

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup
General Meeting Tuesday, March 27, 2007

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Barbara L. (St. Clements) read the Twelve Traditions.

THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT: Amazing Grace, Anniversary, As Bill Sees It, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Bellamy, Bramalea, Church St., City Central, Credit Valley, Danforth, Don Valley, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Glenholme, Golden Mile, High Park, Keep It Simple, Kingsway, Kipling, Lakeshore, Last Chance, Melrose, Midtown, Mount Dennis, Mount Royal, New Anchor, Noon Rap, Oakville, Orleta (Polish), Port Credit, Principles Before Personalities, Primary Purpose, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Shepherd, Spiritual Progress, Streetsville Action, Sunday Northwestern, Thornhill, Trial & Error, Tuesday Night Discussion, U of T, Unionville, Vision of Hope, Welcome, Westmoreland, Willowdale, Woodbine, Woodbridge, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 12, 14, and 22. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, Public Information, Newsletter, Grapevine, ORC 2008, Info AA Day, Self-Support.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – February 2007

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Joe B. (Danforth) and seconded by John (Thornhill). MOTION IS CARRIED.
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CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Stephanie L. (Erin Mills), Operating Committee Senior

Stephanie explained that Rene refrained from Chairing duties this evening due to health. She also mentioned that Operating Committee 1st Vice Chair, Victoria B. (Beaches) has stepped down from her position, as this service conflicts with her home group attendance.

There was a **collection of the 7th Tradition**, which totaled **\$126.20** after coffee expenses.

FINANCE REPORT – Chris H. (Friendly), Finance Subcommittee member

When referring to the **Bar Graph** for Feb.2007 (*attached to hard copy Minutes*), Chris extended a thank-you to groups and members for their support to Intergroup, as the financial numbers are “moving in the right direction”. Our Income for the month was \$12,932, which is up from Feb. 2006. Our Expenses were \$13,499, which leaves us at -\$567 for the month; however, when compared to Feb.2006, we were down at that time for the month of February by -\$2,145.

Regarding **literature sales**, Chris reported that sales are quite good. He also reported that the accounts receivable stands at around \$18,000, but most of that is current. The numbers showing over 60 & 90 days are coming down, and Chris again thanked members and groups for their efforts in this regard.

Regarding the **2007 Budget** (*attached to hard copy Minutes*), Chris took the time to re-explain this document to the Floor: “The big difference from past years (i.e. 2005 & 2006) is in Expenses. Under our Expenses [for those years] we did not list Literature – or the cost to us for literature – because we make a profit on the literature. So, we simply put, under the Income, the *projected profit*, in order to be more transparent and [also] so the Floor understands our cash flow. This year, what we’ve done is we’ve broken it out, so we’re listing under our Expenses the projected cost of our literature, which as you can see is listed at \$82,000. And then, in the Income section, instead of listing this as a profit, we listed it as Total Sales. So, that’s the difference. Last month, there was also an error in the addition in one of the columns that caused a bit more confusion. So, I hope this clarifies everything.”

The **Finance Subcommittee is currently looking for a new member**. Please send service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.

Chris entertained questions from Floor members. (NOTE: some comments from Floor members could not be transcribed due to poor sound recording, as some members had not approached the microphone during the question period.)

John (Thornhill) asked about the formula for literature pricing. Chris answered that the margin on our literature is at 40%, and it used to be at 45%. A couple of years ago, GSO changed their prices and we adjusted ours accordingly. We lowered the price of the Big Book at that time. John inquired further on the mark-up on “outside things” like medallions, engraving, etc; he said that “...the mark-up on these outside things is about 200% or more...is that correct?” Chris answered that the mark-up on these items were “...prior to me being on the Finance subcommittee; the last time the prices were adjusted was 2 ½ years ago.” Several members commented on the mark-up for items like medallions, opining that “...isn’t that where the money is made, so what’s the problem?” Also, “We’re not rolling in dough; making money hand over fist and stashing it in a bank account in Switzerland!” John (Thornhill) added: “It matters in the fact that we are in the process of trying to become transparent...my group has asked me to come to the Floor and ask questions about the Finances...”

Fran H. (Kingsway): “My group has asked me to ask the Finance committee if they could in some way do some sort of an audit to determine the discrepancies between the variances from, say, 2005 and 2006...I think this would be helpful, just to see the differences or variances between some of ... (*sound quality poor*)...I think we were expecting losses at the end of the year [2006?]. We had a profit. My group wants to know why. We’re happy about the profit, but we still would like to have a better accounting of the numbers in the different departments.” Chris replied that he would bring this to the Finance meeting next month. Joanne (Unionville) shared similar sentiments with Fran and agreed that her group would also like to see the actual [figures].

