

The in-person meeting of the Akron Intergroup Council was held at The Paradise Club on February 4, 2024, and was opened by Intergroup Chairman Tony Thomas at 12 noon with the I Am Responsible Statement and the Serenity Prayer.

Groups in attendance: (37 groups with registered reps) 100 Men & Women Big Book Study, A Way Out, Afternoon Alkies, Akron Mens Big Book Study, Barberton Monday Nite, Broad Highway Group, Carry This Message, Cissy's Diner Big Book Study, Coffee, Donuts & Discussion, East Akron, Faith and Hope, Falls Discussion, Flame Breakfast Group, Fresh Start, Garden of Hope, Goodyear Group, Kenmore Group, King School Group 1, Ladies Big Book Study, Learning to Live, Medina Tuesday Night, North Hill Mens Discussion, Northampton, Primary Purpose Group, Progress-Not Perfection, Redemption Recovery, Road to Recovery, Saturday Morning Sunrise, Serenity Big Book Study, Sons of Ebby, Sunday Night in Paradise, Sunday Nite 12 & 12, Tallmadge Heritage AA Group, Turning Point, Thursday Closed Womens, Towers Discussion, YANA (You Are Not Alone).

Roll Call: After roll call, Tony T. mentioned that Board Secretary Sarah Robinson was excused, Intergroup Newsletter Chairman Mike Vaporis was excused, Corrections Committee/New Years Eve Dance Chairman Anthony Billups was excused, and Intergroup Anniversary Chairman Mike Lusk is excused.

Secretary's Report: Sarah R. not present: Tony T. mentioned that the IG Secretary is not present due to illness, so today's proceedings are being recorded. Tony T. began reading the Secretary's report, motion to waive and seconded, motion passed; reading was waived. Motion to accept the secretary's report as presented, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Ed B. Jr. present: Ed B. presented the Treasurer's report as of 12/31/2023. Ed mentioned that the 7th tradition contribution has been updated in this report. Ed also went over the deficit numbers on the report citing that the end of year balances is contingent on getting final numbers from Founders' Day. Ed reported that the customer balance sheets, and group contributions will begin appearing in next month's Treasurer report, once the new POS system is configured into the treasurer reporting. The treasurer report is always a month behind. For those wanting to see the group balance summary or group contribution, this information is available at the office. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Executive Board Report: Tony T. reported that we are still looking for insurance companies to provide affordable health insurance for our 2 employees. Tony mentioned that Joe Ciborek offered an alternative solution that is being considered for insurance purposes.

Question: Laura Noel asked if we had checked with our rental insurance carrier to see if they offered any discounts for included health insurance. Tony says will check with our rental insurance carrier to see if they have employee discounts for health insurance.

Committee Reports: Tony requests to limit reports to the 3-minute rule.

12 Step Fund Drive: David H. present. David presented the number of donations; group and individual, as of January 2024 numbers. Numbers are down for the 1st month of the year compared to last year.

IG Picnic: David H. present: No report.

Answering Service: Jim B. present: 17 total calls for January 2024. 12 of those calls were for meetings. 2 calls were for help. 9 of those calls were from the same guy. Jim is asking for those that took the two 12 step calls, to relay the outcome of that call back to the office.

Question: A question was asked if we are still considering an alternate plan to replace the answering service. Joyce made a comment that we as a fellowship need to step up and take these calls. Tony T. commented that having groups or individuals answering the calls is all well and good, but historically, they do not continue with the effort, and we find ourselves back to square one, having to enlist the answering service again. Joe Ciborek introduced the automated system that was mentioned at the Executive Board. Although it is an automated system and cost effective, we would still need live bodies to ultimately take the call from the suffering alcoholic.

Office: Tony T present: Tony says we have had the employee reviews for 2024. We have 2 exceptional employees, and they will be compensated accordingly. We are still entertaining the ideas of a temporary “on demand” water heater for the purpose of hot water in the building. The parking lot is still a challenge, more to be revealed.

Question: Tom Reese asked if we decided on locking the front door to the office and if the panic buttons were operational, for safety reasons. Tony T. says after discussing with the office staff and members of the fellowship, we feel that locking the front door takes away the ability for those truly in need of seeking help. The office staff says there is no issue with having the door unlocked and open to the public. The panic buttons have been tested and are in working order.

Information Tech: Bill B. present: No report. The committee gets busy as Founders’ Day nears.

Group Services: Rachel B. present: Rachel’s next committee meeting will be Feb. 19th @ 6:00 pm at the IG office. There were 4 people present at the January meeting and they are almost done with the groups that needed to be updated.

