items. I wasn't pleased to read Richard's from Area 2 A, about the problems they are having with their Hotline. He used the word MALARKY, it should be BS, I feel that's what it is. I also have tried to find where it is written this proceed that the BOR user with regards to the time waiting to read the minutes from their meetings as well as setting up the next minutes Agenda before the last minutes are read. If my last sentence reads confusing , it is to me. But if someone can find where this BS is written I sure would like to see a copy.

I as well as all current Trustees received the Ballot, for the upcoming BOR election. As I stated before I didn't submit the Ballot for the last election as I really didn't know too many that were running and of the ones I did know, didn't want to cast a vote for them. I do feel a 'no' vote is not a good vote, but with what has gone on with the past BOR, it may be what all us trustees have to do, unless we can change the current way it works so we can vote from all of the fellowship to try to get the best of who we are in the open positions, not just 2 from outside the "Good Old boys Club" area of LA. As David has asked to chime in with a vote of exactly where we stand on issues that involve the BOR, I guess you can say my VOTE would to BLOW the whole thing up and start over again.....

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

3/8/10 - 12:35 PM

Greetings, Friends,

I have just two thoughts at this time:

#1. I was reading the submissions for March so far regarding our Board of Regents. While not an especially educated person, I still consider myself to be relatively not stupid. However, I wonder if I'm the only person who reads the minutes from the BOR meetings then scratches his head.

I see an entry, for example, that says there was discussion on a particular

subject, but nothing referring to the content of the discussion, or the different opinions, if any, submitted. Also, I agree with Richard that points raised may be noted in the minutes, and then never referred to again.

I can understand the desire to keep the minutes from any meeting brief, but not to the point of being non-existent. I, personally, believe in as much transparency as possible. Are we trying to hide anything? If not, tell me who said what, who is for or against something, and why.

#2. On December 1, 2009, I submitted an item to the Trustee Line titled "New Meetings in an Area Represented by an Intergroup". In the submission I indicated that we (Delaware Valley Intergroup, Area 13) were considering submitting a change as an agenda item in Louisville, and asked for feedback.

The item received 3 responses - 2 from one person.

To me, the beauty of something like the Trustee Line is that it gives us a chance to give opinions on a topic, giving the original submitter the opportunity to make any clarifications, corrections, etc to the item before submitting it as an agenda entry. Indeed, I even might consider it a gauge to measure the feelings of those who would be voting on it. That said, it appears from the responses that only 2 people even care about the topic.

Consequently, not wishing to waste the trustees' time in Louisville, if I don't get significant responses by the 60-day Agenda Item Deadline, March 21, 2010, I will not submit the item for consideration by the Board.

See you in Louisville.
Your friend in recovery,
John B. - Area 13, Philadelphia

3/10/10 - 2:13 PM

I want to apologize to my fellow trustee John B. for not responding immediately to the item He submitted to the Trustee Line (Starting A New Meeting) on December of 2009. I am very new at using the computer but I am learning one day at a time, I am just learning how to go out on the Internet and search all the GA Websites out there. I am in full support of your item, and I am one of those Senior Members You mentioned that is guilty of steering away from meetings being run by members with very little recovery. My motto is (YOU CAN NOT GIVE A MESSAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE IT YOURSELF). John, I sincerely hope that You get enough response to this Item before the deadline for submitting agenda Items to the BOT. I believe that it is very important that this Item be presented to the BOT meetings May 20th in Louisville, Kentucky.

Your Friend In Recovery,
Ron C. - Trustee, Area 13 - Philadelphia

3/11/10 - 11:03 AM

Many of us, in so many areas of our lives, tend to procrastinate.

So it is with the BOR. I am not pointing a finger at any particular present or past board member, but I'm sure that there isn't a GA member anywhere (including BOR members) that doesn't agree that the BOR minutes could use a little "enhancement". But as people who tend to put things on the back burner, it's never been a priority.

The question is, who is going to take the initiative to begin the process? As a Co-Chair of the BOT, I would prefer not to be the one who does it since I would not like to create the slightest impression that there is any animosity between the two boards. But how about it, fellow Trustees...will someone step up to the plate and submit an agenda item to begin the discussion?

I look forward to seeing all of you in Kentucky.

Chuck R. - Area 15, New York

To My Fellow Trustees:

I, too, have some concerns about the BOR meetings and minutes. As I read the minutes, it is sometimes difficult to glean what happened or what was said.

Many of our local members do not know whether the BOR reports to the BOT or vice versa. Some do not understand why only two members can be from out of state when technology provides us with incredibly easy access and inexpensive means of communication. (This issue has been raised before, but in my opinion, never adequately addressed.) We, the BOT, should also be able to listen in - if we choose to - to what is being done, said, and handled.

As we, the BOT elect the BOR members, I believe we SHOULD be better informed at what is being said at the BOR meetings, with the real who, what, where and why. How else can we responsibly elect new BOR members in the future if we don't know what they are saying, or how they are conducting themselves.

I must admit I have been remiss at attending these meetings; I only live 3 hours away - and I should have attended more. My sole excuse is that the Friday night drive from San Diego to Los Angeles is more like 5 hours due to traffic conditions.....and I am not sure I am willing to make that commitment when the output seems, via the minutes, so minimal.

While I respect that they are all volunteers; they are all doing the best jobs they can under sometimes difficult circumstances; I still believe the BOR owes the BOT a better product. I don't believe we would accept this behavior from a committee chair - there's too much at stake - for now and the future of Gamblers Anonymous - as a whole.

With love, faith, hope and respect for our Fellowship,
Linda S. - Area 3A Trustee - San Diego

3/12/10 - 10:41 AM

I've read the posts on the Board of Regents so far in March and I wonder why more Trustees have not written in. I read another email from another Trustee who has only had two responses to his call for feedback on a proposed agenda item. He is considering not submitting it because no one seems to care to respond and why waste the BOT's time. That is sad and I am part of the many trustees who don't use this Trustee Line enough. John B., I apologize for not responding to your request for feedback on "Starting a new meeting" sooner than this. I fully support your agenda item regarding Trustees overseeing the starter kits getting to the new meeting. Area 2B basically has had that in place for quite awhile now. There surely needs to be guidelines set up for this process. A little advice, I would never say an item is not worth putting on an agenda John. It is important to you and your area and you felt strongly enough to bring it to the Trustee Line. You did your part in asking for help, some day when we figure out why we can't take the time to respond better to requests for help things will get better. Maybe I'm wishing on a four leaf clover, I hope not.

