



THE Y'S MEN'S CLUB OF MIDLAND, ONTARIO, CANADA

NEWSLETTER

December 3rd, 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2019/2020

President - Alan Condren
Vice Pres - Kevin Leonard
Treasurer - Blair Stotesbury
Past President - Tim Dunlop
Secretary - Rob Heming
Director - Rene Ouellet Jr.
Director - Drew Plaxton

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Our New Membership Structure

It was something of a historic moment for the Y's Men Club of Midland as a major shift in how membership is structured was proposed by the Board of Directors & President Alan Condren to the membership at large.

Given that:

1. The Y's Men Club of Midland has been experiencing declining membership for the last few decades, &
2. Past efforts to increase membership, while leaving the fundamentals of the club untouched, has resulted in only limited and temporary success, &
3. Club membership is now critically low, especially considering that many members are gone for significant lengths of time each winter....

The Board felt that the time has come to change the membership structure & revitalize the club to attract new members. What was proposed to the membership was 3 major changes....

1. Based on the International Y's Men's charter, membership will be open to everyone and include all segments of society. This will mean looking at creative ways to involve youth, women, families & others to become Y's Men's members;
2. Dues will change to cover the costs of International Dues & the club's administrative requirements related to its separate Not For Profit corporate status only. The Board will set the dues annually based on budget requirements. Individual Members will be required to cover their own costs related to meals at each meeting. This significantly reduces historic membership dues & makes membership more affordable;
3. Meeting format will be altered from weekly to the second & fourth Tuesday of each month. This means a less onerous time commitment but still allows social events to be scheduled.

After spirited discussion, the membership at large voted unanimously to accept the changes to take effect in the New Year ! Well done to all!

International &/Or Regional Report



The Brotherhood Fund

The Brotherhood Fund began in 1931 when it was known as the “Bishop’s Fund.” Its initial purpose was to promote our movement outside North America and to enable Y’s Men from other areas to attend International Conventions (always held in North America in those days). Today, As the name suggests, its purpose is to strengthen the brotherhood of Y’s Men throughout the world, still partly by enabling Y’s Men to attend Area and Regional Conventions but also by enabling them to visit distant Regions. Income has grown steadily from US\$ 140 in 1936 to about US\$ 200,000 today. Although most now comes from cash contributions, about

15% still comes from stamps.

Cultural Exchange Grants (formerly ‘Full grants’) are for delegates travelling to a different Area for club visitations, etc. Such delegates have to travel for a minimum of three weeks and are given a special task, for instance promotion of an International project or programme, in addition to fulfilling the general purpose of all Brotherhood Fund travels: to promote international understanding and to learn and inform others about Y’sdom in different parts of the world — in short to be “Ambassadors for Y’sdom.”

International Convention Grants (formerly ‘Partial grants’) are for those who wish to attend an International or Area Convention only. Such delegates receive part of their expenses but do not have any obligation other than attendance at the Convention.

Dec 3 Meeting News

Midland Y’s Men members primarily discussed new membership changes at this meeting but also learned about the current status of funds we have registered with the Huronia Community Foundation & current distribution of interest in those funds.



UPCOMING PROGRAM

Dec. 10th, 2019 - Time to Dine Draw @ Y @ 2 pm & Regular Business Meeting @ 6:30 pm

Dec. 17th, 2019 - Christmas Social @ Bray’s – see Alan Con-dren’s email & please confirm attendance & what you will be bringing!

Jan. 14th, 2020 — First meeting in the New Year!

Please contact Drew Plaxton with new program ideas!

Visit our website at: www.midlandysmensclub.ca