

DELEGATE'S NEWSLETTER

Mel C., Panel 63 Delegate, Area 83, Eastern Ontario International

Vol. I - Spring 2013

Delegate Remarks

Hello friends, my name is Mel and I am an alcoholic. I am a very grateful member of The Hill Group in District 12, Toronto Southwest. If you're ever looking for a meeting at 8:30 pm on a Thursday night (or 7:30 PM on a Monday), come on out and I'll introduce you around!

Well here we are at the beginning of the term; what will the next two years hold for us? Who knows? Our HP's do - but they ain't talking! I know one thing - as Delegate, I've been left an Area that is happy, healthy and completely functioning and I intend to do everything I can to leave it at least that way (and maybe even a little better) for the next Delegate coming along!

Secretly, I hope we have two years of growth, of better understanding, of lesser character defects and greater instances of plain, pure love in our lives. I hope we gain in the fellowship of the spirit and move toward a better understanding of those things that separate us from both contented sobriety and God or a Higher Power of our understanding. And that we do the work of A.A. in such a way that we help even more of the suffering alcoholics that daily fall stricken through our doors.

I hope this newsletter is informative, inclusive, interesting and relevant. I intend to produce four times a year for a total of eight letters. If you can think of anything that would add to this newsletter, send it right along and I'll incorporate it if I can. Also, please pass it along to anyone who you think might benefit from its reading along with a kind note of your own - what could hurt?! Maybe even to someone new to service who might be invigorated and motivated by the things discussed here.

I wish you always another 24 hours of contented sobriety - may your dry date never change,

YiL&S,

Mel C.
Delegate, Area 83,
Eastern Ontario International

Service Term of the Day

Minority Opinion

A process unique to A.A. We believe everyone has the right to be heard, and heard clearly. As well, we try not to move on anything without substantial unanimity. (Concept Five is a great one to review here!). Though not too often implemented at the group level, it sometimes is at the District level and always is at "Area". It is a process we go through after each vote on whatever issue we're contemplating that ensures we are completely ready to move on to the next issue requiring a vote.

In a nutshell, after a vote, the Chair asks if anyone who voted in the minority (the losing side) wishes to speak to the issue. Those who wish to, do. After all from this camp have been heard, the Chair asks if, after hearing from the minority, anyone who voted on the winning side would change their vote. If even one person raises their hand and says they would, the Chair asks for a show of hands on whether the room should go back to the debate. If a simple majority think so, we do - the discussion resumes and another vote is taken down the road.

It is an absolutely amazing thing to see a room go from one hard-held opinion completely over to the other opinion after execution of this procedure, sometimes over two or three returns to discussion. We are truly a unique organization!

News from our GENERAL SERVICE BOARD

Hold the Press! Hold the Press! Hold the Press!

WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE A NEW CHAIR OF THE GENERAL SERVICE BOARD!

After the 63rd General Service Conference takes place in April, and assuming the slate of new Trustees presented to the Conference for "disapproval" passes (I'll have one of those votes!), **TERRY BEDIANT**, a Class A (non-alcoholic, A = *Amateur!*) friend of A.A. will replace our beloved Ward Ewing as Chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Terry has the designation "FACHE" following his name and that stands for *Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives*. Terry is currently Vice-President of the Medical Society of New York though his career has included many executive positions including hospital chief executive officer. He has served on a dozen non-profit boards, currently as trustee of the New York Lawyer Assistance Trust, which oversees substance abuse programme's for attorneys & judges and as treasurer of the Federation of State Physical Health Programs

Terry was elected to the Board as a Class A Trustee in May of 2008 and currently chairs the Finance and Budgetary, and Audit Committees and serves on the Nominating and Public Information Committees. I met Terry in NY in 2011 at the Conference and without knowing he would even be in the running for a position such as this thought to myself at that time "here's a person to watch".

If you get a chance, send him an email, I'm sure he doesn't have all that much to do and would be pleased to hear from you (ok, kidding!). Anyway - congratulations Terry and we look forward to getting to know you better on a personal level in Area 83.

