

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 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 Don H. (Living Sober/OC member).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Aurora, Back to Basics, Beaches, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Dry on Danforth, Fellowship, Friendly, Harbourfront, High Park, Hill, Kipling, Leslie, Living Sober, Love & Tolerance, Meadowvale Fellowship, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, Noon Rap, North Toronto, OPAAT, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Rox Glen Traditional, Sisters in Sobriety, St. Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Tuesday Men's Solution, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 12, 14 and 22.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Archives, CPC/PI, Info AA Day 2024, I.T. Subcommittee, ORC 2024, Twelfth Step, Winter Season Virtual Alkathon.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JULY 2023

ERRORS/OMISSIONS: None recorded.

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Jeff D. (Kipling) and seconded by David T. (St. Clements).
The Motion was carried. (100% in favour)

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

Marvyn shared the following with those present:

GTAI SUBCOMMITTEES

6.3 Chairpersons of Subcommittees

- The Operating Committee appoints the chairpersons of the GTAI subcommittees listed in 6.1, to perform the service functions required. Exception is the ORC chair, who is appointed by the ORC. ORC Advisory Committee (see section 11.4)
- Sole criterion (aside from a sobriety requirement identical to that for an Intergroup Representative (or an Alternate) for selection as GTA Subcommittee chairpersons is their ability to perform the duties and tasks of the office.
- Chairpersons of all GTA subcommittees (except ORC chair) hold their appointments at the pleasure of the Operating Committee and may be removed before the expiry of their term by a 2/3 vote of the members of the Operating Committee.
- Chairpersons of the GTA subcommittees have the responsibility to adhere to the policies established by the Operating Committee.
- Chairperson of each GTA subcommittee is responsible to ensure that the effective strength of the subcommittee does not fall below three persons.
- Terms of office:
 - Chair for Archives Committee serves for an indefinite term, at the pleasure of the OC
 - Term for the Finance Committee Chair is 2 years
 - Chairpersons of all other GTAI subcommittees are appointed for term of one year and may be reappointed for a second term with OC approval.
- Chair appointments are reviewed annually by the OC.
- **GTAI Procedures and Guidelines re: Subcommittees:** "Back in 2022 we started a journey; we were handed a procedures and guidelines that was approved by the GTA floor in 2019... our job was to adhere to those principles. We've done a really good thing over the last two years. We do believe in transparency; so we want to point something out tonight. Under 6.3 'Chairpersons of Subcommittees' Subcommittee Chairpersons -- other than Archives and Finance -- are appointed for one year. They may be reappointed for a second term with OC approval. We've done that pretty well [with this]. The Communications committee we had in 2019-2020 was [chaired by] David P. (Birds of a Feather), then we had Carla T. (Welcome) up until 2022. We brought on Aaron K. (Yorkville) for

one year and now we have Ted D. (Rox Glen Traditional) who is serving a one-year term. WSOH: Tony Z. (Bloordale) was appointed 2022 Event Chair. He did a great job and decided he wanted to serve as 2023 Event Chair. He will be rotating off after this year. The same thing with WSWA; David P. will be serving as Chair for a second year.”

“The one subcommittee that we’ve had an issue with ‘spirit of rotation’ is the Twelfth Step Committee. Laura V. (Mount Royal-York) was appointed Chair of the Twelfth Step Committee in July of 2020; she served one year. The Operating Committee at that time saw how great a job she did, so they offered her another year to serve. Last year – although we tried very hard – we could not find a new Twelfth Step Committee Chair, so we offered Laura another year (on top of the two years previously served) and she agreed. Laura is probably one of the most passionate members of AA in the GTA. We asked her if she would consider doing one more year, which will be up until August of 2024. She has accepted the role and we’ve got a good person who wants to serve. The Twelfth Step committee is important to the livelihood of AA.”

“What we’d like to do is ask the Fellowship to try to find a Twelfth Step Alternate Chair for Laura and the Twelfth Step Committee; a member that can learn from her and who can possibly serve as Chair in August of 2024. Please keep that in mind, and announce to your group members.”

- **GTAI Meeting Directory Printing (Sept 2023 edition):** will be available for purchase in the Literature Department in approximately two weeks.
- **September 26 GTAI Monthly General Meeting:** Elections will be held for **2024 GTAI Operating Committee Chairperson and 2024 OC Vice-Chair**. Service Position descriptions will be sent out to all via group email distribution list shortly.