As for the BOR, we seem to have more and more to bitch about as time goes by. I totally agree with David M's ideas. I believe the minutes are very vague and have been for a long time. Its like you just start reading themand they are overand then you wonder what you just read and have you learned anything? I wonder how the BOR can say "no" to trustees wanting to listen in on their meeting. Still shaking my head on that one, and there has been no response as to why, that I have heard. The Hotline issue has gotten way out of hand. Must be a lot of thought went into this matter if "9 people can just say let's give it back to the BOT and thats it." Maybe the BOR could have first come up with a presentation by their Chairman at the BOT meeting and explained everything the way it is now and why they felt this was necessary. I believe this is called communication, something my wife reminds me of daily.

I would love to see more response in this Trustee Line on any subject. We were elected to represent our area's we can at least respond to a call for feedback on a topic.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Louisville ,

Steve R. - Area 2B, Northern California

3/15/10 - 5:23 PM

I'm certainly in agreement with the sentiment expressed by David M., John B. and others regarding the lack of detailed minutes of BOR meetings.

Board meeting minutes should be sufficiently thorough and comprehensive -- they are for future readers (succeeding board members) and outside readers (GA Fellowship) as much as they are for the current board members. In the eyes of GA's independent auditors (as well as the courts and IRS), board minutes are legal documents and as such, they should be clear to all readers coming into the process at a later time.

I've had opportunity in the past to attend BOR meetings. One such experience a couple of years ago is that the record of business transacted in June during the discussion of the fiscal year budget was not sufficient enough to describe how certain budget line items were derived or determined; and that only the operating budget in its final, approved form was published subsequently in the minutes. For recovering compulsive gamblers, when it comes to discussing

finances, discussions should not be vague or opaque and instead should be transparent.

In the spirit of cooperation and fellowship, I urge the Board of Regents to give heed to members' concerns regarding the lack of detailed minutes of BOR meetings and to take the appropriate action.

Ed E. - Past Trustee, Area 2 - Northern California

3/22/10 - 12:50 PM

Hi David,

Who died and left you to be the GA Police. It seems funny to me that every time you get a burr under your saddle there has to be a huge controversy, and using the Trustee Line for it creates even bigger problems or noise on the subject. You voice an opinion and it seems that every one jumps on the band wagon echoing your exact words and thoughts.

Yes the minutes of the BOR could be a little more detailed on most subjects, but to carry on a campaign accusing them of hiding things could be classified as "taking someone else's inventory", and that would 9 different members that are trying to get a job done just like the BOT's. In either board, not everything is done efficiently and/or correctly. But each board in their own way is trying to conduct the business of the program for the betterment of the Brothers and Sisters. You go to the BOR meeting every month and then report back to the Trustees, thru the Trustees Line the exact nature of their right or wrong procedures and discussions, and in detail.

Not everything is always black and white as you very well know thru the teachings of the program, there will always be some gray areas and we must learn to work our way thru them as best we can. So, please if you have an idea, put it out on the table, but don't try to dictate and bully the others into thinking that you are always right, and what is so wrong with the workings of the program. It is so easy to scare people with those type of tactics that it might even stop some of our members for running for one of the boards. We know that getting involved and being of service helps in our recovery, don't chase the newer members away. Change is slow and we are still learning how to grow in this uncertain world that we live in today.

This is not a bash, just a thought about the other side of the mirror. We must learn to look at both sides and understand that there is 2 sides to every thought and subject. Let's keep an open mind. Voice an opinion or thought, but don't browbeat or bully people into thinking it is the only way.

Arnie B. - Area 8, Chicago, Il.
BOR member 8 terms - BOT member 5 terms

3/22/10 - 4:18 PM

Hi

In response to Arnie's submission to the trustee line. Have you ever stopped to think ,that maybe just maybe, it takes ONE person to write what's wrong with something to get others to write. I for one am not jumping on any bandwagon. But I do know lots of what is wrong. As a past BOR member, for a few terms, how can you get decent minutes from a meeting when everyone is speaking at once. Then all the candy wrappers are making a noise. I was told more than once I didn't know what I was talking about. I personally told them it was an OLD BOYS CLUB. I was ignored and yelled at. Yes I yelled back. I asked for a better phone system my first term because I couldn't hear Even you agreed with that Arnie. All of us could sit in a cocoon and let it all go by. But then again where would that get us. I don't usually write on the trustee line, but I sure do read it every day. Thank you for allowing me space

Liz N. - Area 3, Las Vegas

3/23/10 - 8:15 AM

There are many things I enjoy in this Fellowship. Speaking my mind on the Trustee Line is one of them. Another is posting rebuttals to statements that are based on flawed premises.

No one in authority at the Board of Trustees died, nor did anyone appoint me to any position remotely resembling a greatly abused phrase of being the 'GA Police'. What I have found in this program is that people default to using that phrase when they don't like that they have to follow the Guidance Code, or any of the other decisions from the Board of Trustees that hold the seams of Gamblers Anonymous together. I have also seen it used when people try to take their will back instead of working Recovery Step 3. If the conversation

goes against someone's personal feelings, they use that phrase similar to the beginnings of a schoolyard bout of 2 kids pushing each other around. I'm not pointing any fingers, just making yet another observation.

For the record, I don't ride horses, nor do I travel in any areas where there are burrs to bother me. My life is located in reality, and there are some who haven't found the directions to it yet. What I am guilty of is pointing out situations that are broken and dysfunctional in the Fellowship. If you want warm and fuzzy reading, read the Bulletin. If you want to discuss real issues that involve the Trustees, read and participate in the Trustee Line. Subjects that have appeared on the Trustee Line have many times turned into agenda items that have passed with very high margins of approval. The Trustee Line is the ideal place to voice such opinions because those that read it are directly responsible for making changes as a result of these situations. The more noise and visibility they receive the better.

