

Minutes for the Ottawa AA Intergroup Meeting

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 13, 2009

at the Bronson Centre

1) Opening Prayer

The meeting began with the Serenity Prayer.

2) Approval of minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without change.

3) Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

4) Summary Report of Intergroup Activities of 2009

The following presentation was made to the Membership by the outgoing Chair, Brian M-C:

“Dear Intergroup Representatives,

I wish to thank you for electing me Chair of Ottawa Intergroup for 2009, following the untimely death of predecessor, Brian Lennon, in February of 2009.

We have enjoyed a year of financial stability with a cash balance, as of January 4th, 2010 of \$14,439.68. That is in addition to a prudent reserve, in the form of a Guaranteed Investment Certificate, of \$8,000. This will bring a total of approximately \$22,500 to be

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managed by the 2010 Intergroup Board of Directors and Ottawa Intergroup.

With respect to literature inventory we have approximately 300 copies of Alcoholics Anonymous, commonly referred to as “the Big Book”, in various forms including hard and soft cover, large print, Spanish, Russian and French texts. Also, there are in stock approximately 450 Twelve and Twelve’s. This represents several thousands of dollars of inventory of books in addition to AA approved pamphlets, etc. The incoming Literature Coordinator will have adequate supply to commence his term.

The Newsletter, known as Our Primary Purpose, has evolved into a comprehensive, knowledgeable, bi-monthly journal, addressing the needs of all types of Alcoholics, be they newcomers, old-timers, service-oriented, among others, under the capable editorship of Ozzie L. We are indeed fortunate that Ozzie has been re-elected to continue his path, now complemented by an editorial advisory board of three members.

Telephone Answering Service (TAS) has had technical problems that required resolution by changing phone technology at middle stage in the year 2009, and this was achieved with a better system at a competitive rate. What has been more challenging in the TAS area has been an inability to attract sufficient people to staff the phones in the 4:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. slot daily. There has been improvement more recently in this regard and thanks are due to those who have come

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forward. TAS has experienced a range of between 50-60 % of total time to be covered. A Task force will be formed under the incoming coordinator to address this challenge.

The Webmaster has made great progress in the area of Intergroup website management. Many links that previously did not exist are now a current reality. And the good news is that the Webmaster has been re-elected for a further term.

The Vice-chair and Secretary have been solid performers in all aspects of their respective jobs. It has been a pleasure to serve with my fellow directors in 2009. I know that the executive that follows will give their several talents and experience to us enriching Ottawa Intergroup.

Thank you all for the privilege of being a trusted servant.

Yours in service,

Brian M-C,

Chair, Ottawa Area Intergroup 2009.”

5) Old Business

There was none.

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6) Introduction of new 2010 Executive

The 2010 Executive was introduced and each member made a brief talk. The Chair encouraged members to use the email address on the AA Website to contact the Secretary so Phil would have their email address. The Newsletter Coordinator's Report is attached at Annex "A" and Reps are encouraged to read it and so that it can be discussed at the next meeting.

7) New Business

The out-going Literature Coordinator, John G., wanted IG to reconsider its decision regarding two filing cabinets he had purchased and wished to donate to IG. After a brief discussion, the Chair felt that the 2009 Executive's decision to have the cabinets removed would stand. In response to John's query, the Chair agreed that John was not responsible for the cost of their removal.

8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. Query

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January IG Report.

Since I was not able to table a report in Dec. due to the elections I will repeat myself here and now. I think it important enough to spend some time discussing the issues I have raised instead of dismissing them unimportant, and have them bite you later on.

I have pointed out, in the Nov. IG report, the costs of printing the newsletter (1200 copies), brought forward some ideas for your consideration, i.e. your group, and to think about, to lessen the burden on Intergroup's purse, least popular of which was, that the future of the newsletter lies unavoidably in only an online version due simply to the high costs of printing. Prices are skyrocketing everywhere on everything.

Here is an overview of the newsletter for 2010.

The January, Oct. and Nov. newsletters will have 6 pages. Feb. & March as well as April & May (that includes whatever the Springathon wants to have included) will have 8 pages, so will June & July. Aug. & Sept. (that will incl. whatever the Fall Conference wants to have incl.) is also an 8 page issue. Oct. and Nov. are each 6 page issues. Here we need to consider the Alkathon preparations for which details will only become available towards late Oct. barely in time to be incl. in the Nov. issue. The December issue will be 8pages again. For 2010 this translates into \$5000./-annum for 1200 copies/issue based on the current printer's pricing structure.

Although the ticket for 2010 is ONLY \$5000.- the "in hand" version of the newsletter has developed into a question of available funds.

On all accounts the newsletter is apparently a popular read and beneficial to the local fellowship.

Meaning, we as Intergroup are caught between a rock and a hard place, so to speak.

Intergroup faces the reality of having to come up with \$5000.- for the "in-hand" 1200 copies/issue for 2010.

I am possibly far too liberal in thinking that within the next 5 years the newsletter will only be available online, that the financial strain on Intergroup will no longer make it possible to have "in-hand" versions of the newsletter. To realize the silver lining in this situation, it would not be unthinkable for all those members who have access to the web to individually print out a couple of copies for members of their group who don't have access to ottawaaa.org.

This innovative idea would even work presently, reducing the printing costs (for less copies) to potentially half. Unquestionably, the newsletter has become a dilemma for Intergroup.

Further to the distribution of the newsletter, I should like to repeat from my earlier e-mail:

It would be very helpful if you could please inform your group members who have access to the web and wish to receive the newsletter electronically (in colour) to simply write to me at lohel1@rogers.com stating: "I wish to receive the newsletter via e-mail". Please include the e-mail address. It's a free service provided by the newsletter.

So far the report is a repeat, nothing that I haven't already mentioned.

We are aware that IG is compelled to produce a newsletter, so stated in the By-laws. For Intergroup to continually produce a newsletter has become simply a question of HOW given the available funds.

I am proposing to reduce the "in-hand" black on white copies to 1000. It is only 200. And again I should like to ask that you do a rough survey to determine how many newsletters your group really requires / needs. This may even further reduce the number of "in-hand" copies. Too, the more newsletters are delivered electronically the less need for in-hand copies. Possibly by June we may only need to have 600 copies of the black on white in-hand variety. This reduces the printing costs even further, maybe not to half but substantially. And lessens the estimated budget. Presently the newsletter has approx. 140 e-mail addresses which receive the newsletter electronically. I should like this number to increase. No reason why that number can't increase. Surely there are more people with computers and online access.

My next and final point is to propose to charge Groups \$10.- for a bundle of 20 newsletters or 50¢/copy. That Groups purchase the newsletter like they do any other pc. of literature and make it available free for the taking like any other folding piece of literature. This of course will also require a motion from the floor.

I am done. Hope you enjoy the newsletter. O.I..

Attached is the 2010 January 6page newsletter.