

**Main Menu**

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

**Houston - Fall '08**

**Trustee Agenda**

**[Houston Conference Info](#)**

- [Agenda Information](#)
- [Unfinished Business](#)
- [Committee Related Issues](#)
- [Request for New Committees](#)

- [Steps](#)
- [Literature Changes](#)
- [New Literature](#)
- [Procedures](#)
- [2-Conference Bids](#)
- [Overseas Areas](#)

- [Houston Rolling Agenda](#)
- [42 - Items](#)

**[Submit an Agenda Item](#)**

**BOT Committees**

- [Current Committees](#)

**Trustee Line & Other  
Features**

- [Trustee Line Home Page](#)
- [Trustee Orientation](#)
- [Local Area Help Flyer](#)
- [Board of Regents News Page](#)
- [Intergroup Trustee Funding](#)
- [Public Relations Area Ideas](#)

**Future Conferences**

- [Upcoming Conferences](#)

---

## Trustee Line for June 20, 2007

Rate this issue of the Trustee Line:

20 votes      Your Rating

---

If you would like a PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, [click here](#).

---

### From The Trustees

---

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

---

5/21/07 - 7:43 PM

Hats off to the Chicago Conference Committee - their hard work and efforts were very much appreciated.

Linda S. - Area 3A

---

6/7/07 - 8:43 AM

Dear Trustees,

It was great seeing everyone in Chicago and meeting some new trustees. Let me just say that as a younger member in the program (and I know I'm getting older) I always appreciate the experiences shared from the members with much more time and experience. Every trustee meeting that I have been to, has been such a stepping stone in my recovery. I remember the first trustee meeting sitting next to Rick B. and I was so intimidated by the people in the room. I was afraid to get up and talk inside the trustee room and outside the meeting room. I didn't make many friends that meeting. I was amazed that I could tell that there were people in our fellowship that really did not care for one another. This was completely different from the experiences that I had already been exposed to here in Area 6B. Don't get me wrong...it's not a big love fest for everyone in Area 6B, but I will say that I don't recall ever seeing any members stand up and disagree on issues because the person discussing the issue at hand was someone they did not like. I realize that even in my area I am sure that there are some people that don't get along (they are not going to golf or hang out at the movies together), but in a GA room, whether it be a therapy room or an intergroup meeting the members here tend to show respect for one another out of the love of the program. Oh...I think that is because our program has this saying, "principles before personalities!"

Where am I going with all this????? I came into GA over six years ago; I just celebrated in April five years of recovery. I didn't think I could do it because I had not had the same experiences that most of the members in my area had experienced. I learned from these more experienced members that if I continued to gamble, then I too will experience what they had. After two years of recovery I was elected as a trustee...what did I know about the good of the fellowship? I still don't know if I have an answer to that, but I will tell you what I believe the people in Area 6B saw. I think they realized that I have a passion for the fellowship and a desire to share my experience, strength, and hope with any and every compulsive gambler that I meet.

So my point...I wonder sometimes as trustees when we attend these meetings how many of us are there for the good of the fellowship? I saw one person get up and speak against every item that another trustee put on the agenda???? On one of the items that almost every trustee voted in favor of...is it really possible that this person was really against the item or were we seeing a case of, "I think this person is a jerk and I'm going to put down everything this person says?" I call that the PERSONALITY BEFORE THE PRINCIPLES!!!

I'm sorry if it seems that maybe I am taking someone's inventory, but I had to use this situation to get my point out there. Every trustee meeting, intergroup meeting, therapy meeting, or speakers meeting that I attend, I attend with the utmost passion for the fellowship of GA. I walk into a room full of strangers that know me better than most people that I communicate with on a daily basis and when I don't necessarily click with someone, I still listen to that person and what that person has to offer the fellowship. Because ultimately don't we all have the same passion for the fellowship? Maybe this belief of mine is just because I am naive or I don't have enough experience. Isn't our duty as trustees to look out for the best interest of GA as a whole? How do we really accomplish this with such a divide amongst the board of trustees? It doesn't matter if we

are on the east coast, west coast, Germany, Argentina, or Russia aren't we all trying to recover from the same illness?

I just believe that as a board we could accomplish so much more if we leave any personality differences outside the trustee meetings. I can only share my experiences of the way I feel in the trustee meetings...I can tell you all that when a person puts an item on the agenda whether I really know that person or not, I believe that they put the item on the agenda out of a passion for our fellowship and because they think that item may possibly be beneficial to our fellowship. So, maybe we don't all agree, but that doesn't mean that the person wasn't doing it out of their love for GA...there is no need to bash or beat down a persons agenda item for any reason and especially because it might be a person that you don't necessarily see eye to eye with!!!!

