

**OTTAWA AREA INTERGROUP  
General Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2008**

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer followed by the Twelve Traditions.

**Welcome:** The Chair welcomed all members in attendance. A roll call of all present was then taken.

**Voting Members:** 36 **Non-voting Members:** 17

**Executive Members:** Heather H., Brian L., Ron K., Pat B., Peter G., John G., Jeff L., Paul P.,  
**Absent:** none

**Clean-up and Set-up:** Clean up (Scott); Setup (Sharon & Cliff)

**Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**Minutes of January :**

On motion by Cliff , seconded by Nick . the minutes for January 9, 2008 were approved with the following change:

- In the report concerning the Telephone Answering Service (TAS), 2 commitments should be changed to 22 commitments.

**Burning Issues:** None

**Reports:**

**Chair:** Heather H.

Issues will be raised in New Business

**Vice-Chair:** Brian L.  
none

**Treasurer:** Pat B.

- Groups were requested to review the sheets related to unpaid invoices and in consultation with the group treasurer arrange for payment. Until these unpaid invoices are paid, no further literature may be purchased.
- During January \$1,436.13 was paid to Intergroup through literature purchases and group contributions.
- The issue was raised concerning the investment of a portion of the bank balance

through GIC's etc. At the moment there is some \$26,000 of liquid reserves.  
MOTION: Moved by Ernie N., Seconded by Nathan W. that, "The Executive of Intergroup be allowed to transfer funds to an interest bearing vehicle."

There was discussion concerning the nature of a "prudent reserve" as stated in the Intergroup by-laws of "up to 12 months" of expense. Pat suggested that 12 months reserve would represent approximately \$20,000.

Pat stated that the investment can be made so that it can be retrieved quickly (say 8 hours if necessary).

Motion was passed and Pat will report back to the next IG meeting.

**Literature Coordinator:** John G.

The money owing for past purchases by groups was mentioned, and it was reiterated that the past due bills should be paid in a timely manner.

John told the meeting of the catalogue of all materials from the New York office, and asked those groups who were interested to contact him to see what is available.

John's contact information: [gibsonjohn812@yahoo.com](mailto:gibsonjohn812@yahoo.com) phone: 237-1320 xt 2565

**Newsletter:** Paul P.

The new Primary Purpose is finished, with special features on the Ottawa Archives, and the upcoming Springathon. The outgoing editor, Danny, was thanked for his assistance.

Anniversaries for members can only be published once they have occurred. They will be included in the newsletter as promptly as possible. There was a problem with the popup window for anniversaries on the website. Paul and Jeff (our webmaster) will see what can be done.

**TAS:** Peter G.

More assistance is needed. Almost half the time there is nobody on the phones. There are 14 open slots, and therefore 14 people are needed.

The new schedule will be sent by Peter to Ron K. for inclusion with the Intergroup minutes.

**Webmaster:** Jeff L.

The email addresses are now working well, and changes have been made to the front page. Jeff is beginning to set links to the maps for meeting locations. If a group notices that they are incorrectly placed, please send him an email ( [jeff.leiper@sympatico.ca](mailto:jeff.leiper@sympatico.ca) )

**Secretary:** Ron K.

Group representatives were urged to check their information on the Intergroup meeting sign-in

sheets. New group representatives were also asked to provide their information to keep the listing current. The Secretary apologised for not mailing out the minutes by snail mail last month and pledged to be more efficient with this month's minutes.

Due to illness of the Secretary it may be necessary for someone to take minutes for the April and May meetings. Volunteers are requested. Someone with General Service experience is requested. Ron will provide assistance to the volunteer Please contact Ron ([ronkell@tapp.org](mailto:ronkell@tapp.org), or 248-1877) or Heather ([heatherh2408@yahoo.ca](mailto:heatherh2408@yahoo.ca) or 715-9395)

**Springathon:** Derek R, Chairperson

The speaker list and conference program is available in the February newsletter, along with contact information for those wishing to help out as volunteers. It was agreed that full conference information will be available in the February, March and April newsletters. Persons for security, greeting, and coatcheck service are needed.