Contrary to what was written, I don't have people on my 'personal GA opinion payroll' that I deploy to act as my soldiers. I put ideas out there and miraculously, there are others who actually agree with my thoughts. What a coincidence that there are those who do, as there are over 125 current Trustees and even more past Trustees with the access to the Trustee Line and the ability to post their ideas.

Let me address a few key points. The BOR minutes are a joke, that's not a news flash. You can view nearly 4 years of the minutes on the BOR News Page on this site, if you need proof of this. The BOR meetings only last for about 90 minutes with 9 members. Why is it so difficult to put down who says what and list how everyone votes? The Trustees elect these people every year and yet we know nothing about how they think because we are shielded from the results of their individual votes. So we are left with personalities instead of principles. The voting for the BOR is reduced to 'I voted for this one or that one because he or she is a good GA member.' Is that how we want to ensure we have the best talent possible in the BOR? I already know one of the answers from the BOR devotees who are always the cheerleaders of the BOR. 'Why should the BOR have more detailed minutes if the BOT has none whatsoever?' If anyone actually believes that to be a valid argument, then that is even more troubling than the reason for my response.

The lack of clear minutes showing the discussion details speaks very directly to either secrecy or outright laziness. I have been fighting for better minutes, along with other Trustees, for more years than I care to admit. It was Ian S. from Georgia that made this a big issue in San Diego, 5 years ago. A past BOR member got up to the microphone to emphasize how it was impossible to take better minutes. Impossible? Isn't that a bit overly dramatic? Each time the subject is brought up, we get a patronizing answer of why it can't be done, rather a realistic commitment to get it done. By the way, a complete audio transcript can be done for \$6.50 per month. Each time, the BOR decides very clearly to do nothing. Then when it is brought up again and again, that person is labeled as a troublemaker. I've been called a lot of things, one more label isn't going to kill me.

I'm not taking anyone's inventory, just laying out the facts. I only wish other Trustees could go to the BOR meetings. If they did, they would also be able to quote chapter and verse about what happens at the BOR meetings versus what is put into the minutes. The differences are wide enough to drive a tractor trailer through. The fact is these items continually get exposed and the BOR consistently ignores them. Would anyone care to pick a characterization for why that happens? Why is it always current or past BOR members who constantly defend these antiquated ways with statements of how 'they are doing the best they can' or it is 'unrealistic to expect the BOR to make them better'?

I'm very humored at the challenge to take my ideas and put it out on the table, as it relates to the BOR. There isn't even the slightest shred of credibility in that statement or remote chance for effectiveness. Imagine putting an item on the BOT agenda and not being present to pitch the item yourself, let alone defend statements made by people who are either unwilling to listen to any supportive facts or just outright making misstatements. Putting on an agenda item for the BOR and not being present to present it, is like taking a shower while wearing a raincoat.

I don't understand why it is such a problem to uncover these continuous series of problems. Am I to understand that this is an elite group of GA members on the BOR and they are never to be questioned or made accountable or even worse, exposed for the problems they themselves create? Maybe we should all continue to elect these people without knowing anything about how they function on the BOR, but just be guided by how long they have been in the Fellowship and their statements about how the program has saved their lives.

In trying to get the right people for that role, statements like that are worth as much as what you find on the bottom of your shoes sometimes.

The explanation that not everything is black and white is hilarious. What gray areas are there at the BOR? Decisions can be made, right or wrong, but don't hide from showing who is saying what about the subject at hand. That action, by definition makes everything gray.

My tactics are not scare tactics, they are 'wake up and smell the burning coffee' reality tactics. If my statements are scaring people away from taking office, then those people are probably not very confident at being completely accountable. There is no 'change is slow' that is believable with the BOR. What is slow is the BOR's history of not being responsive to change. They are happy in their own skin and feel that anyone outside of California is an intruder, evidently with me as the leader of the pack.

Tell me what the reasons were for the BOR not voting to allow conference calls to be set up for each meeting, with the exception of Benni F.? It would have been nice to know exactly what everyone's objections were regarding a serious step of accountability. We were not given so much as a morsel of information about that decision. What are the BOR members so scared of? That's a simple answer, they are scared of letting the rest of the Fellowship know exactly what they think and say, because maybe if the members of this Fellowship don't like the way the BOR members think or act, they might not get re-elected. Reality check - that's called accountability and transparency.

There are a lot of items on the Kentucky agenda about changing things at the BOR. In Montreal, a committee was formed to review the procedures and structure of the Board of Regents. The Trustees are tired of nursing this broken wooden wheel that is missing a lot of spokes called the Board of Regents. Instead of defending or protecting this broken wheel, let's fix it and maybe even better, get a new wheel. It would be nice to get out of the Dark Ages with the BOR and bring them up to today's desires from the Board of Trustees. People need to lift up the rocks to find all the snakes underneath.

Lastly, just for the record, bullying is based on emotion without the benefit of knowledge. The facts that are constantly being thrown at the wall about the BOR, are constantly brushed aside because nobody at the BOR wants to look at the mess on the wall. That speaks to an entirely different issue; something that sounds like -Don't confuse me with the facts.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

3/24/10 - 2:12 PM

To Dedicated BOT and BOR members,

This submission is in response to the issues raised by some Board of Trustee members versus the current status of the Board of Regents.

Some Gamblers Anonymous members of the Board of Trustees in submitting items to the trustee line have been very critical of what they call irregular and incomplete minutes submitted monthly by the Board of Regents. They couple this with the bonuses denied to the I.S.O. employees in December 2008. The Board of Regents reconsidered and reinstated the bonuses shortly thereafter. These resentments directed towards the Board of Regents have initiated a move to possibly reorganize, dismantle, or disband the status and responsibilities of the current Board of Regents. The prime responsibility of the Board of Regents is to guide the International Service Office and manage Gamblers Anonymous financial assets. The Board of Regents do a superb job in handling large amounts of financial assets and have never been questioned as to their honesty and their efficiency carrying out their financial duties.

