

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

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, Amazing Grace, Anniversary, Aurora, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloorville, Church Street, City Central, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Golden Mile, Half Century, High Park, Hill, K.F., Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Maple, Mississauga, Mount Dennis, Mount Royal-York, New Anchor, Open Hands, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Prince Edward, Restoration & Recovery, Rexdale United, Royal York, Saturday Morning Disc., St. Clements, St. Patricks, Stepping Stones Disc., Streetsville, Sunday Northwestern, Sunnyside, Trial & Error, Tuesday Night Disc., Turning Point, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, Unionville, Welcome, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 14 and 18. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Access Ability, Archives, Website/Newsletter, and Twelfth Step.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – December 2008: MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Glen B. (Back to Basics) and seconded by Derek (Beverly Hills). MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Bill M. (Westmoreland): Bill wished all present a Happy New Year, and welcomed new Reps to Intergroup. He remarked that it's shaping up to be a busy year, and hopes that tasks will get completed through a spirit of cooperation.

Collection of the 7th Tradition, which totaled \$162.49.

FINANCE REPORT – Bruce L. (Back to Basics): We have finished off the year 2008 on a high note; our net income was \$53,000 over budget. Donations were down a bit in December, but things look good so far. **Questions:** Joe (Half Century) asked about the new literature price list. Harold Y. (Port Credit), past Operating Chair, stated that the new list will be coming out in July.

Subcommittee Reports

ACCESS ABILITY – Donna McQ. (Sunnyside): the committee has received an invitation to Mayfest (A yearly cultural Festival for the Deaf). Donna asked members to please ask their group to list if they are willing to allow ASL interpreters at their closed discussions; also, please list the group's accessible entrance address if it is different than the group main entrance (For Wheeltrans/TTC purposes). The committee welcomes able-bodied members to join their committee. **Next meeting: Sun. Feb.15 at 11 a.m. at 234.**

ARCHIVES – Roy R. (Trial & Error): the committee is still short 25 tickets from the Archives Breakfast held in Nov. A laptop computer was donated to the committee for the repository; this was greatly appreciated. The 4th annual Archives Workshop will be in April; more details to follow. The Archives Committee Operating Procedures document is complete, and will be forwarded to the Operating Committee for consideration. **Next meeting: Fri. Feb.13 at 7 p.m. at 234.**

CORRECTIONS: no report. **Next meeting: Wed. Feb.4 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

CPC – Courtney R. (Living Sober): at the last committee meeting, 5 districts were represented. The table reviewed lessons learned in 2008. The incoming CPC Chair is Peter B. (Beaches). **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.9 at 7 p.m. at 234.**

INFORMATION AA DAY – 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 February. **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.23 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE – Tim R. (Chartwell): For those who register early, they 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@aatonto.org. **Phone number:** 416-487-2677. Deadline for ORC Volunteer forms: Feb.2. Registration cost is \$30. Deadline for pre-registration: March 6. The event theme is ‘The Joy of Living’ and will be held at the Fairmont-Royal York Hotel on March 20, 21, and 22. Banquet Speaker will be Clancy I. from California, who has over 50 years of sobriety.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: no report. **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.16 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

TREATMENT FACILITIES – Greg H. (Hill): the last committee meeting was poorly attended due to weather. In District 12, there is a new service meeting at a men’s hostel located at 973 Lansdowne Ave. **Next meeting: Thurs. Feb.19 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

TWELFTH STEP – Jim O. (Markland Wood): Jim thanked reps for calling for phone volunteers at their groups; as a result, there are lots of new volunteers that came forward. This committee needs members to serve on this committee as monthly Greeter Captains. One year of continuous sobriety is required. **Next meeting: Fri. Feb.27 at 7 p.m. at 234.**

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER – Marv W. (Mississauga): Marv will be rotating out as Chair on Jan.30. He thanked all present for the opportunity to serve in this capacity for the last two years. **Newsletter:** The February edition is out; featured articles are on the ORC, and the “Things We Cannot Change” insert, listing those deceased members who have passed in the last year. This committee will now have two Co-Editors (Elaine G. /Port Credit, and Mary/Restoration & Recovery). **Website:** There is a new Webmaster (George) and an Alternate Webmaster (Brian). All changes/requests please e-mail webmaster@aatonto.org. **Questions:** Larry (St. Clements) inquired as to whether there can be some explanation put on the site explaining the difference between a closed discussion meeting and an open speaker meeting. Marv replied that recommendations for a solution to this item can be forwarded to the Webmaster. **Next meeting: Sat. Feb.14 at 1 p.m. at 234.**

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2008 – Marv W. (Mississauga): The event, held on Christmas Day, was very successful. There were more people in attendance and more members volunteering this year than in the past. Expenses for event were \$1,583; donations were \$1,193.93. Therefore, the event had a total expense of around \$400.

RECEPTION – Rick McC. (Six Points): 63 reps/alternates, and 5 districts/Chairs were present this evening.

