

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 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 Mike C. (Beverly Hills).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Aurora, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Brampton Recovery, Credit Valley, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Kipling, Living Sober, Love & Tolerance, Markham Village, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Queensville, River Drive Park, Royal York, Silverbirch, St Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville, Sunnyside, The Dogs, Tuesday Men's, Twelve Steps, Welcome, Westmoreland, and Willowdale.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 14, 18, and 22.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: ACCESSIBILITIES, ARCHIVES, CPC/PI, INFORMATION AA DAY 2023, FINANCE, ORC 2023, SELF-SUPPORT, TREATMENT, TWELFTH STEP.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JANUARY 2023

ERRORS/OMISSIONS: None recorded.

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Gus V. (Bloordale) and seconded by Mark H. (Silverbirch). 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 Reps and Alternates, Marvyn shared the following information:

- We are less than three weeks away from the Ontario Regional Conference; it's exciting! It's going to be a wonderful event; our first in-person major event here. It'll be a 'homecoming' for A.A. in Toronto
- All Subcommittee volunteers must purchase a registration at the ORC Registration room. There are no free registrations purchased by GTA Intergroup
- Step One: 'We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol and that our lives had become unmanageable': A.A. is a 'we' program. Since our last monthly meeting on January 31, the GTAI Operating Committee made a proposal to the Twelfth Step Committee, in reference to two points:
 - To re-establish phone greeters into the office at 234 during office hours; and
 - To purchase a new phone software package for the Twelfth Step Committee for both remote and in-office phone greeters.The Twelfth Step Committee accepted the proposal. You will hear more information on this in the coming reports from the IT Subcommittee and the Twelfth Step Committee (see reports below).
- Mary M. (Erin Mills) has decided to resign from the Operating Committee. We – the Greater Toronto Area Operating Committee – would like to thank Mary for her dedication and loyal service to GTAI over the last three and a half years; first as Better Times Editor, and then in 2022 as Operating Committee Liaison. Congratulations Mary on your sobriety milestone (celebrating March 4). We wish Mary all the best with her 2024 ORC Committee role.

- There are two new meetings that need support: the **Smashed Women’s Group** (Salvation Army, 789 Dovercourt Rd.) on **Mondays 7-8 p.m.** and **Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre AA Meeting** (627 Queen’s Quay West) on **Fridays 7-8 p.m.** and **Sundays 11 a.m. – noon**. This is a hybrid meeting. All information is on www.aatoronto.org

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

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Steve C. (Westmoreland) and seconded by Mike C. (Beverly Hills). 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. No nominations or volunteers came forward at this time.

There will be an Election for two OC members at the March 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 – Raymond F. (Brampton Recovery), Finance Committee Member (verbal report)

	January 2023 (1 month)						
	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Variance	%
Contributions	8,975	8,600	375	4%	10,205	-1,230	-12%
Literature Sales	13,645	10,000	3,645	36%	7,945	5,700	72%
= Total Revenues	22,620	18,600	4,020	22%	18,150	4,470	25%
- Cost of Sales	8,441	7,800	641	8%	4,282	4,159	97%
- Expenses	12,067	16,160	-4,093	-25%	12,880	-813	-6%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	2,112	-5,360	7,472		988	1,124	

January 2023

- We had a good start to the year with an overall \$2,112 surplus
- Dollars coming in were above budget for both contributions and literature sales for a positive variance of \$4,020 on total revenues which includes Group Contributions, Individual Contributions and Literature Sales)
- Expenses came in 25% less than expected which was more than \$4,000 which really helped our bottom line for this month
- Year over year we are having a better start than January 2022

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 \(aatoronto.org\)](http://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/) or <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>

- Interac e-Transfer to 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@aatoronto.org or **416-487-9865**

A Finance Chairperson is still needed. 5 years of continuous sobriety is required for this position, and experience with QuickBooks or a similar software is a definite asset. See poster on website at <https://www.aatoronto.org/finance-chairperson-needed/>

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

I.T. SUBCOMMITTEE: Michael W. (Welcome), Chairperson

Completed

- 12 Step Greeter System Review and Recommendations
- Installation and configuration of 2 new VOIP phones (greeters)

In Process

- Replacement of current Firewall
- 234 Hybrid Conferencing system
- Project for Greeter Scheduling Replacement system from Callture

Greeter Scheduling Replacement:

1. Draft proposal for;

- Requirements definition
- Creation of Request For Proposal (RFP)
- Vendor selection for RFP
- RFP Evaluations and Decision
- Implementation
- 12 Step Committee on board with this approach

2. Possible Solution Identified

- AA Ottawa Intergroup and Toronto Alanon currently using
- Unite Communications of Markham
- 2 implementation options
- 12 Step Committee on board
- Demo of system to be scheduled ASAP
- OC and 12 Step Committee will decide if go with Unite or full RFP process

COMMUNICATIONS: Chair not present.

