

**Main Menu**

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

**Orlando, FL - Fall 2013  
Information Section**

[Orlando Conference Info](#)

**Rolling Agenda**

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

**Submit an Agenda Item**

**BOT Committees**

- [Anonymity](#)
- [BOR Procedural Review](#)
- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [Conference Oversight](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [Hotline Implementation](#)
- [Hotline Files](#)
- [Intergroup](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Liability Insurance](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Member Retention](#)
- [Online GA Meeting](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prison - Canada](#)
- [Prison - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Rules and Procedures](#)
- [Telephone Conference Call](#)
- [Trustee Area Demarcation](#)
- [Trustee Removal Merit Panel](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Website Revisions](#)

**Trustee Line & Other Features**

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

**Future Conferences**

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Select Language ▼

**Trustee Line for June 2013**

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 6/30/13.

**Thoughts From The Trustees - Current and Past**

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

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	<a href="#">Retention</a>	6/5/13 8:59 PM	2
2.	<a href="#">Single Member Dependent Meetings</a>	6/14/13 9:06 PM	3
3.	<a href="#">No Confidence Vote to Remove a Trustee - Really?</a>	6/20/13 9:44 AM	14
4.	<a href="#">Orlando Update</a>	6/11/13 3:14 PM	1
5.	<a href="#">Question 18 Always a Present Threat Not Past</a>	6/18/13 1:30 AM	3
6.	<a href="#">Inappropriate Content for the Trustee Line</a>	6/19/13 4:00 PM	1
7.	<a href="#">How Far Have We Come?</a>	6/23/13 10:36 PM	4
8.	<a href="#">Principles before Personalities!/Unity Step 12</a>	6/27/13 10:33 AM	2

**Retention**

6/4/13 - 11:55 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I don't care what AA does. If you want to attend 90 Connecticut GA meetings in 90 days you can. Drive 50 miles a day to go to a GA meeting BO HOO HOO! When gambling you would drive 500 miles round trip 7 days a week to stay in action.

In Coventry, Ct when a new member is at their first meeting we assign them a temporary sponsor. We urge them to go to another meeting or meetings before they hopefully return to Coventry the next week. Then we give out 7 pieces of paper ( days Mon - Sun, new members name and phone number on the paper ) to seven current members in good standing so they can call the new member every day during the next week helping them get to their next meeting.

Recently at a Longmeadow, Ma GA. Open Meeting a long time repeat habitual offender (keeps on going back to the bet) came up to me and said someone told him I could give him the name of a Gambling Counselor. I told him to go to a GA Meeting and listen to the therapies of a room full of Gambling Counselors. Not how you normally do, in one ear and out the other, but do what they tell you for a change. 29 years ago Steve H. and myself would go to a room full of social workers, psychiatrists and psychologists to tell them our stories so they could become Certified Gambling Counselors. Aren't the Gamblers Anonymous members the best Counselors for other Compulsive Gamblers?

Ask the 20 Questions what gall! Back in the day there was tough love. Now the

newer GA Members want to change the brand new members diaper, clean & dry them off, powder them up and send them on their way. Kevin O knows what I mean, we talked about this before.

Ronny W. - Trustee Area 17, Connecticut

---

6/5/13 - 8:59 PM

Great post, love the passion. on retention I had the following come to mind recently. When I attend a meeting of Gamblers Anonymous is there a message there for me, The message. Do I understand. that message, do I accept that message, do I put it into practice as best I can, do I then sustain that message ? If I fail on any of those levels I am heading back to the bet. Unity and retention must be pretty closely linked, I think.

Odie B. - Area 36, S/E Ireland

---

<b>Single Member Dependent Meetings</b>
---

6/4/13 - 11:55 AM

This time I want to give people something to really think about. Hopefully, this turns into a long list of responses. I am troubled about something I heard about recently and the effect it has on an Intergroup. Here is the story. A GA member decides to open a new meeting inside his company business facilities. What's your first reaction to reading this?

No doubt many of you will initially say that as long as the Guidance Code is being followed under Article VII, Section I, then what difference does it make? By the way, here is the section I cited: "Whenever two or more persons with a desire to stop gambling meet together on a regular, weekly scheduled basis to discuss their gambling problem, they will be known as a group, only if they commit themselves to follow Gamblers Anonymous' Guidance Code and limit their use, display and distribution to only approved and appropriate Gamblers Anonymous literature. They are also to notify the International Service Office (I.S.O.) of their existence."

I'm not talking about whether or not this situation qualifies as a meeting. I'm talking about the dangers involved with this meeting, as it relates to the local Intergroup. The Intergroup is responsible to its members and also to the general public from the standpoint that it controls the local area telephone hotline and the local area website, if there is one, not to mention a local area meeting list. My concern is for the physical location of the meeting and the potential problems it represents.

This and other such meetings are risky because they are in a facility that is directly controlled by a GA member. What areas of risk are there? 1-If the owner/lessee/member of the facilities does not come to a meeting, how do the other members get into the facility without risk of a member stealing or damaging something? I'm not saying that all GA members do this, but the risk is there. 2-If the GA member is an employee of a company and that is the reason the meeting started, is it fair to assume that if the GA member leaves the company or gets fired, that the meeting room will be terminated in its use? Clearly yes, as it has happened before. 3-What if the owner/lessee goes back to the bet? Will there still be a meeting? Of course not and the chances are (you'll excuse the expression) that none of the meeting members will even be able to contact that person in such case. 4-What if the owner/lessee asks for rent? Most groups pay in cash, obviously there is no assurance that the person will give it to the business, which in turn makes the transaction a taxable event.

Items 1, 2 & 3 deal with the scenario of a meeting not being open because of the dependency of one person to guarantee the continuity of the meeting at that location. This is where Intergroup comes in. My Intergroup publishes a meeting list. It also is responsible for the content of the area's website that is designed to get a new user to a meeting and for manning the telephone hotline with volunteers to recommend meetings to callers. How can an Intergroup be comfortable in adding such a room to the meeting list(s), wherever it is available? Meeting rooms need to be in facilities where no one person is the key to the room staying open. This is why churches, hospitals and such public types of facilities are the stable kinds of meetings. Relying on one person is an ultimate recipe for disaster. We can't be sending new people to rooms that could be closed without notice because one person gets there shorts in a knot and decides to tell GA to stick the program in its ear.

What's important here is to not give the Intergroup the ability to pass judgment on whether a room is worthy of being part of their Intergroup. That is not the issue. We all know rooms that have members to completely control what happens in the room. Clearly they don't run their rooms in an acceptable GA manner. Who among you have seen rooms where someone is the chair of every meeting? What about the rooms that don't give treasury reports after each week's collection, unless a Trustee is present? There are dozens more problems that could be mentioned. Such situations are distressing and are probably injurious to the members of the room, but they operate in a covert manner. Although they are not directly violating the Guidance Code, they are adulterating the spirit of the program and rest of our printed literature. These are not what this posting is about.