Corrections: Anthony B. not present: Corrections is moving along without issue – no report.

New Year’s Eve Dance: Anthony B. not present: No report.

Treatment Facilities: Joe C. present: Joe provided copies of the committee minutes and of the committee’s needs for facility coordinators for each treatment center, people that can be engaged with personnel at each listed facility. IBH is going well with men and women taking meetings into IBH on Sundays (IBH has a limit of 3 outside men and/or women to bring meetings onto the grounds per meeting – this is not an open outside AA meeting). They have 3 or 4 people taking a meeting into the detox at Summa (the old St. Thomas) and ADM detox. Overall, they are making great progress with carrying the message to the treatment facilities.

Success story, Northcoast Behavioral which is a locked facility with about 68 residents in northern Summit County. The facilitator that brings a Tuesday meeting there was informed that the site will begin having a step work shop for the residents focusing on steps 1,2 and 3.

Recovery Works Detox at UH Robinson in Ravenna was having a single meeting but now the facilitator has about 14 volunteers and they are able to bring meetings into the facility every night of the week.

Literature: Greg C. present: 9 people were present at the Jan. meeting. They have locked in the design/colors of the lanyard for FD. The pin design for FD 2024 is down to 2 choices and they are going to pick one for the 89th Founders' Day. Since the following year will be the 90th anniversary of AA, they want the pin design to pop and be special, so that design process is underway. 2 new books have been ordered from Hazelton, The 12 Steps Unplugged and Bill W.

Public Information/CPC: Doug M. present: Norton Middle School is looking for AA literature to pass out among the student body. Campus North Church is doing "A Walk in Their Shoes" program at EJ Thomas and they have requested AA to set up a table at the event on Feb. 23 at 6:00 pm.

Question: Tom Reese says he heard that King School was celebrating 100 years in existence, and they wanted to know if Akron AA wanted to partake in the festivities. Jim Burns and Beth Flora says it's the actual King School building, not the AA meeting.

Founders' Day: Aaron K. present: The taper has been confirmed for this year. The Herald is at the printer and will be mailed out by the 3rd week of February, so they will be in people's mailboxes by March 1st, when pre-registration opens. Ribbons to be ordered this week. The first meeting with UOA (University of Akron) staff will be Feb. 5th at EJ Thomas. Pre-registration will be \$35.00 and \$40.00 for onsite registration. Still looking for any volunteers. For safety reasons, UOA enforces a clear bag policy for entry into all meetings for anyone carrying personal items on their person. The FD committee has found a clear bag that will be acceptable by the UOA and will make bags available to AA guests. A gallon zip lock bag is acceptable.

Archives: - Chris B. present: There were a couple of tours last month that Gene and Jim handled. One had about 50 guests. The recording of the Flying Blind Room had to be postponed.

IG News: Mike V. not present: Chris Wright gave the report. Says they are still taking articles and subscriptions are encouraged.

IG Anniversary: Mike L. not present: Everything is moving in a positive direction. The first save the date flyer was sent out in the mailings. They have a theme now and are encouraging gift baskets to be submitted.

General Service: John K. present: Next district meeting which is 3rd Saturday, they are voting in a new DCM and Treasurer. Also setting up dates for the district picnic and District Seminar. John says Akron is poorly represented by GSR reps and we need to get more people involved in General Service. John also says there is a letter/questionnaire being passed around about changing the readings and changing the writings of the Big Book. Tony T. announced that

today, we are not going to discuss these proposed changes. Tony says now is not the time or the place to have this discussion and he wanted to avoid another long-drawn debate over changes to our literature, like the discussion we had regarding the Preamble changes.

Question: Laura Noel wanted to know what the purpose of the letter or questionnaire was. Tony T. made it clear to Council that we are not going to discuss the changing of the writings in the Big Book today. This is a discussion that can be had with our Area 54 rep after the Council meeting, or we can attend the GSR meetings held each month.

Good & Welfare: Joyce Burgess celebrated 43 years on Feb 2nd. Melissa Coffman informed us that on Feb. 23rd, at 7:00 pm, Carry This Message Group will have 2 guest speakers from Sisters of Charity, which is where Sister Ignatia worked for. They will present the history of our angel, Sister Ignatia. Melissa C. celebrated 16 years on Feb. 1st. Greg Clark announced that he and Susan celebrated their 1st year of marriage. Tom G. celebrated 2 years on Jan. 9th. Lori celebrated 5 years on Feb. 4th.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously.

The council meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer @ 1:01pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Tony Thomas, Executive Board Chairman