

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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 Lee M. (High Park).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: A Place to Share, Anniversary, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship of the Spirit, Friendly, Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, High Park, Hill, King City, Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Markland Wood, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, Queensville, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Spiritual Kindergarten, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville Action, The Dogs, Thorncliffe Park, Thursday Night Men's, Tuesday Afternoon Big Book, Tuesday Men's, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, Welcome, and Willowdale.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 06, 10, and 18.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cam B. (Finance Chairperson), Dave H., Gord H., Gord T., Graham D., Lee M., Marvyn W. (Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson), and Nina L. (Operating Committee Chairperson).

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Accessibilities, Archives, Correctional Facilities, CPC, Finance, Grapevine, Information AA Day 2022, and Winter Season Open House.

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 – SEPTEMBER 2021:

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

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Steve C. (Rox Glen Traditional). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nina welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR REPS: Nina announced that **service volunteers are desperately needed** for both the Districts and Intergroup Subcommittees; also volunteers are needed for vital Twelfth Step work.

Nina made a request that all group secretaries please announce this at each and every home group meeting.

"As Bill W. said: 'Give a lot of time, and a little money'".

Nina also informed members present that – due to lack of volunteers – both the CPC and Public Information committees are discussing the idea of merging, as they currently do not have a quorum as individual subcommittees. This will be discussed/decided upon at a district level.

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

	September 2021 (1 month)								September 2021 Year-to-Date (9 months)							
	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2020	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Variance	%	
Contributions	9,721	13,115	(3,394)	(26%)	9,274	447	5%	85,161	96,735	(11,574)	(12%)	85,161	92,033	(6,872)	(7%)	
Literature Sales	7,752	6,668	1,084	16%	5,676	2,076	37%	57,911	60,000	(2,089)	(3%)	57,911	53,495	4,416	8%	
= Total Revenues	17,473	19,783	(2,310)	(12%)	14,950	2,523	17%	143,072	156,735	(13,663)	(9%)	143,072	145,528	(2,456)	(2%)	
- Cost of Sales	4,578	4,334	244	6%	3,219	1,359	42%	33,214	39,000	(5,786)	(15%)	33,214	33,318	(104)	(0%)	
- Expenses	8,333	17,692	(9,359)	(53%)	1,828	6,505	356%	113,035	139,445	(26,410)	(19%)	113,035	115,905	(2,870)	(2%)	
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	4,562	(2,243)	6,805		9,903	(5,341)		(3,177)	(21,710)	18,533		(3,177)	(3,695)	518		

1. Prudent Reserve Market Value at September 30, 2021 = \$259 K. 2021 Prudent Reserve "Target" = \$266 K.
 2. September 2021 YTD expenses include a wage subsidy credit of \$9,932.

September 2021

- The surplus was 4.6 K compared to a budgeted deficit of 2.2 K
- Contributions were low again in September at 9.7 K or 26% below the budgeted amount of 13.1 K and literature sales were 7.7 K or 16% above budget
- Total revenues of 15.5 K were 2.3 K below the budget of 19.8 K
- Expenses were 9.4 K below budget primarily due to the receipt of 6.7 K wage subsidy during the month

September 2021 YTD

- The deficit of 3.2 K compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of 21.7 K
- Due to the lower than budgeted contributions in each month June to September we are now 11.6 K below the September YTD plan
- Literature sales are 2.1 K or 3% below budget but on a positive note are 8% higher than for the same period in 2020
- Expenses are 26.4 K or 19% below budget for the following reasons: staff expenses: a combination of lower than budgeted bookkeeping, casual help and the wage subsidy all totaling 16.5 K, committee expenses: lower than budget by 5.1 K, and operating costs: lower than budget by 4.8 K, due to phones, printing, office supplies and computer all being below budget
- Year-to-date September there have been only \$1,327 in committee expenses

October is Gratitude Month!

Gratitude Month is Intergroup's annual campaign where we encourage contributions from individual members and groups. By now you will have all seen the poster and some of you may have seen the flyer that was mailed to 3,000 members.

In a typical year approximately half of all contributions are received by Intergroup in the months of October to December.