Now a little advice from all you trustees that probably think I'm a bratty little B\*\*\*\*...I still need your experiences to help out my area. First as the chairperson of the Public Relations committee...if there are any areas that have certain things or procedures that they do with Public Relations, please email me and let me know what works for your area. This will be of great help to our committee and what we are trying to do for the entire fellowship of GA.

The second and last thing from me and I will try not to take too much more space. (I guess maybe it is good if we don't get a lot of submissions this time since I took all the space). We had an agenda item about rooms not having an excess of cash on hand. I was at a meeting tonight and this was brought up by the intergroup rep (because as trustees we reported back to our intergroup) and a member of the room got a little upset. This room is very generous to our intergroup and donates to our ISO, however they usually do have an excess of money in the treasury. About a year ago I did a speakers meeting on what ISO does and my point at that meeting was that GA is a much bigger thing than just the local room.

It seems that in my area the rooms don't always want to give a little extra to intergroup or ISO. My feelings are that most members don't really know what these two areas of our fellowship do, but on a much broader scale I think that most members don't realize that there is much more to GA than the one local room that they attend. This was the purpose of the speakers meeting that I did a little over a year ago.

So, what do some of the other areas do to help make the members aware of the rest of the fellowship? Again, I was upset because I know what our intergroup is doing and I know what ISO is doing. And again, I have a passion for all of GA and I want our local rooms to give more to ISO and members to become lifeliners because I want to help the GA brother or sister in Argentina or Russia that needs the help!

Any advice from my dear brothers and sisters in recovery is greatly appreciated!  
Love To All,  
Dina P. - Area 6B

---

6/9/07 - 4:32 PM

Dear Fellow Current and Past Trustees,

I have a real concern over the importance that seems to have been given to the past trustee decisions. From my understanding I could make a speech in the trustee meeting and ask for a straw vote as to whether or not the current board agreed with me. My ten-minute speech, which would greatly effect how the board voted, would be summarized and a vote would be taken. From what I understand what would appear in the past trustee decision would be the summary and the result. Which means it would be taken out of context.

It appears to me that the past trustee decisions could be used to circumvent the many safeguards our forefathers have established. Look how many things passed the first vote and don't pass the second in a simple majority let alone when a 2/3 vote is needed. Past trustee decisions belong in the minutes and nowhere else. If they were as to me another home for them a motion would have been made - seconded - discussed and voted on to put it there.

Carol K. - Area 9

---

6/18/07 - 2:04 AM

Fellow Trustees,

I am in the final phases of the 50 year history book and I am presently closing off the section on the United States. I was hoping to scan a mini conference flyer form each state into the section. There are several States that I don't have one for, to many to list. If those of you out there could please scan and email or fax me a copy of your latest mini conference flyer I would very much appreciate it. This has to be done immediately or it won't be included as the book is basically finished and ready to be sent to the printer. Thank you for your help in advance.

Hope all is well with all of you. I was very happy to see Sweden join the BOT in Chicago. This is the beginning of what should be many of our brothers and sisters from other countries coming on board internationally. The International Relations Committee is very much involved in trying to make this happen. There will be a number of other countries that will be submitting requests for a Trustee in Los Angeles. I hope that every one of us will make every effort to make our International visitors welcome in Los Angeles. It doesn't take much effort to walk up and introduce yourselves and say hello. That gesture in itself sends a clear message that we are all brothers and sisters in this fellowship.

I am presently involved with trying to contact AA World Services and discuss how they handle or have handled the issue of language translation in their fellowship. This is in regards to verifying translations that are sent in to ISO for verification after a country has done the translation. We are also looking into various methods of getting translations done at an affordable cost. We have an urgent need to establish a solid procedure in how to handle translation verification of our approved literature into other languages.

The 2007 Conference committee is working very hard to make our 50th Anniversary a very memorable one for everyone. If you haven't registered yet you had better hurry.

One Day at a Time

Steve R. - Area 2B  
Chairman, GA International Relations Committee

---

6/18/07 - 9:31 AM  
Hello to all Trustees.

First of all, a round of applause for all the members of Chicagoland for putting on a terrific conference!! A good time was had by all. Second of all, a round of applause for all the Trustees for getting through the tedious agenda smoothly and efficiently! And third, a big round of applause for Denis, Michelle, and Chuck for doing a great job, at the head table.