We need to get back to the dependency on one person, as it relates to the facilities being used for meetings. I haven't even mentioned the 4th item in which a member personally benefits from the contributions. It might not start out that way, but there shouldn't have to be a monitoring procedure for when it does. The situation should not be permitted.

My focus is that we need to give the Intergroups more ability to not accept such meetings into their Intergroup. These meetings would still be recognized as GA meetings, but just not be added to the Intergroup, which would then allow Intergroup to not include such a meeting to be added to their meeting lists and those meetings being referenced by telephone hotline volunteers, because of such dependencies on one individual to keep the meeting open. I understand that we have no assurance that any meeting location will be open from one day to the next, but there is a very clear distinction between a single member dependent room and meetings run at other facilities. A member dependent meeting could be shut down without notice. Other meetings in a church or other such facilities will get advance notice of a shutdown to prepare the members to make alternate arrangements, temporary or permanent.

My intent is to start some commentary about giving more responsibility to the Intergroups by defining single dependency meetings as not being able to be added to an Intergroups meeting lists for such specific reasons, at the option of the Intergroups. If the group conscience finds such an option as offensive, they can add such meetings. Maybe the fact that such abilities would be afforded to the Intergroups might in fact stimulate a better discussion about whether or not the room should start to begin with.

Let's go all you pacifists...step in the opinion ring. Don't just read this, put your thoughts down. All I ask is for you to stay focused on the issue of single dependency member meetings, not what constitutes a meeting. It's about Intergroups doing the right thing.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

---

6/5/13 - 8:26 PM

My first reaction was unprintable, my second reaction grateful to reflect on my own shortcomings. Here's where I'm at now, hopefully constructive.

I would seriously question any reference point for this type of gathering. It would seem to suggest gamblers not so anonymous regarding anonymity for starters. One individual having such a level of control effectively behind closed doors is not part of any message I or anyone I know recommends. From where does the second or subsequent member come? Does this member advertise or use their influence to poach members from other groups? Final question for now, is this group founded on the RUG? By that I mean the principles for Recovery, Unity and Guidance (G. C. page 2 Article IV, Section 1, last line) or is it founded on personalities? From experience I expect the latter.

Odie B. - Area 36, S/E Ireland

---

6/14/13 - 9:06 PM

Hi David. I am going to choose to take your pacifist comment as a compliment, as I am a pacifist. But as I'm sure you are aware, I love to share my opinion.

You make a very good argument against single member dependant meetings. In my area, years ago, we had a very similar situation. A member opened a meeting in a business in which he was renting a small living space. It was up and running for just over three months when he disappeared, and suddenly no more meeting. So I completely agree such a meeting should not even be started.

Notice I said “should”. It is my understanding that no one can dictate who starts a meeting, or where the meeting is held. It might be a horrible idea, but I just don’t see how such a meeting could be stopped. And as I understand your position, you believe the same thing. But you didn’t ask for a response about whether or not such a meeting should take place. You asked for a response about Intergroup having the authority to decide not to list that meeting. If every group is autonomous, including intergroups, wouldn’t each intergroup have the choice, by group conscience, to decide whether to list them or not? I am not aware of anything in the Guidance Code regarding Intergroup requirements to accept or deny a group, or to list or not list a group. Section 3 under “Intergroup Guidelines does suggest a meeting list, but that’s it. It would seem to me to be each Intergroup’s decision. And if you are advocating adding something to the guidance code to suggest Intergroups do not list such meetings, I would be 100% against such action. In my opinion, GA already has too many “suggestions”, many of which are impossible to even enforce.

This seems to be a cut and dried Unity Step 4 issue, and as you well know, Unity is paramount in keeping this Fellowship together.

Your Brother in recovery,  
Levi B. - Former Trustee, Area 2, Northern California

### **No Confidence Vote to Remove a Trustee - Really?**

6/10/13 - 11:25 PM

This weekend, I reviewed the extensive minutes of another area’s Intergroup minutes. Without question, month after month, they are the most extensive minutes I have seen. Also, the diligence and consistency by which they are delivered is remarkable.

This month’s minutes are my focus under the section of the Chairman’s Report. What appears to me as the current state of mind of this Intergroup is to make up things to remove 2 of their Trustees. I’m only working off the minutes, and that is what has me astonished.

Here are some of the statements:

- 1) – **It is easier to impeach the President.** - No, there are specific procedures in place to have any Trustee removed for acts considered to be detrimental to GA as a whole. If this is about personalities, then the area will just have to suck it up and not vote those Trustees back into office in the Spring of next year.
- 2) - **Those Trustees should not have their conference expenses paid for the next Trustee meeting in Orlando in 4 months.** - If it is in the Intergroup By-Laws and the Intergroup reps vote to uphold that provision, then they shouldn’t get paid. If it’s not in the By-Laws, then due process should be taken to put such an issue in them, in a manner consistent with requirements to get funded, not through lynch mob mentality.
- 3) - **They can have a proxy vote.** – If the person who made such a statement was aware of the Guidance Code provisions about this subject, proxies do not account for attendance for US Trustees.
- 4) - **There is no mandate in the By-Laws that they have to send Trustees to any Conference.** – I assume that is true, but the areas have an obligation to send their Trustees to the Trustee meeting, as per the Responsibilities for International Trustees of Gamblers Anonymous. Item #1 – Attend all physical Board of Trustees meetings and answer all mail and quick response board meetings. Because of this and the fact that the Trustees are elected to represent their areas, it is unreasonable to ask any of the Trustees to pay their own way, if the area has the money to do so.
- 5) - **If they are not here for six months how they are representing us?** – Evidently the Trustees in question were not present at this meeting to answer such questions, but attending the local area Intergroup meetings is item #12 out of a total of 17 requirements for Trustees. I would be interested in whether or not those items are being addressed. More important is how anything can be done on a punitive measure without having the Trustees in question there to deal with their accusers. I question whether the Trustees were even advised in advance of such issues being brought up by the Intergroup.
- 6) - **The Trustee Removal Procedure is a 3-page process.** – No, it is a 7-page procedure because it is very precise, covering all matters that would set the wheels into motion toward removing a Trustee. It also covers situations

to stop abuses by individuals who might be pushing their own agenda. Following these procedures could move a legitimate item to a vote by the full Board of Trustees to have the Trustee(s) in question removed for acts deemed to be detrimental to GA as a whole?

7) - **Saying that another Intergroup will remove a Trustee if they don't attend 75% of the Intergroup meetings.** – Obviously, a complete falsehood. If such a provision exists, then that other Intergroup needs to be advised of what would be an illegal act if it were to occur.

8) - **The area wants to fund the 2 other Trustees instead of these 2, who are the subject of this intent to remove them.** Is this really a bona fide thought? To deliberately not send 2 Trustees who would then miss 2 consecutive meetings and then be automatically removed? What comes next, public beatings? I would hope that if such an action were to be taken, that the other 2 Trustees make it very clear that they would not attend the next Trustee meeting. I would also hope that such provisions would become part of the area's By-Laws, again not being voted on without the area's members' consent.

