



DELEGATES NEWS LETTER – VOLUME 2 – FALL/WINTER 2015

NEW GENERAL MANAGER AT OUR GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE!

The General Service Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Greg T. as the new General Manager of the General Service Office, effective October 1, 2015. Grey has replaced Phyllis H. who retired in October.

Greg T. has been A.A.W.S.'s Publishing Director since 2013. Greg comes to this position with 35 years of experience in leadership positions in corporate publishing and non-profit management. He has a strong professional background in the book publishing field, both editorial and managerial. He is a published author and is active in a variety of professional and community associations. Since 1986, Greg has been continually involved in service and has served on the A.A. Grapevine Editorial Advisory Board, A.A. Grapevine corporate board as director and chair and as a General Service Trustee on the General Service Board. Sober since July 11, 1986, Greg is active in his home group and in step and service sponsorship.

UPDATE ON CALL FOR STORIES:

- 1. Call for stories to update - "A.A. for the Woman" –
104 submissions were received**
- 2. Call for stories to update "A.A. for Gay and Lesbian Alcoholic"
55 submissions were received**
- 3. Call for A.A. recovery experience from members with
mental health issues and from those who sponsor
such members.
157 submissions were received**

**(Note: no information is available with regards to where
these stories were submitted from or by whom)**



From the minutes of the General Service Board meeting held on November 2, 2015

➤ Trustees' Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community/Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities:

The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference C.P.C. Committee the subcommittee's recommendation that the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." be retired because the pamphlet is too lengthy and dated.

The committee agreed to forward to the 2016 Conference Committee on Treatment/Special Needs-Accessibilities a suggestion that "Special Needs" be removed from their committee name and throughout their Composition, Scope and Procedure.

The subcommittee will continue to review the Special Needs-Accessibilities Workbook for revision and reorganization.

➤ Public Information

The new P.S.A. "Doors" continues to perform extremely well. Notably, CNN Airport Network approved the new P.S.A. for its September, 2015 rotation. Participating airports include JFK and LaGuardia in New York, Newark Liberty International, Boston Logan International, O'Hare and Midway in Chicago, Miami International, Dulles and Reagan National in Washington, D.C.

Public Information Workbook: The committee reviewed suggested text to update the P.I. Workbook in response to the 2015 Conference Committee Additional Considerations. The committee approved the updated text and agreed that the Public Information Workbook be updated at the next printing.

Anonymity online video: The committee reviewed a request from Area 15, South Florida, that the 66th General Service Conference authorize the production of a video "aimed at the Fellowship," that would address the A.A. member's responsibilities in regard to anonymity on line.



Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

➤ **Archives**

The committee discussed and **agreed to forward** to the 2016 Conference Committee on Archives a request to explore ways to encourage groups to write or update their histories.

➤ **Co-operation with the Professional Community**

The committee heard a progress report from the Subcommittee on Review of C.P.C. Pamphlets. The committee **agreed to forward** to the 2016 Conference C.P.C. Committee the subcommittee's recommendation that the pamphlet "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." be retired because the pamphlet is too lengthy and dated. The committee acknowledged that "Three Talks to Medical Societies by Bill W." remains a very important piece of A.A. history and asked the subcommittee in their review of the other C.P.C. pamphlets to ensure that any still-relevant information from the pamphlet was captured in other A.A. literature.

➤ **Corrections**

Draft video to replace "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell": The committee reviewed background and viewed the draft video being created to replace, "It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell."

Corrections Correspondence Service for Canada: The committee invited Robert MacD. to share his experience with corrections work in Canada, and discussed how Corrections Correspondence Service can be expanded there. The committee looks forward to developing this valuable service in Canada.

➤ **Trustees International Committee**

The committee heard a brief report on the recent visit, arranged by the U.S. State Department, where four professionals involved in the national medical service in Kazakhstan talked with G.S.O. staff to find out about Alcoholics Anonymous and how they might cooperate with A.A. in their country.

➤ **International Conventions**

The committee reviewed the unaudited financial results of the 2015 International Convention, noting that the Convention financials reflect a preliminary unaudited deficit of \$ 219,000.



Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous

Mission - Vision - Action

Mission

Our mission is to serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Vision

We provide clear and effective leadership to the Fellowship. We are directly responsible and responsive to the Fellowship through the General Service Conference. We are concerned with all matters affecting the Fellowship's primary purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

Action

In all of our deliberations and decisions, we shall be guided by and uphold the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service. Our actions on behalf of the Fellowship include:

- Acting as the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance.
- Serving as custodians of the two affiliate corporations (A.A. World Services, Inc. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.)-making sure the best possible communication and unity exist among them, the General Service Office and the General Service Board.
- Overseeing and adjusting, when needed, a sound, wide-reaching public relations policy that is inclusive of all who may be of help in raising awareness of the Fellowship's existence to all who may benefit from it.
- Communicating with and maintaining relationships with General Service structures throughout the world-providing support to help ensure the growth and welfare of the Fellowship worldwide.
- Acting as guardians of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts for World Service.



Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



OF GROUPS SECTION

If you would like the history of your group highlighted please send the information to delegate@area83aa.org and I will be pleased to share it with the rest of the area.

A PLACE TO SHARE- DISTRICT 14
(Submitted by: Dianne McK.- CPC Chair)

A Place to Share was founded in October, 1988 by four members of the Aurora, King City and Newmarket Groups.

