

# GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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 David P. (Rox Glen Traditional).

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

**INTERGROUP REP/ALT:** Anniversary, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, Friendly, Gay Sober Men, Hadenuffyet, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Lakeshore, Last Stop Freedom, Living Sober, Markland Wood, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, Noon Rap, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Port Credit, Prince Edward, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville Action, Streetsville, The Dogs, Thorncliffe Park, Twelve Steps, and Welcome.

**DISTRICT LIAISONS:** Districts 10 and 18.

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Cam B. (Finance Chair), Dave H., Don H., 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 – NOVEMBER 2021:

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

## CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marvyn welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting. He shared the following points:

- Nina L. (Operating Committee Chairperson) has served as OC Chair for two years, and will be rotating out of the position at the end of this month. He wanted to take the time to acknowledge Nina's extreme dedication and sense of responsibility in her role as GTAI OC Chair. Thank you, Nina!
- Marvyn also took the opportunity to thank the GTA Intergroup Reps and Alternates, GTAI Office Staff, Subcommittee Chairs, OC members, and the Area 83 Alternate Delegate (James O.) for all their hard work and dedication this year and wished everyone a Safe and Sober Holiday.

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

**MOTION** to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Stef D. (Mount Royal-York) and seconded by Joe A. (One Paragraph at a Time). The Motion was carried.

## Election for a new Operating Committee Member:

- Marvyn asked if anyone present would like to stand for the position or nominate a Floor member; no one stepped forward for the position at this time.
- **This action will be deferred until the January 2022 General Meeting.**

## Election for Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson:

- Marvyn asked all OC members present if they would stand for the position.
- **Graham D. (Markland Wood) volunteered to serve as Operating Committee Vice-Chair.** Graham was invited to give a brief address to the Floor.

## COLLECTION OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> TRADITION:

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

Finance Report – 2022 Budget Presentation

My name is Cam and I am an alcoholic. One general announcement, the office and literature department will be closed for the holidays next week. They will reopen on Wednesday, January 5th. There is an announcement on the website. Any urgent literature or medallion orders must be placed with Helen on Wednesday or Thursday to allow time for pick up or shipment by Friday.

2022 Budget Summary



**GREATER TORONTO AREA  
INTERGROUP**

2022 BUDGET PRESENTATION

	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
	2019	2019	2020	2020	11 months	2021	2022
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>150,614</b>	<b>142,715</b>	<b>172,836</b>	<b>159,000</b>	<b>131,528</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Literature</b>							
Sales	154,220	179,000	72,659	160,000	70,595	80,000	90,000
Cost of Sales	108,840	118,900	46,379	110,000	41,399	52,000	58,500
Literature Income	45,380	60,100	26,280	50,000	29,196	28,000	31,500
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>195,994</b>	<b>202,815</b>	<b>199,116</b>	<b>209,000</b>	<b>160,724</b>	<b>188,000</b>	<b>181,500</b>
<b>Total Committee expense</b>	<b>16,438</b>	<b>26,150</b>	<b>5,971</b>	<b>25,300</b>	<b>3,724</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>11,900</b>
<b>Total Operating expense</b>	<b>107,036</b>	<b>140,828</b>	<b>104,462</b>	<b>109,000</b>	<b>79,723</b>	<b>95,900</b>	<b>92,580</b>
<b>Staff expense **</b>	<b>79,515</b>	<b>75,600</b>	<b>78,750</b>	<b>73,000</b>	<b>67,349</b>	<b>81,500</b>	<b>77,000</b>
<b>Total Operating &amp; Staff expense</b>	<b>186,551</b>	<b>216,428</b>	<b>183,212</b>	<b>182,000</b>	<b>147,072</b>	<b>177,400</b>	<b>169,580</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>202,989</b>	<b>242,578</b>	<b>189,183</b>	<b>207,300</b>	<b>150,796</b>	<b>187,900</b>	<b>181,480</b>
<b>Excess or (Deficiency)</b>	<b>(6,995)</b>	<b>(39,763)</b>	<b>9,933</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>9,928</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20</b>

\*\* For comparative purposes 2021 & 2022 actual staff expense excludes wage subsidy of 2020 -\$29,529 and 2021 - \$10,902.