News from our **GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE**

- General manager, Phyllis H., reported that the 22nd World Service Meeting (WSM) took place October 21-25, 2012 in Rye, New York, just prior to the board meeting. We welcomed over 60 delegates from over 30 countries and international entities, such as French-speaking/German-speaking Europe.
- G.S.O.'s Archives received two valuable donations at the 16th annual A.A. Archives Workshop which was held in Cocoa Beach, Florida in October. An original Poverello Medal Certificate by the College of Steubenville, Ohio, awarded to the A.A. Fellowship in 1949 and a First Edition, First Printing Big Book.
- Longtime staff member, Warren S., retired on November 1, and Valerie O'N., Publications Director, will be leaving at the end of the year. We wish both of them well in their retirements!
- The Pacific Regional Forum, held in Fairbanks, Alaska on September 14-16, attracted 197 attendees of whom 102 were attending their first Forum.
- The 27th Intergroup/Central Office/A.A.W.S./A.A.G.V. seminar was held in Washington, DC September 27-30, with 134 attendees from approximately 65 local offices. This event gave us an opportunity to communicate about various topics, including on-line sales and the accompanying pricing structure.
- The Fall 2012 issue of *About A.A.* (our newsletter for professionals) was mailed, made available for digital delivery, and is posted to the website at www.aa.org. This issue features an article about the 2011 A.A. Membership Survey, Frequently Asked Questions about Anonymity, the A.A. Big Book's being included in a U.S. Library of Congress exhibit celebrating "88 Books That Shaped America," and information about revisions to the pamphlets, "A.A. and the Armed Services" and "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell".
- Corrections Staff attended the 22nd Annual Bridging the Gap (BTG) Workshop Weekend and participated in a rich mix of discussions on difficulties and

solutions in this vital Twelfth Step activity which links A.A. members getting out of an institution with local A.A. members who can help with the transition to A.A. on the “outside.”

- Several additions to G.S.O.’s A.A. Web Site were noted, including issues of *Box 4-5-9* in English, French and Spanish back to 1990 (additional decades will be added in the coming months); hyperlinked lists of service committee kit resources for G.S.R.s and D.C.M.'s; and a country-by-country list of international G.S.O.s, local Intergroups/central offices, and answering services.
- The pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated” has been added to the G.S.R. kit.

taken from the Oct. 26 issue, 2012 A.A.W.S. Highlights

News from our **EASTERN CANADIAN REGION**

CERAASA!

Of the 8 regions in the United States and Canada, 7 have "Regional Service Assemblies". Our region, the ten Areas that make up Eastern Canada, is the only one that doesn't - well, hasn't - until now!

On the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of February 2013, the Eastern Canada region will hold it's very first Service Assembly in Longueuil, Quebec, (near Montreal) at the Sandman hotel. All ten Areas are sponsoring the event. The purpose of the Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (CERAASA) is to develop greater unity among the members, groups and areas of Eastern Canada. The assembly and the CERAASA committee will always try to foster our legacies of recovery, unity and service. The overall content of the weekend agenda includes panel meetings, open mike sharing sessions, ask-it baskets, service presentation and speakers. There is a banquet as well.

To help Area 87 (South West Quebec), who has kindly offered to host this first one, please register early and tell all your friends! For more information and registration, please visit the Web site at: www.ceraasa.org. You can also get more information and possibly arrange transportation if you ask around at your District Tables!

News from Area 83, EASTERN ONTARIO INTERNATIONAL

Hold the Press! Hold the Press! Hold the Press! (again)

A new slate of Area Subcommittee Chairs was elected at our last Area Committee meeting in Belleville on Dec. 1, 2012. These people will hold their positions for the 2013-2014 (Panel 63) term. It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce to you:

Name	District (from)	Position (Chair)	Contact
Herb W.	D30	Public Information (PI)	pi@area83aa.org
Dan N.	D02	Co-op. Prof. Comm.(CPC)	cpc@area83aa.org
Ruth F.	D22	Treatment Facilities (TF)	tf@area83aa.org
Gary O.	D14	Corrections (CF)	cf@area83aa.org
Heather M.	D12	Grapevine (GV)	gv@area83aa.org
Jim A.	D22	Self-Support (SS)	selfsupport@area83aa.org
Gary C.	D86	Archives	archives@area83aa.org

Hold the Press! Hold the Press! Hold the Press! (ok, LAST time...)

