

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup
GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

(These minutes **approved** by Floor members)

Workshop Meeting

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. and opened with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Before the moment of silence, Bert announced that the past EC Vice Chair from 2016, Carol J. (Tuesday Night Discussion), passed away this past weekend, and asked that members remember Carol during the moment of silence. Dan B. (Midtown) read the Twelve Traditions.

THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT: Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, East York, Erin Mills, Friendly, Glenholme, Golden Mile, High Park, Hill, King City, Living Sober, Long Branch, Love & Tolerance, Markham Village, Mount Royal-York, New Anchor, Newmarket, North Toronto, OISE Discussion, One Paragraph at a Time, Parkway, Pine Hills, Queensville, Restoration & Recovery, Richmond Hill, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, Sobriety Plus, St. Clement's, Stepping Stones Discussion, Steps to Serenity, Sunnyside, The First 164, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions (Pickering), Welcome, Westmoreland, and Willowdale, **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 12, and 22. **Executive Committee Members:** Aaron K., Bert J. (EC Chair), Dan B., Katrina E., Nina L. (EC Vice Chair), Ron S. (Finance Chair), and Sue G. **Subcommittee Chairpersons:** Accessibility, Archives, Corrections, EC Advisory, Finance, Information AA Day, ORC, Public Information, Twelfth Step, and Winter Season Open House.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – February 2018: MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Dave H. (Queensville). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chairperson's Opening Remarks – Bert J. (Silverbirch), Executive Committee Chair: Bert inquired as to how many new Reps were present, and welcomed them into service and thanked them for attendance at this Workshop Meeting. As it is a Workshop Meeting, reports will be limited to two minutes in duration and the Workshop component will be 4 minutes in duration. *At this point in the meeting, members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.*

Vacancy on the Executive Committee: There was a **Motion to Suspend Regular Business, as a new EC member is needed immediately.** Bert called for nominations/volunteers from the Floor; none were forthcoming. ***This item will be carried over to the April General Meeting.***

There was a **Motion to schedule Unfinished Business right after the Finance Report** which was moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Jason N. (Restoration & Recovery). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Collection of the 7th Tradition, which totalled **\$197.25.**

FINANCE – Ron S. (North Toronto), Finance Chairperson:

Toronto Intergroup Finance Report at **February 28th, 2018**

SUMMARY	ACTUAL RESULTS	BUDGET	ACTUAL RESULTS	Year to Date 2018	
	JANUARY 2018	JANUARY 2018	up to Feb.28 2018	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME	\$10,044	\$7,797	\$23,553	\$27,871	\$22,994
EXPENSES	\$13,871	\$25,125	\$43,093	\$29,690	\$38,064
Net Income or (Deficit)	\$3,827	\$17,328	\$19,560	\$1,819	\$15,070

Summary: Literature Sales are up 58% over February last year. Group and Individual Donations were down by 10%. However, we are pleased to see a vast improvement so far this year.

Income's Up – Expenses are down ** "That's as good as it gets!"**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Last month, a Motion was brought to the Floor by Rob C. (OISE Discussion). Bert asked Rob if he could re-read the Motion again for those present:

Motion presented by Rob C. (OISE Discussion): That the [proposed] Intergroup budget for the following calendar year be presented at least 60 days prior to the vote to approve the budget. Motion was seconded by David P. (Birds of a Feather).

Bert asked if the member that seconded the Motion was present; he was not present. Bert then asked for another Rep to second the Motion: Barry (Living Sober/Newmarket) seconded the above Motion.

A discussion ensued among Floor members. Concerns expressed included not having enough time to disseminate the proposed budget information to group members, some groups don't hold monthly business meetings, etc. Because of these considerations, it was felt that 60-day period to process the information was needed, rather than the current 30-day window. According to procedures, the proposed budget is presented in November, and then voted on in December. Steve A. (Six Points), former GTAI Finance Chair, pointed out several items for clarification as to the rationale for the presentation time period: the Finance committee members – who are all volunteers – start this process in late September, as there is no information on revenue for the summer months before that time. "How can you base a budget on information you don't have?" By having the time period increased, Steve (in his experience) felt that we should not "tie their hands" further with a shortened timeframe.