Darrel R. (Spiritual Progress) asked about the banking charges, and why they are so high (\$3,500). Executive Secretary, Carole Keenan, replied: “We get charged approximately \$250 a month for banking fees, because everything that goes through the bank is charged. We get charged for our deposits, any cheque that’s written...plus we have a VISA machine, so MasterCard charges us, VISA charges us; we get a service charge for *everything* that goes through our account. It [the charge] comes to \$250 to \$275 a month. That’s why the charges are high.” Jonas (Welcome) asked what kind of an account we have; Carole answered that we have a corporate chequing account.

MOTION to accept Finance report moved by Wayne O. (Anniversary) and seconded by Joanne (Unionville). MOTION IS CARRIED.

Subcommittee Reports

Access Ability – no report. **Next meeting:** Sun., April 15 at 11 a.m. at 234.

Better Times Newsletter – Marv W. (Streetsville), Chairperson

Marv commented on the ‘new look’ of the Newsletter. He also spoke to the recent problem with e-mailing announcements to the BT due to a computer ‘glitch’, saying “We’re trying to correct that, because we want to get all members’ medallions and announcements in”. Marv also reported that the Newsletter has a new member (Cliff V., Saturday Morning Disc.). Cliff’s task is to be a liaison to the other subcommittees to better increase communication and awareness of BT.

Volunteers needed and welcome! Next meeting: Wed., April 18 at 7 p.m. at 234. **Deadline for submissions for May issue:** April 10.

Archives – Roy R. (Trial & Error), Chairperson

This committee meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at 234; **next meeting** is April 13. Flyers are out and available regarding the upcoming **Archives Breakfast** to be held Sun., Nov. 4 at the Oasis Convention Centre (1063 Lakeshore Rd E. Mississauga). Tickets are available from Intergroup Reps, GSRs, or from 234. Guest Speaker: Amy Filiatreau, Archivist for GSO in New York.

Corrections – no report. **This subcommittee needs a chairperson;** please submit service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234. **Next meeting:** Mon., April 2 at 7 p.m. at 234. Stephanie will be present as the liaison from the Operating Committee.

CPC – no report. **Next meeting:** Mon., April 9 at 7 p.m.

Grapevine – Doug G. (Don Valley), Chairperson

Hard copy of this report on file. Here is what Doug presented:

Good evening friends, my name is Doug, I am an alcoholic, and a member of the Don Valley Group. I have the privilege of serving as your Grapevine Chairperson. **The Grapevine Committee needs an Alternate Grapevine Chairperson! Meetings are held the Second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. at 234 Eglinton, all are welcome to attend. Please come out and help, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.**

The Ontario Regional Conference was a great opportunity to display Grapevine materials that are for sale. We made some sales but more importantly promoted items that are for sale at Intergroup. Thank You Intergroup for providing the Consignment Order that we displayed for sale. Thank You to Howard, Peter, Christina and Friend, Ida, Margaret and Victoria, for your help displaying materials at the conference. It was a great success due to all your help.

We encourage Intergroup to purchase new Grapevine Materials to sell. If the Cassette Tapes are difficult to sell then maybe they should be discounted, or donated to one of your other committees and written off.

The History of the Grapevine Sub – Committee of the GTA Intergroup has hit a stone wall. We can get no agreement on what is written and people are not responding to requests for help to complete the History.

We are encouraging Grapevine Representatives to share their inventories. If they have too much of an item they should try to sell to other Representatives. This will keep all inventories at a manageable level.

We encourage all Districts, Groups, and individuals to purchase Grapevine materials from the GTA Intergroup.

We invite you to take a look at some of the Grapevine Materials that are for sale at Intergroup and here at the meeting tonight. The Display is at the back of the room.

God Bless! *Yours in Love and Service, Doug G.*

Information AA Day – Phil M. (Bayview), Chairperson

Phil reported that “everything is ready to go” for the event, which will be held **Sat., May 5** at Lansing United. Tickets are \$5; they are available through Intergroup Reps, GSRs, and from 234. The day features a pot-luck lunch, the Area 83 Delegate’s Report, and a Speaker from GSO. **Next meeting:** Mon., April 30 at 7:30 p.m. at 234. **Volunteers are needed the day of the event for kitchen / setup / cleanup duties.**

ORC 2007 – Rene T. (Silverbirch), **2008 ORC event Chair**

The ORC 2007 event Chair, Barbara H., could not be present to give a report at this meeting; a full report will be given next month. Rene shared that Barbara wanted to extend a thank-you to members for allowing her to serve as Chair. We had 13 more registrants this year; however, we were down 3 room nights from last year. The ORC 2008 theme is *'Happy, Joyous, and Free'*. The 2008 event committee is **asking members interested to submit graphics for the theme**; the member that created the winning entry will receive one free night's stay at the Royal York during the 2008 event, plus a free banquet ticket and registration.