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

Motion to Suspend Regular Business – Elections for Incoming Operating Committee Member (1)
 MOTION to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Paul S. (Birds of a Feather) and seconded by David T. (St. Clements). Motion was carried. **Election for a new Operating Committee Member:** Marvyn outlined the qualifications (2 years of continuous sobriety) and service commitments for this position and asked if anyone present would like to stand for the position. After briefly addressing the Floor, **Luke G. (High Park) will serve as a new OC member (by acclamation).**

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

	July 2023 (1 month)							July 2023 Year-to-Date (7 months)							
	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Variance	%	Actual 2022	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Actual 2022	Variance	%
Contributions	12,509	8,611	3,898	45%	7,927	4,582	58%	71,855	60,274	11,581	19%	71,855	58,504	13,351	23%
Literature Sales	9,585	10,000	(415)	(4%)	8,594	991	12%	103,405	70,000	33,405	48%	103,405	70,902	32,503	46%
= Total Revenues	22,094	18,611	3,483	19%	16,521	5,573	34%	175,260	130,274	44,986	35%	175,260	129,406	45,854	35%
- Cost of Sales	6,016	6,500	(484)	(7%)	5,248	768	15%	67,712	45,500	22,212	49%	67,712	42,191	25,521	60%
- Expenses	14,105	15,149	(1,044)	(7%)	13,398	707	5%	133,992	111,854	22,138	20%	133,992	96,228	37,764	39%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	1,973	(3,038)	5,011		(2,125)	4,098		(26,444)	(27,080)	636		(26,444)	(9,013)	(17,431)	
Prudent Reserve Account Market Value at July 31, 2023 = \$298 K. 2023 Prudent Reserve Target = \$268 K.															

As some of you are aware, A.A. World Services increased their prices for books and pamphlets on April 1st, 2023. This was their first price increase since 2014. The price increases were generally for books 20% and pamphlets 30%. The Literature Department and Finance Committee decided to delay increasing Intergroup's prices for several months but now the increases need to be reflected in our prices in order to maintain the contribution literature sales make to

Intergroup's bottom line. Our new pricing will go into effect on September 19th and an updated price list and catalog will be available from the Literature Department shortly.

July 2023

- Contributions of \$12.5 K were 45% greater than the budgeted \$8.6 K and \$4.6 K greater than July 2022
- Literature sales of \$9.6 K were 4% less than budget and were 12% greater than July 2022
- Expenses of \$14.1 K were \$1.0 K below the budgeted \$15.1 K
- In June there were no committee expenses
- Surplus of \$2.0 K was \$5.0 K favorable to budget

July 2023 Year to Date

- Intergroup is good financial shape with the prudent reserve market value just above target
- Contributions of \$71.9 K were 19% greater than the budgeted \$60.3 K and were 23% greater than YTD July 2022
- Literature sales of \$103.4 K are above budget by \$33.4 K and 46% above YTD July 2022
- Expenses were \$134.0 K and included \$34.3 K unbudgeted HR related costs
- Excluding these unbudgeted expenses, committee expenses were under budget \$6.4 K, operating expenses under budget \$4.4 K and staff expenses under budget \$1.4 K
- Deficit of \$26.4 K was \$0.6 K favorable to budget

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

Our Archivist, Eddy G. (Beaches) has been busy doing the following tasks in the Archives Repository:

- Going over AA materials, donated by families of deceased members;
- Attending group anniversaries, recording the meetings for archival purposes;
- Attending long timer medallion celebrations, recording the meetings for archival purposes;
- Putting up the Archives display (upon request) at groups and roundups

Again, Eddy has a very capable assistant, David T. (St. Clements/Former Area 83 Archivist) who assists Eddy in the above tasks, and is also tasked with sanitizing (taking out last names) meeting/district/Area business meeting minutes, and attending Archives events all over Ontario.

Upcoming Events: **National AA Archives Workshop in Sudbury:** September 7-9. Please see the event flyer on our website www.aatoronto.org. For members wanting to attend this event, we are going to have AA Archivists from all across the country and some parts of the U.S.

The annual **GTAI Archives Breakfast event – both date and venue – are currently up in the air.** As a committee, we were faced with the prospect of charging members \$45 for the event (at the previous location: the Oasis Convention Centre, Mississauga). The committee has decided that this is excessive. We as a capable committee are currently exploring all kinds of creative solutions and at a less expensive cost with the same amount of services provided (i.e. breakfast options). Or...even make it better! So please bear with us; we will have more information on this after our meeting in September. We will give you an update at the end of September.”

