

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Peter J. (Markland Wood) read the Twelve Traditions. **THOSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** A Place to Share, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Chartwell, Credit Valley, East York, Fellowship, Half Century, K.F., Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kipling, Lakeshore, Lawrence Plaza, Leslie, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, New Anchor, Open Hands, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Prince Edward, Restoration & Recovery, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Royal York, St. Patricks, Stepping Stones Disc., Sunnyside, Tuesday Night Disc., Twelve Steps, Unionville, Welcome, Weston Sunday Open, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 04, 14, and 18. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, 1st Vice, Corrections, ORC 2009, Website/Newsletter.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – November 2008 : MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Michael O’H. (Richmond Hill) and seconded by Derek (Beverly Hills). CARRIED.

CHAIRPERSON’S OPENING REMARKS – Bill M. (Westmoreland), **Operating Chairperson:** Bill thanked 1st Vice Chair, Aaron K., for filling in as Chair of the November meeting. Bill also thanked the groups and members for “a fantastic year” (donations, literature sales, etc.). The membership response to the new literature policy has been amazing. We’d like to continue working hard and creating an atmosphere where we are welcoming and serving the still-suffering alcoholic.

7th Tradition: \$132.18

FINANCE REPORT – Gregg W. (Rox Glen Traditional), **Finance Chairperson:** This has been a successful year. Gregg likened the overwhelming support through group donations/gratitude donations as “a tsunami”! Gregg reflected that, in the past, “we were losing ground”; fortunately, this is no longer the case. Groups and members have responded very positively, and Gregg was pleased to report a surplus of over \$50,000. Gregg also presented the proposed budget for 2009. Items listed for consideration: anticipating a donations figure decrease by 10%; an anticipated reduction of literature sales. Expenses are estimated at \$218,600. The result is a ‘break-even’ budget of +\$2,500. Allowances were made for changes in exchange rates (literature). Thanks to past OC Chair, Harold Y. (Port Credit), who was instrumental in helping the Finance Committee with the budget over the last two years. **Questions after report:** Jeff S. asked about the Prudent Reserve figure. Gregg replied that we had been up around \$120,000 at one time; this would have to be researched back through previous Minutes. Harold Y. (Port Credit) added that the GSO recommendation for a prudent reserve amount is one year’s operating expenses. Derek (Beverly Hills) asked about the budget figure for phones/internet/office equipment. Gregg answered that the Twelfth Step committee is requesting a new phone system as ours is old and needs updating; the figure listed for this task is \$14,150. This also includes expenses for the above. Bill R. (Bellamy) inquired about the Prudent Reserve figure on the auditor’s statement. Gregg replied that we need to get the auditor’s opinion on this item, as it is not clear-cut due to fluctuations in book value and market value. Elaine G. (Port Credit) inquired about the \$6,000 (Legal & Audit) budget figure. Gregg answered that this issue was raised in October 2007 regarding the outside audit concerning Cost of Goods Sold. Also, last year was a full-audit year; this represents an increase in our audit costs. Jane F. (Kipling): asked about savings bonds. Gregg replied that they are Quebec bonds.

MOTION to accept the 2009 Budget as presented moved by Michael O’H. (Richmond Hill) and seconded by Frank (Weston Sunday Open). CARRIED.

Subcommittee Reports

ACCESS ABILITY – Tom S. (Saturday Morning Disc.): Access Ability will be involved in the upcoming ‘People in Motion’ Conference at Exhibition Place. As this is a national conference, GSO covers the costs for participating in the event. **Next meeting:** Sun. Jan.18 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Bob D. (Weston Sunday Open): Bob reminded Reps to return monies/tickets from the Archives Breakfast held in November. Bob also thanked the young lady member for her donation of a laptop computer. The committee continues to catalogue the repository, and has created a sign-off sheet for archival materials received. **Next meeting:** Fri. Jan.9 at 7 p.m. at 234.

