

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 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 Cam B. (Deer Park).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: A Place to Share, Bayview, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Friendly, Glenholme, GSM, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, Hill, King City, Kipling, Lakeshore, Long Branch, Markham Village, Markland Woods, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville Action, The Dogs, Thorncliffe Park, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Welcome, and Willowdale.

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

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Accessibility, Archives, Communications, Finance, WSOH, and Winter Season Virtual Alkathon.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Nina outlined the following: recording of the meeting.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – AUGUST 2021:

Errors and/or Omissions: No errors/omissions were forthcoming.

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Brad H. (Gay Sober Men) and seconded by Jim B. (The Dogs). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON’S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nina welcomed everyone to tonight’s meeting.

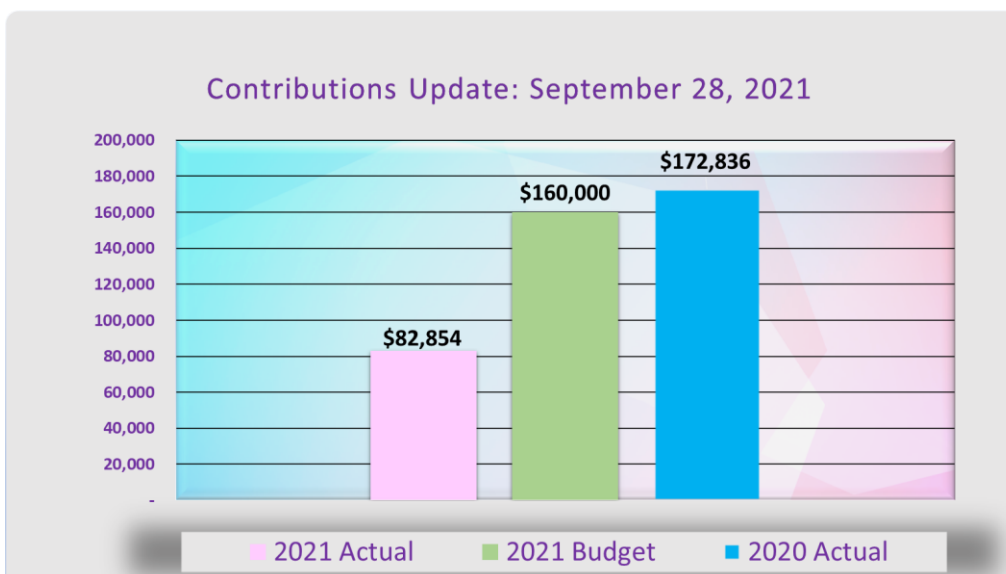
COLLECTION OF THE 7TH TRADITION:

- 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

October is Gratitude Month

Gratitude Month is Intergroup’s annual campaign and is incredibly important to our finances. Experience shows that 50% of Intergroup’s contributions are made between October to December. Please consider contributing to Intergroup this year and thank you if you already have.



This is a chart showing where we currently stand with our contributions. It is close to being a typical year with just over half of the budgeted contributions being received up to September month end. We have received \$82 K to date and the 2021 budget is \$160 K. I have included the 2020 actual amount on the chart as well which was \$173 K. This means we have \$77 K to go to make budget.

The Gratitude Month Flyer was updated and is being mailed this week. The poster will soon be available on the website, emails sent out to about 1,700 members and flyers mailed to 3,000 members. Intergroup reps are encouraged to forward the email they will soon receive to their group members. We continue to work hard to reduce mailing costs.

The flyer, poster and email will explain the various ways in which members can contribute which include:

- **Online** at www.aatoronto.org
- Interac e-Transfer to contributions@aatoronto.org
- Mailing a **cheque or money order** payable to **"Toronto Intergroup"** to 202-234 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto ON, M4P 1K5

It has really been a pleasure working with Intergroup's staff, Alexx and Helen and the many volunteers who gave their time and effort to launch this year's Gratitude Month Campaign!



GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is a coordinating body that supports the 12 step work of A.A. groups in the Toronto area, providing a point of contact between individual groups, our members, the public and the still-suffering alcoholic.

GRATITUDE and SERVICE

In 2020 approximately 350 members contributed more than \$88,000 - over a third of Intergroup's total income. It is our hope that A.A. members and groups continue to assist Intergroup in Carrying the Message and to remain Self-Supporting.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK

With contributions from A.A. groups and individual members, Intergroup is able to provide activities and services to help the still-suffering alcoholic.

WAYS WE CARRY THE MESSAGE:

- Maintaining a 24 hour a day 7 days a week telephone HELP LINE
- Arranging Twelfth (12th) Step calls to newcomers
- Preserving and displaying A.A. material of historical significance
- Sponsoring the Annual Ontario Regional Conference (ORC)
- Maintaining the GTA Intergroup Fellowship website www.aatoronto.org Developing a soon to be launched Newcomer Page and Help Chat feature.
- Publishing the [BETTER TIMES](#), a Newsletter for A.A. members, by A.A. members
- Our staff (special workers) operate the literature department, provide administrative support to all committees, respond to all inquiries from A.A. members and the public.

Thank you for participating in the
**GTA Intergroup
GRATITUDE CAMPAIGN**

No amount is too small!
How to Make Contributions

- Mail a cheque or money order. Please make cheque payable to "Toronto Intergroup"
- Online at www.aatoronto.org Click on [Make a Contribution / 7th Tradition](#) in the top left corner
- Interac E-transfer: Contributions@aatoronto.org
- Monthly Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) from your bank account/Visa/MasterCard, contact our office 416-487-8810 or admin@aatoronto.org
- Cash or Debit by visiting our office.

GTA Intergroup is a registered charity. Official donation receipts will be provided for all contributions accompanied by a name and address. Receipts for online contributions are issued immediately.

Please note that in keeping with A.A.'s 7th Tradition, contributions are accepted only from A.A. members.

GTA Intergroup 2020 Income Sources & Expenditures

2020 Income Sources



Group Donation: \$84,511	Individual Donations: \$88,325
Other: \$1,232	Literature and Misc.: \$72,225

2020 Expenditures



Carrying the Message: \$61,293	Occupancy Cost: \$51,949
Staff: \$47,625	Product Cost: \$46,261

24/7 HELP LINE: 416-487-5591

TOLL FREE IN ONTARIO: 1-877-404-5591

202-234 Eglinton Ave. E. Toronto ON M4P 1K5

www.aatoronto.org

GRATITUDE & SERVICE
"Gratitude can only be expressed in deeds ...not words"

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Glenn G. (East York), Chairperson

Some items Glenn mentioned were the following:

- Area 83 Archives Workshop held Sept. 25 – outlined cataloguing, materials preservation, and obtaining oral histories
- 80 Years of AA in Ontario Book: calling for members' stories from groups outside of the GTA. Members are asked to reach out to those groups/members. Any stories received can be emailed: archives@aatoronto.org
- GTAI Annual Archives Breakfast: to be held Nov. 7 virtually. Event flyer to follow.
- Next Archives Committee Meeting: Fri. Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m. (held every second Fri. of each month)

COMMUNICATIONS: Carla T. (Welcome), Chairperson

The committee held their meeting on Sept.16; a new Better Times Editor has been chosen. Darren G. (Last Stop Freedom) will serve as the new Editor and he was introduced to all in attendance. Carla also took the time to thank former Editor, Mary M. (Erin Mills) for her efforts in this regard, and invited Mary to address the Floor. A new Webmaster and Alternate Webmaster are needed (information on this positions to come); please pass on to your group. We are also looking for story submissions; particularly from a newcomer perspective. Please send submissions to bettertimes@aatoronto.org

INFORMATION AA DAY 2022: Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), Operating Committee Chairperson

Nina informed floor members that the first meeting for the 2022 Info AA Day event will be held Mon. Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m. virtually. Details to follow soon.

