

Main Menu

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

**Quebec - Fall 2009
Trustee Agenda**

[Quebec Conference Info](#)

[Agenda Information](#)
[Conference Bids](#)

[Quebec Rolling Agenda](#)

[Submit an Agenda Item](#)

BOT Committees

- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Literature on CDs](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prison - Canada](#)
- [Prison - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Translator Assistance](#)
- [Trustee Allowance & Realignment](#)
- [Trustee Meeting Rules and Procedures](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Website Revisions](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

- [Trustee Line Home Page](#)
- [Local Area Website Guidelines](#)
- [Trustee Travel Schedule](#)
- [Local Area Help Flyer](#)
- [Board of Regents News Page](#)
- [Intergroup Trustee Funding](#)
- [Public Relations Area Ideas](#)
- [Trustee Memorial Honor Roll](#)

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Trustee Line for July 2009

Rate this issue of the Trustee Line:

6 votes Your Rating

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 7/31/09.

From The Trustees

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

Item	Subject	Last Entry	Entries
1.	Sponsorship Manual	7/14/09 12:12 PM	5
2.	ISO Financial Report	7/1/09 12:01 AM	1
3.	Thanks to Everyone	7/1/09 12:13 PM	1
4.	Using Personal Checking Accounts to Pay Group Donations	7/14/09 1:50 PM	6
5.	2009 Conference in Montreal	7/7/09 7:49 PM	1
6.	Some Words from the New Executive Board	7/15/09 9:48 AM	1

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

Sponsorship Manual

7/1/09 - 12:01 AM
Sponsorship Manual
Page 8..CAN ANY MEMBER BE A SPONSOR

I believe we need to take a closer look at this, before passing this item for a 2nd vote:

This item states that to sponsor another member the individual must have AT LEAST A YEAR before they are eligible to be a Sponsor.

We have a piece of literature, 90 DAY PLATEAU, located in the Information Packet, under the 'Sponsorship & Retention' paragraph, 'You maybe asked to sponsor an individual' and also as part of the paragraph, 'If you would like to sponsor a member, contract the Sponsorship Chairman or your Group Secretary.'

So my feelings are if we pass the new item a with a second vote we are going have two pieces of literature with different messages.

I also don't really feel you need to be clean at least a year to begin to give back to the program.

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

7/1/09 - 5:26 PM
I MUST take exception to the thread in the July Trusteeline by Joe B. in needing to take a closer look at the item "Can Any Member Be a Sponsor?"

First the reasons that are given are UNTRUE, and INACCURATE!!!!

In the first sentence, he wrongly says that the item states that to sponsor another member the individual MUST have At Least a Year.....before they are eligible to be a Sponsor.

The motion says 'Sponsors should be GA members, who have not gambled by their own admission in at least the last year and attend GA meetings on a regular basis.'

It does not say 'Must', it says 'Should', and never mentions eligibility. Also we use the word GA members NOT individuals.

The last sentence also insinuates that the motion talks about requirements in giving back to this program. NOWHERE in the motion is this stated, or addressed.

I personally believe that ANY member, New or Old, gives back to this program just by attending meetings.

We are an Openminded Fellowship. We are flexible in our suggestions. We know that there are NO absolutes. We know there are New rooms and they might have a chairman that does not have a year of abstinence as we suggest, but that is Okay. We are not sending different messages. We are coping and openminded. These are not Guidance Code items!!

Since we now have 'Get a sponsor, nobody recovers on their own', on page 17 of the Combo Book, the Sponsorship Manual, and the question 'Can Any Member be a Sponsor?' needs to be updated. If we leave it the way it currently is, do we really want our members to go through the 12 Steps of Recovery with a sponsor that might have just 2, 4 or even 6 months in the program?

It is always healthy in the fellowship to differ on opinions. But it is unhealthy to state false facts and make insinuations based on those false facts.

Richie S. - Area 6, South Florida

7/2/09 - 3:40 PM

Sorry Rich, I didn't mean for you to get bent out of shape. That was not my intention on the subject of 'Can Any Member Be a Sponsor'

I will try to give my answers on how you wrote your reply regarding your statement that the reasons that are given are UNTRUE and INACCURATE.

Sorry again Rich, but when you stated that the 'Sponsors should be GA members, who have not gambled by their own admission in AT LEAST THE LAST YEAR' etc., that to me implies that the person, (Sponsor) needs to have abstained from gambling for at least a year.

