

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup
GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 28, 2017

*(These Minutes **approved** by Floor Members)*

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Richard E. (Kipling) read the Twelve Traditions.

THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT: Aurora, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief, Beyond Belief (Sub. West), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Credit Valley, Danforth, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Friendly, Glenholme, Half Century, High Park, Kingsway, Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Love and Tolerance, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Mount Royal-York, New Anchor, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, OISE Discussion, Pine Hills, Primary Purpose, Queensville, Reaching Out, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, Sobriety Plus, Spiritual Kindergarten, St. Clement’s, Stepping Stones Discussion, Streetsville, Streetsville St. Andrews, Sunnyside, Twelve Principles, Unionville, Welcome, Westmoreland, Willowdale, and Yorkville.

District Liaisons: Districts 02 and 10.

Executive Committee Members: Bert J., Peter B. (EC Vice Chair), Richard E., and Roman R. (EC Chair).

Subcommittee Chairs: Accessibility, Archives, Communications, Correctional Facilities, CPC, Grapevine, ORC 2017, Twelfth Step, and TOYPAA.

Chairperson’s Opening Remarks- Roman R. (Stepping Stones Discussion), **EC Chair:** “Thank you for attending this evening! As you know this is not our usual space, so I hope we’ve accommodated you the best that we could in this temporary space. Thank you for your patience.” *At this point in the meeting, the members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves to those present.*

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – October 2016: It was pointed out that there was an error in the Agenda for this evening, under ‘Adoption of Minutes’. It should read ‘January 31, 2017’ – not 2016. MOTION to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Rodney P. (Port Credit). MOTION CARRIED.

There was a **collection of the 7th Tradition**, which totaled **\$191.80**.

FINANCE REPORT –Roman shared that there will be no verbal report from the FC, as no one was present from the committee tonight. The following hard copy package (below) was presented to members. If any member has specific questions about this report, please email the Finance Chair, Vanessa C. at financechair@atoronto.org.

Toronto Intergroup FINANCE Report at JANUARY 31, 2017

<u>SUMMARY:</u>	<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> JANUARY 2017	<u>BUDGETED:</u> JANUARY 2017		<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> JAN. to JAN. 2017 (YTD)	<u>BUDGETED:</u> JAN. to JAN. 2017 (YTD)
Income	\$14,711	\$12,897		\$14,711	\$12,897
Expenses	(16,991)	(\$18,608)		(\$16,991)	(\$18,608)
<u>Net Total Income or (Deficit)</u>	(\$2,280)	(\$5,711)		(\$2,280)	(\$5,711)

JANUARY 2017: The actual total net deficit of (\$2,280) for the month compares favourably to the budgeted net deficit of (\$5,711).

The primary reasons for the results for January 2017 are:

- Higher than budgeted fellowship contributions (+\$1,056)
- Slightly stronger Net Literature Sales (+\$777) and
- Lower staffing costs (+\$1,020).

For January of 2017, Intergroup is ahead of budget by \$3,431 (\$5,711 - \$2,280).

Year to date: JANUARY 1 to JANUARY 31, 2017 (Same as above – as January is first month)

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to facilitate EC Election moved by Karl W. (Birds of a Feather) and seconded by Mike C. (Beverly Hills). **MOTION CARRIED.**

Roman informed members that a new EC member is needed. He then asked for nominations/volunteers from Floor members. The new EC member will be Susan H. (Dry on Danforth) by acclamation.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Steve S. (Sunnyside), Chairperson:

I put on a brief presentation at the District 06 and 12 Service Day. Our display was there as well. We met the day after and elected a new secretary and yours truly as GTA for the 2017-2018 term. Two members are going to put together a questionnaire for groups on whether and how wheelchair accessible they are. Once again, the 'Planning Accessible Events' flyer will be going out to all the newly-elected District Committee Members. Our display will be up and running at the ORC. **Next meeting:** Sun. Mar. 19 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Gord H. (Bloordale), Chairperson:

The GTA Archives committee meets on the second Friday of each month; our last meeting was on Feb.11. It was very well-attended, with seven districts represented and 14 members total in attendance. There are several items we are planning: the first is our 34th Annual Archives Breakfast on Nov.5, 2017, so please keep that date open! We will also be in attendance at the ORC on March 10-12 at the Royal York Hotel with Archives displays. Please visit us.

Our committee has several members working on a commemorative issue of 'AA 75 Years in Canada'. This booklet will be ready for the 2018 ORC event.

