

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2017*(These Minutes **approved** by Floor Members)*

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Aaron K. (Yorkville) read the Twelve Traditions.

THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT: A Place to Share, Aurora, Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Danforth, Deer Park, East York, Erin Mills, Friendly, Glenholme, Golden Mile, High Park, King City, Kipling, Leslie, Living Sober, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, New Anchor, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, OISE Discussion, Port Credit, Principles Before Personalities, Responsibility, Restoration & Recovery, Richmond Hill, River Drive Park, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Six Points, Sobriety Plus, St. Clement's, Streetsville St. Andrew's, Welcome, and Willowdale. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 14, and 22. **Executive Committee Members:** Aaron K., Bert J. (EC Vice Chair), Dan B., Roman R. (EC Chair), Simon W., Sue G., and Vanessa C. (Finance Chair). **Subcommittee Chairs:** Accessibility, Archives, Communications, CPC, Finance, Grapevine, Information AA Day 2018, ORC 2018, Self-Support, Twelfth Step, and Winter Season Open House 2017.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – July 2017:

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Mike K. (St. Clement's). MOTION CARRIED.

Chairperson's Opening Remarks- Roman R. (Stepping Stones), **EC Chairperson:**

Roman thanked everyone for attending this evening, and shared the following information:

- **When standing to ask a question during reports**, please state your name, group, and service position;
- **October is Gratitude Month! Volunteers are needed** to label and stuff Gratitude Month flyers for mailing. Please contact the Office manager if you are available to volunteer (month of September): office@atoronto.org
- **New EC members are needed!** Please pass this on to your groups.

At this point in the meeting, the members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves to those present.

There was a collection of the 7th Tradition, which totaled **\$183.70**.

FINANCE REPORT – Vanessa C. (Rox Glen Traditional), **Finance Committee Chair:****Toronto Intergroup FINANCE Report at July 31, 2017**

<u>SUMMARY:</u>	<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> July 2017	<u>BUDGET:</u> July 2017	<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> JAN. to July 2017	<u>BUDGET:</u> JAN. to July 2017
Income	\$11,599	\$11,496	\$80,535	\$80,476
Expenses	(\$16,319)	(\$19,049)	(\$122,033)	(\$134,043)
Net Income or (Deficit)	(\$4,720)	(\$7,553)	(\$41,498)	(\$53,567)

JULY 2017: The approved Budget for 2017 anticipated Intergroup expenses to exceed Income by \$7,553 in the month of July. The Actual results show Intergroup expenses for the month of July exceeded income by \$4,720. We are ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$7,553 by \$2833. This favourable result for July 2017 is primarily due to operating expenses being lower than budgeted.

JANUARY 1 to JULY 31, 2017: For the first 7 months of 2017, Intergroup recorded an *Actual* Net Deficit of \$41,498 versus an anticipated *Budgeted* Deficit of \$53,567.

The ahead of budget results of \$12,069: (\$41,498) – (\$53,567), primarily reflect the following:

- higher than anticipated contributions \$4,109 and
- lower than anticipated operating expenses of \$5,738 and
- lower staff costs of \$4,023
- on a less positive note - Net Literature Sales were off budget by \$3,967

Prudent Reserve: Target Prudent Reserve of \$ 287,787 vs. Actual Prudent Reserve of \$241,330.

Additional Comments from Vanessa/Questions from Floor members:

Gratitude Month: October is Gratitude Month. This is an initiative for members to donate to Intergroup so we can be fully self-supporting. Historically, donations come in from members in the months of October, November, and December. The Gratitude Flyers will be available for members next month at the Intergroup Meeting so they can take them back to their groups. We will include a little ‘blurb’ on Gratitude that you can share with your groups. ***Please start announcing this at your groups!*** In the past, there was the idea of cutting back on costs of the mailing for this initiative. We will again be doing the full mailing this year. It was found that members expect their Gratitude flyer in the mail to ‘remind’ them to mail in donations. Also, the mailing list is hard to ‘cull’/check for duplicate listings due to lack of manpower. When you look at the numbers regarding individual contributions, they are coming in the month of October at about \$35,000. It’s just not worth it for us to take that away; we like to know just how much donations are coming in by mail.

