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Trustee Line for August 2010

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From The Trustees

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

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

Should the link above not work, copy and paste this email address into a blank email: trustee@trusteeonline.com

Contact the [Trustee Website Administrator](#)

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Tampa Rolling Agenda New Literature - Item #1

8/7/10 - 9:18 AM
Hello to All,

As a new Trustee to Area 17, I am looking forward to Tampa and my first Trustee's Meeting. Last year, Area 17 came up with a guideline for managing a GA group's treasury and it was suggested we make this available to all groups. I did submit it to the Tampa agenda and it is under "New Literature up for Merit Vote". Since my experience is limited to Area 17 and we would like to make this available to all Areas, please look over the guidelines and provide any suggestions or additions would improve the guidelines for use in all areas.

Some Areas may disagree with the last sentence in the Current Prudent Reserve Calculation section. If so, tell me the ways you prevent your treasury from getting too large. I can expand that section to include other options. Because group membership can change significantly, our group uses this procedure to keep income in line with our expenses.

I hope you will read over the guidelines and help me make it an effective and useful document for GA groups.

In your service,
Paul S. - Area 17, Connecticut

8/7/10 - 9:57 AM

Paul,

I can't tell you how refreshing it is to see a new Trustee who has not even been to his first Trustee meeting, submit an item for the upcoming Tampa agenda. Most new Trustees find the entire process a bit intimidating, not to mention what they feel like in their first meeting. I would probably say that there are many Trustees who have held the position for numerous terms that still find the process intimidating. It's not a good feeling to have your agenda item shot down, but there is always a reason and a lesson to be learned from a rejection.

Having said that, you are doing exactly what this entire Rolling Agenda process was designed to accomplish 7 years ago, when the online version of the agenda was approved by the BOT - to open up the agenda process and allow other Trustees, both current and past, to reflect their opinions on how to improve the items or what problems they might have with them. As the author of the item, the choice is always yours to accept the suggestions or not, and you can always modify your item up until the closing of the agenda 60 days before Trustee meeting. By the way, that is only the deadline for changing what appears on the final agenda, but it doesn't preclude you from making a different motion during the meeting itself.

I believe it is disgraceful when an item gets overwhelmingly voted down and nobody has previously voiced their disapproval of the item with the author in an attempt to either help the author overcome the objections or simply suggest it be withdrawn from the agenda because of the problems it faces with either its structure, content or unintended consequences.

Every meeting I hear Trustees moan and groan over some of the items on the agendas and talk among themselves during the meetings about how much time is being wasted over a seemingly senseless agenda item. To that end, I say...Where were all of you before the agenda closed? Where were all of the comments on the Trustee Line or to the author directly about the reasons you felt the item would fail and ask that it be withdrawn or help the author modify the item? One very big answer is that most of the Trustees don't even look at the Rolling Agenda before it closes. And to really make things crazy, there are those Trustees who at every Trustee meeting will see the agenda items for the first time when they are actually called to the floor for discussion.

To all the Trustees...

Paul is asking for help in trying to improve his item. The least we can do is tell him exactly how we feel and where it might be improved, if at all. Remember page 17 of the combo book...Get involved and be of service...Do it now.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

8/7/10 - 12:40 PM

I have read your proposed new literature on groups treasury and I am in favor of such a document. I saw that you are recommending that this literature be included in the New Group Packet and made available to all existing groups.

My question is: How do you suggest this new literature be made available to existing groups? Do you suggest that it becomes part of an existing piece of literature such as the Group Handbook or do you suggest to make it a standalone piece of literature? Personally, I would see it as an addition to the Group handbook. It would then be a change to the existing literature and would need to be approved by the BOT only twice instead of three times in the new literature approval process

I will see you in Tampa.

André G. - Area 5B, French Quebec

8/10/10 - 10:51 AM

While packing up in the hotel room getting ready to leave our mini conference on Sunday I had a handful of combo books that I had brought for use that weekend. I remembered someone sharing that during their gambling they were in a hotel room attempting suicide due to gambling. The thought occurred to me that it would have nice for them to come across a combo book, so I placed one in the drawer with the Bible from the Gideons and the local phone book. I have decided to always leave one in the room during my travels. If we all did this we could to carry the message to many compulsive gamblers in another fashion.

Carol K. - Area 9, Michigan

Tampa Conference - Roommate Wanted

8/13/10 - 4:35 PM

Hello Fellow Trustees,

We have a member in the Southern California area who is thinking about attending the Tampa International Conference, however, he is trying to save some costs by sharing a room at the hotel.

If you need a roommate, or know someone who does, please have them contact me. My information is on the Confidential Trustee Listing.

I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

All the best,

Steve F. - Area 1, Los Angeles

Tampa Rolling Agenda - Rules/Procedures - Item #2
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8/23/10 - 12:04 PM

To Tom M, Area 2A:

Tom, concerning your Rules & Procedures item posted on the rolling agenda, I wish to make the following personal comments:

1. I don't believe the Trustee Meetings are solely for the rich and famous. Many of our members have valuable suggestions to offer, and simply because they can't afford the cost to place an item on the agenda should not preclude them from being able to do so. The agenda is for ALL members who wish to be heard.
2. I would also hate to see some valuable comment unmade because the speaker cannot afford to step up to the microphone.
3. One of the lessons my mentors at the Trustee Meetings have taught me is that I have a responsibility to 'counsel' anyone wishing to add an agenda item; that I am not simply to accept their comments without guidance. Should they still wish to do so, it is my responsibility and obligation to do so.
4. David M spent a lot of time creating the "Combo Book items that failed" on our Trustee website, and I often refer to that tool when a member - new or existing - makes a suggestion for an agenda item that has been resoundly defeated at previous Trustee meetings.

I understand what it is that you are trying to accomplish (I think). However, I personally question your methodology. As I have said before - as we sit in that room, and listen to what we, perhaps, think in our own mind is a ridiculous agenda item - the author should be respected and the item heard - even if we are in total disagreement - we owe each member the right to express how they feel. I think this is being part of "open-minded." I get physically ill when I hear other Trustees sneer, laugh and chide the presentor. Everyone in that Trustees meeting should be respected. My thoughts - my feelings.

With love, faith, hope and trust in our Fellowship
Linda S, Trustee - Area 3A, San Diego