Now, the Los Angeles agenda will close in 48 days and that is a short turnaround from Chicago, so please get your agenda items in. On a personal note thanks to all for having the confidence in me for electing me to the 1st chair for the next 2 years. I know Tom and Herb will do a great job. I will do the best job possible, and be as fair and as judicious as I can be. I will always have the fellowship first and it will always be principles before personalities.

Thanks again,  
Richie S. - Area 6

---

6/18/07 - 5:56 PM  
My Dear Brothers and Sisters

As the time comes near for me to assume my duties as Chairman of the Board of Trustees I want to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your continued work on behalf of this great fellowship. I realize that each of you spends countless hours of your own time helping this fellowship grow and representing the groups in your areas.

On a personal note I would like to thank you also for having the faith in me to facilitate this Board for the next two years. Richie, Herb and I are committed to working hard to assure that the meetings move along in a structured atmosphere and I am sure that we can account on your support.

With that in mind it is our intention to start the next meeting on Thursday morning instead of Thursday afternoon. I will soon send out a letter to each of you explaining our hopes in running the meetings.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairs for their hard work and dedication during the last two years. I would like to thank Karen and the staff at the I.S.O. for everything they do daily to help the gambler who still suffers. Thanks to all of you who have worked diligently on committees and to David M. for transmitting off of this information to you and for his tireless work of putting the agenda items together.

Last but surely not least to the Chicago Conference Committee for the work they did in putting together a conference that I am sure we all enjoyed.

My promise is to work together with each of you to foster a sense of unity. To work together with the Board of Regents to accomplish are common goals and to try to make it all be fun.

So my best to each of you and hope you have a great summer.

Tom M. - Area 2

Chairman-Elect, Board of Trustees.

---

6/18/07 - 5:58 PM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board of Trustees for having enough confidence in me to elect me as 2nd. co-chair of the board. I have wanted to serve the board as a co-chair for a long time now and I feel privileged to be able to do so. I will work very closely with Tom and Richie and really look forward to the conference in Los Angeles.

I would like to congratulate the outgoing board for a wonderful job. Denis, Michelle and Chuck were always available and willing and I feel very honored to call them friends. I certainly will not hesitate to call on them for advice and direction whenever necessary. This fellowship is full of great people and I am very lucky to part it. I hope I can do as well as my predecessors did to keep the BOT running smoothly and without controversy.

Until next time,  
Herb B. - Area 5

---

6/19/07 - 12:19 AM

Greetings. We hope that all of you had a wonderful visit last month during the Spring Trustee Meeting. It was our pleasure to host all of you.

I am soliciting input from the various Intergroups around the country about whether any one files a 990 or 990T form with the IRS. This relates to non-profit organizations that collect more than \$1000 in non-donation type activities. Most areas put on functions such as picnics, holiday parties, dinner dances, conferences, etc. in which the money collected for the events is funneled through the Intergroup treasury. One of our accountant members feels that such collections would fall under the 990 or 990T filing requirement since these collections are for goods and/or services and not strictly donations. Our question is whether anyone has ever filed such a form or whether anyone knows of a reason why we would or would not have to file the form.

I look forward to your feedback.

Tom D - Area 8

---

6/19/07 - 7:59 PM

To all Trustees and former Trustees.

I felt that Marshall R (area-12) had a great agenda item (#45) in Chicago and maybe some of us that believe we need more for that definition should try to get something added. The problem is that some people believe the definition if changed would mean that they can't play games at picnics or home with their children or grand children. That's not what most of us intend to do or want. We feel that some people think that entering some sort of contest such as a radio, television promotion, or dance contest is not gambling. For myself any type of contest where it involves winning a major prize or having monetary gain is gambling whether I put up money or not. I don't need to call a radio station and be the ninth caller to win some tickets to a show or be put in their grand prize drawing. What I'm asking for is some ideas from other trustees to cover the items I've mentioned maybe to add a few words to our definition of gambling that people in the program will see and possibly realize that they may be gambling, please feel free to e-mail or call me with any words of wisdom and help.

Thank You,  
Ron S. - Area 3

---

6/19/07 - 9:41 PM

This is my first submission to the trustee line, long time coming

I have always encouraged members from the area I attend meetings to go to other meetings when their out of town on business, vacation etc. I give the members from my area the first names, last initial and phone numbers of the trustees of the area that the person is going to. Usually, (but not always) I send the trustees and e-mail saying I gave the number to a member from my area. I have attached the following e-mail I received and my response to that e-mail and welcome any and all feedback.

