

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, June 28, 2022 (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 then read by Mike C. (Beverly Hills).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: A Place to Share, Anniversary, Aurora, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Deer Park, East York, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, Hadenuffyet, Hill, King City, Kipling, Last Stop Freedom, Living Sober, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, Noon Rap, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Primary Purpose, Richmond Hill, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, St. Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville Action, Streetsville, The Dogs, Welcome, and Yorkville.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: District 18.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: ACCESSIBILITIES, COMMUNICATIONS, FINANCE, INFORMATION AA DAY 2022, TWELFTH STEP, WSOH, WSVA, ACCESSIBILITIES, CORRECTIONS, CPC/PI, GRAPEVINE, and SELF-SUPPORT.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – MAY 2022

Errors and/or Omissions: none were reported. **MOTION** to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Mike C. (Beverly). 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

- Founder's Day Weekend was held earlier in June; hope everyone celebrated gratitude to our fellowship!
- We have four new chair people: please welcome Laura V., Mount Royal-York Group (Twelfth Step Chair for one more year!), Aaron K., Yorkville Group (new Communications Chair), David P., Birds of a Feather Group (Winter Season Virtual Alkathon 2022 Chair), and Tony Z., Bloordale Group (WSOH 2022 Chair)
- We are looking for a Workshop Chairperson. We are forming a Workshop Committee in order to facilitate future Workshops to be held at the Intergroup Office (see flyer on website)

Volunteers are needed for the following service position:

- **Workshop Chairperson** <https://www.aatoronto.org/workshop-chairperson-need/>

MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR BUSINESS – ELECTIONS FOR INCOMING OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2)

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Kat Y. (Markland Woods) and seconded by Jim B. (The Dogs). The Motion was carried.

Election for 2 new Operating Committee Members:

- 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 July 26 General Meeting. Please announce at your groups!**

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

	May 2022 (1 month)				May 2022 Year-to-Date (5 months)										
	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Actual 2021	Variance	%
Contributions	6,972	10,010	(3,038)	(30%)	10,137	(3,165)	(31%)	40,916	50,020	(9,104)	(18%)	40,916	51,691	(10,775)	(21%)
Literature Sales	8,270	7,500	770	10%	5,080	3,190	63%	51,092	37,500	13,592	36%	51,092	31,371	19,721	63%
= Total Revenues	15,242	17,510	(2,268)	(13%)	15,217	25	0%	92,008	87,520	4,488	5%	92,008	83,062	8,946	11%
- Cost of Sales	4,636	4,875	(239)	(5%)	2,707	1,929	71%	29,793	24,375	5,418	22%	29,793	17,532	12,261	70%
- Expenses	15,597	16,699	(1,102)	(7%)	13,807	1,790	13%	65,588	72,572	(6,984)	(10%)	65,588	63,703	1,885	3%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(4,991)	(4,064)	(927)		(1,297)	(3,694)		(3,373)	(9,427)	6,054		(3,373)	1,827	(5,200)	
Prudent Reserve Market Value at May 31, 2022 = \$260 K. 2022 Prudent Reserve Target = \$266 K.															

May 2022

- Deficit of \$5.0 K vs. budgeted deficit of \$4.1 K
- Contributions \$7.0 K compared to budget of \$10.0 K and 2021 amount was \$10.1 K, contributions are trending low
- Literature sales were \$8.3 K or \$0.8 K above budget for a 10% positive variance
- Expenses of \$15.6 K were \$1.1 K below budget due to lower committee expenses
- We also had 2 capital items not included in May expenses totaling \$2.5 K for office network cabling and new kitchen cabinets

May 2022 YTD

- Deficit of \$3.4 K vs. budgeted deficit of \$9.4 K is a positive variance of \$6.1 K to budget
- Contributions of \$40.9 K are \$9.1 K below budget, **individual contributions were only \$9.3 K almost half of the budgeted for May 2022 year to date** and group donations were 23% above budget
- Literature sales of \$51.0 K are \$13.6 K above budget
- Expenses are \$7.0 K or 10% below budget because each category of expenses was below budget (committee: \$3.7 K, operating: \$0.9 K and staff: \$2.4 K)
- Intergroup relies on the contributions of both Individual Members and Groups to support its mission of Carrying the AA Message in the Greater Toronto Area, it is easy to contribute to Intergroup, including online where **you can make one time or set up monthly contributions from your credit card or PayPal account and via Interac e-Transfer to contributions@aatoronto.org**
- For online contributions please see [7th Tradition Donation | GTA Intergroup \(aatoronto.org\)](https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/) or <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/> on the GTA Intergroup website

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 GTAI Archives committee, my name is Glenn.

