

Ottawa Area Intergroup Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2009

Welcome:

The meeting was opened with a welcome to all Intergroup reps and AA Members present.

Voting Intergroup Reps and Non-Voting AA Members Attending:

32 Voting Members
2 Non-Voting members

Executive Members:

Chair - Brian M. - Heritage Group:
Vice-Chair - Shaun D. - Venture Group and Lunch With Bill
Secretary - Mary K. - Uptown Group
Treasurer - Pat B. - Beacon Hill
Webmaster - Mark W. - Serenity Group
Literature Coordinator - John G. - Back To Basics
TAS Coordinator - Rich W. - Lunch With Bill (not present)
Newsletter Editor - Ozzie L. - Beacon Hill (not present)

Housekeeping:

- The Intergroup Email list was circulated requesting those present to identify if they are voting or non-voting members.
- AA and Intergroup Reps were reminded by the Chair that only Intergroup Reps are allowed to vote on motions. Intergroup Reps were asked to stand to be identified.

Minutes of the June 10, 2009 Meeting:

- The Chair opened the meeting with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer.
- The Chair stated that the service being provided by Intergroup Reps is important and that their ongoing efforts are appreciated.

Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2009 Meeting:

- Frank R made a motion to approve the May 13th minutes and Don McG. seconded the motion.

- No business arose from the minutes.

Literature Coordinator's Report:

- the Coordinator apologized for the out of stock position of Big Books and 12&12s in the Intergroup Office. He had placed the order, however, delivery is slower than normal at this time. Big Books normally arrive within 4 days of ordering and it's now more than a week since Ottawa placed its order.
- Meeting lists are in stock in the Intergroup Office
- The present printer of meeting lists is in receivership. If a new printer is required, the cost of printing meeting lists could increase.
- The book called " Language of the Heart" from the Grapevine is presently available only in soft-cover.

TAS Coordinator's Report:

- The Secretary presented this report since the TAS coordinator is unable to attend because of working hours.
- The TAS Coordinator advised that logs for the last two weeks of May were missing, however coverage for the first two weeks was close to 60%.
- A full report for May will be available in July.
- A Focus Group has been formed to look at how to improve and extend the hours covered by TAS. The hope is to have callers reach a live human voice of an AA member as often as possible using technology already in use by Intergroup.
- Currently the Focus Group is made up of the TAS Coordinator, and Mickey R. and Terry D. of the Westboro Saturday AM Group. They would like to bring in a member from each district served by the Ottawa Area Intergroup.
- The Intergroup Rep from Rockland stated that their group presently provides zero assistance to TAS since it requires a minimum of almost one and a half hours to travel to and from the Bronson Centre. He asked that the system be set up so that members of the Rockland Group can take calls from their homes.
- The meeting was advised that this solution was rejected in the past for the following two reasons: 1) AA members did not want the 12 step list to leave the Intergroup Office; 2) The explanation for allowing calls to be answered at home was not explained fully to the Intergroup Reps who in turn had difficulty explaining it to their Groups for group conscience. This led to a lot of confusion leading to the rejection of a motion at a subsequent Intergroup Meeting.

Newsletter Report:

- Anniversary dates need to be submitted by June 20th latest to be included in the next printed version of the Newsletter.
- The Editor has developed an online ongoing update so that anniversary dates submitted after June 20th can be viewed online at the AA Ottawa website.
- All anniverseries can be sent to the email address of our Editor, Ozzie L, or directly to the Ottawa AA website.

The report:

Newsletter report to the IG June meeting. May 27th, 2009

Producing a newsletter is one thing, making it public has options.

One option I found out, that of an online only newsletter isn't going to happen on my watch.

Your overwhelming choice is the in-hand hard-copy.

I brought this online only route up because other institutions and business' have long gone this direction for only too obvious reasons. Even within the fellowship in North America. Ottawa A.A. would not be the first (by a long shot) to have its newsletter available online only. Updating information and other local newsworthy items would be continuous.

It will be the thing of the future even for ultra conservative Ottawa. Just not today. Personally, I didn't think you would go for the by-monthly, just like you almost fainted with the online only idea.

Please send in the personal and group anniversaries via e-mail to: www.ottawaaa.org
click on: Executive / click on Newsletter / click on my name / or directly to me
lohe1@rogers.com

Regards,

Ozzie Lohe.
Editor Newsletter

Fall Conference Update:

- The Chair of the Fall Conference advised that the planning and organizing of the Conference is going well. They are presently working hard on registration.
- In 2008, attendance at the dinner was reduced to 350 and the goal for this year is a minimum of 400. The Conference Committee members have been promoting the Conference in the Ottawa area, including Montreal, Brockville, Kingston, Perth etc.
- They are asking AA Groups to sign up for a table or two. Ten people can be seated at a table but they can sell partial tables as well as full tables. They have presently sold 12 tables and have 28 tables to go.

