

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021 (online meeting)

(These Minutes Approved by Floor Members)

The meeting convened at 8:00 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The Twelve Traditions were read by a member.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Anniversary, Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief (Sub.W.), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fifth Tradition, Friendly, Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Kipling, Last Stop Freedom, Living Sober, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Noon Rap, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Spiritual Kindergarten, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville St. Andrews, Streetsville, The Dogs, Thorncliffe Park, Trial and Error, Tuesday Men's Solution, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, Welcome, Westmoreland, and Willowdale.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 10 and 18.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cam B. (Finance Chair), Carlos D., David H., Gord H., Graham D., Kelli T., and Marvyn W. (OC Vice-Chair).

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Accessibility, Correctional Facilities, Finance, Grapevine, Treatment, and Twelfth Step.

HOUSEKEEPING: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson

He outlined the following: recording of the meeting. Operating Committee Chair, Nina L., send her regrets, as she cannot be present this evening.

At this point in the meeting, Marvyn asked Operating Committee members to introduce themselves to Floor members.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JUNE 2021:

Errors and/or Omissions: In the June Minutes, David T. (Welcome) is referred to as the Acting Self-Support Chair however, David T. is the Self-Support Meeting Facilitator, not the Acting Self-Support Chair.

With this amendment noted, there was a **MOTION** to adopt Minutes as amended moved by a member and seconded by a member. The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson Marvyn welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

COLLECTION OF THE 7TH TRADITION:

- As per our literature and the 7th Tradition, we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- The 7th Tradition link is as follows: <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>

FINANCE REPORT – Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chairperson

June 2021 Finance Summary

	June 2021 (1 month)				June 2021 Year-to-Date (6 months)										
	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2020	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Variance	%
Contributions	6,395	9,715	(3,320)	(34%)	11,564	(5,169)	(45%)	58,086	57,390	696	1%	58,086	53,042	5,044	10%
Literature Sales	7,677	6,668	1,009	15%	3,548	4,129	116%	38,870	40,000	(1,130)	(3%)	38,870	40,399	(1,529)	(4%)
= Total Revenues	14,072	16,383	(2,311)	(14%)	15,112	(1,040)	(7%)	96,956	97,390	(434)	(0%)	96,956	93,441	3,515	4%
- Cost of Sales	3,955	4,334	(379)	(9%)	3,615	340	9%	21,307	26,000	(4,693)	(18%)	21,307	26,413	(5,106)	(19%)
- Expenses	15,223	19,227	(4,004)	(21%)	7,834	7,389	94%	78,820	92,950	(14,130)	(15%)	78,820	82,448	(3,628)	(4%)
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(5,106)	(7,178)	2,072		3,663	(8,769)		(3,171)	(21,560)	18,389		(3,171)	(15,420)	12,249	

1. Prudent Reserve Market Value at May 31, 2021 = \$257 K. 2021 Prudent Reserve "Target" = \$266 K.
2. June 2021 YTD expenses include a credit of \$3,207 for Wage Subsidy.

June 2021

- The deficit of 5.1 K compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of 7.2 K
- June saw the lowest monthly contributions amount so far in 2021
- Contributions were 3.3 K or 34% below the budgeted amount of 9.7 K and literature sales were 15% above budget
- Total revenues were 2.3 K or 14% below budget
- Expenses were 4.0 K below budget due to lower than budgeted committee, telephone, and staff expenses (caused by timing)

June 2021 YTD

- The deficit of 3.2 K compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of 21.6 K
- Despite the low contributions in June, YTD Intergroup is right on target June YTD
- Literature sales are 1 K or 3 % below budget, the literature sales budget is 50% of the 2020 budget due to the pandemic
- Now is a great time for groups to consider stocking or restocking their libraries especially if transitioning to in-person meetings
- Expenses are 14.1 K below budget for the following reasons: staff expenses: a combination of wage subsidy and lower than budgeted bookkeeping costs totaling 8.3K, committee expenses lower by 3.3 K and lower operating costs mainly printing and phones. Year-to-date there have been only \$932 in committee expenses

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES:

David and Eddy have transported excess duplicate cassettes to a member in Renfrew and picked up the area 83 archives from the outgoing archivist. Storage of the area 83 archives is the GTA archives.

David and Eddy have also received Michael O'H's collection and are cataloguing the items for inclusion on the GTA Collection.

We are closely monitoring the COVID surges due to the Delta variant in relation to the annual archives Breakfast scheduled for 7 November.

COMMUNICATIONS:

We are looking for a Better Times Editor, Webmaster and Alt Webmaster We are not meeting again until September.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2022: No report.