The words SHOULD BE GA MEMBERS, they are INDIVIDUALS as well as members of the program. I don't know what else to call them.

My last sentence, 'I also don't really feel you need to be clean at least a year to begin to give back to the program'. That was my personal FEELING, I did not INSINUATE that the motion talks about this.

You personally believe that ANY member, New or Old, gives back to this program just by attending meetings. That in itself may be true, but my statement about giving back is going a little beyond that as stated in the Combo on page 17...'GET INVOLVED AND BE OF SERVICE.'

Your next statement is that there are NO ABSOLUTES. I'm a little lost here, then why do you have in the agenda item 'GA meetings may not have members with MORE ABSTINENCE to act as sponsors. That they should SEEK THE SPONSORSHIP OF MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT MEETINGS, OR AREAS'. Yes I know that these are not Guidance Code items, but the way they are being presented makes it sound like they are. That in itself is a DIFFERENT MESSAGE than what is in the 90 DAY PLATEAU sheet.

Yes I agree that it is always healthy in the fellowship to differ on opinions, and at no time thinking while I wrote to the Trustee Line about this item was I making any false facts or derogatory remarks. If you feel that way I will pray for you.

Well that's all folks, tally-ho for now

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

7/13/09 - 4:04 PM

Now that Joe brought up the 90 Day Plateau, I would like to see this item changed. Please look at the definitions of: **Plateau. -noun**

1. a land area having a relatively level surface considerably raised above adjoining land on at least one side, and often cut by deep canyons.
2. a period or state of little or no growth or decline: to reach a plateau in one's career.
3. Psychology. a period of little or no apparent progress in an individual's learning, marked by an inability to increase speed, reduce number of errors, etc., and indicated by a horizontal stretch in a learning curve or graph.
4. a flat stand, as for a centerpiece, sometimes extending the full length of

a table.

Acknowledging 90 days clean is great, but is this the message we want to give? Maybe 'Congratulations on 90 Days Clean' or how about 'You have given the program 90 days, now what?'

Carol K. - Area 9, Michigan

7/14/09 - 12:12 PM

Good morning, fellow Trustees -

I agree with Carol K that the 90-Day "Plateau" word should be changed. It means a leveling-off and I'm not sure that's what we want to state - that once you have reached 90 days, you have 'leveled' off. I prefer the heading: 90 Day Recognition - that's what we are doing - recognizing a member's reaching 90 days in the Program.

I also believe that our Sponsorship Brochure could use some 'updating.' Yes, while it may be working for some, I think we need to continuously re-think what the goal of Gamblers Anonymous really is - to help the compulsive gambler who still suffers. To me this does not indicate it is only the 'new' member who is suffering, but all of us still suffer - it's a lifetime addiction. To stick our heads in the sand and say "everything is okay" does not do service or justice to our program - we should all continue to grow within the program - helping one another along the way. Whenever a newcomer or an old timer leaves the program, I say to myself, "What are we missing?" "What could we have done differently?" I try to stay open- minded, but don't always succeed, but I don't stop trying.

I look at our Intergroup phone list. There are hundreds with less than 2-3 years, another group of 3-10 years, but then the tally begins to drop off. I wonder what has happened to the hundreds who started out 30 years ago, or 20 years ago. Where are they? I think staying in the now is very important both for new members and older members. What can we do to keep them interested? My personal opinion is that updating our literature as well as our program will be of interest to all, and in the best interests of all.

Linda S, Area 3A Trustee, San Diego

ISO Financial Report

7/1/09 - 12:01 AM

To: All Trustees and Gamblers Anonymous members

Re: Financial Report

Dear Fellowship,

As per our Guidelines the sole purpose of the Board of Regents is to supervise the operations of the International Service Office (I.S.O.) and see that it is operated effectively and efficiently. We are providing this information so that you will have a better understanding of the financial status of our fellowship.

Financial Status

As of May 31, 2009, receipts and contributions are down about 7.5% (\$40,738.14) this year, as compared to May 31, 2008 and expenses are up less than 1% (\$3,007.79). As a result of the decline in receipts this fiscal year the I.S.O. office had to use some of the reserve funds to cover operating expenses. There are copies available by request of our budgeted expenses and operating receipts thru May 31, 2009.

