

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

GENERAL MEETING APRIL 25, 2017

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

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Sue H. (Dry on Danforth) read the Twelve Traditions.

THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT: A Place to Share, Agincourt Acorn, Aurora, Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief (Sub. W.), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Friendly, Glenholme, Half Century, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kingsway, Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Markland Wood, Noon Rap, North Toronto, OISE Discussion, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Prince Edward, Queensville, Responsibility, Restoration & Recovery, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, Sobriety Plus, Spirit of the Big Book, Spiritual Kindergarten, St. Clement's, Stepping Stones Discussion, Sunnyside, Thursday Night Men's, Twelve Principles, Twelfth Tradition, Westmoreland, and Willowdale. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 06, and 14. **Executive Committee Members:** Bert J. (EC Vice Chair), Dan B., John L. (Finance Member), Sue G., Sue H., Richard E., and Roman R. (EC Chair). **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, Communications, Correctional Facilities, CPC, Finance, Information AA Day 2017, Treatment, and TOYPAA.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – March 2017: Mike C. (Beverly Hills) mentioned that Steve S., Accessibility Chair, is from the Glenholme Group and not the Sunnyside Group as recorded.

MOTION to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Carolyn (Sunnyside). MOTION CARRIED.

Chairperson's Opening Remarks- Roman R. (Stepping Stones Discussion), **EC Chair:** "Thank you for attending this evening, and adjusting to our temporary space for this meeting only. *"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 **\$200.70**.

- Roman announced that the EC had nominated a new Vice Chair, Bert J. (Silverbirch), who – if approved by Floor members – will take over from Peter B. (Keep It Simple) who rotated out of the position recently.
MOTION to approve the nomination of Bert J. as new EC Vice Chair moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Karl W. (Birds of a Feather). **MOTION CARRIED.**
- Roman also mentioned that **one more EC member is needed**; he asked for nominations and/or volunteers from the Floor. **Russell J.** (Noon Rap) **will serve as the new EC member** (by acclamation).
- Roman then presented a Motion that was circulated by AA World Service, which read as follows (*Hard copies provided to members*):

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC. Meeting of the Board of Directors
Friday, March 10, 2017**

That A.A.W.S., Inc. shall not remove any data-base directory listings of the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup, based on TGAI's recent communication (letter dated March 5, 2017) of their Group conscience, which states they are not and have never been a religious organization.

Roman stated that this is a "final moving forward" statement as per the Human Rights issue. This information can also be found on our website.

FINANCE REPORT – John L. (Westmoreland), Finance Committee Member:**Toronto Intergroup FINANCE Report at March 31, 2017**

SUMMARY:	ACTUAL Results: MARCH 2017	BUDGET: MARCH 2017		ACTUAL Results: JAN. to MAR. 2017	BUDGET: JAN. to MAR. 2017
Income	\$15,169	\$11,496		\$38,691	\$34,490
Expenses (excludes legal fees)	(\$15,324)	(\$17,782)		(\$47,474)	(\$53,346)
Net Income or (Deficit)	(\$155)	(\$6,286)		(\$8,783)	(\$18,856)

MARCH 2017: Not including legal fees, total Intergroup expenses for the month of March exceeded income by only \$155. As the above table outlines, the Actual Net Deficit of \$155 for the month compares favourably to the forecasted Budget Deficit of \$6,286. The better than anticipated results for the month of March primarily reflects the following:

- Stronger than anticipate fellowship contributions by AA *Groups* of \$3,036.
- Lower committee expenses than budget for by \$620.
- Staffing cost coming in under budget by \$1,701.

JANUARY 1 to MARCH 31, 2017: Excluding the legal fees associated with the Human Rights Tribunal, Intergroup recorded an actual deficit of \$8,783 versus an anticipated deficit of \$18,856 for the first 3 months of 2017. The favourable positive budget variance of \$10,073 (\$18,856 - \$8,783) primarily reflects higher than anticipated donations from Groups and Individual (+\$4,567) coupled with lower Staffing and Operating costs (-\$4691).