9) - **A no confidence vote to ask the 2 Trustees in question to step down.** I understand the intention of this, but it's completely unenforceable. Also, something like this should be done by a vote from every room in the area. The 18 members who attended this meeting constituted such a vote? I guess my 'lynch mob' mentality statement earlier is being borne out.

10) - **Every time these 2 Trustees are present at an Intergroup meeting, it is one big fight.** – Wow, I wonder how the members in that area feel about actually reading that statement. Where is the structure and order in such a meeting? How can things get so out of control? Is there any awareness of Recover Step 3 and people who evidently are taking back their will? Why must there be any arguments that are called fights?

Long story short, just from reading all this, I'm surprised that 18 brave souls actually made a decision to come to that Intergroup meeting. Has anyone even looked at the Guidance Code, Article X – Intergroup Guidelines, Section 1: 'An Intergroup is a group of local groups, which meet together to discuss mutual problems and work with one another for the common good of all.'

GA members have many different opinions, and this mosaic should be harvested for all the good that people have within them about the betterment of GA everywhere. Why must there be this much strife and stress placed on an area? I would hope that at some point, the members from this troubled area take some time and find a way to come to New Jersey Intergroup. Our meeting is open to all GA members on the last Monday of the month. We have disagreements, but nothing remotely similar to the turmoil of this other area. We maintain order and respect for others. No GA member should have to endure such difficulties, as a spectator, participant or subject of such inappropriate proceedings and feel like they need a tranquilizer afterward.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

---

6/11/13 - 12:46 PM

It doesn't surprise me that this Intergroup wants to embarrass two of their trustees. I will speak for the female trustee that has been the subject of harassment at this Intergroup for the last 4 years. There is a small group of angry men who have been attending Intergroup way before I started attending. They complain and say inappropriate things about other members at the meeting and then say I am sorry or I was just kidding. This past year has been a horror show at Intergroup. The Intergroup Chairman didn't know or understand his responsibilities as Chairman. He allowed this angry mob to control the meeting. The Chairman censored the minutes and anything that was being sent out by the communication committee via email. Intergroup is supposed to disseminate information to all of the rooms on Long Island and this was not being done. He picked what he wanted communicated to the rooms. The rest was left up to the angry mob to spread as they saw fit to the rest of the membership. When he was told that he couldn't do these things by me and other trustees he continued to do them anyway. This body has driven away any new people who wanted to attend and participate with their unprofessional behavior. There are many members who refuse to attend the Long Island Intergroup meeting. There aren't many women on Long Island and most women who have attended this Intergroup have left because of the attacks they were subjected to. I will be representing their views at the Orlando conference. I am sure by now you have realized that I am the female trustee that they have tried to bully into resigning. I will give a few examples of my alleged crimes that constitute my removal by the angry mob.

1. I leave at the end of the meeting before the prayer is said to pick up my 15 and 16 year old daughter from the ambulance corp.
2. I got up to go to the bathroom before a social committee report was being read.
3. I haven't attended the last 5 Intergroup meetings due to my work schedule of 3:00 pm to 11:30pm.

I will now let you know the work that I have been doing. I do public relations, I help new rooms get established including a meeting in the VA Hospital on Long Island. I help any member that calls with a problem. I have done pressure relief groups, sitdowns and I recently went to Connecticut to do a speaking engagement for Professional Athletes. I communicate to the body through room to room communications which currently has 126 members. I also work with trustees not only in my area but in our neighboring area of New York. I communicate with trustees outside of New York State. I was working and gave a fellow trustee a report to share with Long Island Intergroup two months ago and have been in contact with all 3 trustees in this 5 month period. I attended social events when possible including the Breakfast which was dying when I took it over. I reached out and included New York Intergroup and since that time the breakfast has been flourishing.

In conclusion, I just want to state that not one member from Long Island Intergroup reached out to me or even let me know they were upset that I haven't been at the meeting. In my opinion the Chairperson used me to get re-elected and his plan backfired. I do hope the new Chairman will do a better job for the good of Long Island. I will not resign nor will I acknowledge a made up no confidence vote. If any member would like to discuss this with me further please call me at the number listed on the Confidential Trustee Listing.

Mary R. - Area 14, Long Island

---

6/14/13 - 8:00 PM

Good day to all Trustees and other GA members,

My two cents about the situation in Long Island.

The absolute disregard for the spirit of Intergroup, along with a complete disregard for the concepts taught to us in the 12 steps of recovery and the 12 steps of Unity simply astounds me. When I first read David's post, I was angry that such things would be said by long time members of this wonderful fellowship. Where is the Recovery? Where is the love for another member? Where is the Unity? It seems that a bunch of misogynistic good ol' boys straight out of a 1950's era movie stepped into the year 2013 and imposed their will on an entire area. It seemed to be too outlandish to believe, and it was second hand information. But knowing David, I could see no reason for him to make such things up and stir up trouble. He does that just fine on his own without having to use another areas Intergroup minutes. Then I read the response by the Trustee in question. Mary was very brave to comment and put herself on the line by calling out the members that seem to run Long Island. And this is first hand information from the person who is experiencing everything David wrote, so I would have to believe this is really going on. To those members who seem to be creating all the havoc in that area, I say Shame On You.

I have been attending Intergroup (admittedly off and on) for 16 years. Yes, there have been personality conflicts. Of course we have gone through periods of tension among members. But cooler heads have always seemed to prevail, and our problems seemed to be worked out. We disagree on many things, but the Chairs we have elected have always been strong enough to keep things under control, and even those with personality conflicts who strongly disagree are civil to each other and no personal attacks are made.

Have those members (and any others who act in such a manner) forgotten our Primary Purpose? Isn't helping those of us who suffer what Intergroup should be geared towards. Of course there are some nuts and bolts to take care of at IG, after all it is sort of a business meeting. But once those things are dealt with, shouldn't the end product of every committee, every agenda item, all our focus be on helping those of us who are suffering? If not, why even have IG, or trustees, or a BOT for that matter. I have never read anywhere in our literature that one of our purposes is to attack, defame and demoralize another member. Even if Mary is a lousy Trustee, she was elected by the area, not IG. If the area is not satisfied with her performance, then don't elect her next time. Seems

simple enough. But, why do things the simple way when the harder way is more fun?

It also seems that this IG is corrupt from the top down. Perhaps the information David supplied will reach the members of the Long Island groups, and perhaps some will make the effort to change the culture. Perhaps not, but I hope and pray that they do. It has been said that one bad apple doesn't ruin the whole bunch, and I agree, but while it might not spoil the whole bunch, it sure can give it a black eye and a bloody nose. And behavior like this tends to spread its evil tentacles, especially among sick people, which we all are, or we wouldn't be here.

