

Intergroup Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2018

Meeting Chair: Sandy K., Intergroup Chair

- Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a Moment of Silence, followed by the Serenity Prayer
- Reading of 12 Traditions by Gilles L, Search for Serenity
- Sandy welcomed all the reps and invited the new reps to introduce themselves.
- Introductions from the floor. Groups in attendance: Fellowship, Labyrinth, Search for Serenity, Lunch-Bunch, Parkwood Hills, Maitland Group, Awakening, By the Book, New Day, Saturday Morning Westboro, Share and Care, Sunday Night Big Book, Hand in Hand, Step by Step, Venture Group, Stittsville Second Chance, District 62, Alta Vista Open Door, Carp Fellowship, Ottawa South, Uptown, Orleans Hub, Back to Basics, Co-Founders, Step Sisters, Friday Night Chelsea Big Book, Pinecrest, Hull Liberty, Lunch with Bill, First Avenue to Recovery, Beacon Hill, Laurier Sandy Hill, Discovering the Big Book, Ottawa Men's Group.
- 36 voting members present and 7 non-voting members (excluding 6 Executive members; absent Executive, Caterina C.)
- Minutes were approved as presented.
- Maitland Group asked for the addition of Group Contributions be put on the agenda. The agenda was approved without a motion as amended.

REPORTS

CHAIR PERSON: Sandy K.,

1. Intergroup has received 2 resumes for the part-time office administrator position. The newsletter editor has resigned. We are hoping there will be an election next month for a new newsletter editor.
2. Andre Pion, an acquaintance of Sandy K. has agreed to do the Financial Review of the Intergroup accounting records without charge. Cindy P has offered to assist. Jean HP asked that references for Andre Pion be reviewed prior to his doing the Financial Review.

VICE CHAIR: Harry B.

1. Harry has been attending various committee meetings, stepped in to complete the March issue of OPP with the resignation of the newsletter editor. He hopes a newsletter editor will step forward soon.
2. The master policy for insurance for groups to get insurance coverage if their churches require it is in place. \$100 for \$2 million liability per year per group. There is no cost to Intergroup.

SECRETARY: Anne D.

1. Anne explained that the February minutes were late getting out. Her intent is to have the minutes out by the weekend of the week following the Intergroup meeting (i.e. March 14th meeting, minutes published by Mar25th).
2. Anne asked new reps to complete the contact information form.

TAS COORDINATOR: Mickey R.

1. A large number (25%) of TAS shifts are unassigned. Some members are taking extra shifts if they see the shifts aren't covered. If you are available and see a shift unassigned, please take it.
2. Ottawa South Group will be having a TAS training. Sue B has trained 2 new members in taking office shifts. New sign in sheets without a space for phone numbers are now in the office. Mickey will be away for a couple of weeks. Carolyn will cover for Mickey.
3. Mickey asked if someone knows American Sign Language in order to help the hearing impaired with alcoholism, please contact him.

4. Reps were asked to please go back to their groups and ask for more help with TAS.

TREASURER: Stephen C.

1. Stephen presented the February Profit and Loss statement and balance sheet. Literature sales are about the same as last year but the gross profit is a bit higher. Audit and Legal fees show the costs for the Employment lawyer at \$1061.65. This year we have not received any fees from the Spring Conference while last year at this time we had. This year-to-date there is a loss of \$200.78.
2. There are 2 insurance policies that Intergroup pays for; liability for the office and liability for the directors. The insurance refund we received will be put into last year. That will be a reduction of expenses of \$1900.
3. A question was asked if the \$3000 Alkathon cheque is included in the \$4526.49 donations to date. Stephen said he was not sure if it was in the February or March accounting records.
4. Credit card costs – Stephen has not found a report that will tell him how many sales are being paid for by credit card, but he estimates to date between 10 to 20% of the number of invoices recorded have been paid by credit card. The cost to Intergroup is \$2.00 per transaction plus 2.9% of the total sales.

LITERATURE:

1. Sandy reported that Marie G, Laurier Sandy Hill group is helping with the literature sales before and after the Intergroup meeting. Marie expressed her interest in taking on the Literature Coordinator position.
2. Bill P., Parkwood Hills made a motion to acclaim Marie G. as Literature Coordinator. Anne R., Alta Vista Open Door seconded. Motion carried.
3. Bill P. asked if Intergroup would be marking up the prices of the literature being sold to the City of Ottawa. Sandy responded, No.

WEBMASTER: Carolyn O.

1. Carolyn told the Reps that a free widget that was being used on Ottawa AA website was no longer free and ads started showing up on the site. She didn't know why, so went back to a previous backup which was done just before the Intergroup minutes were posted in February. That is why they disappeared. The widget has been redesigned to give credit to the widget creator as the alternate to including ads.
2. The Spring Conference website will be up and running soon.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

1. Intergroup needs a new newsletter editor. Nigel L, Labyrinth Group noticed that the Office Job Description was not published in the Primary Purpose as they reps requested. Nigel also asked when the hiring committee intended on hiring. Sandy responded perhaps within 2 months, the sooner the better.

12-STEP COORDINATOR: Caterina C. (absent)

SPRING CONFERENCE: Brian

1. Carolyn has done a poster. The date for the event is May 12th at St Anthony's banquet hall. The final information for the event should be up on the website next week. Meal prices have gone up at St Anthony's so prices are yet to be finalized.
2. Al-Anon is participating, a Treasurer is needed, greeters, etc. Brian asks reps to take posters and to mention the event at their home groups.
3. The menu may be similar. Brian needs to have the numbers of vegans and vegetarians. Tickets will be available in about a week. Gene hopes to get tickets out to groups before the next Intergroup meeting.