Prudent Reserve: Target Prudent Reserve of \$ 287,787 vs. Actual Prudent Reserve of \$238,854

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: No report, as the committee did not meet in April. Next meeting: Sun. May 21 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Gord H. (Bloordale), Chairperson:

Gord reported that this has been a busy time for the committee. Last Saturday, Archives held an Area 83 Archives Workshop at the location of the Long Branch Group (West). It was well-attended. Also, there is an Area 83 publication called “The 83” which features articles of interest to members: archives@area83aa.org. The 33rd Annual Archives Breakfast will be held on Sun. Nov.5 at the Oasis Convention Centre (Mississauga). Tickets are \$25; event flyers and tickets will be ready for members next month. On June 4, The East Toronto Archives Breakfast will be held. Tickets are \$20 (not available at the door; see flyer for contact info). Sean McC. (Welcome) will be the speaker at this event. The ‘50 Years of AA in Ontario’ book is available for \$10, available from Archives members and in the Literature Dept. at 234. The committee is in the process of creating a commemorative issue of ‘75 Years of AA in Ontario’ to be released at the 2018 ORC. *Volunteers for this committee are welcome! Please stop by the Intergroup Office and check out our Archives display in the Boardroom.*

“Whenever a society or civilization perishes there is always one condition present; they forgot where they came from” – *Carl Sandburg* Next meeting: Fri. May 12 at 7 p.m. at 234.

COMMUNICATIONS–Chris C. (Hill), Chairperson:

The committee has had a busy month. The new edition of the *Better Times* Newsletter is available for members tonight (May 2017 edition). Chris introduced the new Editor, Maijia P. (Hill), and thanked her for her commitment to service. *A layout artist is needed* for the Newsletter; some computer skills are required for this service: communications@aatoronto.org. The current edition features the upcoming Information AA Day event, and the upcoming 12th Annual East Toronto Archives Breakfast. There are currently 520 meetings listed on the website. Our website works in tandem with a meeting app for cellphones. **Next meeting:** Tues. May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at 234.

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

The 2017 event is just around the corner! ‘*Encouraging the Spirit of Service*’ will be held on Sat. May 27 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 519 Church Street Community Centre (Church and Wellesley) – the same venue as last year. There is participation from both Intergroup and the GTA 8 service districts. Tickets are \$5 and includes a service workshop day, a pot-luck lunch, a speaker from GSO, and a report on the General Service Conference (April) by our Area 83 Delegate. The venue is wheelchair accessible and there is parking available in the area. This is a great opportunity to learn about service! *See event flyers.* **Next meeting:** Mon. May 22 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2017 – No report. *Deferred to May General Meeting.***TWELFTH STEP – No Report.**

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. May 10 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 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.

I apologize for missing last month’s meeting and for neglecting to send in a report. Here is a combined report for March and April.

In district two, I am pleased to announce that a new corrections chair has been voted in. Rick O is the new corrections chair for district two as De R. had filled in as temporary chair. I know Rick and he will be a great corrections chair. Things are going well in district two. The Ontario Correctional Institute meetings continue to go on with little to no lockdowns and obligations are being met. I am sure there is still a need for volunteers for the closed meetings as well as for the Sunday open speaker meeting. I will contact Rick for future times and openings.

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. I understand that the facility is in the process of hiring new corrections officers and it is my hope that this will somewhat solve the lockdown issue – only time will tell. I have four volunteers in

waiting for one on one interviews and am awaiting a future orientation at some point in May. The facility is in transition to hopefully get to full capacity in the near future – I will report on this as it happens.

In district twenty-two things are going well at the Toronto East. Byron S, the corrections chair informs me that the two meetings are going well with good volunteer and inmate turnout. The east is having an orientation in May and Byron is purging the volunteer roster to make room for new volunteers.

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

I have had one bridging the gap request that I handled myself. I contacted the individual once he got his cell phone working and he informed me that he is attending meetings in his area. I invited him to my home group and to meet for coffee as well as my contact information and let him know that I was here to help in his recovery – I hope he stays and gets what we have to offer.

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. May 3, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*Committee meets bi-monthly*).

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

- We have some very keen district chairs. We were well-represented at the Area 83 Assembly. Dist.22 is still waiting to hear back from a Justice regarding their Courts Addictions program
- We are waiting on a few Workbooks for the committee; they are expected to arrive soon
- We are going ahead with the production of a couple of banners for use at events
- A new CPC Chair was elected: Yours truly was nominated and stood/obtained through acclamation
- There are plans to attend the Pri-Med Conference in early May. Shifts are filled and PI will help out as well, covering some of the times to man the booth
- There will be more events coming up at the end of May, including Info AA Day. Discussion and decisions will be made regarding attendance and manning the booths
- CPC is looking into ordering posters created by Jason at the Ottawa Intergroup. The posters were quite a sensation as last year's Fall Assembly. We will be sharing the posters with the PI committee

Yours in Love and Service, Kelly B. **Next meeting:** Mon. May 8 at 7 p.m. at 234.