The Rep from Restoration and Recovery thanked the efforts of both the Finance Committee members and the Office Manager (Freda) for their efforts in keeping operating expenses in line. Vanessa replied “Thank you! We have great staff at the office and they are doing the best they can to make sure that—in terms of the finances – we are doing what we are supposed to be doing.”

The Rep from St. Clement’s Group inquired about the underspending on the salary line (*see third line item above on year to date*), and then asked if employee salaries will be reviewed this year for a more fair wage, and if not, would this happen for next year? Vanessa replied: “Part of the reason why it’s a little bit lower than we had: we had a change of Office Manager, so that’s part of the reason. There was even a period this year when there wasn’t an Office Manager, so there was less hours. In terms of those kinds of issues, they can’t really be dealt with at the full Intergroup level, as they are personnel issues. I appreciate that you bring that up, and it is important.”

Finance Chair and Finance Committee Member Needed: Vanessa announced that she will be rotating out as Finance Chair as of January 2018. Ideally the committee would like to see a member join the committee sooner than later as they would have some experience as they rotate in to the position in January. The committee also needs an additional Finance member (one member has rotated out recently). Sobriety Requirement for both positions: 5 years of continuous sobriety, and some financial/business background is needed. ***Please announce this at your groups!***

After presenting the above report, Vanessa mentioned to Reps that if they have any questions regarding the financials, please send them to financechair@aatoronto.org.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY – Steve S. (Glenholme), Chairperson:

Good evening I am an alcoholic, your accessibility chair, and my name is Steve. At our last meeting we looked at what needs to be changed on our display board. The committee has asked that I look for a better price than the one I have for the new one. I have to spoke to someone from the General Service Office and the new pamphlet “Accessibility for all Alcoholics” is still in the creation process.

We are in dire need of a new secretary, administrative assistant, if you wish. There were only 3 committee members that were present at our last meeting.

Thank you for letting me be of service. Are there any questions? **Next meeting:** Sun. Sept.17 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Gord H. (Bloordale), Chairperson:

We have tickets and flyers for the **33rd Annual Archives Breakfast** to be held on Sun. Nov.5 at the Oasis Convention Centre (Mississauga). Tickets are \$25. ***Please announce at your groups!*** The event

features a delicious breakfast and a great speaker (Don S/, Bayview Group). The book '50 Years of AA in Ontario' is available for only \$10 either from Archives members or at the Literature Dept. at 234. The committee is also working on a commemorative issue '75 Years of AA' to be made available in time for the 2018 ORC event. There is an **Archives Repository** at 234. This houses group histories, oral histories from our long timers ("what was AA like back then?") and other pertinent archival materials collected over the years. If your group is holding an upcoming group anniversary celebration and would like to have access to the history of your group, please feel free to contact our Archivist, Eddy G.

"Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from" – *Carl Sandburg* **Next meeting:** Fri. Sept.8 at 7 p.m. at 234.

COMMUNICATIONS–Chris C. (Hill), Chairperson:

This is the committee that is responsible for the Website, the monthly Newsletter (*Better Times*), and the GTAI Meeting Directory.

Newsletter: the September issue is out and available for members at this meeting. This month, there are Four Group Anniversaries and Two Service Days. There is also contact information for all the subcommittees in each issue (masthead). October's issue will feature Gratitude Month, and will be full colour. **Website:** Meeting changes are being updated regularly. **Meeting Directory:** The July 2017 updated version of the directory is available to members in the Literature Department at 234.

Next meeting: Tues. Sept.12 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2018 – No Report. Next meeting: Mon. Sept.25 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

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

Ontario Regional Conference
'Road of Happy Destiny'
March 9 – 11, 2018
Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Toronto, Ontario
www.aaorc.ca

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

August has been a relatively quiet month. Shortly after the July Intergroup meeting our Treasurer, Jill B. was able to finalize the 2017 ORC accounts. She and I then prepared the first draft of the budget for the 2018 ORC. There remain some items for which we are trying to get a better understanding. The budget will be discussed at the first committee meeting on September 10th. From there we will present it to the ORC Advisory Committee. Once approved, we will know one thing – the budget will be wrong. As I mentioned last month, I will provide some information to this meeting on the budget provide some background on costs associated with the ORC. That should occur in September or October.

