



GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020

(These Minutes approved by Floor Members)

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Anniversary, Aurora, Bad Boys Big Book, Bayview, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief (Central), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Credit Valley, Danforth, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Fifth Tradition (Scarborough), Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Golden Mile, Half Century, Hill, Keep It Simple (Scarborough), Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Love and Tolerance, Markland Wood, Midtown, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, New Anchor, New Life, Newmarket, Noon Rap, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Queensville, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Shepherd, Silverbirch, Sobriety Plus, Spiritual Kindergarten, St. Clement's, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville, Streetsville St. Andrews, Sunnyside, The First 164, Thursday Night Men's, Twelfth Tradition, and Westmoreland.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 02, 06, 10, 12, 14, and 18.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Danielle R., Graham D., Heather B., Jeanette E., Joe C. (Finance member), Marvyn W. (Operating Committee Vice-Chair), and Valerie B.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Archives, Communications, Finance, Grapevine, Information AA Day 2020, Ontario Regional Conference 2020, Twelfth Step, and Winter Season Open House 2019.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 2019:

MOTION: to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Russell J. (Spiritual Kindergarten/The First 164). Motion Carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS- Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson:
After welcoming everyone to the assembly, Marvyn shared the following:

- Nina L., Operating Chairperson, is ill tonight, so Marvyn will be chairing this evening
- Mary S. (High Park Group) passed away recently. A celebration of life is tentatively to be held at the High Park Group on Sun. Feb.16 (call 234 for more details when they become available)
- Art W. (east-end member) passed away recently. A celebration of life is tentatively to be held on Fri. Feb.14 (location to be announced. Call 234 for more details when they become available)
- Lisa J. (Beverly Hills) will be celebrating one year of continuous sobriety on Fri, Jan.31

At this point in the meeting, Operating Committee members introduced themselves to Floor members.

There was a **Suspension of Regular Business** in order to **elect two (2) new members of the Operating Committee**. After outlining the service requirements and service commitments for the positions, Marvyn then asked for nominations and/or volunteers from the Floor; none were forthcoming. **This item to be deferred until the February General Meeting**. Marvyn asked InterGroup Reps to please announce this item at their groups (check our website www.aatoronto.org for details on the Operating Committee service opportunity under 'About' / 'Service Committees').

There was a collection of the 7th Tradition (amount collected under Reception report).

	<u>December</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>Quarter</u>	<u>2019 Year</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>2018</u>
Summary	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Donations	19,870	18,000	68,156	96,715	154,533	142,715	
Literature Income	3,228	1,800	10,400	9,600	41,361	60,100	
Gross Income	23,098	19,800	78,556	106,315	195,894	202,815	
Expenses	17,278	22,553	50,875	56,739	192,410	242,578	
Income less Expense	5,730	2,753	27,674	49,576	3,584	39,763	22,950
Literature							
Sales	9,432	15,000	35,021	45,000	150,200	179,000	
Cost of Sales	6,204	13,200	24,620	35,400	108,839	118,900	
Net Income	3,228	1,800	10,400	9,600	41,361	60,100	

Additional Comments from Joe:

- For 2019, we budgeted for a loss; however, we are “in the black”!
- This was because group donations were higher overall in December. A big thank-you to groups for their support!
- There is “new technology” in the office for office staff; new computers were purchased and installed recently (which was much-needed). While recognizing the vital need for updated equipment, we also try to spend our money prudently.

There was a question from the Floor regarding the figure in the above General Summary: in the 4th quarter budget, the figure of \$49,576 should be in black, not red. Joe concurred (the above graph has been corrected).

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Bert J. (Silverbirch), Committee member:

The meeting was rescheduled to Jan.25 due to inclement weather on our regular monthly meeting time. Items discussed were the formation of an *ad hoc* committee to create a ‘Meeting to Go’ pamphlet in order to disseminate the availability of taking A.A. meetings in to those members who are homebound or in hospital. A future article on this initiative will be featured in a future Better Times newsletter (April).