Well, that's my two cents. It won't buy much, but it comes from the heart of a man who loves this fellowship and the members of it.

Your Brother in recovery,  
Levi B. - Former Trustee, Area 2 - Northern California

---

6/15/13 - 4:11 PM

My name is John S. I am a national trustee from area 15. It is my obligation to uphold the principles of our fellowship. After speaking extensively with fellow trustees Mary R. and Tom Z. about their troubles with Long Island intergroup, after both have endured repeated personal attacks, I have tried to stay neutral but this problem far exceeds neutrality. How can we as trustees expect the body to follow procedure, when we turn a blind eye to it. How can we in good faith, tell everyone to clean house when ours is in disarray. Principles before personalities, the very foundation of recovery, without it recovery cannot exist. I know with open minds and diligence, a solution to these problems will come. It's time to put this to rest, so we can help the compulsive gambler that still suffers.

Sincerely,  
Your Brother,  
John S. - Area 15, New York

---

6/16/13 - 8:08 AM

Dear Fellow Trustees, If you would like to read the minutes of the intergroup meeting that David, Mary, Levi and John are referring to, feel free to contact me at

[room2roomnews@gmail.com](mailto:room2roomnews@gmail.com)

and I will send you a copy. Looking forward to seeing everybody in Orlando.

All my best,  
Tom Z. - Area 14, Long Island

---

*Admin note: email addresses are allowed to be listed on this website, as long as they are generic. The above email address is used for distribution of news announcements for the area mentioned in this submission, which is why it is permitted.*

---

6/16/13 - 8:41 PM

So sad that it takes a lot of suffering by any member before fiascos like this are exposed, sadder still that some still doubtless going on. Massive vote of confidence in the trustee line and doubtless future episodes will continue to be exposed. I have read the minutes referred to and the preceding ones. If the reps bring the full information to the rooms, the members, the likelihood is that it will be 19 reps that are standing down, not two trustees.

This is clearly a strong area with hard working trustees who give more than they should have to. To be faced with such abuse and abuse of process is a travesty. I suggest that they be given a little assistance by 'a few more volunteers' so that the fine job they do of carrying the message is continued. I saw no agenda items to prepare for this impromptu personality driven lynching and it does not seem in character with the modus operandi of the area. Very questionable how people who are present are deemed not present if the roll is called after they leave yet an impromptu vote without reference to the rooms can be taken to award attendance at a meeting that never took place, to a friend of the proposer, on an important by-law issue, no less. Lessons seem clear enough and again I compliment the area, the trustees and the trustee line.

Odie. B. - Area 36, S/E Ireland

---

6/17/13 - 4:17 PM

To My Fellow GA Brothers and Sisters,

As a Trustee for Area 14, it is both with sadness and a degree of hope that I make this submission.

Before commenting on the No Confidence Vote and in the interest of full disclosure, I readily disclose I am a good friend of the 2 Trustees in question. Why does this matter? It matters for a couple of reasons. First, I was the only person in the body who attempted to stop this runaway train and secondly, was the only person who voted against the motion. One of the things I have learned in recovery is that I need to do the right thing irrespective of the people in question. There may be those that felt I was supporting my friends but I can't concern myself with that. There were several reasons for doing what I did:

1. As I mentioned in the minutes, there is a formal procedure for removing Trustees.
2. The now former Chairman of the body neither called nor emailed the Trustees in question to find out why they weren't coming to Intergroup meetings nor if they were fulfilling any of the other 16 responsibilities Trustees are charged with.
3. Of the 20 people voting, 10 were Current or Former Trustees and should have known this was not the way to approach the matter.
4. Of the other 10 people voting, I don't know how many of them knew what Trustees responsibilities even are (as no mention was made of them) let alone whether or not they were being done.

This has been an unfortunate situation but given that it coincided with new Officer elections, I am cautiously optimistic. Long time GA member, Dave J was recently elected Chairman with a hope that he could help right this ship. He sent a letter to the members of Long Island with the intent of rallying so many of the members that have passion for recovery but have been disenfranchised (to the say the least) by the body's actions. I am hopeful we have reached bottom and once again put the focus on disseminating information with a desire to help the compulsive gambler who is still suffering.

Your brother in Recovery,  
Steve T. - Area 14, Long Island, NY

---

6/19/13 - 6:54 AM

Dear Fellow Trustees and Gamblers Anonymous Members:

I am the other Trustee who was the subject of a "no confidence" vote at Long Island Intergroup on June 6th. Before I go any further, I would really like to thank all of you for the support that Mary R. and I have received since this happened and I truly am a proud member of a great organization: Gamblers Anonymous.

On Friday June 7th, I received a phone message from the outgoing Long Island Intergroup Chairman telling me that a "no confidence" vote was taken the previous evening. The results were 18 yes votes for no confidence, 1 no vote and 1 abstention. He then informed me that he wanted me to "do the right thing" and resign because I am "ignoring the wishes of Intergroup". He then told me that if I did not resign further action would be taken against me. He told me not to call him back because he is no longer the Intergroup Chairman as he was not re-elected the prior evening. After playing the message my immediate reaction was "more of the same by Long Island Intergroup." But after reading David M.'s post I thought "Wow, they have finally been exposed."

For this submission, I am going to focus on the Chairman's Report.

That evening there was so much misinformation disseminated by members who have long term abstinence, a current Trustee and many former Trustees that it is really sad to see them passing along such poor and incorrect messages to the body and the newer members in program. The Guidance Code is being completely disregarded and ignored.

As one member with over 30 years of abstinence said "you can't stop them from having a proxy vote." As mentioned by David M., that's not true for US Trustees. The problem I have is that this member speaks as an authority because he has been in program for such a long time but the reality is he is spreading around incorrect information as if it's factual. He also mentions "you can't tell them what to vote for". What? Mary R. and I sent out an email to the



membership before the last conference we attended asking for feedback and providing the membership with the BOT Agenda. That has never been done before and has not been done since. We received a lot of feedback and we presented those views on the floor of the conference. I represented many people's views who I totally disagreed with but as GA Members they had a right to have their views heard. However I don't think any Trustee has ever been told what to vote for. If this member knew the process, he would understand that the issues are debated on the floor and then the body places a vote. What's even more disheartening is that the person making these statements is a former Trustee.

One current Trustee who voted to remove Mary R. and myself provided the body with a great deal of misinformation as well. Telling the body that to remove a Trustee is a 3 page process (as David mentioned its 7 pages for a reason), and incorrect information was given about another area's policy. Although this Trustee did mention trustee removal starts with a sit down and the issue should be tabled until next month, he then decided to circumvent the Trustee Removal Procedures set forth by the BOT and voted yes for no confidence. He also forgot to mention that another former Trustee was floating the idea of a no confidence vote last year; this former Trustee called for a sit-down with Mary R. and me, which we agreed to and attended, and then physically threatened me within 5 minutes of the start of the meeting.