COMMUNICATIONS: Kelli T. (Hill), OC Liaison (reading report from Communications Chair, Ted D.)

The September issue of better times is expected out this week. There will be a run of 400 copies so pick your group's up at 234. The September issue follows the new 4-page concise format; printed the on smaller pages and in black and white (grayscale) and is expected to save printing costs.

BT has traditionally focused on certain themes. For example, the upcoming issues; October is "gratitude", November is "remembrance", and December is "staying sober thru the holidays". Perhaps a February issue with an extra 1-page double sided insert may deal with the mental health of our AA readers in one of the darkest months of the year. As always "we would love to hear your recovery story" or that of a friend at bettertimes@aatoronto.org. Finally, welcome aboard Luke G. of the High Park Group who will be providing layout and graphic (cartoon?) support for BT editor Alice N. Thank you, to our webmaster Imran and your assistants Gerrad and Kyle. Indeed, thank you to the many members of the Fellowship who call to provide feedback for the needed "fixes." The website will continue in its evolution and development. Imran will be developing a short instructional video to assist future webmasters and assistants in the feeding and maintenance of the site. The communications committee is meeting to come up with criteria for our web administrators to handle new meeting submissions. This will be reported at the next operations committee meeting. In love and service, Ted D.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2024: Julie G. (Markham Village), 2024 Event Chair

Info AA day is a one day event that happens at the end of May each year that aims to inform the membership about the services performed by the various committees in the GTA. This is a joint initiative that the 8 General Service Districts in the GTA and the GTA Intergroup work together to put on. As well as learning about the service structure of AA beyond your home group, Info AA day is also an opportunity to hear our Area 83 Delegates report and learn all about what has happened at the General Conference in New York AND we also invite a General Service Board staff member to come from New York and share their story, their service journey and an overview of things happening at the General Service Office.

Our first meeting is Monday September 25th, and we will continue to meet on the last Monday of the month on zoom at 7 pm. I will be emailing out meeting invitations in the next week to all the DCM's and Alternative DCMs, Service committee Chairs and Operating committee members. We welcome any other members interested in helping put on this event to come along.

Meeting ID 811 8277 5978

PW 587553

With Gratitude, Julie G., Info AA Day Chair

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

Michael shared the following: "Some quick background: about three years ago, there was a decision made to migrate the current phone system to some new technology and a new supplier. At the same time (this was right around COVID) we implemented a [phone] greeter system that would allow greeters to work remotely. Over the last three years, both that phone system and the office phone system has been fraught with problems and supplier support concerns. I'm happy to report that – as of last week – we've completed migrated the phone system to a new supplier/new technology. Everything has been tested '10 ways to Sunday' to everyone's satisfaction. This new solution is more effective and less expensive. A few 'cosmetic' things are being worked out. I'd like to thank the people that were involved in this process, as this was a very significant endeavour in order to support office staff and the greeter community. I'd like to thank the new Office Manager (Shareena) and our Finance Chair, Cam B., for their tireless support. I'd like to thank the Twelfth Step Chair/greeters in the testing of this new system. I'd like to thank Brad K., IT committee member, who was project manager for the transition. In my 50 years in the technology world, I can't say that a project was so smoothly transitioned. Last but not least, I'd like to thank the Operating Committee for the service opportunity for the last three years; it's been rewarding and challenging at times, but that's okay. Thank you, Marvyn, and good luck on your search for a new IT Subcommittee Chair!"

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024: Lisa W. (Erin Mills), 2024 Event Chairperson (verbal report)

The annual event will be held March 15, 16, and 17, 2024 at the Sheraton Hotel, Toronto. Registration cost is \$55 and banquet tickets are \$105. **Pre-Registration launch will occur in mid-September.** Due to feedback/suggestions from event attendees in 2023, the hotel will be providing coffee/tee/pop/juice on the concert level. Event posters/flyers will be provided to groups at the end of September; some of these will be dropped off at the Intergroup office for those interested. 100 placards have been printed. Event registration forms in hard copy will not be available but will be in a

printable format online. ORC 2025 Event Chair will be Eddy G. (Beaches). **An ORC 2025 Treasurer is needed!** Please pass this on to your groups.