Committee email: gtaaccessibility@gmail.com

Next meeting: Sun. Feb.16 at 11 a.m. at 234.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2019: Bert J. (Silverbirch), 2020 Event Chair:

The meeting was held last night, and there was a long discussion among committee members on how to attract members to the event. Event tickets and flyers are available through committee members.

Next Meeting: Mon. Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES: Gord H. (Bloordale), Committee member: Gord read the following report from David T. (St. Clement's), Archives Chairperson, who could not be present this evening:

Archives did not have a meeting in December but instead celebrated the Christmas season with a dinner with approximately 10 members in attendance.

For archives activities we have completed the Finding Aid project and Eddy and David have been reorganizing (mainly Eddy) the boxes and folders in the Archives Repository.

The Chair has been busy reviewing the Bobby D. collection to obtain information on Conferences during his period in AA (1959 - 2003). As well we have been busy visiting group anniversaries and putting on the Archives displays for these groups (Midtown, Streetsville, and others).

We have assisted three groups with their group histories and stand ready to help other groups who ask us for help.

We stand ready to bring the archive display to your group anniversary and are willing to help group prepare the history of their groups.

Next Meeting(s): Fri. Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at 234 and Fri. Feb.14 at 7 p.m. at 234.

COMMUNICATIONS: David P. (Birds of a Feather), Chairperson:

February Better Times on the table, with a colour cover! It also can be viewed on the website, if you want to save some paper. We (always) want your story! Tell your groups, they can be like the length of an average share at a closed meeting. What is your experience in the fellowship? Talk about your journey, or what AA is doing for you today. Write something about your favorite Step, or the hardest, or why your sponsor is the best! Don't worry about spelling, grammar, typos -- we have good people to take care of all that! In fact, Mary, our editor is here tonight. Have a word with her, if you haven't already, she'll set you straight! Send anything to communications@aatoronto.org, or (even better) directly to our team at the Better Times.

If your group is struggling, you can shine a spotlight on it! We do one every month, and it's as easy as answering a few simple questions which we can provide, so contact us for the magic formula.

Regarding those good, really fine people, we always need more, because we are dropping like flies out there and that is no joke. If you enjoy reading, writing, even drawing or have any experience in graphic design, we meet the first Tuesday evening each month at 234, except next month when we get bumped;

Remember -- communication is the key to this program, to working the steps; that's what Bill W. and Dr. Bob figured out! If we keep our experiences, the lessons we have learned, and that wisdom to ourselves, if we do not share it, give it away, we will get drunk. It really is that simple. Thank you for my sobriety!

Next meeting: Tues. Feb.11 at 7 p.m. at 234 (re-scheduled this month only).

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2020: Roman R. (Stepping Stones), 2020 Event Chairperson:

The 2020 ORC Event 'If You Want What We Have' will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday March 20-22, 2020 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel (where the event was held last year) located at 123 Queen St. West, Toronto.

International and North American AA Speakers include:

- Craig F. (SCOTLAND), Clancy I. (CALIFORNIA), Diana M. (FLORIDA), and America K. (TEXAS)

North American AI Anon Speakers include:

- David E. (CHICAGO) and Ken T. (PENNSYLVANIA)

Roman shared that "It's going fantastic; thank you for your support!" The ORC event is currently looking for volunteers; please go to the event website aaorc.ca and follow the prompts. Roman also announced that Clancy I. (a speaker who was booked to attend the event) had to cancel his speaking engagement.

Registration is \$45. The Saturday night banquet is \$85. Visit aaorc.ca for information and registration. Pre-Registration for the event: There are Early Bird prizes for early registration. There will be one draw per month (prize: set of Speaker Tapes) and then on March 1, there will be a draw for a prize of a one-night hotel stay. Pre-registration closes on Wed. Feb.19 at 3 p.m. After this time, if you want a hotel room, the cost for a room will go up to the regular market price for the room rate. Hospitality suites for groups have all been booked; there is no more availability for these suites.