Cost saving items:

Bulletins mailed to meetings in the United States reduced from 4 to 2 and bulletins mailed to International meetings reduced from 2 to 1. This will save about \$3,000.00 this year and \$6,000.00 next year.

The last payment of \$1,600.00 per month to fund the National Hotline was made in November 2008. The new negotiated contract (when it is approved) will have no monthly cost to the I.S.O. This will save \$9,600.00 this year and \$19,200.00 in future years.

Operating receipts and contributions:

There are now 1741 meetings in the United States and 1080 International meetings. In February of 2009 there were 154 I.S.O. can contributions and 156 group contributions for a total of 310. This represents about 20% of the meetings in the United States and 11% of the meetings worldwide. If each meeting were to contribute \$1.00 more per week (1741+1080 = 2821 meetings) this would generate \$2821.00 per week, for a total of \$146,692.00 per year.

As our fellowship is, "Self supporting thru our own contributions", here

are some ways to help that you might consider.

If you are a Lifeliner, THANK YOU; if not, consider becoming one. Currently there are 460 Lifeliners and they have contributed \$61,128.81 thru May 31, 2009 (11 months) of this fiscal year. This represents about one Lifeliner for every four meetings in the United States and one for every seven meetings worldwide.

To become a Lifeliner, ask your secretary for a sign-up card or contact the I.S.O. office. You may contribute monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual. Contributions can be mailed directly, by auto-pay at your bank or thru your computer.

Some Lifeliners increase contributions at each G.A. anniversary. Members often make donations on their G.A. birthday or other life event. You may also leave an amount to the I.S.O. in your will or trust.

Every meeting should discuss the services and expense of the I.S.O.? Even if you are a Lifeliner you could put a dollar or two into the I.S.O. can as an example to others. Is there an I.S.O. can in your meeting so that the members can contribute if they wish to? You may request cans from the office at; isomain@gamblersanonymous.org.

Are your meeting books and pamphlets up to the latest revision? Take a look and replace any outdated literature. There are new pamphlets and the Day at a Time book available in Spanish as well.

Please make copies of this letter to give to the secretaries at your Intergroup and ask them to make copies for the members at their meetings, also make copies for everyone at the meetings you attend.

Should you have any other suggestions or questions please contact me or any other Board of Regent member.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in recovery,

John C. - Chairman, Board of Regents (term ending 6/30/09)

[Note from the Trustee Website Admin:](#) In the Kansas City Trustee meeting, it was decided that the Board of Regents Chair would be allowed to submit items to the Trustee Line, where as this was not allowed previously unless the BOR Chair was a past Trustee. John has never served as a Trustee, so his window for submissions as BOR Chair ended on June 30th with his term of office. He submitted this item on June 26th and asked that it be added to the July Trustee Line so that it could be current for all to read for an entire month, versus only 4 days were it to be posted to the June issue. I know there are some who would complain about the July 1st posting date, but it was received before his term of office expired.

Thanks to Everyone

7/1/09 - 12:13 PM

My Dear Brother's and Sister's

Well today is July 1st and as of today the New Chairman takes the reins of the Board of Trustees. The truth be known Denis actually started doing the work before today.

For me this is the time to thank each and every one of you for your hard work, dedication and most of all friendship during my tenure as Chair. I want to thank Karen, Israel, Lisa and Jason at the I.S.O. for their continuing dedication to the furthering of this fellowship. You guys are the best.

I want to especially thank David for his tireless commitment to this program and while we do not agree on everything he has become a true friend in our search for recovery.

Thanks to John C. and the members of the Board of Regents for sticking together this year and doing the right thing. Your dedication to the program is admirable.

My best to the New Board for the upcoming term. I think the three of you are well suited to work in harmony and move this program forward. I always had to remember that it was up to the group and not just me and the group decides.

I will leave it with this. I would never have made 25 years of recovery if it were not for the great people I met along the way. Those that I agreed with and those that I did not. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all you did for my recovery and look forward to many more years of friendship with each of you.

Thanks for letting me be of service.

Tom M. - Area 2
Former Chairman Board of Trustees

Using Personal Checking Accounts to Pay Group Donations

7/2/09 - 8:22 AM

Hello to you all. I am writing this submission looking for some feedback from the trustees.

I know that many areas work their treasuries differently and pay for rent and supplies in different ways. So, let me first explain what takes place in my area. Each group has their own treasurer and then we have a treasurer for our intergroup. I am pretty confident saying that we do not have any individual groups that have checking accounts, only our intergroup has a checking account.

