

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 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 Steve C. (Rox Glen Traditional).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: A Place to Share, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Deer Park, East York, Erin Mills, Friendly, GSM, Hadenuffyet, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Lakeshore, Living Sober, Long Branch, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville St. Andrews, Thursday Night Men's, Twelve Steps, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 10 and 18.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: ARCHIVES, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCE, INFORMATION AA DAY 2022, VIRTUAL ORC 2022, TWELFTH STEP, WSOH 2021, WSVA 2021, ACCESSIBILITIES, CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, CPC/PI, GRAPEVINE.

HOUSEKEEPING: Marvyn outlined the following: recording of the meeting.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 2021:

Errors and/or Omissions: No errors/omissions were noted. **MOTION** to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Don H. (Living Sober) and seconded by Bill M. (Mississauga). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marvyn welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He shared that the Nina L. (Operating Committee Chairperson) could not be present this evening, and hopes that she feels better. Marvyn acknowledged that Nina has done a great job over the past two years, and "has accomplished wonderful things" in her tenure as Chairperson.

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

Marvyn 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'".

MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR BUSINESS – ELECTIONS FOR INCOMING GTAI OPERATING COMMITTEE CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Don H. (Living Sober). The Motion was carried.

Election for Operating Committee Chairperson:

- Marvyn asked all OC members present if they would stand for the position; all declined.
- Marvyn W., current OC Vice-Chair, agreed to serve as the incoming OC Chairperson, effective January 2022.

Election for Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson:

- Marvyn asked all OC members present if they would stand for the position; all declined.
- Marvyn then asked if any member from the Floor would like to serve as OC Vice-Chair; none were forthcoming
- Don H. (Living Sober) volunteered to serve as an Operating Committee Member. After giving a brief address to the Floor, Don was acclaimed as a new OC member.
- **Operating Committee Vice-Chair is still needed.**

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/>

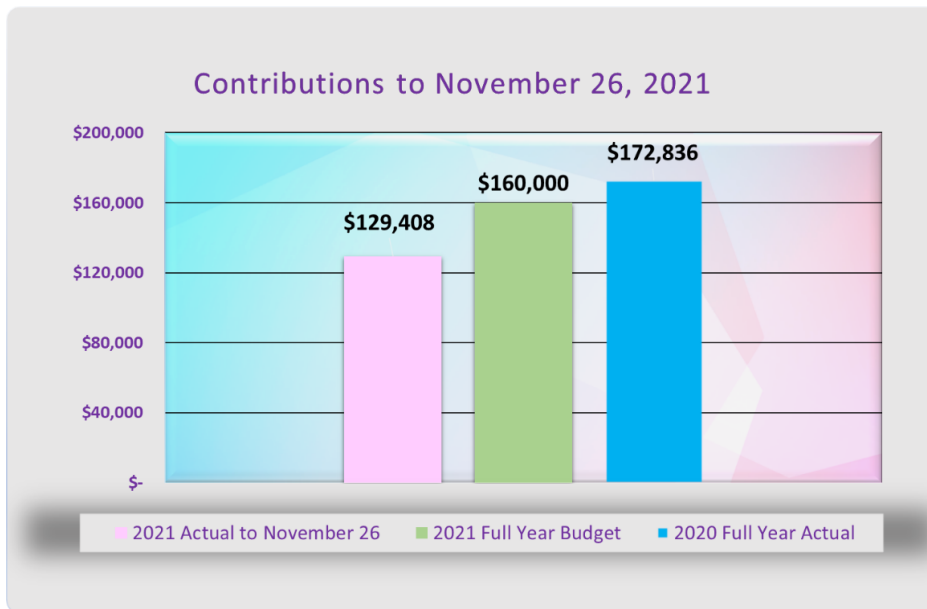
FINANCE REPORT – Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chairperson

Hi Everyone - my name is Cam, I am an alcoholic.

I'd like to start with a couple of general announcements. The GTA Intergroup Office and Literature Department will be closed over the Holidays from December 27th to December 31st. Literature and medallion orders should be placed as soon as possible. The 2022 budget will be presented at our December General Meeting on December 21, 2021. After this meeting, Alexx will send a copy of the budget to Intergroup Reps and in January the Finance and Operating Committees will ask the Floor for their approval.