Whatever the disputes or issues some members of the Board of Trustees have with the operation of the Board of Regents those disputes can not be amended by hurling angry insults towards Board of Regent members. Some examples of anger are words such as "malarkey"--"Bulls--t"-- "Blow them all up and start over" and insults to the integrity of Gamblers Anonymous in California.

Those angry words are not consistent with the Spiritual Principles presented by our Fellowship as kindness, generosity, honesty, and humility. Those principles apply to all Gamblers Anonymous members including members of the Board of Trustees and members of the Board of Regents. We should not---as a declared Spiritual Fellowship (see Guidance Code) disregard those principles as we solve issues that affect Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

I suggest that emotional problems such as anger, frustration and resentment are not designed to further honest communication between Gamblers Anonymous service board members and can do damage to peace of mind and

serenity in our lives. Those emotions only poison a process that can only be solved by bringing kindness, generosity, honesty, and humility in solving problems we face, now or in the future.

In closing, this is a humble appeal to all Gamblers Anonymous members, male or female, trustee or non-trustee, to solve the issues that separate them by honoring the spiritual principles of our Fellowship to the best of our abilities, to honor and defend the principle of UNITY that binds us together, respect for our mutual recoveries as the highest priorities we can honor, "One Day At A Time." We are truly blessed to be partners on this journey towards recovery.

Yours in recovery, hope, and understanding,

George W. past trustee-residing now in area 16.

3/25/10 - 7:38 AM

I have not respond to the trustee line in a long time. But, I cannot hold back anymore. David M's constant attack on every level of our fellowship should be an embarrassment and a disgrace to every GA member. If you read any letter he has ever written on the trustee line you would think that the members that have been entrusted are idiots that have no morals or brains to run our fellowship.

His latest commentary, to me is a personnel insult and is derogatory and detrimental to our fellowship. Even though he cleverly doesn't mention a name, however mention the BOR members, which have nine members. I am a solid member of GA and one that takes every opportunity to build unity and strengthen it, not only for our current membership but also for the future members. I chose the positive side of the coin - David seems to chose to breakdown unity every chance and way. Even though I believe that it is against this website GC - **"(Inappropriateness will include profanity, derogatory statements about another member or person, derogatory statements about another room and matters unrelated to Gamblers Anonymous). David has and is attacking every member of the BOR for the past four years.** Apparently, the chairs that govern this site allow David to do what he pleases - after all he controls the show, lets be honest. If he didn't do the work for the agenda, who would? Possibly themselves are afraid of David's power of the pen?

I am a VERY proud, grateful member of the BOR and feel it is a privilege, honor to serve on it and have felt over the last 3+ years of association with its members and Chairman that they are just as dedicated to the well being and betterment of GA. It is an insult to the very core structure and foundation to mock it in the fashion and manner David elects. The only redemption I feel is his cheerleaders is just a very small handful and not the majority. Over the years it is always the same old horn blowers that back his ridiculous statements that get their jollies by condemning their fellow GA brothers and sisters.

Like emails and letters it is very easy to write these things versus telling it to one's face. I have never heard David in any of his visits to the BOR or on the floor of a BOT conference to speak one word what he writes in his trustee line, prior to having his friend Denis M as chair. It says a lot about a person that is truly has two faces. I was just as proud to be a trustee for 6 years. Coming from my humble side, not my ego side, I am glad that I was blessed with the vision to create 888-GA-HELPS and the INTERNATIONAL WALK A THON and other motions that was put forth. None of these items would be possible without the guidance and efforts from the BOR and its Chairs. Without question it has added to my recovery and the serenity that I have.

David has the ability to make a beautiful story such as a husband and wives blessed with a birth of their first child and turn it into Exorcist XI. Liz from Vegas is correct, I too read the trustee line every day just to see how low the trustee line can go - just like the GLOBE or ESQUIRE, it has it deceiving facts. Without question it is not the NYT. The trustee line has the power to talk about the "GOOD" that an area or trustee does - yet the greater majority that is written is like what David writes about. You are what you think or write in this case.

I beg all of you to allow me to show you how easy it is to put blame on some of the items David attempts to make our BOR appear to be in his mind. My story will be taking David's commentary, however instead of the BOR we will replace it with the word BOT for my fictional. I will use his paragraphs in the same font and type and mine will be in **bold face under his paragraph.**

THE STORY:

There are many things I enjoy in this Fellowship. Speaking my mind on the

Trustee Line is one of them. Another is posting rebuttals to statements that are based on flawed premises.

There are many things I enjoy in this Fellowship. Speaking my mind on the Trustee Line is NOT one of them. I dislike posting rebuttals to statements that are based on flawed premises.

I'm very humored at the challenge to take my ideas and put it out on the table, as it relates to the BOR. There isn't even the slightest shred of credibility in that statement or remote chance for effectiveness. Imagine putting an item on the BOT agenda and not being present to pitch the item yourself, let alone defend statements made by people who are either unwilling to listen to any supportive facts or just outright making misstatements. Putting on an agenda item for the BOR and not being present to present it, is like taking a shower while wearing a raincoat.

I'm very humored at the challenge to take my ideas and put it out on the table, as it relates to the BOT. Any member in GA has the right to put any item on the BOT agenda and not be presented. There are at least 20 items on this coming agenda from members not being present. The matter of fact sometimes the trustee even states he may not believe in the item or gives a weak presentation, but was asked to present it. "There isn't even the slightest shred of credibility in that statement or remote chance for effectiveness." NOTE: The BOR doesn't prevent any member to post an item and be present for it. Just as a member giving an item for the BOT, he or she would have to travel to that BOT conference.

I don't understand why it is such a problem to uncover these continuous series of problems. Am I to understand that this is an elite group of GA members on the BOR and they are never to be questioned or made accountable or even worse, exposed for the problems they themselves create? Maybe we should all continue to elect these people without knowing anything about how they function on the BOR, but just be guided by how long they have been in the Fellowship and their statements about how the program has saved their lives. In trying to get the right people for that role, statements like that are worth as much as what you find on the bottom of your shoes sometimes.

