

# GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022 (online meeting)

(These Minutes Unapproved 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 then read by David P. (Thornccliffe Park).

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

**INTERGROUP REP/ALT:** 12 Steps, A Place to Share, Anniversary, Beaches, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Friendly, Gay Sober Men, Half Century, Hill, Keep It Simple, Kipling, Last Stop Freedom, Leslie, Living Sober, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, New Anchor, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Prince Edward, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, St. Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville Action, The Dogs, Thornccliffe Park, Thursday Men's, Tuesday Men's Solution, Twelfth Tradition, Welcome, and Westmoreland.

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

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Cam B. (Finance Chair), Don H., Graham D. (OC Vice-Chair), Kelli T., and Marvyn W. (OC Chairperson).

**SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS:** ARCHIVES, FINANCE, INFORMATION AA DAY 2022, VIRTUAL ORC 2022, A CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, CPC/PI, GRAPEVINE, AND SELF-SUPPORT.

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

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JANUARY 2022

**Errors and/or Omissions:** none were reported.

**MOTION** to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Jordan F. (Streetsville Action) and seconded by Jim B. (The Dogs). The Motion was carried.

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

## CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS - Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Chair

- Marvyn informed member that Dave H. (Beaches) has rotated off the OC, and thanked Dave for his dedication and service!
- The 2022 Virtual ORC Event is happening March 18-20; it should be a great event and Marvyn encouraged everyone to attend
- **The March Monthly General Meeting will be a Workshop Meeting** to educate the new Intergroup Reps and Alternates. Marvyn encouraged both Reps and Alternate Reps to attend this informative session. "Please mark this in your calendar for next month!"

## MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR BUSINESS – ELECTIONS FOR INCOMING OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBER

**MOTION** to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Kat M. (Markland Wood) and seconded by Bert J. (Silverbirch). The Motion was carried.

## Election for a new Operating Committee Member:

- Marvyn outlined the qualifications and service commitments for this position.
- Marvyn asked if anyone present would like to stand for the position or nominate a Floor member. No volunteers/nominations from the Floor were forthcoming.
- **This Election deferred until the next General Meeting. Please announce at your groups!**

## 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 – Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chairperson

	January 2022 (1 month)						
	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Variance	%
<b>Contributions</b>	10,205	10,010	195	2%	11,168	(963)	(9%)
<b>Literature Sales</b>	7,945	7,500	445	6%	8,704	(759)	(9%)
<b>= Total Revenues</b>	18,150	17,510	640	4%	19,872	(1,722)	(9%)
<b>- Cost of Sales</b>	4,200	4,875	(675)	(14%)	4,563	(363)	(8%)
<b>- Expenses</b>	13,042	14,114	(1,072)	(8%)	13,139	(97)	(1%)
<b>= Surplus / (Deficiency)</b>	908	(1,479)	2,387		2,170	(1,262)	

### January 2022

- Surplus of \$0.9 K vs budget deficit of \$1.5 K
- Contributions of \$10.2 K were on budget and Literature sales of \$7.9 K were 6% above but 9% below January 2021
- Total revenues were 4% above budget
- Expenses were \$1.1 K below budget due to several operating expense lines and there were no committee expenses

### Cam then entertained questions from Floor members.

Fabio A. (Kipling) had a question about the Prudent Reserve Fund: Where should we be, in terms of a target number? Cam replied that our target figure is \$265K and January 28 the market value was \$252K. This is only below target by 5% and it is considered to be on target. Intergroup's finances are in good shape.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Glenn informed members he attended the Joint Sharing Session, Info AA Day, and the *ad hoc* committee for leasing space for the Intergroup Office ('234')
- At the Info AA Day meeting, the event theme was chosen; at the Joint Sharing, two-way communication for the Archives committee was re-emphasized
- Discussion around the *ad hoc* committee for leasing space for the Intergroup Office took up a fair amount of time at the recent Archives meeting, but a good result in terms of the present and the future in terms of archival material and what may become virtual archival material
- The Archivist and Assistant Archivist are very busy sorting/cataloguing material
- District Archives Chairs are also "out there in the field" obtaining group histories and oral histories
- A few visitors attended the recent Archives committee meeting; one member sought guidance on how to archive materials they had collected. The committee was very helpful in this regard (i.e. suggest of the Archives Workbook)
- "Any member who has a box of historical material: come talk to us!"
- The East Toronto Archives Breakfast (D18 and D22) is scheduled for Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be a virtual event. The event features a long-timer speaker plus a group history from both D18 and D22.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Don H. (Living Sober), OC Liaison