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

Let it be known that all of the phones at 234 Eglinton, both office and Help Line, have been successfully transitioned from Callture to Unite. The first in-house phone greeter will do the 9:00 to 1:00 shift tomorrow morning under Kelli's supervision, largely as a test run to make sure everything is buttoned down. The rest of them will migrate after Labour Day by their choice.

I'd like to thank Michael and his IT Committee, with a special mention Brad K and Bart B who did all the advance testing to make sure this could happen seamlessly. The few Help Line glitches we had early days resolved almost immediately, within the hour at least, working together with Unite who has an excellent ticketing and support system in place to deal with issues as they arise.

We of the 12th Step Committee are especially grateful as we've been dealing with nothing but problems for such a long time, and now for the first month with Unite we've only had a handful of complaints from the greeters, which were mostly people getting used to a new system.

Now I'm going to turn it over to our liaison, Kelli, to fill in the details. Thank you all for your ongoing support and for allowing me to serve you as the 12-Step Committee Chair.

Kelli then informed members **about the in-house greeter protocol**: "After three and a half years, and much work done by many members, Intergrout is ready to welcome 12 Step Greeters back to the office! The office looks great; everything is working the way it needs to work. I just want to assure our members that we will still be using remote greeters. Now, greeters will have a choice. With the in-house greeters, the schedule is Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. **If you could please announce to your home groups that any interest in these shifts can contact our Greeter Coordinator at greetercoordinator@aatoronto.org**

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2023

Committee meetings will commence in September. Tony Z. (Bloordale), 2022 event Chair, will remain as event Chair for 2023. Jomana A. (Stepping Stones) will serve as OC Liaison.

Winter Season Open House 2023 Committee Meeting Dates*

*All Committee Meetings will be held in person at:
Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke (Room 14)

- **Sunday, September 17 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday, October 22 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday, November 19 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday, December 10 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

A Kitchen Coordinator is needed! Please email wsch@aatoronto.org for more information

WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON 2023: David P. (Birds of a Feather), Event Chairperson

The Winter Season Virtual Alkathon held its first meeting a couple of weeks ago and we filled the following positions: Secretary (Sue G.), Tech Chair (Amanda J.) and Webmaster (Greg R.). There are still other positions to fill, such as our tech team, a schedule master, as well as groups to fill up the final schedule. We talked about tweaking the schedule from last year's event, a decision which will probably be finalized at the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be **Wednesday Sept 6 at 8 PM**. The link for the meeting is:

ID# 810 4747 2912 / Password 727922

It is not too early to remind your home groups about our event, now in its 4th year. The holidays will be here soon, and we would like to fill up the schedule for this year exclusively with local groups, if possible.

Serving on our committee is also an ideal position for a newcomer, because it does not require a lot of time (4 months, one online meeting per month), nor does it require any lengthy sobriety time. We also provide training for anyone who is interested in joining our tech team, in case they are unsure about that. You just need to show up!

Please send us an email at winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org, or simply show up next Wednesday. Thank you for letting me be of service. David P., WSV Chair

After David's report, Marvyn added that Imran M. (volunteer web developer) will be posting meeting hosting slots available for groups to volunteer for during the event time frame. Stay tuned!

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES: Julie G. (Markham Village), OC Liaison

The committee are finalizing the Accessibilities Checklist for groups; streamlining it so it will be less confusing for groups to fill out. The committee also discussed awareness of other accessible barriers such as remote communities and women with children trying to access/attend AA meetings. If you are interested in this subcommittee, please reach out to access@aatoronto.org

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: No report.

Graham D., OC Vice-Chair (who serves as Correctional Facilities Liaison) informed members that the committee meeting has changed to the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 883 8002 9737 PW: 950392
A new chairperson will be announced next month.

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

Prepared by Joe A, Acting CPC PI Chair:

This committee could use support. Any member of AA interested in sharing public information to the professional community about what Alcoholics Anonymous does and doesn't do, is welcomed to check us out. If AA doesn't define itself in the public sphere, the public will do so. Welcome to Ky T-H., who will serve as the new OC Liaison to CPC/PI. Our next CPC PI Meeting is online via zoom at 7pm on Mon Sept 18, 2023. Thanks, Joe A., acting CPC/PI Chairperson

GRAPEVINE: No report. **Grapevine Chair is needed.**

Kelli T., OC Secretary, mentioned that District Grapevine Chairs are attending the Area 83 Grapevine meeting monthly.

SELF SUPPORT: No report.

