

Main Menu

Select Language ▼

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

Vancouver - Spring 2013
Information Section

[Vancouver Conference Info](#)

Rolling Agenda

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

Submit an Agenda Item

BOT Committees

- [Anonymity](#)
- [BOR Procedural Review](#)
- [Blue Book Revision](#)
- [Conference Oversight](#)
- [Digital Media](#)
- [GA/Gam-Anon Conference](#)
- [Hotline Implementation](#)
- [International Relations](#)
- [Liability Insurance](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Member Retention](#)
- [Online GA Meeting](#)
- [Pressure Relief](#)
- [Prison - Canada](#)
- [Prison - US](#)
- [Public Relations](#)
- [Rules and Procedures](#)
- [Trustee Area Demarcation](#)
- [Trustee Poll Agenda](#)
- [Trustee Removal Merit Panel](#)
- [Trustee Website](#)
- [Website Revisions](#)

Trustee Line & Other Features

- [Trustee Line Home Page](#)
- [Login For The Trustee Poll](#)
- [Trustee Poll](#)
- [>>Trustee Information Update<<](#)
- [Trustee Website Tutorial](#)
- [Area Event Flyers](#)
- [Local Area Website Guidelines](#)
- [New Area/Trustee Accommodation Fund](#)
- [Local Area Help Flyer](#)
- [Board of Regents News Page](#)
- [Trustee Memorial Honor Roll](#)

Future Conferences

[Upcoming Conferences](#)

Trustee Line for November 2012

A PDF version of this issue to distribute to your rooms, or to print out for easier reading, will be available after 11/30/12.

Thoughts From The Trustees - Current and Past

The subjects listed below are 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.	Unity Step 11	11/1/12 12:01 AM	1
2.	San Diego Thoughts	11/20/12 2:38 PM	5
3.	Helpline versus Hotline	11/30/12 2:43 PM	4
4.	Committee Reports	11/2/12 8:08 AM	1
5.	Key Chains	11/6/12 12:01 PM	1
6.	BOT Committees	11/1/12 3:19 AM	1
7.	Guidance Code in Focus	11/9/12 4:34 PM	2

Unity Step 11

11/1/12 - 12:00 AM

Unity Step 11

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, film, television and the internet.

There are two popular methods for getting information out about a product or program: one is to have several everyday people talk about the product and how it has benefited them, the other is to get a big name celebrity to talk about the product and vouch for its performance. The first is an example of attraction - it is more focused on the message and not the individual. The second is promotion - they want to associate their product with the star personality promoting their product. There is a danger associated with the later if that person does something illegal or shameful; their product may be boycotted because of the association to that person.

This is the reason for Unity Step 11. Many members early in recovery get excited about the change in their life and attitude and they want to get the word out about our wonderful fellowship. They do newspaper interviews and call radio stations to talk about GA and sometimes they go back to gambling. Anyone who sees their name in the paper after they return to gambling and get in trouble will think that GA did not work. This step takes the ego out of carrying the message. There is a proper way to share the message of recovery in GA and it focuses on the steps and the meetings, not the individual member.

In the digital age, there are new challenges to this step. Social media has far reaching tentacles into the lives of those who use it. Recent national events involving individuals committing criminal acts have included news stories about the content of their social media page. It is conceivable that the press could show up at your door if a GA member in your area got arrested for embezzling and you were friends on a social media site talking about GA.

Although I do not think social media is at the same level as press, radio, film and television, we need to figure out what is best for GA as a whole. I think of social media as standing in a busy supermarket or a crowded elevator. Would you strike up a GA conversation with another member in those places? How

could this harm GA? Does it really hurt your social media experience to leave out your affiliation with GA? Is this a safe enough way to guard privacy or anonymity in the internet to allow for online meetings or open discussion about GA membership?

What are your thoughts on this pressing issue? We have a submittal for a new section of the Guidance Code that addresses this topic and we need to have a forward-thinking and intelligent discussion to find the path for our fellowship.

Paul S. - Area 17 Trustee, CT and Western MA

San Diego Thoughts

11/1/12 - 12:00 AM

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters.

I do not want to miss this opportunity to congratulate and thank the San Diego Conference Committee, "You did a great job." I can hardly express my feelings of gratitude for all the details that worked to make me feel welcome to enjoy all the activity that was carefully planned by the committee.