Virtual ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE:

A Chairperson is needed for the 2022 Event. 5 years of continuous sobriety and some experience with serving on a previous ORC event are needed. Please send service resumes to: orcadvisory@atoronto.org

TWELFTH STEP:

1. The Help Line will operate with only one greeter on several shifts throughout August due to a mass exodus for vacation

time. Most of the remaining greeters are experienced enough to handle the load, and have been advised to make more use of the 12 Step Callers List when necessary.

2. We are always and ever looking for people interested in answering calls on the Help Line. It seems that as soon as we have a full house, a number of people will decide to cycle out, plus we lost a few due to their passing away.
3. Am still looking for someone to take the lead in the Newcomer Greeter program whereby newcomers can put their names on a list and volunteer to take another newcomer to Zoom meetings for their first week in recovery, presuming both of intend to do 90 in 90. There is no length of sobriety requirement. Anyone who is outgoing enough to reach out to another newcomer qualifies and hopefully over time some of them will form “posses” or “peer groups” to support each other on their recovery journey. We will strive to put people together in the same postal code so that when live meetings return, they will be able to continue their relationships and help each other grow.
4. We still need people who speak a second language to populate the 12 Step Callers list. When a greeter takes a call from someone with limited English comprehension, we reach out to a 12 Step Caller in the same postal code to connect with the caller and either take them to a meeting, meet them at a meeting, visit them in the hospital, or whatever the request is. The degree of effort is at the discretion of the 12 Step Caller, depending on their ability to establish a rapport with the person seeking help.

WINTER SEASON ALKATHON: (See discussion under New Business)

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY:

Monthly meeting

- Third Sunday of every month at 11a
- Next one is August 15, 2021 on Zoom
- <https://www.aatoronto.org/event/accessibility-2021-08-15/>
- **All members of AA are welcome**, especially those who have difficulty accessing AA meetings for any reason

New A.A. Preamble

- Last meeting I reminded groups that:
 - The 71st General Service Conference recommended a new A.A. preamble that replaced “fellowship of men and women” to “fellowship of people” to include non-binary alcoholics.
 - This updated preamble was published for the first time in the in the July 2021 issue of the Grapevine
 - If their group hadn’t adopted the new preamble yet, the IGR may wish to bring up adopting the new preamble at their group’s next business meeting
- There were many questions from IGRs regarding whether a group needed to adopt the new preamble at a business meeting and why the preamble hadn’t yet been updated on aa.org.
- I was asked by the OC Vice Chair to reach out to the G.S.O. and ask for their guidance.
 - The full question and response are attached below
 - Two key quotes:
 - “The [G.S.O] Publications and Communications Department will coordinate updates to the [preamble on aa.org]. We have not been provided with any specific timeline. It is a large and complex undertaking, as you can imagine, that also involves translating all our material into French and Spanish before posting or printing.”
 - “Each A.A. group and service entity is autonomous and has the freedom and the responsibility to interpret the Traditions and to set their policies, meeting formats and practices according to their informed group conscience... The issue of whether or not to follow the guidance from the General Service Conference regarding the Preamble will be a matter for groups to discuss and determine.”

Cooperation with the Down syndrome Association of Toronto

- Michael MacKenzie of Montage Support (working with the DSAT) has put together some material for families with members who have Down Syndrome and potentially a drinking problem, including:
 - A PowerPoint: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YDRPL_VuTRvFiMoGVPzdjm52nfeD5xX0/view?usp=sharing
 - An anonymous video interview of a man with Down Syndrome with alcoholism in recovery: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtxaDi29NP8>
- He has asked me to distribute it for feedback
- You may wish to share them with your group members, gather feedback, and send it to accessibility@atoronto.org.
- As a courtesy to DSAT, **please do not share these publicly, as they are works in progress**. If you forward them to members of your group, please ask them to not share them publicly.

In Service, Tom D., GTA Districts Accessibility S-C Chair

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:

I am the Alternate CF Chair for Scarborough District 22 and have been acclaimed as the new Toronto Inter-District Corrections Chair. The committee met on July 3. Reports were given on activities in both Toronto South Detention Centre (D6) and the East Detention Centre (D22). Though the outside volunteer members are still not permitted to enter and put on meetings, literature in the form of Big Books, 12&12s, and the Grapevine are available. We understand that the volunteer coordinators and chaplains in these institutions are doing their best to make this available to those who want/request.

Each District will be presenting the contact information for the Probation and Parole Offices in their District. We have reached out to the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) and were well received to work together on a unified approach to making contact with these offices. A District doesn't need to have a prison to get active in CF work. We will be exploring the various ways we can carry AAs message to the professionals there and to the recently released prospective AA members.

From last month and ongoing until it takes form and is approved by the Districts, we have agreed to take on a Pen Pal service. The Corrections Correspondence Program out of GSO is under some revision and may take some time to be active for us here in Canada. We have a very comprehensive workbook shared with us from Area 79. We as a committee have agreed to review and adopt for our purposes. If you are interested send us an e-mail at corrections@atoronto.org.

