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**Trustee Line for October 2009**

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A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 10/31/09.

**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.	Abuse/Harassment Pamphlet	10/1/09 12:01 AM	<b>1</b>
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Submit a response to the [Trustee Line](#) because of something you have read in this or any other issue.

**Abuse/Harassment Pamphlet**

10/1/09 - 12:01 AM

Hi Folks,  
Thank You!

I just received a copy of the new Abuse and Harassment pamphlet from the ISO today and wanted to say thank you so much for such an easy to read, to the point, well needed piece of literature.

Now before you start thinking that we're beating each other up here in Oregon, STOP :) We have had a few incidences over the years where this tool would of certainly been very useful. I am grateful that it made its way from an idea, to print and will be sitting in a GA room tonight.

See you soon,  
Debb W. - Area 2G, Oregon

**What is the Message**

10/3/09 - 1:37 PM

As I prepare for the BOT meeting next week my mind goes back to previous meetings. One of the things that get thrown up when people don't what to deal with an item is that it is not our primary purpose. Interesting is that our primary purpose is way down at Step 5 of the Unity Program, which states: **Gamblers Anonymous has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the compulsive gambler who still suffers.** My question to all of you is what is the message?

Carol K. - Area 9, Michigan

10/21/09 - 12:53 PM

Carol - I appreciate your making me think about this, and feel the 'message' may be multi-fold and also may mean different things to different members, groups, intergroups and trustees. In my opinion, there are several things that immediately come to mind (after reflection):

1. The Program works if you work it.
2. If you read and follow the advice on page 17, you will never gamble again.
3. The Steps of Recovery and Unity will lead you to a better way of thinking and living.

4. Sponsors aid in your recovery; you cannot do it alone
  5. A Higher Power will help to guide you to do the right thing.
- Many other thoughts and feelings came to mind, like "being a living example."  
But these 5 seem to get me through everything I need to get through on a daily basis.

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

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**Thoughts from Montreal**

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10/14/09 - 6:57 PM

I just got back from Montreal and want to say that I had a great time at the conference. I would like to thank Herb and Andre for doing such a great job putting together the first bilingual conference ever. Though I speak very little French, I got a chance to use it for the first time in many years at the conference. I spoke with members, hotel staff and outside the hotel too!!!

The trustee meeting went well, I like to congratulate our chairs, Denis, Chuck and Steve for a job well done. And I think Steve did a great job as a chair for the first time. I think the meeting went smooth and we tackled the entire agenda and were done on time, even a bit early...

Now I am looking forward to Kentucky and hope to see all of you there, I would like to wish you all health and success.

Yours,  
Ara H. - Area 1, Los Angeles

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**Digital Age**

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10/20/09 - 1:32 PM

Dear Trustees -

I fully support Don Y's agenda item regarding our getting the message in this digital age. The fact that we have been thwarted in adding "the internet" to our literature is appalling. Yes, I know that didn't work for some in the 1950's. But who had a computer in the 50's? Maybe at work; not at home.

David F, Area 3A Trustee, San Diego brought this up as an agenda item at least four conferences ago, and we continue to have a 'failure by majority' vote. I do not understand the reluctance to recognize computer gambling as a major factor in today's world.

The majority of our new, interested-in-GA gamblers, are people - as Don as stated - who do not go to a card room, do not necessarily go to a casino - they don't even leave home. They stay in their pajamas and gamble on the internet. The fact that our government tried to shut down gambling sites didn't phase them one iota - they simply moved off shore. We have had high school students beg for help - no one is 'home' to stop them from continuing. It is their own recognition that they have a problem. We have had adults who didn't want to be 'seen' at a casino by family, friends, or co-workers do incredible damage to their finances as well as their self-esteem, and it is the fear of the IRS that has brought them to a GA meeting.

We MUST get off the bump on a log, stop sticking our heads in the sand - and recognize that the computer is definitely the new age of gambling - a closet gambler. If we do not address their issues, we are leaving thousands of potential GA members without dedicated help for their problem. Is that practicing Step 12 - really? Why do we always have to be an 'after the fact' organization; why can't we take the lead and set a good example, as we advise our membership to do?

With love, faith, hope and respect for our Fellowship -  
Linda S. - Area 3A, Trustee, San Diego

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