

# GENERAL MEETING

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023 (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 Saverio D. (Unionville).

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

**INTERGROUP REP/ALT:** Aurora, Back to Basics, Beaches, Birds of a Feather, Brampton Recovery, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Hadenuffyet, Hill, King City, Kipling, Living Sober, Markham Village, Markland Woods, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mississauga, Newmarket, Noon Rap, Open Hands, Pine Hills, Primary Purpose, Responsibility, River Drive Park, Rox Glen Traditional, Streetsville St. Andrew's, Sunnyside, Trial & Error, Tuesday Men's Solution, Unionville, Welcome, and Willowdale.

**DISTRICT LIAISONS:** Districts 06 and 22.

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS:** ACCESSIBILITIES, ARCHIVES, INFORMATION AA DAY 2023, ORC 2023, SELF-SUPPORT, TREATMENT, TWELFTH STEP, WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE, WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON.

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

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 2022

**ERRORS/OMISSIONS:** None recorded.

**Motion** to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Mike S. (Beaches) and seconded by Christian H. (Tuesday Men's Solution). 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

After welcoming new Reps and Alternates, Marvyn shared the following information:

- A Workshop will be held for New Reps and Alternates at the March General Meeting;
- Gord H. (Bloordale), a member of the Operating Committee, has rotated off the committee after serving his term. Gord will celebrate 36 years of sobriety on Feb.27. On behalf of the Operating Committee, Marvyn thanked Gord for his dedication and efforts;
- Dave R. (The Dogs/Long Branch), who served on the Operating Committee in 2019, sadly passed away recently; he was 32 years sober.

### Motion to Suspend Regular Business – Elections for Incoming Operating Committee Member (2)

**MOTION** to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Oscar C. (Responsibility) and seconded by Ted D. (Rox Glen Traditional). The Motion was carried.

**Election for 2 new Operating Committee Members:** Marvyn outlined the qualifications and service commitments for this position and asked if anyone present would like to stand for the position. Julie G. (Markham Village) nominated Saverio D. (Unionville) for one position; he accepted. After a brief address to the Floor, **Saverio D. is a new OC Member** (by acclamation).

**There will be an Election for one more OC member at the February 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 Chair

Presentation of 2023 GTAI Budget: Cam asked if there were any questions in regards to the budget that was presented at the December 2023 monthly General Meeting; no questions were forthcoming.

A vote from the Floor was held via Zoom Poll. **Approved Unanimously** (31 eligible groups voting). **The GTAI 2023 Budget was passed.**

After the vote, Cam introduced Raymond F. (Brampton Recovery) and Bruce L. (Back to Basics) as new members of the Finance Committee. Bruce L. then gave the following report below:

	December 2022 (1 month)				2022 - Full Year										
	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Actual 2021	Variance	%
<b>Contributions</b>	20,260	19,960	300	2%	21,601	(1,342)	-17%	158,705	150,000	8,705	6%	158,705	153,129	5,575	4%
<b>Literature Sales</b>	10,249	7,500	1,531	20%	7,841	2,407	8%	126,582	90,000	32,469	36%	126,582	78,437	48,146	61%
<b>= Total Revenues</b>	30,509	27,460	3,049	11%	29,443	1,066	21%	285,287	240,000	45,287	19%	285,287	231,566	53,721	23%
<b>- Cost of Sales</b>	7,390	4,875	2,515	52%	5,107	2,283	17%	78,813	58,500	20,313	35%	78,813	46,506	32,307	69%
<b>- Expenses</b>	12,979	16,724	(3,745)	-22%	13,307	(329)	-3%	168,465	181,480	(13,015)	-7%	168,465	152,830	15,634	10%
<b>= Surplus / (Deficiency)</b>	10,141	5,861	4,279		11,029	(888)		37,888	20	37,868		37,888	32,230	5,658	

Prudent Reserve Fund Market Value at December 30, 2022 = \$280 K. 2022 Prudent Reserve Fund Target = \$266 K. 5% above target therefore considered reasonable

