

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 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 John C. (Pine Hills).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Anchor of Hope, Aurora, Back to Basics, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Brampton Recovery, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Fellowship, Keep It Simple, Kipling, Lakeshore, Long Branch, Love & Tolerance, Markham Village, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, Pine Hills, Primary Purpose, Prince Edward, Responsibility, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, St. Clements, Thursday Night Men's, Trial & Error, Tuesday Men's Solution, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 02, 14, and 22.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: CPC/P.I., INFORMATION AA DAY 2023, SELF-SUPPORT, TWELFTH STEP.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – APRIL 2023

ERRORS/OMISSIONS: None recorded.

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Jeff D. (Kipling) and seconded by Lijon G. (Love & Tolerance). The Motion was carried. (23 voted for the motion, out of 25 total voting members)

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

- The East Toronto Archives Breakfast will be held Sun. Apr 30 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the QSSIS Banquet Hall (3474 Kingston Road (just west of Markham Rd.)). Tickets are \$35 and available through the Archives Committee (see flyer on website <https://www.aatoronto.org/18th-annual-east-toronto-archives-breakfast/>)
- Information AA Day 2023 will be held on Sat. May 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor St. West. Tickets are \$10 and the day features a pot-luck luncheon (see Information AA Day report below)
- New AA Meeting: Road to Recovery Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (closed discussion) at Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor Street West. They could use member's support!
- Graham D., (Markland Woods), current OC Vice-Chair, celebrated 30 years of sobriety on April 11

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

MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by John C. (Pine Hills) and seconded by Christopher S. (Long Branch). 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/volunteers came forward at this time.

There will be an Election for two OC members at the May 30 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 – Bruce L. (Back to Basics), Finance Committee member

	March 2023 (1 month)							March 2023 Year-to-Date (3 months)							
	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Variance	%
Contributions	9,311	8,611	700	8%	12,527	(3,216)	(26%)	27,694	25,830	1,864	7%	27,694	27,046	648	2%
Literature Sales	20,349	10,000	10,349	103%	18,034	2,315	13%	43,605	30,000	13,605	45%	43,605	32,447	11,158	34%
= Total Revenues	29,660	18,611	11,049	59%	30,561	(901)	(3%)	71,299	55,830	15,469	28%	71,299	59,493	11,806	20%
- Cost of Sales	12,435	6,500	5,935	91%	11,446	989	9%	26,529	19,500	7,029	36%	26,529	18,983	7,546	40%
- Expenses	16,475	15,249	1,226	8%	12,076	4,399	36%	43,780	45,743	(1,963)	(4%)	43,780	37,009	6,771	18%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	750	(3,138)	3,888		7,039	(6,289)		990	(9,413)	10,403		990	3,501	(2,511)	
Prudent Reserve Market Value at March 31, 2023 = \$284 K. 2022 Prudent Reserve Target = \$266 K.															

March 2023

- Surplus of \$0.75 K is favorable to budgeted deficiency of \$3.1 K
- Contributions of \$9.3 K were also favorable to budget of \$8.6 K but were less than in February 2022
- Literature Sales of \$20.4 K were twice the budgeted amount and were 13% greater than last year
- Expenses only \$1.2 K above budget and include CPC Committee expense of \$1.2 K for table at the 2023 Primed|CANADA Continuing Medical Education Conference & Trade Show in May

March 2023 Year to Date

- Surplus of \$1.0 K compares favorably to budgeted deficiency of \$9.4 K
- Contributions of \$27.7 K were \$1.9 K above budget
- Literature sales of \$43.6 K were \$13.6 K higher than budget and 34% greater than March 2022 YTD because of increasing attendance at in-person A.A. meetings and several large orders in March
- Expenses were lower than budget by 6% due to committee and operating that are expected to increase during the year

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**
- Mail a cheque or money order payable to “**Toronto Intergroup**” 202-234 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST TORONTO ON M4P 1K5
- Monthly pre-authorized bank debit by contacting the Intergroup office at litdept@aatoronto.org

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Chair not present.