GRAPEVINE –no report. Next meeting: Thurs. May 22 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

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

On behalf of PI our **upcoming events include:**

- Assisting CPC with the May medical conference.
- Having a display at AA Info day and doing a presentation of PI along with CPC in the morning.

Also, have four new members at the PI table. **Next meeting:** Mon., Apr.17 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

SELF SUPPORT- No report.

Next meeting: Thurs. June 22 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (*committee meets bi-monthly*).

TREATMENT- Jeremy M., (Morning Discussion) Chairperson:

April has been a fairly quiet month for the GTA AA Treatment Committee. Our attendance at this month's committee meeting was low and participation at the committee level from the districts has been fairly low as a whole. We hope that this will change over time by engaging the districts and requesting that they send someone to represent them at the committee table.

The above being said, Treatment as a whole is alive and well and enjoys a fierce level of enthusiastic participation across the GTA. Groups from all districts are continuously meeting all of their district service commitments, with groups facilitating meetings in treatment and shelter facilities, hospitals and wherever the hand of AA has been requested and is needed most.

We have had numerous bridging the gap requests, which have all been enthusiastically responded to by Toronto's AA members. I strongly encourage all districts to request the GSR's go back to their groups and request 1 or 2 members to provide their contact information so that all districts have an available bridging the gap request members list when someone reaches out for help getting connected to AA when they are returning to the community from detox and or treatment etc. This is a very rewarding act of service and provides members with the opportunity to give what was so freely given to them. Please see me after the meeting of contact me directly should anyone require any more information and or bridging the gap pamphlets to distribute to their groups.

We are looking forward to info AA day, this coming may 27th at the 519 community centre. Please feel free to come by our booth, send your GSR's and or district treatment chairs to say hello, introduce themselves and put faces to the AA treatment committee. We look forward to being of service and to assisting any and all AA groups, members and districts in getting involved.

*****Service Meeting Update:** **There is no longer a meeting held at Seaton House.** They are under lockdown due to health regulations. Jeremy asked that members not show up at the meeting until we are told otherwise by the facility.

In love and service, Jeremy Murray - GTA AA treatment Chair/D10 treatment Chair

Next meeting: Thurs. May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TOYPAA (Toronto Ontario Young People in AA) –Alex P. (Stepping Stones), TOYPAA Chairperson:

I'm Alex and an alcoholic, a member of Stepping Stones, and the new Chairperson of TOYPAA.

At TOYPAA we are currently mapping out and scheduling fellowship activities for every two weeks. This included activities like bowling, movies, board game nights, Karaoke, and the T&T evening Market which are all affordable fun fellowship outings. Our next bowling night is May 5.

One of the hardest parts of being new in recovery is getting over the feeling of being alone and the compulsion is to isolate (which we know is never a good thing). Young people need to know that we are not a glum lot; that life is not over. In fact, it is just beginning!

I ask all the Intergroup Reps to take the handout included in your handout package and post it on your bulletin boards at your home groups, and also to announce TOYPAA events. Remind the young (and not so young!) members that the TOYPAA fellowship events are here for *everyone* to realize that, yes – we

can and *we WILL* have fun in sobriety (if not, those 10 years of literal hell are always waiting for everyone...). **Next meeting:** Sun. May 21 at 4 p.m. at 234.

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

Present this evening were 32 Group Reps, 10 Alternate Reps, 3 Districts, 5 guests, and 8 subcommittee chairs.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Wes B. (Long Branch) announced that a long-time member, **Kaye H.** (Thornhill Group/Mount Albert Group) **passed away recently**. She had 63 years of continuous sobriety. She was 95 years old.

A ‘Celebration of Life’ **Memorial Service** will be held on **Sunday, May 7 from 2-5 p.m.** at: East Gwillimbury Sports Complex – 1914B Mount Albert Rd., Sharon, Ontario. The service will be held in the Canada Hall at the complex.

CLOSING REMARKS:

Roman shared that the former EC Vice Chair, Carol J. (Tuesday Night Discussion) has been recently diagnosed with cancer. Roman asked that members remember Carol in their thoughts and prayers.

“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, May 30, 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.