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Trustee Line for June 2014

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 6/30/14.

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.	Some Thoughts On Conferences	3:51 PM 6/9	1
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Some Thoughts On Conferences

6/9/14 - 3:51 PM

My thoughts on this subject of conferences surrounds the basic concepts of costs and interest. Attendance over the past few years appears to be lower than a few years back. What is the reason or reasons for the lower attendance? Could it be that it is now too expensive for many members due to the financial restraints they are experiencing from our economy? If so what can we do to make it less costly too attend? Could we hold our Conferences at different times of the year when hotel rates may be lower? Do we need the expense of entertainment on Saturday Night, or would just a nice social dinner suffice? (Most attendees appear to leave long before the band stops playing) Do we need the expense of give-away bags? No I am not a Hum-Bug! I would just like to hear some thoughts from others on how we could lower costs, and attract more members which would benefit our fellowship.

Regards to all,
Bob W. - Area 12, New Jersey

A New Dawn For The Fellowship

6/12/14 - 3:15 PM

This is a bitter sweet commentary on what has happened with the Board of Regents as of last minutes from the May meeting that were received this past Friday. People resign from various positions in this Fellowship, for myriad reasons. Nobody enjoys reading the reason for such actions when they are due to health concerns. Benni F. has tendered a letter of resignation from the BOR. This is not just a member resigning, as Benni was the Chair of the BOR. He cited personal and health concerns. I'm sure we all wish him well regarding dealing with these issues.

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

What does this mean for the BOR moving forward? Well, the first thing is that we will have the BOR Chair position filled, only temporarily, but Steve F, the Vice Chair of the BOR, will be that person. Steve represents the new guard for this Fellowship. It will be the first time in I can't count how many years, that someone under 47 will have that position. It may possibly be the first time in our history.

Over the last 20 years, mankind has witnessed a stratospheric leap in the area of technology that will not stop. It was obvious that the previous BOR Chairs just didn't have the ease of using technology, especially not with what has happened in the last decade. Sure we created a website and a telephone hotline, but those are simple products. We are coming up to the 7th anniversary of the release of the first iPhone on June 29th. Look what has happened since.

We have been a Fellowship that has clung to the way things were done in 1957. We have let technology run laps around us, I submit because of fear of the unknown. I and many others will be putting our faith in Steve F, hoping that he will look past just assuming the position of BOR Chair because the By-Laws say so, but to step up and run for the position at the next BOR meeting this weekend.

Certainly, this is not to say that Steve, as Chair, would abandon common sense in favor of what he wants to do on a unilateral basis. My belief is that the younger members of this Fellowship better understand that we need to use more of what is available to us in the area of technology. I think that instead of rejecting technically oriented situations, as was the case previously, GA will hopefully have a BOR Chair who will more openly explore how to use technology to help us better and more effectively carry the message of hope to the compulsive gambler who still suffers. Additionally, we will also be better prepared for using technology to keep the members in the room.

If you have an opinion on this subject, please chime in. We could all use some fresh air on the Trustee Line.

David M. – Area 12, New Jersey

P.S. - And by the way, this is not an attack on the 'older' chairs. It's merely to point out the technology has not been on the forefront of their minds and how to lean on it for the good of the Fellowship.