We held a barbecue on Saturday where the members of the 2018 and 2019 committees had the opportunity to meet in a relaxed setting. As there have not been any reports of food poisoning, botulism, salmonella or other gastro-intestinal issues, I am going to assume the barbecue was a success.

Our web site is www.aaorc.ca. Please visit often and sign up to receive newsletters and updates. We are aware that there have been some problems in signing up for updates etc. and this being worked on with our web site hosting partner and expect a solution in the next few days. You can also submit your information to volunteer – best job at the ORC is being a greeter.

Any questions? YILS, Steve A. 2018 ORC chair

TWELFTH STEP – Rychard B. (Mount Royal-York), **Chairperson:**

The committee didn't meet formally in the summer months. However, the phone training has gone on, new volunteers have been obtained, and the 12 Step Volunteer list is growing. A big 'thank-you' to Reps members who spread the word that we needed volunteers! It worked!

Rychard shared that he will be rotating out of his position as Twelfth Step committee Chair as of Sept. 1. He thanked members for this service opportunity, and shared it was a pleasure to serve in this capacity; Rychard received applause from Floor members. ***A new Twelfth Step Chair is needed immediately! Also needed are Twelfth Step Committee members!*** The current committee is down to only two members, so we need your help. ***Please announce at your groups.***

Phone Training/12 Step Training: occurs on the 1st Sunday of each month. Interested members should call 234 to get Twelfth Step Chair Rychard B.'s contact information first in order to make an appointment for the training. Sobriety Requirement for phone duty: 1 year of continuous sobriety. Sobriety Requirement for 12 Step volunteers: 2 years of continuous sobriety. **Next meeting:** Wed. Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. at 234.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2017 –Darren T. (Mount Royal-York), **2017 Event Chairperson:**

Darren will be serving in his second year as event chair, and he is very excited to prepare for the event. He shared that "we need fresh blood" on this year's committee, and will hold our first committee meeting (*see below for details*). Darren also thanked Chris C. for updating the website regarding the event. More information to follow next month! ***Please announce this at your groups!***

Service Opportunity!!!

73rd Annual Winter Season Open House 2017

Monday, December 25, 2017
at St. James Cathedral Centre - Snell Hall
65 Church Street, Toronto

Calling volunteers for the following roles:

Greeters, Speakers, Set-up, Tear-down on event day,
Kitchen help, Food prep, Food servers, Turkey cookers, Decoration help, etc.

Volunteer Committee Kick-Off Meeting:

Sunday, September 10, 4-5 p.m.

at GTA Intergroup, 234 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 202

Contact: Darren T., WSOH Event Chairperson: wsoh@aatontario.org

***All are
welcome to
attend this
meeting and
be a part of
the event!***

DISTRICT REPORTS

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES –Bert J. (Silverbirch), **EC Liaison:**

Bert shared that there was no meeting of this committee in August, as Correctional Facilities meets bi-monthly. Former CF Chair, Robbie V. (Port Credit), has moved out of the area, so has stepped down from the position. ***A new Chairperson is needed.*** **Next meeting:** Wed. Sept.6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*Committee meets bi-monthly*).

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC) –Kelly B. (Danforth),

Chairperson:

In attendance at last committee meeting: Dave H (Dist.22), Mark B. (GTA Co-Chair/Dist.12), Kelly B. (Chair), and Susan H.

Activities:

- David preparing for Dist.22 Service Day on Sept.16. He will be speaking on a panel along with the PI Chair at the event. Requires a banner for the event and would like to see a power point presentation relevant to this endeavour. Literature was picked up (meeting directories) in order to be dropped off at Beaches library and Precinct 55. Dave to contact GSO regarding procedures when approaching libraries.
- Kelly will get in touch regarding the power point presentation (Dave) and will also follow up with TPL Communications regarding pamphlets/info display.
- Mark to address the need for a CPC and PI Chair in Dist.12. Mark has acquired more business cards for distribution in walk-in clinics and legal clinics.
- Susan is looking to approach pharmacies with literature. She wants to offer a few examples of the literature available for professionals as well as pamphlets for individuals that could be offered discreetly. Mark will bundle up some literature and drop it off for Susan at Dry on the Danforth Group.
- Mark shared that the Westmoreland Group in Dist.12 suggests their members 'Adopt a Physician': reach out to their doctor and offer any information and/or assistance
- Susan mentioned a conference held annually with the OPA held in different locations every year. 2018 Conference in Huntsville...something to communicate with GSO/other Areas/districts to get involved in.
- Kelly will contact the Communications Chair (Chris C.) about the committee mail box (website item).