BRAVO BRAVOSAN DIEGO

Martha G. - Area 28, Mexico

11/1/12 - 12:00 AM

For any Trustee that is not a Trustee for the first time, it was very clear in San Diego that this new crop of Trustees is about something very different from previous years. Aside from a record number of brand new Trustees being elected, many of them showed no fear about stepping up to the microphone to voice their opinions about the various agenda items we tackled. Hopefully, the balance of the new Trustees who didn't get to speak on any issues in San Diego, will eagerly do so in Vancouver. To say that the BOT is off to a good start is an understatement.

My hope is that part of this euphoric attitude will translate into better performance on the part of the committees. Although it seemed like we faced an endless series of committee reports, there is some good work being accomplished through these committees for the betterment of the Fellowship. Having said that, it did appear as though some of the committees do little between conferences and then have a flurry of activity just before the conference. I certainly understand that we all have lives away from GA, but this is a repetitious situation with some committees.

I have put items on the Vancouver agenda to reduce the time involved with committee reports. My proposals are to cut the presentation time limit down to 5 minutes versus the current 15 minutes. Also, to cut the discussion time limit down to 10 minutes from the current 15 minutes. There should be no reason to need more than 5 minutes for the presentation when the quality of the reports can be improved. I do blame the front desk for allowing the discussions on the reports to get away from the reports. That took up a lot of unnecessary time. We can be much more efficient moving forward, if those items pass in Vancouver. I think the reductions in time limits and better management of the discussions by the Chairs could cut a few hours off our schedule.

The 9 items that I was trying to get passed for a new Article XXI in the Guidance Code, were tabled for more time to gather additional opinions. My goal is not to ram anything down the collective throat of the BOT, but to improve that which is our Fellowship. I ask that anyone who has any problems with the items to contact me and let me know. I am more than willing to modify these items if a plausible change is brought out. Unfortunately, I received almost no suggestions on how to improve the items that were scheduled to be brought to the San Diego floor prior to the closing of that agenda. We have many new Trustees now and I am hopeful that those opinions will be more forthcoming.

One final thing... Congrats to Andy R. for his election to the position of 2nd Co-Chair. Knowing him as I do, the Board of Trustees made the right decision and he will be a substantial asset to the BOT.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

11/1/12 - 12:38 PM

I would like to congratulate San Diego and specifically, the conference committee of San Diego for one of the best executed conferences we have had in recent memory. The feeling of fellowship and unity was very strong from the

moment we arrived on Wednesday until our departure on Sunday. Using a beautiful hotel, the conference committee enhanced all the aspects of a great conference, from the hospitality suite to the workshops and including a very comfortable and workable Trustee meeting room.

Malcolm and all his fellow committee members made us all feel at home in San Diego and I did not hear one complaint.

As the BOT Co-Chair oversight for this conference together with the Oversight committee, I can assure you that they really followed the procedures set in place to host a conference and set high standards for future conferences.

I would also like to congratulate the Board of Trustees and specially all the new Trustees for an excellent trustee meeting. We felt that most trustees were ready and prepared for the meeting and we, at the head table, are convinced that this mutual co-operation helped us to complete, very successfully, most of our agenda.

I look forward to similar preparation and co-operation at our next trustee meeting in Vancouver and encourage all trustees to register early.

Thanks again for all your friendships,

Herb B. - Trustee Area 5, Montreal
1st.Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees.

11/10/12 - 3:14 PM

Greetings GA Brothers and Sisters,

Given the incredible experience I attended my first Trustee Conference in San Diego, I feel remiss that it took me over 2 weeks to submit this but being away for that amount of time and weathering Sandy slowed me slightly.

Although I had nothing to compare it to, it was evident the San Diego Committee did a fantastic job! From that first lunch I had with Levi B-Los Angeles, Andre F-Montreal, and Bill B-Thuh Bronx (none of who I had ever met before) to a Friday night mini-meeting with Rich S (Chicago) and everything in between, what a great time.

My infinite thanks and respect to all those who take on so much responsibility at the Head table not limited to but including Denis, Herb, Karen, and newly elected Andy. The knowledge, discretion, and composure demonstrated alone were so instrumental in allowing the body to do as much of its work as it got accomplished.

Last and not least, my thanks go out to the members of Long Island Intergroup who voted me the opportunity to be a Trustee as well as co-Trustees Tom Z, Mary R, Paul C, David M (NJ) former Trustees Dave J, Dennis M and Brad B, all who helped me to prepare me for my first Trustee Meeting.

I look forward to meeting many more new friends in Vancouver all while having the privilege of serving this program!