We are also encouraging folks who wish to be a temporary contact for inside members upon release. Please send your details to corrections@atoronto.org

Finally anyone in the fellowship can Carry the Message by donating a GV subscription to an inside member. All the detail on how to do this is explained at <https://www.agrapevine.org/carry-the-message>

I am grateful to be of service in the capacity to the fellowship inside and outside the walls.

Yours in love and service, Máire O'B., Toronto Inter-District Corrections Chair

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): (Chair Joe A. not present.)

The next CPC Toronto Meeting is Monday September 13, 2021, 7pm-8pm EDT, Zoom ID: 854 7547 0291 PW: 002060

GRAPEVINE:

Greetings friends! I'm alcoholic; a member of the Bloordale Group & my name is Scott. Hi! I have the honour & privilege to serve the fellowship as your GTAI Grapevine Committee chair. At our last GTA Committee meeting, held last Tuesday, we had attendance from 3 of 8 Districts & our Committee Liaison, Dave H. All Group Grapevine Reps as well as anyone interested in Grapevine may attend our regular 3rd Tuesday of the month meetings. District 06 has ordered another 5 copies of the new Grapevine publication "Free on the Inside" bringing the total to 30 copies for the men in custody at the Toronto South Detention Centre. The August Grapevine magazines are in & it's been noted that they are coming

from Quebec, rather than Hollywood, California. For those that have subscriptions, they are also showing up about 10 days prior to the beginning of that months' publication.

The August issue of the AA Grapevine magazine has a special section on seniors in AA. There are stories on the 73 year old newcomer & another story titled "It's never too late" – at 92 he's still working the program & helping others every chance he gets. If anyone tonight is interested in the August issue of Grapevine for \$3.00, please use the chat to message me & I'll work on how to get you a copy.

Have you heard the AA Grapevine & AA LaVina daily quotes are now on Instagram? Yes, as of July 7th, if you follow @alcoholicsanonymous_gv or alcoholicosanonimos_lv, you'll have the Grapevine Daily quote right in the palm of your hand. Please share with your Group members that Grapevine is looking for stories from newcomers (on their first 90 days), adversity in sobriety & each step / tradition and your experience.

There will also be a new book available as of September 3rd. It's called Prayer & Meditation where AA members share the many ways they connect spiritually.

The 2022 Grapevine pocket planner & wall calendar orders are now being taken. The deadline is September 1st. The pocket planners are \$5.50 & the calendars are \$10.50. Please see your (GSR) General Service Representative to place your order.

Again, a reminder to please check the aagrapevine.org or aalavina.org websites for new information including how to submit your story or photo.

Please contact me through the email: grapevine@aatoronto.org for any of the sales above or further inquiries.

Yours, in love & service, Scott M., Grapevine Committee Chair

PUBLIC INFORMATION: No report.

SELF SUPPORT:

- The Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer. There were six members in attendance – Bert J D22, Ann S D22, Bev H Area 83 Self-Support Chair, Gord H Intergroup Liaison, Marrey P D06 ADCM.
- The Twelve Traditions were read by Marrey P.
- The previous minutes were moved for approval by Bert J and Marrey P.
- Bev H reported that her position had been quiet since the previous meeting except for her Committee Meeting held for all District Chairs. This meeting is normally held the first Thursday of the month with the exception of July when it will be on July 11th.
- Ann reported from District 22 that there was not much activity and she is working on a presentation for the District Table.
- Marrey would like to make a presentation but is waiting on the DCM to approve for the Agenda. At her last meeting she asked a question about the Grapevine but there was no response. Trying to encourage members to volunteer for the committees.
- Bert is assisting Ann on her presentation for the District Table.
- Gord H suggested creating awareness within the Districts.
- Questions were raised about what groups were doing with respect to Zoom and whether they will continue after the province relaxes current restrictions.

The meeting closed at 0730 with the Responsibility Statement/Declaration.

Facilitator: David T Area 83 Archivist, District 10 CPC Committee member.

TREATMENT:

We had a meeting scheduled for Thursday July 15, but I was unable to attend, and since we don't have a Secretary, the meeting had to be cancelled.

That said, a few Districts were able to share their updates.

1. District 6 has a new treatment chair, Rebecca V. and Alt Chair, Karen S. The district reports that they will likely see in-person meetings return to the Cawthra Centre in September. Virtual meetings at the Jean Tweed Centre continue every third Friday of the month at 630pm.
2. Much to report in D10: There is an alternate treatment chair now Jill P. CAMH asked us to cancel our zoom meetings on Fridays and Saturdays because there are in person meetings. There is some miscommunication going on between D10 and D12 re meetings at CAMH. Woman's Own is closing in the fall. Maxwell Meighan zoom meetings are still happening, Amira will check in with Gateway Men's, Harbour Light, and Maxwell Meighan about in person meetings this month. D10 is really passionate about service
3. District 12 is hosting one in-person meeting a week now at CAMH. Thursdays at 7pm. This is in addition to the Tuesday evening Zoom meeting they've hosted for a year. CAMH has requested additional in-person meetings for Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, which the District will begin to fill at their next meeting on August 11.
4. District 18 had a Bridging the Gap request

We continue to look for a Secretary for the Committee. Contact treatment@aatoronto.org.

