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Trustee Line for November 2007

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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

Item	Subject	Last Entry
1.	What's next for the 90 Day Room Suggestions literature?	11/8/07 9:38 PM
2.	Trustee agenda discussion items handled through the Trustee Line	11/8/07 9:35 PM
3.	Incomplete minutes from the BOR meetings	11/21/07 11:45 AM
4.	Remove the words 'Internet gambling', 'options' and 'office' from Question 3, page 17 of the Combo Book	11/23/07 11:55AM

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

What's next for the 90 Day Room Suggestions literature?

11/2/07 - 10:14 AM

As everyone is aware the '90 Day Room Suggestions' were found out of order. I think that the information offered is too valuable to just let it disappear. The committee worked to hard to put this together for it not to get on the floor for a vote. I am still a relatively new Trustee and in need of advise on how to proceed with this project. I am in the process of contacting Gary B. of the literature committee and get his input any further suggestions would be helpful.

Thank You
Andy D. - Area 12

11/5/07 - 10:25 AM

Have this New Literature presented as a Pamphlet, as I have checked with Karen H from ISO and have sent this information also to Gary B of the Literature Committee. Below is Karen H statement on cost for this item:

I just talked to the printer and it would be cheaper to run a pamphlet the same size as 'Your First Meeting'. If they added four pages to an existing piece, that would completely have to reformat it and it would cost more in the long run.

Joe B. - Area 6C

11/8/07 - 9:38 PM

I love the 90 day room literature and really want to see it end up in the rooms. I feel the same as Joe, present it as a new pamphlet, and let's get it in the rooms. The information could really help our area reach out to the new members and establish a strong 90 day room. Thanks to the committee for all of the hard work on this piece.

Thanks,
Tom S. - Area 7A - Houston, Tx

Trustee agenda discussion items handled through the Trustee Line

11/3/07 - 3:14 PM

Although this might seem on the surface as a very good idea, as the bandwagon for approval on this is mounting. I would like to shed a different light on the subject.

First the trustee line is for Trustees, past and present. The agenda, in my opinion, belongs to the Fellowship. So the trustees can discuss agenda items all they want by trustee line, phone, email etc..but the membership cannot! So if a member would like to put an item up for discussion, He or she has the right to hear that item being discussed at a trustee meeting. The trustee meeting might be in the members home city and that is the reason the item is there. It would be so presumptuous of us (trustees) to abolish this procedure.

Remember please AT ALL TIMES who puts us in this position, and counts on us to be judicious and diligent. And that is the member. So before this item gets out of hand please rethink and maybe just trustees discussion can be kept within ourselves, on the trustee line. But please do not take away the ability for members to put discussion items on the agenda. Just because it takes up too much time or one thinks it is a waste of time and does not accomplish anything. It does matter to the membership. Let the member hear the item being discussed by all.

Thanks for your time, and for getting this off my chest.
Yours in recovery,
Richie S. - Area 6

11/5/07 - 10:50 AM

Discussion handled through the Trustee line, I like this Idea, I myself don't like believe that the Trustee Line is for the past & present trustees ONLY, it belongs to the fellowship...the Oct issue of the Trustee Line was just about the best issue I ever seen. There was a lot of information that went back & forth, as it should be. The members can have their Trustees place their items on the Trustee line just as they do on the agenda, and all the members can read it. The only members that can hear it at the Trustee meeting is those that are there, and even if it a hotted one or a long debate, its is only listed in the minutes as a DISCUSSION, and that can't be helped, that all that the International Secretary can do. By not placing these items on the agenda can & will save time, and also can be seen by everyone if we have them as part of the Trustee Line.

Thanks,
Joe B. - Area 6 C

11/8/07 - 9:35 AM

It seems like the trustee line could be used as a network to discuss many topics that pertain to Gamblers Anonymous, while saving the agenda at the trustee meetings for items that are to be voted on by the trustees.

What seems invaluable to me is this trustee line, because topics are able to be placed here, at any time, and discussed much more thoroughly than at the trustee meeting. And what's even better is I can take the DISCUSSION topic back to the membership of my local area and see what they think, and if it comes back as something that needs action, I can put it on the trustee agenda for a vote in its proper form. Otherwise I am left to not here about the topic until the trustee meeting and no prior discussion, by the trustees, has taken place.

I just feel like this trustee line can be a medium of communication that lets us discuss topics as they come up, bring it to the membership as a whole, and even bring it back to the agenda if necessary. I hope the discussion continues like it has been on this trustee line, because this new format has made a world of difference for me.

Thanks,
Tom S. - Area 7A - Houston, Tx

Incomplete minutes from the BOR meetings

11/5/07 - 9:52 PM

I have been scratching my head with the minutes being printed from the BOR meetings that happen each month. They are limited and very incomplete in their answers. For example this was in the September minutes:

B. National Hotline. No report from Gary. Discussed communication from Joe B.,

Trustee from North Carolina. Response was prepared and sent by Bob W., Chairman,

What was communicated and what was the response?