In gratitude,
Steve T. - Area 14, Long Island

11/20/12 - 2:38 PM

On behalf of the 2012 Fall Conference Committee, I would like to give our sincere thanks to each and everyone of the attendees. It was our privilege to welcome everyone to San Diego. With an attendance of over 500 people, it made for a very busy, but highly, satisfying weekend. After the many hours, weeks and months that it took to arrange all the details for this conference, the results spoke for themselves. Our local members were so excited in meeting and getting to know members from all over the world. In fact, they are still talking about it! Now we look forward to Vancouver, Orlando and Houston.

Malcolm B – Area 3A, San Diego

Helpline Versus Hotline

11/1/12 - 12:00 AM

At the Vancouver Trustees Meeting, my committee will have an agenda item to formalize the name of our [855-222-5542](tel:855-222-5542) number. It will be "Gamblers Anonymous Helpline", "Gamblers Anonymous Hotline", or just "Gamblers Anonymous". I would like some feedback from my fellow Trustees as to your opinions. To me, a hotline is a number manned 24 hours a day for an immediate response and our system is not set up that way. I am personally for

"Gamblers Anonymous Hotline", or just "Gamblers Anonymous". What are your thoughts?

Paul S. - Area 17 Trustee, CT and Western MA

11/1/12 - 12:00AM

Paul,

It was very comforting to hear the report you gave in San Diego and to have spoken with area representatives who sing the praises of the Ring Central system. I am a fervent believer that people who call the system are not looking to figure out when they seem to be burning the chifon on their cakes, or 'why is my computer asking me if I want to go to Safe Mode?' The callers we receive have a disaster looming in the shadows, are contemplating suicide, have lost their ability to even know what the next step is in their life, and a host of other life-changing events as a result of their gambling. This is urgency in its purest sense. People who are calling our system do not want to be put on hold because they have finally realized that their lives are unraveling. They want to speak to someone immediately. When you have a question about an unknown debit on your checking account and you call the bank's online support, you are looking for help. If a message comes on to say that you will have a 6-minute wait to have your call answered, you're very likely to sit it out and just get annoyed, as you wonder if going to another bank would make this wait time go away. There is no urgency to such a call. Banks and other information sources like this have 'supportlines' and helplines'. The obvious conclusion that I see is there is only 1 description we can use. Our National number must be called the Gamblers Anonymous Hotline. As more and more areas come on board, we will saturate the US and Canada with a fabulous system that delivers more for as much as 85% less money for some areas. I only hope that Paul gets the support of his committee members to help him with the implementation of the 'hotline' throughout the potential coverage area.

David M. - Area 12, New Jersey

11/7/12 - 2:26 PM

I agree with Paul, since it seems to me that the Phone line can not be manned 24/7, we should call it what it is, that being Helpline...So I for one vote to place the service to be called Gamblers Anonymous Helpline.

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina

11/30/12 - 2:43 PM

I believe it should be called the G.A. HELPLINE.

Because, as far as I know, none of us on the phone in CT or anywhere else are trained to handle a SUICIDE CALL!

If I get someone who is SUICIDAL, I either call 911 or 1-800-SUICIDE!

Ronny W. - Area 17, Connecticut

Committee Reports

11/2/12 - 8:08 AM

Hello my fellow Trustees:

I don't usually write on the Trustee line, but I feel inclined to. Regarding the conference in San Diego, I was very surprised at how long it took us to get through committee reports. I really don't understand why it took us over eight hours to go through them, when 90% of the information was available before hand.

Is this something that the Chairs could have moved forward a little faster? There was a lot of conversations the between the reporter and people at the mike. I found it very distracting, and it made it hard for me to want to pay attention. I am sure I lost some valuable information by tuning out. I am not proud of that, just stating the truth.

To my fellow trustees, if you want me to listen to what you have to say, please don't get up to the mike for every agenda item, pick your battles. I am not taking your inventory, I am simply stating a fact. Also, please don't get up to the mike if you have already heard your opinion expressed. Nothing is more annoying than hearing, "I agree with what was just said" and pretty much repeating what a previous speaker(s) had mentioned. It takes away from your credibility and doesn't add to the conversation.

Thank you for listening ~

Your Sister in Recovery,
Deni M. – Area 8C, Minnesota

Key Chains

11/6/12 - 12:01 PM

If a member announces he/she has 6 months today , should anything prevent him/her from receiving a key chain?