Unfinished Business

Referendum Results: Bill announced that the recent referendum **passed by a vote of 64.5% in favour of the Motion.**

In light of the above item, Bill requested that a **Transition Committee be formed** in light of the referendum result. He emphasized that he would like to invite all the Districts to get involved with this process (length of sobriety for this committee was recommended at a year of continuous sobriety). A formal document outlining the changes in order to “make the Procedures and Guidelines a workable document” that would ideally be ready by April 28 of this year. Bill stated that there will have to be another Referendum for this completed document. This committee would meet on Saturdays at 234. Anyone interested, please phone 234.

Dee T. (Streetsville Group): commented on the November General Meeting Minutes and Gord H.'s (Bloordale) comments from those Minutes (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?" Reg S., Chairman, replied: "No - It is not part of the Motion. Gord H. (Bloordale): "May I ask how the new Procedures will be incorporated?" Reg. S, Chairman, replied: "The new procedures will have to follow as per the Operating Procedures Sect 11; they will have to be voted upon again and followed by a referendum".) Dee stated: "The Streetsville Group voted on the premise that the Procedures were not part of the Motion."

Bill: "That unfortunately was a mistake. The Motion was about changing the Procedures; that's why there was a Referendum. To change the Procedures there has to be a Referendum. The document that was sent out was a *possible rough draft* that was not to be included as part of the Motion. It was an idea of what it *may or may not* look like. That is what this Transition Committee is going to do. It is going to make a workable document in *the spirit of the Motion.*"

Dee: (*tape unclear*)..."Whatever's supposed to be good for AA and what's best for AA...at my business meeting, we trust that these words mean something. So what you're saying is no matter what it says is not right, but that's what we voted on...(*tape unclear*)...It's this method whereby we're asked to vote on three items...what I'm suggesting is that we take a look at that, and if it's too late for this, that each one be looked at individually, so that the essence of the vote which comes back to us here is a true representation of the meeting that we say we're representing." He asked that the Floor take this in to consideration with any future votes.

Bill: "Your point is duly noted."

Katie K. (Hill) inquired about "an approval process" in future. Bill responded: "There's not another approval process. What was passed will be made into a proper document, in the spirit of what was put out there, which will be approved by the Floor. Nothing is going to be jammed down anyone's throat. That's why we would like as many people and as many districts as possible to come and sit on this (Transition) committee, so that we can get this thing done smoothly and properly. The actual transition may take a long time, but we would like a document on the 28th of April to present to you."

Conrad (Yorkville) concurred with Dee, and was confused with the actual transition process.

Harold Y. (Port Credit): "Because of our Procedures & Guidelines as they are, we could not change anything in the actual document. Once the Motion was put on the Floor, nothing could be changed. So, I think the spirit of the thing was that things like 'Executive Committee' for example, was a crow in my bonnet, as with others...but to change a line in the document, we have to follow our Procedures as they were written to do that. So, the plan was that after the Referendum went through, the P & G as they were written -- and with the Referendum vote -- is what we are working with today. The Transition committee is going to do two things: it's going to clean up the mess...and the other thing is to put in a plan as to when all this is going to look like i.e. the subcommittee structure. All that we will get on the 28th of April is a direction."

Gord H. (Bloordale Group) asked how many groups returned their vote, and what the actual numbers were (52 groups out of 195 submitted their votes, and the actual numbers were 531 for, and 292 against). He also commented that Reg S.'s answered to Gord's question in November was answered correctly.

Lynn B. (City Central) remarked that He added that we will not need a Referendum for the changes, as "we are in uncharted territory" regarding the changes voted upon. "We will need a whole new document". Lynn commented that there will be changes to service roles, structures, etc. and that we will need new wording for the P&G to reflect the changes voted upon. He added that we will not need a Referendum for the changes.

Peter J. (Markland Wood): “The 800-pound gorilla in the room is the fact that there’s really lackluster participation, as evidenced by the number of people that voted. The people that showed up and voted have really strong opinions...the committee that’s going to make the changes; this is really pivotal to Intergroup...get involved. Sign up.”

A lively discussion continued. Wes B. (Long Branch) summed up by opining that “we have difficulty with change” and admitted there were some mistakes made; however, “the numbers say a definite need for change” and recommended that members join the Transition committee to get involved with this process.

New Business

Florence B. (Noon Rap), Operating Committee member, **called for nominations for the Info AA Day 2010 Chairperson.** Mary (R&R) nominated Marv W. (Mississauga), and the nomination was seconded by Elaine G. (Port Credit). Marv accepted the nomination, and will be the Chair for the 2010 event.

Bill called for resumes for the ORC 2011 Chair. Deadline for resumes will be Feb.28. Please send all resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.

Lynn B. (City Central) asked all former members of the ad hoc committee to meet for discussion.

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tues.Feb.24 at 8 p.m. at Glebe Rd United Church.