Virtual ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), Operating Committee Chairperson

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

Members want to know if groups are mandating proof of vaccine. Does anyone have any idea how we can find this out?

Michael W, IT Committee Chair, found me an Excel Super User who has pretty much produced a spreadsheet that can simplify and automate some aspects of our 28-day rotating schedule. And Darren from Better Times is helping with a flyer for the next topic. Thank you everybody for the assistance; I could never do any of it alone.

Newcomer Buddies – Phase I

This Service commitment is being created in response to a commonly asked Help Line question, “How/where can I get a sponsor?” This is the first step; building the list.

If you feel moved to help newcomers get their first 90 in 90, please complete and return the attached form. Once on the list and according to your stated availability, a Help Line greeter will call and convey the name and number of a newcomer who ideally lives in the same postal code as you. You will then call him/her/them to establish a connection and offer to get them started on their AA journey for the first three months, or until they find a sponsor, whichever comes first. Begin by taking them to their first couple of Zoom meetings, especially your home group. Be available to listen and share, answer questions and ensure they get a Big Book, etc. Most importantly, stress the need to attend at least one meeting a day for 90 consecutive days. That’s how long it takes our brains to reorient without alcohol in the system.

Meet up in Zoom meetings daily for the first week, (live meetings if possible) introduce them to your home group members, encourage them to take part in pre and post meeting fellowship; suggest they team up with other newcomers in your group. Basically help them feel comfortable by doing whatever your first sponsor did for and with you. If they find a sponsor during this time, well and good. If not, review your relationship on the 91st day and agree to carry on as sponsor and sponsee or part company, no harm no foul either way. It has all the makings of a slam dunk win win win.

Phase II

If this project interests you, please complete and return the following form to 12step@aatoronto.org and then get ready to make a difference. Don’t worry, you determine your own availability and it’s unlikely your phone will ring off the

hook; but it is a pilot project so the outcome is impossible to predict. Additionally, please feel free to forward this document to anyone you think might be a good candidate for this new service opportunity.

	Examples	Your Info
Name	Joe B	
Age & Pronoun (Optional)	33 he/him	
Group	Live and Let Live	
Phone #	416-555-5555 Landline 647-555-5555 Cell	
Availability (be specific)	Anytime, weekends only, 9-1 weekdays, etc.	
Postal Code	M6N 1Y1	
Email	joeblow@gmail.com	
Additional Details	Speak Italian Will meet for coffee.	

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE – NEW YEAR’S ALKATHON 2021: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Chair; Eddie A. (Lakeshore), WSOH 2021 Event Chair

Winter Season Alkathon (Virtual)

Marvyn shared that there were 11 members that volunteered for the 2020 event; 5 members have returned. The committee needs another 5 members for this effort. Please reach out to Marvyn at oc.vicechair@aatoronto.org and he will send out an invite to join the upcoming committee meeting (to be held virtually) on Sat. Oct.16 at 1:30 p.m.

Winter Season Open House (In-person)

Eddie shared that – along with the OC Liaison, Gord H. – contact has been made with a College United Church contact. The dining room facility can hold 72 people; 75 people can be in the sanctuary, and the Mackenzie Room can safely hold 15 people. No loitering in the space is allowed. No vaccination requirement; masks are to be worn, and social distancing will be practiced in all spaces. The kitchen team volunteers are 8 in number.

Any member wanting to volunteer for this committee can reach out to Eddie via Marvyn W., Operating Vice-Chair at oc.vicechair@aatoronto.org (WSOH committee email will be activated soon).

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Tom shared that the Area 83 Accessibility Chair (Jenny) has informed members that a speaker is needed for the upcoming Area Assembly (October). This speaker volunteer is asked to share their experience, strength and hope on being an AA member while experiencing challenges with accessibility/barrier issues.

Please email Tom with any contacts in this regard at accessibility@aatoronto.org so he can forward to Jenny.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Graham D., (Markland Wood), OC Liaison

Graham informed members that there was no meeting held last month; there is currently no access to correctional facilities at this time.