Susan W. - Area 2 Trustee, Northern California

BOT Committees

11/1/12 - 3:19 AM

It had been about a year and a half since I was on the floor of the BOT and I was very glad to see alot of old friends and meet many new friends in San Diego. Since I started attending conferences back in 1989 it wasn't hard to quickly discover that the committees within the Board of Trustees are where a large part of the work of Gamblers Anonymous is done. Along with that it has been a pressing problem from one conference to the next for many years the amount of time it takes to get through Committee reports and finally make to the agenda items. I see an item for Vancouver's agenda to not only reduce the committee report time but the discussion time as well. I support that because I believe a lot of the discussion can be taken out of the room and straight to the Committee Chairperson. The Committee should have a prepared report that is posted on the trustee website promptly.

Listening to these reports in San Diego brought to mind a sore subject....participation. Working on committees within the BOT is a part of the trustee guidelines last time I checked. I have been on the International Relations Committee since its inception at the Fort Lauderdale conference a number of years ago. We are fortunate to have 25 members on this committee presently. There is an incredible amount of work that gets done by these volunteers. There are other committees that also have a lot of involvement as well. Where I'm going with this is Committee chairperson reports that are basically " Nothing has been done since our last meeting". This new board is largely made up of new trustees and it is vital that they realize their help is needed. It is sad to listen for example to a Retention committee report and the Chair is needing help. All of us have seen situations where a minimum of individuals do the bulk of the work. This happens frequently in all levels of our fellowship. I thank my higher power that someone kept the door open in 1987 when I needed the fellowship badly. You hear it often when someone says " I'll never be able to give back what I have received from Gamblers Anonymous". I hope everyone new and old can take a look at our commitment to the fellowship and go the extra mile to help these committees function without burning out those who have given so much of their time. I personally inside get a warm feeling of accomplishment when someone half way around the world gets help with this addiction. Surely with all the committees we have there is something for everyone to get interested in.

Have a great day,
See you all in Vancouver.

Steve R. - Area 2B Trustee, Sacramento, California ,USA

Guidance Code in Focus

11/2/12 - 3:30 PM

Why do we waste all of this time & effort when we do NOT follow what we have decreed ??

We are extremely upset when groups or individuals do "not follow the program " even to object to areas that do not even have the GUIDANCE CODE.

Why do we have a document that we --the BOT do not follow and look to circumvent whenever it suits our needs ??

We now have a system of changing the Guidance Code with ONE majority vote.

ie--we do NOT follow the PRINTED rules for absentee ballots or proxies

we allow the "Rules & Procedures" to overrule the GUIDANCE CODE
we expect groups to read & follow the Guidance Code but we as a group
(BOT) do not read or follow.

when confronted with our error we collectively say-we didn't like that rule or
this one is better.
Should it be a requirement that Trustees have to read the Guidance Code or
pass some test ??
Or maybe I'm just a frustrated old man who needs a better set of glasses ??

Please before answering this comentary please read page 27, section 6 of the
GUIDANCE CODE

Bill B. - Area 15, New York

11/9/12 - 4:34 PM

Bill,

I make sure to pay very close attention to anything you say at the Trustee
meetings and also to what you write in the Trustee Line. Afterall, 50+ years in
this program, having been a Trustee for so long and BOT Chair, back in the
days before electricity, requires everyone's attention and respect. Just kidding,
but it was before they invented the wheel. What people don't know about you
is that someone invented the square wheel and you submitted an amendment
to that motion to make it round. The rest is history.

This posting of yours is not really how things are. We don't pass Guidance
Code items with a simple majority, it's still a two-thirds vote.

We also, to the best of my knowledge, keep the Guidance Code as the primary
level of how we operate at the BOT. The Rules and Procedures do not
override the Guidance Code. The part of the Guidance Code to which you
refer in your posting is Article XIX – Voting. I believe what you are trying to
say is that Section 6 states provisions that we are now mishandling absentee
ballots, as per the changes in the Rules and Procedures that were put into
effect in San Diego. You view what we now do with absentee ballots as a
violation of the Guidance Code.

To answer that, I point you and everyone else who is looking at your posting to
Section 2 of that same Article. The entire Article XIX is about items that affect
GA as a whole with votes going back to the groups and/or areas. That process
is still in effect. However, the last sentence specifically states that the provisions
of that section do not apply to the physical meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Having said that, I think it would be an interesting task for you to come up with
a written test for all the Trustees to pass, as you suggest in your posting, before
they can take part in a Trustee meeting. By the way, would a motion for that
qualification test take a simple majority to pass, and where would you place it,
in the Guidance Code or the Rules and Procedures? Sorry, I just couldn't help
myself. That was just too easy.

So even though your premise is 'not accurate', (notice I didn't say wrong) I do
believe we should take up a separate collection in Vancouver to get you a
better set of glasses.

Written with lots of love – you frustrated old man. (your words, not mine)
David M. – Area 12, New Jersey