Only 3 groups have donated so far. More donations are requested please. Cheques can be given to George, Derek, or Brian.

Up to 400 dinners are available, and satellite seating can be arranged if necessary. The sooner a group requests a table, the better (closer to speaker) their seating will be.

## **Old Business**

### **1. Archives amendment to the Intergroup Bylaws**

At the previous meeting a motion was tabled to amend the Intergroup Bylaws:

The Intergroup By-law, at Article 2:01, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, be amended to read as follows:  
"Intergroup will also carry out other functions as may be required to support the groups, meetings and general membership of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Ottawa Area, **including the gathering and maintenance of Archival material by the Ottawa Area AA Archives committee.**

Since 1 month notice to the membership is required before an amending motion can be considered no vote took place at the January meeting,

Vigorous discussion of the motion took place. The discussion can be characterised as follows:

- Those who felt that the Archives made little direct contribution to recovery of the Ottawa AA membership, and therefore should not receive direct financial support from Intergroup.
- Those who felt that preserving the history and membership memories of AA in Ottawa was of high importance and was recognised as a core activity of AA groups by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Those who although not directly opposed to the Archives Function, were nervous about the financial implications of the amendment, and wanted some definition of the financial accountability of Ottawa Archives to Intergroup and the Ottawa AA membership.

Most speakers were in favour of the amendment. There appeared to be some confusion about the current intent of the motion. A number felt that the vote concerned a financial obligation arising for Intergroup if the amendment was passed.

The result of the vote was 21 in favour, and 12 opposed, with 3 abstentions. Since amendment of the Bylaws requires two thirds (67%) to be in favour, the motion to amend failed.

2. The 2006 Financial Statements are now available from our accountant and have been received.

3. Intergroup requirement for access to credit.

MOTION: That Intergroup acquire a credit card, Moved by Ernie N., seconded by Heather M.

The meeting requested that the bill be paid in full each month, and that the Treasurer be authorised to use the card.

The motion was passed, with one vote in opposition and one abstention.

#### **New Business:**

1. The part-time office administration person at Intergroup has departed. Pat, the Treasurer, will temporarily assume the duties as a volunteer until the end of April to make a clear assesment of the work needed to be done. The issue will be considered again at that time.

2. A motion was passed to retroactively approve the purchase of a new computer, software, and training for the Treasurer in the Intergroup office.

Moved by David C., seconded by Rolly R.

3. A preliminary discussion were held by Treasurer Pat with a firm specialising in getting GST/PST rebates to see if refunds can be arranged for Intergroup for a period covering up to the last four years. The firm gets paid only if positive results are obtained in their audit (40% of rebates successfully obtained. It is estimated that up to \$4,000 in rebates could be achieved.

MOTION: That Intergroup engage the tax recovery people to get money back from GST/PST. Moved by Frank V., seconded by Nicole F.

The motion was approved by a vast majority.

4. The McNabb Sunday morning meeting was discussed. It was reiterated that it was an Intergroup meeting run by monthly rotating groups. As such banners of the specific group responsible in a particular month were not appropriate. It was also clarified that expenses for the meeting were the responsibility of the hosting group and monies obtained from the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition collection should be sufficient to cover the costs. The meeting is self-supporting.

5. The Springathon Chair requested a further \$1000 from Intergroup, in addition to \$1500 previously granted. This is roughly the average amount requested by conferences. In comparison the Fall Conference has requested \$3000 for this year.

MOTION: That Springathon 2008 be granted a further \$1000.  
Moved by Cliff , seconded by Ernie N.

The motion was passed with one vote in opposition.

**McNabb Meetings:**

February 2008	Early Birds
March 2008	West End group
April	open

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m. closing with the Responsibility Pledge and Lord's Prayer.

**Next Intergroup Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the  
Bronson Centre**