Jomana A., new OC member, is the new Self-Support Liaison. She will be attending the upcoming committee meeting this Thursday (July 27).

TREATMENT: No report.

Marvyn shared that he attended the July Treatment Committee meeting; 9 were in attendance which is encouraging. 60 copies of the August Better Times were given to this committee for distribution in various treatment facilities. Also, there is a feature article By Walter Y. (District 12) in the September Better Times emphasizing the importance of AA meetings held in treatment facilities.

AREA 83 REPORT: No report.

RECEPTION: Graham D., Operating Committee Vice-Chair

Present were 22 Reps, 3 Alternate Reps, 7 OC Members, 7 Subcommittee Chairs, 3 District Liaisons and 4 Visitors, for a total attendance of 49 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item 1: Angela O. (Mount Royal-York) presented the **ad hoc Committee Recommendation Report** to the Floor at this meeting (full report in the Appendix Section of these Minutes). Angela gave a brief overview of her committee's findings; highlighting items such as the impact on the pandemic affecting attendance at groups. Findings for this report were based on inquiries made to groups in districts 06, 10, and 12. After entertaining questions from members,

Motion to accept the ad hoc Committee Recommendation Report moved by Christian H. (Tuesday Men's Discussion) and seconded by Jeff N. (Friendly). Motion carried. (100% in favour).

Marvyn mentioned to Floor members that implementation of the recommendation report findings will be discussed at the September Operating Committee meeting, and will be reported back to the Intergroup Floor at either the September or October GTAI monthly meeting (time permitting, due to Elections).

Item 2: Plans for holding the **monthly GTAI General Meeting as hybrid** is still in process; we are waiting on IT Committee recommendations in terms of tech applications, and there is the consideration of a new IT Chair that will be rotating in to their service role. **Volunteers will be needed** to assist at the in-person location (Timothy Eaton Church) with regards to tech applications to facilitate the monthly meeting. We will report to you in either October or November with progress on this ongoing initiative; although we are estimating that implementation of the hybrid meeting will occur in the spring of 2024.

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 \(12 Step Calls\)](#)

[IT Subcommittee Chairperson](#)

[Workshop Chairperson](#)

[GTAI Operating Committee Chairperson \(Jan 2024\)](#)

[GTAI Operating Committee Vice- Chair \(Jan 2024\)](#)

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS: Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and dedication to service. A special welcome to our new OC member, Luke G.!

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Bill L. (Living Sober) and seconded by Jeff N. (Friendly). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 26 at 8 p.m. (virtual meeting).**

ELECTIONS for GTAI Operating Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chair will be held at this meeting.

**ATTRACTING INTERGROUP REPS:
AD HOC COMMITTEE FINAL RECOMMENDATION REPORT**

August 28, 2023

Background

At the GTA Intergroup (“GTAI”) General Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday, August 30, 2022, Angela O. (Mount Royal-York) mentioned that her group had had a recent discussion at their business meeting about their concerns regarding group participation at the Intergroup level. It seems that a large number of groups are not represented in light of their non-attendance at the monthly General Meeting and/or are generally not familiar with the GTA Intergroup.

As a result of this discussion, Angela inquired on August 30, 2022 about the possibility of establishing an ad hoc committee to visit registered AA groups in the GTA who are currently not attending the monthly GTAI General Meeting. The aim was to encourage participation at the Intergroup service level. The following motion was put to the Intergroup floor by Angela O. seconded by Jeff B. (Stepping Stones):

Motion to create an ad hoc committee to visit registered AA groups in the GTA who are currently not attending/not represented at the monthly GTAI General Meeting, and to encourage participation at the Intergroup service level.

A discussion ensued. Items raised during the discussion – aside from the general consensus that it was a great idea – included obtaining an accurate list of groups that do not have Intergroup Representatives (Joanne S., Anniversary) and consideration of online home groups in this process (David T., Welcome).

A vote was taken, and twenty-seven members were in favour of the motion and the motion passed, leading to the motion being carried. The Operating Committee Chair, Marvyn W., inquired as to whether Angela O. would be willing to facilitate the committee moving forward, and she readily agreed.

Ad Hoc Committee Members

According to the Operating Committee Chair, ad hoc committees are short-term duration committees that usually last between 4 to 6 months. Their purpose is to gather information, create discussion, and come to a Final Recommendation Report to give back to the GTA Intergroup floor, and allow the GTAI Operating Committee (“OC”) an opportunity to consider and act on the recommendations.

