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Trustee Line for December 2009

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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	Entries
1.	New meetings in an area represented by an Intergroup	12/11/09 12:03 PM	4

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

New meetings in an area represented by an Intergroup

12/1/09 - 12:01 AM
Greetings, Everyone,

We here in area 13 have had 2 incidents of concern recently regarding new meetings in our area.

The first involves a 'New Meeting', which has apparently been in existence since January, 2009. We (intergroup) learned of the meeting when they asked to join our Intergroup in September. We have 3 trustees, yet none of us were notified of this meeting starting.

The second involves a member with barely 90 days. This member told our Intergroup Chairman that he plans to start a new meeting, and had already received a starter kit from I. S. O.

Some of us believe there is something wrong with this picture. First, since there don't seem to be any restrictions on who can start a meeting, theoretically, a member with a couple of weeks (or less) in the program could start a meeting, then end up having an influence over even newer members who found the new room. Doesn't this sound like 'the blind leading the blind'? Also, since our Guidance Code says that the Intergroup should publish a meeting list for the area, it gives the impression that the Trusted Servants of Intergroup encourage members to attend. (I know, in an ideal world senior members would 'pitch in' to help the new meeting get going initially; however, in the real world, if the senior members didn't believe the new meeting should even have been started, they would not be inclined to attend.)

Points for discussion:

My Intergroup believes that there should ideally be SOME requirements for a member to start a new meeting. We don't expect or want the requirements to be prohibitive, but we'd like to ensure that the person requesting the new meeting has some experience with recovery. Also, since we are expected to advertise the new meeting, we believe that the request for a starter kit should come from the area Intergroup.

We are considering submitting the following as an agenda item for the 2010 Spring BOT meeting:

Guidance Code; page 4, Article VII, Section 1.

Current version: "Whenever two or more persons with a desire to stop

gambling meet together on a regular, weekly scheduled basis to discuss their gambling problem, they will be known as a group, only if they commit themselves to follow Gamblers Anonymous' Guidance code and limit their use, display and distribution to only approved and appropriate Gamblers Anonymous literature. They are also to notify the International Service Office (I.S.O.) of their existence".

New version: Whenever two or more persons with a desire to stop gambling meet together on a regular, weekly scheduled basis to discuss their gambling problem, they will be known as a group, only if they commit themselves to follow Gamblers Anonymous' Guidance Code and limit their use display and distribution to only approved and appropriate Gamblers Anonymous literature. Any member/S wishing to start a new meeting in an area represented by an established Intergroup, should notify the Intergroup Chairperson, who will request a starter kit for the new meeting from the International Service Office (I.S.O.), and the starter kit will be sent to a Trustee from that area. For a new meeting in an area not represented by an intergroup, the member/S wishing to start a new meeting should request the starter kit through their area Trustee, and the starter kit will then be sent to the Trustee. If possible, at least one of the members starting the new meeting should have a minimum of one (1) year of abstinence.

I would appreciate feedback on this topic.

Your friend in recovery,
John B. - Trustee Area 13, Philadelphia

12/3/09 - 10:35 AM

Hi John, I'm so glad that this subject, New Meeting..request for Starter Kit, has been brought up. Just this year here in Area 6 C (North & South Carolina) we have had 4 rooms make the request for Starter Kits and open up new rooms, however all 4 were closed with in 2 months. All of these rooms did not go thru intergroup. We do need a better handle on this. These rooms were being opened, as it turned out, for the wrong reasons, and they were advised to go directly to ISO.

Joe B. - Area 6, North Carolina

12/9/09 - 9:22 AM

To both John B and Joe B -

Thank you for raising this awareness. This is obviously a very serious issue for discussion, and I shall bring this item up at our next Intergroup for more input. I agree that there should be some criteria for beginning a new group. The only possible exception I can see if we are discussing an area which has NO representation or Intergroup to guide them; but then perhaps an experienced Trustee or Trusted Servant should be there to assist in whatever way possible to ensure success.

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

12/11/09 - 12:03 PM

Hi, thinking a little more on John B's agenda item, I do believe the only exception to the guidelines would be a request from a Prison Group. Just room for thought

Joe B. - Area 6C, North Carolina
