



## **DELEGATES NEWS LETTER –VOLUME 5 – SUMMER 2016**

### **Area 83 Eastern Ontario International**

**Dear Area 83 Trusted Servants:**

**What a great summer this has been! We certainly cannot complain about the weather. I hope everyone is taking advantage of every minute.**

**Welcome, my name is Joyce and I am a member of St. Clement Group in District 10, Toronto South Central. I also have the honour of service the fellowship as your Panel 65 Delegate for Area 83 Eastern Ontario International.**

**It is with great appreciation and gratitude for all the districts that invited me to present the Delegate's report from the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference where the theme was "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts". Of course, it was another wonderful journey where I had the honour of meeting so many long-time friends and where I met so many members new to service.**

**My journey started in Toronto on May 28<sup>th</sup> where I presented to Districts 2, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, & 22. The General Service Office speaker was Julio E. In attendance was also Joe D., Area 83 Panel 51 Delegate, who is currently serving as Class B Trustee of the General Service Board and Director of AA World Services.**

**The day was packed with several presenters and many members in attendance. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Districts 26, 28, 30, 82 & 86 had their service day held at the Intergroup office in Peterborough. Another great day!**

**District 48 hosted Districts 42, 50 & 66 on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in Iroquois. The next day, off to Ottawa where District 54 hosted Districts 58 & 62 held at the Ottawa City Hall. All of the Area 83 Chairs each gave a presentation. Mike B., Alternate District Committee Member for District 62 gave a great presentation on Self-Support.**

**District 70 hosted District 74 & 78 had their service day on Saturday, June 25 in Cobden. There was great support from the members of these districts.**

**I would like to thank those who took the time out of their busy schedules to arrange and attend these days. It is a lot of work and preparation.**

**Job well done!**



## Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

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# What's new!

### MEMORANDUM

June 10, 2016

To: All General Service Conference Members

From: Albin Z., chair of the trustees' Literature Committee

Re: Call for stories to update the pamphlet "Young People and A.A"

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In response to the 2016 General Service Conference recommendation that the pamphlet "Young People and A.A." be revised to "better reflect the experiences of young people in A.A. today," the trustees' literature committee is seeking current sharing from young people in A.A.

Please encourage young members in your area to write their personal stories for possible inclusion in the revised pamphlet "Young People and A.A." Stories should reflect "in a general way what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now."

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point typeface. The words "Young People and A.A." should appear on the top of the first page of the manuscript. The author's complete name, address and email/telephone information should be included with the submission.

Submissions can be emailed to: [Literature@aa.org](mailto:Literature@aa.org) with "Young People and A.A." inserted in the subject line of the message. Alternatively, submissions can be mailed to: Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for all submissions is **December 30, 2016.**

The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not his or her story is selected for publication. Thank you for your participation in this process.



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### **MESSAGE FROM ROBERT B. – AREA 83 CORRECTIONS CHAIR**

**The new AA Correctional Video is out.**

**Here is the Link to see it;**

**[http://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/videos-and-audios](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/videos-and-audios)**

**or**

**Alcoholics Anonymous : Videos and Audios [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)**

**Note: Some of the filming was done in Millhaven Institution a maximum security prison located in Bath, Ontario.**

Great thanks To Neil W. Correctional Chair District 34 ( [cdndishman@hotmail.com](mailto:cdndishman@hotmail.com) ) who's hard work and patience made the Canadian part of this video possible.

Robert B. – Area 83 Corrections Chair

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**While at the 66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference this past April, the conference members watched the film for the first time. Also, this film was shown at the Regional Forum which was held in Thunder Bay from July 8-10, 2016. If you have not already viewed this film, I encourage you to do so. It is very well done and the stories from the clients are some that we can all relate to. I know I did and it was very emotional to see.**



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The Eastern Regional Forum was held in Thunder Bay July 8-10, 2016  
There were 220 in attendance with 74 new time attendees.

**Opening Remarks:** Terry Bedient, Class A (nonalcoholic) Trustee, General Service Board, Chairman:

It is my privilege to serve as chair of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous. I take great pleasure in welcoming all of you, especially first-time attendees, to the Eastern Canada Regional Forum. All of us from the General Service Board, the General Service Office, and the Grapevine are here to serve your groups and to explore better ways of doing so in the future.

In the book, *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Bill W opens the section entitled, "When AA Came of Age," with the following:

"During the first three days of July, 1955, Alcoholics Anonymous held a Convention in St. Louis, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of its founding. There our fellowship declared itself come to the age of full responsibility, and there it received from its founders and old-timers permanent keeping of its three great legacies of Recovery, Unity, and Service."

