

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

## GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

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The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. John C. (Half Century) read the Twelve Traditions. **THOSE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Amazing Grace, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Bramalea Care & Share, Brampton Recovery, Chartwell, Church Street, Daily Reflections, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Glenholme, High Park, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kingsway, Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Mount Dennis, Mount Royal-York, Parklawn, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Prince Edward, Reaching Out, Richmond Hill, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Disc., Silverbirch, St. Clements, St. Patricks, Stepping Stones Disc., Streetsville, Sunday Northwestern, Sunnyside, Thornhill, Trial & Error, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, Unionville, Welcome, Woodbridge, Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 18 and 22. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Access Ability, Corrections, CPC, Info AA Day, ORC, Website/Newsletter, and Twelfth Step.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES – January 2009:** Karen K. (Twelve Steps) inquired as to whether the length of sobriety for being a member of the Transition Committee was missing from the Minutes. Bill M. (Westmoreland), Operating Chair, replied that it was stated in the Minutes (after the Finance Report). After this clarification, **MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented** moved by Phil G. (Mississauga) and seconded by Glen J. (Sunday Northwestern). CARRIED.

**CHARPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Bill M. (Westmoreland):** Bill shared that **volunteers for the GTAI Literature Table at the ORC** are needed (please contact 234). Also, Bill reminded members that the **deadline for pre-registration for the ORC is March 6.**

**Collection of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition: \$136.71.**

**FINANCE REPORT – Bruce L. (Back to Basics), Finance Chair:** For January 2009, income was up a little bit (by approximately \$3,200). Group Donations are above budget by approximately \$8,000. Literature Sales, however, are down by about \$5,000. Expenses are below budget by about \$6,000; this is due to payroll not as high as anticipated. At this time, Net Income is over budget. **Questions:** John B. (High Parker) asked about the Prudent Reserve figure; Bruce replied that it is at around \$85,000. Bill R. (Bellamy) asked if we could report in future how much money is in out bank account: Bruce answered that he could bring this item up for consideration at the next Finance committee meeting. Bruce also shared that Judy (office manager) **requested reps to announce at their groups that if there was anyone donating by monthly EFTs (electronic funds transfer) that has not received their 2008 tax statement, to please contact Judy at 234 with their correct mailing address so that they could receive their statement.**

**ACCESS ABILITY – Donna McQ. (Sunnyside), Chairperson:** Donna thanked various groups (Unionville; Saturday Morning Discussion) for listing the option of ASL signers for their closed meetings. The committee is securing an interpreter for their booth at Mayfest (cultural festival for the Deaf). Donna mentioned that this committee would welcome able-bodied members to their table. **Next meeting:** Sun. Mar.15 at 11 a.m. at 234.

**ARCHIVES – no report. Next meeting:** Fri. Mar.13 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

**CORRECTIONS – Phil G. (Mississauga), Chairperson:** *the following is a written report by Phil:*

The first meeting of the new term was held on February 4 at 234 at 7:30pm and attended by - Murray O D18; Michel P D14; Philip G D6; and a guest, Phil M of the Mississauga Group. Also briefly present was the outgoing IG Chair, Niels B. There were no previous minutes, so we reviewed with the outgoing chair, his final report. Much valuable information and insight was relayed during a short Q&A session and then after giving us the key to the GTACC locker he left us to continue to "carry the message". Thank you Niels B! First order of business at this meeting was to elect a Chair (Phil G) and a Secretary. As none of the Chairs stood for the position of Secretary a volunteer, Phil M, filled it. There was no "Old Business" as such, but a round table discussion of Niels' aforementioned final report gave us the basis to propose... Under "New Business"

#1- Review "Bridging the Gap" as it is perhaps, more applicable to people graduating from Treatment than inmates being released from Corrections. #2- Murray O will speak to Sherry Murphy, the Don Jail volunteer coordinator to get a list of all P&P offices in the GTA to investigate the possibility of holding info sessions with offenders on probation and/or parole and hopefully get more involvement from the districts without jails in them. #3- It was proposed that the Chair, when making his report to Intergroup, pose a question to the floor re: sharing of minutes between the various committees, in the hopes that we may help each other find common solutions to common problems, and so I think I just did? Because the turnout was small, I made a concerted effort to contact each and everyone on the list of District Chairs, and from here on in, the new time and date for future meetings has been established as the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:30pm at 234 Eglinton. This day was the only one not vetoed by anyone, as it did not conflict with other meetings (home, jail, and district) and so, hopefully, can be attended by all on a regular basis. **Next meeting:** Mon., Mar.2.

