

GENERAL MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2008

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Glen J. (Sunday Northwestern) read the Twelve Traditions. **THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT:** A Place to Share, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Bramalea Care & Share, Brampton Recovery, City Central, Credit Valley, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Friendly, Glenholme, Golden Mile, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kingsway, Lakeshore, Last Chance, Lawrence Plaza, Leslie, Living Sober, Maple, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mississauga, Mount Dennis, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Pine Hills, Prince Edward, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Sunday Northwestern, Sunnyside, Thornhill, Trial & Error, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, Welcome, Westmoreland, Weston Sunday Open, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 04, 14, and 18. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, CPC, P.I., Newsletter/Website, Access Ability.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – September 2008

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Derek (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Greg H. (Hill).
MOTION IS CARRIED.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Reg S. (Melrose), Chairperson

I trust everyone has received a copy of the 'Schedule A' [re: Motion] amendments for Intergroup procedures. This was to be sent out to everyone in attendance. The Motion is attached to it. Another copy of the revised procedures was sent along as well. There are some errors in it; this is just a working copy. Fran H. (Bloordale): It's not a perfect process that we have in the office. Each e-mail address has to be typed in manually. So, sometimes the odd e-mail gets missed or put in incorrectly. If you didn't get a copy, please be patient; give us your e-mail address again and we will re-send to you. We also have some hard copies here at the front.

Collection of the 7th Tradition, which totaled \$142.34.

FINANCE REPORT – Gregg W. (Rox Glen Traditional), Finance Chairperson

We are at the end of another quarter in our fiscal year. We are moving forward and meeting our budget figures. For this month [September], probably the biggest highlight is that the individual Gratitude donations are way down by almost \$13,000. The reason that shows up is that the figures we used from 2007 to set up this budget was that in 2007 Gratitude envelopes were mailed out one month earlier. So, the Gratitude returns last year started coming back in September. This year, we're back in the normal process with Gratitude going out in the end of September. I can tell you that as of the 24th of October, the Gratitude donations that have been received have been deposited and are currently ahead of last year's figures by several thousand dollars. The membership has been very generous and we appreciate it. We are still operating ahead of our expenses. We've been holding off on major renovation of the telephone system. This will be discussed with the Twelfth Step Committee. Being this is an end of a quarter, we thought we'd try and send out more information. We made an attempt to produce a more simplified Profit & Loss comparison for this year to last year. I'm not sure if it helps or hinders. I will say this was drawn a little hastily and some of the figures were not exactly the same as they appear on our statements. One thing that stands out is again is the timing of Gratitude. The other item that stands out is under Other Income; I can't speak for last year but we have a feeling it's between parts of Gratitude that was allocated under 'Other' in Quickbooks. Also, accrued interest was being collected monthly, and this year we are reporting it annually.

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to facilitate Elections moved by Glenn G. (East York) and seconded by Bill J. (Friendly). MOTION IS CARRIED.

Roy R. (Trial & Error) and Michael O'H. (Richmond Hill) facilitated the election process.

Election for Operating Chairperson: The procedures were read for this process. The 3 senior members were each asked if they would stand for the position; two seniors accepted. After a brief address to the Floor by both candidates, a vote was taken. **Bill M.** (Westmoreland) is the **new Operating Chair**. Aaron K. (Yorkville) is 1st Vice Chair, and Woody K. (Willowdale) will serve as 2nd Vice Chair. The **three juniors moving up to senior positions** are Florence B. (Noon Rap), John C. (Half Century), and Rick Mc.C. (Six Points). **Election for Junior Positions:** The prerequisites for this position were read from the P & G. Nominations were taken from the Floor; four members stood for election. After the votes were tallied, the **three new junior members** are Glenn G. (East York), Isabel D. (Trial & Error), and Peter J. (Markland Wood).

MOTION to destroy ballots moved by Bill J. (Friendly) and seconded by Don (Kingsway). MOTION IS CARRIED.