Julie G. (Markham Village), OC Liaison, mentioned the following points:

- The ‘80 Years of AA in Ontario’ book has been selling well
- The East Toronto Archives Breakfast will be held this Saturday (see Chair’s Opening Remarks). Last-minute ticket purchases can be arranged through archives@aatoronto.org
- An Archives Workshop will be held in the boardroom at 234 on Sat. June 10 (in conjunction with Area 83 Archives Committee). The Workshop will feature a tour of the Archives Repository and give attendees instructions on how to create a AA group history (more details to follow)

- The Canada-wide Archives Workshop will be held in Sudbury in September

COMMUNICATIONS: Chair not present.

Marvyn shared that the Communications Chair has resigned just recently for personal reasons, a new Chairperson is needed immediately. Two years of sobriety is required for this service position. Please send service resumes to admin@aatoronto.org. Kelli T., OC Liaison, then shared the following: the committee met on Tues. Apr.4. We have a brand new Better Times Editor, Alice N. She did a super job on the April issue. Stories/submissions: bettertimes@aatoronto.org. Work on the website is ongoing. We have a 'skeleton crew' working on this initiative, so any volunteers are welcome to assist. Please email Kelli at comm.liaison@aatoronto.org if you can help. Printed meeting directory: verification of correct information for all the meetings listed on the site is needed first in order to generate a printed meeting directory.

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

Info AA Day report April 25th, 2023

May 27th is fast approaching and so is Info AA day!

We patiently await the delegate report and the GSO conference coordinator to be present for: a) The delegate report on the conference which is held on the week of April 21-29, and b) The G.S.O. speaker, which will be Diana Lewis, the GSO Conference Coordinator.

I am sure and positive that we will have a very good day.

The Info AA day is held this year at the Bloordale United Church located at 4258 Bloor St West close to the Kipling station and there is a bus stop, closest at Markland Dr. and a little walk back of 5 minutes to the church by taking the TTC route 49.

The tickets priced at \$10 to cover the cost of the venue and the GSO Speaker included a potluck lunch will be available at the door or your District Committee Member has some available.

The agenda also includes a presentation from the different committees and it is a good opportunity to learn how you can be involved in one of those committees.

Also, to give more time for Questions and Answers at those presentations and there would be 15 minutes for each committee and we will have the benefit to use two rooms for those.

Choose the committee that pinches an interest in your mind and ask the questions that you would like to have answers.

The delegate will present his report before lunch and in the afternoon we will have Intergroup doing a presentation of their committee and again it would be time to ask the question that is never asked.

- What is the phone greeter role?
- What is the meeting to-go?
- What is the difference between a meeting to-go and a twelve Steps call?
- How can I participate in one of those committees?

After the Intergroup presentation we will hear from the G.S.O. Conference coordinator about what it is the objective of the conference and what is happening at the General Service Office. Again, time for asking questions!

Thanks to you for your most precious moment. Bert J., Info AA Day Chair 2023

IT SUBCOMMITTEE: Chair not present; the following email report was submitted:

Completed

- 12 Step Greeter System RFP Review
- Acquisition of New Greeter System – Unite Communications

In Process

- Replacement of current Firewall - looking at various options including cloud based solution 234 Hybrid Conferencing system – on hold
- Unite Communications Greeter System replacing Callture

Greeter Scheduling Replacement

Unite Communications Selected

- Currently being used by Ottawa Intergroup and Toronto ALANON
- Phase I Project underway and expected to be implemented by May 7th (greeter system on Callture VOIP)
- Phase II Unite Communications VOIP replacing Callture VOIP

Firewall Replacement

- Multiple options being reviewed and tested
- Fortinet support on current solution ends October 2023
- Current support contract expires May 25th and we will look to extend month to month until replacement if selected and fully tested.

-IT Sub Committee

Submitted by Michael W., Chair

April 25, 2023

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2023: Chair not present.

Marvyn shared that a wrap-up report of this year's ORC event will be presented to the Floor at the May General Meeting.

