

BETTER TIMES



25¢

APRIL 2008

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How To Reach Us:

Submit group news, medallions Other event notices, letters to the editor or articles to *BETTER TIMES* (before the 10th of the month prior to the month of the issue), by mail, fax or email. Only signed submissions with a means of contact will be accepted. For subscriptions call Alexx 416-487-8110.

COMING SOON!

www.aatoronto.org

Group "Poster"

Please pin it up on your group's Literature board.

INFORMATION AA DAY - 2008

If you are not involved in service in AA, please come and see what it is all about. If you are involved, please come out and hear about other areas of service that may interest you. Info AA Day is on May 31, 2008, to be held at Lansing United Church, 49 Bogert Ave., Toronto. The theme this year is **Experience, Strength & Service** "*Action is the Key*". It is one of the best events of the year! If you can bring a dish for our potluck lunch that would be great, but is not mandatory. The cost to attend is \$5.00. Tickets are available from your group General Service Rep (GSR), your Intergroup Rep or at the door.

All the Service Committees from Intergroup and General Service are represented on this day. Dot D. our Area Delegate will be back from the General Service Conference in New York and will give her report. A guest speaker from the General Service Office will also be there to share with us their experience. This is a day for you to see what service is all about. If you have ever wondered how Alcoholics Anonymous works outside of the group, then this is for you! Registration opens at 8:00 am and there is an early bird meeting at 8:45

am. There will be a potluck lunch and fellowship. Become involved...be a part of the Action. We believe Action is the Key. It is not just giving back to Alcoholics Anonymous that makes service so great; it is being a part of AA and being with service people. When I look around in a room of people that are involved with service, I see members of Alcoholics Anonymous having fun. Don't let others have all the fun. If you would like to know more, join us on this day. *You won't be sorry.*

Kim S.

*2008 Info AA Day Chair
Kingsway Group*

STREETSVILLE ACTION GROUP – 25 YEARS!

The first meeting of the group (an open meeting) was held at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday February 14th, 1983 (St. Valentine's Day) at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 295 Queen Street South, Streetsville, Ontario. Among those present were David W, Ross and Tim C.

The group continued to hold open meetings every Wednesday evening from that day on, until some time in the 1990's when our group conscience meeting decided to change the format of the last meeting of each month to be a closed step discussion

meeting. All other meetings were still open.

In July 2003, the group approached the church and received permission to hold closed meetings every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. in addition to our regular 8:30 p.m. open meeting. At first this was on a 6-month trial basis but the meetings became well attended and they are now held on a permanent basis – we normally have a beginner's room (Steps 1, 2 & 3) and a rotating Step 4 through 12 room.

Currently the group membership is healthy, with upward of 15 members, and we have

members with varying lengths of sobriety from 1 to almost 20 years. We welcome many visiting members from other groups, and thank them wholeheartedly for their support of our group. You have been an integral part of our history, and deserve to be recognized as such.

Streetsville Action Group is proud to be celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary today (Wednesday, February 20th, 2008) and looks forward to helping the still-suffering alcoholic for the next twenty-five years at least... **one day at a time!**

YOURS IN SERVICE, PETER B.

Letter To The Editor (An Old-Timer Speaks About Problems Endangering AA)

On February 22nd, AA will have given me the gift of sobriety for 37 years and not one day has gone by where I realized that every day that AA has given me has been an extension on my life. It's been a wonderful journey, but this letter is not about me. It's about the concern I have.

In the Feb. issue there is an article *Problems Endangering AA Meetings*. First of all, I would like to say **God Bless You** to the old-timer who stopped "Jim the Addict" and reminded him that he was at a closed meeting of AA and couldn't participate unless he had a problem with alcohol, and then being attacked by other supposed AA members who seemingly do not support or practice AA principles, "singleness of purpose" and their 3rd Tradition. This is very sad for AA. I have been reading from a report in the 57th 2007 final General Service Conference and I quote, "if the measure of growth is a comparison, over time, of the number of groups and members within the conference area as reported in our final reports, it can be concluded that AA is not growing and has not since 1990". It goes on to say, "Is it possible that AA in many ways, including how we belong and how we relate to one another may be *morphing* into something else? Is it becoming *everything anonymous*, as many fear it may be?" Of course, it is changing because we are allowing it.