### December 2022

- Surplus \$10.1 K vs. budgeted surplus of \$5.8 K
- Contributions of \$20.2 K compared to budget of \$19.9 K, individual contributions were above budget by 1.8 K, Group contributions were up by 1.5 K all in we were within 300 dollars of the 2022 December budget
- Literature Sales of \$10.2 K were 20% above budget and expenses were \$3.7 K or 20% below budget

### 2022 - Full Year

- Contributions of \$158.7 K were \$8.7 K above budget, individual contributions were still \$9.6 K below budget for the entire year, group contributions \$18.3 K above budget, the 2022 full year contributions budget was \$150 K all in all we were 8.7 K above budget. Thank you everyone for your generosity and support of Intergroup throughout 2022!
- We completed the year with a 37.8 K surplus, contributions and literature sales were above both budget and 2021 actuals and operating & committee expenses were lower than 2022 budget due in large part to the continuing impact of the pandemic on committee's use of funds
- In total expenses were \$13 K or 7% below budget as we are below budget in all 3 categories of our expenses: committee, operating and staff but the variance is 70% caused by lower than budget committee expenses
- Literature sales of \$126.5 K vs \$90 K budgeted means we are above budget by 36%

### How to Make Contributions to GTA Intergroup:

- Online where you can use your credit card or PayPal account to make one time or monthly contributions [7th Tradition Donation | GTA Intergroup \(aatoronto.org\)](#) or <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>
- 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

- Monthly pre-authorized bank account debit by contacting Helen or Alexx at the Intergroup office at [litdept@atoronto.org](mailto:litdept@atoronto.org) or 416-487-9865

**A Finance Chairperson is still needed (to start immediately).** 5 years of continuous sobriety is required for this position, and experience with QuickBooks or a similar software is a definite asset <https://www.atoronto.org/finance-chairperson-needed/>

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

One particular task that we are working on at the moment is the '80 Years of AA in Toronto' book. It has been compiled and completed.

We've been very lucky to have a former renowned journalist (member of AA) put this together for us at no cost. Our thanks to Jim C. (North Toronto) for his efforts and dedication.

The book is now being costed at various printers. We've been in touch with both the Finance Committee and the Operating Committee with updates on this endeavour.

It is our hope and expectation that the book will be ready for sale through the Intergroup Literature Department at the Ontario Regional Conference. We should have final details on that at next month's Intergroup General Meeting.

If your group would like to pre-order the book, please reach out to us at [archives@atoronto.org](mailto:archives@atoronto.org)

Yours in Love and Service, Glenn

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair not present.

Marvyn shared that Imran M., our website developer has given us a demo of the new Meeting List which was thoroughly 'cleaned up'. We have the Help Chat almost ready to launch on our site which will utilize bots; this is in process.

Within the next month, we want to get this launched, so we can print some new Meeting Directories for the fellowship.

When we get the new meeting updates on the site, we need you to check your group listings to ensure that all the information is correct, so when we go to print the Directory the accurate meeting information is there.

We are also looking for a new Better Times Editor. Our previous Editor, Darren G., has rotated out of the position. If you have an interest in this service position please send an email to [communications@atoronto.org](mailto:communications@atoronto.org)

**INFORMATION AA DAY 2022:** Bert J. (Silverbirch), Event Chair

We had our meeting on January 30th and some hiccups in the process tempered the attendance to the meeting, but we finally succeeded in having a good meeting and accomplishing some of the things we had to do.