I want to provide an update on how Gratitude month is going so far. Contributions were \$110 K up to today (October 26th) and the 2021 budget is \$160 K. This means we have \$50 K to go to reach our goal. Members and groups have continued to be generous and gracious with their contributions and for this we can all be grateful. We have noticed however that so far in October contributions have been lower than in October 2020. Please remind your group members about Gratitude Month and encourage your groups to consider a contribution to Intergroup this year. Of

course, if you already have, on behalf of the Operating Committee thank you very much for your generosity at this time of year.

How to Make Contributions:

- Online at www.aatoronto.org where you can use your credit card or PayPal account
- Interac e-Transfer to contributions@aatoronto.org
- Mail a cheque or money order payable to "Toronto Intergroup" to 202-234 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Glenn G. (East York), Chairperson

Some items Glenn mentioned were the following:

- Boxes of material from the Ontario Regional Conference (years 1950 to present) have been sorted
- The cassettes and CD's from the late Michael O'H. (Richmond Hill) have been organized
- 37th Annual Archives Breakfast will be held Sunday, November 7 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (virtual). The event will feature a History of AA from a Canadian perspective, followed by and Open Speaker (Maureen N., Streetsville Group, 53 years of sobriety).

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

Marvyn reported that in October there was a small committee meeting held. **A new Webmaster is needed!** Please email cc.chair@aatoronto.org for more details on this service position, and for submitting service resumes. The November edition of the Better Times will be published soon.

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

Nina reported that the committee met on October 25. 11 people were present. Some items discussed were the following:

- Possible theme for the 2022 event (to be held in May; date TBA)
- Discussion on holding the event either in-person or hybrid; research being conducted
- Establishing contact with GSO in terms of obtaining a speaker for the event; liaising with Area Delegate for this purpose

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

Shout out to the IT Committee Chair who gave me Bart B who was successful at automating an important aspect of the Help Line monthly schedule, cutting the time spent on the task every month by half. Looking forward to the new data thingy they're working on now.

As always, we need phone greeters and even more than usual. The Help Line is ringing off the hook and there are many times during the month when we only have one line due to lack of personnel. I can't give you numbers, but if there are statisticians in the crowd, our new phone system has the capability to crunch numbers and make pie charts and stuff like that.

Shout out to Darren in his new role with Better Times. We've been collaborating on a flyer for this next piece.

Newcomer Buddies List Announcement (Please read at meetings and/or copy and paste into an email and forward to all of your AA contacts).

The Challenge

Since the onset of AA online, there have been no Service opportunities for our newest members—no chairs to set, no coffee to make, even ashtrays are a thing of the past. Presenting the Newcomer Buddies List, open to newcomers intent on doing 90 meetings in 90 days and wouldn't mind some company along the way.

What is a Newcomer Buddy?

We are building a list of names for the Help Line greeters to use when asked, “How do I join the meeting?” or “Where can I sign up for the course?” anything along those lines. If the caller agrees to share their name, cell number and postal code, the greeter will pair them up with somebody on the list who lives nearby. The assigned Buddy will then call the newbie and provide the information to meet at an online meeting (in-person if preferred and available). The two will then commit to attending a meeting together every day for a week, where the Buddy will introduce the newbie to other members and encourage them to collect phone numbers. At the end of the week, they can agree to either part company or carry on together, maybe even gather up other newcomers as litter mates to form a crew or cohort and continue doing 90 in 90 as a unit.

While the rest of us are probably not keen on doing 7 in 7, this can be just the ticket to propel your new sponsees into action right from the get-go. Many of our newcomers are hyper enthusiastic and would love the chance to help a peer get their first day, week, month of sobriety. Oh my God, they might even get used to using their phone as a phone or even help each other find a sponsor.

If this appeals to you, complete the form below and email it to 12step@aatoronto.org.

More in-depth detail about the program is available on Google Drive; just click [here](#). Or you can call my landline for further clarification. Feedback and suggestions always welcome.