Firstly, I wish to thank Paddy, one of our committee members, for her excellent Archives presentation at Information AA Day.

I also wish to thank David T. and Eddy G. for their efforts in both moving and organizing our archival documents and artifacts in the newly created repository space at our Intergroup office on the second floor at 234 Eglinton Avenue East.

Gord H. and I attended a meeting at the Oasis Banquet Hall to both confirm our November 6th Archives Breakfast and to discuss menu options.

The upcoming breakfast will be the hot topic at our next Archives committee meeting scheduled for 7pm on July 8th. Please drop by for a visit.

Yours in loving service, Glenn G.

COMMUNICATIONS: Aaron K. (Yorkville), incoming Chairperson

Hello Friends, It is my pleasure to be back in service for GTA Intergroup!

I have had several conversations with Marvyn our Operating Committee Chair, and a thorough conversation with Carla, the past Communications Chair.

Both have been of great help to bring me into the fold and give quality updates into the status and direction of the Committee so far.

I look forward to meeting all Committee, Sub-committee members and Liaisons.

I hope to continue with clear and humble dialogue to all members, and bring an open table available to all alcoholics in recovery. In Service, Aaron K.

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

The wrap-up meeting for the event was held on May 30. Despite the GSO Speaker not being able to attend (due to miscommunication/confirmation of both parties regarding the speaking engagement) the day was informative, with solid presentations from the GTAI/service subcommittees in addition to the Delegate's Report. The first meeting of the 2023 Event Committee will be held on Monday, September 26.

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2023: No formal report.

Marvyn informed the Floor that the 2023 ORC Committee will be holding their meetings at 234; meetings will commence this August. Attendees will include the 2024 ORC Event ('shadow') committee. The ORC will be an in-person event, to be held March 17-19, 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto. Stay tuned!

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

First of all, thank you for trusting me to serve another year as the Twelfth Step Committee Chair. It provided for more time to make the job transferable to the next Chair since there have been so many radical changes to the way we do things since COVID. To begin with, I have been tasked to write new P&Gs to reflect the makeup of the committee and the actual job of phone greeter now. To that end, we have a Vice Chair (Jordan A., The Dogs) and a Secretary, an Overnight Scheduler, an In-House Greeter Trainer, but we still need a Daytime Scheduler, an Evening Scheduler, and a Training Coordinator. Since we are at the beginning of the process, this list may grow, but filling these positions would be a good start.

Right now, we are in the process of transitioning completely to the Twelfth Step Committee Google drive under the aatoronto.org domain. Plus, I have an official Twelfth Step Committee Chair email address, so all of the material we have been using post-COVID can be stripped of its connection to me, thereby facilitating the transition from one Chair to the next. Moreover, any new Chair have accurate guidelines to follow and hopefully a streamlined system whereby they can quickly learn how to oversee all the various tasks. Speaking of which, all of the positions and the tasks overseen will be described in detail, but we haven't gotten that far yet; although we are making good progress. It's a lot people.

Since our last meeting, I believe we have added a few new committee members, thanks to our Twelfth Step Liaison and the OC Chair, and continue to look for me. It's a very exciting time to belong to our committee because there's so much going on; so I would say to anyone looking for a service commitment that this would be a good one to get in on now because you'd be at the grassroots level of creating brand new Twelfth Step Committee procedures and guideline, which would provide lots of opportunity to both learn and to teach necessary skills.

Thank you once again for allowing me to participate in this process, I remain your trusted servant, Laura V.

WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON 2022: David P. (Birds of a Feather), Chairperson

The Winter Season Virtual Alkathon (WSVA) was born of necessity two years ago when COVID forced the closure of in-person meetings throughout the GTA. When church and city mandates canceled the annual Winter Season Open House

on Christmas Day, Intergroup produced this online alternative to give alcoholics a safe place to celebrate the holidays, providing a variety of AA and AI-Anon meetings during what can be a difficult time for people like us.

The original event was adapted last year to accommodate more meetings, as well as the Winter Season Open House. When that event was canceled for the second consecutive year shortly before the holidays, Intergroup adapted the event again to include more meetings, including ones hosted by groups in South Africa and the Yukon!

Our template for this year is the same – a 4-day event, running Dec 24 - 25 from noon to noon and again Dec 31 from noon till noon on January 1st, with 50 minute meetings allowing for ten minutes of fellowship before or afterwards. There will likely be a break during the hours in which the Winter Season Open House is happening. This format has proven to be both flexible and solid, much like ourselves, but now we need the power to pull it off. That brings us to the most important part: **YOU**.