Public Information – Tom S. (Saturday Morning Disc.), **Chairperson**

The folder / holder campaign is underway, with beginner pamphlets and holders packages having been delivered through to the Districts for distribution. This is done in tandem with the CPC subcommittee. Another initiative of this subcommittee is distributing large-print Big Books into senior residences. The subcommittee is also working on having a table at the upcoming Gay Pride event, and a Health Day function at the East York Town Centre. **Next meeting:** Mon., April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

Reception – Arwen H. (Primary Purpose), **Operating Committee Junior member**

4 Districts, 5 subcommittee chairs, 51 reps, and 13 alternates were present this evening, for a total of 74 members.

Self-Support – John P. (Welcome), **Chairperson**

John reported that two new District Chairs showed up for the last meeting. ***Volunteers are needed, and attendance is encouraged!*** **Next meeting:** Wed., April 4 at 7 p.m. at 234.

Treatment Facilities – no report. Stephanie mentioned that Mike C. (Beverly Hills), the newly appointed Treatment Chair, has taken ill; therefore, **a new Treatment Chair is needed.** Please send service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.

Twelfth Step – Mike K. (Yorkville), **Operating Committee Senior member**

Mike shared that, regarding this subcommittee, "our resource is people". He was happy to report that several new phone duty and 12 step duty volunteers stepped forward as a result of this subcommittee's table at the ORC. 7 new phone greeters have been trained and 8 or 9 12 step volunteers have signed up for service. **Next phone training session:** Sun., April 15 at 1:30 p.m. at 234. **Next meeting:** Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

At this time, Darrel R. (Spiritual Progress) stepped forward to share some information about **Access Ability**. He reported that this subcommittee is "very short-handed right now", and volunteers would be appreciated, as there are 3 upcoming events that Access Ability will be involved with. Mayfest (cultural festival for the Deaf) will be happening May 12 at the St. Lawrence Market. The subcommittee will also be at Info AA Day that same month. In June (1 & 2), this subcommittee will be participating in tandem with the CPC subcommittee at the 'People in Motion' Convention, an event informing professionals and social workers about services for people with disabilities. Because this is a National event, GSO covers the cost for literature given at this event. ***Volunteers are needed for these ventures; volunteers also needed for the Buddies List*** (members who are available to visit members in hospital or who are homebound due to health, or are able to escort members to meetings).

Website – Doug Y., Website committee member

Doug presented the proposed ‘new look’ for a more user-friendly website. After a ten-minute presentation, he fielded various questions and feedback from Floor members. ***A new Website Chair is needed***; please submit service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234. **Next meeting:** Sat., April 14 at 1 p.m. at 234.

Unfinished Business

Re: this MOTION (for discussion with groups):

MOTION brought forth by Doug R. (St. Clements):

Due to the rapid turnover of the membership of the Operating Committee, various problems continually arise. Projects are not completed within the terms of office, and retaining of the executive must be repeated on an ongoing basis.

Therefore, in accordance with the recommendations of the *Ad Hoc* Committee [formed] to address these concerns, we moved that...

Any member of the Operating Committee may run for a second term of office, provided:

- a) That they choose to do so;**
- b) That they are voted in by the Intergroup Meeting Floor;**
- c) Accumulated time on the executive level of the Operating Committee not to exceed two years.**

The above Motion **will be up for discussion at the April General Meeting**, as the Rep was not present for this meeting.

New Business

Doug Y. from the *ad hoc* **Recommendation Committee** had the following two items to share with the Floor:

(This should be read as a pamphlet, not a folder)

- A **folder** was created for **New Intergroup Reps** (*see copy attached to hard copy Minutes*). Copies were distributed at this meeting, in the hope that **members will bring suggestions / feedback back from the groups** for the *ad hoc* subcommittee to consider.
- The *ad hoc* subcommittee also proposed an idea for “making our message harmonious”; by finding ways to assist in volunteerism and increase member participation, the *ad hoc* suggests **listing the various subcommittee meetings in the body of the Meeting Directory**.

Before adjourning, Stephanie **reminded reps that there will be elections for the Operating Committee at the April General Meeting**. Voting will occur for a new Operating Committee Chair (to serve for the next six months), and also for three new Junior Operating Committee members.

MOTION TO CLOSE MEETING moved by Wayne O. (Anniversary) and seconded by Mike E. (Kipling). **MOTION IS CARRIED.**

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, April 24 at 8 p.m. at Glebe Rd. United Church.