Today, over 60 years later, these Three Legacies remain the foundation of the AA movement. The theme of the 2016 General Service Conference was, "Our Spiritual Way of Life: Steps, Traditions and Concepts." Presentations were done on "Connecting with the Newcomer;" "Connecting with Each Other;" and "Connecting with AA as A Whole."

This year's theme reminded us that our Three Legacies continue to be our spiritual guides in an ever changing world. It is up to each of us to adhere to A.A.'s spiritual principles, without forgetting that our primary purpose is to carry A.A.'s message to the still-suffering alcoholic.

Trustees, Directors and G.S.O. and Grapevine Staff have traveled many miles to be with you this weekend, so please, ask questions, share your experience and keep in mind that the structure of our Fellowship is the upside down triangle, with the AA groups being the top most component

Above all, I hope you have an enjoyable experience at the 2016 Eastern Canada Regional Forum!



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#### **THE HISTORY OF FORUMS**

**One hundred and ninety-eight Regional and Special Forums have been held since 1975. Forums were originally called "Mini-conferences" and their purpose was to bring the Conference experience to A.A. members throughout the U.S. and Canada.**

**In 1974, when the Conference was 24 years old, and after the death of Bill W., Dr. John L. Norris, chair of the General Service Board, had become interested in holding such weekend gatherings to improve communication within the Fellowship. The first "Mini-conference" -- with members of the board and G.S.O. staff members present -- was given a trial run in Atlanta, Georgia, in December 1975.**

**It's surprising the concept didn't die with that first gathering. People from one area in particular were full of mistrust of everything in New York, and were in a rebellious mood. The first two days were angry and acrimonious.**

**But by Sunday morning, the beginnings of trust had been established and the tone had changed to one of love and gratitude. In March 1976, a second "Mini-conference" --also on an experimental basis --was held by the West Central Region in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It was well attended, positive in tone, and judged successful.**

**Those experiences were reported to the 1976 Conference, where the concept was hotly debated. Some expressed fear that New York was intruding on their local service structure and that "Mini-conferences" would undermine the function of the General Service Conference. However, the Conference finally recommended: "That we go forward with Mini-conferences and provide them as often as possible, that these be held [only] at the request of the region, and that their name be changed to "A.A. Regional Forums.""**

**"As often as possible" was determined to be a maximum of four Forums per year. Since there are eight regions in the U.S./Canada, each region could schedule a Forum every two years. Starting in January 2008 a new schedule called for an additional Regional Forum to be held on a rotation basis in each region every eight years, at the region's request.**



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Soon after the 1976 Conference, a delegate from Alaska pointed out that it was virtually impossible for large numbers of service people to attend a Forum in the "Lower 48" and requested that the Board put on a "Mini-Forum" in connection with the Alaska State Convention in 1979. This was done, with a reduced number of participants and a shortened agenda. Two years later, using the same rationale, Montana had a Mini-Forum for over 100 service people and A.A. members from remote parts of the Northern Rockies. This was the beginning of special Forums.

Starting in 2008, provisions were made for Local Forums-no more than three a year-to be incorporated into the Regional Forums schedule to replace Special Forums. Local Forums are organized by local A.A. communities. Their purpose is to provide a Forum experience to meet cultural, accessibility and population needs in A.A. communities that are unable to attend regular Regional Forums.

We are looking forward to joining you at the next Eastern Canada Regional Forum to be held in Victoriaville, Quebec the weekend of July 20-22, 2018.

Area 83 is scheduled to host the Eastern Canada Regional Forum is 2020. This opportunity only comes along every **20 years!** Let's do our best as an area not to miss out on this.

**MORE TO FOLLOW** – This will be discussed at the September 10, 2016 Area Committee Meeting.



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### OF GROUPS AND DISTRICT SECTION

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

The following are two group histories and one District I have received which I would like to share with you:

#### **Group History Barrhaven Tuesday Night**

**By Ted K.**

The Barrhaven Tuesday Night Group is located in Barrhaven, Ontario and holds its meetings at the Barrhaven United Church on 3013 Jockvale Road. The group was started on 1 April 1989 and held its first meeting at the Larkin Community Centre on Larkin Dr in Barrhaven. The Group moved to its present location in 1996. It's found members were Barb T. and Marilyn M. Within the first month Don, Brian R and David M joined the group. David M is still an active member of the group. There were only 4 members that attended the first meeting, the group grew to about 12 in the first year with approx. 80% men and 20% women.



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The group was formed because Barb T and Marilyn M simply decided to start an AA group in Barrhaven. They were originally told repeatedly that there were no alcoholics in Barrhaven.

The early group officers of the group were:

Sandy M., David M., Garry S., Yves C., Del D, Pearce H., Brian M., Terry S. and David T.

In June 2007 another meeting was founded by Dave M and Dennis S on Thursday evenings at the same location. The Tuesday and Thursday meetings are both under the same group.

