

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 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, Agincourt Acorn, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief, Birds of a Feather, Credit Valley, Danforth, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Fellowship of the Spirit, Glenholme, Golden Mile, Half Century, High Park, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Love & Tolerance, Markham Village, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, OISE Discussion, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Principles Before Personalities, Prince Edward, Queensville, Responsibility, Restoration & Recovery, Richmond Hill, River Drive Park, Royal York, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, Spirit of the Big Book, St. Clement's, Streetsville, Streetsville St. Andrews, Sunnyside, Thursday Night Men's, Twelfth Tradition, Unionville, Welcome, Westmoreland, and Willowdale. **District Liaisons:** Districts 06, 14, and 22. **Executive Committee Members:** Aaron K., Bert J. (EC Vice Chair), Dan B., Joe L. (Finance member), Paula C., Simon W., Susan G., Sue H., Richard E., and Roman R. (EC Chair).

Subcommittee Chairs: Archives, Communications, Correctional Facilities, CPC, Finance (member), Information AA Day 2017, ORC 2018, Public Information, and Twelfth Step (member).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – May 2017:

MOTION to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Kinch M. (Welcome). MOTION CARRIED.

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

"Thank you all for attending this evening. A special welcome to all new Reps! Your job is to settle in to your new service position and feel comfortable. Don't worry if you feel you don't know everything... we are here to help you to the best of our ability. Again – thank you for your service to Intergroup!" *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 \$250.00.

FINANCE REPORT – Joe L. (Primary Purpose), Finance Committee Member:**Toronto Intergroup FINANCE Report at May 31, 2017**

<u>SUMMARY:</u>	<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> May 2017	<u>BUDGET:</u> May 2017		<u>ACTUAL Results:</u> JAN. to May 2017	<u>BUDGET:</u> JAN. to May 2017
Income	\$10,692	\$11,496		\$57,812	\$57,484
Expenses	(\$17,654)	(\$19,832)		(\$90,527)	(\$95,959)
Net Income or (Deficit)	(\$6,962)	(\$8,336)		(\$32,715)	(\$38,475)

MAY 2017: Total Intergroup expenses for the month of May exceeded income by \$6,962. We are ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$8336 by \$1374.

This favourable result for May 2017 is primarily due to operating expenses being lower than budgeted.

JANUARY 1 to MAY 31, 2017: For the first 5 months of 2017, Intergroup recorded an *Actual* Net Deficit of \$32,715 versus an anticipated *Budgeted* Deficit of \$38,475.

The ahead of budget results of \$5,760 (\$32,715 - \$38,475), primarily reflect higher than anticipated contributions (how much?) and lower than anticipated staff cost of \$3,600.

On a less positive note, Net Literature Sales were off budget by \$2,296.

Prudent Reserve: Target Prudent Reserve of \$ 287,787 vs. Actual Prudent Reserve of \$241,851.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY – Simon W. (Hill), Executive Committee Liaison:

There was a short meeting this month, as there were fewer than anticipated members present (3 members, including the Chair, and Simon as Liaison). It was determined that scooters are not covered by the Ontario Disability Act, so is not required by Accessibility to make the necessary accommodations for scooters, only wheelchairs. There is no need to change literature because of this finding. Also, publications/resources by the Accessibility Committee for committee use need to be updated based on the committee change of name ('Access Ability' to now read 'Accessibility'). There will be no impact to the committee budget to make this revision. **Next meeting:** Sun. July 16 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Gord H. (Bloordale), Chairperson:

The tickets and flyers for the Annual Archives Breakfast to be held on Sunday, Nov. 5 at the Oasis Convention Centre (Mississauga) will be ready for members next month. An excellent speaker has already been lined up for the event. At the Intergroup Office (234 Eglinton Ave. E.) there is an Archives wall display, in addition to an Archives Repository room. The room houses archival materials from 1943 onwards, and has materials from the ORC circa 1950's and '60s. If there are any 'long timers' in your group (active 35-40 years in AA) the committee would love the opportunity to record their oral histories ("What was AA Like Back Then?"). Please contact the committee at archives@aatoronto.org for more information, or if there are any materials members would like to pass on to Archives. The committee is working on the creation of a '75 Years of AA in Ontario' booklet, to be available during the ORC 2018 event. The book '50 Years of AA in Ontario' book is available for \$10 from either committee members or the Literature Department at 234.

"Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from" – *Carl Sandburg* **Next meeting:** Fri. July 14 at 7 p.m. at 234.