After further discussion, a **vote was taken. MOTION DEFEATED.**

Workshop Portion of the Meeting

Barbara H. (Rox Glen Traditional), Chair of the EC Advisory Committee, gave a brief outline of GTAI's operating manual, the GTAI Procedures and Guidelines document. Barbara highlighted the following:

- The current document was adopted in 2009. A Revision history can be found on Page 2
- Read Purpose (Page 4): ***"Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is a coordinating body that supports the 12 Step Work of AA groups in the Toronto area, providing a point of contact between Individual groups, the public, and the still suffering alcoholic."***
- Also on Page 4: Barbara outlined Composition of Intergroup, and the Role of Intergroup Reps and Alternate Reps
- Page 5: outlined privileges of Intergroup Reps and Alternates
- Page 7: Composition, qualifications, and terms of office/duties of Executive Committee members
- Section 11 (Page 16): outlined process of amending the Procedures. Any proposed changes to the Procedures requires a three-month referendum vote from groups members
- Guidelines Section (page 18): proposed changes to this section can be made by a simple majority vote from members

The GTAI Procedures and Guidelines document, which contains information on all service subcommittee roles and responsibilities, including the Executive Committee, **can be found on our website: www.aatoronto.org** (Go to Homepage: Under 'About' there is a drop-down to 'Subcommittees', including a Finance FAQs sheet under 'Financial Disclosure'). Some hard copies of the Procedures and Guidelines will be made available to Reps for the March General Meeting.

Subcommittees (Intergroup)

ACCESS ABILITY – Marty M. (Open Hands), interim Accessibility Chairperson:

Hello, everyone! I am a grateful alcoholic and a member of the Open Hands Group in District 06 Mississauga. I'm currently serving as the interim Accessibility Chair and my name is Marty.

The following are the items discussed at the March 18 meeting of the Accessibility Committee:

- The GTA Accessibility display was printed. The committee likes the way it looks, but unfortunately the size was too small. Heidi will inquire as to the cost of a more appropriate-sized display. We are confident that it will be ready for Info AA Day (May).
- The Accessibility Committee feels that there needs to be a representative on the ORC committee. With the event taking place at a different venue next year, it would be beneficial to those members with special needs having someone on the committee who is more aware to identify any barriers.

- The District Chairs are distributing the Accessibility Checklist for groups to the GSRs. Our goal is to update the Meeting Lists, and identify which meetings are truly accessible or partially accessible. For example: to state 'no accessible washroom' or 'accessible entrance only'.
- There seems to be no Intergroup Liaison for Accessibility.

Respect for the **dignity** of others is the foundation for all our efforts as a committee to carry the message to alcoholics with special needs, with emphasis on identification rather than on how we are different. People are not the ones with barriers; the barriers are what we want to overcome as a Fellowship to provide access to our life-saving message of recovery. This committee meets bi-monthly on the third Sunday at 234. **Next meeting:** May 20 at 11 a.m.

ARCHIVES – Gord H. (Bloordale), Chairperson:

Good Evening friends my name is Gord H., I am an alcoholic, a member of the Bloordale Group, and I have the honor and pleasure of serving as the GTA Archives Chair.

Well, I hope all that attended the very successful 2018 ORC had a chance to pick up and read the 24-page full color booklet "75 Years of AA in Ontario". This booklet was put together by members of our archives committee, I would especially like to thank, Eddie, Peter, Sean, Amy and also Patricia who put together the video "History of AA". Also hope all that attended ORC were able to check out all the archival displays from all over Ontario. We have a very active and dedicated committee and we always welcome members that have an interest in Archives. The Archives Committee has several new projects in the works and I will keep you updated on them.

Another important area of our committee is obtaining Oral Histories from long timers, if you are aware of any members that we do not have an oral history for, please pass on the Archives committee.

The GTA Archives repository contains material from all over Ontario going back to January 13, 1943. If any members would like to have a tour, please contact myself or Eddy G. (Archivist) or Jim W. (Assistant Archivist).