I would like to remind members that we have histories of most groups in the GTA, so if you are looking for information on your group, or considering an article for *Better Times* please contact myself or our Archivist Eddy G. or any member of the committee. Or, if you are visiting the Intergroup Office, be sure and check out our fully glassed, in-wall Archives display. If you have an interest in Archives, you are welcome to attend our committee meeting; we'll find you a job. There is still a great deal still to do in cataloguing and documenting all of the materials in the repository. And lastly, we still have in stock the book '50 Years of AA in Ontario', now only \$10. I would also like to thank a very dedicated and active committee.

“Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from” – *Carl Sandburg* **Next meeting:** Fri. Apr. 14 at 7 p.m. at 234 (March meeting cancelled due to ORC event)

COMMUNICATIONS–Chris C. (Hill), Chairperson:

This has been a busy month, and the committee meeting was very productive. New meeting directories are now available. We currently have 520 meeting listings in the GTA. The meeting booklets are now

perfect-bound. This is because there are more pages to the booklet, featuring foreign language meetings for all the days of the week, and a copy of the Twelve Concepts. On the back table, we have the current edition of the *Better Times*. We have full colour, as the ORC 2017 Event is showcased in the edition. A big thank-you to Sean, our layout artist for his efforts! For the January, February, and March issues, we had no Editor; however, for our April issue we now have a new Editor in place: Maijia P. The website is going well. We have an events calendar and a medallion calendar. Our Email is bettertimes@aatoronto.org.

Our next committee meeting will be on Tuesday March 14th at 6:30 pm at Intergroup. 234 Eglinton Ave E., Suite 202. Please encourage your group members to come if they are at all interested in service.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2017 –no report. Next meeting: Mon. Mar.27 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2017 - Máire O'B. (Morning Discussion), **2017 Event Chair**

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE
March 10, 11, 12, 2017 at the Fairmont-Royal York Hotel, Toronto
'Action is the Key'

The Event Program is now online. Please remember that there are no free tickets to the event; however, there *may* be donor tickets available. Meetings during the event are badge-only. If you want to volunteer for the event, go to the links on the website or during the event, go to the Greeter Room or Newcomer Room and a volunteering position may be available to you in some capacity. We are still welcoming donations of Big Books for the Newcomer Room. We also have a strong Al-Anon and Alateen portion to the Conference. 800 rooms are booked, which is really high. Registration for the event thus far is also high; and the banquet tickets are almost sold out. Pre-Registration closes this Thursday. We will also have a fantastic dance Saturday night!

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

Things are going along well, and the volunteer status on the phones is good. We will be at the ORC with volunteer forms for folks attending the Conference. The committee is currently compiling Phone Greeter reference material.

We are currently **looking for 12 Step volunteers that are:**

- Young people (under 25)
- Women (particularly for the 'Central' area of the GTA)
- Members who can speak other languages
- Disabled members

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. Mar.8 at 7:00 p.m. at 234.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2016 – no report. *Committee meetings commence in September.*

DISTRICT REPORTS

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES – **Robbie V.** (Port Credit), **Chairperson:**

Good evening, my name is Robbie V., proud member of the Port Credit group and I am an alcoholic. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Intergroup corrections chair and district six corrections chair.

Things are going well as far as corrections go in the Greater Toronto Area so here is my report.

In district twenty two, Byron S. is the new corrections chair for district two is getting familiar with his new position. The Toronto East Detention center is running well with few lockdowns and as always there is a need for volunteers to go into the facility to carry the message to those on the inside. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me and I can get you in touch and started.

In district six our Tuesday day meetings are going along well with no lockdowns in the last while and both volunteer and inmate turnout has been great. The Wednesday night meetings are more of a challenge. There have been more lockdowns than we have been able to enter which is a shame but does happen. I have three new volunteers in various stages of progress and hope to have them badged and cleared to enter in the near future.

In district two things are moving along smoothly at the Ontario Correctional Institute. Bob E informs me there have been no lockdowns at the facility and that all meetings are going along as scheduled. Again, there is a need for volunteers at OCI as well as speakers for the Sunday day meeting at noon. If you are interested in volunteering or speaking at the facility, please contact myself and I will help in getting you started.

I have had two bridging the gap requests in February. One individual was not available on his release date but I was in contact with his brother. I left my contact info with him and hopefully the individual will reach out when he is ready. The other request is being release this week and I am in the midst of setting up a volunteer to contact the individual on her release date.