Gratitude Month Update

October 2021 contributions were 15% less than the month of October 2020. Also, the October year to date contributions were 10% less than the 2020 amount. Below is a graph showing contributions up to November 26th compared to the full year budget and full year 2020 amount. We have about \$30 K to go to reach our 2021 budget for contributions. On behalf of the Finance and Operating Committees, thank you for your continued generosity and support of Intergroup. Contributions can be made online at aatoronto.org, by Interac e-Transfer to contributions@aatoronto.org or by mailing a cheque/money order to 202-234 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto, ON, M4P 1K5.



October 2021 and October 2021 Year-to-Date Finance Summary

	October 2021 (1 month)							October 2021 Year-to-Date (10 months)							
	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2020	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Variance	%
Contributions	31,696	21,015	10,681	51%	37,124	(5,428)	(15%)	116,858	117,750	(892)	(1%)	116,858	129,157	(12,299)	(10%)
Literature Sales	5,632	6,666	(1,034)	(16%)	5,745	(113)	(2%)	64,147	66,666	(2,519)	(4%)	64,147	59,240	4,907	8%
= Total Revenues	37,328	27,681	9,647	35%	42,869	(5,541)	(13%)	181,005	184,416	(3,411)	(2%)	181,005	188,397	(7,392)	(4%)
- Cost of Sales	3,046	4,333	(1,287)	(30%)	2,921	125	4%	37,702	43,333	(5,631)	(13%)	37,702	36,239	1,463	4%
- Expenses	10,710	14,494	(3,784)	(26%)	15,793	(5,083)	(32%)	123,730	153,939	(30,209)	(20%)	123,730	131,697	(7,967)	(6%)
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	23,572	8,854	14,718		24,155	(583)		19,573	(12,856)	32,429		19,573	20,461	(888)	

1. Prudent Reserve Market Value at October 31, 2021 = \$255 K. 2021 Prudent Reserve Target = \$266 K.
2. October 2021 YTD expenses include a credit of \$10,902 for the Canada Employment Wage Subsidy.

October 2021

- The actual surplus 23.6 K compares favorably to a budget of 8.9 K.

- Contributions during Gratitude Month of 31.7 K were 5.4 K or 15% below the 2020 amount. Literature sales were 1 K below budget.
- Total revenues of 37.3 K were 5.5 K lower than the 2020 amount.
- Expenses were 3.8 K below budget caused by a property tax reassessment refund and the wage subsidy (1 K each), lower committee and operating expenses.

October 2021 YTD

- The surplus of 19.6 K compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of 12.9 K.
- Contributions are 12.3 K below last year due to lower contributions in general over the period June to October.
- Literature sales are 2.5 K or 4% below budget but are still 8% higher than last year.
- Expenses are 30.2 K or 20% below budget for the following reasons: staff expenses: a combination of lower than budgeted bookkeeping, casual help and the wage subsidy all totaling 17.9 K, committee expenses: lower than budget by 4.3 K, and operating costs: lower than budget by 8 K, due to phones, printing, office supplies, computer, and the property tax reassessment mentioned above.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Glenn G. (East York), Chairperson

Hi Friends, I am an alcoholic, a member of the East York group, having the honour, privilege and responsibility to serve as the Chair of the Archives Committee, for this Intergroup, my name is Glenn.

Here is a summary of items from our November GTAI Archives Meeting:

- 37th GTA Virtual Archives Breakfast (Nov 7) was a great success. 76 attended. The GTA archives movie- The History of AA: A Canadian Perspective & the guest speaker Maureen N. (Streetsville Group) with 53 years of sobriety.
- The Archivist & the Alternate are cleaning up & reorganizing the directories in the computer hard drive. Also cataloging & organizing in box tops Mike O'H. (King City Group & Richmond Hill Group) cassette tapes & cd's of AA speakers.
- Some districts are pursuing Group Histories & Oral Histories of Old Timers.
- Efforts continue for the book, 80 Years of AA in Ontario.

In lieu of our regular committee meeting, in December as is tradition, available committee members will meet for dinner at the Churasco Restaurant near 234 Eglinton. There are a number of AA artifacts, in both the display case and repository, in and near the 2nd floor boardroom of our Intergroup office. If you have any curiosity about AA history, please consider a visit, or better still, please consider joining us at an Archives Committee meeting. Yours in loving service, Glenn G.