Our next meeting is August 19th at 730pm on Zoom. Check the listing on the website.

RECEPTION:

It was reported that there were 43 Reps, 7 Alternates, 7 OC Members, 8 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons, and 2 Visitors for a total attendance of 67 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Service Positions Available – Volunteers Needed!

- **Finance Committee Member needed**

The sobriety requirement for the Finance Committee member position: 5 years of continuous sobriety, and some business/accounting background preferred. Please send service resumes to admin@aatoronto.org

- **Better Times Editor needed** (Communications Committee)

Requirements for this service position: 2 years of continuous sobriety, editing/writing experience is appreciated, graphic design experience is helpful (but a creative interest can be developed), and be familiar and comfortable with a suitable desktop publishing program (i.e. Adobe Illustrator or Spark, Microsoft Publisher, Photoshop, etc.). For more information or to volunteer, please email bettertimes@aatoronto.org

- **GTAI Webmaster needed** (Communications Committee) Please email cc.chair@aatoronto.org for more information

- **GTAI Alternate Webmaster needed** (Communications Committee) Please email cc.chair@aatoronto.org for more information

- **Self-Support Committee Chairperson needed**

Two years of continuous sobriety, and some service experience preferred. Email self-support.liaison@aatoronto.org for more information.

- **IT Volunteers needed**

Volunteers are needed to an IT Subcommittee, whose mandate encompasses researching and recommending cost-effective IT solutions for the Intergroup Office. Qualifications for this subcommittee include: IT Professionals(s) with degrees in computer science, college diplomas in computer science, and/or various highly technical certifications or equivalent (such as A+, CCNP, CCIE, MCSE, CISSP, AWS, Linux).

The committee should be primarily composed of IT Professionals with a minimum 4 to 5 years of work experience in one of the following: field systems administration, AWS, VOIP, Linux, Apache, PHP, Database (MySQL MSSQL), network administration, desktop computer technician, web application development, information security, IT project management. For further information, please contact Michael W. (IT Subcommittee Chair) it.chair@aatoronto.org

- **Virtual ORC 2022 – Chairperson needed**

A Chairperson is needed for the 2022 Event. 5 years of continuous sobriety and some experience with serving on a previous ORC event are needed. Please send service resumes to: orcadvisory@aatoronto.org

- **Winter Season Open House/Virtual Alkathon 2021 –Chairperson needed**

A Chairperson is needed to form a committee for the 2021 Event, to be held on December 24-25 and December 31 – January 1st. Qualifications for the position of Chairperson include: 2 years of sobriety; be available Dec.24, 25, 31 and Jan.1; and enjoy working on a collaborative team environment. Serving as a Past Member of the Winter Season Open House/Alkathon Event would be an asset. Send Resumes to: oc.chair@aatoronto.org

NEW BUSINESS

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2021 EVENT – POLL - SURVEY

Marvyn opened a discussion on the Floor regarding the annual Winter Season Open House Event. Historically, this Intergroup-sponsored event is a day of fellowship, meetings, and a holiday dinner usually held in person on Christmas Day at a chosen venue. Last year (due to COVID) it was held as a virtual event from Dec.24-25 and then again on Dec.31-Jan.1, with groups volunteering to chair both open speaker and closed discussion meetings throughout.

Given that both events have been well-received in the past, it was decided to offer groups a survey to get members' feedback on the following:

- Would members prefer to have an in-person Winter Season Open House event (if COVID guidelines permit us to hold an in-person event)?
- Would members prefer to have the Winter Season Virtual Alkathon Event?
- Would members prefer to have an in-person Winter Season Open House Event (if COVID guidelines permit us to hold an in-person event) PLUS a 24-hour Virtual Alkathon for New Year's Eve/New Year's Day?

Marvyn then asked for a sense of the Floor in terms of members being agreeable to take an Event Survey back to their groups for discussion/vote; the Floor agreed to this action.

- **Action:** A Winter Season Open House Event Survey will be circulated to Group Reps via email for discussion at their next business meeting. Results are to be emailed to the Operating Committee: admin@aatoronto.org
Deadline for Survey Submissions: August 25.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening.

A Motion to adjourn was moved by a member and seconded by a member.

The Motion was carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, August 31, 2021** at 8 p.m.