One person mentioned that every time Mary and I are at Intergroup "it's one big fight". I don't know what that means but I do respectfully debate policy and positions as all of you know from the conferences. As mentioned, I do it respectfully. I do have strong opinions on how to help the compulsive gambler who still suffers and I do humbly offer my two cents for the purpose of the betterment of our program. As many of you know, I am not afraid to voice my opinions but they are just that-my opinions. I also voice the opinions of many members in my area with whom I speak with on a regular basis. And they are voiced with respect and we can agree to disagree at the end of the day.

Another former Trustee said "the Trustees responsibilities are more than just going to conferences. Trustees should go to events and Open Meetings and be available for the membership". That is a true statement and I wish this former Trustee would have educated the membership on the 17 Responsibilities of the Trustees. Had he told the body that, he would have realized that I do 16 of the 17 responsibilities with consistency. In fact, I was at so many of the meetings and events that people accused me of campaigning when in fact I was just doing my job as Trustee. The old expression "damned if you do and damned if you don't" applies in this situation. Hopefully our new incoming Chairperson would also inform this former Trustee, I was helpful in promoting one of our major social events, not only in our area but in another area as well. I did miss the Open Meeting last year because the outgoing Chairperson decided to schedule it during the October Trustee Conference. Mary R. made him aware of the scheduling conflict and he did not change the date. We did have a social event a couple of weeks ago but unfortunately I was out of town. I also enjoyed attending the Northern New Jersey mini-conference last November.

Another member with long term abstinence said to "ask them to resign". I have been going to our local Intergroup for the better part of my 8.5 years in program and I have never seen this person there before. From what I also understand, he participated in the Election for Intergroup Officers, clearly violating the new By-Law passed that a member must attend 2 previous Intergroup meetings representing their respective room throughout the course of a year before placing a vote. This person clearly violated this By-Law but was not called out on this because I can only imagine he was singing their tune. Once this new By-Law was passed earlier this year, a current Trustee stopped representing the room he had been representing all year and started representing a different room. However last year a female representative (elected by her room to be their representative) was embarrassed and humiliated by the body questioning her membership in the room. It was one of the two GA meetings she attended on a weekly basis. As mentioned, she was the elected representative for the room at the time and she has not been back to Intergroup since. She was bullied and humiliated by this body.

Another former Trustee said during the Chairman's Report "They are going to New York Intergroup and are not representing us anymore." What does that mean? First of all, I do not go to New York Intergroup but if I did, what would be the big deal. Page 17 Number 5 of the Combo Book says "Get involved and be of service. If you have any questions, ask them of your Trusted Servants and Sponsors". Obviously this is another example of former Trustee with a lot of

abstinence in program spreading a poor and incorrect message to the newcomer and current members with total disregard to Page 17. Based upon those comments, it's sad that a former Trustee would not be a good messenger about the importance of service in our program.

Our new incoming Chairperson said when referring to Mary R. working at nights "She is working at nights she can't do the job." It is true that she does work at nights but once again I wish this person would have referred to all the other Trustee responsibilities that Mary does attend to.

I do want to mention quickly that the actions of this local Intergroup do affect Gamblers Anonymous as a whole. Another Trustee and I were at a GA Meeting a couple of weeks ago and the topic of Intergroup came up. The room wanted to make a donation to Intergroup but not one member would step up to go to Intergroup! One member told another member that he would drive him there and pick him up when the meeting ended but that he would not go inside. As I previously mentioned, these actions affect Gamblers Anonymous as a whole.

I would like to thank current Trustee Steve T. from Long Island who tried to guide the body to follow the proper procedures for removing a Trustee. And thank you to all the Trustees who have posted on the Trustee Line, the members who have emailed, called and texted Mary and me. The outpouring of support we have received has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

I am looking forward to seeing you all in Orlando.

All my best,  
Tom Z. - Area 14, Long Island

---

6/19/13 - 10:27 AM

HI, I'M DAVE J. I HAVE BEEN IN GA FOR 36-1/2 YEARS. I HAVE BEEN CHAIRMAN OF INTERGROUP 5 TIMES AND WAS A NATIONAL TRUSTEE FOR 6 YEARS. I AM NOW THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE "MOB OF VIGILANTES" KNOWN AS LONG ISLAND INTERGROUP.

I AM NOT A GREAT WRITER OR SPELLER SO PLEASE GIVE ME A LITTLE LATITUDE.

THE REASON I AM POSTING THIS IS, I TAKE EXCEPTION TO BE CALLED A MOB OR A VIGILANTE AND SINCE I REPRESENT INTERGROUP, I SPEAK FOR THEM ALSO. EARLY THIS JUNE INTERGROUP MET AS USUAL THE MEETING WENT ALONG FINE. NOT AS FINE AS ALL THE OTHER IINTERGROUP MEETINGS AROUND THE COUNTRY WHERE NO ARGUMENTS OR YELLING TAKES PLACE AND AFTER THE MEETING YOU ALL GATHER IN A CIRCLE AND SING "THATS WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR". WE HAVE NOT GOT TO THAT POINT YET. THE MEETING WENT AS I SAID VERY SMOOTHLY TILL WE GOT TO THE CHAIRMANS REPORT.

THE CHAIRMAN WAS UNHAPPY THAT 2 OF OUR TRUSTEES HAD NOT BEEN TO INTERGROUP IN 6 MONTHS AND HE ASKED FOR THEIR DISMISSAL. DISCUSSION WERE HELD PROPERLY AND HE WAS TOLD BY PAST TRUSTEES THAT THIS COULD NOT BE DONE. ALSO WE COULD NOT STOP FUNDING TRUSTEES. A LOT OF DISCUSSION WAS HELD ALL MOSTLY CALM AS PEOPLE VOICED THEIR OPINIONS, WHICH WAS THEIR RIGHT. THE CHAIRMAN THEN MADE A MOTION TO HAVE A "NO CONFIDENCE VOTE" WHICH IS PERFECTLY LEGAL AND IF THE BODY SO DEEMED, HE WOULD CONTACT THE 2 TRUSTEES AND ASK THEM TO RESIGN, WHICH AGAIN IS PERFECTLY LEGAL. THE VOTE WAS 19-1 IN FAVOR. THE CHAIRMAN CALLED BOTH TRUSTEES AND TOLD THEM OF THE VOTE AND ASKED THEM TO RESIGN, WHICH AGAIN IS PERFECTLY LEGAL. HE LEFT VOICE MESSAGES ON THEIR PHONE. AS THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF INTERGROUP, I RECEIVED A PHONE MESSAGE FROM MARY R. THAT SHE WOULD NOT RESIGN AND IF INTERGROUP REFUSED TO PAY HER PAY, "INTERGROUP WOULD REGRET IT". ANOTHER THREAT. YOU THINK?