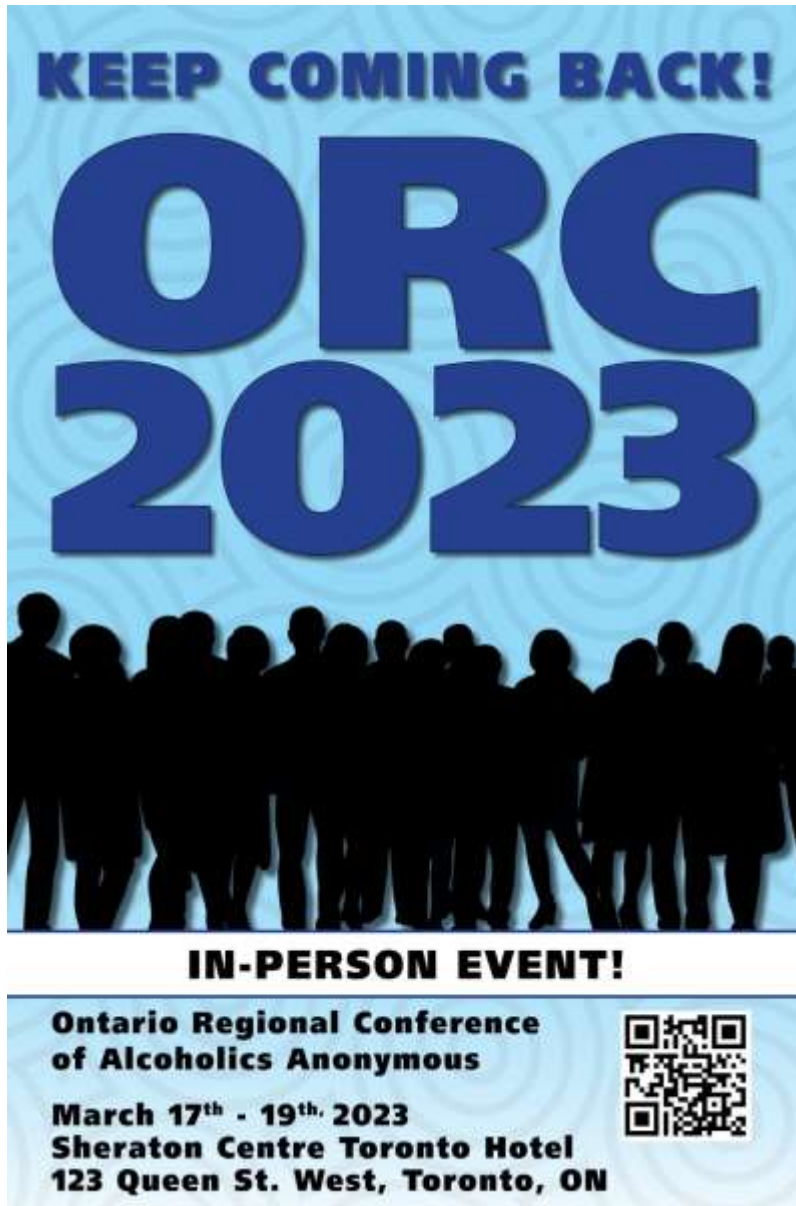
- a) The guidelines and Procedures were adopted after that the ad-hoc committee had a couple of meetings in December and January
- b) The secretary, treasurer, venue coordinator, host, Committee set up, communications, and brew-master are filled.

In his report the chair mentioned that the GSO have been contacted to secure a speaker and the delegate was approached to secure a date, May 27th possible we are looking also for a venue to have the event live and maybe hybrid for the speaker to somewhere cut the expenses

Our next meeting will be held on February 27th at 7 pm

-meets on the last Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

-Meeting ID: 811 8277 5978 / Passcode 587553




**KEEP COMING BACK!**

# ORC 2023

**IN-PERSON EVENT!**

**Ontario Regional Conference  
of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**March 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel**  
**123 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON**



## ORC 2023 EVENT REPORT

Great news! The banquet is on hold now; we've just about filled the room and we are presently confirming the numbers.

Registration is still open; the numbers are up and everything is going well.

*"This has been a labour of love for me and all of the ORC 2023 and 2024 committee members."*

Roman announced that the ORC 2023 P.I. & Greeters Chair, Zack K., was present this evening. Zack shared the following:

Please reach out to Zack about Public Information questions for the ORC and/or **more importantly, to volunteer as a Greeter at the event.** 250 volunteers are needed. No sobriety requirement is needed to serve as a Greeter.