- This committee is responsible for the publication of the Better Times, and also maintaining/updating the aatoronto.org website
- Better Times: the February issue entitled 'Love and Tolerance' was released earlier this month. This edition is available on the website under 'Resources'. The March issue is in process; the theme will be the Big Book.
- Website: the website is being maintained by the Webmaster; there were a couple of concerns this month that got resolved quite quickly.
- The status of the new feature functionality (new website theme/online bookstore/chat feature) is still pending, being under both review and development. Committee meetings in this regard – that include the assistance of the previous webmaster, David C. – are ongoing.

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

The event – which will be held virtually – will be held on Sat. May 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This year's theme is 'Service Is for Everyone'. The February committee meeting will be held next week on Mon. Feb.28.

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

The theme this year is Rocketed into a 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension with an emphasis on all 3 sides of our circle triangle. By consensus again this year there is no registration fee ...we are encouraging folks to be as generous as you always are especially since all the AA meetings will be ASL signed.

All AA meetings are being ASL signed to enable carrying the AA message to the alcoholic who still suffers by increasing accessibility for deaf and hard of hearing people in recovery. We rely on 7th tradition contributions to pay for these interpreting services. All contributions will be used to cover these and other conference costs. Any questions or concerns should be directed to [chair@aaorc.ca](mailto:chair@aaorc.ca)

If you are interested in volunteering to act as a co-host or a newcomer liaison ... please go to the website [aaorc.ca](http://aaorc.ca) under volunteering and we'll be sure to get you active! Training sessions for these roles are being held twice, this Thursday at 6:30-7:30 and Saturday March 12 at 3:30-4:30. Yours in love and service, Máire O'B., 2022 Virtual ORC Chair

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

**Intergroup Reps: Please read the last paragraph at your group meeting.**

We've been two weeks now with no phone system issues so it appears the glitches have been fixed, thanks to the assistance of the IT Committee.

Happy to report that for a couple of days, we actually had a completely full schedule. With the new pandemic guidelines, we are anticipating an exodus of greeters back to the workplace, hopefully not too many all at once; but thanks to Marvyn and others spreading the word, we actually have a waiting list for permanent placements.

We have a list of past greeters that we will start contacting to see if we can bring them back into the fold, even if only to be on the 12 Step Caller list if not as a Help Line greeter. We still need lots more 12 Step Callers, especially with a second language and also located out of the downtown core. It's not very demanding, one might get called every month or so, but it is very important that we have dedicated people who will be available when needed.

Once again we are in dire straits for the overnight shift. A few of our current greeters really want to shut it down because we are being scheduled every 6 to 8 weeks due to lack of personnel. I understand; they've been doing it a long time and want a break. Speaking only for myself, I love the overnights because it's my only real chance to interact with "practicing alcoholics." For me, sharing at meetings and/or with sponsees is more like preaching to the choir in comparison. Important 12 step work, but so so different. I don't stay up all night waiting for the phone to ring. I go to bed as usual, primed to answer the phone if it rings. I may get 2 or 3 calls some nights and no calls at all for several nights in a row. It's entirely unpredictable. However, one sure thing is that most of the night calls are legitimate 12 step calls, where I get to demonstrate that we are "not a glum lot". Where I get to share my own experience and do whatever it takes to get the caller to go to a meeting. Then I just go back to sleep, oftentimes with a smile on my face for having had a chance to make a difference. I can't speak for the others, but I suspect if you asked you would hear a similar story—we get more out of it than we put into it, and everybody else is missing out on the chance to carry the message olden-day style. The GTA is the

only major city left where a live person answers the phone, and speaking on behalf of my diehard friends, we hate the idea of yet another recorded message answering a desperate plea for help.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this important capacity. Yours in Love and Service,

*Laura V.*

12th Step Committee Chair  
416 504-4784 (brief texts only)  
416 651-5092 (landline)

**WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE – NEW YEAR’S ALKATHON 2022:** Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Chair  
Marvyn shared that ideally Chairpersons for both events would be hopefully in place by June, so as to build strong committees for these seasonal events. Marvyn also hoped that the Winter Season Open House 2022 event will be an in-person event. Stay tuned!