COMMUNICATIONS: Carla T. (Welcome), Chairperson

The committee continues with the re-build of the website (online literature store, Newcomer page, etc.) however individuals are needed with particular tech skillsets to accomplish these initiatives. The committee now has a new Webmaster (Kyle) and a new Alt. Webmaster (Dee) who are on a learning curve at present and being trained by the former tech volunteers (David and Aaron). Volunteers such as a Web Designer and a Web Developer are needed!

INFORMATION AA DAY 2022: Bert J. (Silverbirch), 2022 Event Vice-Chairperson

The committee held their meeting last night. There is a lot to process for this event and the committee is primarily in discussion about whether to hold a strictly virtual event or a hybrid event. Event locations are being researched. Next Committee meeting: Mon. Dec.28 at 7 p.m. (virtual). See committee event calendar on the website for meeting details.

Virtual ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Máire O'B. (Beaches), 2022 Event Chairperson

Good evening, friends. I am an alcoholic, a member of the Beaches Group, and have the honour and responsibility of serving as the 2022 Virtual Ontario Regional Conference Chair.

I see this as a tremendous responsibility to serve the Fellowship. The theme Rocketed into a 4th Dimension has been set and the website (aaorc.ca) reflects this change. There is now a full committee and a program of fine speakers from Canada, the US and abroad just about set. As was the case last year, the event will require a good number of volunteers for the online meetings. Volunteers can access signing up on the website.

Stay tuned as the committee fine tunes the delivery of your annual conference. Yours in love and service, Máire O'B.,
2022 Virtual ORC Chair

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

Laura basically initiated a 'Call to Action' for members in the GTA to consider volunteering for phone work. The committee is in desperate need of greeters (particularly the Overnight shift) as the committee is losing a lot of greeters. There are currently only 7 Overnight greeters. Also, the volunteer responsible for monitoring 12 Step email queries has quit. Laura is open to suggestions from members on how to solve this dilemma. Marvyn suggested passing on the date/ Zoom information for the December Twelfth Step Committee Meeting (which was done). Qualifications for phone volunteers: 1 year of continuous sobriety, and an on-the-spot phone training session (a new volunteer is paired with a veteran phone greeter for a shift). Laura can be reached at laura1981.12steps@aatoronto.org or text Laura at 416-504-4784 if you can help out. Please pass this on to your group members!

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

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

The in-person event will be held on Sat. Dec.25. The new event flyer was screen-shared with the Floor. Eddie pointed out that Face Masks are mandatory (except when eating/drinking) at the event as the church venue requires this procedure to be followed. Also, there are Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements (proof of full vaccination is required to enter the venue). Please see latest event flyer for details (<https://www.aatoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WSOH-2021-Flyer.pdf>)

Winter Season Alkathon (Virtual) – Marvyn W.

The committee is divided into four teams: a) Alanon b) Tech Support c) Communications d) Graphics and has 7 members serving on the committee. 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. Marvyn thanked Mary M. (Erin Mills) for her terrific work on the event flyer. **There are a few spots left on the roster for groups to chair.** (see flyer <https://www.aatoronto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/WSOH-NYE-Alkathon-volunteer-call-out-2-2-1.pdf>).

DISTRICT REPORTS

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

Tom announced that he is stepping down as Chairperson soon, and another member is waiting in the wings to start the position. Call to Action: Tom shared that some people are showing up at in-person meetings but get turned away, either because of vaccination requirements or that the meeting has reached full capacity for in-person attendees. Tom kindly asked groups if they could post this information on the website for meeting attendees, and also post a sign on the meeting venue door outlining the requirements.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Gale R. (Saturday Morning Disc.), Acting Alternate Chair, InterDistrict Corrections Chair, D22

The committee last met on November 3. 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 made a presentation to the Toronto Regional Parole office which was well received and are waiting for some leads on accessing Probation offices.

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 ready to give to the 2 institutions here in the GTA so they know all about the program. We have developed a brochure that can be distributed in these institutions and will be getting an article ready for the Better Times so the fellowship more broadly can be made aware of this 12 Step work. We need you to step up so that from the comfort of your home you can carry our vital life-saving message to those who are incarcerated without the benefit of choice in hearing the AA message one-on-one which is what we do best. Please reach out to us at corrections@aatoronto.org and we'll get you started.