Today in our group we have approx. 40 people attending our Tuesday night meeting and 12 to 20 at our Thursday meeting with ratio of 80% men to 20% women. The overall age of members is 50% under 40 and 50% over.

The meeting format for our Tuesday night is closed discussion broken into 3 groups: Big Book Study, Beginners and Discussion group on Daily Reflections. Our Thursday meeting, we have a closed meeting for four weeks where we work through the 12 steps out of the Big Book, then four weeks of open meetings of speaker sharing their experience of working and applying the 12 steps in their lives. This is done on a rotational basis. We have our business meeting the first Tuesday of each month where attendance is roughly 10-15 members. We celebrate members' birthday on the last Tuesday of the month with an open speaker meeting.

Our present group has a full governing body with a GSR, alt GSR, Intergroup rep, Alt Intergroup rep, supplies rep, secretary, literature rep, treasurer and Grapevine rep.

Our group celebrated 25 years on April 8, 2014.

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#### **Beaches Group - Eddy G.**

The Beaches Group has been in existence for over sixty six years and it is the oldest group in Scarborough District 22. The Beach Group was started on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1947 by Wilf D. (dry date- Aug. 6, 1946) and Fred H. (dry date-April 13, 1946). The two members belonged to the "1170" Yonge Street meeting and felt that an AA group was needed in the area where they lived.





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**The Beach Group is an original group because when groups were started they were named after the area in which they were located. In late 1977 the group changed its name to the Beaches Group to reflect the name change of the area.**

**The group's first location for almost eleven years (Dec. 1947-Sept. 1958) met at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church on Queen St. E. across from the old Woodbine Racetrack .**

**The second location for almost fifty-one years (Sept. 1958- Aug. 2010) the group met at Bellefair United Church on Queen St. E. (east of Woodbine Ave.) opposite Kew Gardens.**

**The third location for just a little over three years (Aug. 2010-Dec. 2013) the group met at St. Aidan's Church on Silverbirch Ave. & Queen St. E.**

**In January 2014 the group moved to their fourth location where they meet at St. John's Norway Church on Woodbine Ave. & Kingston Rd.**

**The group has always held its open meeting on Tuesday nights. The meeting time was started at 8:30 pm and in April 1999 the time was changed to 8:00 pm. In July 2009 a rotating step/tradition discussion meeting held on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm was started. In January 2014 the meeting night changed to a Saturday night.**

**In early times, the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition basket was short of money to pay the rent. After the meeting, group members with some sobriety would take up a silent collection at the back of the room to be sure there was enough money to pay the rent.**

**Today, the Beaches Group has approx. 80 members. There are 25 females and 55 males.**

**There is a lot of stability in the group and the members. Calmness, serenity & maturity are present.**

**There is a good mixture with lengths of sobriety. Members come from a large cross-section of life and with different views. There is great support for women. Newcomers and visitors are welcomed. Many members from groups in the area regularly attend the Beaches Group meeting.**



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#### **The history of Alcoholics Anonymous in District 16 - Distrito Hispano de Toronto**

Alcoholics Anonymous in District 16 - Distrito Hispano de Toronto dates back to the beginning of 1984 when two men, Carlos Ch. and Ricardo X met through a social worker who knew they were recovering alcoholics.

They talked about the need to form a group for the Spanish community who have this disease. They found a place in the San Juan Bautista Church at the intersection of Dundas Avenue West and Grace Street. The first meeting was held on Saturday, April 21, 1984. Six people attended, all of them members of alcoholics anonymous from various groups and countries of origin. That night they agreed to name the group "Nueva Esperanza" (New Hope).

After a couple of months they were asked to move out because the church needed the space for something else. The next meeting was held at the home of a member of the group. There they celebrated the anniversary of one of the members, Julio C. Afterwards, they found another space in the Church of St. Peter, located at the intersection of Bathurst Street and Bloor Street West.

The group started to grow, thanks to a community center that was in the same church. Information about the Spanish A.A. group that was meeting on their premises was provided to the public. The group members realized that they needed more days on which to meet and found a place in the Native Canadian Centre, located at Bloor and Spadina. Sometimes the space was needed for other activities, which meant that the group had no place for their meetings.

The group started getting visits from the Spanish A.A. groups in Montreal. Their members advised the Toronto group that they obtain their own permanent meeting space. The Toronto group followed his advice and rented space at 528 College Street. The group began meeting every day from 8:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m., Monday to Sunday. This is the history of the first Spanish A.A. Group in the City of Toronto.

The second A.A. Group in Spanish, Grupo Unidad held its first meeting on April 14, 1986 in a room of the Church of St. Guadalupe situated at Rogers and Old Weston road. Currently, they meet at 1049 Weston Road.

