

GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2008

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Glenn G. (East York) read the Twelve Traditions. **THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT:** A Place to Share, Active, Amazing Grace, Anniversary, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Bramalea Care & Share, Brampton New Life, Brampton Recovery, Chartwell, Credit Valley, Daily Reflections, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Glenholme, Golden Mile, Half Century, Hill, Islington, KF, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kingsway, Kipling, Lakeshore, Lawrence Plaza, Leslie, Living Sober, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mount Royal-York, Pine Hills, Primary Purpose, Prince Edward, Principles Before Personalities, Reaching Out, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Stepping Stones Discussion, Stouffville Discussion, Sunday Northwestern, Sunnyside, Thornhill, Tuesday Night Discussion, Twelve Steps, Unionville, Welcome, Weston Sunday Open, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 04, 14, and 18. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, Twelfth Step, Newsletter/Website, Access Ability, ORC 2009.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – October 2008

Amendment: Gord H. (Bloordale), when referring to his questions regarding the Referendum vote (on page 4), noted for the record that Reg S.'s (former Operating Chair's) answers to Gord's two questions were not recorded (the following was confirmed by Reg S.). The amendment reads as follows:

Gord H. (Bloordale): "I have a question for the Operating Committee. The question is: is what was sent out --Schedule 'A', the Notice of Motion, and then the proposed Procedures – this proposed Procedures [document] is not part of the Motion, is that correct?" Reg S., Chairman, replied: "No - It is not part of the Motion. Gord H. (Bloordale): "May I ask how the new Procedures will be incorporated?" Reg. S., Chairman, replied: "The new procedures will have to follow as per the Operating Procedures Sect 11; they will have to be voted upon again and followed by a referendum".

MOTION to accept Minutes as amended moved by Don S. (Kingsway) and seconded by Phil M. (Bayview). MOTION IS CARRIED (1 opposition and 2 abstentions noted).

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Aaron K. (Yorkville), 1st Vice Chair

Aaron filled in as Chair at this meeting, as Operating Chair Bill M. (Westmoreland) could not be present; Bill will be back for the next meeting. Aaron commented that there was a lot of positive input at the November Operating Committee meeting.

Collection of the 7th Tradition, which totaled \$156.66.

FINANCE REPORT – Gregg W. (Rox Glen Traditional), Finance Chairperson: "In October, if you look on the Profit and Loss statement (the back), regarding Income Donations: in the first part, which is the Year to Date section, this is probably the most crucial finance fact you'll see this year. It is the donations from groups, and Gratitude. This figure is well above our conservative budget estimates. This is one of the highest figures Intergroup has ever been fortunate to see. Because of this, we will finish this year in a positive light."

"The other figure I want to deal with now concerns the last Intergroup meeting. At that meeting, there was a handout that was comparative from 2007 to 2008, and there was this massive amount on there that said 'Other Income - \$20,490'. The reason: we are reporting what we're actually doing this year in the comparative. I went back to find out why there was a large amount like that. It is the result of 4 different things:

1. The principle one was the ORC 2007, which was in excess of over \$16,000;

2. Winter Season Open House 2007 monies, which were higher as they took a 7th Tradition;
3. Money from the annual Archives Breakfast; and
4. Money that was taken in from the 7th Tradition from General Meetings.”

“The other important piece of business I’d like to announce to you is that, at this point in time, after Carole’s retirement and changes in the Literature Department over the summer, we’ve now completed our staffing model to carry us into the next year. A couple of years ago, the staffing model was 2 full-time, salaried employees, Monday to Friday, with benefits. These caused us to creep up in our expenses. This year, with more of a hands-on approach to this year, we got a feel for what it takes to run the Intergroup office today. What we now have in place is a staff of four part-time people, working part-time hours on a regular basis. In the last two weeks, we’ve acquired Judy - as our office manager; Judy is a non-member. In the Literature Department, we have Helen (non-member). Assisting Helen with medallion engraving is John P. (member). We also have Alexx V. (member) as our membership secretary. I welcome them all to Intergroup.”