FALL CONFERENCE: RON M (vice chair)

1. No report

MCNABB MEETING:

1. No one from Willing to Change group in attendance to present the report on the February 2018 commitment. Sandy to follow up.
2. McNabb group commitments: March 2018 – Maitland Group; April 2018 – Parkwood Hills. Search for Serenity has volunteered for May and Step by Step volunteered for June. Hull Liberty has volunteered for September and Stittsville 2nd Chance has volunteered for November. We need volunteers for July, August, October and December 2018. Groups are to bring meeting lists, coffee supplies, chips, to print out and take the McNabb meeting format which is available on the Ottawa AA website, etc. to the meeting.
3. Reminder: During the Intergroup meeting in the month after a group's commitment, the Intergroup Rep is asked to report on the McNabb 7th tradition, attendance and any issues that may have occurred. The monthly rent for McNabb is \$80.17.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Sandy asked Reps to take the information regarding a newsletter editor and the Office Administrator job postings back to their groups and to announce them at their meetings.
2. Intergroup Rep to be on Hiring Committee: Sandy again asked if anyone of the Reps would step forward to be on the hiring committee. No one volunteered.
3. Capital Plan: no update.
4. Service Charge for on-line transactions with Intergroup: Sandy asked reps if they want to vote on passing the service charges on to the purchasers or if they want to take the information back to the groups. Stephen thinks we need to give Reps some more choices. As only 4 Reps had taken this question back to their groups, we will wait another month.
5. Traditions Night – A poster has been created and the information is in the Primary Purpose. Everyone is welcome on May 17, 2018 at ROH from 7 to 9 pm. Doors will open at 6 pm.

OLD BUSINESS-RECOMMENDATIONS FROM INTERGROUP TO ADOPT ALKATHON AND/OR CANADATHON:

1. Sandy thanked Reps for taking the paper presented last month back to their groups so we can reach an informed group conscience.
2. Sandy presented the Executive's position: The main consideration for this recommendation is that the Alkathon and the Canadathon become part of a united AA structure. Money was a secondary consideration. To reemphasize that point and in the spirit of cooperation with the Districts, Intergroup further proposed that if these committees were under the Intergroup Umbrella they would be given the right of Decision to distribute any surplus of funds they receive as they see fit. Part of that right would be to decide on the need for consultation with the membership on such a distribution of funds. These events have always been profitable. If in the future, if they experienced a deficit – the shortfall would be covered by a 'loss reserve' if you will, established by the incoming committee themselves. Intergroup believes that it's in that spirit of cooperation with the Districts, the Alkathon and the Canadathon where Unity, Spirituality and Money mix. The floor was open for discussion. The Intergroup Representatives were asked to share first followed by the District Representatives and then by the Alkathon and Canadathon Chairs.
3. The Representatives presented their views. Questions were asked whether Intergroup had the authority to "take-over" and the answer was a definite NO. It was explained the intent was just to see if the membership was interested in having Intergroup talk to the Alkathon and the Canadathon about taking them under the Intergroup Umbrella. There were questions around insurance and liability. Currently the Canadathon has their own insurance, so some duplication exists. As Intergroup is a not-for-profit corporation all the events under its purview would be covered. Questions came up around what influence Intergroup would have on the Alkathon and Canadathon committees. The Executive responded by saying the events would remain autonomous as do the Spring and Fall Conferences. Intergroup provides support to the conferences but does not interfere. If the Alkathon and Canadathon came under the Intergroup umbrella some changes would have to be made to the Bylaws and/or procedures specifically around giving the Alkathon and Canadathon a right of Decision to distribute any surplus of funds arising out of their events within AA as they see fit. Mike B, one of the founding

members of the Canadathon and past Alkathon committee member gave a brief history of the Alkathon and presented his views on the idea.

4. The outgoing Chair for the Alkathon spoke about his concern that he could be privately sued if a liability issue arose. Another thought was that if Treasurer ran off with the money the Chair could be on the hook for any outstanding payments.
5. Before the introduction of the Right of Decision around the surplus of funds, District 54 thought the Canadathon should stand alone.
6. Chair for the 2018 Canadathon, Monica, reported that it reviewed the discussion paper presented last month before the new Right of Decision on money matters was introduced. Prior to Intergroup enabling the Canadathon Committee with a Right of Decision to distribute the surplus of funds as it saw fit under the Intergroup umbrella, the 2018 Committee elected to remain autonomous. A question was asked about paying for the McNabb venue. Monica signs the contract with McNabb and it has already been paid for using the Prudent Reserve.
7. The Alkathon chair was not present but had sent a message that this issue would be discussed on April 15th at the Alkathon general inventory and that everyone was welcome to attend.
8. John G, Back to Basics made a motion for Intergroup to approach the Alkathon and/or Canadathon to determine if they are interested in coming under the Intergroup umbrella. Bill P., Parkwood Hills seconded. In favour 19, opposed 12, abstained 1. Doris M., Discovering the Big Book spoke to the minority voice. No one changed their vote. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS-GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS: Jeff F., Maitland Group

1. Jeff F., from the Maitland Group asked what the Executive's plans are to get more groups to contribute to Intergroup? He thought that only about 20% of the groups in Ottawa contribute to Intergroup.
2. Due to the time, this item will be moved to the April Intergroup Agenda and the Executive will discuss prior to the next Intergroup meeting.

COFFEE VOLUNTEER FOR APRIL.

1. John G., Back to Basics has volunteered to make coffee for the APRIL meeting.

Motion to adjourn Meeting by: Bill P., Parkwood Hills, Jean HP., Lunch with Bill seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm with the Responsibility Pledge

Next meeting: APRIL 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM, Mac Hall, Bronson Centre.

Upcoming Intergroup agendas:

APRIL:

Safety in the Rooms discussion by Intergroup Reps
Membership Campaign