AT THAT POINT WHEN SHE SAID SHE WOULD NOT RESIGN AND I GUESS SHE WAS SPEAKING FOR THE OTHER TRUSTEE AS USUAL, I ACCEPTED THIS AND AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED THE MATTER WAS DROPPED. THEN ALL THIS CRAP APPEARED ON THE TRUSTEE LINE. IT WAS SAID WE SHOULD HAVE INVITED THEM TO INTERGROUP IF WE WERE HAVING THIS VOTE. ARE YOU KIDDING? SINCE WHEN DO

YOU HAVE TO INVITE A TRUSTEE TO COME TO AN INTERGROUP MEETING IN THE AREA THEY REPRESENT. MOST OF WHAT THE FEMALE TRUSTEE WROTE IN HER POST WAS BETTER FICTION THEN JAMES PATTERSON CAN EVER WRITE. TRUTHFULLY, THE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN MUCH CALMER WITHOUT THEM OR HER THREATS AGAINST PEOPLE IN THE PROGRAM AND INTERGROUP ITSELF.

WHEN THE 2 TRUSTEES IN QUESTION FIRST CAME TO INTERGROUP AND TOOK UP MANY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY, I WAS THE FIRST TO JUMP ON THEIR BANDWAGON AND TELL EVERYBODY WHAT A FANTASTIC JOB THEY WERE DOING. BUT AROUND JUNE 2012, THINGS STARTED TO GO SIDEWAYS.

WE HAVE A COUPLE OF LADIES THAT ATTEND INTERGROUP ON A REGULAR BASIS AND BOTH WILL TELL YOU THAT THEY NEVER WERE ABUSED OR SCREAMED AT BY ANY ONE AT INTERGROUP. IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, MOST OF THE THREATS AND YELLING CAME FROM MARY R.

INTERGROUPS ARE MADE OF OF COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS, "ADDICTS" WHO COME TOGETHER TO TRY AND HELP THE PROGRAM. EVERY ONE IS DIFFERENT AND HAS DIFFERENT IDEAS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE AND HOW. THAT IS OUR NATURE. WE ARE NOT THE US SENATE OR THE BOARD OF CHAIRMANS AT IBM. WHEN I WAS A TRUSTEE AND WENT TO TRUSTEE MEETINGS, THERE WERE PLENTY OF ARGUMENTS THAT GOT OUT OF CONTROL. THAT'S WHY WE STILL COME TO MEETINGS. MY PURPOSE IN GA IS TO HELP MYSELF, THE NEW MAN AND MAKE THE PROGRAM A LITTLE BIT BETTER EVERY DAY. NOT POST THESE INCREDIBLY STUPID POSTS WHERE NOBODY KNOWS THE TRUE HAPPENINGS AND OTHER PEOPLE MAKE UP GARBAGE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES.

IF ANYONE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT ANYTHING I POSTED, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE TRUSTEES FOR MY TELEPHONE NUMBER OR MY E-MAIL ADDRESS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPACE.

DAVE J. - FORMER TRUSTEE, AREA 14, "THE GREAT STATE OF LONG ISLAND"

---

6/19/13 - 11:50 PM

Hi all,

There are two posts that attempt to cast doubt as to my remarks as it relates to the treatment of women at Long Island Intergroup.

I have a discussion item on the agenda for Orlando. I will be representing the women from Long Island, who no longer attend Long Island Intergroup based on their own experiences when they attended. I am not sure if this is a local issue, but I would like anyone to contact me who has experienced similar issues in their area.

Thank you,  
Mary R. - Area 14, Long Island

---

6/20/13 - 1:10 AM

Mary,

Any doubt that could be gleaned from my posting is because I never heard it mentioned at our Intergroup. I haven't seen it myself. The yellers seem to yell equally to all.

That being said, unequal or unfair treatment of women is a problem in society and similarly must be shunned in GA. I also cannot and did not intend to speak for or doubt any female in the program. I fully admit, just because I haven't seen it at Intergroup, it doesn't mean it didn't occur. It is the female individual that experienced it that only can attest to their own feelings.

My mentioning that there are 2 other women that attend Intergroup was only for completeness since you didn't mention it. Also, many men and woman have come and gone from attending Intergroup.

If you attend Intergroup next month, I would hope you bring this up so

awareness of the problem can be made and be addressed at the group level, as well.

Otherwise, we will certainly remind everyone at the next Intergroup meeting the need to respect everyone equally and the need for people to be free to speak up if they feel harassed for any reason.

Respectfully yours,  
Paul C. - Area 14, Long Island

---

6/20/13 - 1:25 AM

"Selfishness--self-centeredness! That we think is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate. Sometimes they hurt us, seemingly without provocation, but we invariably find at some time in the past we have made decisions based on self which placed us in a position to be hurt."-- anonymous source

Joe T. - Area 2, Northern California

---

6/20/13 - 9:00 AM

Cheeky, Joe, very cheeky. The use of the word anonymous as the source of your topic reply is misleading. Granted you have left out the word Alcoholics before anonymous and have declined to identify page 62 of the Big Book as the source, you have also neglected to identify a guy named Bill as the author of the piece. In effect, two things have happened here, the Trustee line has been conned into printing, yet again, direct excerpts from outside literature and the stating of the exact same thing in an earlier post, in GA terms, has been ignored. That statement was, I quote, Self will run riot. I can see the amusing side of it but coming in a serious topic affecting peoples lives, well, I sometimes wonder at this superior enlightenment I'm supposedly missing out on.

Odie B. - Area 36, Ireland East

6/20/13 - 9:44 AM

Odie,

I didn't name the source because I did not want to start a debate on that subject, I know how the majority of GA feels about that piece of literature and the 12 steps. I just thought the quote might get us to think about how we treat one another. I don't wish to get into a debate with you or anyone regarding outside literature.

Step 1-3 made peace with God  
Step 4-7 made peace with myself  
Step 8-9 made peace with others  
Step 10-12 maintain that peace

Odie I wish to try to maintain some peace so the fact I write in this trustee line I have a HUGE part in disrupting my peace. I do apologize if what I wrote offended you..It was directed to all of GA and not you personally. I really don't want to get into personal debates on here with you or any other individuals.

Joe T. - Area 2, Northern California

---

### **Orlando Update**

6/11/13 - 3:14 PM

Hello All

As the Orlando Conf. nears I want to inform you of a few NEW items on the trustee website under the heading Orlando Conf. Info

We have negotiated a discount rate with Super Shuttle for round trip transportation to and from the airport. Please use the code designated and make your reservation with them directly

Next we have put together a Golf Outing for Wed 10/16 at a Disney Golf resort. The flyer is also under the same heading. If you plan to attend please let us know before the cut-off date as we need a minimum number of golfers to secure this rate.

Also a reminder to please get your registration forms and deposits into the committee as many have made hotel reservations without their Conference Registrations. And we would like to be prepared for all the attendees.

So far the response to this Conference has been excellent and we expect a nice turnout.

Also keep checking the trustee line for more updates as we are working on a couple of interesting events.