Each group is responsible for purchasing the supplies for their room (this includes literature, pins, coins, etc). The individual group is also responsible for any rent/donation for use of meeting space. Each group will contribute (if they can) to our intergroup and then to ISO.

For some of our individual groups rent is made as a donation to the facility. Since each of our individual groups do not have checking accounts some use money orders, cash, or a treasurer will use their own personal check to make the donation for the use of the meeting space.

I am going to refrain from my personal feelings on this situation because I really would appreciate feedback from other trustees that have had some experience in dealing with this. I am wondering if any of the trustees feel that the use of a personal check for rent, a donation to ISO or intergroup, purchasing materials or for the individual group needs is inappropriate?

I would appreciate any experience in this matter.

Dina P. Area 6B - Tampa, Florida

7/3/09 - 11:17 AM

Hi all

In responding to Dina P's letter regarding use of personal checks for group rent, etc. In the over 25 years I have been going to LA Intergroup I have heard the Intergroup Treasurer make the following statement several times. 'Thanks to those that brought checks instead of cash'. This was my sentiment when I was treasurer. Getting checks made the counting much quicker and less likely to make mistakes. As for paying rent there are locations that will not take cash and getting money orders can be inconvenient. Most of us that send in Lifeline Donations also use personal checks and not money orders. Therefore it is my opinion that personal checks are not inappropriate.

Best

Bob W. - Former Trustee, Area 1 - Southern California

7/8/09 - 2:52 PM

Dina -

While I wouldn't declare that we encourage the use of personal checking accounts, there are definitely situations where such a requirement is necessary - or in some cases even mandatory. Some of our members have had to use their own personal credit cards on behalf of their groups or intergroup - picnic supplies; literature from ISO, etc.

Our belief and feeling is that as long as the expenditure is covered by a receipt, and monitored carefully, the use of a personal checking account should not be a problem. Our Intergroup also elects a Budget Committee who assists the Intergroup Treasurer to help keep financial situations stable.

With love, faith and respect in our Fellowship,

Linda S., - Area 3A Trustee, San Diego

7/13/09 - 3:54 PM

I have used my personal checking account to pay the group rent. I felt that way I had a record. As far as I know none of our groups have a checking account. Our Intergroup has a checking account. There have been times when members have bounced checks. To the best of my knowledge restitution was made, which included any fees charged to Intergroup.

I have mixed thoughts on using personal accounts for events and the local group. There is always room for errors. We once had a holiday party that went through an individual's account who stated she had to pay out of her own account to cover the cost. My thought was she should have had to as my check when into her account. She was reimbursed by Intergroup for her expense. Now we are not all accountants and we are all human. I did not audit this situation so I don't know the facts. I do know I have not see the person at Intergroup or in a meeting in a long time.

Even if the event has its own account, like our mini conference, it is tied to someone's social security number. Tax rules and state rules vary from place to place. Not all groups have enough money to bother with a checking account as the expense would out weight the benefit. This is offered merely as information.

Carol K. - Area 9, Michigan

7/14/09 - 12:16 PM

Hello everybody:

How can you use a personal check to pay room rent? Isn't that giving up your personal anonymity? Also isn't it a violation of Unity Step 11? we need always maintain personal anonymity

Remember we are Gamblers Anonymous!

Ronny W. - Current Trustee, Area 17 - Connecticut

PS: Personal Anonymity should be maintained at all levels of communication not just press , radio, films and television!

7/14/09 - 1:50 PM

Good morning, Ronnie W -

I certainly recognize your concern over anonymity. My perspective is that I must respect other's anonymity. But I have made the personal choice to let others know that I am a member of Gamblers Anonymous, and they treat that with great respect. A fellowship hall will not accept cash as they have concerns about a 'paper trail.' Are you suggesting that I would have to find a new location that would only accept cash as rent payment? How do I protect my group by paying cash - I can say that I paid it in cash - but suppose I haven't? I can't prove a cash payment to a treasurer, an auditor or a budget committee, or my own group. I can't get a receipt because the payment is made after the meeting when the office is closed - can't get a cash rent receipt.