I don't understand why it is such a problem to uncover these continuous series of problems. Fact, most GA members have no idea on what an elite trustee is or does. In NJ area most believe that the trustee goes on a vacation at the BOT conference and do nothing doing the rest of the year. This past NJIG meeting it was discussed what do NJIG get for their buck. Having been involved in many intergroups throughout our fellowship this is not an uncommon feeling. "Am I to understand that this is an elite group of GA members on the BOT and they are never to be questioned or made accountable or even worse, exposed for the problems they themselves create?"

The explanation that not everything is black and white is hilarious. What gray areas are there at the BOR? Decisions can be made, right or wrong, but don't hide from showing who is saying what about the subject at hand. That action, by definition makes everything gray.

"The explanation that not everything is black and white is hilarious." Fact, the minutes from the BOT conference are a joke? All we get back is a passed, fail or some other junk. All agenda items are meaningless; there is no accountability or creditability. The area or intergroup has no idea how their trustee voted on anything - it must be some kind of cover-up to protect themselves. It doesn't explain why an agenda past or failed, let only that it didn't get passed for some kind of procedural issue that only a Wall Street high power lawyer can explain. Even through it is in the Guidance Code that any member can read. Better yet, lets confuse our membership more, just cause it is not in the GC it is in some other cover up that the BOT has labeled "RULES AND PROCEDURE" that no GA member has, only a trustee has. This ELITE secret sociality has its own rules - does the words WATERGATE COVERUP come to mind. "What gray areas are there at the BOT?"

To add to the cover up and to protect the elite trustee - there is another document that only a trustee has the right to have - that is called the CONFIDENTIALITY TRUSTEE PHONE LIST. There was a strong argument that NO trustee has the right to make it available to the GA fellowship. It was straw voted and passed almost by the all trustees NOT to give it out. What are the trustees afraid to get a phone call from a member and be accountable? Where is the BOT creditability to its members that give their donations to send a secretive elite trustee to a BOT conference?

SIDE NOTE: The BOR ensures every effort to makes sure that every item is

clearly understood for everyone. If there is a question there is the old thing called the Telephone to call. Even with this entire BS on the trustee line- I have not received one phone call to discuss any item with any trustee. Keep in mind that the BOR post every meeting in the Bulletin for any member to see. Does every member know about the Trustee website? Why are not the Transcripts of the BOT meetings posted on the trustee website for all members to see. There is a taping of it - but I could almost guarantee that Karen was never asked to play back for a member- let alone the time that Karen would have to take. It would cost very little to do this and be accountable to the fellowship. What is the BOT trying to hide or protect?

My tactics are not scare tactics, they are 'wake up and smell the burning coffee' reality tactics. If my statements are scaring people away from taking office, then those people are probably not very confident at being completely accountable. There is no 'change is slow' that is believable with the BOR. What is slow is the BOR's history of not being responsive to change. They are happy in their own skin and feel that anyone outside of California is an intruder, evidently with me as the leader of the pack.

"My tactics are not scare tactics, they are 'wake up and smell the burning coffee' reality tactics." The BOT change has been swift to protect itself and to allow some trustee to have 10+ years of vacation time. **NOTE: The BOR you can only run for 2 consecutive years. It is becoming more and more difficult for any member to step up to be a trustee. The fear factor of not knowing what or how to be a trustee is obvious to everyone. Yet there is another 9 new agenda items to RULES AND PROCEDURES to confuse its members. The mere fact that there is this secret document that is not even official GA literature that any member could get from our own ISO. "If my statements are scaring people away from taking office, then those people are probably not very confident at being completely accountable." Does the statement - "the best defense is a good offense?" "Or protect one's butt? Ring at heart of the matter.**

Tell me what the reasons were for the BOR not voting to allow conference calls to be set up for each meeting, with the exception of Benni F.? It would have been nice to know exactly what everyone's objections were regarding a serious step of accountability. We were not given so much as a morsel of information about that decision. What are the BOR members so scared of? That's a simple answer, they are scared of letting the rest of the Fellowship know exactly what they think and say, because maybe if the members of this Fellowship don't like the way the BOR members think or act, they might not get re-elected. Reality check - that's called accountability and transparency.

Tell me why in this day and age that the BOT doesn't have Web video coverage for its areas? Are they afraid that the fellowship may find out who is doing the good job as a trustee and one that just sits there and not make a single comment during the 3 days there. The areas spend 10's of thousands of dollars to support it trustees and want the best for their fellowship. "That's a simple answer, they are scared of letting the rest of the Fellowship know exactly what they think and say.

There are a lot of items on the Kentucky agenda about changing things at the BOR. In Montreal, a committee was formed to review the procedures and structure of the Board of Regents. The Trustees are tired of nursing this broken wooden wheel that is missing a lot of spokes called the Board of Regents. Instead of defending or protecting this broken wheel, let's fix it and maybe even better, get a new wheel. It would be nice to get out of the Dark Ages with the BOR and bring them up to today's desires from the Board of Trustees. People need to lift up the rocks to find all the snakes underneath.

Why doesn't the BOR form a committee to review the procedures and structure of the Board of Trustees? There is no one to watch what the BOT does- they make up their own rules and we, as members, MUST follow what they say in the intergroups, rooms and members. The BOT political machine has grown to strong. Now with the "CAPE DUO "good ole boys in NJ in area 12, from back east are in power. Batman and Robin postponed the BOR so called revamping item till one of them was in power. OPPS - maybe I should have not said that - I've seen THE SOPARINOS on HBO. They are the law makings, judge and jury- how convenient. "Instead of defending or protecting this broken wheel, let's fix it and maybe even better, get a new wheel. It would be nice to get out of the Dark Ages with the BOT and bring them up to today's desires from the Board of Regent. People need to lift up the rocks to find all the snakes underneath"

Lastly, just for the record, bullying is based on emotion without the benefit of knowledge. The facts that are constantly being thrown at the wall about the BOR, are constantly brushed aside because nobody at the BOR wants to look at

the mess on the wall. That speaks to an entirely different issue; something that sounds like -Don't confuse me with the facts.

Lastly, just for the record, bullying is based on emotion without the benefit of knowledge. The facts that are constantly being thrown at the wall about the BOT, are constantly brushed aside because nobody at the BOT wants to look at the mess on the wall. That speaks to an entirely different issue; something that sounds like -Don't confuse me with the facts.