We need more leadership, more members who have the courage and the principles to stand up and be counted as true AA members. I still go to groups that are listed as AA groups and sometimes I leave the meeting wondering if I made a mistake and ended up in a NA or CA meeting. I've heard many times in AA that Bill W. our co-founder was supposed to have said that if AA were ever destroyed, it would be from within. In my humble opinion, it's in full process now and as the report states it has been since 1990 and it's a very alarming state, at least it should be for all of us who owe our lives to AA.

As for the group who attacked the old timer, I hope you come to your senses (step 2) and realize the damage that is being done to AA. I find it an effort to understand how AA members find it so difficult to grasp the primary purpose. We AA's only exist for two reasons: *To stay sober* and *to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety*. This is read at just about every meeting I've attended in the last 37 years.

Thank God for AA, and I thank AA for my life, and dear God, protect us from ourselves.

Yours In AA, Bob D., Friendly Group

BETTER TIMES wants to send a special thanks to John P. for his dedicated and excellent job as desktop publisher. His work will live on. THANK YOU JOHN!

Tradition Four: *Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.*

New apartment. I moved from a 1-bedroom to a 3-bedroom. List longer than my arm of Things To Do: Clean windows; unpack books, cover plates to replace the painted-over ones, fix wiring on switches; new faucets, new bathroom cabinet, paint kitchen cupboards. You get the idea. Get one thing done each day, don't overdo things.

I find two tasks are not moving from my list. New tasks are being added, old tasks are being done, but two tasks seem remarkably resilient, and won't budge: "fix wiring on switches" and "new faucets".

In a quiet moment, it dawns on me: Tradition Four has permeated my life. If I fix the wiring on the switches, I could blow power in the building, and in myself; fuse boxes, rubber gloves and sneakers notwithstanding. If I install new faucets, I could flood a couple of floors below me; towels and stop-valves notwithstanding.

The smart move, for me at any rate, is to recognize that painting kitchen cupboards and cleaning windows can have little impact on my neighbors, or the building as a whole. I can be autonomous in those things. But making contact with services that permeate the building might be better referred to a more central authority.

Chris G., Bloordale Group

**"The Heaviest Thing I Carry Is A
'grudge'."**

**Assistant is reqd. for
Archive Repository**

Contact Maire O.
archivist_area83@sympatico.ca

John D. Rockefeller

Bill W. always attributed AA's self-support concept to John D. Rockefeller Jr. Though some would disagree. Regardless, John D. was an important factor in the evolution of AA history.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. was scrupulously careful with money all of his life. Yet, however contradictory, he was a major philanthropist. He was a lifelong teetotaler, yet argued against the Eighteenth Amendment to repeal Prohibition. He authored the inscription on the Rockefeller Center stating *I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, a living obligation; every possession, a duty.* He lived by this noted life principle.

Although his financial input to the fledgling society was relatively minimal, he focused attention on AA, supporting its establishment by sending his associate, Frank Amos, to Akron to investigate 'with a fine tooth comb', as Bill W. would write later. Frank reported the obvious in the 50+ recovered Akron AA members that Feb. of '38, who in turn, expressed their high praise for Dr. Bob. John D. backed Frank's recommendations and provided \$5000 for Bill and Dr. Bob under the allocation of Willard Richardson and his associates. His only admonition was that if they needed more money, the AA's could fund-raise. His main interest was in abstinence and what AA was doing by its approach.

Willard Richardson, an associate in the Rockefeller philanthropies had been approached by Bill W.'s brother in law, Leonard Strong, with hopes of financial backing. He approached John D. Rockefeller whose strong Baptist roots evoked his attention regarding the abstinent aspect. He decided to back the movement. Alcoholics Anonymous owes a debt of gratitude to a principled man who, along with others, envisioned the

possibility of 'one alcoholic helping another' and agreed with others in his employ who forecast that demise would eventuate with 'outside financing'.

Bernadette M, King City Group

Have You Heard?