If you, your groups members, or your sponsees are interested, there is a volunteer link on the ORC website <https://aorc.ca/volunteer/> ('Volunteers' tab on the ORC Homepage) or you can email Zack directly at [orctoronto@gmail.com](mailto:orctoronto@gmail.com) Phone 647-229-9023. **Please announce at your groups!**

**Registration: \$55**  
**[aaorc.ca](https://aorc.ca)**

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

I'm slowly working my way back into my position as chair of the 12-step committee, coordinating with Lise and Jordan so they can bring me up to speed on changes that were implemented during my absence. They've done such a wonderful job of replacing me that I can take a step back from a lot of the tasks I was doing myself, which is awesome.

We have several new members on the committee now, young enthusiastic members, and we are in the process of training them to do same.

The Procedures and Guidelines are almost ready to roll. We have a few little tweaks to make and anticipate submitting our final draft to the Operating Committee no later than the end of this week.

I understand that the IT Committee is looking into finding us a different type of phone system as it seems like Callture cannot deliver on what we need. If anyone present works in the telephony field and knows a system that would serve us, please call me so we can chat.

We are revising a flyer we introduced several years ago which was sent with literature orders to groups who don't have Intergroup representation. We will coordinate with Angela's Ad Hoc Committee to make sure we are not complicating the situation.

Thank you for allowing me to serve, it has been and still is a labour of love.

Yours in Service, Laura V.

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

The 2022 Winter Season Open House committee was thriving from the first committee meeting, to the date of the event December 25 2022.

The Event involved Toronto Intergroup, AA & Alanon members and their families, the Church, and the community. Several volunteers came to help the committee and to contribute to the success of this event. (The success was measured by smiles!)

Approximate Attendees: 360 People

Committee Tables: Grapevine, Archives, ORC display cards, and Literature table AA pamphlet rack and info were on display

Total 7<sup>th</sup>/Donation: Collected \$2250 (Total of 4x boxes) Welcome table, dining area, closed discussion meeting, and open meeting.

Overall The Winter Season Open House 2022 event was successful with communication, guidance from the traditions and our higher power.

Anyone who would like to get active in service, for the 2023 Winter Season Open House event, is encouraged to listen for the announcements for committee meetings starting in the Fall 2023.

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

The 3rd annual iteration of the Winter Season Virtual Alkathon was a success! We executed 44 meetings over 4 days with an average attendance of 20-25 people and zero reported Zoom bombings, providing service opportunities for dozens of alcoholics across the G.T.A. and relief from our disease to hundreds more across the world.

During our final feedback committee meeting it was confirmed that both myself and our Tech Chair, Greg R. will return in 2023, as will Marvyn as O.C. Liaison. It is reasonable to believe others will return from 2022-23, ensuring some continuity with next year's committee.

Lessons gleaned from this past Alkathon include the need for a dedicated webmaster (we relied too much on Alexx at Intergroup) and an earlier timeline, allowing groups to better ready themselves for their meetings, and provide our Tech Team with the information we need to make the event run more smoothly. A webmaster would also enable us to update the event program online, so at all times anyone can see what slots are available.

I plan to next address the membership at the July Intergroup meeting to get the ball rolling again. Thank you for letting me be of service.

David P., WSVVA Chair

## **DISTRICT REPORTS**

### **ACCESSIBILITY: Greg R. (Markham Village), Chairperson**

We had a nice turnout at our first Accessibilities meeting of the year.

We discussed this year's initiatives, such as:

- Our efforts to create change with the current Accessibilities Checklist, resulting in a GSO-approved updated Checklist. A few of our wheelchair-bound members feel strongly about this
- We want to help propel ASL meetings in the GTA, with our goal of one ASL meeting a day. Currently there are 2 ASL meetings per week
- We also intend to update our Accessibilities website and update our Accessibilities display. We plan to have a display at the ORC. Regarding the ORC, please let us help out with Accessibilities requirements. We are here to help
- We also want to help 'beef up' the Language Barrier Member List, so when a struggling alcoholic reaches out, we have a member that can speak to them in their mother tongue
- Lastly, we are here to assist in Intergroup Accessibilities planning for any future event.

Please encourage your group or District Accessibilities representative to attend our next Accessibilities Committee meeting on Sunday, February 19 held on Zoom.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service, Greg R., GTAI Accessibilities Chair

**CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:** No report.

**COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY/PUBLIC INFORMATION:** Chair not present.

The Recording Secretary read the following report:

CPC PI committee for the GTAI is next meeting at 7pm online via on Monday February 20/23. Zoom ID: 854 7547 0291 PW: 002060. Please consider attending.