Name & Initial	
Age & Pronoun (optional)	
Group	
Phone # (C for cell, LL for landline)	
Availability (be specific)	i.e., weekdays 9-1, weekends only, evenings only
Postal Code	
Email	
Additional Details	i.e., will meet for coffee, will pick up for a meeting

One last thing about this. I need help with saying “paired up by gender” or “women with women, men with men” in today's lingo.

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 W.

The committee met on October 16; 9 members were present. The committee is divided into four teams: a) Alanon b) Tech Support c) Communications d) Graphics. The event will feature 48 meetings in total (4 Alanon meetings). There is one meeting hosting slot per group. Time frame for meetings: 50-minute meeting, with a 10-minute changeover.

Groups are encouraged to volunteer for a time slot for hosting a meeting (see flyer <https://www.aatoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WSOH-NYE-Alkathon-volunteer-call-out-2-2-1.pdf>).

Winter Season Open House (In-person) – Eddie A.

Church rental information has been forwarded to the Intergroup office. The church also requires a signed rental agreement. The committee will be in contact with the Church liaison regarding exact numbers of members allowed in each of the rooms at the venue. **The committee is looking for a tech-savvy member to monitor the committee mailbox.** Please see latest event flyer for details (<https://www.aatoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WSOH-2021-Flyer.pdf>)

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Lee H. (High Park) is our new Operating Committee Liaison; welcome, Lee! At the recent Area Assembly, an AA member (Rod, Mount-Royal York) shared his experience, strength and hope about accessible issues regarding his blindness. The committee is also cognizant of accessible issues that arise as in-person meetings are starting up again. Information on this is up to date on our website.

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

The committee last met on October 6. Reports were given on activities in both Toronto South Detention Centre (D6) and the East Detention Centre (D22). 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 some volunteer groups are going into at least the East ... these are restricted to one-on-one meetings. It is our understanding that AA may be able to do this as well though the details are yet to be fleshed out. In meetings with other Corrections Committees across the US and Canada we are hearing that this is one way that AA is gaining access to some clients of the institutions. Each institution has its own policies and procedures... one that seems to be generic across this type of visit is that the outside volunteer cannot be already cleared. So I think we are looking for persons who may want to be considered for this type of one-on-one corrections work. Please contact corrections@aatoronto.org and we'll keep you posted.

We have been successful in reaching the Regional Parole Office in presenting an online presentation on AA; what it is and what it is not. We have been asked make a presentation to the Regional Parole office which we'll do in the 2nd week of November.

The Corrections Correspondence Program out of GSO is now up and running so if anyone wants to be part of that please contact the Corrections Desk at the General Service Office. We have been encouraged by the Corrections Committees across the US and Canada who are using a PenPal program to have local AAs be in touch with those inside the walls who want to get sober. We have a very comprehensive workbook shared with us from Area 79 BC/Yukon who are having good results. We as a committee are ready to adopt this for our purposes here in the GTA. If you are interested in being part of this do please 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

Finally anyone in the fellowship can Carry the Message by donating a GV subscription to an inside member. All the details on how to do this is explained at <https://www.aagrapevine.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): Joe A. (One Paragraph at a Time), Chairperson

Members from two subcommittees (CPC and PI) attended the CPC meeting in October and voted unanimously to combine the committees into one joint effort. We've taken the proposal to the Operating Committee for further review. If approved by the OC, the new joint committee will likely hold elections for a new Chair, new alternate chair, and a new secretary. The purpose of the new CPC/PI venture is to combine resources in order to maximize carrying the AA message to professionals and the public. Thank you, Joe A., CPC Chair CPC Chair

GRAPEVINE: Scott M. (Bloordale), Chairperson

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.

Here's a bit of history on the AA Grapevine, the monthly publication of the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. The Grapevine was created by six AA members in the New York area – four women & two men. With the blessings of AA's co-founder, Bill W., they published the first issue in June of 1944, just nine years after the founding of AA. A copy of that first issue was sent to every AA group – about 300 at the time – and to all known AA members in the

armed services overseas. For more information check the www.aagrapevine.org website. Our most recent GTA Inter-District Committee meeting held last Tuesday had representation from 3 Districts. We continue to share thoughts & ideas.