Each year the Finance and Operating Committees review a budget for the upcoming year and then present it to the Intergroup Reps. My report tonight is Intergroup’s proposed 2022 budget.

Group and individual gratitude contributions have been lower than 2020 but still quite generous and everyone can be grateful for this. Since they have been a bit lower and in recognition of the continuing impact of the pandemic the 2022 budget for contributions is \$150 K compared to \$160 K for 2021.

Literature sales of \$90 K represents an increase from the 2021 budget of \$10 K reflecting the small improvement seen in 2021. With a budgeted margin of 35% literature income is expected to be \$31.5 K. To put this into context, pre-pandemic the average of 2018 and 2019 literature income was \$47 K.

The committee expense budget in total is increased from \$10.5 K to \$11.9 K. Last year there were reductions to all committee budgets. This year we felt it reasonable to increase District & Grapevine committee budgets. The 2022 budgets for these committees in total are \$5.1 K while in 2020 they were \$5.3 K. Intergroup committee budgets (total committee expense less District & Grapevine) are decreased from the 2021 budget by \$1.5 K. These savings are in the operating committee and in-person workshop expenses.

Operating expenses include rent, external accounting, computer, telephone, leased equipment, gratitude month and website. They are budgeted at \$93 K, a reduction of \$3 K from the 2020 budget. Significant progress has been made in reducing expenses during the past several years including \$6 K last year on phones from a new cloudbased system. While we expect to see an increase in occupancy costs this year there have been offsetting reductions in expenses such as leased equipment, alone a \$4 K reduction for 2022, printing, and computer.

The 2021 staff expense budget is comparable to the 2020 actual amount excluding the impact of the wage subsidy. We do not expect to qualify for the new hardest-hit business recovery program.

Total operating and staff expenses are budgeted to be \$169.6 K, a reduction of \$7.8 K compared to the 2021 budget. Total expenses, our 3 categories of committee, operating and staff, are budgeted at \$181.5 K, a reduction of \$6.4 K compared to the 2021 budget.

In summary, the 2022 budget is a balanced budget and its assumptions take into consideration the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic particularly on literature sales and income.

**Alexx will be sending out the full 2022 Budget Detail Sheet out to all via email tomorrow (Dec.22).**

**At the January general meeting there will be an opportunity for questions followed by a motion to accept this budget.**

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

**ARCHIVES:** Glenn G. (East York), Chairperson

In lieu of our regular committee meeting, in December as is tradition, available committee members met for a celebratory dinner. Archival work continues in the repository. 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.). An *ad hoc* subcommittee has been struck to accomplish these and other goals. Don H. (Living Sober), OC Liaison, has been appointed as the facilitator of this subcommittee, as he can lend IT experience and guidance in this regard.

Carla invited Don to share on this topic; he pointed out that a meeting was held on Dec. 7 (with a follow up meeting on Dec.19) and items discussed included assessment and priorities of initiatives, including incoming Webmaster/Alternate Webmaster training and appropriate maintenance of the existing site.

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

Bert shared that the 2022 event will tentatively be held on Sat. May 28. 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.

The full committee will be meeting twice a month until the conference taking care of the myriad set of details that run in the background to make this the great conference that it is every year.

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

So far we're holding our own and getting by with a somewhat depleted committee and pool of greeters. We are building back up, with a lot of help from Marvyn and other Intergroup reps who have either referred sponsees to inquire about serving on the Help Line or the 12 Step Caller list.

We were able to acquire the list of phone greeters from the past, but haven't done anything with it yet. So I'm taking the opportunity to sort it and separate the current greeters from the retired ones, so we'll be able to begin calling the past greeters to see if they want to resume now that they can do it from home, once the Operating Committee decides if it's appropriate.