It's a different world we are living in now - there is very little trust between two organizations. Recently, my Intergroup Treasurer and I went to a very prominent bank - Bank of America - to change signatures for the Intergroup checking account. Since 9-11, the Freedom Act, and the bank bailout, rules have changed enormously. They would not accept "non-profit" organization without certain identification; they would not accept "self-help group" as the owner of the account - what type of self-help? they wanted to know. We were grilled like we were from another planet - just to change signatures on an already-established checking account which has been in existence at the same bank for YEARS. They REQUIRE a copy of By-Laws - which state that we are Gamblers Anonymous; they REQUIRE a copy of our minutes appointing new signators to the account; - they REQUIRE identification; they are REQUIRED to use our last names on their checking account forms; our last names are used when we sign checks for Intergroup; - there are pages and pages of requirements - it is no longer a very simple process. We were there from 4:30 p.m. until sometime after 6:15 p.m. - and had to be let out by security because the bank had been closed in the interim. Are you suggesting we go to a different bank who will accept no identification for check-signing? (I think it's Federal law, so that would be impossible.) When registering for a conference, we are required to use our last name. I am absolutely comfortable they will not violate my anonymity. Our last names are used in the Confidential Trustee Listing. I would never dream of violating someone else's anonymity.

Of course, we have to protect each other's anonymity. But we also have to live in a very changing world. To err on the side of caution is always an excellent guideline, however, Ronnie - sometimes we have to do what we have to do. A healthy respect between two organizations trying to do business is a must. While Step 11 guides us in areas of public relations, I believe Step 12 guides us regarding anonymity in the principles of doing business. Personal anonymity cannot be required in ALL communications - that is unrealistic and impractical in doing business in today's world.

With love, faith and utmost belief in our Fellowship,

Linda S, Area 3A, San Diego

2009 Conference in Montreal

7/7/09 - 7:49 PM

As I am writing this message, we are preparing for a Conference Committee meeting this coming Sunday in Montreal and we are considering reducing the number of rooms we have reserved with the hotel because we cannot see how we will meet the minimum required at the present registration pace. In our hotel agreement, there are deadlines to reduce the number of rooms we have booked and one of them deadline is coming up next week.

We have about 90 registrations entered up to now and less than 40 of them are from current trustees, although there are close to 100 trustees who should be attending. We have been campaigning to get early registrations for over a year and we still have only 90 of them. I am out of words to describe how frustrating and discouraging this is to the Conference organizers. Our volunteers are putting in their time and dedication to make this Conference a memorable one and they have to be reassured at every meeting that the people from out of town will be coming.

What else can be said to prompt trustees to register. We will not even ask you for a deposit. All we need is for you to register in order for us to be able to tell the hotel how many rooms we will really need, how many meals will be ordered, how many workshops rooms will be needed, how many souvenir books will be printed, how much stuff we need to buy for the Hospitality room, and on and on...

PLEASE HELP US, take a moment this week and fill the Registration form. There is a sample on the trustee website. Go to the Home page and click on QUEBEC CONFERENCE INFO link in the menu at the left hand side of the page.

For all of you who have already registered, thank you. For all others who are planning to come but did not register yet, like it says on the T-shirt I'm wearing right now: Just do it!

André G. - Trustee, Area 5B, French Quebec Registration Committee, 2009 Fall Conference

Some Words from the New Executive Board

7/15/09 - 9:48 AM

Dear Fellow Trustees,

As of the 1st of July, Denis, Steve and I began our tenure as the Executive Board of the BOT. We have all been in communication with one another regarding committees and upcoming conferences, as well as discussing our thoughts and ideas for the direction of the Board. Personally, I found it very gratifying that we were able to get through such a lengthy agenda in KC with a minimal amount of fireworks. It shows me that the Board is maturing and realizing that we have an important mission - to help the still-suffering compulsive gambler (many of whom are already in the program).

As someone who, when actively in my addiction, never had much use for anyone else's ideas or opinions, I'm finding out that being a good student is as important as being a good teacher.

I am pleased that we passed the rule to eliminate hand counts on every item. This accounted for a tremendous amount of time being saved. Hopefully, we will be able to use the BOT's collective ingenuity and imagination to create more ways to expedite the meetings. I am not suggesting that what we do has to be sped through - only that there are more efficient ways to do it.

I am excited about sitting up front again. While in the program, I learned how to look people in the eye. I only hope that looking at 100 of you at once isn't too overwhelming.

Sincerely,

Chuck R. - Area 15, New York
1st Co-Chair - BOT