Currently, four members have volunteered to be part of this initiative, including Angela O. (Ad Hoc Committee Chair), Kelli T. (OC Secretary), Jeff D. (Intergroup Rep, Kipling), Julie G. (District 18 Access Liaison), and Laura V. (Honorary Committee Member and 12 Step Committee Chair).

Other OC members and Intergroup reps and alternates were also invited to participate at the GTA Intergroup meeting on September 27, 2023 and again on May 30, 2023.

In aid of this initiative, the ad hoc committee sought the assistance and input of the GTA District Committee Members (“DCMs”) and Assistant District Committee Members (“ADCMs”) so that we could establish a current list of active groups for a more accurate determination of groups not presently represented at the Intergroup level. However, the ad hoc committee clarified from the outset that its focus would be would be Intergroup reps and Alternative Reps.

While the ad hoc committee’s mandate does not extend to General Service Representatives (“GSRs”) at this time, the members of the committee expressed willingness to assist in future efforts aimed at increasing the participation of home groups in Area 83 at the district level, and in particular to share best practices learned from the present initiative.

Methodology

The OC Secretary provided the ad hoc committee with a list of home groups that attended the GTAI meeting on October 25, 2022. This list included the names of those who registered to attend the meeting as Intergroup reps and Alternate reps. This allowed the ad hoc committee to come up with a list of groups that appeared not to have an Intergroup Rep or Alternate Rep as of December 2022. We were also provided with a list of districts in our area, which enabled us to easily identify who the DCMs/ADCMs were for each group so they could be included in the process as required. There are

currently 8 districts in Area 83, which includes districts 2, 6, 10, 12, 14, 18, 22 and 16-SP (Spanish).

We used this information to create a fresh list with only those groups who did not attend the December 2022 meeting. The said list was sorted by the 8 service districts. Additionally, the number of group members was also recorded in the spreadsheet so we could prioritize home groups with the most members. We ended up with 145 groups to follow up with.

The idea was for our committee members or volunteers to attend home group meetings across the GTA, preferably in person, and ask the group secretary, the main contact of the group, or a group member why they are currently not participating at the Intergroup level. We would then ask them if they wanted to:

- a) invite the ad hoc committee volunteer to their next business meeting, to let them know about Intergroup service participation/service opportunities and the importance of each home group having an intergroup rep;
- b) have the group secretary or main contact person impart the information to their group, inviting interested members to contact the ad hoc committee volunteer or Intergroup.

To this end, Jeff D worked on an information flyer and submitted it to the committee members for approval. The flyer gave an overview of Intergroup and the goal was for it to be used to recruit member volunteers to do outreach to the groups. It also featured two QR codes that linked to the AA Toronto website ([AAToronto.org](https://aatoronto.org)) and the Info AA Day page on the website, which was very unique! Once the flyer was approved, it was shared with the members via screen sharing at the May 30, 2023 GTAI meeting.

It should be noted that the flyer has since been updated. We removed the Info AA Day QR code as the event was held on May 27, 2023 and has now passed. It is a .png file and it can easily be converted to another file format and shared via SMS, email, WhatsApp, and much more. Our hope is that it will be distributed along with the monthly GTAI minutes and monthly meeting pre- registration email that Intergroup Reps and others receive every month.

Progress Report

In July 2023, the committee updated the list of home groups with no Intergroup Rep or Alternate Rep by district. The list was uploaded to Google Drive and shared via a link. The folder also contains maps of Area 83 and GTA districts, the updated Intergroup flyer, and a sample volunteer meeting schedule for the month of August 2023.

The spreadsheet indicates whether the meetings are active, not in the database, cancelled until further notice, or inactive. This is all based on the information the committee obtained from the meetings database on the revamped [AA Toronto website](https://aatoronto.org). The committee also found that there are meetings with names in the database that don't exactly match the names the committee was provided when it launched this initiative last year, so there is a need to ascertain whether the groups highlighted in yellow in the spreadsheet go by the names indicated in red. Moreover, the committee added the meeting schedule for each group in the spreadsheet and indicated whether the meetings are held online or in person for the volunteers' convenience.

Committee members were encouraged to pick one or two districts and attend a few meetings in the month of August 2023, then report back to the committee by email.

