

TrusteeWebsite.com

Your Trustee Agenda Resource

[Administrator Log In](#)

Main Menu

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

Cherry Hill - Spring 2011 Information Section

[Cherry Hill Conference Info](#)

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

[Cherry Hill Rolling Agenda](#)

[Submit an Agenda Item](#)

BOT Committees

[Alternate Trustees](#)
[BOR Procedural Review](#)
[Blue Book Revision](#)
[Hotline](#)
[International Relations](#)
[Literature](#)
[Pressure Relief](#)
[Prison - Canada](#)
[Prison - US](#)
[Public Relations](#)
[Trustee Area Demarcation](#)
[Trustee Meeting Rules and Procedures](#)
[Trustee Removal Procedure](#)
[Trustee Website](#)
[Video Conferencing](#)
[Website Revisions](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

[Trustee Line Home Page](#)
[Local Area Website Guidelines](#)
[New Area/Trustee Accommodation Fund](#)
[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 October 2010

Rate this issue of the Trustee Line:



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

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.	The Passing of Liz N.	10/1/10 12:01 AM	1
2.	How Does Your Intergroup Donate to ISO?	10/25/10 5:10 PM	6
3.	Tampa Agenda Item #5	10/25/10 3:19 PM	1

The Passing of Liz N.

10/1/10 - 12:01 AM
Dear GA Friends and Family,

It is with a saddened heart that I write this to tell you that Liz N. from Las Vegas passed away on Wednesday, September, 22, 2010. She never really knew that she had stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Because I lost my own father to this same illness, the only thing that I can say is that we need to be thankful that Liz did not have to suffer. I have Joe B., Kathy S., and all who were close to Liz in program in my prayers. This is a great loss to us all. Please keep her family in your prayers and thoughts. To Liz: I Love you and I will miss you.....
Area - 2C Montana

How Does Your Intergroup Donate To ISO

10/2/10 - 9:20 PM
I went through the last ISO Bulletin and had seen how few intergroups support their ISO. So it got me to go compulsive.

So I like to keep it simple and just ask some questions and hopefully everyone will reply. Please keep it respectful - I am not looking for dollar amount to brag about or picking on others that may not have the funds.

I know there is some mention on how rooms should support the ISO in the Group Handbook - but why is there nothing about Intergroups?

So the questions are:

- 1.) Does your area have a formula or percentage?
- 2.) Is there a set amount? And if so, does it get reviewed every year and how?
- 3.) If your intergroup does not support ISO - why not?
- 4.) Who should promote what ISO does?
- 5.) Does ISO do enough to make its members know why they should support ISO?
- 6.) Any other ideas or suggestions to raise funding for ISO?

I truly hope that trustees step up to these questions and help bring unity

and recognition to our ISO.

Thank you in advance,

Gary S. - Area 12

10/3/10 - 12:34 PM

Hi Gary

I have attempted to give my opinion on your questions. Questions that I believe are very important to every Gamblers Anonymous member. My replies are in red.

So the questions are:

1.) Does your area have a formula or percentage?

No

2.) Is there a set amount? And if so, does it get reviewed every year and how?

I can only speak for the Los Angeles area. Here in LA we have an Intergroup vote once a year depending on our financial position as to what Intergroup donates to ISO on a monthly basis. That amount is presently \$150.00 per month. Besides that the meeting can money is turned into Intergroup and counted. This usually comes to between \$900 and \$1,500 per month.

3.) If you're intergroup does not support ISO - why not?

Every Intergroup should be supporting the ISO. Without ISO there would be no literature among other things.

4.) Who should promote what ISO does?

Here in Los Angeles every meeting I go to talks about what ISO does and why we pass the ISO can. We also discuss Lifeliners and why we have the Lifeliner program. So everyone should be promoting ISO.

5.) Does ISO do enough to make its members know why they should support ISO?

It is up to every GA member and every meeting to promote the importance of ISO. Every meeting should have an ISO can and every meeting should promote Lifeliners.

6.) Any other ideas or suggestions to raise funding for ISO?

We presently have an annual walkathon with all funds collected going directly to ISO. The best way to raise funds for ISO would be to have an ISO can (contact the ISO office and they will gladly send you a can) and promote the Lifeliner program.

Some areas might do things a bit different but passing the can and being a lifeliner should be a must for every GA meeting and every GA member.

Bob W. - Area 1, Los Angeles

10/3/10 - 2:17 PM

If nothing else, Gary is consistent with his directed focus about raising money for ISO. Certainly, there are needs for additional funding to help with the ever-increasing workload that is thrown into the equation for all the ISO employees. Too many times, the Trustees come up with new ideas, but does anyone realize that these new ideas must also be implemented by ISO?