Marvyn shared the following: “We held a special meeting this past Saturday; Imran M. our Web Developer brought us up to speed on recent developments with the website. We had seriously thought that we would be able to launch the new website two weeks ago; however in the back end there was a lot of mess there. So he is cleaning it up at present. It’s like the old story ‘if you do things quickly bad things will happen’. If we do it the way the Higher Power wants it done, it usually works out well. We’ve seen that actual [new] site; it looks 100% better than what we are using now. We hope that in the next couple of weeks; hopefully up for the ORC. In future we will have Imran give a demo to the Intergroup Floor hopefully at the April General Meeting. A special edition of the Better Times is being created for the ORC. **To all groups:** please go to your meeting listings(s) on the website, as we need to get the most current information (location, day/time of meeting, etc.). **We want to put out an up to date Meeting Guide** for greeters and groups.”

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

We had our meeting on February 27th 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.

I asked the admin assistant to correct the password on the website calendar.

We have reported that was not too much activities so far as we are still uncertain of the venue for the Info AA Day combined meeting.

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 date.

We still have some location and if you have any suggestion let us know at infoaaday@aatoronto.org
Our next meeting will be held on March 27th at 7 p.m.

-Meeting ID: 811 8277 5978 / Passcode 587553

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2023: Roman R. (Stepping Stones), 2023 Event Chair (verbal report)


KEEP COMING BACK!

**ORC
2023**

IN-PERSON EVENT!

**Ontario Regional Conference
of Alcoholics Anonymous**

March 17th - 19th, 2023
Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel
123 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON



ORC 2023 EVENT REPORT

Great news! We sold out the banquet at 736 people.

There are more than 860 room nights sold; as a matter of fact, we have just secured a small extension of rooms for another great rate of \$249 per night (in comparison to \$319 per night).

So, if you're still looking to attend the Conference and stay for the weekend, it's a wonderful way to go; it's so much more comfortable. I really invite you to come and stay with us there for the weekend.

"It's the 80th Anniversary; if there's ever a time when people are going to attend and enjoy themselves; really feel that fellowship and strength in AA... it's going to be this weekend. I encourage everyone to consider coming down and visiting us."

There is still a little bit of time to register online!
Of course, registration the weekend of the event is open and available at the venue.

We are estimating between 2300-2800 attendees at this year's event.

Registration: \$55
aaorc.ca

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

We're so pleased to report we are in the process of getting a new phone system and want to express our gratitude to everyone who helped make it happen, especially the IT Committee. We're quite confident that this improvement will have nothing but a positive calming effect on all concerned. We're so happy.

Please spread the word that any communication about being or becoming a Hotline Greeter should be addressed to GreeterCoordinator@aatoronto.org. We won't be accepting third party requests, phone calls, texts and/or emails to anywhere but this address. We don't want to be rigid, but having one centralized hub where everyone involved in scheduling can see up to the minute developments simultaneously in real time was imperative. This has been a godsend, and a major soothing effect when coverage on the Hotline suddenly runs amok due to the unforeseen events of life.

We have made a few steps regarding our presence at the ORC. We have a table, our display units, and printed forms to be completed for those interested in either greeting or being on the committee. Now we are rounding up greeters past and present who are willing to spend an hour or two at the table sharing their experience taking calls. Please direct interested members to email me at 12step.chair@aatoronto.org, Subject ORC Volunteer.

Typically our greeters are so grateful to do this Service, and it comes through them whenever they speak of it. We're hoping that a little attraction rather than promotion will go a long way to reinforcing what has become a steady stream of applicants, including in-house greeters returning to 234. Please direct interested members to me at 12step.chair@aatoronto.org, Subject ORC Volunteer.

Yours in Love and Service, Laura V.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2023: No report. Meetings commence in August.

WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON 2023: No report. Meetings commence in August.

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Greg R. (Markham Village), Chairperson (verbal report)

"We had our meeting last week; things are going really well. We have an awesome 'all-star cast' for our committee; nine people were in attendance, which included some amazing past Chairs and phenomenal people who have been involved with Accessibilities for decades.

Some great things are going to happen this term. We are working on updating the Accessibilities display for the ORC; we are going to have a table there and it will be up to date and relevant."

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: No report.