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, Gale R., Acting Alternate Chair, InterDistrict Corrections Chair, D22

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

CPC and PI met together as a joint venture online on Monday Nov 15/21. There will be some kinks to workout at the Area and District level in terms of which chairs attend, and will such chairs be actually attending more meetings than before. PI will revisit its project about AA Toronto's web presence in search engines. We are contacting 211 to inquire where AA Toronto lands in their services. Toronto Community Housing (Scarborough) reached out to CPC about setting up an informal info session with some its clients. Thank you, Joe A., CPC/PI

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.

Our most recent GTA Inter-District Committee meeting held 2 Tuesdays ago had representation from only 2 Districts. We had a short discussion on how our Grapevine budget may be best spent in the coming year & believe that we may be carrying the message best by purchasing annual subscriptions for Detox Centres within the Greater Toronto Area. A list of these locations is being developed with the assistance of the Treatment Committee & more news will be shared as it becomes available. Please let your group members know that there are vacancies for District Grapevine chairs in Districts 02, 10, 14, 18 & 22. It sure would be great to fill these positions. No previous knowledge of Grapevine is required, but the website is a good tool to start with.

The December issue of the AA Grapevine magazine has a special section on Remote Communities & Sober Holidays. The latest book, titled Meditation & Prayer is still on backorder. Should you wish to get yours or any of the other titles, you can order yours through Helen @ 234's Literature Dept.

The 2022 Grapevine pocket planner & wall calendar orders were received & all but 2 calendars have been delivered. As mentioned last month, if you failed to order yours, please let me know as I believe there are still some extras.

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.

New episodes of the ½ hour podcasts keep coming every Monday, 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.

With enthusiasm, yours, in love & service, Scott M. Grapevine Committee Chair

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

There was no meeting held in November. Gord informed floor members that Area 83 will be holding a Self-Support Workshop on Wed. Dec.1 (see Area 83 website for details). Gord stated that Self-Support is to "Give a Lot of Time and a Little Money". He also mentioned the importance of each group having both the Self-Support Pamphlet (F-3) and the Group Treasurer pamphlet (F-96). Both pamphlets are downloadable from www.aa.org. This subcommittee still needs a Chairperson!

TREATMENT: Sean L., Chairperson (not present at this meeting)

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month via Zoom. We recently updated our zoom id, but hadn't updated the website, so -- apologies for that.

I was not able to attend our November 18th meeting; however, Dana J., the Chair for D10, stepped in and covered it.

We had 4 Districts in attendance: 6, 10, 12, and 22.

Highlights

- We continue to seek a Secretary for the Committee. Please email treatment@aatoronto.org if you're interested, or come out to our next meeting on January 20, 2022
- We will NOT have a meeting in December. Reached out to webmaster@ to cancel the meeting on the website
- For the past 3+ years we've been operating under a misunderstanding when it's come to purchasing literature for the facilities in our respective districts. We received clarification from the GTAI that the GTAI ought to cover the costs, not the Districts. There's still discussion going on about this at the Committee but we'll come to alignment at our next meeting in January
- Working on putting together a directory of facilities we work with and their respective contacts. This will aid in Committee transition and can be utilized by other areas of the GTAI
- The Cawthra Shelter in District 6 continues to operate in-person meetings and the District is looking for volunteer groups to chair them. Note that all AA members who volunteer must show proof of double-vaccination
- District 10 has been doing outreach to housing and community centres within the district and has received some interest to discuss opportunities in the new year
- District 10 has created and updated their Bridging the Gap list as other Districts have as well

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

Area 83 and GSO Highlights (November 2021)

Meeting Guide App: from the GSO website Home Page: <https://aa.org/>

New & Enhanced Features:

- **New! Added this month:** Letter from Grapevine
- **New! Added this month:** function that allows users to scroll kilometers to meeting locations
- **New! Added this month:** an "attend" function that allows users to search meetings both online and in-person

RECEPTION: It was reported that there were 30 Reps, 6 Alternate Reps, 7 OC Members, 10 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons, and 3 Visitors for a total attendance of 58 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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



[Phone Greeters](#)
[Bilingual Member Resource](#)
[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)
[Self-Support Chair](#)
[Finance Committee Member](#)
[Web Developer/Web Designer \(Communications\)](#)
[Operating Committee Vice-Chair](#)

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION to move the date of the December 2021 Monthly General Meeting from Tues. Dec.28 at 8 p.m. to Tues. Dec.21 at 8 p.m. (due to Holiday Season) moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Christopher S. (Long Branch). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening. A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Angie P. (Steps to Serenity). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, December 21** at 8 p.m. (**one week earlier due to Holidays**)