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

GRAPEVINE: David H. (Beaches), OC Liaison

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. Grapevine is the monthly publication of the Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous & so many more items like books & CDs’ that are full of stories by us, for us. Our most recent GTA Committee meeting, to be held last Tuesday was cancelled due a lack of participation. Here are some highlights from the last month...

The October issue of Grapevine has two of our Class A (non-alcoholic) trustees sharing about their involvement with AA & the Co-operation with the Professional Community (CPC). One trustee, being a retired circuit court judge & the other having various positions with her career in the Corrections field. CPC has the special section this month where there are other stories about Doctors, other Emergency room staff and College & University staff. The spotlight story is titled guiding light written by a member from California. What a colourful cover!

As mentioned last month, there is also a new book available from Grapevine, titled "Prayer & Meditation", where AA members share the many ways they connect spiritually. Helen @ our Intergroup Literature Dept. is putting together another Grapevine order (for a minimum of \$500, so that we receive it without shipping costs) & if you are interested in purchasing one of these books or the revised version of the AA Preamble, which is also recently available, please order these items from Helen @ 415-487-9865, so that she can place the next order sooner. There are also a few of the new books titled "Freedom on the Inside" available at "234" as well. All the books are \$14.15 + GST = \$14.87 each.

The 2022 Grapevine pocket planner & wall calendar orders were extended by a month to October 1st. If you still want in on the bulk order being placed by our area Grapevine chair, Jane S., you'd better not wait. Her email contact is:

grapevine@area83aa.org Again, the pocket planners are \$5.50 & the calendars are \$10.50. As reported last month, Marj C., from the Streetsville group has had her submitted photo selected for the January photo in the 2022 wall calendar.

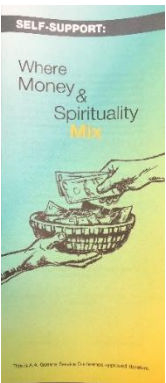
As a reminder, please check the aagrapevine.org or aalavina.org (Spanish) websites for new information including how to submit your story or photo, your joke or how to have your caption selected for an upcoming photo or how to purchase a subscription in Canadian dollars. Please let me know if your Group wishes to donate an annual subscription to a Treatment Centre or Correctional facility as the Streetsville Group did last month & I will offer assistance if needed. 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 Chair

PUBLIC INFORMATION: No report.

SELF SUPPORT: Gord H. (Bloordale), OC Liaison

Self-Support Meeting 26 Aug 2021



- Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer. 12 Traditions were read by Marrey P D06
- Attendance: Marrey P ADCM D06, Ann S D22, Bert J D22, Lou-Anne Z D06, David T D10 Facilitator George H ADCM D14, John D D12, Gord H OC Liaison, De R D02
- Reports from committee members:
D06 – P Bev H gave presentation to the District Committee, still missing Self-Support, PI, and all Alternate Chairs
- Lou-Anne volunteered to step up as alt chair at next District Meeting;
- John D D12 – Still pushing Self-Support at District Meetings, District sent \$1000 to GSO;
- D22 –Ann S District sent \$500 to GSO – district is still having issues filling Chair positions;
- Gord H reminded people about the Self-Support packages and the suggestions in the pamphlet about the split to the various agencies.

The Self-Support pamphlet 'Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix' (pictured left) is available to download from the GSO Website www.aa.org or from the GTAI Literature Department (pamphlet F-3).

TREATMENT: Sean L., Chairperson was not present. He submitted the following report:

We had a meeting on Thursday September 16. We had four districts in attendance: D6, 10, 12, 18 and 22.

- CAMH has canceled its one CAITS program Zoom meeting with District 12.
- Cawthra Shelter opening to in-person meetings! Port Credit is taking September: Wednesday at 7pm, open AA topic meeting focused on steps 1, 2, and 3.
- Led by D6, Committee is going to create its own documentation for treatment facilities to understand BTG Women's Own building closing September 30.

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

Our next meeting is October 21st at 730pm on Zoom. Check the listing on the website.

