

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 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. Mike C. (Beverly Hills) read the Twelve Traditions.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: 12th Tradition, Anniversary, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Beyond Belief (Sub.W.), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, First 164, Friendly, Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Kipling, Living Sober, Long Branch, Markland Wood, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville St. Andrews, Streetsville, the Dogs, and Twelve Steps.

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

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Accessibility, Correctional Facilities, CPC, Finance, Information AA Day 2021, IT Subcommittee, Grapevine, Public Information, 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 – MAY 2021:

Errors and/or Omissions: Máire O'B., Toronto Inter-District Corrections Chair, noted that in the Correctional Facilities report (page 5), it states erroneously that there is no Bridging the Gap program for Toronto East or Toronto South Detention (there is).

With this amendment noted, there was a **MOTION** to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Gary W. (Newmarket) and seconded by Charlie D. (Streetsville Action). 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/>

MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR BUSINESS – OC ELECTION

Motion to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate OC Election moved by Bert J. (Silverbirch) and seconded by Christa E. (Beaches). The Motion was carried.

The OC Committee is currently looking for one member. After outlining the sobriety requirement and service responsibilities for the position, Marvyn then called for nominations/volunteers from Floor members. **Lee M.** (High Park) **volunteered to serve as an Operating Committee Member.**

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

	May 2021 (1 month)							May 2021 Year-to-Date (5 months)							
	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2020	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Variance	%
Contributions	10,137	9,715	422	4%	9,019	1,118	12%	51,691	47,675	4,016	8%	51,691	41,478	10,213	25%
Literature Sales	5,532	6,666	(1,134)	(17%)	2,937	2,595	88%	31,239	33,332	(2,093)	(6%)	31,239	36,851	(5,612)	(15%)
= Total Revenues	15,669	16,381	(712)	(4%)	11,956	3,713	31%	82,930	81,007	1,923	2%	82,930	78,329	4,601	6%
- Cost of Sales	2,964	4,333	(1,369)	(32%)	1,565	1,399	89%	17,657	21,666	(4,009)	(19%)	17,657	22,798	(5,141)	(23%)
- Expenses	13,627	14,974	(1,347)	(9%)	11,155	2,472	22%	63,597	73,723	(10,126)	(14%)	63,597	74,614	(11,017)	(15%)
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(922)	(2,926)	2,004		(764)	(158)		1,676	(14,382)	16,058		1,676	(19,083)	20,759	

1. Prudent Reserve Market Value at May 31, 2021 = \$258 K. 2021 Prudent Reserve "Target" = \$266 K.
2. May 2021 YTD expenses include a credit of \$3,207 for Wage Subsidy.

May 2021

- We had good month with only a small deficit of 1 K
- Contributions very close to budget and literature sales were 1.1 K or 17% below
- Total revenues were 1 K or 4 % below budget
- Expenses were 1.3 K below budget due to lower committee and staff expenses

May 2021 YTD

- Intergroup has a surplus of 1.7 K compared to a budgeted deficit of 14.4 K
- Contributions are 8% or 4.0 K above budget as groups continue to be generous with their excess funds
- Literature sales 2 K or 6 % below budget, the literature sales budget is 50% of the 2020 budget due to the pandemic
- Expenses are 10.0 K below budget for the following reasons: staff expenses: (wage subsidy and bookkeeping) (5.4 K), committee expenses (2.8 K) and a combination printing, phone expenses (1.8 K)
- YTD there only \$726 in committee expenses

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES:

At our last meeting there were 10 members in attendance.

Our Archivist Eddy has been busy reviewing boxes to streamline our storage including OC Minutes for 1961 and 98 – 2000, separating Ontario Delegates Committee and Ontario General Service Committee into separate boxes, Joint minutes, OC & OPC as well as Treasurers Reports and Revenue Canada Statements and Correspondence. As well, David the Assistant Archivist has scanned the Finance Committee Reports for 2007 – 2012. The 2013 Fiscal Year will be scanned when released by the Finance Committee.

The District Chairs are attempting to contact long-timers with the hope of performing an Oral History of these members.

The next Area Archives Workshop Seminar will be held the 3rd Saturday of September via Zoom.

Gord H has confirmed our reservation with the OASIS Conference Centre for November 7th subject to government COVID regulations. Hopefully the pandemic will be over by then...

We are requesting members in the GTA forward their copies of old Better Times to complete our collection of Better Times. The Better Times originally was started in 1996 but we are missing many of these issues.

COMMUNICATIONS: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Liaison

The **next Communications Committee meeting will be held July 22nd instead of this week due** to vacation plans. On the agenda for the July 22nd meeting is the Better Times pop up, which seems to have caused some controversy. It will be debated at the next meeting.

The Communications Committee has created new guidelines for the website. The guidelines outline what should be posted for example:

- **On the website there are three purple buttons guiding people to meetings:**
 - Find An In-Person Meeting -GTA registered meetings only
 - GTAI Home Group Online Meetings - GTA registered online meetings only
 - Online AA Intergroup CHANGE TO “ **Online Meetings Worldwide**”
 - **Fourth Button Proposal:** Online Non-registered Service Meetings

*** The website is currently being tweaked and this fourth button has not been posted yet. The website revisions will be presented at the next Operating Committee meeting.