Thank you for allowing me to serve. *"Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present: they forgot where they came from"* – Carl Sandburg Yours in Service, Gord H., GTA Archives Chair

This committee meets every second Friday of the month at 234. **Next meeting:** April 13 at 7 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS – Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), EC Liaison:

This committee is responsible for five different initiatives. One responsibility is maintenance, design, updates, and email/information support (i.e. from the Press) for our **website** (www.aatoronto.org), which is entirely done by volunteers, which we are grateful for. Another is the publication of our monthly Newsletter, the *Better Times*, which is also created by volunteers each month. Copies of the April edition were made available from Reps this evening. Also falling under this committee's responsibilities is the printing and updating of our Meeting Directory. Communications also assists the Executive and Finance committees (i.e. publications that the committees may require). This committee meets every second Tuesday at 234. **Next meeting:** April 10 at 6:30 p.m. (no committee meeting was held in March)

INFORMATION AA DAY 2018 – Aaron K. (Yorkville), 2018 Event Chairperson:

Hello Friends! Info AA Day 2018 is gearing up for a great day of service! Once again, the event will be held on **Sat. May 26, 2018** at the 519 Church Street Community Centre. Registration is \$5. Doors open at 8 a.m. The day officially begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at approximately 3 p.m. We have the **format for the day** and the **proposed report times**, which are as follows:

- Doors open at 8 a.m. Coffee and fellowship from 8-8:30 a.m.
- 8:30-8:45 a.m.: Chair's Opening Remarks and Twelfth Step Report
- 8:45-9 a.m.: Area 83 Structure, presented by Kimberly M., Area 83 Chair
- 9 – 9:15 a.m.: Self-Support presentation
- 9:15-9:30 a.m.: Treatment presentation
- 9:30-9:45 a.m.: Public Information presentation
- 9:45-10 a.m.: Cooperation with the Professional Community presentation
- 10-10:15 a.m.: BREAK
- 10:15-10:30 a.m.: Archives presentation
- 10:30-10:45 a.m.: Grapevine presentation
- 10:45-11 a.m.: Accessibility presentation
- 11-11:50 a.m.: GUEST SPEAKER: Jenny H., Past Delegate with 40 years of sobriety and lots of service experience
- 11:50 a.m.-1 p.m.: POT LUCK LUNCH (donations of food /cash towards food purchases welcomed from both groups and districts)
- 1-2 p.m.: DELEGATE'S REPORT, presented by Kim S., current Area 83 Delegate
- 2-2:15 p.m.: Corrections presentation
- 2-15 to approx.2:45 p.m.: Ask-it Basket, and Closing Remarks

What is Info AA Day? Information AA Day is the gathering of all the subcommittees who give their concise summary reports on what they do in service, and it also highlights a report from the recent General Service Conference (held each April in New York) from our Area 83 Delegate. It is a joint, yearly initiative of both Intergroup and the 8 Service Districts of the GTA.

We look forward to seeing all who are involved in service (GSRs and Intergroup Reps and their Alternates) and of course all who would like to be in attendance: at the event, we encourage any questions about service in the fellowship!

In Service, Aaron K., 2018 Event Chair

This committee meets every fourth Monday of the month at 234. **Next meeting:** April 23 at 7:30 p.m.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018 – Steve A. (Six Points), 2018 Event Chair:

Hi Friends, I am an alcoholic, member of the Six Points Group and my name is Steve. It was my honour and privilege to serve you as the 2018 ORC Chair.

Thus far, the attendance appears to be around 3,250 people. As well we ended up with 835 room nights. Our committee thanks everyone for their support.

Some preliminary guestimates of financial results vs budget.

Item	Budget	Estimated Actuals	Variance
Operating budget	(\$2,755)	\$1,000	\$3,755
Web site	(\$1,265)	(\$1,265)	\$0
75 th Anniversary	(\$7,500)	(\$5,000)	\$2,500
Totals	(\$11,520)	(\$5,265)	\$6,255

Remember these figures are very preliminary estimates.