E-mail I received (carbon copy to Karen H) Don't know you, but just wanted to give you a head's up....One of your member's Bobby G? or D? called my home phone as they were out here in Las Vegas and wanted information about our meetings. The message he left me indicated that you had provided my number to him, a number that is only listed through the Trustee Confidential Listing. Although I appreciate the fact that you want to help out one of your member's that was visiting Las Vegas and gave them a contact number, please give me the courtesy of a head's up phone call first...I could have let you know that the best contact number is the cell listed, as I work at night.. As it was, I didn't get his 5pm call until 1245a when I got home from work. Also, it is called a 'confidential' listing for a reason :) and this information is restricted to current

Trustees....

My response to that trustee Bobby G is not one of "my members", he is a member of the Gamblers Anonymous Program who happens to live in the same area that I do. Bobby is very new to the program (9 days) and I did give him the trustees home numbers as well as cell numbers that were on the confidential listing. I thought the confidential part of the listings were our last names and addresses (which I didn't give him). In the Long Island area rooms have phone lists etc where members first name and number are listed and we actually encourage people to use the phone list, (#2 on page 17). I didn't anticipate that you (or another trustee) who would receive a phone call would be offended. I thought perhaps (as a trustee) you would want to assist a compulsive gambler who is still struggling and give service. Fortunately for Bobby, another one of the trustees from Vegas was home and was happy to assist Bobby, the trustee picked him up and took him to a meeting, and Bobby was able to have another day of abstinence.

I won't give your number to anyone else. I'm sorry apologize that this offended you. I will pray for you.

In brotherhood,  
Mike A.

- Do other trustees feel that their phone numbers are confidential and meant for only the current trustees?
- How would you respond if you received a call from the out of town member?
- How would you respond to the email from the trustee if at all?
- Should I have not given the numbers to the member and let him fend for himself (call hotline, use Internet for meetings etc)
- Although I do try to notify the trustee prior what is the damage of not having the "courtesy of the heads up phone call"

I await your responses.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Los Angeles  
Mike A. Area 14

---

6/19/07 - 10:54 PM

The very first NATIONAL WALK THON to support ISO is coming up in September and there have been many interesting and creative ideas from all over the country. I really would like to make it a huge success and pool together your areas creative ways to make it the very best right from the beginning.

David M. has created a web page for Areas that have already started the NATIONAL WALK-A- THON. Please go to the page and add in what your area is doing. Help your fellow areas have fun.

[Local Area Walk-A-Thon Ideas](#)

Some of the Areas that have contacted me are adding into their INTERGROUP guidance code. This will make it mandatory for that area to hold one every year. I think this is the right thinking being that over 90% of the trustees voted in favor for this. If we, the trustees, do not get behind our ISO National Walk A Thon, than we are not doing our job. I am going to ask Karen H to break down by AREA the funds that are going to be raised in the ISO bulletin.

In Chicago's BOT meeting we discussed a lot of the Past Decisions and the value of them. There was lots of "TALK" - now is the time for some solid "ACTION".

I ask for ALL TRUSTEES to stand behind what they voted for and make this a MAJOR EVENT that will help GA as a whole, bring UNITY, bring understanding about ISO and what trustees are doing to help their rooms.

It is all of our responsibility as a trustee to do more than go to the BOT meeting 2x a year. As brothers and sisters in a program that has meant so much in a lives as well as the members in your room. We should show support and respect for the work that ISO does to improve the lives of people that are still suffering throughout the world.

IF YOU DO NOT TAKE THE LEAD ROLE - WHO WILL???

Gary S. - Area 12

---

6/20/07 - 10:32 AM

Dear Fellow Trustees,

As one of the outgoing Co-Chairs of the BOT, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your service to the Board and to the Fellowship. It has been a privilege and an honor to have sat at the front table and to have been able to serve my fellow Trustees. I appreciate your confidence in me and assure you that I will do all I

can to help with a smooth transition to the new Chairs.

I congratulate Tom, Richie and Herb. Having had a long relationship with all of them, I feel confident that the Board is in good hands. My sincere thanks go to my Co-Chair Michelle, and to Denis, whom I lovingly refer to as my "boss". Speaking for the three of us, I can say that there were times that we disagreed with each other, but the betterment of the Fellowship was always the motivating factor.

If there is any way that any of you need assistance or direction that I am able to provide, please feel free to call or e-mail. Again, thank you. I look forward to seeing you in L.A.