END OF STORY--- Fiction or Fact???

IN SUMMARY:

The lesson that should be learned is - it is better to work together and respect what fellowship has taught us - rather than to make derogatory comments that are detrimental to our fellowship.

I hope you all enjoyed my story and hope THIS EXERCISE has taught you to look through both sides of the window BEFORE JUDGING. Some of you may feel outraged being a trustee - if you do - you now understand how your fellow members of BOR must feel. Once again, I along with my fellow BOR members take pride of the effort and work we do every month - not twice a year.

Both boards do the very best to guide our fellowship and to make it better every day. I believe all of this malarkey and bulls--t is just that and a small handful of horn blowers can blow their horn as long as the rest of us understand where it is coming from and do not fall into this BS that is detrimental to our fellowship.

My faith in the members we entrust to do the right thing will never be twisted from anyone words. It is one thing to have and build faith and unity, and another thing on those willing to gamble and breakdown unity with untruths.

Lastly, these are my own thoughts and comments and may not be the other members of the BOR express or feel. Yes, I am accountable for what I am trying to express in this exercise of fellowship.

Fellowship First - Gary S. - Proud to be on your BOR and a member of our great fellowship.

3/25/10 - 11:53 AM

Hey I just read the last few postings to the trustee Line, and nobody from the BOR has yet answered any of the question that both Richard & David M have asked.....which by the way was part of the minutes from the BOR.

I have just read a lot of words but as I said no answers, which is how this BOR has been working as of late, as I see it. No more words just the Facts, baby just answer the questions.

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

3/25/10 - 12:51 PM

This submission to the Trustee Line is sure to upset a few but I believe it must be said. I sincerely apologize if I do upset anyone but I am tired of reading about how bad the Board of Regents is and what a poor job they do. I have served a two year term on the BOT back in the 80's and was Chairman of the BOT a few years ago. I have also served 11 terms on the BOR with 5 terms as Chairman, 1 as Co-Chair, 1 as Treasurer, 1 as assistant Treasurer and 2 as Secretary. A few years ago when a few Trustees complained about poor minutes of the BOR I ran for that office to try and satisfy those Trustees by giving them expanded minutes. After each BOR meeting I would take the minutes home and write down everything I could. Sometimes I spent hours on these minutes. The results were according to these few Trustees, a bit better but still not sufficient. There was no making these few Trustees happy. On my last term as Chairman of the BOR I was subjected to numerous insults and name calling since I did not do what certain Trustees wanted me to do.

I got so tired of dealing with this small group of Trustees that I decided to never again run for either board. Someday I might change my mind but not until these insults and innuendos cease.

David M writes very elegant letters and sometimes he has me convinced that he knows what he's talking about. I do believe he means well and believes he is doing what is best for GA but sometimes he just goes overboard. I have noticed there are many items on the Trustee agenda dealing with the BOR. I also know that these items came from the newly formed BOR revamping

committee. Looking at these items I see that they want to increase the BOR membership from 9 to 12 and make it a 2 year term instead of a 1 year term. As things are now we are having trouble finding 9 members for the BOR. How are we going to get 12 members for 2 years? I do believe that the time will come when the BOR can be truly International with members from all over the world on some sort of video hookup and I am all for it. At that time I would also be in favor of a video or audio hookup so that any Trustee or any GA member can listen in on the meeting. Until that time comes I am in not in favor of any audio hookup. With having to have 7 members of the BOR from the Southern California area we don't always get the best qualified but we get 7 members that want to give their time and effort for this wonderful program. I do not know of any BOR member that has ever profited even 1 cent from being a BOR member. These GA members try their very best and the BOR has nothing to hide and they are not a secret society as some have suggested.

I applaud Arnie from Chicago and Gary from New Jersey for having the courage to speak their minds and enlighten everyone that reads the Trustee Line to the true facts. Contrary to what some might think the BOR is run very well and they are doing what they were elected by the Trustees to do. so let them do their job. I will be in Kentucky for 6 days in the event anyone wants to take a swing at me. A verbal swing that is.

Yours in Recovery

Bob W-Area 1, Los Angeles

3/25/10 - 11:26 PM

Dear current and past trustees,

I start this submission by remembering a great GA member from New Jersey named Mitch R. Mitch R. had a son named Marshall who came to GA at age 21. Marshall R. last year celebrated 45 years of recovery in Gamblers Anonymous. Mitch R. joined GA at age 42 and when Mitch passed away at age 85 he had enjoyed 43 years of recovery, freedom, and sanity with Gamblers Anonymous. Mitch R. symbolized all it means to be great Gamblers Anonymous member. Mitch R. was tough, compassionate, a great listener, and shared his experience, strength, and hope with fellow members. Mitch R., his words and deeds are imbedded in my mind and I can still hear him telling me to "Look for the pluses in life" and "Count my blessings" everyday. I can not forget the day I called Mitch and told him about my troubles and worries--after a few minutes listening to my woes Mitch calmly suggested that I come to his home and we both could worry together and see what we would solve. Mitch once explained to me when we were on separate sides on a particular issue that "I had a right to be wrong" and added "don't stay wrong too long!" Some of you who knew Mitch R. and his involvement and service to Gamblers Anonymous (some younger members might call you old-timers) know I am telling the truth

I realize by submitting to the trustee line after a period of peace of mind and serenity not submitting, that I will become a willing target for my fan club and you know who you are. But that's OK, I'm an arrested compulsive gambler who once loved living on the edge of danger. who understands the reality of being one bet away from insanity-- and guards against insanity by doing things "THE GA WAY." I am sure of one thing, the program never fails, people fail!

I believe that no matter the service board problems (Some Trustees vs Regents) that have come to the surface recently that the problems have been boiling below the surface being fueled by anger, resentment, and frustration on the part of some trustees. This started when the Regents cancelled the ISO holiday bonuses in 2008. When the bonuses were reinstated by the Regents that should have been the end of it--over--done--finished. Now we know it is not over--it is now an all guns blazing fight between some trustees who want the Regents abolished or revamped to what will please them and subdue their obvious anger. I don't have a dog in this one-sided fight but I do know fighting between two groups of trusted servants will only lead to disunity, disruption, and do damage to the primary purpose of The Fellowship. Who among us would be willing to risk that outcome? The path to recovery, peace, and harmony is a higher calling than the luxury thinking you are right to go forward with accusations that cannot be proved and risk stoking the volatile emotions all compulsive gamblers possess.