CORRECTIONS – Niels B. (Hill): *From hard copy report:* As requested by several members, I have booked the Boardroom for our next Correctional Facilities meeting for Sat. Jan.3, 2009 at 3 p.m. Refreshments will be served. This will be a good-bye party for the outgoing members and a welcome for the incoming ones. An active correctional facilities committee is a vital link to prisons and jails, providing professionals and other workers in these facilities with information about AA, literature, and guidelines for setting up AA groups on the Inside. The aim of this combined meeting is to provide information about the GTA Correctional Facilities process – from the formation of a new correctional facilities committee to the functions such a committee can perform. We will suggest ways for the new C.F. Chairs in which AA members can best do C.F. work, as well as suggested local activities for each district. Please pass this on to the newly elected C.F. Chairs.

CPC – no report. **Next meeting:** Mon. Jan.12 at 7 p.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2009 – Jim A. (Leslie): This event is a joint venture, sponsored by both Toronto Intergroup and the 9 Service Districts. The event will take place on Sat., May 30 2009 at the Lansing United Church. Theme of the event is ‘Service with Gratitude’ and is celebrating its 30th year. GSO Speaker will be Mary D. (she is in charge of CPC), and the day will also feature an address from our Area 83 Delegate. The event includes a potluck luncheon. Tickets: \$5. Tickets/Flyers will be made available in the New Year. **Next meeting:** Mon. Jan.26 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

ORC 2009 – Kathleen McD., 2009 Chair: So far, 45 people have registered for the event. For those who register early, the will be early-bird draws every month. Volunteer forms for Greeters at the ORC are available at 234 and on the website. **E-mail address:** orc@aatoronto.org. **Phone number:** 416-487-2677. Registration cost is \$30. Deadline for pre-registration: March 6. The committee is accepting gifts from groups /members for the Newcomer room. The event theme is ‘The Joy of Living’ and will be held at the Fairmont-Royal York Hotel on March 20, 21, and 22.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – no report. **Next meeting:** Mon. Jan.19 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TREATMENT FACILITIES – no report. **Next meeting:** Thurs. Jan.16 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TWELFTH STEP – Tom S. (Saturday Morning Discussion): The committee held a Volunteer Appreciation Day on Dec 14. 50 people were in attendance. This committee is looking at technically ‘streamlining’ phones and internet service at 234. Tom asked Reps to report Holiday Meeting confirmations/cancellations to 234. **Next meeting:** Fri. Jan.30 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

WEBSITE/BETTER TIMES – Elaine G. (Port Credit), **Newsletter Co-Editor:** An insert for the ORC is included in the latest issue, along with a Holiday meeting insert. The Website is being updated daily. The “Things We Cannot Change” insert will be in the Feb. issue; deadline for this item is Jan.10. The website is receiving 1,000 hits a day. Brian is the new Alternate Webmaster. **Next meeting:** Sat. Jan.10 at 1 p.m. at 234.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE – Marv W. (Mississauga): 9 people serve on this committee. Set-up for the event begins at 7 a.m. There will be three closed meetings (45 minutes each; 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.). An Al-Anon meeting is at 2 p.m. AA keynote speaker is at 1:15 p.m., and a Gratitude Meeting will be held at 3 p.m. There has been a lot of volunteer interest already; 75 positions of the 76 possible positions have been filled. Food donations: please bring pop, juice, desserts, etc.

RECEPTION – Rick Mc.C (Six Points), **Operating Committee member**: 39 reps/alternates, and 7 districts/
Chairs were represented tonight.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business

Bill R. (Bellamy) asked about subcommittee reports; one committee was not included. Bill replied that it was (tape not clear; member did not approach the mike).

Elaine G. (Port Credit) asked about the schedule 'A' for the Referendum – shouldn't this be given to all AA members? Bill replied that the process is that members of a group vote on this at their business meeting, so each member's vote present at the business meeting is recorded.

Bill M., Operating Chair, **placed a request for ORC 2011 Chairperson resumes.**

CLOSING REMARKS: Bill thanked all members for their service, and wished everyone Happy Holidays and a safe and sober New Year.

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