## DISTRICT REPORTS

**ACCESSIBILITY:** Bert J. (Silverbirch), Alternate DCM, D22 (Chair not present; full report on file)

At the last committee meeting, 5 members were present. Discussion continues on the ‘Meetings to Go’ initiative, and efforts are being done to visit various groups in order to spread awareness of accessible issues and to also invite member participation. Volunteers to the table are always welcome! This committee meets on the third Sunday of each month (virtually) at 11 a.m. Please check online subcommittee calendar on our website [aatoronto.org](http://aatoronto.org) for details.

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

The committee last met on Feb 2. 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 has been reported over the months 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)

A committee member is working on an article for the Better Times to explain to Fellowship more broadly about Corrections. We have worked on editing the Corrections narrative on the website. This was sent to the Communications e-mail just the other day. So check back in a while and check it out. The General Service Conference agenda items were circulated a few weeks ago for discussion in our groups, Districts and Area. We will be participating in this by discussing the Corrections Committee agenda items at our next meeting. We will also be joining others in the Area on Tuesday April 5 from 7-9 with the A83 Corrections Chair. All the details can be found on the Area 83 website at <https://area83aa.org/docs/PCAS/GSC72/72PCASBulletinBoard>

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 and welcome anyone to join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm.

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

1. [Presentation from Area 79 CPC Chair Diane.](#)

Virtual 15 min, presentation with voice over and facts about AA for medical professionals in BC's Interior Health, to be used as a "continuing education" course about AA

2. Shoppers Drug Mart pamphlet initiative in D28: it seems that most pamphlets from corporate have to have the company's template and logo on it. Area 83 CPC Chair Jo D is following up with head office to see if such "qualifications" are mandatory, or if independent info pamphlets such as AA's can stand alone.
3. In District 30: The CPC Chair is making great strides providing info about AA on a Canadian Armed Forces Base
4. I attend first ever CPC/PI North American online workshop on as D22 Chair
5. At Toronto Intergroup, the CPC/PI committee recently received an invitation to host a "lunch and learn" information for an electrical company. Still in early stages.
6. Another 12 Step fellowship reached out looking for advice, insight, and experience about how AA Toronto presents our info at public info. That fellowship wants to share their info at a public level all the while respecting their 12 Traditions.

**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. Our GTA Inter-District Committee meeting held last Wednesday had representation from 3 Districts & our committee liaison, David. The list for Detox & Treatment Centres, Hospitals and Parole / Probation offices within the GTA has been completed & shared with the Treatment & Correction Committee chairs. As attendance was low at our last meeting, I think it best to be able to discuss locations that could use old Grapevine magazines or perhaps an annual subscription when attendance is better, and from as many Districts as possible. Please let me know if your group is interested in donating a subscription. As District 06 Grapevine chair, I wanted to share that our neighbours to the west in District 19 /Area 86 have contacted & been approved to have the monthly Grapevine publication in the 7 locations of the Oakville library system under their Public Information Committee activity. As 4 of the libraries fall within the District 06 boundaries, District 06 has agreed unanimously to cost share this initiative. The March Grapevine magazine Issue has a special section on Emotional Sobriety. Members share how they use the A.A. tools for serenity, contentment & a better joy of living. Again, I'll mention there will be free shipping on all Grapevine items from New York until the end of the month. There is still time if you share this with your group members, but it would be best to check with Helen @234 first. The recent newly published book entitled "Meditation & Prayer" is back in stock in New York & Helen has received her latest Grapevine order in the Literature Dept. @ 234. As a reminder, please visit the website [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) for subscription information other Grapevine materials and how you can subscribe to the daily quote & other Grapevine news. The pre-conference agenda sharing session for Grapevine is on the evening of Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to join any of the sessions, please visit the [www.area83aa.org](http://www.area83aa.org) website. That's all for this month. Yours, in love & service, Scott M. [grapevine@aatoronto.org](mailto:grapevine@aatoronto.org)

At this time, Marvyn announced to Floor members that we have a new Self-Support Chair that has come forward: David T. (Welcome).

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

In attendance: Bev H Area 83, Gord H Intergroup Liaison, John LD District 12, Lou-Anne Z District 06, Christine F District 18 DCM, Bert J District 22 ADCM, Marvyn W GTA Intergroup Chair.

Lou-Anne Z D06 Alt Self-Support Chair – Mary P read her report at the last District Meeting encouraging members to join committees. Self-Support is answering questions on how to join committees and also suggested GSRs discuss GSO request on Virtual Baskets.