The committee met earlier in January, with a small attendance. We decided to not yet elect Chair, Alt Chair, and Secretary until more members attend.

In the meantime the new CPC Chair for Area 83 Jane S connected with me with the following info from GSO: that GSO will be sponsoring the CPC PI both at the American Counseling Association (ACA) 2023 Conference & Expo is organized by American Counseling Association (ACA) and will be held from Mar 30 - Apr 01, 2023 at Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) South Building, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Thank you, Joe A., Outgoing Chair

**GRAPEVINE:** Chair not present.

Kelli T., OC Liaison, shared that currently there is a rotation of District Grapevine Chairs for the 2023-2024 term. Christine F. (Steps to Serenity) has been elected as the new Area 83 Grapevine Chair.

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

Seven members attended the last Self-Support Meeting in January.

The majority of District Committees do not have a Self-Support Chair (3 in the GTA)

Attendees were reminded about the packet FV-19 for Self-Support Chairs

Year-end GSO Financial Report 72,136 Groups 1,400,000 members in North America. Cost to support Group expenses - 135.02 Individual Cost - 6.95 (17,520,000/1,400,000).

Group costs would be \$155.57 US\$ \$8.01 US per Member.

These numbers are unofficial and more results will be presented at the General Service Conference in April after the financial audit.

David T., GTA Self-Support Chair

**TREATMENT:** Brendan O'S., (Fellowship of the Spirit), Chairperson


- All meetings are up and running and supported by the groups.
- Always in need of more literature
- Committee working on Master Treatment Meeting list for GTA with full contact information.
- Committee working on Master Target lists for potential Treatment Committee to contact
- Presenting Treatment Workbook Workshop on February 16th at 7pm for anyone interested.
- Discussing compiling GTA Bridging the Gap contact list.

**AREA 83 REPORT:** Amy L. (Liverpool), Area 83 Alternate Delegate


I would like to present the Area 83 Communications HUB. Built using an interface called Glide App.

We are using this device to quickly communicate and keep up to date with activities that are mostly General Service related, and of interest to members in Area 83.


This “App” can be downloaded to your phone, tablet or desktop by using a link or can be easily put on your phone or tablet using the QR code ([how to scan QR codes](#)). It is basically an internet link that connects the user to documents stored on a Google drive.



This is a screen grab of what the Communications HUB looks like on a computer and the QR code to access the App on your phone or tablet.



Scan code to install. [Learn how](#)



## Area 83

by Area's team

Made with Glide from a Google Sheet, without writing any code.

[SHOW FULLSCREEN](#)

[SHARE APP](#)

[Make your own app with Glide](#)

Each of these tabs relate to different levels of General Service in Area 83.

- **Area 83** This tab will include documents relating to Area committee meetings and Assemblies. Posted here will be minutes and agendas for the meetings. Area 83 will continue to pass items along via your District Committee Member, but they will also be posted here, for general consumption. The Spring Assembly will be a hybrid event. The in-person component will be in Kingston, at the St. Lawrence College April 14-16. We have a block of hotel rooms reserved until March 14, at \$139/night at the Holiday Inn Waterfront. Details on booking the Hotel can be found here ([Spring Assembly Hotel booking](#)).
- **GSR Sharing Sessions** (minutes and handouts from Area 83’s monthly GSR sharing sessions). Anyone is welcome to attend. Tentatively, this meeting has been set to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Unfortunately, this is also when District 6 meets, so we are looking to find a date with the least amount of conflict with district meetings in the Area. Stay tuned. Each session includes a 10-15 minute presentation with the balance of time spent discussing the presentation or other topics brought up by the GSRs. Agendas are always available on the app, prior to the meeting. We will continue to offer these sharing sessions as long as there is a need for them.