Yours in GA,  
Chuck R. - Area 15  
2nd Co-Chair, BOT

---

6/20/07 - 4:56 PM  
Fellow Trustees,

I am going to be submitting an agenda item for new literature at the Los Angeles trustee meeting. This piece of literature is on pressure relief and I would love to hear feedback from anyone interested in proofing what I have written. The goal of this literature is to give the members of Gamblers Anonymous an opportunity to learn about and explain the tremendous advantages to participating in pressure relief. I would like for it to supplement the green guide book to the pressure group meeting and the blue form on pressure relief that all the budgeting is completed on.

I am excited and hopeful about this new piece of literature and would like to spread the message about the power of pressure relief to the rest of the membership as well as to the new member entering the room. If you would like to give feedback on what I have, please get in touch with me and I will get it to you. Several members have already been very helpful in supporting this effort. It's a great thing to see a group of people pulling together for the common goal of helping spread the message. I will continue to update you in the coming months.

Your brother,

Tom S. - Area 7A

---

6/20/07 - 11:59 PM

I initially was going to write something about the results of the Chicago meeting and how some of the votes showed a significant change in how the thinking of the Trustees is leaning. That was my plan until I got to see the submissions for this Trustee Line, which changed my thoughts for what I am writing now.

This is not meant to single out anyone's submission, but I can't help but notice how easy it seems to be for us to move into the next 'regime' and just toss a cursory level of thanks to the soon to be Past Chairman of the BOT, Denis M. Before I go any further with this submission, I want to make it clear that I am not whining about Denis losing the election for Chairman, nor did he offer to pay me to say some kind words about him. I am not going to put him on a pedestal, but I need to get a few things out into the open. I think it is appropriate to take a moment and reflect on what has happened over the last 2 years and how the BOT has changed under Denis's watch.

Having worked closely with him regarding the compilation of the past 4 agendas and other matters relating to the Trustee website, I got a bird's eye view into many of his decision paths. We disagreed on many times regarding a number of issues, but I had the platform to voice my opinion, not that what I said had any weighting regarding decisions saved for the Chairman. The overriding theme for me was watching Denis guide the fellowship into the beginnings of accountability on the part of the Trustees.

Items that were taken for granted in the past and left up to the Chairs to straighten out were now becoming more clearly outlined for the Trustees so that we could better understand the responsibilities and obligations of those who volunteered for service. The list of committees has expanded and with more input from the Trustees rather than an edict from the Chair. The committees all have mission statements to clarify what it is they are charged with doing and to also make it easier for others to volunteer for those committees. The committees appear to be more productive and are doing more in between conferences other than just meeting the morning before the Trustee meetings. The Co-Chair liaison procedure was initiated to help motivate the committees. It met with varying degrees of success, but should be considered a 'work in progress'. Having opened that door, the Trustees have taken the ball on this subject and passed some decisions that add a bit more impetus to the actions outlined by Denis.

From my vantage point, the past 2 years was never about Denis forcing his will on the BOT. I can remember numerous times when he was clear about the ramifications of a vote that the BOT was about to take, but he gracefully stepped aside when the body

decided it wanted to pass something that should have been thought out a bit more than it was. Unfortunately, we are stuck with a few of those items until we collectively wake up and change them.

Although there are many other items I could bring up, my point is that Denis made a significant contribution of self-awareness and accountability for all of us to emulate. My only wish is that his actions and visions will be continued with the new executive board. I have heard enough 'after election' speeches to last a lifetime and would rather see action with results rather than optimistic platitudes. What we need is growth in each of us as a functioning unit called the Board of Trustee. I feel we have just taken the first few steps in this area over the last 2 years. Richie and Herb are the neophytes at their new positions and I wish them all the best with the challenges that face them. Tom is the seasoned veteran and one who has hopefully watched the change in the BOT over the 4 years since he was last the Chairman of the BOT. My fingers are crossed that he maintains this visionary momentum and not revert back to the way things used to be. There is a lot of new talent on the BOT now and some of the more experienced Trustees should have their own version of a GA awakening and help shake the foundations of this fellowship so that we remain strong and grow even stronger.

None of us get paid for the work we do when we give service. The motivations for people to volunteer no doubt are numerous, but the end result continues to point toward progress and a greater level of understanding, accountability and greater levels of commitments from more GA members who also happen to be Trustees.

Denis, stay in the GA/BOT loop. Your guidance and wisdom will be missed by many. I for one am saddened that the BOT has lost a valuable asset at the front table. Thanks for all you have done in the past 2 years as Chairman and everything before that.

David M. - Area 12

**P.S. - Scroll to the top of this issue of the Trustee Line and click the rating stars segment.**

---