Other than that things are going well in corrections in the GTA so far and I hope things continue to improve. If you have any questions regarding corrections, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in love and service, Robbie **Next meeting:** Wed. Mar. 1, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*Committee meets bi-monthly*)

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

We have begun a new two year term at CPC. Our last meeting was spent introducing ourselves and sharing how each district chair might begin the task of communicating with professionals in their respective districts. Former GTA chair Mark B gave everyone the run down on what the chair position entails and offered a lot of support to the committee to keep it motivated and buoyed moving forward.

The CPC committee will be represented at the upcoming ORC. Feel free to seek us out over the weekend on the meeting level by the Manitoba Room Saturday and Sunday. Don't be shy, come on by!

We will also be participating at the Area 83 Assembly in Kingston the weekend of March 24th-26th in a workshop on Saturday's service day and with a joint meeting between CPC and PI after the banquet in the evening.

We discussed electing a chair and have decided to defer the decision for a later date and rather work together and communicate the needs of the committee in order to cover events and meetings...like this one.

We discussed approaching Intergroup with a proposal to increase our budget in order to include the cost of the committee chair's attendance at the Area 83 Assembly.

We also discussed the much maligned table banner to be designed and produced for our display tables, I believe we've reached a consensus to go ahead with its production in the hopes that the banner will be available for the ORC.

Thanks for allowing me to be of service, Kelly B. **Next meeting:** Mon. Mar.13 at 7 p.m. at 234.

GRAPEVINE –Robert B. (Rexdale United), Area 83 Grapevine Chair

Subscription for the Grapevine Magazine: **\$35.00** (all CDN)

Subscription Online Grapevine magazine: **\$34.97**

Subscription combines both the print magazine and complete online access **\$49.97**

Grapevine Subscription App: iPhones and iPads **\$23.99**

Free on aagrapevine.org: I-Poll and *Sobriety Calculator*

Grapevine meetings at Toronto Intergroup are live and doing well we had 11 people in attendance (26 January). Our Intergroup Grapevine chair is temporarily unable to attend because of surgery but we are hoping to see him return shortly. We have no intergroup liaison. Mostly new Grapevine Chairs with lot of enthusiasm and hoping to set up their displays and literature at AA birthday roundups and other AA events. So contact your District Grapevine chair!

We have organized a display for the ORC and Glenn G. of district 18 has volunteered his display and literature. Glenn is also making a large order for Grapevine material if anybody is interested in ordering with Glenn please come and see me or talk to Glenn himself: smoothmove@sympatico.ca



Thanks! Robert B. Area 83 Grapevine Chair grapevine@area83aa.org. **Next meeting:** Thurs. Mar. 23 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*)

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Jeff A., P.I. Chair, could not attend this evening due to a prior service commitment, so he asked to submit the following report:

Upcoming Events

School Events: March 31, 2017. Homelands Middle School, Mississauga. Participants confirmed: Jeff A., Phil D., and Alazar A. Phil will attempt to contact Brenda from the school to confirm our participation and schedule. External display to be used and pamphlets will be brought by Jeff A. Jeff A. to talk to Archives to look for video resources to be used at the school presentation.

Jeff A. will contact Will (D14) to confirm potential PI participation at Richmond Hill Wellness Day event.

Jeff A. to contact TOYPA representative to determine if they want to participate.

ORC: New PI Display will be in use. Jeff A. will confirm location of the display table. Jeff A. will share a booth/display schedule based on the speaker schedule.

Medical Conference: In cooperation with CPC if requested. Jeff A. will follow up with Mark B. to confirm.

AA Info Day: May 27th. PI/CPC presentation is scheduled in the large room from 10:00 to 10:45 am.

Area 83: Kingston, March 24/25/26

New Business

Pride: PI will investigate AA's participation in the Toronto Pride Parade.

Jeff A. to contact New York GSO to better understand AA's social media information plans to best align PI's activities and future plans.

Jeff A, PI Chair. **Next meeting:** Mon., Mar. 20 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

SELF SUPPORT- No report. **Next meeting:** Thurs. April 27 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

TREATMENT- No report. **Next meeting:** Thurs. Mar.16 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TOYPAA (Toronto Ontario Young People in AA) –Chloe W. (Love and Tolerance), **TOYPAA Liaison:**

There are currently no upcoming events on the roster. TOYPAA is looking for Events Team volunteers for the upcoming year. The committee will also be at the ORC. **Next meeting:** Sun. Mar.19 at 4 p.m. at 234.

RECEPTION – Bert J. (Silverbirch), **EC member:**

Present this evening were 47 Group Reps, 5 Alternate Reps, 2 Districts, and 3 guests.

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

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business from the Floor.

CLOSING REMARKS: "Thank you for attending tonight's meeting and for your continued commitment to service!"

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, March 28, 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.

