



*Addictions Professionals Association
of Saskatchewan, Inc.*
www.apask.org

Members Communiqué

April 8, 2015

CONTENTS: APASK AGM update; APASK Spring Conference; Recovery days 2015.

I think...I think...I hope spring has finally arrived. Judging by the amount of dog residue I raked up in my backyard today, it was a LONG winter. Let's hope the sunshine continues for a while. Want to give everyone an update on what's been happening since the last communiqué in Feb.

- **APASK Annual General Meeting** was held March 28, 2015 in Saskatoon, starting at 1:30 p.m. Wow! We had a marathon day. The day started with a Board meeting at 9 a.m. and flowed right into the AGM at 1:30. The day wrapped up about 4:45 p.m. and, I think, lots was accomplished. Unfortunately, the membership turnout was low but those present were engaged in the discussions and contributed ideas for moving the organization's goals forward. Some of the items that were brought forward for ratification were: changes to the APASK Code of Ethics, changes to APASK Bylaws and election of new Board members.

- Ashley Kosolowsky, Ethics Committee chair, and her committee have worked very hard over the past 2 to 3 years to bring our **Code of Ethics** in line with other professional organizations including the College of Psychologists and the Canadian Social Workers. There was one item in the suggested changes that was referred back to the committee for further review but, overall, the changes were applauded and ratification followed. The committee has also been developing an Ethics workshop. There was a first offering held for the Sask. PolyTech Addiction Counselling students and presented by committee member John Kreiser in late March which received positive evaluations from those present. Ashley let us know that there will be some tweaking of the content; that the workshop should be ready for presentation to broader audiences this summer.
- **APASK Bylaws update** was put forward for ratification; however, members present felt the draft should be emailed to the total membership for their review as the Bylaws are an important part of the backbone of the organization. This draft will be put in your hands shortly. It was decided that a special meeting of the membership will take place at the annual conference in May to ratify the new bylaws so I encourage all of you review this document and make any concerns known to the Board as soon as possible. The time of that meeting has not been set yet but a formal notice will go out to everyone at least a week prior to the conference.
- We have a **new board member!** We invite the membership to join the Board of Directors in welcoming **Michelle Herbert** to the Board of APASK. Michelle has an undergraduate degree in Indian Social Work and works at the Serenity Retreat treatment centre in Leipzig, SK. Though some of the other members present at the AGM expressed interest in working on the

Board, they thought they wanted more information about time commitments and operations before accepting a position. The Board continues to have 2 vacant positions and, again, I encourage volunteers to come forward. It is important to breathe new energy into the functioning of any organization to keep it vibrant and moving forward.

- I'd also like to welcome Regina member, **Harry Desnomie**, to the membership committee and look forward to working with him in gathering information about what's happening in Regina and south.
- Anyone who would like to have a complete AGM information package sent to them please let me know. The package contains copies of financial reports, all committee reports and addendums to discussions that were held.

- Another reminder of the **2015 APASK Spring Conference** has been booked for Saskatoon May 20 & 21 at the Saskatoon Inn as early-bird registration deadlines are coming up. **Dr. Stephen Grinstead**, a senior consulting trainer for the Gorski-CENAPS Corporation and a world-class presenter will teach us about pain management and addiction, co-dependency and self-care. Full information on Dr. Grinstead and registering for this workshop can be found on the APASK website at www.apask.org Hit the conference tab in the menu bar across the top of the page. We also ask that you pass this information along to others you think might be interested. This will be a great opportunity to get some reasonably priced CEU's for those needing to re-certify. And, there will be that special meeting of the membership that I mentioned earlier so more opportunities to connect with fellow APASK members and swap ideas.

- Discussions continue to happen around adding a second annual training event/conference with the second opportunity being added for southern Saskatchewan in October. We will be asking for feedback from the members at the special meeting in May to see if there is interest in this type of additional training. The goal is always about providing more for the APASK members now and going into the future.

- Recovery Day committee members will have a display table at the Mental Health and Addiction Fun Run that will take place in Saskatoon on Sunday, May 3rd. For those of you who live in Saskatoon and area, stop by and say hello. There will be another showing of the "Anonymous People" documentary at 314 Duchess St. in Saskatoon on Sat. May 9th at 7 p.m. Further to Recovery day celebrations, I am hoping that Swift Current can create some energy to put an event together sometime in Sept. of this year. The Saskatoon Committee is putting together some ideas and working with the national committee for further promotion ideas. I have also had a quick exchange with member Rand Teed from Regina about what kind of events they are planning for Recovery month this year and will be sharing more as plans start to solidify.

- Again, if any of you know of any training or education events that are happening around the province or comments or editorials you would like to share, just forward them on to me and we will spread the news.

Brenda Hearn
Membership Committee Chair,
APASK Board of Directors