So, within my rights as a individual member and past trustee I humbly request the Board of Trustee cease and desist with any effort to change the Board of Regents. Disband the committee formed basically to tear down the capable proven structure of the Board of Regents. The Trustees are elected trusted servants, elected to serve the best interests of the membership, employing honesty, openmindedness, willingness as they do so. The trustees are not senators or politicians-They are responsible to the full membership and to The

Fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous.

I suppose my fan club will have some choice, angry responses to the thoughts I have the right to express, that's OK--I'll stick with "principles before personalities" as the path to follow--Hey, if I have the right to be wrong--my fans have the right to be wrong also. As Mitch R. suggested, don't stay wrong too long.

Yours in recovery and the practice of Spiritual Principles,

George W. past trustee residing in area 16.

3/26/10 - 11:24 AM

I have read with great interest all the postings on the March Trustee-line. Personally I like to read the facts and opinions and try very hard not to absorb the personal or hurtful references. Most G.A. members are passionate about their program and their recovery and apparently some are more so than others. The bottom line is that all should have the betterment of Gamblers Anonymous at heart. I hope that the opinions and suggestions are not interpreted as a personal attack on any member and we will all readily admit that there is room for improvement in all aspects of our program. As chairman of the newly formed Committee to study the working of the Board of Regents and its relations with the Board of Trustees, I can assure you all that it is not the intention of this committee to suggest its destruction, nor to make any drastic changes in its current function. We will attempt to suggest ways that the BOR and the BOT will be on the same page in the Guidance Code and the By-Laws and the Articles of Incorporation in order to avoid any friction and misunderstanding going forward. We will also suggest ways of bringing the BOR more in line with the current technology available and the greatly expanded International Gamblers Anonymous. I cannot give you more details at this time because we are just getting started and it will be a lengthy process to prepare our suggested manual. You will be able to watch most of the progress of the committee's work on the Trustee-line as we proceed. You can be reassured that the committee process will be very amicable and fair, as we have one former Chairman of the BOR, the current Chairman of the BOR and a few current and past members of the Board of Regents on the committee, and all of our intentions are for the improvement of Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

Herb B. - Trustee of Area 5, Montreal
Chairman of the BOR Procedural Review Committee

3/28/10 - 1:11 AM

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I know what I wrote before would start a controversy, and that's exactly what it was meant to do. There are some of the things that David talks about are very much in need of change and yet as some people that will say "don't try to fix what's not broke". Unfortunately, most of what was brought up needs some tweaking, not necessarily major changes. I agree that the minutes of the BOR should be more detailed as to exactly who said what and who voted for what, either way, but the same should go for the BOT meetings, every statement, argument, debate and vote of each Trustee should be part of the final minutes of the International Conferences held with the BOT.

There are 2 sides to every subject and if you feel that one has to be changed than so does the other in order to keep things in the same perspective, what's good for one is good for the other.

That's all I am saying on the subject till I get to Louisville where most of this will be on the agenda.

Arnie B. - Area 8, Chicago

3/28/10 - 1:37 PM

Still No Answers

Hey guys we are still getting more words, but again no answers to the questions. One writer misquotes with ANGER WORDS..."Blow THEM all up and start over" the statement never said THEM, it was referring to the subject " BLOW the whole THING up and start over"

A BOR member writes a fictional story, a lot of fiction at that, but still NO Answers to the questions.

An Ex-Chairperson of past BOR makes a statement " with having to have 7 members from Southern California Area we don't always get the best qualified" Now that's a good one, knowing part of the problem but allowing it to go on "

Good Old Boys Club" that's just great, and still no answer to the questions.

I for one don't believe that the writing of a BOR member for 8 terms started a controversy" the no answers to the questions did start it all, and still no answers.

HELP!

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

3/28/10 - 5:00 PM

Joe

Give us concise questions and I will try to give you answers. As far as I recall your main question was about the minutes. I think I answered that by telling you how concise and complete my minutes were when I was Secretary of the BOR and some of the Trustees still we're happy. What else can we do? I think the expense of hiring a professional secretary might be tough to get by the BOT. As for having an open line for a handfull of Trustees to listen in. This will probably happy as soon as the BOR goes totally International with audio or/and video feeds. If you can't wait for that to happen I don't know what to suggest.

Bob W. - Area 1, Los Angeles

3/28/10 - 6:05 PM

I had gone to ROBERT RULES to answer some of the statements(not questions) that David and Joe are attempting to bring up. To my surprise the BOR does above and beyond what ROBERT RULES suggest. I would hope the BOT would adopt this as well and offer better minutes for our members. At least, try to find a better way.

Also, The BOR is just really a very simple process and meeting, It is orderly and accorded to our GC Article XIII, section 5 for the last 53+ years. It is very obvious 99% of the fellowship feels the same or I am sure many trustees would had step to the plate like David had asked in his first commentary. I truly wish more members would come to the meetings to see how well they are run. I look forward to partaking in them every month and proud of the service that the BOR members do for our great fellowship.

I hope this answers Joe Bs question. Now, I am looking to have the some of my questions answered. There are not just words - but facts!

Fellowship first -

GARY S. - A proud member of your BOR.

Quoted from ROBERT RULES on the Minutes -

60. The Minutes. The record of the proceedings of a deliberative assembly is usually called the Minutes, or the Record, or the Journal. The essentials of the record are as follows: (a) the kind of meeting, "regular" (or stated) or "special," or "adjourned regular" or "adjourned special"; (b) name of the assembly; (c) date of meeting and place, when it is not always the same; (d) the fact of the presence of the regular chairman and secretary, or in their absence the names of their substitutes, (e) whether the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, or their reading dispensed with, the dates of the meetings being given when it is customary to occasionally transact business at other than the regular business meetings; (f) all the main motions (except such as were withdrawn) and points of order and appeals, whether sustained or lost, and all other motions that were not lost or withdrawn; (g) and usually the hours of meeting and adjournment, when the meeting is solely for business. Generally the name is recorded of the member who introduced a main motion, but not of the seconder.