We also have a new group of DCM's who were elected at our Jan. 5, 2013 Area Committee meeting in Belleville to act as our Service Information Day Committee for the coming two years. From the hat, a Chairperson and Secretary were selected. This committee is composed of:

Name	District	Position
Sue B.	62 - Ottawa West	S.I.D. Committee Chairperson
Elaine H.	06 - Mississauga	S.I.D. Committee Member Secretary
Robert B.	02 - Malton	S.I.D. Committee Member
Murray O.	18 - Toronto City East	S.I.D. Committee Member
Kimberly M.	26 - Lakeshore West	S.I.D. Committee Member
Linda D.	34 - Quinte East	S.I.D. Committee Member

* self-nominated, picked from the hat

Other de-facto members of the SID committee are the Delegate, the Alternate Delegate and the Area Chairperson.

I hope you join me in welcoming these people to their new positions and I also hope that you will give the Area Chair people in particular the ultimate compliment of contacting them and asking them to do something on your, your groups or your districts behalf! I'm certain they would be most pleased if you did.

Showcase a Selected DISTRICT

This month's showcased District is District 06, Mississauga!

District Number	06
Name	Mississauga
First became a District	1977 - 36 years ago!
First DCM (maybe Alternate)	Paul T. Port Credit Group
Current DCM	Elaine H. - The Streetsville Group
Rough District location	Eglinton Ave - Scarlett Rd - Lake Ont. - Oakville
Size	268 Sq. Km - 178 Sq. Mi
Perimeter	52.65 km's
No. of registered groups per GSO	40 (& several service meetings in the District)
Number of active groups (at Table)	33
Estimated AA's in District 06	1,600

DCM Comment

District 06 is an active thriving district, in excellent shape in terms of attendance at the District table, the support of groups and our financial commitment for the District and to Area and GSO. Committee chair positions are generally filled, most with alternates. We continue to carry the message in Treatment - weekly service meetings at one shelter and 2 treatment facilities. Active in Correctional facilities in and outside our District. We have CPC initiatives in Peel District police stations (with District 02) and PI has supplied Big Books and 12 and 12's (including multiple foreign language books) in our public libraries. We sponsor a well attended service day every term and the Mississauga Fall Round Up is an annual event now going into its 17th year. Our District has a tradition of commitment to service at all levels – currently 3 past DCM's serve on the Area Committee.

Elaine H., P63 DCM

Picture of the day



Seven years after a series of momentous events on an international scale took place, a small group of men met in the Little Denmark Restaurant to begin an incredible journey of personal recovery. In attendance were two non-alcoholic church ministers and six alcoholics. The restaurant was situated on Bay Street between College and Gerrard in Toronto. The impact of this meeting would eventually be felt across Canada. It was seventy years ago. This was the first known meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in Canada. It was January 13, 1943.

From the Better Times Newsletter
Published at GTA Intergroup
Vol. 7, No 11, Better Times Jan. 2003

COMING UP - Things to Watch for

Canadian Eastern Region AA Service Assembly - CERAASA - Longueil (Montreal)
Feb. 22-24, 2013

Ontario Delegates Conference Area 87 - Thunder Bay, ON Mar. 1-3, 2013

Area 83 Spring (Pre-conference) Assembly - Kingston March 22-24, 2013

General Service Conference - NYC April 20-27, 2013

I will of course be attending the 63rd GSC in NYC and would welcome any "special requests" to take along with me. Have a question that might best be asked in person? bring it on!

Information A.A. Day, Toronto, May 25, 2013

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THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OR REMOVED FROM THIS
NEWSLETTER'S ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION, PLEASE EMAIL MEL C.