At this point in the meeting, Bill M. took over as Chair. He thanked both Roy and Michael for facilitating the election process, and also thanked all who participated in the election.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESS ABILITY – Donna MacQ. (Sunnyside), Chairperson

The committee attended District 22 Service Day in September; all went well. Accessible meetings are now listed separately on the website (listed by days of the week). Donna asked if groups would please let the website know the address of the accessible entrance to their meeting. This makes it easier for the Wheeltrans service. There has been a change to the Buddies List: this service not only has volunteers willing to escort disabled people to meetings, it also includes members willing to e-mail or communicate by phone. Please call 234 if you want to volunteer. Committee volunteers needed. **Next meeting:** Sun. Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. at 234.

Ad hoc COMMITTEE – Lynn B. (City Central), Chairperson

Lynn announced that the ad hoc committee is formally finished. He asked members from the Floor who served on the committee to stand up and be acknowledged for their efforts; they were given applause. Lynn continued: "The God of my understanding never works in straight lines...I'm trusting in the process; the vote last month was a strong vote for change. The change may not be in the form you're voting on; but I do believe that the process will move towards significant change. I think the process itself is healthy." The Floor applauded Lynn's efforts.

ARCHIVES – Roy R. (Trial & Error), Chairperson

Roy reminded all of the upcoming Archives Breakfast this Sun. Nov 2 at the Oasis Convention Centre. Two local speakers (adding up to over 100 years of sobriety), door prizes, and lucky draws are highlighted. One of the prizes is a tape of Pete W. speaking in Brownsville, Texas. **Next meeting:** Fri. Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

CORRECTIONS – no report. **Next meeting:** Mon. Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

CPC – Courtney R. (Living Sober), committee member

At the September meeting, District 06 and 14 were represented. The committee gave a presentation at the District 22 Service Day. CPC will also give a presentation at the upcoming District 14 Service Day on Nov. 15. A presentation was give at PACE Consulting (an organization of EAP professionals) at their Oct.3 management meeting. District 14 have distributed the AA business cards and holders in doctor's offices. The committee received 1,000 cards as well as 2,500 Beginner Pamphlets and holders. If members need these items for distribution, please contact the CPC committee c/o 234. In tandem with Public Information, CPC has written the Paramedic Association to see if they're interested in carrying our business cards. There is a medicine convention at the downtown Sheraton in late Nov. **Next meeting:** Mon. Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2009 – Florence B. (Noon Rap), Operating Committee Liaison

The committee is starting strong. Volunteers are needed. The meeting is on the last Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at 234; **next meeting** is Nov. 24. At the last meeting, 10 members attended. More information about this event will be available in the upcoming months.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 – Lisa W. (Welcome), Graphics Coordinator

Placards and flyers/registration forms for the event were provided at this meeting. Theme: The Joy of Living. An early bird draw is available; members can win a stay at the hotel. Information and registration will be available on line.

PUBLIC INFORMATION - Courtney R. (Living Sober), committee member

District 10 provided the P.I. display at the Gay pride event in June. The committee also presented at District 22 Service Day. A letter has been prepared and agreed upon to send to schools offering information about speaking engagements. A talk was scheduled at the Etobicoke Alternative School, but had to be rescheduled due to perceived affiliation issues. A talk was given at Seneca Residence. P.I. also presented at a Wellness Fair Oct.9, and on Oct. 22 at East York Hospital Info Fair. The committee is creating a database for schools, for information such as location, guidance officer contacts, principal contacts, etc. Currently, they have 460 schools listed from the Toronto District School Board. Volunteers needed. **Next meeting:** Mon. Nov.17 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

RECEPTION – Florence B., Operating Committee member: 53 reps and 8 alternates were present tonight.