There was an interest expressed by some women in those groups to investigate the possibility of forming a Women's Group in a central location. Potential locations were explored and a "home" was found at the Aurora United Church with the blessing of the current pastor. Saturday was selected as the meeting date with the time to be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The date and time proved to appeal to many women, single as well as mothers and caregivers. Additional women's groups have been formed since.

The meeting followed the "closed discussion" format with the inclusion of the daily reading from "Each Day a New Beginning", the text selected by the four founding members. Readings from the "Big Book" and the "Twelve and Twelve" were also included. At the first meeting it was decided that there would be no cross talk in the sharing sessions. Those discussions were encouraged to occur after the meeting. Participants were encouraged to gather at a local restaurant for lunch after the meeting.

Our group has grown from four founding members to approximately thirty members in 2013. The only change to our meeting before 2014 was a change of location within the United Church.

In 2007, to commemorate Carolyn's tenth year anniversary she presented us with a plaque of "The Serenity Prayer" done in cross-stitch. Later on she presented us with plaques of the "Slogans" and "You Are No Longer Alone" in cross-stitch also. In 2011, Erica, a former member of our group, gave us a "Chip Tree" made of all her first year chips. Then, early in 2013, Mary W. presented us with the "Twelve Steps" and "Twelve Traditions" on a permanent backing.

Every year we have a Gratitude Meeting to herald in the Christmas Season. We exchange small gifts, share what we are grateful for, and eat and visit. It's great fun.



Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Our business meeting is held on the last Saturday of the month and all members of our group are encouraged to attend. Our service position roster includes Secretary, Treasurer, Intergroup and GSR reps. and sometimes Alternate Intergroup and GSR reps., depending on the number of volunteers we have for those positions. Motions made during the business meeting are voted on in the following business meeting. Our Chairperson's List is arranged alphabetically by the first initial of the member's first name and carries a 6 month sobriety requirement. The Treasurer's position carries a two year sobriety requirement. Elections are held once a year, but often positions become available during the year.

This meeting continues to be very popular among the women in the area because it provides a safe and nurturing atmosphere. We continue to be eternally grateful for the four founding members who saw a need and took the action to make it happen.

Note: This report was compiled with a tremendous amount of help by Beverley W. of the Aurora Group, one of the founding members, and she is directly quoted in the first half of the report.

On April 11, 2014, the United Church in Aurora was accidentally burned down and our group lost everything. The following day Carolyn was in touch with the events co-ordinator at the Trinity Anglican Church and our meeting moved to that church on Sat. April 12. Nancy Z., who is not a member of A Place To Share, brought a cross with the Serenity Prayer on it for our table. Other people brought things like coffee and such that allowed us to have our first meeting in our new "home". We asked the District for help and were given \$200 from Self Support to buy pamphlets and a rack. Over the next while, people in AA donated books and put a little extra in the 7th Tradition to help us get back on our feet, and now in 2015, we are a thriving group again. We have settled into our new home in the "Old Chapel" and many people who come to the meeting think it a peaceful and beautiful venue for AA.

Recently, as of July 2015, we have finished updating A Place to Share's Policies and Guidelines.

Following is a copy of the letter that Carolyn McC. of our group submitted to the May, 2014 issue of the Better Times after the Aurora United Church burned down:

A NEW HOME FOR A PLACE TO SHARE

After 25 plus years, "A Place to Share Group" had to find a new home. On Friday, April 11, 2014, Aurora United Church had a devastating fire that destroyed the almost 200-year-old church. After many calls and emails we found another venue for our meeting THE VERY NEXT DAY! Trinity Anglican Church welcomed us with open arms.

About 25-30 women arrived for our meeting, many with coffee pots, kettles, treats, etc. It was an amazing meeting, filled with hope and love and unity.

We feel that we have risen from the ashes, stronger than ever, and are looking forward to continuing to welcome the newcomers and long timers for many years to come. Trinity Church has said that we could have a home there for as long as necessary. It is located at 79 Victoria St. at the corner of Metcalfe, just east of Yonge St. and south of Wellington Street. The entrance is at the rear off the parking lot and there is street parking. It is wheelchair accessible. We meet on Saturday mornings. Thank you to all who made this happen. – CAROLYN McC.



Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



QUESTIONS AND THOUGHTS FOR YOU TO PONDER WHICH I HAVE BEEN ASKED

1. Is a member breaking their anonymity when they have their Facebook picture on their A.A. service email address?
2. Are abstentions taken into consideration when counting vote – either 2/3 or simple majority?
3. Should a group conscience ask members to leave their business meeting if they are not a member of the group? What to do if this person wants to vote?
4. What could/should be done when a new comer male attends a women's only meeting? Same situation, if a newcomer female attends a men's only meeting?



**Area Assembly – March 19–20, 2016 at the Ambassador Hotel in Kingston.
(One week earlier than previous assemblies due to Easter Sunday)**



**Area Committee Meeting – January 2, 2016 @ 10:00 A.M.
Westminster United Church –1199 Wallbridge-Loyalist Road, Belleville, Ontario K8N 4Z5**

Everyone is welcome to attend both! Hope to see you there.



Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking.

Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.



Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.



Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.



Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International



If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.



Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.



Worship in your own way.



Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.



Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember— "One Day at a Time."



Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.



"Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.



Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

Wishing you all the Hope, Wonder and Joy that the season can bring!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Joyce S.
Panel 65 Delegate
delegate@area83aa.org

Please send your comments and or suggestions to the above email address. What would you like to read about? I welcome all suggestions.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OR REMOVED FROM THIS NEWSLETTER'S ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION, PLEASE EMAIL ME AT THE ABOVE AND YOU WILL BE LOOKED AFTER IMMEDIATELY