INFORMATION FROM AREA 83: James O'D., Alternate Delegate (Area Website: www.area83aa.org)

Area 83 and GSO Highlights (September 2021)

- **Remote Communities**

<https://aawsdigitaldelivery.blob.core.windows.net/accessibilites/Sept%202021%20Revised%20Activity%20Update%20-%20EN.pdf>

- **36th Annual IOCAA/AAWS/Grapevine Seminar**

“AA IN A TIME OF CHANGE”

This week is the IOCAA - September 29th to October 2nd. It's the annual Intergroup/Central Office Convention. It is AMAZING (!!!) for connecting IG's and CO's. Here is the website: <https://icoaa.org/upcoming-seminars/>

- **AA Grapevine New Publication - Prayer & Meditation**

<https://store.aagrapevine.org/prayer-and-meditation?pk=M19PAG3>

- **Highlights from the A.A.W.S. (A.A. World Services) Board meeting July 29th**

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/en_AAWS_Highlights_July29-2021.pdf

- **Safety and AA Flyer**

https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-228_Safety_and_AA_Flyer.pdf

- **OCTOBER 22-24, 2021 - VIRTUAL AREA ASSEMBLY**

<https://area83aa.org/events/kingston-2>

RECEPTION:

It was reported that there were 43 Reps, 3 Alternates, 8 OC Members, 6 Subcommittee Chairs, 4 District Liaisons, and 1 Visitor for a total attendance of 65 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO FULFILL THE SERVICE SIDE OF YOUR RECOVERY TRIANGLE:



[Phone Greeters](#)
[Bilingual Member Resource](#)
[2022 Virtual ORC Chair](#)
[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)
[Self-Support Chair](#)
[Finance Committee Member](#)

NEW BUSINESS

VACCINATION MANDATE: DISCUSSION

Nina informed members of the following, regarding vaccination mandate(s):

- Each individual group is autonomous in making decisions about this item
- Each individual group is responsible for finding out COVID protocols on the Ontario website <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/proof-covid-19-vaccination>
- A.A. is deemed an essential service
- Greater Toronto Area Intergroup “has no power” to direct groups in this regard

For website listings, it might be an advantage if the group listings could be updated. For Phone Greeters – when asked about group protocols – the correct response would be “We don’t have an answer for you” and refer to the website listings for updates. Laura V. (Mount Royal-York) made a suggestion that groups meeting in person/hybrid post a sign once the group space has reached capacity.

Nina then asked if James O’D., Area 83 Alternate Delegate, if he has any feedback to offer on this item. James shared that the Area had a discussion on this and the general feeling was that “We are not qualified to guide/make direction on this” and again groups were asked to contact their local health units for information on group locations/venues.

RE-CONVENING AT TIMOTHY EATON CHURCH FOR THE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The Church Liaison from Timothy Eaton Church reached out recently to the Operating Committee, inquiring as to whether we would like to go back to an in-person meeting/hybrid. After discussion at the Operating Committee level, it was decided to present this topic at this meeting to get a sense of the Floor. A poll was launched, asking the following questions:

- Would Reps be interested in continuing to hold monthly Intergroup General Meetings on Zoom? **72% voted for**
- Would Reps be interested in holding the monthly Intergroup General Meetings in person/hybrid? **28% voted for**

RESULT: When we return to Timothy Eaton Church for our monthly General Meetings, we will include a hybrid option for those who don’t wish to attend in-person.

NUISANCE LIST REQUEST - UPDATE

Regarding the matter introduced at the August General Meeting, Angela O. (Mount Royal-York) stated that she had spoken with Nina recently about this item. Nina’s response to this query was that that “Intergroup is not a governing body; we can educate the groups by holding Safety in AA Workshops”. Nina also suggested that groups engage in a Group Inventory which “helps the groups help themselves”.

CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS

Nina thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening.

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Bill M. (Mississauga) and seconded by Julie G. (Markham Village). The Motion was carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, October 26, 2021** at 8 p.m.