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

- GSO is sponsoring our table at [ACA Conference & Expo 2023 Toronto \(counseling.org\)](https://www.counseling.org). CPC PI GTAI is looking for volunteers. Please email Joe at cpc@toronto.org for more details. Event is March 30-April 1/23.
- GTAI is sponsoring our table at [Home Canada – Pri-Med | Canada's Continuing Medical Education](https://www.homecanada.ca) CPC PI GTAI is looking for volunteers. Please email Joe at cpc@toronto.org for more details. Event is May 10-13/23
- CPC PI will have a table at the ORC 2023. ORC 2023 | March 17th to 19th. CPC PI GTAI is looking for volunteers. Please email Joe at cpc@toronto.org for more details.
- Dorothy A (D6) was acclaimed as Alt Chair of CPC PI GTAI. Committee still looking for a Chair and Secretary
- CPC PI next meets online 7pm on Monday March 20: Zoom ID: 854 7547 0291 PW:002060
- Grassroots projects in D6 and D22 currently on the go
- Committee has fielded three recent requests from students in high school / college looking for info about Alcoholics Anonymous and what it knows about alcoholism

GRAPEVINE: Chair not present.

Kelli T., OC Liaison, shared that currently there is a rotation of District Grapevine Chairs for the 2023-2024 term. The committee needs a new Inter District Grapevine Chair. If interested, please email grapevine@aatoronto.org

SELF SUPPORT: David T. (Welcome), Chairperson

1. The monthly meeting of the GTA Self-Support Inter-District Meeting is held on the last Thursday of each month.
2. In Attendance: Lori D06 Self-Support Chair, David T D10 Self-Support Chair, Lou-Anne Z D06 Member, Marvyn W OC Liaison
3. Meeting was opened with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer
4. Moved by Lori, Seconded by Lou-Anne that the minutes of last meeting be approved
5. Attendance – 4 members were in attendance however only 2 of these members were District Chairs.
6. Lori gave her report to D06; David gave report to D10; Marvyn gave a brief report on Intergroup Financial Status
7. Suggested contributions to GSO for Groups and Members:
72,136 Groups and 1, 400, 000 members (approximately)
Total Operating Expenses:17,52,0000.00/72,136=155.57 US\$ per group
Total Operation Expenses: 17,520,000.00/1,400,000=8.01\$ per member
Challenge Contribution per group would be 8.01 per member in group x total number of members in group.
8. Summary if each member contributes and minimum of \$8.01US\$ to GSO and each group contributes 155.57US\$ they will be able to cover their expenses.
9. The Group Challenge is based on every member of your group giving the equivalent of \$8.01 US
10. The purpose of the challenge is to meet the amount for total estimated expenses. Members can give a Seventh Tradition contribution directly to GSO or through your groups. This is the same as is available on the GTA Website under 7th Tradition Contributions.

Yours in Service, David T., District 10 Self-Support Chair

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

Update from GTAI Treatment Chair

- o Meet with community liaisons with Fred Victor and Homes First to better service the homeless shelters across the GTA
- o Working on Central List of current and past facilities we have serviced
- o Working on Central target list of facilities we are not active in
- o Planning on have a booth at ORC inform and drum up support for Treatment
- o Discussing with 12 Step committee centralizing list to include Bridging the Gap

District Treatment Reports and Updates

District 02

- Addictions Rehab Toronto: Every Third Wednesday at 7:30pm – Speaker meeting
- Brampton Detox: ☐ Thursday at 8pm – Speaker meeting, Saturday at 1:30pm – Closed discussion meeting. Sunday at 8pm – Speaker meeting
- St. Leonards - Tue (½ House/Shelter) 8pm – Closed discussion
- Looking for volunteers for Bridging the Gap in D02 but outside of Brampton (Rexdale/Malton/ Keele and Lawrence area).

District 6

- Cawthra Shelter every Wednesday at 7pm.
- Peel Youth Village every other Monday at 7:30-8:30pm..

District 10

- 4 Treatment Centre Meetings

- 2 CAMH (In Person Thu. 10:45 AM/Virtual Homestead Women Wed @ 12)
- CAMH Wed 7:30-8:30 pm (No participants) ON HOLD TILL RESOLVED
- St. Felix Centre (Shared with D12) - IN person Tue 7:00 pm
- Service Meeting at Harbour Light Tuesday 7pm.
- Lacking participants in meetings

District 12

- New Treatment Chair Jenny M is getting up to speed.