Recent Medallions:

Eugene S. 35	Prince Edward	Mar.3
Dick H. 25	Back To Basics	Mar.7
Jerome R. 25	Back To Basics	Mar.14
Betty M. 30	Erin Mills	Mar.17
Terry W. 15	King City	Mar.17
Kathleen McD. 15	Rox Glen Trad.	Mar.20

Upcoming Medallions:

Arthur W. 1	Back To Basic	Apr.4
Suzan C. 5	Back To Basic	Apr.4
Scott M. 10	Bloodale	Apr.6
Robert M. 20	Westmoreland	Apr.8
Michael M.20	Westmoreland	Apr.15
Dawn N. 5	Thornhill	Apr.16
Mike C. 1	Bloodale	Apr.23
Chris G. 20	Bloodale	Apr.25

New Meetings:

As of Apr.17: Thurs. 12:15 to 1:15 (C) Open Topic disc. Mtg., Wideman Mennonite Church, Lower Hall, 10530 Hwy.48, Markham, ON. Entrance at the south door, facing the parking lot. No Smoking. Coffee available.

Meeting Changes:

Tuesday Night Discussion Group, Downsview United Church, meet Tuesday nights at 7PM for 12 & 12 meeting, and on Thursday at 8PM for Big Book Disc.

Upcoming Events:

District 13 Annual Spring Roundup

April 5th at 9AM at the Leisureplex, Fort Erie, ON. Dinner and dance, along with plenty of panels. \$10

21st Annual Brampton Springathon

Saturday Apr. 12th at the Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre, 30 Loafer's Lake Lane, Brampton ON (near Kennedy and Sandalwood). AA and catered lunch. Reg \$17.

Back To Basics celebrates 16 years on Apr.18. All are welcome for food, fellowship and cake. Enjoy!

Orletta Disc. Group

will be holding a special 25th anniversary open speaker meeting on Apr.25. Contact is Richard 416 535-0364

East York AA Roundup

Sat. Apr.26 11AM St. Columbia Church, 2723 St. Clair Ave. E. AA panels, Alanon, Alateen, askit basket, sobriety countdown, keynote speaker, pot-luck dinner. 7th at the door.

Bancroft New Hope Group 29th Annual One Day Roundup, Sat. Apr.26 12-8PM, Legion Banquet Hall, Station St., Bancroft ON. AA and Alanon speakers, \$10. For info contact 613 332-3404 or 613 332-5910.

Info AA Day Sat, May 31 at 8:30AM Lansing United Church, 40 Bogert Ave., Toronto (Sheppard Subway). Committee presentation, delegates' reports and a GSO speaker. \$5 with potluck lunch.

Trillium 2008 annual ON South

Alanon/Alateen Convention with a full AA program. Theme: **The Family Gift Of Recovery** Doubletree International Plaza Hotel, 655 Dixon Road, Toronto. June 27-28-29, 2008.

Niagara Blossom Time Convention May 2, 3 & 4. Crown Plaza Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON.

www.blossomtimeconvention.com

50th Intnational Conference of Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous (ICYPAA), July 3-6, Oklahoma City, Okl.

2008 Spring-A-Thon, Fri Apr.25, 6PM to 10PM Sat. Apr. 26, 9AM to midnight, Travellodge Hotel, 1376 Carling Ave & Queensway, Ottawa, ON.

www.ottawaaa.org

GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP
MONTHLY BOARDROOM BOOKINGS FOR SUB-COMMITTEES

*Subcommittees meet at the Intergroup Office (234 Eglinton AveE.Suite 202)

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:

Every first Monday of the month at 7PM

SELF-SUPPORT:

Every first Wednesday of the month at 7PM

TWELFTH STEP:

Every last Friday of the month at 6:30PM

ARCHIVES;

Every 2nd Friday of the month at 7PM

WEBSITE/Better Times:

Every 2nd Saturday of the month at 1PM

COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL

COMMUNITY (CPC):

Every second Monday of the month at 7PM

ACCESS ABILITY:

Every third Sunday of the month at 11AM

PHONE TRAINING SSISSION:

Every third Sunday of the month at 1:30PM

TREATMENT FACILITIES:

Every third Thursday of the month at 7:30PM

INFORMATION AA DAY:

Every last Monday at 7:30 PM

PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Every third Monday of the month at 7:30PM

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE*:

Second-last Tuesday of the month at 4:30pm

(*non-committee members: attendance by appointment only)

OPERATING COMMITTEE*:

Second-last Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM

(*non-committee members: attendance by appointment only)

THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING OF GTA INTERGROUP is held on the last Tuesday of the month at 8PM at the Glebe Road United Church - 20 Glebe Rd E, off Yonge St.. (near Davisville subway)

***Phone 234 to ensure the meeting you want to attend isn't cancelled during any particular month....**

OVERHEARD AT A MEETING!