Guidelines for Announcements:

We post round-up and conference announcements from the GTA, across Ontario and we post AA world conferences. We post events put on by AA members across Ontario only.

We are **looking for an Editor for The Better Times and a new Webmaster** (see details is Unfinished Business).

INFORMATION AA DAY 2021: Christy F. (Welcome), 2021 Event Chairperson

Christy referred to the 2021 Event Wrap-Up report that was given at the May General Meeting. Planning for next year’s event [2022] will be held close to the end of the year – all those interested in this exciting service opportunity are welcome and needed! Stay tuned!

Virtual ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chair

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

TWELFTH STEP: Laura V. (Mount Royal-York), Chairperson

This committee is looking for volunteers for the phones (all shifts), particularly younger members.

Laura reminded Floor members that “**other-language-speaking**” **members for the 12 Step Callers List.** We need many, many more English as a second language people available to answer questions from first-timer callers in pretty much any language you can think of, but especially the three East Indian languages, Tamil, Farsi, most of the Eastern European languages, and Russian. To volunteer, please email 12step@aatoronto.org

WINTER SEASON ALKATHON: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chair

A Chairperson is needed to form a committee for the 2021 Event. 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 **Deadline** for resumes: July 31.

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Tom D. (Mount Royal-York), Chairperson

Monthly meeting

- Third Sunday of every month at 11a
- Next one is July 18, 2021 on Zoom
- <https://www.aatoronto.org/event/accessibility/2021-07-18/>
- **All members of AA are welcome**, especially those who have difficulty accessing AA meetings for any reason

New A.A. Preamble

- 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

- The format and readings of every AA meeting are up to its group's conscious. **You as the intergroup rep may consider bringing a motion at your group's next business meeting to formally adopt the new preamble**
- Non-binary people do not identify as men or women are often excluded by binary language in their daily lives
- Many alcoholics say that at their first AA meeting they felt accepted and at home
- The preamble is often the first reading at an A.A. meeting. Think of future non-binary alcoholics that come to your meeting, and how adopting the new preamble will help them feel that sense of inclusion
- The new preamble can be found at <https://www.aagrapevine.org/about-us#:~:text=AA%20Preamble>

Meetings-To-Go

- Beginning work with all Area 83 Accessibility Committee to finalize the guidance and suggested format for groups/accessibility committees to put on meetings to go for home / hospital bound alcoholics
- Set up a shared folder on Intergroup's Google drive with the resources that our committee has made so far
- If you're interested in helping, e-mail accessibility@aatoronto.org

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Máire O'B., Toronto Inter-District Corrections Chair

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 June 2 and it was lightly attended. 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.

We have committed to energize the committee with widening the scope of our responsibilities as they are laid out in the Corrections Workbook. [Available in pdf format M45i on the GSO website].

Each District present will be gathering the contact information for the Probation and Parole Offices in their District. We will be reaching out to the Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC) 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.

We have agreed to take on a PenPal 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. So... The Upper Fraser Valley Corrections Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous in A79 BC/Yukon which has responsibility for 10 correctional institutions has shared their experience with us establishing this PenPal program. They have taken considerable effort to pull together a very comprehensive guide that we as a committee have agreed to review and adopt for our purposes. We will need to consider this well before we embark on this initiative. In the meantime, if you are interested send us an e-mail at corrections@aatoronto.org.

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

COVID has presented challenges with carrying the message inside the walls but that has made us a fellowship incredibly resilient and creative. There are so many excellent workshops, studies, conferences, etc. going on across Canada and the U.S. and we have committed to attend as we are able several very strong corrections zoom meetings with outside members. It is giving us lots of encouragement and commitment being so richly connected.

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.aagrapevine.org/carry-the-message>

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

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): Joe A. (One Paragraph at a Time), Chairperson

D10: Met with a personal chiropractor. Doctor said some of his patients have a misconception that AA is a religious program. CPC Chair discussed the spiritual aspect of the program and will be providing chiropractor pamphlets that explain "the God Word".

D12: wrote an addictions doctor. Planning to reconnect correspondence this month.

A CPC member mentioned that in the June 2021 Grapevine, in the Alcoholism At Large feature there is a helpful interview. Here is a direct snippet from the piece: *"We asked study coauthors Dr. John Kelly of Harvard University and Dr. Keith Humphreys of Stanford University, experts in the field of addiction research, to speak with Grapevine about their findings."*

D18: Doctor was busy, didn't seem too receptive. Planning to pick up the CPC efforts this month.

D18 Alt Chair: working on CPC power point. Local police dept. reached out to Alt Chair to help with an individual. Alt Chair provided links to meetings and other resources. Also provided individual her phone number.