The third A.A. group to open it's doors was Grupo Amor Y Paz. The first meeting was held on August 16, 1987. Currently, the group is located at Dupont Street and Dovercourt Road.



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**Grupo Amistad was born on August 28, 1988. It was first located at 440 Shaw Street. Currently, it is located at 1560 Dupont Street with meetings held everyday from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

**The A.A. Group Sendero De Vida opened their doors on May 29, 1989. This group holds its meetings at 1830 Finch Avenue West every day from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

**The next group to open was Sendero De Vida on May 29, 1989. This group is located at 1830 Finch Avenue West.**

**Next was Distinto Amanecer in Kitchener. This group opened on August 17, 1990.**

#### **History of the A.A. Intergroup in Spanish in the City of Toronto**

**On October 23, 1988, Delegates from the four Spanish Groups in the City of Toronto had a meeting for the purpose of discussing the opening of a Spanish Intergroup Office in Toronto in order to carry the message to alcoholics of the Spanish community as well as to open the channels to communication between groups.**

**The meeting started with the reading of sections of the Service Manual that describe the structure of an Intergroup office. This was followed by the election of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Spanish Intergroup opened officially on October 23, 1988.**

#### **Historic review of the Distrito Hispano #16 of the City of Toronto**

**In January, 1995 a delegation from the A.A. groups of the Spanish community brought a letter to our Intergroup asking the Intergroup if it was possible to get all G.S.Rs of the Spanish groups together to study the service manual to learn all the responsibilities of the GSR and to explore the possibility of forming a Spanish District in Toronto in the near future.**

**In March of the same year, the Spanish Intergroup requested that all the Spanish language groups in Toronto send their GSR to a special meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to form a Spanish District. It was March 8<sup>th</sup> when the GSRs of the 8 Spanish groups of Toronto got together and after some discussion decided to meet on a weekly basis to study the service manual and to prepare themselves to form a district**



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**At the same meeting they formed a service committee with a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The original groups present were Unidad, Renacimiento, Una Luz En Toronto, Amistad, Sendero De Vida and Nuevo Amanecer. Afterwards the GSRs of Amor Y Pas and Nueva Esperanza joined the rest of the groups.**

**It was decided that there would be a Seventh Tradition at every meeting, 50% of which was for the needs of the district and the other 50% for our Intergroup.**

**The meetings continued every week and after some time they decided that it was time to investigate the procedure for forming a district. The following week a letter was send to the General Service Office in New York inquiring about the possibility of forming a Spanish District in the City of Toronto. The answer from GSO was that we had the right to have a Spanish District in Toronto, but first we should talk to the Delegate of the area where we were located.**

**The next step was to invite the Panel 45 (1995-1996) Delegate, Ray M. to a meeting. Ray came on June 26, 1995. The meeting was held in the Spanish Intergroup office. Ray recommended that we continue studying the service manual.**

**In September we were visited by the District of the Spanish District of Montreal, Jorge L. This motivated us to have our own district. At the next meeting the GSRs agreed to consult with their groups regarding the request to form a Spanish District.**

**The election of the District Committee Member of the Spanish District was held on October 2, 1995 using the method suggested in the service manual. Guillermo R. was elected as District Committee Member of the Spanish District. Carlos Ch, as Alternate District Committee Member. However, when Guillermo expressed concerns about his facility with the English language, it was suggested that they switch positions.**

**The Secretary and Treasurer were elected at the next meeting which was held on October 9<sup>th</sup>. In that same month, we were invited to the Autumn Assembly in Kingston, Ontario where we met with the Area Delegate and the Treasurer where we gave them our registration for our new district.**

**At the Spring Assembly held in 1996, we became formally affiliated with Area 83 Eastern Ontario International.**

**There are currently 8 groups in District 16**

**Presented by Victor M. at the May, 2016 Information A.A. Day held in Toronto.**



**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**  
**Area 83 Eastern Ontario International**

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

**Area Assembly – October 28, 29, 30, 2016 at the Ambassador  
Hotel in Kingston.**

**Remember – this is an election assembly and your vote counts!  
Please make arrangements to attend.**

**Everyone is welcome to attend both! I look forward to seeing  
you there.**



**For anyone who is interested in seeing the full Delegate's Report of the  
66<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference, go to the Area 83 Website at  
[www.area83aa.org](http://www.area83aa.org). Look under resources for the Delegate and click on  
66<sup>th</sup> General Service Report.**



## **Alcoholics Anonymous Area 83 Eastern Ontario International**

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**Please share this with the members of your group and districts, especially those who have not have the opportunity to have your Delegate present at a service day.**

**Joyce S.  
Panel 65 Delegate  
[delegate@area83aa.org](mailto: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**