

## WHO ARE WE

We are a National Association of AOTS Clubs in United Churches across Canada.

Men who do not have a Club in their local Church may also join the AOTS as an Individual Member.

## WHAT WE DO

The main focus of The National AOTS is to support local clubs in their fellowship and outreach.

- ✓ We offer a bond of fellowship with other member clubs.
- ✓ We give financial support for facility improvements at youth camps.
- ✓ We make logoed promotional materials and clothing available to Club members.
- ✓ We provide support for meeting devotionals.
- ✓ We maintain a comprehensive website.
- ✓ We share Club news and updates.
- ✓ We organize national and regional conferences.

## CLUB OPERATIONS

Clubs are the central element of The National AOTS. The goals are fellowship, spiritual growth and service. The club organization is flexible, reflecting the interests and needs of the members.

Club leadership should be a shared responsibility. A traditional executive or a group of 3 or 4 men are both effective leadership options.

Clubs are encouraged to have regular meetings set at the time and location that works best for them. A suggested meeting agenda is outlined below:

### A.O.T.S. OPENING PRAYER

(unison or sung)

*Be present at our table Lord*

*Be here and everywhere adored*

*These mercies bless and grant that we*

*May spend our lives in serving thee.*

*Amen*

### DEVOTIONAL

### MEAL OR REFRESHMENTS

### DISCUSSION, SPEAKER OR WORK PARTY

### CLUB BUSINESS

### PLANNING FOR FUTURE EVENTS

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Go into the world as Christian men,*

*Celebrating God's greeting.*

*Go into the world as men,*

*Whose lives are made new.*

*Go into the world - as one that serves,*

*Carrying Christ's cross. Amen*

## EXPECTATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

### LOCAL CLUBS

Be Active As A Club

*Organize regular meetings*

*Support your members*

*Promote your activities*

*Encourage newcomers*

Support Your Church & Community

*Service projects*

*Fund raising events or activities*

*Encourage stewardship*

*Partner with your local camp*

Support The National AOTS

*Participate in Regional/National events*

*Give to the Camp Improvement Project*

### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

*Receive National communications*

*Give to the Camp Improvement Project*

*Attend AOTS sponsored events in your area*

*Serve on National Executive or Committees*

## THE NATIONAL AOTS STRUCTURE

- ✓ Constitution & Bylaws are available on the web at [www.aots.ca](http://www.aots.ca)
- ✓ 11 men sit on the National Executive.
- ✓ Vice–Presidents representing Eastern, Central & Western regions are responsible for communication with clubs, encouraging club development and presenting regional interests and concerns to the Executive.
- ✓ Most of the communications with Clubs is via email or the website.
- ✓ Services to support clubs are listed on the website.

In recent years, The National AOTS made a concerted effort to minimize operating costs and virtually eliminate the need for Clubs to remit National dues. This ensures that all gifts to The National AOTS will be directed to worthy outreach projects.

The National AOTS is a registered charitable organization.

We know that many United Churches have Men's Fellowships or Men's Clubs that are not affiliated with The National AOTS. We are willing and interested to share resources and work cooperatively in ways that will benefit all men, enhance local communities, and support youth camping.

## OUR HISTORY

The AOTS name comes from the first letters of the last three words in Jesus' statement "I come among you as one that serves" (Luke 22:27).

The 1<sup>st</sup> AOTS club, founded by Dr. Herbert W. Riggs, was formed in a Vancouver Methodist Church in 1923. The founder's vision was to focus on service within the Church and the community. As the number of Clubs grew, a national association of clubs was formed.

Initially, the movement was focused in BC. Delbert R. Poole initiated expansion in the 1940's. By 1963 there were 582 chartered clubs across Canada. The AOTS logo was unveiled during the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner.

AOTS Clubs hosted many service, fund-raising, fellowship and worship projects. Meanwhile, the National organization sponsored Regional Round-ups, National Conventions, and national projects.

AOTS Membership has declined, similar to the UC membership decline. However, local clubs continue the spirit of AOTS through their club fellowship and service projects.

Where there is no local club, Individual Membership is available to interested men so they can participate in The National AOTS.

In recent years, the National AOTS has focused its national projects towards improvement of youth camping facilities.

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OF  
UNITED CHURCH  
AOTS MEN'S CLUBS