So far, the committee has attended all active meetings in Districts 10 and 12, most of which were in person, and some meetings in District 6. Detailed comments gathered from the groups visited have been shared with the OC Chair and are attached to this report. However, the table has been anonymized in order to safeguard the anonymity of the persons who shared information about their group and to encourage other group members to do so in future. Although the committee volunteers obtained their contact details for purposes of following up, neither their names nor their contact information, nor their home group name has been shared outside the committee.

What follows is a summary of the reasons provided by the groups visited in Districts 6, 10 and 12 in the month of August 2023 for not attending intergroup meetings:

- The Intergroup Rep went travelling without informing the Alternate Rep, leading to miscommunication.
- The group's in-person meetings resumed only in May 2023, with attendance currently below 10 members. They will decide the group's future at the end of the month.
- Due to their small size (about 10 members), they have opted not to have an Intergroup Rep or GSR, as it

would conflict with their meeting schedule.

- The group has a Secretary and Treasurer and they hold business meetings each month, but there are no volunteers for other service positions. There are only 3 active members.
- The group has 20 members and has been around for over 30 years. They will follow up on Intergroup matters at their fall business meeting.
- The group's recent business meetings had low attendance due to the summer. They will try to identify the current Intergroup Rep or send another member to the meetings.
- Despite a member's 10-year effort, there appears to be a lack of understanding of district and Intergroup roles. They have their own roles, including a director.
- The group doesn't have enough members, and there is no one who can take on the Intergroup Rep commitment in a responsible manner.
- The venue was locked, preventing the meeting from taking place.
- Service meeting with no members; attendance varied during the pandemic.
- No AA meetings at the location (CAMH) but other 12-step meetings continue.
- There is a lack of clarity among the group members about who is supposed to attend Intergroup meetings.
- The group was formed in June 2022 and has 4 members today; the Intergroup Rep was appointed recently and missed last month's meeting, but plans to attend this month.

It's important to note that out of 26 groups identified in districts 10 and 12 alone, only 14 or 54% were still active as per the AA Toronto meetings database. This also explains why certain groups do not have an Intergroup Rep; 14 are not listed in the database, 5 are cancelled until further notice, and 1 is inactive.

Recommendations

In our collective journey in sobriety, fostering open channels of communication and active engagement within the AA community remains a cornerstone of our fellowship. With this commitment in mind, and based on the feedback received from the groups the committee has visited so far, we present the following recommendations to Intergroup:

- Carry out a similar exercise in the remaining districts of our area (Area 83) to confirm whether or not the groups are still active, and to better understand their realities and the reasons why they have not been attending our GTAI monthly meetings.
- Invite OC members, Intergroup Reps and Alternates Reps, and other AA members in our area (Area 83) to sign up as volunteers.
- Establish who the contact person is for groups that do not have Intergroup Reps or Alternate Reps, and work with them to see how we can help spread the word about Intergroup.
- Engage in initiatives like these on a regular basis to take the pulse, see what is happening on the ground, and show home groups that Intergroup cares about their welfare.
- Spread knowledge about the fact that Intergroup meetings are currently being held online.
- Offer training on how to navigate the new website, including how to access Intergroup materials, as well as meeting registration information regarding the general meetings and OC committee meetings, etc.
- Increase the use of QR codes that take members directly to the aatoronto.org website, available service positions within Intergroup in our area, and possible future servicedays (i.e., Info AA Day).

Closing Remarks

Many of our home groups have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and are struggling to survive amid the challenges posed by the post-pandemic world. By taking on the responsibility of being the bridge between Intergroup and their home groups, Intergroup Reps and Alternate Reps play an important role in safeguarding our fellowship's unity and collective strength, and actively contribute to keeping AA vibrant and relevant.

Additionally, participating in the type of initiative that the ad hoc committee has engaged in this past year offers a wealth of benefits to every AA member who embraces the opportunity, including:

- A chance for meaningful service that contributes directly to the well-being of our fellowship.
- An opportunity to explore new meetings and bring fresh insights to our program, thus invigorating our

personal recovery journey.

- A chance to carry the message to other alcoholics by sharing our experience, strength, and hope at meetings.

This involvement also opens doors to engaging in various other aspects, including fellowship, chairing, speaking, and sponsorship opportunities, all of which are integral to staying sober and fostering spiritual growth.

In closing, the ad hoc committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Operating Committee for their ongoing support. We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Laura V. (Mount Royal York and 12 Step Committee Chair), Marvyn W. (OC Chair), David T. (Self-Support), and Kelli T. (OC Secretary), who shared ideas on how we could reach more groups and helped advance our effort.