COMMUNICATIONS–Chris C. (Hill), Chairperson:

The July Issue of the *Better* Times newsletter is out, and features the ORC 2018 on the front cover. The newsletter also lists subcommittee email addresses for members. The Website is functioning well. There is a monthly calendar for committee happenings and meeting dates. The committee is currently working on compiling data for the edit of a new Meeting Directory. **Next meeting:** Tues. July 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2017 –Dave B. (Black River), 2017 Event Chairperson:

Dave reported that the 2017 committee was really happy with the event. The changes that were implemented for this year (i.e. changing the GSO Speaker to give his address before lunch) worked out really well. There was lots of interest in the service talks and the room was full. Although 245 tickets were sold (down from 2016) attendance was up. As Chair, Dave shared that he experienced a great time working with others in service. Financially, Dave reported that the committee was stable and didn't need to utilize the funds available in the committee Prudent Reserve. *Thank you to both Intergroup and the Districts for all your help and support!* **Next meeting:** *No meetings in July and August. Committee meetings resume in September for the 2018 event.*

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.

The 2018 ORC begins in 255 days which is some time away. Despite this, your 2018 ORC Committee has been very active over the past few months. While there remains much to do, a lot has been accomplished including:

- picked a theme
- supported the 2017 team at the ORC
- picked graphics for the 2018 ORC
- developed and sent a survey – a little more on that later
- confirmed a full slate of AA speakers for the ORC
- moved and updated the web site to a more user friendly format with better support
- moved forward on creating 4 historical videos as part of the 75th anniversary of AA in Ontario.
- met with the Archives Committee and Communication Committee to share ideas
- switched over the banking signing authorities
- attended Info AA day
- presented survey results and a high level forecast budget to the ORC Advisory committee

A little more on the survey. Asking ORC registrants their opinion on various things has been discussed off and on for several years including by the ORC Advisory Committee. So, we did one to see a) if we could and b) what the response rate would be.

We sent out notifications to 670 2017 pre- registrants and received 227 responses. This is about 30% which is statistically significant. We were reasonably sure that, in general, the responses would be positive because of the target audiences and this turned out to be the case. This also acted as a dry run for a survey we plan to conduct right after the 2018 ORC.

We intend to post the survey results to the web site in the next few weeks and I plan to share with you, over coming months, information on some of the things we may have learned from the survey. How many of you completed the survey? You may recall the last question that said “my experience at the ORC would be improved if...” and there were multiple choices with a comment section. The top 4 that were picked, all pretty close in terms of percentages, are:

1. AA literature available for sale at the ORC
2. A guided meditation on Saturday and Sunday mornings
3. Food available for sale on a “Cash and Carry” basis
4. ORC memorabilia (key chains, mugs, T shirts etc.) was available for sale

So, #1 is up to Intergroup, your EC is now aware and I plan to discuss this and a few other things with them in the fall. We are arranging #2 and expect to have a meditation room at the ORC at 8 am on Saturday and Sunday. We have had discussions with the Royal York on #3 - it is complicated and we are

considering some options, nothing in place yet. As for #4, it is something we will explore over the summer and see if this is even practical – stay tuned.

Our web site is www.aaorc.ca. Please visit often and sign up to receive newsletters and updates.

We will be busy over the summer finalizing budgets, putting a schedule in place, working with Archives and communications and so on. Our first regular monthly meeting is September 10th. Oh, and eating, there is a traditional committees barbecue in August.

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

TWELFTH STEP – Chris V. (Mount Royal-York), Committee member:

Phone Greeters (all shifts, including overnight 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. time slot), 12 Step Volunteers, and Phone Buddies are needed! Chris also mentioned that current Twelfth Step Chair, Rychard B., will be stepping down from the position in September. ***A new Twelfth Step Chair is needed!*** Also, Chris mentioned that he will be stepping down from his position as Phone Greeter Scheduler.

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:** *No meetings in July and August. Committee meetings resume in September.*

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2017 – No report. *Committee meetings commence in September.*

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Good evening everyone – my name is Robbie, 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.

In district two, things are going well at the Ontario Correctional Institute. The meetings continue to go off with little to no lockdowns. Rick O, the new corrections chair is getting acclimatized to his new position and I have let him know that I am here to help if he needs it

In district six, the Toronto South Detention Center meetings continue. The Tuesday day meetings go on with few lockdowns. The Wednesday night meetings have been more of a challenge due to lockdowns for various reasons. The five volunteer that I had in waiting have all been cleared and badged to go into the jail. A couple have already gone in and enjoy the experience of giving back behind the wall of a maximum security facility – the others have not gone in due to the constant lockdowns on Wednesday nights. The facility is in the process of hiring 300 – 400 new correctional officers for the facility – it is our hope that this may help with the lockdown situation – time will tell. My alternate for district six, Michele has gone in twice and loves the experience – I think she will make an excellent volunteer and hopefully corrections chair when I rotate out.

