



Addictions Professionals Association of Saskatchewan, Inc.

www.apask.org

Members Communiqué

October 16, 2014

CONTENTS: Recovery Month Debrief; Annual Conference; Addictions Awareness Month & Upcoming Tobacco Cessation Conference; Volunteering for the Board; Membership Renewal Dates.

Recovery Month is over for 2014....phew.....that was a busy, busy time. Regina saw a very successful luncheon on Sept 10 with more than 250 people in attendance, including Minister of Health Dustin Duncan and other representatives for the Ministry of Health and government. Way to go to members, Rand Teed and Foster Monson and their SABAS committee for a job very well done! They were also able to coordinate interviews with CBC Radio, Gormley Live and CTV Regina to promote the event as well as getting the provincial and Regina city proclamation of the month in place.

Prince Albert's first year was a great success with our speaker stopping in at the Family Treatment Centre on the morning of Sept 24, then heading to the luncheon that was attended by about 40 people including MLA Victoria Jurgens, Police Chief Troy Cooper as well as representatives from the Community Mobilization Unit (COR), the YMCA, and Health Region Management. The Luncheon was followed by Joe's appearance at the Sask PolyTechnical (Yes, SIAST has officially changed its name) Wellness Fair where he told his story of overcoming the adversity of addiction to about 600 students. THEN, with a police escort, there was a Walk for Recovery from Woodland Campus to the Addiction Services Office on 15th St. which was co-coordinated by the Prince Albert Addiction Awareness Committee and was followed by coffee and donuts. WAY TO GO TEAM: Rhonda Senecal, Chris Archibald, and Barb Robinson as well as others who assisted in the planning effort.

For Saskatoon's second Recovery Day, Sept 26, we were able to get media coverage by both Global TV and CTV. Makes me yawn just thinking back on it! I had a 6:30 a.m. interview with the Global TV Morning Show on Thurs the 25th and Joe Roberts and I did an interview at 7:20 a.m. for CTV Morning Live on the 26th. We headed off to Calder Centre, armed with donuts, where Joe gave a one hour presentation to staff and patients then with the help of SABAS member Marcella Ogenchuk, he was whisked back downtown to speak at the luncheon which was attended by many dignitaries including Mayor Don Atchison, MLA Rob Norris, Inspector Gerald Engle of the drug enforcement unit, Saskatoon City police, Commissioner Fern Stockdale Winder and Regional Director for Mental Health and Addictions for the Saskatoon Health Region, Tracy Muggli. From there we headed down to the MACSI Treatment Centre accompanied by more donuts and Joe was able to spend about an hour sharing with clients and staff on overcoming addiction and his project, Push For Change, before I got him and his lovely partner, Marie MacDonald, back to the airport.

I want to thank Joe as well for his flexibility and willingness to meet all these commitments. The schedule was rigorous and between the two Recovery Days, he did two other presentations not related to Recovery Month, one in Saskatoon and one in Calgary. Big Thanks to Joe and Marie. As well I would like to thank my committee members for their efforts and hard work, Michelle Robson, Alma Wiebe and Shawna Materi who manned an information table at the luncheon for the Health Region.

With the help of a financial contribution from SABAS, APASK was able to raise awareness of this stigma reducing cause and build significant bridges with health regions and government. Next time you are asked what you get for your membership dollars, besides access to much reduced malpractice insurance, you can safely say it is going directly toward build relationships with the community, with government as a professional body and straight toward assisting to reduce the stigma of addictions across our province.

There is more to be learned about this movement and other events that happened across Canada at www.recoveryday.ca and www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org

Also on this topic, there is also a 1 hours video clip available through the American Society of Addiction Medicine newsletter entitled The Many Faces of Recovery that you will have to copy and paste the web address below into your web browser address line to access.

http://www.asam.org/magazine/read/article/2014/10/02/asam%27s-lou-baxter-and-michael-shore-join-new-jersey-governor-chris-christie-at-addiction-summit?utm_source=Magazine+Volume+2Issue+5&utm_campaign=ASAM+Mag+Issue+3%2C+June+16+2014&utm_medium=email

The **Fall Conference** is coming up next week, Oct 22 and 23. Most of you know this is a leap for the conference planning committee as APASK usually hold the conference in May. Registration has not been as active as we had hoped and there are still seats available for those of you who might still like to attend. You can access registration through the APASK website at www.apask.org and hitting the conference table in the menu bar across the top of the page. Even though registration has been slow, we continue to be excited about Ted Judson's presentation and are looking forward to learning a great deal on Recovery: Healing the Wounds.

November and **Addictions Awareness Week** is around the corner. Please let me know what some of you have planned for your areas and agencies so we can spread the wealth of information around. If anyone has any ideas they are willing to share, APASK can be a vehicle to help you do that. As professionals with a unique set of knowledge, skills and abilities in treating addiction, let's keep the momentum going and continue to make our voices heard. On that note, I would also like to draw your attention to the attached brochure for a **Smoking Cessation Information event** to take place in January, 2015 coordinated by APASK member Lynn Isaak who is the Smoking Cessation Counsellor for the Saskatoon Health Region.

As life continues to unfold for people, including **APASK Board** members, we have recently had two resignations. We are currently looking for interested, motivated members to fill those positions. As you can see the Board has been busy and we are now looking to do a structure and bylaw review to move the organization toward meeting the next set of goals. If you are interested in furthering your involvement and have some time to spare, let any one of the Board members or me know and I will make sure your name is put forward.

Lastly, the **membership renewal** forms have now been completed and will be going out in the mail by the end of next week. I hope to have them at the conference so those members attending can pick them up there. The early bird deadline is Dec. 31/14 for the 2015 membership year.

Thanks to all the members for making all of the above events happen through contributes of your time and for your on-going dedication to making a difference for all of us through your membership.

Brenda Hearn, Chairperson, Membership Committee, APASK Board of Directors