In some societies the minutes are signed by the president in addition to the secretary, and when published they should always be signed by both officers. If minutes are not habitually approved at the next meeting, then there should be written at the end of the minutes the word "Approved" and the date of the approval, which should be signed by the secretary. They should be entered in good black ink in a wellbound record-book.¹

The Form of the Minutes may be as follows:

At a regular meeting of the M. L. Society, held in their hall, on Thursday evening, March 19, 1914, the president in the chair, and Mr. N acting as secretary, the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Committee on Applications reported the names of Messrs. C and D as applicants for membership, and on motion of Mr. F they were admitted as members. The committee on reported through Mr. G a series of

resolutions, which were thoroughly discussed and amended, and finally adopted, as follows:

Resolved, That.....

.....

On motion of Mr. L the society adjourned at 10 P.M.

R..... N.....

Secretary.

3/30/10 - 1:31 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Isn't our primary purpose to get the message out to the Compulsive Gambler who still suffers. I am suffering with all this BS about the BOR Minutes.

My two suggestions are this:

1. BOR record your minutes on a tape recorder and mail a copy to David M!
2. Make a bunch of copies of the Local Area Help Flyer (get off your duffs and away from your computers) and put them up on bulletin boards wherever you get permission ; thus getting the message out to the Compulsive Gambler who still suffers. Your brother in recovery,
Ronny W. - Area 17, Connecticut - Current Trustee

Thanking you all in advance for getting off your duffs.

My Resignation as Trustee

3/9/10 - 2:42 PM

Fellow Trustees,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform all of you that earlier today I sent a resignation letter to Karen. Gamblers Anonymous is for me a place like no other has been in my life. I took the trustee job because I felt I had something to give back to the program. I truly believe that keeping the trustee job for the sake of being trustee is not the right thing to do. If I can't fulfil the duties of a trustee then I have no right to hold the position.

In October the wreckage of my past came back to haunt me and I lost my pizzeria to NYS sales tax department. I am now working for some one managing a pizzeria with some great potential for the future. Hopefully that will lead me to a place where I can then afford the time needed to perform as I feel a trustee should. Right now it is not possible. I am working 70+ hours a week and have to continue that until ???.

My passion for the program has not left. It just became very apparent after my pressure relief meeting that many things in my life needed to change. Had I still been gambling through all of this I don't think I would have made it. However, I know that it is my experiences with the step work, the tutelage of my sponsors (past and present), and the relationships I have fostered with many of you that have made this "darkest" time in my life bearable. As I have been going through this a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has continually resonated through my head. "I know somehow that only when it is dark enough can you see the stars".

By no means did my resignation come easy and my sponsor and I have had several in depth conversations about it. Both he and I feel that this is what is right for me right now. I look forward to the day when I can afford the time to rejoin some of you on a couch in a hotel lobby after a long day in trustee meetings and get that sip from the cup of recovery that I love to share with all of you so much.

Until then I'll be here. I owe GA everything.

With a tear on my cheek,

Matt H. - Former Area 16 Trustee, Upstate NY

3/11/10 - 11:51 AM

My dear friend Matt:

I ached for you as I read your letter on the Trustee Line. I know how much your love our Fellowship, and your efforts on behalf of us all as a Trustee are so appreciated. In my short tenure, you have given us (and me, personally) so much of your experience, strength and hope. Your incredible Public Relations pamphlet is but one testimony to what you have given back to Gamblers Anonymous.

Recalling a few of those "late night sofa sessions," I will treasure them always. You taught me so much about being a Trustee, and what it is all about. Thank you.

However, as we grow in the Program, we learn that we do have to "do the right thing," that we have to create a "balance" in our lives, and we have to construct a better way of "thinking and living." It is my opinion you are taking that course of action with this decision. But we all learn this is not forever. You will be missed for the time being - but there is no doubt in my mind that you will be back when the time is right for you.

For now - just this moment - thank you for all you have "given back" to our Program - we look forward to seeing you in action in the future.

With love, faith, hope and respect for our Fellowship,
Linda S. - Area 3A Trustee - San Diego

3/15/10 - 2:07 PM

Dear Matt,

I too am saddened that you have been forced by life to resign as a trustee.

Though I don't know you real well, I do know alot about you. I made a choice to attend the Public Relations workshop that you were doing at one of the conferences. PR was an extremely gray subject for me. I never felt as though I could speak about it if I didn't have the clarity that I needed. From the minute that you started talking your knowledge and compassion for this program was definitely evident. The more that you talked about the steps that you were taking to get the word out the more amped I felt. I had a list of ideas that I was taking back to our area as well as tools to implement these ideas. Not once did you sway from what the program teaches us. You stuck to your personal experiences while teaching me how to spread the word without jeopardizing anonymity.

I have grown the most in this program surrounding myself with people who truly love and live this program. You are one of those people.

I believe you walk the walk and keep the program first in your life. I believe that your in this for the duration not for the popularity contest. I know that you'll be back as a Trustee when the time is right, in the meantime I want to wish you the best and THANK YOU for all that you've done, not for me but for GA.

YSIR

Debb W. - Area 2G, Oregon

3/15/10 - 3:31 PM

Dear Matt,

I met you briefly at the past Trustee meeting in Quebec. This was my 1st Trustee meeting. I really appreciated that you came up to me and introduced yourself. You made me feel very welcome and I wanted to thank you for that. We spoke a bit about Public Relations and you gave me some useful info which I brought back to Long Island Intergroup. I also recall that you were very active at the Trustee meeting, contributing greatly to the agenda item discussions. I am certain you will be missed. GA teaches us about the "healthy decisions" that we can make when living without the bet. It seems you are doing what is difficult, but right for you. Keep up the good work.

I look forward to seeing you one day again as a trustee. Perhaps someday I'll make it to other side of New York State for a meeting.

Best wishes!

Paul C. - Area 14 Trustee, Long Island, NY