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

The only item on the recent agenda has been the new phone system, for which we are so grateful. The Project Manager, Brad K, and I have had a couple of meetings with our Account Manager at Unite, and we are making steady progress towards transitioning from Callture to Unite very soon. We don't have an actual date set yet, but it could be as soon as two or three weeks. We just have to find out what needs to be done to prepare the greeters, both in establishing equipment requirements and also whatever training may need to be done. Since the new system is similar in execution as the old one, it should be a relatively minimal learning curve.

The other item involves some very pertinent suggestions regarding our presence on the website brought to our committee by two of our newest, youngest and enthusiastic members. I'm not sure about the protocol, whether they can present here or if I can give you a nutshell version of their proposal, but the rest of the committee thinks their ideas are excellent.

Yours in Love and Service, Laura V.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2023

Marvyn shared that the committee meetings will commence in August. Tony Z. (Bloordale), 2022 event Chair, will remain as event Chair for 2023. Stay tuned!

WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON 2023

Marvyn shared that the committee meetings will commence in August. David P. (Birds of a Feather), 2022 event Chair, will remain as event Chair for 2023. Stay tuned!

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: John Q. (Markham Village), Committee member

John reported that the committee is utilizing the Accessibilities Checklist from the Area 83 website (<https://www.aa.org/accessibilities-checklist-meetings-and-groups>) and a committee-generated checklist in order to determine meetings in the GTA that are accessible. The main focus at this point is whether meeting entrances are accessible. The findings from these checklists will be reported to the Floor next month.

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Chair not present.

Graham D., OC Liaison, mentioned the following:

- A new Corrections Chair is needed
- 10 people were in attendance at a recent Toronto South facility AA meeting (D06)
- 23 inquiries about Corrections service opportunities were received at the ORC via the Corrections table at the event; all inquiries were answered
- Monthly committee meeting: first Wed. of the month at 7:30 p.m. (virtual)
- Meeting ID: 883 8002 9737 Passcode: 950392
- For inquiries, please contact corrections.liaison@aatoronto.org

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY/PUBLIC INFORMATION: Joe A. (OPAAT), Chairperson

Prepared by Joe A., OPAAT, CPC PI GTAI Chair

- Would like to thank GTAI Operating Committee for supporting our table at the upcoming in-person Pri Med Conference, in Mississauga, May 10-12/23
- I attended / participated in the Area 83 PI and CPC Pre Conference Agenda Sessions held online April 1/23. Our Area 83 Delegate James O'D used the feedback from the groups / individual members to shape his voice / vote at the 73rd General Service Conference in New York (Apr 23-29/23)
- I was asked to participate in the Area 83 PI Service Day workshop. My presentation was about the start to finish process of a local CPC / PI Committee staffing a table on behalf of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services at a national, third party conference
- In D12, the Chair has been busy reaching out to naturopaths, having accompanied a couple of these professionals to open AA meetings... Also been invited to participate in a presentation to that community... Asked to present in a summer workshop at Sospitas Mental Health Centre, in North York
- D18 Chair, noticing an opportunity to reach out to professionals who hold a Masters in Social Work. Perhaps at OISE (U of T) and York U. Inspired by young professionals
- D22 Chair, recently made presentations to staff in a Scarborough Men's Shelter, and at the COTA health centre.... There's likely a place for AA literature and information at U of T Scarborough, Centennial College, and Scarborough branches of Toronto Public Library. Such grassroots efforts still in the early stage
- D6 always active; this month pursuing information posters and QR codes at the TTC. Designed 8.5 x 11 sized posters being distributed in the District

GRAPEVINE: Chair not present.

Kelli T., OC Liaison, mentioned that there is no Grapevine Chair at the present time; no Grapevine committee meetings are being held at this time.