- **CMP** (Comprehensive Media plan) Audio recordings from a 4-part workshop Hosted by Area 83 that covered several aspects of AA World Service’s Strategic plan for communicating AA’s program of recovery to the people who want it, wherever they are.
- **PCAS-2023**- Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing sessions- We are gearing up for the Preconference Agenda Sharing sessions again. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and it will be a virtual event. We will spend 1 day covering many of the Agenda items that will be discussed at the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference (for the Day’s Agenda View the [Save the Date Flyer](#)). This is a valuable opportunity for individual members to join in the discussions around the Agenda Topics. Important to note, we would like individual members to participate and speak on their own behalf. In otherwords, it isn’t up to the GSR or DCM to gather all of the opinions and bring them forward. Please, we hope you would encourage members at your group to attend the day. All agenda items are important and worthy of letting the delegate understand your position. This information is instrumental in the deliberations that will take place at the General Service Conference April 23-30, 2023 (see the **SAVE THE DATE** flyer [below] and [Dashboard for PCAS](#) )
- **Eastern Ontario**-Area 83 is one of 10 Areas in the Eastern Canada Region. On this tab there are links to regional events that are taking place. The first of these is coming this month, in St Catherine’s on February 24-26 is CERAASA (Canadian Eastern Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly). Agendas will be coming soon. This is a bilingual event with translation services available for anyone who requires it.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023**  
 2023 Pre-Conference  
 Agenda Sharing Sessions



**NEW!**  
**1-Day Event –**  
**Townhall Style**



Click on the yellow circle above or scan the QR code for more information.

8:45 - 9:00 am	Opening	
9:00 - 10:50 am	Session 1	Archives Agenda / Trustees / International Conventions / Regional Forums / Policy & Admissions – Report & Charter
	Session 2	Finance
11:00 - 12:50 pm	Session 3	Literature Part 1
	Session 4	Treatment Accessibilities
12:50 pm – 1:30 pm LUNCH		
1:30 – 3:20 pm	Session 5	Corrections Grapevine
	Session 6	Cooperation with the Professional Community
3:30 - 5:20 pm	Session 7	Public Information
	Session 8	Literature Part 2



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

Graham reported that there were 26 Reps, 6 Alternate Reps, 7 OC Members, 9 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons and 5 Visitors present at this meeting, for a total attendance of 55 members.



## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Marvyn reiterated the following information: we currently have an ad hoc committee that was formed to find groups that aren't currently participating in/not represented at Intergroup. The chair of this committee, Angela O. (Mount Royal-York) and her team are currently working hard on this initiative. They are making progress in identifying groups that are not currently represented at the Intergroup level. Angela will be giving a report on their progress in future.

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



[Phone Greeters/12 Step Volunteers](#)  
[Twelfth Step Committee Members](#)  
[Bilingual Member Resource \(12 Step Calls\)](#)  
[Operating Committee Member \(1\)](#)  
[Workshop Chairperson](#)  
[ad hoc Committee Volunteers](#)  
[Finance Chair](#)  
[Better Times Editor](#)

## NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

### CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS:

Marvyn thanked everyone for the participation and dedication to service; stating "We have to remember one thing: We are all here for one purpose; the still-suffering alcoholic. We try to do the best we can, and we have to try and work together on the issues that we have. With this in mind, I'm confident everyone will work in harmony and get what has to be done here at Toronto Intergroup."

He then reminded members of the following service opportunities:

- Operating Committee Member needed <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/service-committees/executive/>
- Finance Chairperson needed (to start January 1, 2023) <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/service-committees/finance/>
- *ad hoc* committee members needed! Email Angela O. at [info@xpresse.me](mailto:info@xpresse.me)
- Twelfth Step Committee members needed [12step@aatoronto.org](mailto:12step@aatoronto.org)
- 12 Step Volunteers needed [12step@aatoronto.org](mailto:12step@aatoronto.org)
- Phone Greeters needed [12step@aatoronto.org](mailto:12step@aatoronto.org)
- Workshop Chairperson needed <https://www.aatoronto.org/workshop-chairperson-need/>
- Ontario Regional Conference 2023 (in-person) to be held March 17-19, 2023 at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Brendan O. (Fellowship of the Spirit) and seconded by George G. (Hill). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** An online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 28 at 8 p.m.**