Literature changes are one thing that will be prominent in the 'to do list' for ISO, but what about the new projects? How many more tasks will we add to their 8-hour day? It is no secret that ISO needs another employee, but the budget won't allow it, at least not now.

I remember very well the cash crunch that dominated the concerns of the BOR a few years ago, which resulted in a cut back on the bonuses of the ISO employees. The subject unleashed a firestorm of opinions leveled at the BOR to reinstate the bonuses (thanks in no small part to those Trustees who wrote to the December '08 Trustee Line). Happily, the bonuses did not end up on the chopping block. However, this was just a precursor to reinforce the financial problems we have as a Fellowship as it relates to ISO.

Many people in this program just want to be GA members for time it takes to sit through their weekly meeting. People are still giving a dollar to the room contribution that were doing so 5, 10, 20 or more years ago. Members hear about ISO and only know that they buy literature from there. Many have no clue what goes on there. The Trusted Servants in the room that actually DO talk about ISO, are talking to members who generally look like deer in the headlights, and only have one thing on their minds at that point at the end of the meeting - how fast can I get out of here.

Back to Gary's item...Yes, ISO contributions are important, but his point of a complete lack of structure on the contributions to any part of our Fellowship, outside our immediate meeting rooms is the essence of our overall problem, which is unacceptable. We all need to figure out exactly what to do with the money we collect in the rooms, with specific focus on all the areas that need the contributions to continue.

1 - Intergroups

2 - Trustee funding

3 - Local area functions that help us carry the message, especially the ones that are not fund- raisers.

4 - Local area functions that promote unity

5 - ISO

If we stopped listening to the grouchy members who complain about Intergroup, the Trustees, ISO and whatever else they come up with, then it might be possible to have an honest dialogue with all the members in the area. Members might not like Intergroup, but that is not a reason to tell your rooms to not contribute to Intergroup. Last time I checked, no trusted servants are getting paid for their efforts by the contributions to Intergroup. Yet, there are rooms that don't give anything, month after month. For those malcontents, I submit that they should begin to form a group of members to start making substantive changes with their Intergroup. Remember - silence is consent. If you walk away from such problems, you are making yourself part of the problem, instead of stepping up to make changes that will benefit everyone one in your area, and maybe GA as a whole.

Each area has Trustees that are responsible for attending each of the twice yearly Trustee meetings held in North America. There should be no reason for Trustees to not have enough money to come to these meetings, unless they are from overseas areas. We are fortunate in NJ to be able to fund our 6 Trustees, which is covered by funding from our Intergroup that is comprised of 40+ rooms, but many of those rooms give nothing to Intergroup, possibly because we too don't have any real plan for how we spend our money each year. Many areas cannot afford to send any of their Trustees to these meetings. This goes back to the structure that appears to be lacking with our meetings and Intergroups. How many people are still giving a dollar a week at the meetings and they can afford significantly more? We get complacent and don't make our members accountable. Now for those of you whom I have just aggravated with that statement, think about this. I realize that some of our newer members may not be able to spare even 25 cents for a contribution, but what happened to pressure relief? Can you honestly say that members in program for a year or more can't budget 3, 4 or 5 dollars a week for the cans we pass around? If you can honestly say that, then it's time for a re-evaluation.

The question of what an area is supposed to do with all it's money is not immediately solved by giving it all to ISO. It has to follow some formula, which gives the areas greater flexibility with their activities and contributions. The areas should first focus on increasing awareness to attract the compulsive gamblers who still suffers. The area should try to bulk up the amount of money available for the Trustees. There should be a standardized schedule of what is covered and how much will be paid. Finally, ISO should be getting a donation from EVERY Intergroup, every month.

I have often times said that we, as compulsive gamblers in recovery, spend our money like drunken sailors. Send a check to this... Give more money to that... etc. What our local areas need is pressure relief. Since the areas have variable income streams, what specifically is being done to increase the income from our members in a non-aggressive manner? What do the Intergroups in our areas want to do on a regular basis with the money they receive?