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, Member, Marvyn W OC Liaison, Bert J DCM D22, Lori L D06 Self-Support Chair, Larry V D18 Self-Support Chair, Patricia T, D18 Alt Self-Support Chair, Kathie T Area 83 Self-Support Chair
3. Meeting was opened with a Moment of Silence and the Serenity Prayer
4. Bert J read the 12 Traditions
5. Moved by Lori, Seconded by Larry V. that the minutes of last meeting be approved. carried
6. Attendance – 6 members were in attendance however only 3 of these members were District Chairs.
7. Lori gave her report on D06 – She will be presenting a presentation at PCAS Self-Support at 1:30; David gave report on D10; Larry is visiting Groups to emphasize Self-Support; Bert J reported that District 22 has no Self-Support Chair; Marvyn gave a brief report on Intergroup Financial Status, new Phone System for Greeters, 80 year book on History of AA in Ontario, List of groups which started in April will be listed in the Better Times.; Kathie T also brought up PCAS and spoke on literature changes to 12 and 12 which members have complained about and this will be one of the subjects of the General Service Conference; also, the Area Assembly Apr 14-16

will be Hybrid; She is also working on a 5 minute power point presentation which chairs will be able to use in their districts.

8. Self-Support Cans – David showed what a self-support can will look like and sent a copy to all members so they can create their own cans. The copy was from the former Thornhill group which has closed
9. Suggested contributions to GSO for Groups and Members:
72,136 Groups and 1, 400, 000 members (approximately)
Total Operating Expenses: $17,520,000.00 / 72,136 = 155.57$ 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.
10. 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.
11. The Group Challenge is based on every member of your group giving the equivalent of \$8.01 US
12. 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.
13. David and Eddy G will be bringing some books to the Area Assembly for those who wish to purchase them privately as we don't think we will be allowed to have a table. Cost \$20.95 which includes GST.

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

TREATMENT: No report.

AREA 83 REPORT: No report.

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

Graham reported that there were 28 Reps, 5 Alternate Reps, 5 OC Members, 4 Subcommittee Chairs, 3 District Liaisons and 3 Visitors present at this meeting, for a total attendance of 51 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Currently, there is an **ad hoc committee** that is endeavouring to search for groups in the GTA 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, and making progress in identifying groups that are not currently represented at the Intergroup level.

Angela was present this evening, and gave the following verbal report on to the Floor:

"I'm happy to report that we've been making some progress on our endeavours. We were able to create a list of all groups that either do not have an Intergroup Rep or Alternate Rep. We will be providing this list to all the Intergroup Reps that currently attend the monthly General Meeting in the hopes that active Reps/Alternates can sign up and volunteer to attend those 'inactive' meetings with the goal of touching base with the group secretary. The idea is to ask the secretary/group contact a) if they want to invite the ad hoc committee to their next business meeting, to let them know about Intergroup service participation/service opportunities; or b) have the group secretary impart the information, advising interested members to contact Intergroup. To this aid, we are currently working on an information flyer; a draft has been submitted to committee members for approval. The flyer will feature 2 QR codes (very unique!). One QR code will take you to the aatoronto.org website and the other QR code will take you to the Information AA Day Flyer. This also allows us to spread the word about Information AA Day to interested members. Hopefully we can get the flyer out soon. Thanks!"

Marvyn then spoke on **last month's Motion:**

"After the Motion was passed last month to host future monthly General Meetings back at Timothy Eaton Church and have a hybrid option for attending, we had to start making a plan. We had to secure a venue space within the church. We've had success in securing a room for our General Meetings (see below). One of the nice things about this room is that the church has given us a discount. We used to pay \$250 per month for the gymnasium; now we will only pay \$150 a month for this new meeting space. This was the first step. The second step is that we've assigned our IT Subcommittee Liaison, Don H., to approach the IT Subcommittee and ask for recommendations on how to facilitate the hybrid part of the General Meetings. The hybrid option is for members who don't want to attend in person. What we're

hoping will occur is that either Don H. or the IT Subcommittee Chair, Michael W., will come back to a future General Meeting with a thorough report with recommendations to include protecting anonymity, technical considerations, etc. I think it's going to work out well. Hopefully by next month's meeting will have a definite time and date when this will be launched (either June or July)."

Timothy Eaton Church: Room 107, Allan Beattie Room



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](#)
[Communications Chairperson](#)
[Better Times Editor \(1 more\)](#)
[2025 ORC Chairperson](#)
[Website Administrator \('Webmaster'\) + Alternate](#)

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 Jeff D. (Kipling) and seconded by John C. (Pine Hills). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 30 at 8 p.m. (virtual meeting).**