In district twenty-two things are going well at the Toronto East. I have recently contacted Tom S, the district 22 DCM. He informs me that Gale R, the past corrections chair I filling in and making sure the

meetings go on as scheduled and that they have enough literature for the meetings. Tom has brought up the importance of having a corrections chair and alternate at the district table and has requested it go out to the groups.

As for the other districts with no correctional facilities, parole offices and police stations are being supplied with literature to the best of my knowledge.

Other than that, things are going well in corrections in the GTA. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in love and service, Robbie

Next meeting: Wed. July 5, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*Committee meets bi-monthly*).

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

CPC Summary June 2017

- Participated in Info AA Day. George from D10 did a short presentation on the combined CPC/PI panel
- D10 chair intending to work with D10 PI Chair regarding contacting financial institutions.
- D22 making progress with police stations in his district. Has ordered meeting lists to be distributed at the stations.
- D12 has a new chair names Alazar A. He will be joining us next month for our committee meeting. His goal is to approach George Brown College about offering information regarding Alcoholics Anonymous to them and their students.
- Mark B, former chair and current service junkie, will be dropping off literature at Ozanam House, a pre/post treatment home.
- The Pri-Med Conference went very well, estimated 190 visits, well situated on the floor, next year's Pri-Med scheduled for May 9-12. Literature bundle went over well. The red pamphlet "If you are a Professional" was popular as well.
- The People in Motion. Jim said here were 75 interactions. Contact was made with Woodgreen, awaiting info from a gentleman in D26 before approaching them, other professional organizations approached the table, one from TD.
- Banners are officially done and ready for our next events
- We have decided to continue meeting for the summer months despite traditionally taking the summer off. It was felt we could be of better service if we kept getting together.
- Area 83 Delegate Kim S. will be presenting some literature changes for the committee to approve at the Spring Assembly.
- Along with our ongoing and efforts, some summer projects will include Mark promising to stay with us! Mark is thinking of approaching libraries, walk-in clinics, will drop off business cards. I have committed to helping Mark with approaching TPL head office! Kelly to follow up with Debra S regarding her Power Point presentation for CPC, speaking with Susan regarding pharmacies, etc.

Happy summer, all. YILS, Kelly B - Danforth Group, GTA CPC Chair. **Next meeting:** Tues. July 10 at 7 p.m. at 234.

GRAPEVINE – No report.

Next meeting: Thurs. July 27 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Jeff A. (Leslie), Chairperson:

Alazar A. (Westmoreland Group) had an AA display at George Brown College. It was well-received. Alazar will be doing this throughout the summer and hoping for increased interest come September. Jeff and Alazar also attended High School Wellness Day back in the end of May, in the regions of York and Vaughan. 4 members were in attendance there, and there were 80 students voluntarily in attendance. Good feedback and questions were experienced from this service event. Attendance at the P.I. table has picked up in recent months; 8 members attended the last committee meeting. The District 18 P.I. Alternate Chair (Dave W.) will be ‘mirroring’ what has been done at George Brown College at Sheridan College. Another member is carrying the message into a school in Mississauga. This member will also be working with Sheridan College and the Peel School Board. Yet another P.I. member is working with the Catholic School Board. 2nd-year medical students are working with the P.I. committee starting in the Fall. This entails the students pursuing a better understanding of AA for their studies. They report what they’ve learned back to the Medical Faculty. The students are responsible for submitting a paper at the end of the semester. The committee has acquired a new mantle (‘skirt’) for their display! **Next meeting:** Mon., July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

SELF SUPPORT- Dianne M. (A Place to Share), Dist. 14 Self-Support Chair

Dianne shared that there is nothing pending to report in regards to Self-Support. Only 2 members showed up at the last meeting. **Next meeting:** Thurs. August 24 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

TREATMENT-No report.

Next meeting: Thurs. July 20 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TOYPAA (Toronto Ontario Young People in AA) –No report. Next meeting: Sun. July 16 at 4 p.m. at 234.

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

Present this evening were 43 Group Reps, 11 Alternate Reps, 3 Districts, and 4 guests. Bert thanked both Patti and Adam for helping to set up tonight’s meeting.

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

NEW BUSINESS: There was an announcement from Dianne M. (A Place to Share): Andrea W. of the Aurora Group passed away this past Sunday. Andrea was also a long time member of the King City Group. There will be a service for her (visitation: 1 p.m., followed by a service at 2 p.m.) at the Anglican Church in Aurora on Thursday, June 29.

CLOSING REMARKS: Roman shared the following: “This is an important part of service and you as Reps will find your place here. *Keep coming back!*”

There being no further business, MOTION TO CLOSE moved by Mary S. (Westmoreland) and seconded by Carol (Sunnyside). MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, July 25, 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.