Do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions

Yours truly,  
Richie S. - Area 6, South Florida

---

#### Second Orlando Update

As previously stated the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort since their remodeling has instituted a daily resort tax. And it appears on your first receipt.

Our contract clearly states that this fee is waived for ALL conference reservations.

Many of the reservation operators, national and local are not aware of our contract.

This fee will NOT be charged to your daily room rate as we are exempt.

Thanks for your understanding,  
Richie S. - Area 6, South Florida

---

#### **Question 18 Always a Present Threat Not Past**

6/11/13 - 3:14 PM

Hello everyone,

This note is in response to the agenda item on question 18 being changed from does to do. We have used that as a discussion at several meetings in the area this past week and the consensus is leave it as is. How many rooms have had members with several months and years of recovery have a major problem in their lives and return to gambling when the pressure pushed them over the edge. I myself have had to fight, that urge when I encountered major problems in my life. The word 'does' in the question shows how susceptible we all are to the bet and the importance of the 'One day at a time' slogan.

Thanks,  
Gary G. - Past Trustee, Area 6C, North Carolina

---

6/18/13 - 11:40 AM

Bravo Gary, this is a question that draws a line in the sand for me. I have seen too many people in this program appear to be doing well with their recovery and get hit with the components of question 18 to then either go back to the bet or come so close to it they could smell it. For me, there are 2 triggers that appear to be the most prominent catalysts for going back to the bet. The first is defiance of Recovery Step 3, in which the member takes back his/her will, and equally important, the gut-wrenching effects of question 18.

I have another issue with the 20 questions that have to do strictly with how the questions are presented. I'm not talking about changing the content, but the language used in how they were written. Page 17 of the Combo Book, number 5 says to ....continuously review the 20 questions. The structure on half the questions is decidedly in the past. Doing that puts distance between me and the question. Changing a 'did' to 'have you ever' brings that timeline closer to me and what is happening in my life. I'm happy not to be gambling today, but what about the person who might be coming to meetings and gambling at the same time? Changing the sentence structure prevents that member from trying to push what used to be into the past. Many of the questions might now be a 'No' by using the past tense because the member is doing things a bit different. If we change how the question is asked, then past behavior couldn't be as easily ignored and our mandate to continuously review the 20 questions will be more

reason to have a significant process of understanding and recovery.

I would like to submit modifications to the 20 questions as outlined below, for people to consider. I deliberately did not highlight the changes, because I want everyone reading them to see if they feel comfortable and communicate the essence of the questions and their intent. I will be putting this on the Trustee Poll later today.

1. Have you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
2. Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
3. Has gambling ever affected your reputation?
4. Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
5. Have you ever gambled to get money with which to pay debts or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
6. Has gambling ever caused a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
7. After losing did you ever feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
8. After a win did you ever have a strong urge to return and win more?
9. Have you often gambled until your last dollar was gone?
10. Have you ever borrowed to finance your gambling?
11. Have you ever sold anything to finance gambling?
12. Were you ever reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?
13. Has gambling ever made you careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?
14. Have you ever gambled longer than you had planned?
15. Have you ever gambled to escape worry, trouble, boredom or loneliness?
16. Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
17. Has gambling ever caused you to have difficulty in sleeping?
18. Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
19. Have you ever had an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
20. Have you ever considered self-destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

---

6/18/13 - 1:30 PM

Fellow Trustees,

I have just read the posting submitted by David M. This idea for terminology context is interesting, thought provoking, a step forward, and helpful for all addicted compulsive gamblers to combat their ability to live in a world of denial. Compulsive gambling is a disease of denial and that denial certainly applies to the 20 questions. The change in wording from "did", or "do", to "have you ever", does not change the intent of the 20 questions but enhances the opportunity for all compulsive gamblers to identify with their gambling addiction and resist their ability to continue living in a world of denial. This proposal should be considered by the BOT for aiding the compulsive gambler to identify their problem, not deny it.

David referenced Step 3 of the Recovery Program where we subdue our will, and surrender to the will of a Higher Power, God as we understand Him. Step One of the Recovery Program is the foundation we build on our new way of living and Step 3 of the Recovery Program opens the door to our humility and reliance on a Power greater than ourselves.

These two Recovery Steps, One and Three, and working them with diligent effort are essential to all ongoing recoveries as we climb the staircase of the remaining Steps of Recovery.

I have a theory regarding this baffling, insidious, compulsive addiction we possess. Even as we are progressing in our recovery the illness is silently and insidiously also progressing patiently waiting for any signs of complacency or relaxing our vigilance in order to strike again. The illness of compulsive gambling has eternity to complete the destruction it wishes for us. We, have just one day, today, to arrest our illness and be totally aware of the intent of the illness of compulsive gambling. Beware of not being aware!

Remember, it is progress we seek--not perfection.

George W. - Past Trustee Area 12, now residing Area 16, Upstate New York

---

---

**Inappropriate Content for the Trustee Line**

---

---

6/19/13 - 4:00 PM

I initiated this posting because I am very concerned about the use of the Trustee Line as a means to attack other members or groups within the program. Please note that David M and I did speak after the initial 2 postings, under "Vote of No Confidence to remove a Trustee - Really?". I did briefly express to David M my concern for some of this content to be on the TL. I do also appreciate David's advice, his time and the discussion on other related issues.

I am not questioning anyone's right to express their concerns or even accusations to other Trustees or to raise them in the proper forum and process; but should these judgments of individuals and groups be "aired out" in this Trustee Line forum?

I believe this should be handled by phone calls, letters, or visiting the group. Under that TL posting, many are criticizing the lack of "due process", but then have no problem espousing judgments against a member's character and labeling our Intergroup, all based on limited information. I assure you, the minutes do not reflect the complete discussions and only one side of the story is being presented.

In the recent postings, our Intergroup was called a lynch mob, an angry mob, one that drives away people, unprofessional, and that it attacks women. Statements were made that the past Chairman was being underhanded and manipulative, attacking his character. Statements were made that our Intergroup is "corrupt from the top down".

Regarding the notion of attacks on women; this is a very serious accusation. An entry onto the Trustee Line should not be the first step. The guidance and procedures established for harassment are in place for good reason. I would be available to fully support this process as needed on Long Island. (Note to all: there have been 2 other women in attendance at Intergroup meetings).

There are always 3 sides to the story; this side, that side... and the truth somewhere between.

There is no angry mob, there is no conspiracy at LI Intergroup. We all have our opinions and beliefs about what is right and wrong. Involvement comes with a great passion for GA. Our Intergroup (aka the mob) this past month was made up of 8 former Trustees, 2 current Trustees, 2 former chairpersons and other members, many which have 20 to 30+ years in program, all having served GA extensively. Everyone deserves equal respect and certainly all deserve the protection that seemed to be offered by the Guidelines established for this Trustee Line.