TREATMENT FACILITIES – no report. Next meeting: Thurs. Nov.20 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TWELFTH STEP – Florence B. (Noon Rap), Operating Committee Liaison

The committee is working on a needs analysis for the new phone system. Volunteers are needed for this committee (phone scheduling, Greeter Captains, etc.). **Next meeting:** Fri. Nov.28 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

WEBSITE/BETTER TIMES – Marvyn W. (Streetsville Action), Chairperson

A sincere thank you to Andy C. (Bathurst Group) who rotated off the Website/Better Times committee as Webmaster. Andy has been a very dedicated and loyal committee member, and has done an awesome job. George H. (Primary Purpose) has been appointed 2008-2009 Webmaster. George can be reached at webmaster@aaontario.org. The subcommittee e-mail addresses are available on the Contact Page of www.aaontario.org. The Referendum and Notice of Motion attachments can be found under 'Documents' on www.aaontario.org. **Better Times:** November Issue: November is a month of Remembrance. **Two Initiatives:** "Things We Cannot Change" Insert to be published with February edition. "Things We Cannot Change" insert

forms enable your group to list all members that have passed during 2008. The insert is not edged in stone; we want you group's input on your passing member (keep it at a 20-25 word limit). This must be sent to us by e-mail, fax, or hand-delivered to 234 or the Intergroup Meeting by January 10, 2009. **Holiday Season Issue:** We require all Candlelight and Gratitude Meetings to be given to us by November 15, 2008 for the December issue. We also require meetings that will be confirmed to be open or cancelled over the Holiday period from December 15 – January 1. We are also looking for articles for the December, January, and February Better Times. **Next meeting:** Sat. Nov.8 at 1 p.m. at 234.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg H. (Hill): This past month I've seen a flurry of e-mails going back and forth. It disturbs me that addresses are always on all the e-mails. I saw the entire e-mail group list three times. I think this flies in the face of anonymity. I know of other lists that have been co-opted by other groups...I think a policy of blind carbon copying needs to be implemented. I don't think a Motion is required; I think it needs to be stated and understood.

Gord H. (Bloordale): I have a question for the Operating Committee. The question is: is what was sent out -- Schedule 'A', the Notice of Motion, and then the proposed Procedures – this proposed Procedures [document] is not part of the Motion, is that correct? May I ask how the new Procedures will be incorporated? Florence B. (Noon Rap): My understanding is that, in the interest of disclosure, it shows how it would appear should the Motion go through. Gord: The Operating Procedures calls for any changes go through the groups in a form of Referendum. These proposed changes to the Operating Procedures have been voted upon. So the only way it should be part of the Operating Procedures is the process [of Referendum]. Fran H. (Bloordale): The reason we're sending out the proposed changes to the Procedures was only to give people an idea of how the Procedures would look, for those of you who are interested. Generally what happens when a Referendum takes place is the Referendum is passed, and then someone in the Office will incorporate those changes into the Procedures. Gord: I have to differ with that. The only way the Procedures can be changed is that it's voted on by the members of the groups. That's the only way, and that's according to Section 11. Is that correct? Romana K. (Rox Glen Traditional): I just want to clarify. The reason why the proposed Procedures was sent out was because it reflects the changes of what the Motion is. So, what we're voting on will actually be reflected in the Procedures. Fran: No – not totally. It was put together very quickly, and it was only for the convenience of the membership if they want to see the reflected changes. Romana: So it won't exactly be this document? Fran: No. Romana: So we are voting on changing the Procedures. Fran: Yes. That's what the Motion is about. Michael O'H. (Richmond Hill): ...the thing that was sent out as a document: as Fran was saying, there's a whole bunch of places that it's not correct; it's flawed. But it's just a general outline. All this information is good for us to know, but it's not to be voted on, and that will be sorted out later I'm sure.

Deadline for Referendum vote: Dec.29, 2008.

Joe (Half Century): Joe had a question about the second Motion that was recorded in the October minutes; was this recorded correctly? Numbers for and against were not recorded. Bill M. (Westmoreland), Operating Chair, answered that the second Motion on page 9 was indeed correctly recorded. Bill: The Motion was if there was anybody changing their vote after hearing the voice of the Minority, and no one raised their hand.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, November 25 at 8 p.m. at Glebe Rd. United Church.