D06 member: did not hear back from Peel Aboriginal Network. Will leave it at that for now... Had success speaking with priests and handing out business cards in local Catholic churches... Found three mosques in Oakville, Toronto, and Mississauga to begin correspondence with...Will reach out to an ADHD clinic on Yonge St. this month... Will also explore Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

A visitor to the CPC Meeting in June learned about CPC at Info AA Day. Has leads with teacher's union and principal's council. Another visitor has an interest in carrying AA message to professionals. Has interest in reaching the psychotherapist community. CRPO was regulated in Ontario in 2015.

Area 83 has CPC video presentations available for use on its website. <https://area83aa.org/resources/cooperation-with-professional-community>

D06 Chair: reached out to a doctor, sent links, and provided personal contact info. Doctor in turn connected with Louise.

D22: did not yet have success with the employer's EAP program. Will try a different approach.

CPC Chair GTAI mentioned that the committee will once again continue grassroots outreach, with an eye for soon discussing how CPC Toronto will be ready for larger scale presentations such as Pri-Med Canada.

GRAPEVINE: Scott M. (Bloordale), Chairperson

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 on Tuesday, June 16th, we had attendance from 6 Districts & a visiting G/V chair from District 26 (Lakeshore West which covers Pickering & Ajax geographically). This Committee is still in need of a Secretary. All they need to do is attend our monthly 3rd Tuesday of the month meeting, fill in the blanks on a pre-written template, combine the reports sent in & distribute the minutes through our distribution list. Please share this widely in the fellowship. We are continuing to encourage all Group Grapevine Reps to attend our meeting as well in order to share their ideas & perhaps pick up some new ideas. John M. with District 18 still has a few books and other Grapevine items in their inventory at reduced cost. Let me know if anyone you know is interested in any Grapevine merchandise. In the past two months, District 06 has ordered 25 copies of the new Grapevine publication "Free on the Inside". These are destined for the men in custody at the Toronto South Detention Centre. If any other Group or District is interested in increasing the order or sending books to another Correctional Institution, please contact Helen at our Literature Dept. at "234".

As most of you know the AA Preamble, also known as the reading; "What is AA?" has been under discussion at the last two General Service Conferences for possible changes for inclusivity and the final change has been decided upon and now printed in the most recent July issue of the Grapevine. The words "men & women" has been revised to "people" and can now be used widely. The aatoronto.org, aamississauga.org and area83aa.org websites have now all had their main pages updated with this change. Newly revised copies of the preamble are not yet available on the AA Grapevine website.

The July issue of the AA Grapevine magazine is the Annual Prison Issue. When Grapevine started to not use staples in the bindings of the magazines, it was the July prison issue that they started with in 2006. Since March of 2009, every issue is staple-free and can get into our Correctional Facilities with ease. If anyone tonight is interested in the July issue of Grapevine for \$3.00, please use the chat to message me & I'll work on how to get you a copy. Please remember to recycle your old Grapevines, perhaps by being left in your Doctors' or Dentists' office. We have a purple box at 234 for this recycling use as well.

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: Curtis R. (Welcome), Chairperson

Curtis reported that 5 members were in attendance at the last committee meeting. **District Chairs are needed at the table!** Current projects reported were a large outreach campaign to retirement homes and senior residences, in addition to a project to place 'As Bill Sees It' e-books into the Toronto Public Library system.

SELF SUPPORT: Gord H. (Bloordale), Operating Committee Liaison, and David T. (Welcome), Meeting Facilitator
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 7:30 with the Responsibility Statement/Declaration.

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

TREATMENT: Sean L. (Steps to Serenity), Chairperson

We held our March meeting on Thursday June 17, 2021 at 730pm via Zoom. We had two Districts (18 and 22) attend.

Districts 18 and 22 are currently working on action plans for reaching out to treatment facilities in their districts. District 18 is expecting to have their plan worked out by July 15 as they formed a district subcommittee of 4 members.

We had one Bridging the Gap request.

District 10 launched two new Zoom meetings, an additional one for CAMH's WMS on Fridays at 130pm (which will be shifting to 2pm), and one for Maxwell Meighen Thursdays at 7pm.

Lastly, **the Committee is looking for a new Secretary.** So please, if you would like to do some Service with a capital S, please come on out.

We adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

RECEPTION: Kelli T. (Hill), Operating Committee Secretary

Kelli reported that there were 46 Reps, 5 Alternates, 6 OC Members, 8 Subcommittee Chairs, 4 District Liaisons, and 1 Visitor for a total attendance of 70 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**

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

- **Communications Committee Alternate Secretary needed**

Requirements for this service position: 1 year of sobriety, good writing skills, knowledge on the use of computers for word processing/email for written correspondence, and knowledge of the Better Times newsletter and GTAI website. Further assets: knowledge of the use of computers for copy editing, internet browsing for research and for graphics design. Monthly time commitment: 12 hours (including meetings). For more information or to volunteer, please email cc.chair@aatoronto.org

- **Treatment Committee Secretary needed** Please email treatment@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 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 **Deadline** for resumes: July 31.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening.

A Motion to adjourn was moved by Don H. (Living Sober) and seconded by Isaac H. (Glenholme).

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

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, July 27, 2021** at 8 p.m.