We need people to join our subcommittee, which will begin meeting in September, to plan and execute the event. We need a Secretary, a Technical Chair, or coordinator, and a tech hosting team of 3-6 people, plus anyone else with ideas and enthusiasm! If you have ever hosted or chaired a Zoom meeting you are more than qualified to be part of our team. The more, the merrier, as the saying goes – there is a role for everyone. More info can be obtained by email at:

winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org.

Please take this back to your home group, because we will eventually need groups to apply to host a meeting, which will happen sometime in the weeks before the holiday season. Obviously the first groups to apply will get first crack at the best time slots available.

So please tell your friends and fellows at any and all the meetings you attend. Perhaps you, or one or even some of them attended our event in the past and know how wonderful and powerful it is. Come help us be a part of creating this true gift for the holidays! Thank you for listening. David P., WSVVA Chair

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Greg R. (Markham Village), Chairperson

Hi Intergroup Friends,

Our Accessibilities Committee met last month and we had excellent attendance with 9 members attending. I am grateful that many new members joined the committee after hearing our announcements about our Service positions.

We had another informative meeting with Gypsy from Kitchener being our guest speaker. Gypsy spoke about her mobility issues (wheelchair bound) and also about her gratitude AA moved to online and hybrid meetings during the pandemic. Gypsy got sober online during the Pandemic. Gypsy gave some good feedback on Hybrid meetings suggesting members stick around after for Fellowship. That's a lacking element of online and Hybrid.

Our initiative of hearing directly from members that have barriers should be an effective way to help address member's needs and help maintain their dignity in our rooms.

We want to start giving presentations to groups and other entities. We have a nice PowerPoint presentation created for INFO AA Day. Next task is to get to 234 to see if our Accessibilities display is there and up to speed. We've been asked to attend the District 22 Service Day in September and give a presentation on Accessibilities.

For our Language barrier work, if someone on the 12 Step Committee can please send me the list of members speaking various languages that would be helpful. We'd like to help beef up the list, if that's needed. At least we can be aware of it.

We are currently assisting with the renovated Intergroup office furniture making sure it's ergonomic for our Greeters.

Last week I had an update zoom meeting with the coordinator for the Down Syndrome Association. The work that our previous Accessibilities committee has done, including creating videos introducing AA to Down Syndrome clients, has been very successful according to the coordinator. The coordinator is trying to get AI Anon to do the same thing. One client is now actively attending AA members and is staying sober thanks to AA.

Lastly, please help us on asking your Home Groups to complete the Accessibilities Checklist, if you have not done so already. Remember to turn on the Closed Caption option for your Hybrid meetings. If your group is in need of an ASL Interpreter, please let me know and we can get arranged. It's a free service to AA.

Thank you for allowing me to be of Service, Greg R - Accessibilities Chair

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

The committee last met on June 1. We meet again July 6 so this report may be missing a few updates.

The South Detention Centre has slowly opened up to AA volunteers. There are meetings being held on Tuesday and we are hearing the guys are coming out.

The East Detention Center is beginning to open up to AA volunteers. Only a few of the existing previously cleared are being permitted to go in on Wednesday and Sunday. More details on this at the July meeting

As always, we are encouraging AAs who wish to be a temporary contact for inside members upon release. Personal details can be sent to corrections@aatoronto.org – someone on the committee will be in touch as soon as we have news of a person being released and seeking contact with outside members.

In District 2 Brampton there is the Ontario Corrections Institute (OCI) that we have held meetings over the years. This is rehab jail where there has been lots of recovery groups, etc. During COVID the clients have been in Maplehurst for appropriate pandemic measures. During this time OCI has been under renovations. We have not been able to go in there either of course but the Area 83 Chair has been in touch with the volunteer coordinator as they would like the recovery programs to begin again. More on this in July.

We are able to join other corrections volunteers weekly on Tuesday evenings and once a month on a Sunday for a meeting inside the walls. Just this Sunday we had a great meeting on Zoom run entirely by the inside members of a prison in Ohio. Outside Corrections folks from across N. America were in attendance. Very rewarding. Contact corrections@aatoronto.org if you want to learn know more.

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 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm – July 6 is the next one. Sign in details are on the GTAI website calendar of committee meetings.

Yours in love and service, Máire O'B., Chair, InterDistrict Corrections

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

Our live booth at Pri Med Canada conference was a successful endeavor by our committee. The table was sponsored by GSO.

In District 22, CPC held two small online info sessions in June. Class 'A' Trustee Dr. Mooney was the featured speaker in the evening session, and our Area 83 CPC Chair Jo D was the main speaker for the lunch and learn program.

Members on the committee continue reaching out as points of contact within their local professional communities.

In D6 there is activity with the public library system involving updating AA literature on the shelves.