“The other issue we had was filling the vacancies on the Finance Committee. After an appeal to the Floor, we had no results. We then looked among the people who worked at Intergroup to help us out this year, and asked if they would come on as Finance members, as they have the hands-on knowledge and longtime experience with AA. So I’m very pleased to announce that Fran H. and Roy H. have joined the Finance committee for the next two years.”

“In the normal process, tonight would be the night that we bring the 2009 Budget to the Floor; we have not done this. The principle reason is that when we started working on the budget in September, a lot has happened since that time. To try and judge as to this upcoming budget proved difficult. We wanted to hold off until our actual budget figures for 2008, otherwise it would spell disaster. A large part of it is the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar. We’ve already taken a noticeable ‘hit’ of \$2,000 cash off the bottom line in the Literature Department purchasing. The exchange rate is now about 20%. We have also been put on notice by AA World Service (the principle supplier of our material from the States) that they are going to be issuing new prices, effective July 1, 2009. Regarding the budget for 2009, the only major expense is regarding our commitment to the Twelfth Step Committee for a new Phone System. They’ve done a lot of work researching this in the last little while. So, we will be present the budget to you on December 16.”

QUESTIONS: Jane F. (Kipling Group): Did you say literature prices were going up by 15%? Gregg: Yes, on December 1. Phil M. (Bayview): What is our current Prudent Reserve figure? Gregg: \$86,000. Conrad (Yorkville) wanted a clarification on our price list for Literature. Gregg replied that July 1 would be the date that a new price list would be issued. David (Fellowship): Are the four staff members being paid? Gregg: Yes.

Subcommittee Reports

ACCESS ABILITY – Donna M. (Sunnyside), Chairperson: Donna shared that, as we in AA have an aging population (i.e. wheelchair-bound), there is an increase in the need for accessible meeting spaces. Donna listed what Access Ability provide for those members who are disabled: for the blind, we have Braille literature and audio cassettes/CD’s, as well as large-print literature for those with partial sight. For the deaf, we have videotapes that have ASL Interpreters on them, signing; also they have close-caption and volume control. We also have interpreters at meetings. If you’re concerned about the Code of Ethics for interpreters at meetings, this information is on the Website. There are more and more accessible meetings, which is good. If you do have an accessible meeting, please let the office know and also the website, so they can be listed as such. You need to have the exact address of the accessible entrance for your meeting, as Wheeltrans service needs the exact address number for their clients. The Buddies List (at 234) is mainly for people who are blind but it’s also used by people with some disability. If you wish to volunteer to be a contact, please inform 234. @ new GSRs attended the last committee meeting. **Next meeting:** Sun. Dec.21 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Roy R. (Trial & Error), Chairperson: At the Archives Breakfast held in November, 175 people attended, which was a lower turnout than expected. The committee has covered their costs for the event. Roy asked members with monies from the sale of tickets and/or leftover tickets, to please return these to the General Meeting. Roy asked if a member

would be willing to donate an old laptop, as the committee is beginning the initiative to index their archival materials. **Next meeting:** Fri. Dec.12 at 7 p.m. at 234.

CORRECTIONS: no report. **Next meeting:** Sat. Jan 3 at 3 p.m. at 234.