Still struggling to cover the overnight shifts but the few of us who are still doing it want to continue; although we would really appreciate a few more people in the pool so we wouldn't have to do it as often. Have requested that the current overnight greeters write up some of their gratifying 12 step calls for Better Times in hopes of attracting some other members who would really enjoy working with "wet drunks".

Haven't made much progress with the Newcomer Buddy List as of yet because nobody has stepped up to take it on. Will pick it up again in the New Year.

Joe A has taken on the 12 step inbox and is doing a bang up job. Most importantly, he is loving it and that makes it not work. We also need some committee members with at least some basic computer skills.

**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.

This past Sunday afternoon, Eddie received an email from the venue liaison, and their board of directors chose to cancel the event due to pandemic concerns. He informed members that all food donations received were donated to area shelters. An updated flyer informing members of the cancellation has been posted to the website.

**Winter Season Alkathon** (Virtual) – Marvyn W.

The WSVA/New Year's Alkathon events will be held virtually on Dec.24 and 25 and again on Dec.31 – Jan.1, and 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. **Please see flyer on the website for times/Zoom details.**

## DISTRICT REPORTS

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Greg R, incoming Chairperson

Dear GTA Intergroup, I'm pleased to introduce myself to you as your new GTA Intergroup Accessibilities Chair taking over for Tom D. who is moving on to become the GTA Webmaster. Mike C. from D6 has been elected to be our Alt. Chair in the event I can't attend a future meeting. I've been on the GTA Accessibilities Committee for many years and am looking forward to now serving as the Chair. Early in 2021 I started attending the Area 83 Accessibilities Committee meetings Chaired by Jennifer C. so I am fairly up to speed on what is happening in Accessibilities at the Area level.

At our November 21, 2021 GTA Accessibilities meeting we discussed:

- Covid protocols especially suggesting the Groups post appropriate signage regarding masks, social distancing, vax requirements, etc. so members can be made aware of the Group's/Venue's requirements before they enter the Rooms during Covid.
- Many groups have resumed in-person meeting and many groups are doing Hybrid meetings. In general this seems to be working well although there have been struggles reported.
- The ongoing Meetings to Go initiative and the creation of a Procedures and Guidelines document shepherded by Jennifer C and the Area 83 Accessibilities Committee. Since there were so many questions the committee had internally when discussing this initiative, it was decided that a formal Procedures and Guidelines document was needed to help administer these in-home meetings. At our GTA meeting it was brought up that we need to spend more time on the P&G document and consider the various nuances of Covid and the MTG program. At our next Area 83 Accessibilities Meeting in early January we probably will have the document completed.
- It was reported that Accessibilities is cooperating to help make the poster for the upcoming Christmas Alkathon.
- We are encouraging the Districts to spread the word that we would like to add more Accessibilities Committee members so we can accomplish more and get others involved in Service.

That's all I have to report. Yours in loving service, Greg R. GTA Accessibilities Chair

**CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:** Máire O'B. (Beaches), InterDistrict Corrections Chair, D22

The committee last met on December 8. Outside volunteer members are still not permitted to enter to put on meetings, literature in the form of Big Books, 12&12s, the Grapevine and PenPal brochures are stocked and available.

As was reported last month the Corrections Correspondence Program out of GSO is up and running so if anyone wants to be part of that please contact the Corrections Desk at the General Service Office. The PenPal brochures for the 2 prisons here in the GTA have been approved, printed and distributed. We have two sets of correspondents happening so are very encouraged that the message is reaching those who are reaching out for help. If you are interested, please reach out to us at [corrections@aatoronto.org](mailto:corrections@aatoronto.org) and we'll get you started as soon as possible.