Thank you, Joe

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 Tuesday had representation from 5 Districts & our new committee liaison, Kelli T.

There is great news to be shared with all of you with hopes that you will pass it along to your group members. There is a sale on 16 of the Grapevine publications that reduces the cost to you by 30%. These are some of the books that are not selling as well as one would think. There isn't anything wrong with them other than that they are feeling neglected sitting on the shelves at 234's Literature Department. Perhaps your group or individual members would like to increase

their Grapevine library. 14 of these books that were \$14.50, are now \$10.15 + 5% GST. "The Best of Bill" soft cover & hard cover are the other two publications.

The July Grapevine issue is the Annual Prison Issue. Members from inside & outside share powerful stories about getting and staying sober in prison. Some of the stories are: One breeze at a time, Forgiving Dad and A Conference to Remember.

As a reminder, please visit the website www.aagrapevine.org for magazine subscription information & other Grapevine news. Here is the link to the podcasts that are still coming out every Monday with a new 30 minute episode.

There are 13 episodes from Season 1 & 26 episodes now from Season 2. www.aagrapevine.org/podcast

I've also included in this report a link for Group Grapevine Reps in order to read more about what Grapevine resources are offered. www.aagrapevine.org/gvr-resources

We are also hearing that a new website will be launched soon which will be quite inter-active.

Also, Laura reminded me that we shall be working on our Committee Procedures & Guidelines soon.

That's all for this month. Yours, in love & service, Scott M. grapevine@aatoronto.org

SELF SUPPORT: David T. (Welcome), Chairperson

The next Self-Support Meeting will be Thursday 30 June.

From the GSO Conference the amount per individual to GSO was \$7.34 US for individuals for year 2021.

The amount suggested for this year \$5.14 for individuals and for the Group Challenge.

The average amount for groups in 2021 was 149.38US.

TREATMENT: No verbal report. Sean L. (Steps to Serenity), Chairperson, sent in the following report:

1. The Treatment Committee met on Thursday June 15th on Zoom. We had 5 districts in attendance, as well as the OC Chair, Marvyn.
2. In District 6, we are looking for groups to volunteer to do service at Cawthra Shelter starting JULY 20th/2022.
3. In District 10, there is a lot going on. The district's groups are deciding if they are ready to return to in-person meetings at Maxwell Meighan and CAMH beginning in August. The Homestead meeting wishes to remain online for the foreseeable future.
4. Districts 10 and 12 have partnered to deliver a new service meeting at the St. Felix House. It will begin in July and will be hosted by the district chairs until August when groups from both districts will take it over.
5. District 12 has a new service commitment request as well: Homes First (at Bathurst and Front). This is currently being discussed by the groups.
6. District 18's Edward Village commitment has been running for 12+ weeks and is gaining momentum. Because of the success of this partnership, Brendan, the District 18 treatment chair, has been able to coordinate a meeting that will include Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) 200 Wellesley, TCHC Dan Harrison, Pasan Prisoners support), Toronto Seniors Housing, TCHC Community Safety and some others. They are very interested in exploring the idea of having AA/CA groups in 2 of the TCHC buildings: 200 Wellesley and Dan Harrison. Jill, D10 Chair, and Sean, Committee Chair, met with Brendan and the folks on June 27th to explain in more depth how the group at Edward was started and what is involved in starting service meetings at these additional locations.
7. District 18 is now up and running at the Michael Garron Withdrawal Management meeting at 7pm on Wednesdays at 985 Danforth Road. Clive from Silverbirch will be there most weeks but the district will send speakers each week starting in July.
8. D18 has had preliminary discussions with Alpha House (on Broadview). They have been approached by a group to start a meeting and Brandan is trying to figure out which group before proceeding.
9. In other committee news: we are voting on whether to return to in-person meetings at 234 Eglinton beginning in September.

AREA 83 REPORT: No report.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2022: Tony Z. (Bloordale), Chairperson

A location has been secured for the 2022 Event. The venue will be the Roncesvalles United Church (Roncesvalles and Wright Avenue; where the 2010 event was held). The committee is awaiting a contract from the facility. 3 volunteers are helping out this far; more volunteers are welcome to the table! Email wsoh@aatoronto.org for more information.

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

Graham reported that there were 34 Reps, 4 Alternate Reps, 7 OC Members, 12 Subcommittee Chairs, 1 District Liaison, and 1 Visitor 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](#)

[2 Operating Committee Members](#)

[Workshop Chairperson](#)

[WSOH Committee Members](#)

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for the participation and dedication to service.

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Mike F. (Open Hands) and seconded by Steve C. (Rox Glen Traditional). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

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