Christmas and New Year Alkathon:

- The Chair for the 2009/10 was not present but had attended the Executive Ctee. meeting and the Chair provided a summary of her report.
- Her plans are well underway. The issue of non-functioning coffee urns at the last Alkathon has been addressed. She has tested all the coffee pots and the malfunctioning ones have been thrown out and new coffee urns have been purchased.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer advised that consensus has been reached that his previous reports were too formal and difficult to understand and that he would be providing summary reports this months and in the future.
- He advised that as directed, he had cashed the GIC and payed off the balance of the Mastercard.
- As a result, Intergroup Finances are in good shape. We have a bank balance of \$13,307.26 and we owe suppliers \$2582.69 for a true bank balance of \$10,724.57.
- He asked again that Groups owing money for literature pay their outstanding balances on an urgent basis.
- He advised that two new volunteers have come forward. Don McG. of the Discussion of the Big Book Group, with a strong background in administration, has assumed day to day responsibility for sales, deposits, and liaison with volunteers.

Another volunteer Frank V. of the Venture Group, has assumed responsibility for the phones and literature sales on Mondays. He is also ensuring that the offices are kept clean, and very necessary but thankless task. Thanks from all of us for that.

Questions Re; the Administrator/ Treasurer's Report:

- A member was in the office in the past few months and someone was smoking in the office. This is against the laws of Ottawa and the Bronson Centre. The meeting was advised that the Bronson Centre is presently in the process of re-fitting the building and all offices and that includes installing sensors. But he will check to ensure are offices are included.
- The Chair thanked the Intergroup Reps. In April he appealed to members for funds because of the financial challenge and wanted to thank the groups for their generosity.

Other Business:

Pamphlet for Newcomers:

- Grant H. presented a Pamphlet for Newcomers to the meeting and reviewed its contents in a general way.
- This pamphlet is not an AA New York Office approved piece of literature.
- It has been developed by the Vancouver Intergroup who have been using it for the past 20 years.
- It is a special pamphlet for newcomers and has been used by Grant in treatment and correctional facilities.
- It pulls together information from AA literature which is very important for newcomers.
- Grant H. asked that Ottawa Intergroup endorse this pamphlet and allow the Ottawa Area Intergroup Office address, telephone number and website address to be printed on the back of the pamphlet.

Summary of Key Statements Re: The Newcomers Pamphlet:

- It was stated that the Ottawa area AA Groups and Intergroup do not need New York approval to carry other pieces of literature in their groups or Intergroup Office.
- One Ottawa AA Group has offered to pay for putting 125 copies into the Intergroup Office, free of charge, to see if there is a real demand for this pamphlet. If it did take off then Intergroup would have to bear the cost of printing additional copies. The present cost of printing the pamphlet is 32 cents.
- It was questioned whether this pamphlet was really necessary, or was this information readily available in the present literature carried by Intergroup. Is it a duplication of effort?
- CPC, which does liaison with the medical profession has a beginners pamphlet which is being given to doctor's offices free of charge. The cost is \$70.00 for 1000 pieces or 14.3 cents per copy.
- It was suggested that we could place this Newcomers Pamphlet into the Newsletter as an insert for only one month, to receive a reaction from AA members.
- It was stated that many Ottawa Groups might want only AA New York approved literature in the Intergroup Office.
- A member of the CTF Committee (for correctional institutions) was present and stated his committee would have to review and approve the use of this pamphlet for distribution in institutions prior to it being distributed there.

Decision Required from AA Groups/ Intergroup Reps:

- There are two decisions requiring AA Group Consensus for the next Intergroup Meeting as follows:
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- 1) If individual groups decide on their own (which they can do since groups are autonomous) that they want to print and distribute the Newcomers Pamphlet in their meetings, would AA Groups agree to having the Intergroup address, telephone number and website address be printed on the back page?
- 2) Would AA Groups agree to have the Intergroup Office print and distribute (and pay for these functions) the Newcomers pamphlet or should it be let to individual groups to make this decision for their own group?

Voting on this pamphlet will take place at the July 15, 2009 meeting.

New Business:

- The Chair reminded us that the Treasurer will complete his assignment in December 2009 and that the Reps need to advise their groups of this so that interested members can put their names forward in December.
- The Literature Coordinator also mentioned his assignment will be complete in December 2009.

Next Intergroup Meeting:

- Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 7PM. The meeting was closed with the Responsibility Pledge.