

Bettors Anonymous

20 Questions

- Did you ever lose time from work or school due to gambling?
- Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
- Did gambling affect your reputation?
- Have you ever felt remorse after gambling?
- Did you ever gamble to get money with which to pay debts or otherwise solve financial difficulties?
- Did gambling cause a decrease in your ambition or efficiency?
- After losing did you feel you must return as soon as possible and win back your losses?
- After a win did you have a strong urge to return and win more?
- Did you often gamble until your last dollar was gone?
- Did you ever borrow to finance your gambling?
- Have you ever sold anything to finance gambling?
- Were you reluctant to use "gambling money" for normal expenditures?
- Did gambling make you careless of the welfare of yourself or your family?
- Did you ever gamble longer than you had planned?
- Have you ever gambled to escape worry or trouble?
- Have you ever committed, or considered committing, an illegal act to finance gambling?
- Did gambling cause you to have difficulty in sleeping?
- Do arguments, disappointments or frustrations create within you an urge to gamble?
- Did you ever have an urge to celebrate any good fortune by a few hours of gambling?
- Have you ever considered self destruction or suicide as a result of your gambling?

If you answer yes to any of these questions you may have a gambling problem.

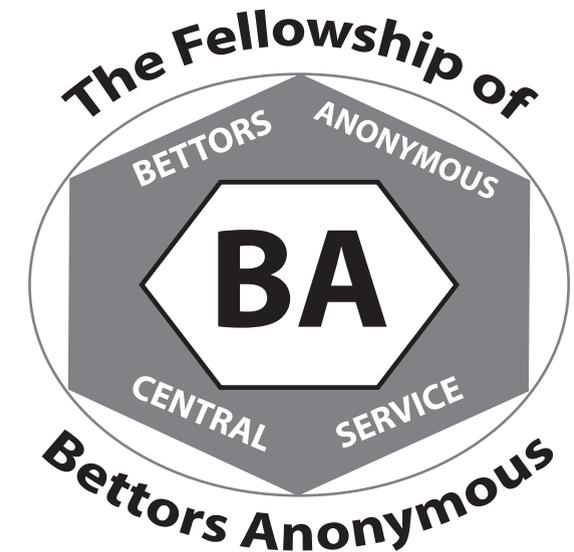
Bettors Anonymous
**MANITOBA CHAPTER
MEETINGS**

Tuesday 8:00 pm
Thursday 8:00 pm
Saturday 2:00 pm

Immanuel United Church
755 Golspie Street, Winnipeg,
Manitoba R2K-2V4

Contact Us
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Bettors Anonymous Central Service Office
www.bettorsanonymous.org



God grant me the **Serenity**
to accept the things I cannot
change the **Courage** to change
the things I can and the
Wisdom to know the difference

THE EARLY YEARS and BETTORS ANONYMOUS

The history of the “Original” twelve Steps tells us that in the first small A.A. group there was controversy about the word GOD. This first group followed their group conscience. The resolution they finally achieved was guided through their disagreement to a new expression of their spiritual relationship. They began to speak of a “Power greater than themselves,” and of God as we understood Him.” Today we turn to God as we understand Him, because our lives are restricted by human limitations. We know from our own experiences and from the stories of thousands of men and women have preceded us, that this program is very practical and simple. It works, and it restores our lives.”

The Fellowship of Bettors Anonymous is the outgrowth of a group of men and women who, after many years within another 12-step recovery program, made a decision to form their own fellowship based on these “Original” Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of “Alcoholics Anonymous.”

The following events comprise the reason for this decision:

In 1964, this “Other Fellowship” printed their 1st Edition big book containing only an outline of the Alcoholics Anonymous, 12 Steps and 12 Traditions,” the basis on which this “Other Fellowship” was founded. It also included several individual stories. This book, along with a small “combo pamphlet” containing 20 questions for the compulsive gambler to identify with, was the literature used at meeting level at this time.

Meanwhile, a member of the Stoneham, Massachusetts meeting who was also a recovering alcoholic introduced the group to the original A.A. 12 Steps and 12 Traditions book. The group found this book to be so helpful in their recovery that a group conscience vote was taken to use it a meeting level. When reading from it, the word “gambling” was substituted for “alcoholic,

etc. etc.” this book was used at the Stoneham meeting for many years without any problems.