What I hear is a lot of lip service about getting more money for ISO, Intergroups and Trustees. It is a fractured approach to a part of our Fellowship that is very essential to its health. The more we talk about it without a specific plan for action, the greater the tendency is to just make it a temporary patch. Our members are tired of being pitched for more money without any finite plan. I ask that the Trustees put something together that finally has some teeth and some structured guidance for our members. Tell us what the plan is and let's put it into place in the rooms, Intergroups and local areas. Without it, we are just hamsters running on a wheel.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

10/3/10 - 1:21 PM

I agree entirely with what David M said. Unfortunately, there are many groups (certainly many members) who do not know what the ISO is all about!! Whose fault is this I wonder!? It should be stressed at EVERY intergroup meeting how important it is to fund the ISO. As for lifeliners! There goes another story!! I remember reading David's breakdown of the number of lifeliners in GA - unbelievable. I push it as often as possible, and I'm stared at as if I'm a money grabbing looney!! No doubt this will be discussed more in Tampa. I look forward to seeing you all in Tampa.

Malcolm B. - Area 3A, San Diego

10/3/10 - 5:41 PM

Contributing to ISO is extremely important for the survival of our fellowship. Here in South Jersey we contribute the same amount each month. A few years ago, we took a look at our finances and agreed as an Intergroup to raise the amount we donate. I can speak only for myself, but when I was a Trustee I followed in the footsteps of those who came before me and tried to educate members in the meeting I attended about what ISO does. In the last issue of the ISO bulletin, it was nice to see in writing some of the duties of ISO that everyone can read.

As a past Trustee, and current Intergroup chair, I have encouraged rooms in our area to ask ISO for a can for additional contributions each month. In my homeroom we have not only the weekly contributions from members, but also a can for any change that any one may have. Many members give more than just change for the can and this is sent to ISO each month. We also follow the axiom that we shouldn't keep more money than is necessary to run the room. If we need literature or coins for anniversaries, this money comes right out of our treasury. We then divide the rest of the money between ISO and Intergroup. One of our current Trustees also pushes constantly for Lifeliners. His efforts have increased the number of Lifeliners from South Jersey.

Ever since I began attending Intergroup meetings, it has been encouraged to all of our rooms to donate on a monthly basis to ISO and Intergroup so that we may keep our fellowship growing. I agree with everything Bob said in regards to items 3-5. I think these are great answers.

I also agree with David's sentiment on the importance of local areas needing to keep some money in reserve for the functions of the local areas. We have been fortunate enough to be able to hold a picnic each of the past few years for our members in order to promote unity. We are also fortunate enough to fully fund our Trustees. I know our Intergroup would like to contribute more, but we have only 20 groups in our area, and we are fortunate enough to be able to help spread unity in our area, and at the same time contribute to ISO.

Pete K. - Area 13B, South Jersey

10/25/10 - 5:10 PM

Thanks Gary for bringing this to the forefront. Here are my responses to Gary's questions.

1.) Does your area have a formula or percentage?

Two years ago, we decided at the beginning of the year to have some specific goals for IG, one of which was support ISO financially. We had not been doing so before, or at least not very consistently. Our funds are nowhere near as big as what LA stated. That said, we did decide we needed to make a donation to ISO on a quarterly basis. (Gary - your note on the TrusteeLine reminds me to bring it up for review in January on dollar value and frequency.)

2.) Is there a set amount? And if so, does it get reviewed every year and how?

We have a set amount we give quarterly.

3.) If your intergroup does not support ISO - why not? n/a

4.) Who should promote what ISO does?

It is important that Trustees, IG, meetings, and individuals support ISO.

5.) Does ISO do enough to make its members know why they should support ISO?

I really like the blurb put in the LifeLiner Bulletin and sent to our PO Box about what the ISO does. That information was shared at our Intergroup and I know meeting reps then shared with their groups.

6.) Any other ideas or suggestions to raise funding for ISO?

Cathy K. - Area 8D, Kansas City

Tampa Agenda Item #5

10/25/10 - 3:19 PM

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing concerning a piece of literature that passed the merit vote in Louisville. As I have been speaking with members of our fellowship in Area 8A, some rather serious concerns about this piece of literature have been brought to my attention.

I'm addressing the "Guide to the First Step", which directs a written experience through the First Step.

The concerns of those in our Area are as follows:

The format of the exercise is a solitary one. Our recovery in GA calls for learning from others (in this case, namely a sponsor) and in growing through sharing our experiences. The person doing the exercise dredges up feelings and facts and then...what?

The exercises themselves in the literature border on professional therapy techniques. While many in our fellowship have chosen to participate in outside professional programs, the nature of GA is not that of a professional therapy program. Members in our area feel that this treads uncomfortably close to a professional assessment.

There is also concern about the source of the information and format of this piece of literature.

While we appreciate the time, effort and good intentions of the author of the piece, we do not feel it is appropriate literature for the GA program.

In Fellowship, Jeannie B. - Area 8A, Minnesota

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: trusteeline@trusteewebsite.com

Contact the [Trustee Website Administrator](#)

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