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Trustee Line for May 2008

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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

Item	Subject	Last Entry
1.	Openmindedness	5/1/08 12:01 AM

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

Openmindedness

5/1/08 - 12:01 AM

Dear Trustees,

I wrote a letter to the trustee line just a week ago. I was asking for some opinions, guidance, experience, or whatever you want to call it, pertaining to a situation in my area. I have also written numerous letters and had numerous conversations with people about sharing our experiences with each other rather than ridiculing another person for their lack of experience or knowledge. I see so many times when a person submits an agenda item and someone doesn't like the idea, instead of standing at the microphone and explaining from their experience why they disagree, the person gets to the microphone and just rips apart the agenda item. Sometimes, it is very obvious that they are also ripping apart the author of the item.

I write this letter because I want to give a little insight about how sharing our experiences can be extremely beneficial to the unity and growth of our fellowship. I wrote the last letter to the trustee line because I was really seeking experience from some of you with more time. I received an email from my dear friend Joe B. in regards to my letter. Joe gave me some tips, but then he also explained to me that he did not like the way I used the phrase, "if people don't want change, then they might as well go back to gambling." His email was very friendly, no attacks against me personally, just very upfront that he felt I was completely out of line using that statement. I exchanged a few emails with Joe trying to explain that I did not mean to use that statement in that manner. The point I was trying to make is that, our program is about change and people are so accustomed to using the excuse, "because that is the way it has always been done." That type of mind frame is not open to change.

So, the point I bring to you today, are that Joe continued to explain that he felt I was wrong and finally he shared with me a better way of phrasing what I said. Joe used the phrase, "if we have that frame of mind, are we working on recovery or abstinence from gambling." The beauty of this is, that I was never comfortable with the words that I used. However, I did not know how else to phrase the point I was trying to make. I dislike it when people use the phrase that I used...I realize what can happen to a compulsive gambler that goes back to gambling and I don't take it lightly.

I realize today that in this fellowship we have a lot to offer each other and the compulsive gambler that is still suffering. However, I believe that we need to remember what we are here for. It is ok not to be somebody's best friend, but the message that the person is trying to carry is what we need to focus on. If our experiences have shown that it is not proper than share that experience, but don't shoot the messenger. If we keep open minds to each other and believe that we are all there to help GA, I believe we will begin to accomplish even more than we already are.

Dina P. - Area 6B