In response to a question from the Floor regarding the higher costs of the event (i.e. registration fee), Roman shared that the change of venue from the Royal York Hotel (where the event was last hosted in 2018) has incurred some substantial committee costs. For example, the Audio/Visual costs have gone up several thousand dollars; also, the committee now has to pay for meeting rooms which they hadn't previously with the Royal York (at that facility, costs were based on how many hotel rooms we had booked for the event). According to the ORC Advisory Committee, the \$45 registration fee will be maintainable for the next 4-5 years. We had to change the venue from the Royal York to the current facility, as the Royal York is currently undergoing extensive renovations.

TWELFTH STEP: Woody K. (Willowdale), Chairperson:

Phone Duty application forms were made available for members at this meeting. Woody also brought a Twelfth Step Information sheet, outlining the different service opportunities for Twelfth Step work (also see our website www.aatoronto.org under 'About' / 'Service Committees' / 'Twelfth Step').

The committee is looking for phone greeters (6 are currently needed) and also monthly Greeter Captain Volunteers. Twelfth Step Committee members are also needed. Currently there are 6 members on this committee; 12 members are needed for a full complement. Woody announced that he will be rotating out of his Chair position in June.

Phone Duty: requires one year of continuous sobriety and a Phone Training Session. Phone Duty is a one-year commitment. 12 Step Volunteer: requires two years of continuous sobriety for this service position. Monthly Phone Training: Every first Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 234. Next Training Session: Sun. Feb.2 at 11 a.m. Please call 234 for contact phone number for phone trainer to RSVP for training. Next meeting: Wed. Feb.12 at 7 p.m. at 234.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2019: Edward A. (Lakeshore), 2019 Event Chairperson:

Edward thanked the Operating Committee for allowing him to serve as Chair for the 2019 event. He was also grateful to the Winter Season Open House committee members and volunteers; your efforts were very much appreciated!

A big-thank you to the fellowship for attending and supporting the event; it was a good turnout. The church liaison was also very helpful in making the event seamless and a success.

The event was on budget, and the 7th Tradition collected the day of the event totaled \$1,025, which was forwarded to 234 for budget purposes.

DISTRICT REPORTS

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Dave H. (Queensville), Committee member: Dave read the following report from Eric G., Correctional Facilities Chairperson, who could not be present this evening:

Corrections volunteers continue to serve the Toronto South and East Detention Centres with meetings and literature. Meetings are going well at the Detention Centres with limited "lock-downs". New volunteers have now receiving training at the East Detention and their participation is helping to ensure meetings are happening each week. The Corrections Sub-Committee met on January 8th and a schedule is being finalized for the ORC in March.

Next meeting: Wed. Mar.4 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (committee meets bi-monthly).

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): No report.

Next meeting: Mon. Feb.at 7 p.m. at 234.

GRAPEVINE: John M. (Danforth), Chairperson:

Good evening friends, I'm an alcoholic member of the Danforth Group and my name is John M. I serve you as the GTA Grapevine Chair. The Grapevine meeting this month was attended by 4 GTA Districts. In an effort to increase attendance or at least share information the committee is looking into ZOOM for our monthly meeting. We already have on the phone a connection with the Area Chair Jenny C. so we hope others may join us. We encourage all districts to find an alternate to come to the meeting. We discussed the pre-conference ZOOM meetings coming up in March and our eager to participate. Dareena B. in district 06 has acquired a Victor E. poster approximately 2 ½ by 3 ½ ft. which will be used by district 6 for display set-ups. We discussed the possible set-up of the display at the AA/Alanon meeting in district 2 in late February which will be handled by district 6. Dareena B. has updated the Display on Disk in her computer and we discussed different avenues for delivery of that to groups that would like to receive it. One of those avenues could be via the Area Website. We discussed the possible set up at the ORC and acquiring assistance from other members to staff the display and sales throughout the weekend. That's all for now, see you hanging around the vine. Yours in 'Grapefull' Service, John M.