Next meeting: Mon. Sept.11 at 7 p.m. at 234.

GRAPEVINE – Barry (Living Sober), District 14 Grapevine Chair:

Barry relayed the following report from Area Grapevine Chair, Robert B.:

Grapevine is doing very well in Toronto and is well represented by great District Grapevine chairs except for district 10 and 22. Attendance at the bi-monthly meeting has been good although attendance has dropped off a little over the summer. The next Toronto Grapevine meeting will be September 28.

Most District Grapevine chairs have well organized displays and literature and a few are just getting started. All are willing to come out to the various birthdays or other AA events to set up their display and literature for sale please ask them.

District 18 Grapevine chair Glenn will be setting up his display and literature with the help of a few other Grapevine chairs at the 2017 Toronto Gratitude Roundup October 6th, 7th, and 8th at the Toronto Courtyard Marriott.

2018 Grapevine pocket planners & Calendars please let your DCM know how many you would like. Orders must be in before 9 September 2017.



New Grapevine book Making Amends.



We encourage every AA Group to buy at least one subscription of the Grapevine magazine for their library to display and sell or just give away to a new comer. The best way for the fellowship to know and understand Grapevine is to have it available at the group level. *Thanks!* Robert B. Area 83 Grapevine Chair: grapevine@area83aa.org
Next meeting: Thurs. Sept.21 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

PUBLIC INFORMATION –No Report. *In an email communication with the office, P.I. Chair Jeff A. (Leslie) shared that “There was minimal turnout for the most recent Public Information meeting. We adjourned and there were no items or issues raised and/or discussed. Therefore there is no P.I. Report for tonight’s meeting.”* **Next meeting:** Monday Sept.18, 2017, 7:30 pm 234 Eglinton Avenue East.

SELF SUPPORT – Zobie G. (Bloordale), District 06 Self Support Chairperson:

This committee meets on the 4th Thursday of every other month at 7:30 p.m. at 234. The committee is working on creating a Self-Support display board for the Intergroup Office. Self Support will be participating in both the upcoming District 22 Service Day (Sept.) and the Gratitude Roundup (Oct.). Zobie shared that the Self Support ‘green cards’ (regarding our 7th Tradition) are available for ordering in the Literature Department at 234. It’s a great thing to read out at meetings to clarify our 7th Tradition. Zobie also mentioned about the Birthday Card envelopes, which are being discussed at the committee level. They are available through GSO (www.aa.org) which are a Self-Support initiative for members to show their gratitude by donating to GSO on their sobriety birthday. Zobie also mention that the *Daily Reflections* reading for July 26 is relevant to Self Support (“*The Worth of Sobriety*”). **Next meeting:** Thurs. Oct.26 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

TREATMENT- Sue G. (Church Street), EC Liaison

The August meeting was deferred until September. Sue reported that service commitments are being met.
Next meeting: Thurs. Sept.21 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TOYPAA (Toronto Ontario Young People in AA) –No report.

Next meeting: Sun. Sept.17 at 4 p.m. at 234.

RECEPTION – Bert J. (Silverbirch), EC Vice Chair:

Present this evening were 32 Group Reps, 6 Alternate Reps, 3 Districts, and 6 guests. Bert asked if some members could stay behind after the meeting to help clean up, empty the coffee urn, and put away chairs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS from Previous Meetings: There was no Unfinished Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rychard B. (Mount Royal York), who serves a Twelfth Step Chair, approached the Floor with the following item: “So of you may not know, but we [on the Twelfth Step Committee] have had an Al-Anon representative on our committee. She simply serves as a liaison, because 40% of our crisis calls are actually Al-Anon people. We thought that, because of that statistic, that this would be a wise choice. Some concerns have been raised because she is not an alcoholic. Those are, of course, legitimate concerns to be raised. Our first reaction is “She *is* recovering from alcoholism, and she is using the 12 Step program. Alcohol has very little to do with alcoholism. But: it is our duty to follow up on this. So,