Some comments:

“My cup overfloweth.”

“My heart is so full from the experience of this past weekend! Your committee, the convention, the facility, the speakers, the weather (oh so cold), were all magnificent!”

“The whole weekend was enriching and affirming. Even the conversations in the hallways were robust and, I must say, a cut above what I’m used to. Recovery is alive and well in Toronto.”

“I was deeply touched by everyone’s kindness, and by what each person shared. I left with a heart that was overflowing with gratitude. I had no clue life was going to be this full and wonderful.”

“It was an awesome weekend. I am depleted in the best possible way and my heart is so full. It has been a pleasure working with a d getting to know you all. We did it :).”

“On a side note, I would do this job all over again in a heartbeat. One of my best life experiences ever.”

Any questions? YILS, Steve A., 2018 ORC chair

TWELFTH STEP – Jason N. (Restoration & Recovery), committee Secretary:

Good Evening everyone, my name is Cynthia, I am an alcoholic and a member of the Yorkville Group. I apologize for my absence today but I am working late tonight and cannot make it.

The first thing I need to mention is that I need to step down as Chairperson of this committee. I apologize for not giving enough time to find a new chairperson for the committee before leaving, but it was a sudden decision. **So as of immediately the Chairperson position for the Twelfth Step Committee is open.** Anyone who is interested in this position, please go to our **next business meeting** on Wednesday, April 11th at 234 Eglinton Avenue East.

Second, we have come up with a new overnight schedule where the overnight greeters will be scheduled for one week at a time with three weeks off in between shifts. Currently, overnight greeters are scheduled for three months straight of answering the overnight phones. We are hoping that this new one week schedule will be more appealing to the overnight greeters. Everything is in place and we are ready to begin this new schedule on Monday April 2nd.

Lastly, we are always looking for more phone greeters. Anyone interested in volunteering as a phone greeter can call 234 to get the phone trainers contact information to make an appointment for phone training. Sobriety Requirement for phone greeters is one year of continuous sobriety. **Our phone training** session is always on the first Sunday of the month at 234 Eglinton Avenue East, with the exception of April. The first Sunday of April is Easter Sunday so the April training session has been rescheduled to Sunday April 8th!

Yours in Loving Service, Cynthia F.

Jason then read **roles and responsibilities of the Twelfth Step Committee**: 'Twelfth step work is front-line work carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic and their families. Those who do the work understand that they are saving lives; one drunk at a time. The mandate for the Twelfth Step Committee is to ensure that there is always someone there when the alcoholic finally reaches out.'

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2018: No report.

From the Intergroup Website: 'The Winter Season Open House is an annual holiday tradition in Toronto, held by Toronto Intergroup since 1944 and open to all. It is a fellowship event with a strong message for all alcoholics, whether they are suffering or recovering: "No matter who you are or what day of the year it is, when you come to AA and ask for help, you are no longer alone." Held on the 25th of December, the day features meetings, a holiday-style meal, coffee, and snacks, entertainment, and fellowship. **WSOH 2108 needs a chairperson.** Please send resumes to the Executive Committee c/o 234. **Committee meetings commence in September.**

District Subcommittees

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

I am an alcoholic and my name is Dave H. I am a member of the Queensville Group and it is my honour and privilege to serve as your Intergroup Corrections Sub Committee Chair. All District Corrections Chairs and anyone else interested are urged to attend the Committee meeting at 234 on the first Wed of every second month so we can better coordinate the efforts of our facilities volunteers to serve the incarcerated members. The last meeting was on March 7. In attendance were representatives from District 22, District 14, and District 12. It is important to have all District Corrections Chairs and interested members attend this meeting so we can plan and implement our volunteer commitments to these facilities and the alcoholic inmates. This is very important service work as you can well imagine.

The Metro East Detention Centre and The Toronto South Detention Centre are currently looking to accept new volunteer AA members to put on the jail meetings and you or your fellow AA members who are interested can contact the Committee through the Intergroup AA Corrections email. As the newly elected chair please bear with me as I will be up to speed on all of this as soon as I can.