Next meeting: Tues. Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Jeanette E. (Corktown), Operating Committee Liaison:

The committee has purchased Big Books and other A.A. books to be placed in libraries. In these books, a sticker was put in each book, listing a link to our A.A. website for access to local meeting listings. The committee is also placing information racks into local high schools, police stations, etc.

Conference-approved PSAs (Public Service Announcements) will hopefully be placed into small community newspapers in future. More district support is needed on this committee. Next Meeting: Mon. Feb.17 at 6:30 p.m. (NOTE Earlier Start Time) at 234.

SELF SUPPORT: No Report. A Committee Chairperson is needed. Please announce at your groups. Next meeting: Thurs. Feb.27 at 7:30 p.m. at 234 (committee meets bi-monthly).

TREATMENT: Chris Z., (Port Credit), Committee Secretary:

Chris shared the following: "Tonight I'd like to mention an incident of sexual harassment that was reported at a downtown Toronto facility. I'm going to describe how District 12 reacted to it; I think it was an entirely appropriate and successful reaction. There was an incident that was reported to the facility at the end of November. There were two young women involved. What they reported was that they perceived sexual harassment from the A.A. (member) who was chairing the meeting (at that facility). They reported that there was cross talk during the meeting, and that this individual approached them afterwards and made sexual remarks. The facility immediately contacted the Chair of District 12 Treatment Committee, and the same day the Chair contacted the individual and asked them to no longer take service commitments of this nature; the member agreed. This arrangement was reported back to the facility in question. This is the entire response. I think this is all we want to do, and I think that's all we can do, while keeping within our Traditions. These details were reported to the GTAI Treatment Committee. We've discussed it, and everyone at the table is in agreement. This is how we want to respond in a situation like this. The facility itself can make its own decisions, but as AA; we don't want to do anything further. The 'super-positive' that came out of this would be that we're talking about it. For a future Better Times, we are going to have an issue completely dedicated to Safety in AA (March 2020). The District 12 Treatment Chair wrote an article about this (above) response to the incident above." Russell J. (Spiritual Kindergarten/The First 164) had the following question: "What if the information is false?" Chris answered: "If the information is false, then I guess the response remains the same. I do not know the individual involved, and I know that the District 12 Treatment Chair will do everything possible to maintain that individual's anonymity. So the issue is closed; meetings go on as usual, and this is a successful conclusion, as far as anybody involved is concerned. Thank you."

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

RECEPTION: Danielle R. (St. Clement's), Operating Committee Member:

Present this evening were 46 Group Reps, 6 Alternate Reps, 7 District Liaisons, 1 visitor(s), and 6 Operating Committee members. A big 'thank you' to those members who set up this meeting and made the coffee!

THE 7TH TRADITION COLLECTION totaled \$201.80 (before coffee expenses).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS from Previous Meetings

Motion to Form an IT Committee/ Motion to Form a Workshop Committee – Discussion

Marvyn stated that as we do not currently have a full complement of Operating Committee members, we will have to defer this discussion to a future General Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Marvyn announced to Floor members that the Operating Committee has asked Bert J. (Silverbirch), immediate past Operating Chairperson, to stay on as an advisor to the current Operating Committee for six months; Bert agreed. The OC members are indeed grateful to Bert for his help and guidance.

CLOSING REMARKS:

In closing, Marvyn stated: "This was a great meeting! We are finished at 8:50 p.m.! Thank you to all for your attendance and commitment to service." Marvyn then thanked everyone for attending this evening and thanked those members who worked hard at setting up this meeting. He asked for assistance from members in helping to clean up after the meeting, and reminded everyone about the recycling protocol for the church: please respect this space! Meeting tear-down: please stack chairs 8-high.

There being no further business, a Motion to Adjourn was moved by Mike C. (Beverly Hills) and seconded by Peter (group not recorded). MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, February 25 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 McCrea Auditorium.