CPC – Courtney R. (Living Sober), Committee member: The committee recently participated in the Chaplains in Pastoral Care Conference (October 29), and attended the District 14 Service Day on November 15. The committee has not as yet selected an incoming Chairperson for CPC. CPC's next event is the Family Medicine Conference put on by the Canadian College of Family Physicians of Canada. This is at the downtown Sheraton Nov 26-29. As a National Conference, CPC is sponsored by GSO for the displays and literature. The conference expects up to 1200 participants. **Next meeting:** Mon. Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2009 – Jim A. (Leslie), Committee member: This event is a joint venture, sponsored by both Toronto Intergroup and the 9 Service Districts. The event will take place on Sat., May 30 2009 at the Lansing United Church. Theme of the event is 'Service with Gratitude' and is celebrating its 30th year. GSO Speaker will be Mary D. (she is in charge of CPC), and the day will also feature an address from our Area 83 Delegate. The event includes a potluck luncheon. Tickets: \$5. Tickets/Flyers will be made available in the New Year. **Next meeting:** Mon. Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 – Kathleen McD. (Rox Glen), Chairperson: The Banquet Speaker at the event will have over 50 years of sobriety. The event theme is 'The Joy of Living' and will be held at the Fairmont-Royal York Hotel on March 20, 21, and 22. The committee is encouraging early pre-registration. For those registering early, there will be early-bird draw prizes (one person will win 2 nights free at the Hotel; also CD prizes). The room rate is \$169.00/night; the same rate as last year. (people registering: please tell the hotel you are attending the ORC, so you can get the special room rate). Registration Deadline: March 6, 2009. Entry fee is \$30. Registration Forms are available online at www.aatoronto.org. Placards/flyers for the event available at the General Meetings. Volunteers are needed for greeting at the event.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Courtney R. (Living Sober), Committee member: No incoming P.I. Chair has been selected for this committee. Work continues to complete the Media in Schools Database. As this is a big job, volunteers for this initiative are most welcome. The committee has decided that the Letters to Schools Outreach project (this is to the 460 Toronto School Boards and Regional Boards) will be organized in the form of smaller mailings across Intergroup Districts. If necessary, District funding will be sought. There are budding initiatives to contact unions and emergency rooms. Police Stations literature for Districts with contacts through the P.I. Committee and Corrections is in process. Prior to the school mailing outreach, we have been able to meet our requests for school talks. **Next meeting:** Mon. Dec. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

RECEPTION – Rick M. (Six Points), Operating Committee member: 56 reps and 7 guests were present this evening.

TREATMENT FACILITIES – Carol (Tuesday Night Disc.), Committee member: 5 members were present at the November meeting, in addition to the Area TF Chair. New Treatment Chair for the upcoming term is Elaine H. (Welcome). **Next meeting:** Thurs. Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TWELFTH STEP – Jim O. (Markland Wood), Chairperson: Phone scheduling for the month of November has gone very well, thanks to the efforts of Greeter Captain Tom S. (Saturday Morning Disc.). Phone volunteers are needed. **Next Phone Training Session:** Sun. Dec. 21 at 1:30 p.m. at 234. A new computer system/phone system will hopefully be in place for the New Year. **Next Twelfth Step Committee meeting:** Wed. Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

BETTER TIMES/ WEBSITE – Marv W. (Mississauga), Chairperson: The December Holiday issue is out. All Candlelight/Gratitude meetings are listed, in addition to meetings cancelled or confirmed for the Holidays. There is also information on Winter Season Open House and the Spiritual New Years Eve event. Featured are tips for Sober Holidays. The committee is looking for a Chairperson as Marvyn is rotating out as of the end of December. **Next meeting:** Sat. Dec 13 at 1p.m.

at 234. **Tom S.:** Please call 234 with information on whether your meeting is open for business or cancelled for the Holidays. This is important information for Greeters who are working the phones during the Holidays.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2008– Marv W. (Mississauga), Committee member: A WSOH committee was formed this year with the combined efforts of past WSOH members, and members of the Operating Committee. The event will be held Christmas Day at the Emmanuel-Howard Park United Church (Roncesvalles and Wright Ave). The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will feature open meetings, discussion meetings, turkey dinner with all the trimmings, music, and Fellowship. *See flyer on website for details and directions.* Volunteers needed for day of event in the form of setup, kitchen help, servers, welcome desk, drivers, food cleanup, coffee makers, and tear down. **‘Into Action’ Committee Meeting:** Sat. Dec 13 at 2 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS from Previous Meetings: no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: no new business.

CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS: Aaron thanked everyone for their patience. “The Operating Committee is here to serve you. If you have questions, please talk to us.”

The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, Dec 16 at 8 p.m. at Glebe Rd United Church (meeting earlier due to Holidays).