our committee phoned New York [GSO]. We asked them what they thought of this endeavour. Two things became very clear from this: 1. They were incredibly impressed with us that we were incorporating Al-Anon and making it part of AA, because Al-Anon is the *other side*; and 2. Each Intergroup is actually responsible for their own so they in New York can't actually say a 'yes' 'no'; a 'do' or a 'don't'. It is up to the group conscience to actually tell us whether you as members approve of it, or not. So we are here tonight, asking for a group conscience; to see if any member has a problem with this. That is, who is in favour of having an Al-Anon sit on the Twelfth Step Committee in a *non-voting* capacity, and that the Al-Anon does not work on a phone shift. The Al-Anon does attend the monthly phone training, however, and gives an Al-Anon 'point of view' to the trainees for informational purposes. The member from Al-Anon (Carla) has been an integral part of the Twelfth Step for the past year. I'm not sure how you would like to proceed with this, but we would like a group conscience on this."

Roman R. (EC Chair) shared the following for clarification purposes: "As an Executive Committee, we decided to exclude the Al-Anon person from being a member of the Twelfth Step Committee, simply because we wanted to keep Al-Anon separate from AA. It has been this way all along, and we would like to keep it that way. To be clear: we understood that the Al-Anon person was voting and participating in the [committee] meeting so, as a group we decided to exclude the member. I would like to continue this conversation with you, and perhaps bring it to the Floor, if need be. But I really think that this is not the forum to bring this issue. I'm not saying you're not entitled because you are, but there is a procedural thing in place...if you again bring it to us again at the EC, then we can bring it to the Floor correctly."

Rychard responded: "There is something I'd like to point out here: I got a phone call from Roman and he asked me 'Do you have an Al-Anon member?' and I answered 'Yes, we do.' Roman asked 'Is she a Liaison?' (Yes). 'Does she vote?' (No). He thanked me very much. He phoned me one week later and said that the EC had made a decision not to have an Al-Anon. The decision was made behind closed doors, with no notice and no representation, and I was told it was the group conscience. If there was a dialogue and we had a discussion about it, I wouldn't be standing up here now. This is group conscience; this is what New York [GSO] told us to do."

A long discussion ensued among Floor members. Roman asked for a clarity from Rychard on the question, which was done.

Motion moved by Mickey S. (Rep/High Park) that we table discussion on this item until next month. Motion seconded by Brenda (Alt. Rep/OISE). *Further discussion was held among the Floor.*

Result: There was a recommendation from several sources that we table this discussion until the next General Meeting, and Reps were asked to bring this item up at their groups for discussion. **All were in agreement. This will be listed as a line item under Unfinished Business on the September General Meeting Agenda.** Rychard shared that he was happy to stay after this meeting is adjourned to explain further and answer any questions that members had on this item. Roman also mentioned that he would like to be prepared for this dialogue by going through the EC minutes to find out specifics/exact details from their conversation, etc. so he can be better informed for next month's meeting for clarification purposes.

A member (Dean/Credit Valley) announced the following: **Mississauga Fall Roundup** will be held on **Saturday, September 30, 2017** at the Vic Johnston Community Centre – 335 Church St. Mississauga. AA and Al-Anon speakers. Tickets: \$20. Day includes hot and cold buffet lunch, morning snacks and all-day coffee/tea. See website www.MississaugaFallRoundUp.org.

CLOSING REMARKS: Roman again thanked everyone for attending this evening, and reiterated the following points:

- ***There is a call for volunteers for Gratitude Month.*** The office would really appreciate members who can come to 234 and label/stuff envelopes for mailing. Please contact our Office Manager, Freda at office@atoronto.org if you can help us out.
- ***A new Finance Chair is needed very soon! We also need new Finance Committee members.*** 5 years of continuous sobriety and some finance/accounting/business background is helpful. ***Please announce at your groups.***
- ***1 or 2 new Executive Committee members are needed.*** Members of the EC must have a minimum of two years of sobriety. ***Please announce at your groups.***

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, Sept.26, 2017 at 8 p.m. at Timothy Eaton Church, 230 St. Clair Avenue West (west from St. Clair subway station on Yonge). Meeting will be held in the Flora McCrae Auditorium.