In 1972, a “workshop” of compulsive gamblers from our area was formed to put together a recovery book using the A.A. 12 and 12 as a guide. This was done, but with much disappointment, because much of the content of original 12 steps was left out. This literature, however, would be used at meeting level for many years by most groups. The Stoneham group, however, continued to use the original A.A. 12 and 12 book.

In 1982, seven members of Stoneham group consisting of college professor, a school teacher, a security guard, a cab driver, two auto mechanics, and a telephone worker, decided to convert the entire A.A. 12 and 12 to identify with the compulsive gambler. (They decided to do this because some new members questioned the use of the A.A. book at the meeting.) This meant changing the word “alcohol” to gambling, and “alcoholic” to compulsive gambler, etc. etc. They would meet after meetings in a member’s house a couple of nights a week. This took about a year to complete, at which time a members wife typed up the book for them. After making many copies, several groups voted to use this booked at their meetings.

Because of controversy, in 1986 several groups assembled in Revere MA, to vote whether or not to accept the A.A. 12 and 12 book to use at meeting level. The motion was defeated, and the emotions ran high. However, a few groups continued to use the book composed by the Stoneham members for the next couple of years. Sadly, in 1988, these groups came under attack by the Service Office of the Other Fellowship.

Because the groups using the unapproved literature continued to use it, they were taken off the local, and national meeting lists. The local Intergroup representatives did not approve of this, but the local Trustee did and pursued the Service office, and the decision stood. This caused more conflict among the members, and with the Unity of the Other Fellowship. Meanwhile, two more revised editions of the book composed at the 1970 workshops, were printed. The 1984 edition condensed the Steps from 110 pages, down to 35 pages, and the 1989 edition condensed them even

further, from 35 pages, down to 5 pages. This left very little content for identification and discussion at the meetings.

In 1989, a member from the Stoneham group sent a letter to the Service Office of the Other Fellowship explaining the Unity problems they were having in New England because of the literature. Their answer was polite, but it did nothing to resolve the problem, and they were still kept of the meeting lists.

In January 1990, a member from the Stoneham group spoke by phone to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and also, mailed him a copy of the book assembled by the Stoneham group in 1982. This copy was sent to him at the “Other Fellowships Service Office” and he was asked to consider using this book as approved literature along with their other literature. He said he would present the book to the Board of Trustees for a vote at the coming conclave to be held in Danvers, MA in May of 1990. At this conclave, the presentation and argument as to why this literature should be adopted was done by a member from the Stoneham group, but to no avail. The Trustees voted to reject the approval of the book, and those groups that chose to continue to use it remained off the local and national meeting lists. They felt they did everything within their power to preserve the unity of the “Other Fellowship.” They also felt, that the rejection of this literature was also a rejection of the word GOD as it is written in the original “A.A. 12 Steps and 12. Traditions.”

It was because of these events, and the complete disregard of Unity Step Two, (“For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority a loving God as he may express himself in out group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”) that on Wednesday, May 9, 1990 many members gathered at the Stoneham meeting. After much discussion, a group conscience vote was taken to leave the “Other Fellowship.” A Second group conscience vote was taken to officially start BETTORS ANONYMOUS, using the spiritual principles of “Alcoholics Anonymous” as a guide.

SUGGESTIONS TO ALL BETTORS ANONYMOUS MEMBERS PARTICULARLY NEW MEMBERS

Attend as many meetings as possible.

Telephone other members as often as possible between meetings. **Use the telephone list.**

Don’t tempt or test yourself. Avoid credit card debt and ATM machines, for gambling purposes. Don’t associate with acquaintances who gamble. Don’t go in or near gambling establishments. Don’t read the sports section. Don’t gamble for anything. This includes internet gambling, buying from the stock market, commodities and options, buying or playing lottery tickets, raffle tickets, flipping a coin or entering the office sports pool.

Live the Bettors Anonymous Program **ONE DAY AT A TIME.** Don’t try and solve all your problems at once.

Read the recovery and unity steps often and continuously review the twenty questions. Follow the steps in your daily affairs. These steps are the basis for the entire Bettors Anonymous Program and practicing then is the key to your growth. **If you have any questions, ask them of your trusted servants and sponsors.**

To help in your recovery we strongly suggest you **select a sponsor as soon as possible.**

Try to be patient! The days and weeks will pass soon enough and as you continue to attend meetings and abstain from gambling, your recovery will really accelerate.

“But For The Grace Of God”

“Live And Let Live”

“First Things First”

“One Day At A Time”