We should all come to serve; not to control, not to tout our own accomplishments in comparison to others and not to criticize others service in such a manner and forum.

The topic itself is perhaps valid, I am not questioning that. I am not saying the postings should not provide suggestions such as: "The Chairman shouldn't have done this..." or "the Intergroup should have done that...". I can appreciate the portions of the postings that spoke directly to the topic.

I therefore ask the Trustee Line Committee; Do each of these postings comply with the Guidelines for the Trustee Line for appropriate content? (i.e. "derogatory statements about another member or person, derogatory statements about another room...").

Further, I ask that the TL Committee use better discretion in the future.

I appreciate any assistance and feedback here.

Respectfully yours,  
Paul C. - Area 14, Long Island

---

---

**How Far Have We Come?**

---

---

6/21/13 - 2:47 AM

There was a time when I really actually enjoyed getting on the trustee website to see what was happening in other areas. Mostly good content and various points of view on any particular topic. Those times are fading fast with the content of the Trustee Line we have seen lately. Somewhere along the line we have lost focus on our primary purpose "Helping the Compulsive gambler who still suffers". We have taken local area issues and exploited them into "he said" and "she said" battles, finger pointing, we argue about what literature is approved and what isn't. etc. I have heard many members from time to time say that they no longer come on the trustee website because of its content. I'm sad to say that I am starting to understand what those members mean. Just how far have we come as a fellowship? or are we starting to take some steps backwards.

Steve R. - Area 2B Trustee, Sacramento

---

6/21/13 - 4:26 PM

Great question, here's my two cents worth. I believe what has happened this month shows how far out of the dark ages we have come. Honesty, open mindedness, willingness has allowed an unmanageable situation be addressed. I have no doubt the strengths of the area and the people involved will lead to a happier, better environment where the great job of spreading the message that exists becomes better. I believe that the democratic opportunity presented by the trustee line and taken by all involved means that, instead of a hidden set of misunderstandings and all the rest being a drain on everyone, those involved can, and I believe they will, work things out, set an example even. A little help from someone who cared and honest comments all round, that's HOW in action if you ask me

Odie B. - Area 36, Ireland South East

---

6/23/13 - 6:16 PM

It's almost like night follows day. The Trustee Line gets edgy and then we see a posting about Unity Step 5 and our primary purpose. This is someone's way of trying to just get people to shut up on the issue(s). I understand the intent, but for me, that's running away from the problem. Using the tactic of trying to get everyone to get off the topic by saying that doesn't make the issue go away. It just gets worse over time. We need to deal with the situation and put it to bed or some next step that allows us to collectively benefit from the struggles and strife of other areas, Intergroup, rooms or members. The situation with the troubled Intergroup in this month's edition has resulted in some items being added to the agenda. This is progress at work.

There were many times that we have had controversial issues circulating within the Trustees and many people became very emotionally entangled in them. It still happens today and instead of giving the issues a chance to be run through the grinder, there are those who feel they and others shouldn't have an opinion, because that risks others from getting involved in the problem. Getting involved is healthy and shouldn't be avoided.

The discussions on the Trustee Line are a vital part of sharing our experience, strength and hope. For me, everything is a process. This platform is not always for the faint of heart and those who still feel that issues are about them personally. Civility can often transform into a pissing contest with the question of whether the people involved are going for distance or accuracy. The most interesting thing is that somewhere in the process, the Trustee Line heals itself. Members who have had enough of the bitterness, step in to act like the lunchroom monitors in middle school. Those participating in the verbal mixup will get scolded by the monitors and things always quiet down. Cooler heads do prevail, but some times, some of us have some real problems to get out into the open, they are not always pretty.

I started the thread in question because of what I read in the minutes of this particular Intergroup that have been sent to many people throughout the country. Doing so puts it in the public domain. My intended goal was to show that people make up things for their own convenience and that is dangerous, as other areas might take what is written in such minutes and believe those situations to be the gospel. Much, if not mostly all, of the work of the BOT doesn't make it to many Intergroups, and by definition to the rooms and members. The Intergroup in this thread has shown very clearly that there are conflicts within. Although it hasn't been bed of roses this month, some of the members involved have gone through a baptism by fire on the Trustee Line. This is a process that sometimes happens, and those involved are now much more aware. Evidently, steps are now being taken locally to fix the problems,



and all it took was airing out the problems, stepping on a few people's toes, and some people getting their feathers ruffled.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

---

6/23/13 - 10:36 PM

To All My GA Brothers and Sisters,

As a Trustee of the area in question, I think there has been a lot of dialogue this month for everyone to benefit from. As some have suggested, I hope nobody shies away from the Trustee Line or any other area of their life because the going gets tough. The Trustee Line is a fantastic mechanism for all of us to dialogue the entire spectrum of issues as they face Gamblers Anonymous both internally and externally and my thanks to all those who take time to post. This continues to reinforce that there are people out there who care and take the time to add their feedback.

As I said a month or 2 ago, the tendency is for people to respond to the hot button topics and lose focus on the other "less controversial" issues. For that, I hope we can all continue to improve the balance of our involvement both on here and in our local areas as we continue to strive towards the ongoing improvement of our fellowship.

Your brother in recovery,  
Steve T. - Area 14, Long Island

---

<b>Principles before Personalities!/Unity Step 12</b>
---

6/21/13 - 11:02 AM

Fellow current and Past Trustees,

The time has come for the spiritual principles of the Fellowship of Gamblers Anonymous to be seen as the answer in solving the problems we face as individual members, Intergroup members, or members of the Board of Trustees.

These problems are created by allowing personalities to dominate the spiritual principles presented by Gamblers Anonymous literature as kindness, generosity, honesty, and humility.

We would be well-served to consider adding the principles of love, tolerance, and compassion to that aforementioned list. According to the GA combo book (The book of answers.) adherence to these spiritual principles seem to solve our problems!

We gain nothing in attacking each other with cynical comments that have the capacity to lessen the unity of our common purpose. Without unity as a highest priority that we honor on a daily basis this life-saving Fellowship could perish in a sea of accusations, anger, resentment, and frustration. (Our emotional illness looks to defeat us one way or another!) This will and cannot happen as we are better than that.

The time has come to rise above these self-made problems and realize the responsibility we have to ourselves as individual members, to our Fellowship as messengers of hope, and to all future members who will come to us for help. We are responsible.

These are just idle thoughts from a member progressing in recovery who believes we are better than petty arguments; and with our program as guidance, can solve whatever problems arise.

George W, - Past Trustee Area 12, now residing Area 16, Upstate New York

---

6/27/13 - 10:33 AM

I believe secrecy is the #1 enemy of any spiritual principle and the #1 friend of denial and delusion. If you are stuck in a mire of secrecy, however long it has lasted, it gets worse, never better. Talk about it, shout if you must, scream if you must, just don't bury it and expect it to improve. Strip away the cliches and you're left with reality.

Odie B. - Area 36 Trustee, S/E Ireland

---

