

OTTAWA AREA INTERGROUP
General Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2008

The meeting opened with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer followed by the twelve traditions read by Mike F. from the Trinity Group.

Welcome: The Chair welcomed all members in attendance.

Voting Members: 36 **Non-voting Members:** 7

Meeting clean up: Luc S-J., Eli, Sheldon, Len.

Set up and coffee for October Meeting: Janet C. and Sandy S.

Agenda:

Two items were added: Insurance issue and 2009 Intergroup Executive Nominating Committee

Motion: Florence K., Seconded: Darleen

That the updated agenda be accepted.

Carried. Unanimous

August 13, 2008 Minutes:

Motion: Chuck M., Seconded: Doug.

That the minutes be adopted as written.

Carried. Unanimous

Burning Issue: None

McNab Meeting: No group has signed up to chair the December meetings. Please let Intergroup know next month (or sooner) if your group would like to sign up for this service opportunity.

Executive Committee Reports:

Chair: Heather H

Nothing to report

Vice-Chair: Brian L.

Nothing to report.

Acting Secretary: Mary W.

Gratefully collected updated information on Intergroup Reps so that minutes can be distributed.

Treasurer: Pat B.

➤ August statement was presented. The finances are in good shape and expenses are being covered.

Newsletter: Danny M.

➤ This month's Primary Purpose newsletter is available and was distributed at the meeting.

➤ Printing costs are consistent at \$289 per month

➤ If members are having problems with the Primary Purpose email, they can contact Danny using ex600@ncf.ca

TAS: Peter G.

➤ Many volunteers are not showing up for their time slot and not letting Peter know. There are 22 open slots at present.

➤ A trial on using the voice mail feature on the new telephone system will bring a saving of \$1,100 - \$1,200 over two months. The commercial answering service will be suspended during the trial between September 30 and November 30. During this time the TAS ad-hoc committee will be carrying out further research on the best way to serve newcomers when they call the Ottawa office. By using the new voice mail system they will also be able to determine its effectiveness.

➤ TAS volunteers and Peter will be checking the voice mailbox and returning calls.

➤ If anyone has any suggestions please send them to TAS08@ottawaaa.org

Webmaster: Jeff L.

➤ George S. is accessing internet and keeping meeting information updated. The Intergroup meeting minutes and Primary Purpose are also being posted. Heather thanked Jeff, George and Danny M. for their ongoing cooperation that is making the Ottawa AA website so useful to members.

Fall Conference: Doug L. (absent)

➤ No report

Literature: John G.

➤ There is lots of literature available and the Big Books are in stock.

Insurance Costs:

➤ Intergroup member, Ernie N., had requested in August that Intergroup look into blanket insurance for groups using church and public property

➤ In Ontario all Areas are looking at this problem and they will be getting back to us.

➤ It is not clear if the information will come through the Districts or to Intergroup.

Old Business:

By-Law Reform:

➤ The initial report from the newly-struck ad-hoc committee is attached.

➤ The sitting Intergroup Vice Chair will sit on the committee, as agreed by Intergroup Exec. at their Sept 10 meeting.

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Archives Move:

Construction has started and completion is expected by the end of the month.

New Business:**2009 Intergroup Executive Nominating Committee:**

- Jean F. (Chair of the Committee) addressed the meeting.
- Members of the committee are: Mickey R., Gord H., and Mark C (backup).
- The role of the committee is to verify a candidate's credentials and to run the elections - which will take place at the December meeting.
- Candidates for all positions must meet the criteria: Two years of sobriety, be a member in good standing of an Ottawa AA group.
- If there is only one verified candidate for a position, s/he will be acclaimed.
- Please ask your groups for candidates to step forward.
- The positions are: Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Literature Coordinator, Telephone Answering Service Coordinator, Secretary, Web Master, Vice-Chair of Fall Conference, Vice-Chair of Springathon, and Editor of Primary Purpose.
- It is hoped that there will be at least two nominees for each position so that God's will and group conscience will be followed.
- Nominations will be accepted up to the night of the elections, and from the floor on that night
- Contact Jean at maritimerjean@sympatico.ca

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. closing with the Responsibility Pledge and Lord's Prayer.

Next Intergroup Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bronson Centre

Heather Hay, Intergroup Chair

Mary Wimbush, Acting Intergroup Secretary

Bylaw Committee
Ottawa Area Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

Meeting of September 3rd, 2008

Attending: Harry B., Shirley B., Claude L., Jean F., David T.

The issue of confidentiality was discussed – and it was firmly emphasized that we are not re-writing the bylaws behind closed doors; however, until we are ready to present firm recommendations to the main body of Intergroup, and to the member AA groups which make up Intergroup, for their full and honest discussion which will be required for acceptance of new corporate bylaws, that anything discussed outside the committee will be “in a general way”.

So as not to confuse any issues, or raise any concerns, the committee will eventually report on its findings to the full meeting of Intergroup, and ask that the Representatives take those recommendations for change to the bylaws, back to the Home Groups for the widest possible discussion.

The Committee has set out a monthly schedule of meetings, and as its work progresses, will seek input from various members and Intergroup itself.

It will review such issues as: Updating of previous motions to amend; Current responsibilities of Intergroup; Intergroup’s relationship and/or responsibilities (if any) to Archives; having a specific reference to Web presence and e-mail; board structure & continuity (staggered terms); Indemnity of directors; Duties of Directors; and various other general issues.

The Committee would ask that Intergroup direct the sitting Vice-Chair of Intergroup to act as our regular contact and to attend our monthly meetings.

Yours in Service,

Harry B.
Chairperson
Intergroup Bylaws Committee

Phone Committee Report (Sept. 7, 08)

The phone committee has met twice regarding the type of telephone hotline that is best suited for serving the still suffering alcoholic and members of the A.A. fellowship in Ottawa.

Presently the committee is investigating a number of similar populated cities to determine how they provide their hotline service. We are looking to investigate up to 15 different cities to obtain an informed view and present our findings to the IG. Reps to be brought back to the membership.

A dozen difficulties have been listed which raise serious issues in the hotline service that our Intergroup presently provides. (see list attached).

A scan has been done of the log sheets to determine the type of calls coming in to the hotline as well as the messages that have been left by the Message Centre. Over 75% of the calls or messages are from members seeking information on meetings or A.A. related activities or functions.

Recently new phones with the ability of taking voice messages have been installed in the IG. office. We are looking at the opportunity to do a full evaluation over a period of time (1 to 3 months) to determine the effectiveness of this voice mail system.

As a result of the high cost off the Commercial Message Centre, numerous complaints involving its' cost and the majority of the calls being from members seeking information on meetings and A.A. activities rather than the still suffering alcoholic calling for help, the committee, at this time recommends as a interim measure (on a trial basis) that Intergroup temporarily suspend the contract we have with the Commercial Message Centre. This would allow us to do a full evaluation of the voice mail features we now have. If it is found to be necessary Intergroup can renew said contract in the future.

Based on the committees' present and future research full recommendations on the most suitable and cost effective method of providing an A.A. hotline to best serve the needs of the Ottawa area will be presented later in the fall.