SOME OF MY
MOST VIVID MEMORIES
NEVER HAPPENED!

by
Dave N.



Idea submitted by
A FRIEND

February '08 Intergroup Report Summary...

FINANCE REPORT

(GREGG W., ROX GLEN TRAD.) Jan./08 ran at a deficit. Group donations were low this month. 2007 Tax Receipts have been corrected and mailed out(407). Proposed 2008 budget to be discussed in "Other Business". Audit is complete Lynn B. (City Central) pointed out an 8% difference from October 2007 that needed to be investigated. Gregg stated there was and it had been adjusted for 2008. This was not reported because the independent accounting source only identified it 2 weeks ago.

ACCESS ABILITY (Donna MacQ., Sunnyside) They have not had an Intergroup liaison reporting to their table in some months. Next Mtg. will be Sun. Mar. 9 at 11AM.

BETTERTIMES/WEBSITE (Marv W., Streetsville Action) Thanks goes to John P. (Welcome) who has rotated off and New Desktop Publisher will be Dale W from SMDG. Still

needing a secretary and circulation person. Steve L. (Meadowvale Fellowship) is the new Alt. Webmaster. Next mtg. Sat. Mar.8 1PM at 234.

ARCHIVES No report. Next mtg. Fri. Feb. 15 at 7PM

CORRECTIONS (Neils B., Hill) Table will be open at ORC. Pamphlets from each district will be available. Next mtg. Mon. Mar. 3, 7:30PM at 234.

CPC No report. Next mtg. Mon. Mar.10 at 7PM at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY (Brad H., Bayview),

Intergroup Liaison. Theme is "Experience, Strength and Service" on Sat. May 31, 8AM to 4PM at Lansing United Church (Yonge & Sheppard). Tickets are \$5 and available through GSRs. A chairperson is needed for 2009. Applicants can contact Brad at b3hall@ryerson.ca. Next mtg. is Mon. Mar.31 at 7:30PM at 234.

ORC (Rene T, Silverbirch, 2008 chairperson) Pre-registrations are on par with last years numbers. Meals will be same as last year. More conference rate hotel rooms need to be booked or we will pay a penalty. Looking forward to it.

Dr. Bob on Tradition Eleven

"We need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."

Dr. Bob, co-founder of AA, commented on Tradition Eleven as follows: "Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition.

"The AA who hides his identity from his fellow AA by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the AA who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to AA."The former is maintaining his anonymity ABOVE the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity BELOW the level of press, radio, and films - whereas the Tradition states that we should maintain our anonymity AT the level of press, radio, and films."

Reprinted from the February 1969 Grapevine

PUBLIC INFORMATION

(Bryan W., Rox Glen Trad.) Holders for pamphlets will be available at cost (\$3/holder and \$4/1000 pamphlets) for groups. Annual 1st year U of T med student workshop will be held at 234. This is a 4 day outline. PI will be sharing a table with CPC at ORC. Next mtg. is mon. Mar. 17 at 7:30PM at 234.

RECEPTION (Aaron K., Yorkville) 55 group reps, 3 districts, 8 Chairpersons and 5 guests were in attendance

TREATMENT (Mike C., Beverly Hills) NYGH may allow a 2nd service mtg. 5 Big Books and 20 Mtg. Directories for East General Detox. Heyworth house is being approached for a service mtg. Table will be at ORC. Next mtg. Thurs. Mar.20 at 7:30PM at 234.

TWELFTH STEP Next phone training session Sun. Mar. 16 at 1:30PM at 234. Next meeting is Fri. Mar. 28 at 6:30PM at 234.

OTHER BUSINESS (Harold Y, Port Credit) Copies of

2008 budget were circulated to floor, giving us a surplus of \$241 total. Much discussion took place (which can be found in detail at

www.aatoronto.org

NEW BUSINESS

Carol (Tuesday Night Disc.) put forth a motion from her group to create a special long-timer's panel that would be available as a resource to give its opinions on any issue for advice. Before the vote Lynn gave an Ad Hoc report, a Motion was carried: to go ahead and write individual Referendum motions to change the GTAI procedures and guidelines (with the understanding that members will have a chance to vote in future on all P&G changes via referendum votes. Carol's motion was withdrawn as only 3 members were in favor. Next General Meeting: Tues. Mar. 25 at 8PM at Glebe Rd. United.

NOTE: GET COPIES OF
THE MINUTES AT
www.aatoronto.org