Toronto South is looked after by Michele W. at District 6. Metro East is looked after by Gail R of District 22. OCI is looked after by Richard O of District 2. They set up and run their meetings but are always interested in getting speakers. Metro East and Toronto South have experienced a considerable number of lockdowns which prevents us from entering to help share the message. As always, patience is required.

I will continue to follow up with the various Districts and share more pertinent information at upcoming meetings.

Purpose of Corrections: 'The Correctional Facilities Committee of Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is responsible for supplying Chairpersons, Speakers, and Literature for AA meetings in correctional centres, jails, detention centres, probation centres, and similar institutions.' Corrections also has a Corrections Correspondence initiative and has a Bridging the Gap program (for those alcoholics coming out of institutions who want to attend AA meetings). **Email**: corrections@aatoronto.org.

Again, I urge all members who are involved in Corrections or have an interest to attend the bimonthly meetings at 234. They are held every 2nd month in the boardroom at 7:30. The **next meeting** will be May 2, 2018. YILS, Dave H

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): No report given at the meeting. The following was submitted by Kelly B. (Danforth), CPC Chairperson:

ACTIVITIES:

- Victoria B. of District 18 notified the table that she emailed Intergroup, District, and Area regarding the subcommittees being excluded from ORC participation this year, and she also distributed 3 AA Community Professional Packages in her District
- Valiant effort being made to recruit a member of District 12 to the CPC Chair to join us
- Communication has begun with the housing organization Homes First
- District 06 Chair has recruited someone from his home group to help him in his efforts
- Another committee member is setting a goal of contacting Morneau Chapelle/EAP, SIRCorp and the Archdiocese regarding distributing literature/offering information
- An Inventory has been done of our current literature and an order will be placed before we go to the Pri-Med Conference
- Currently registered to attend the Pri-Med Conference which is happening May 9-12; table to be manned only on Friday and Saturday but still needs to be set up on Thursday. A contact list template will be created for people to share their emails so we can be in touch regarding information session opportunities in the future. We will also be reaching out to some unrepresented Districts to see if we can get some help manning the booth
- All of the committee members were present at the Area 83 Assembly and Mark B. stepped in for Kelly to participate on the panel on Service Day Area Assembly, and attended the joint sharing meeting
- All in all a busy, successful meeting with great things ahead!

This committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 234. **Next meeting**: April 9 at 7 p.m.

GRAPEVINE –Katrina E. (Steps to Serenity), EC Liaison:

Purpose of Grapevine Committee: “Coordinating Grapevine Reps across the GTA, in the efforts of spreading awareness of *The Grapevine* magazine; our ‘meeting in print’”.

Katrina then read the following report from the last committee meeting:

Present: Glenn G. (D18 GV chair and GV committee chair), Jerry (D22 GV chair), Russell (D10 GV chair), Robert B (Area 83 Chair), Katrina E (Intergroup Exec rep)

Approval of minutes from previous meeting: Moved by Katrina, seconded by Russell, to defer approval of January meeting minutes to the next meeting, as most people at this meeting hadn’t seen them.

REPORTS:

- **GV committee chair**
 - Expressed thanks to Intergroup and to ORC committee for the opportunity to sell GV materials at the Intergroup table at the ORC. \$375 of GV materials were sold.
- **D10 GV Chair**
 - New to the position; he’s going to groups in the district to introduce himself
- **D18 GV chair**
 - Increased value of GV inventory from \$500 to \$800; this allows them to carry 2 copies of each book
 - D18 has a significant GV display which goes regularly one of the men’s meetings, the Area meeting, East Toronto Archives breakfast, and anywhere else it is invited
 - Subscriptions increased recently from 25 to 30 for groups in the district
 - District has decided to maintain a line item in the financial statements for the GV materials
 - D18 and D22 are hosting the next East Toronto Archives breakfast on June 3/18
 - Every effort is made to get their GV orders > \$500 so they get the 20% discount
- **D22 GV Chair**
 - New to the position
 - Got 5 requests for the GV display for meetings in the district at the last district meeting
- **Area GV Chair**
 - Area Assembly workshop will be on Saturday and the committee meeting will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday night
 - Reminded us that GV prices vary with the exchange rate for US and Canadian dollars
 - Ontario is #1 in Canada for the subscription challenge with 26 new ones. Info on the challenge is available on the GV website (<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>)
 - There has been difficulty in getting Grapevines into prisons. It doesn’t always work to send them to Volunteer Co-ordinators. Robert provided an email address of someone who will get anonymous CTM (Carry the Message) subscriptions behind prison walls – jbryan@aagrapevine.org
 - Encouraged all groups to get a GV subscription.