The November issue of the AA Grapevine magazine has a special section on Meditation & Prayer, just like the title of our newest publication. I'm hearing that these books are on backorder, as they seem to be a very popular book with our fellowship. You can order yours, along with any other books through Helen @ 234's Literature Dept.

The 2022 Grapevine pocket planner & wall calendar orders were compiled, sent to our Area 83 Grapevine chair, Jane S., & she has received the materials. This year, instead of using volunteer drivers in a relay, the materials are being mailed to your District Grapevine chairs. If you failed to order, check with me, there may be some extras that can be found. Again, the pocket planners were \$5.50 & the calendars were \$10.50.

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. Don't forget you have an opportunity to take a photo of your group set-up, upload it to www.aagrapevine.org/share or mail it to: 475 Riverside Dr. New York, NY 10115 so it can be in an upcoming issue in the If Walls Could Talk section.

This week is the 4th edition of a ½ hour podcast where hosts, Don & Sam have interviews with AA members. Check it out at www.aagrapevine.org/podcast

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

- Meeting was opened at 7:00 PM with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer. 12 Traditions were read by John D D12
- Attendance: Marrey P ADCM D06, Bert J D22, Lou-Anne Z D06, David T D10 Facilitator, John D D12, Gord H OC Liaison, Bev H, Area 83 Self-Support Chair
- Reports from committee members:
 - D06 – Lou-Anne reported they are continuing to try and fill Positions and finding people to become involved
- Bev H held the Self-Support Area meeting and is sending lots of info to GSRs and District Chairs. The majority have no Self-Support Workbook. Bev suggested some of the pages in our local Workbook need to be updated. Gave Kudos to Gord for his suggestions of volunteering time. Next sharing session will be on Nov 4th. Sharing on Self-Support experience and the history of Self-Support. Poster is on Area 83 Website and have forwarded to Area Secretary for distribution. Will be sharing on Self-Support at Assembly as well as at the Self-Support Workshop,
- John D D12 – missed the last GSR meeting but has mailed the workbook to all the District GSRs. They all liked the suggestions in the Workbook.
- D22 –Bert J Alt DCM no report at district meeting; District 22 held their service day and David T presented the Self-Support presentation which was well received by everyone; still have problems filling Chair positions;
- Gord H Good to hear comment from Bev H on stepping forward to volunteer.
- Bev mentioned that we should try and get this subject up to the General Service Conference for discussion by delegates as well as updating the workbook. Suggestions by all to update workbook. Bert J suggested doing 5 minute presentations to groups and district. All agreed that we need more publicity for Self-Support.

TREATMENT: Sean L., Chairperson

We had a meeting on Thursday October 21. We had three districts in attendance: D6, 10, and 22.

- CAMH has started up a new meeting with D10 at 1045am on Thursdays beginning November 4
- Cawthra Shelter in-person meetings Wednesdays at 7pm, open AA topic meeting focused on steps 1, 2, 3
- An additional Maxwell Mieghen shelter plans to start attending our Thursday night zoom meetings already on the books with Queen and Sherbourne location.

- Led by D6, Committee is going to create its own documentation for treatment facilities to understand BTG
 - Women's Own absorbed by St. Michael's Hospital. To be involved in the future, AA members will need to be certified by St Mike's which will likely make this a very difficult commitment to meet
- We continue to look for a Secretary for the Committee. Contact treatment@atoronto.org.

Our next meeting is November 18 at 730pm on Zoom. Check the listing on the website.

RECEPTION:

It was reported that there were 35 Reps, 10 Alternates, 7 OC Members, 6 Subcommittee Chairs, 3 District Liaisons, and 2 Visitors for a total attendance of 63 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

No New Business was forthcoming.

Announcements: Two members (Isaac H., Glenholme and Mike F., Open Hands) updated members on the status of their groups.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Nina thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening. She reiterated her plea for service volunteers expressed in her Opening Remarks (see page 1).

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Fred B. (Tuesday Afternoon Big Book) and seconded by John H. The Motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, November 30, 2021** at 8 p.m.