If anybody has any suggestions and/or solutions so that we can receive some more concrete information in the minutes, it would be greatly appreciated.

Ian S. - Area 6D, Atlanta

11/21/07 - 11:45 AM

Ian, I am glad you brought this subject up. What confounds me is that you have not

received a single response from any of the other Trustees, either current or past. My only options for a conclusion is that:

1. Few people read the Trustee Line
2. Fewer people who read it care to respond
3. The Trustees don't read the minutes of the BOR meetings, or
4. The Trustees don't care about the BOR all together.

Strangely enough all 4 could be true. Having said that, let me say that I had the occasion to be present at the BOR meeting on November 16th. Contrary to my previous views about the BOR, they actually do review each item and have discussions at length on each item. Judging by the minutes we now see, you would think that the meeting is over 10 minutes after it starts.

If anyone remembers this subject coming up in San Diego, it was mentioned by a previous BOR Chair that it was not possible to take detailed minutes during the actual meeting. Things got a bit heated on the subject with objections by some of the members. One excuse that was voiced was that the minutes of the BOT do not show that detail, so why should the BOR differ. Obviously the comparison between the 2 days of BOT meetings versus the usual 90 minute meetings of the BOR are hardly comparable. More to the point, if the minutes have to be 6 or 10 pages, who cares. It is transparency that matters, not brevity. If memory serves me correctly Ian, you were one of the people not willing to accept the reasons for why the minutes could not be more detailed. However, nothing was accomplished that would be considered binding.

I am here to tell you that the minutes and their apparent sketchiness lies solely with the Recording Secretary of the BOR. The BOR meetings are very orderly and the members do not speak over one another. It is very clear that questions could be reflected in the minutes and so could any solutions or resolutions. Letters can certainly be added to the minutes, as evidenced by the minutes from the October meeting, and yes, Joe's letter should have been part of those minutes. From my observations, the Recording Secretary has a pre-designated amount of space in the paperwork he uses to compile the minutes. If this is force of habit, it is obviously causing an incomplete level of detail about the minutes. However, is the Chair of the BOR insisting that the minutes be more complete? From my perspective, no. If it were, I believe the issue would be moot.

It should be stated that I did hear from one of the BOR members that he was all in favor of more transparency. This brings up the issue of using technology for the good of the fellowship in that vein. The BOR should be using a conference call company that allows for up to 150 people to dial into the call. It could be controlled by ISO and only those people who request to listen to the BOR meetings would get the necessary access codes to hear the call. It would be done in a listen only mode, so no one would interfere with the call. Another feature is that the entire meeting could be recorded and a link to the audio file could be either sent to members or put on a website for downloading at any time. Please notice that I said 'members'. Right now, only the Trustees get the minutes of the BOR and everyone else has to wait for the ISO Bulletin to read what happened months after the meetings happen. These Internet files would be available 24 hours after the meeting and would then allow the agenda for the next month's BOR meeting to be reflective of what just happened by allowing members to put items on the BOR agenda quicker.

What I fear is that the objections you have, along with others, will not be addressed seriously because of the 'If it ain't broke...don't fix it.' kind of mindset. For anyone on the BOR who is reading this and has a voice on the board, it's broke, and has been for a long time.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

<p>Remove the words 'Internet gambling', 'options' and 'office' from Question 3, page 17 of the Combo Book</p>

11/16/07 - 3:22 PM

I have submitted an item for the Portland agenda to remove the words 'Internet gambling', 'options' and 'office' from Question 3, page 17. I don't feel that Internet Gambling should be included in this sentence as the original intent of this sentence as I understand was to list items not commonly thought of as gambling. Even though Internet Gambling is illegal in the United States, everyone knows that it is gambling. I want to remove 'options' as I feel that options fall within the Stock Market and Commodities. Don't need to include all three when there are a lot of other gray area gambling items not listed here that should be. Share with me your thoughts on the topic.

Richard C. - Calgary - Area 2A

11/23/07 - 11:55 AM

Good morning,

Hope you are having a great Thanksgiving weekend. I would like to put in a submission to the trustee line. A response to Richard C's proposal.

I would like to say a few words about Richard's idea to remove "Internet Gambling" from page 17. I can't tell you how much I oppose this view. Today's gambler is much more likely to come into our program with an online gambling problem. The younger gamblers in particular find it so much easier to gamble online. We are getting more and more members in our area that exclusively gambled on the internet. Before the "Internet gambling" was added to the combo book, they would tell me they could not relate to the book, no reference was made about the internet.

I would also like to mention that we have a committee here in our area that is putting together a pamphlet to address the online gambler and gambling. As we have one on the Stock Market, it should be something similar. We hope to have this on the agenda as new literature for Portland.

Regarding Richard's other items on page 17, "Options" and "Office", I would like to hear from other trustees before I make a decision, or and listen to them in Portland.

I would like to commend Richard for taking the time and giving his opinion and proposals.

Sincerely,

Ara H, - Trustee, Area 1