This meeting is held bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday. This committee meets bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month at 234.

Next meeting is May 24, 2018, at 7:30 at the Intergroup office. Meeting was closed with the Responsibility Declaration.

PUBLIC INFORMATION - Jeff A., Chairperson:**Events and Activities:**

- AA Info Day, Saturday May 26, 519 Church Street, Graham will present a summary talk on Public Information in a joint presentation with CPC.
- District 22 Service Day, Saturday September 22. “40 Years of Service”, Oakridge Community Centre. PI will provide the display and present a summary of our services. Time: 9:00 am.
- District 2 Round Up. A round up is being planned for District 2 with the time, location, panel members and speakers to be announced.
- East Toronto Archives, Saturday June 3, QSSIS, 3474 Kingston Road. Eddie G. and Gord H. organizing.
- Area 83 Report attached to the minutes.
- University of Toronto second year medical students continue their community work with PI and CPC. The students are building a contact database of doctor’s office, clinics and medical services.
- PI is pursuing the opportunity to place Public Service Announcements in the Scarborough Mirror and Beaches Mirror newspapers.
- District 6 is continuing work with Peel and local city halls to promote PI through media, work with schools, libraries and police.
- PI will be revisiting our connection with the School Boards, Libraries and community Centres.
- Public Information will be creating a PowerPoint presentation that can be shared for internal audiences that describes Public Information for alcoholics. Another slide deck will be created for presentations outside of AA to help the public better understand AA.

- The committee will continue to actively distribute information pamphlets at community centres (i.e.: YMCA), doctor's offices, detoxes, police stations and hospitals.

P.I. meets on the third Monday of each month. **Next Meeting:** April 16, 2017, 7:30 pm at 234 Eglinton Avenue East.

SELF SUPPORT: No report.

Members wanting to know more about Self-Support are encouraged to refer to the Self-Support Pamphlet, *Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix*. This committee meeting bi-monthly on the fourth Thursday at 234. **Next meeting:** April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

TREATMENT – Sue G. (Church Street), EC Liaison:

Sue mentioned that 5 members were present at the last committee meeting.

Function of Treatment Committee: 'The purpose of a Treatment Facilities Committee is to coordinate the work of individual AA members and groups who are interested in carrying our message of recovery to alcoholics in treatment facilities, and to set up a means of 'bridging the gap' from the facility to the larger AA community.' The basic function of TF committees include:

- When allowed to do so, takes regular AA meetings into facilities within its area (Sue mentioned the Districts role in this)
- Encourages group participation
- Provides a liaison between treatment facilities meetings and groups on the outside
- Coordinates temporary sponsorship
- Arranges purchase and distribution of literature for these groups and meetings. Some groups collect back issues of Grapevine for distribution

Sue also mentioned the 'bridging the gap' initiative (a crossover with Corrections) whereby people coming out of treatment facilities can ask for an AA contact to take them to AA meetings in the community. The committee – like other committees – operates with a yearly budget for initiatives outlines above. This committee meets on the third Thursday of every month at 234. **Next meeting:** April 19 at 7:30 p.m.

RECEPTION – Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), EC Vice Chair:

Present at tonight's meeting were 40 Reps, 7 Alternate Reps, 3 District Liaisons, 2 visitors, and 8 Subcommittee Chairs. Thank you to those who contributed to the 7th Tradition tonight!