In closing, ALL chairs (present or not) were encouraged to continue to seek new volunteers and, to consider, and bring to the table, any and all ideas to improve helping released inmates to get involved in AA immediately upon reaching the street. - YLS, Phil G. GTACC Chair

**CPC – Peter B. (Beaches), Chairperson:** 10 members from 7 districts were present at the last meeting, which was a 'get acquainted' session. Also, the table prepared for their booth at the upcoming ORC. CPC Alternate Chair is Steve C. (Principles Before Personalities). **Next meeting:** Mon. Mar.9 at 7 p.m. at 234.

**INFORMATION AA DAY – 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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. Flyers were made available for reps at this meeting. Tickets will be available in the next week or so: members can get tickets through their GSRs. **Next meeting: Mon. Mar.30 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

**ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE – Kathleen McD. (Rox Glen Traditional), 2009 Event Chair:** This is the biggest AA Conference in North America! Registration cost is \$30. Deadline for pre-registration: March 6. The event theme is 'The Joy of Living' and will be held at the Fairmont-Royal York Hotel on March 20, 21, and 22. Banquet Speaker will be Clancy I. from California, who has over 50 years of sobriety. **ORC e-mail address:** [orc@aatoronto.org](mailto:orc@aatoronto.org). **Phone number:** 416-487-2677. At this time 717 people have pre-registered, and 450 banquet tickets have been sold. These figures are up by 60 or 70 from last year at this time. Kathleen thanked **Better Times** for publishing the schedule of events for the ORC. **Volunteers for greeters at the event still welcome** (look on website and/or flyer info). **Intergroup reps: please announce this event at your groups!** There was a lengthy discussion *on how this event is self-supporting*; that there are no 'free tickets' per se available at the event itself, however Kathleen reported that in the past some tickets have been donated by groups. Wes B. (Long Branch) shared an idea that, if your group wishes to donate tickets, you can perhaps purchase tickets that can be made available to members in need of tickets at the group level.

**PUBLIC INFORMATION – no report. Next meeting:** Mon. Mar.16 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

**TREATMENT FACILITIES – no report. Next meeting:** Thurs.Mar.19 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

**TWELFTH STEP – Jim O. (Markland Wood), Chairperson:** Jim announced that the phones are being taken care of well, thanks to the efforts of new volunteers and members of this committee who are taking on the task of scheduling and training. **Monthly phone training for new greeters** takes place on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month** at 1:30 p.m. at 234; **next training session** takes place on Mar.15. One year of continuous sobriety is needed to work on the phones. The computers on the greeter desks will be up and running after repairs. Jim mentioned briefly the initiative to get a new phone system in place. Harold Y. (Port Credit) has been investigating various options on behalf of this committee. Jim assured members that the phone system transition will be smooth; he mentioned one option (Allstream) which would cost \$425/month (plus internet) and enhancements to the system are available with this option. A more formal presentation (special meeting) for reps about the new system will be made at a future

date to outline specifically the new system and options available. After a lengthy discussion, Harold Y. mentioned the need to receive updated 12-Step contact data from members. **Next meeting:** Fri. Mar.27 at 7 p.m. at 234.

**WEBSITE/BETTER TIMES – Elaine G.** (Port Credit), **Co-Editor:** the March issue includes the ORC Program of Events, plus an article on Sunnyside Group's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Elaine asked for volunteers to submit articles to the newsletter; the e-mail address is [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org). **Website:** the webmaster and Alternate are in the process of creating a mapping system on the site which would allow people to find meetings closest to where they live/work. **Next meeting:** Sat. Mar/14 at 1 p.m. at 234.

**TRANSITION COMMITTEE – Dee T.** (Streetsville), **elected Chairperson:** The first meeting of this committee was held on Feb.14; 14 members were in attendance. This meeting was basically an information session, which focused on getting familiar with the Procedures and Guidelines and other related documentation. Dee informed the Floor that this process will probably take longer than anticipated. **Volunteers needed;** anyone can join this committee (no formal sobriety requirement). **Next meeting:** Sat. Mar.14 at 3 p.m.

**RECEPTION – Rick McC.** (Six Points), **Operating Committee member:** 63 reps/alternates, and 6 Chairs/District reps were in attendance this evening.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Bill announced that the **deadline for ORC 2011 Chairperson is Feb.28.** So far, 5 resumes for the position have been received.

**NEW BUSINESS: no new business.**

Bill thanked everyone in attendance, and added "...see you all at the ORC!"

There being no further business, the meeting closed with the Responsibility Pledge.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tues. Mar.31 at 8 p.m.**