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](mailto: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., Chair, InterDistrict Corrections, Alt Chair, D22 Corrections

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

CPC/PI: enthusiastic Dec 2021 meeting attended by 11 participants, including both Area 83 Chairs. Ongoing initiatives are as follows:

- 211 hotline project.
- Toronto Community Housing info event planned for a site in Scarborough in Feb 2022.
- Project about getting literature into high schools in the west end.
- Project about answering questions from a particular high school on going.
- Attending Pri-Med Canada Conference in the Spring both virtual and / or in person (for the moment) are up for consideration.
- Search engine project continues. Thank you Joe Amato, CPC/PI Chair GTAI

**GRAPEVINE:** Dave H. (Beaches), OC Liaison (Dave read out the following report to those present)

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.

Our GTA Inter-District Committee meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled due to low attendance and we plan to reconvene in the New Year.

The Committee will continue to look for and reach out to Detox Centres within the GTA in order to assist with donating annual Grapevine subscriptions where we feel we may be able to best carry the message as an introduction to AA.

Here's a reminder that members can submit a written story, upload an audio recording of your story or upload a photo for submission into a future issue of the AA Grapevine, including photos of your anonymity protected home group setup for a spot in the section "If Walls Could Talk".

The January Issue has a special section for Beginners. Members start the year sharing about tools and suggestions that helped them when they were new in AA.

Please continue to check the website for updates – [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) 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.

Again, 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](http://www.aagrapevine.org/podcast). Here are some other items available through the AA Grapevine website... the Grapevine YouTube channel [AA Grapevine - YouTube](#), the Grapevine daily quote that can be sent to your Group members' inbox or through Instagram once they subscribe, group members can also subscribe to "Grapevine and your Group" or "Grapevine Monthly News" so they can stay informed. You may also wish to let your group members know they can participate in a current poll called "i-Pole" – the current question is: when do you use the Serenity Prayer most? Anyone can submit a caption for the upcoming cartoon & members can also vote on the submitted captions prior to print.

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

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays to you all!

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

**SELF SUPPORT:** David T., (Welcome), Facilitator

- Meeting was opened at 7:03 PM with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer. 12 Traditions were read by Lou-Anne Z D06
- Attendance: Bert J D22, David T D10 Facilitator, Bev H, Area 83 Self-Support Chair, Lou-Anne Z D06, John LD D12, Marrey P D06 ADCM

- Reports from committee members:20<sup>th</sup> giving Self-Support Presentation D06 – Lou-Anne reported still no chair from D06;
- John LD D12 – Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Self-Support Presentation
- Bev H – Workshop had 25 in attendance, Bert J and D18 gave great presentations;
- D22 –Bert J Alt DCM no chair yet and Alt Chair has stepped away from position, encouraging members to become involved in service;
- Marrey P emphasizing sponsorship is service;
- David T made reference to 1987 General Service Conference where self-support was a key topic; David offered to send copies to reps. David T., Facilitator, GTA Self-Support Committee

**TREATMENT:** No report.

**RECEPTION:** It was reported that there were 37 Reps, 3 Alternate Reps, 9 OC Members, 10 Subcommittee Chairs, 3 District Liaisons, and 1 Visitor 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](#)  
[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)  
[Self-Support Chair](#)  
[Finance Committee Member](#)  
[Web Developer/Web Designer \(Communications\)](#)  
[Operating Committee Member](#)

## NEW BUSINESS

Steve C. (Rox Glen Traditional) inquired as to whether any AA groups have folded due to the pandemic; no one has been made aware of any groups that have folded recently.

With this in mind, Mary M. (Rep/Erin Mills), past editor of Better Times, suggested to all that – if any groups are currently struggling for attendance – they can feel free to write a story about their group and have it featured in the ‘Group Spotlight’ feature in the newsletter. For more information/story submissions, please email [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org)

## CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening. Have a Safe and Sober Holiday!

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Claire S. (Streetsville) and seconded by Marla R. (Port Credit). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, January 25** at 8 p.m.