After the Workshop, Bert proceeded on with **NEW BUSINESS.**

With regards **Meetings held in the Boardroom at 234:**

Bert stated the following: "It was brought to our attention that there were meetings being held at the Intergroup Office that weren't subcommittee meetings. We understand that the Intergroup Office is for the members, but if a group can be autonomous, it not the office that should be responsible to hold the meetings for the group. *Bert then invited Aaron K., EC member, to elaborate on this item.*

Aaron added: "One of the things that the committee found was that we would like to have the Boardroom as a space (besides the regular subcommittee meetings) for, say, some kind of special event that needs to be planned, or if a subcommittee needs to reschedule their monthly meeting due to a holiday. It was our general feeling that the room is not a rental hall. If there is a group or individuals that want to utilize space there are other resources that are available, other than putting demands on the Boardroom at GTA Intergroup. This goes along the lines of being self-supporting."

A lengthy discussion ensued among Floor members. Scott M. (Bloordale) expressed concern about the Concepts meeting that was being held previously (twice a month) in the Boardroom: will it be reinstated?

Aaron replied: "I thank you for pointing that out. There could be discussion with the EC regarding the space. But I think one of the challenges that was addressed was that there is certain protocol that is fair for all the members, and for GTA Intergroup to follow that protocol. We felt that to all of a sudden 'demand' the space be used off the top without approval from the EC I feel is very untoward, and perhaps use of the meeting space by members in future can be addressed by having some protocol in place in future."

After more comments and queries from members along this line, Aaron shared: "One of the issues was to keep fairness across the board on this, and utilize the room for the subcommittees. Again, the room is not a rental hall for anyone that has no affiliation with GTA Intergroup; to come in and all of a sudden start doing something...specifically [speaking] to the Concepts meeting, I asked 'Would you like to make a report' and they said 'No. We're entirely separate from GTA Intergroup'. That's what I was told at the time. However, there can be perhaps some more discussion on this."

After a question about the background of this issue, Aaron stated: "There was a group that wanted to use the room and hold meetings there on the Concepts [Twelve Concepts of Service] twice a month; they booked the room unbeknownst to the Executive Committee, and all of a sudden they were starting a meeting. Any basic questions that were asked about who it was, or 'How did this come about?' was met at the time with ambiguity; there was no depth of answers and I felt I didn't have full information on this at that time to assess. Several months went by before we had to address the issue."

Gord H. (Bloordale) shared concerns about the above, and mentioned that specifically regarding the Concepts meetings, a member of his group approached him way some time ago with the idea of holding a Concepts Workshop meeting. He suggested that this member contact Intergroup. This person got permission to do so. Aaron continued: "I think there should be some clarification there. There was not [formal] permission from Intergroup. The meetings were booked, but there was no blanket permission that I am aware of." The member felt that it was important that Intergroup and the districts work together to carry the message; that the idea of a regular Concepts meeting was a way to achieve this spirit of cooperation, within the structure of General Service. Aron answered: "I am in agreement with you there. Thank you very much for your comments, information, and feedback."

At this point in the discussion, due to time constraints, Joanna (Sisters in Sobriety **made a Motion to continue this discussion at the April General Meeting**. This Motion was seconded by Jason N. (Restoration & Recovery). **MOTION PASSED.**

This will be discussed under Unfinished Business at the April General Meeting.

Closing Remarks:

- Bert reminded all present to please follow the **recycling protocol** set by the church (Aaron informed)
- Bert informed members that **viewing/memorial information** (dates, times, and location) for Carol J. will be available at the Intergroup Office
- Bert **read out to groups the referendum results thus far: 506** for Motion, and **110** against Motion. **47 groups** have responded so far. **Deadline** for the Referendum Sheets from Reps is **Sat. Mar.31, 2018.**
- Winter Season Open House 2018 **needs a Chairperson** for the upcoming event
- Twelfth Step Committee **needs a Chairperson immediately**
- "Thank you all for your attendance and participation this evening!"

There being no further Workshop information, the meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 24, 2017 at 8 p.m. at Timothy Eaton Church, 230 St. Clair Ave. W. (West from St. Clair subway station on Yonge). Meeting will be held in the Flora McCrae Auditorium.