John LD D12 Self-Support Chair – All groups are meeting on Zoom, Finances good. Gave a self-support presentation which was well received and was able to correct some misconceptions. Asked Lou-Anne questions on the Virtual Basket request for comments from GSO. He liked the idea of having the GSR ask the group the questions.

Bert J ADCM District 22 – New Accessibility Chair, Challenged GSRs to bring another person to the meeting.

Marvyn W OC Chair GTA Intergroup – 79 reps at last Intergroup meeting, encouraging members to volunteer for 12 Step Committee. Bert raised a question about overnight shift and scheduling. Bev asked the question of how we attracted our members to serve on committees. Lou-Anne asked if we were still having training for 12 Step Volunteers.

Christy F DCM District 18 – District still has positions open, she thanked the table for being involved and has 1 new volunteer for one of the committee chair positions, reaching out to groups in district and having District Officers attend meetings to invite members to volunteer.

Bev H Area 83 Self-Support Chair – Bev spoke about the Virtual Basket Survey; she will be attending the Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing training at the Area, speaking at District 18 next month. Bev answered a question on the Virtual Basket Survey.

Gord H has been approached about meetings at shelters and wondered who to talk to? Suggested he contact the Treatment Chair Sean L.

Marvyn asked for input on how to attract new members to Info AA Day. Bert suggested we all bring a friend; Lou-Anne suggested we poll the GSRs to determine who will attend from each group.

Bev spoke about emphasizing what Service has meant to her. Marvyn gave examples of older members who are still involved in Service because it enhances their Sobriety.

Note to individual members: If you wish to contribute directly to Intergroup, you can! Here are the way members can do this:

- Online at [www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org) where you can use your credit card or PayPal account
- Interac e-Transfer to [contributions@aatoronto.org](mailto:contributions@aatoronto.org)
- Mail a cheque or money order payable to “Toronto Intergroup” to 202-234 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, ON M4P 1K5

**TREATMENT:** Bert J. (Silverbirch), Alternate DCM, D22

The Treatment Committee met on February 17th via Zoom. We had representatives from six districts in attendance: D6, 10, 12, 14, 18, and 22.

Some highlights include:

- We are still looking for a Secretary for our committee
- We received several BTG requests, which D10 and D18 have taken care of
- Homestead - Alice M Walther House would like to re-establish the Wednesday Noon meetings in D10, first virtually and then in person
- The Jean Tweed facility in D6 is being closed and moved. D6 had been having trouble getting volunteers to work the Cawthra Shelter meeting, but sent an email to their district through their GSR and many groups stepped up to volunteer
- Rebecca, Treatment Chair for D6, will be presenting at Area 83 Service Day at the end of March, speaking on how her district manages volunteers and service meetings, etc.
- D10 has a new contact at CAMH who is eager to see more virtual meeting engagement. Unfortunately, the Maxwell Meighen meetings on Thursdays are not well attended
- D12 and D14 have service meetings that aren't interested in virtual, so they remain on hold until more re-open to in-person meetings
- D18 is looking for a strong contact at St. Michael's, which has taken over some facilities in the district.
- D22 is working on a map / list of facilities in the district, as well as seeking out a contact at Scarborough General to restart their in-person meeting

Lastly, the Committee as a whole is working on a centralized document that listing all of the contacts we have across all the different facilities in the GTAI. This centralized database (really just a spreadsheet) hasn't existed before and we think it will be a great aid for new Treatment Committee members in the future, as well as to the GTA Intergroup as a whole. More to come! **Next Meeting: Thursday March 17, 7:30pm**

**AREA 83 REPORT:** No report.

**RECEPTION:** Graham D. (Markland Wood), OC Vice-Chair

Graham reported that there were 37 Reps, 4 Alternate Reps, 5 OC Members, 8 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons, and 3 Visitors present at this meeting, for a total attendance of 59 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](#)  
[Operating Committee Member](#)  
[Finance Committee Member](#)  
[Newcomer Liaisons - Virtual ORC 2022](#)

## NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

Joe A. (One Paragraph at a Time) thanked our new Webmaster, Kyle (Welcome) and complimented him on his ongoing efforts and dedication.

### CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for the participation and dedication to service, and again reminded everyone about the upcoming Virtual Regional Conference (March 18, 19, 20).

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Bert J. (Silverbirch) and seconded by Randy C. (Last Stop Freedom). Carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, March 29** at 8 p.m. **This will be an Intergroup Workshop Meeting.**