District 14

- CHAIRS Head Injury Clinic - Thu @ 7
- Blue Door - Separate from Shelter buildings - Tue @ 7:00
- Hospitals are reluctant; Still deciding if we are allowed back in Mackenzie Health and South Lake

District 16

- Not in attendance

District 18

- Michael Garron Withdrawal Management Wednesdays at 7pm
- Edward Village Hotel Shelter: Attendance has dropped off
- Michael Garron Hospital Mondays 7 pm
- Bellwood has Half Century Group In House
- Alpha House - Leslie Group covers every second week

District 22

- COTA - Meeting Fridays @ 7 (Toronto Housing) Brain Injuries
- Men's Shelter on 705 Progress Ave. (Toronto Housing) Mondays 7pm
- Service meeting at Scarborough General - No longer interested in having AA
- Brendan hoping to go to head office of Homes First to discuss AA in the shelters
- Create a Central list of all treatment facilities
- Central list of all targets for possible places to go
- Workshop on treatment workbook
- Coordinate efforts with homelessness organizations across city to bring AA in to shelters & facilities

Next Meeting Thursday March 16th. Topic: GTAI Treatment Monthly Meeting 7 pm

Time: Mar 16, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91234567890>

Meeting ID: 852 4845 3096 Passcode: 570285

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

2 important Events to mention, and all are welcome to attend!

1. Preconference Agenda Sharing Session. All Day sessions, on April 1. 9 am-5:20 pm

At this day long event there will be opportunities to share your thought on more than 45 of the Agenda items to be considered at the 73rd General Service Conference. [Link to information about this event](#)

2023 Pre-Conference Agenda Sharing Sessions
Saturday April 1, 2023

Time	Participating Districts	General Service Conference Agenda Committee	Session Chair	Zoom Link
9:00 – 10:50	22, 42, 66	Archives Agenda Trustees International Convention & Regional Forums Policy and Admissions Report and Charter	Jenny B Past Delegate	Meeting Link
	26, 34, 82	Finance	Jack R, Kathie T	Meeting Link
11:00 – 12:50	18, 74, 78	Literature Part 1	Trevor F	Meeting Link
	2, 30, 48	Accessibilities Treatment	Teresa L Maria M	Meeting Link
LUNCH				
1:30-3:20	10, 36, 86	Corrections Grapevine	Rob F Christine F	Meeting Link
	6, 28, 50	Cooperation with the Professional Community	Jane S	Meeting Link
3:30-5:20	12, 14, 54	Public Information	Tim F	Meeting Link
	16, 62, 70	Literature Part 2	Jill B	Meeting Link

We hope all members of Area 83 will take part in these important discussions.

2. Area 83, Eastern Ontario Assembly April 14-16, 2023

In-person Service Day and Assembly taking place in Kingston. Go to the link to book hotel (Area 83 room rates available until March 15). [All About the Area Assembly](#)

Ad hoc Committee:

Marvyn shared 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. In aid of this, we are hoping to have the assistance and input of the GTA District Registrars so that we can establish an accurate list active groups for a more accurate determination of groups not currently represented at the Intergroup level.

Angela will be giving a report on their progress at the April General Meeting.

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

Graham reported that there were 39 Reps, 7 Alternate Reps, 6 OC Members, 10 Subcommittee Chairs, 3 District Liaisons and 5 Visitors present at this meeting, for a total attendance of 70 members.

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

“The combination of five years of work and collaboration has produced the 80 Years of AA in Ontario book is almost ready! It is at the printer and in the binding process. It will be available for purchase at the upcoming ORC. Literature has set the price at \$19.95. We will sign out a limited number of books to be sold at the ORC. The Archives display (which takes up three tables) has been invited and confirmed for the ORC event. There are a limited amount of books available so please encourage your members/groups to purchase. “

“The Archives Committee has booked a table of 8 at the upcoming Hamilton-Area Archives Breakfast (April 23). We have a few Workshops coming up: the Area 83 Service Day (during the Spring Assembly weekend in April/Saturday) and in September in Sudbury.”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business was forthcoming.

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 Members \(2\)](#)
[Workshop Chairperson](#)
[ad hoc Committee Volunteers](#)
[Finance Chair](#)

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS:

Marvyn thanked everyone for the participation and dedication to service. **Next month a Workshop Meeting for Intergroup Reps will be held.**

He then reminded members of the following service opportunities:

- Operating Committee Members 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/>
- Twelfth Step Committee members needed 12step@aatoronto.org
- 12 Step Volunteers needed 12step@aatoronto.org
- Phone Greeters needed 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 Tom C. (Twelve Steps) and seconded by Christian H. (Tuesday Men’s). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 28 at 8 p.m. This will be a Workshop Meeting.**