Operating Committee Chairperson Needed for January 2024

Service Position Requirements

As per the Greater Toronto Area InterGroup Procedures and Guidelines (October 2019) document, section 4 (page 3-4):

4. Operating Committee (OC)

4.1 Operating Committee Composition

The Operating Committee is composed of (at full complement) ten persons:

- **The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**
- Six committee members
- Secretary
- Treasurer (Chair of Finance Committee)

4.2 Qualifications of Members of the Operating Committee

Members of the OC must have a minimum of two years of sobriety

4.3 Terms of Office for Members of the Operating Committee

- Members of the OC are nominated and elected as necessary when vacancies occur. They are elected by the voting members of the InterGroup Floor from the total membership of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Greater Toronto Area, including serving InterGroup Reps and/or Alternate Reps
- **Term for OC Chair and OC Vice Chair is two years for each position**
- If an OC member is elected as Vice Chair or Chair, the maximum term for continuous service on the OC may be extended for the terms of those positions only, to a maximum of 6 years.

4.5 Responsibilities of the OC Chair and Vice-Chair

Chair

- Is the Operating Officer of the InterGroup office and performs such other duties as are incidental to this office.
- Chairs the meetings of GTA InterGroup and the OC.
- Is automatically a voting member of all Subcommittees of GTA InterGroup that he/she attends.
- Outgoing Chair is expected to provide a final report of any recommendations for future consideration by GTAI. This is usually done at the December GTAI meeting.

Qualifications:

- 2 years of continuous sobriety;
- A good grasp of the AA Traditions and Concepts;
- Must be an AA member in the Greater Toronto Area;
- Experience with serving as an InterGroup Rep/ Alternate or as an InterGroup/District Subcommittee member a plus (but not necessary!)

Elections for this position will be held at the September 26, 2023 monthly General Meeting (8 p.m. virtual)

Further inquiries about this service opportunity can be directed to Marvyn W., current OC Chairperson at oc.chair@aatoronto.org or Kelli T., OC Secretary at oc.secretary@aatoronto.org

PLEASE ANNOUNCE TO YOUR GROUP MEMBERS!



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4.5 Responsibilities of the OC Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair

- Assumes the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson and acts as a liaison officer between the OC and such Subcommittees as the Chairperson may designate.
- Acts as the Reception Co-Ordinator for the GTAI meetings (or delegates to another OC member), and is responsible for arranging set-up, registration and clean-up after each meeting.

Qualifications:

- 2 years of continuous sobriety;
- A good grasp of the AA Traditions and Concepts;
- Must be an AA member in the Greater Toronto Area;
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I.T. CHAIRPERSON NEEDED!

PURPOSE	<i>The IT Subcommittee is an advisory body that liaises with the Operating Committee, subcommittees, and the Intergroup Office. The committee will be responsible for researching and recommending cost-effective IT solutions.</i>
RESPONSIBILITIES	<p>The IT Subcommittee Chairperson oversees the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance, recommendation, and implementation of solutions on technology to the OC, subcommittees, and the Intergroup Office • Guidance on cost-effective IT solutions for the Intergroup Office, to include software, hardware, networking, telecommunications, Internet and third- party providers • Aiding in creating and maintaining frameworks, including complex or critical systems for third-party service providers • Reviewing statements of work, price quotes, and contracts to recommend to the Operating Committee • Create and maintain all technical documentation of the Intergroup Office and aatoronto.org website <p>The IT Subcommittee Chairperson Service Role Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairing/facilitating the monthly IT Subcommittee meeting; • Reporting committee activities at the monthly GTAI General Meeting (last Tuesday of the month/currently virtual) • Reporting Committee initiatives to the Operating Committee when required <p><i>The subcommittee will not be responsible for the daily IT support duties of the Intergroup Office. The day to day IT support is managed by service provider. However, they may provide direction and support if IT committee expertise is required.</i></p>
QUALIFICATIONS	<p>IT Professionals(s) with degrees in computer science, college diplomas in computer science, and/or various highly technical certifications or equivalent (such as A+, CCNP, CCIE, MCSE, CISSP, AWS, Linux).</p> <p>The committee should be primarily composed of IT Professionals with a minimum 4 to 5 years of work experience in one of the following: field systems administration, AWS, VOIP, Linux, Apache, PHP, Database (MySQL MSSQL), network administration, desktop computer technician, web application development, information security, IT project management.</p>

Application Deadline: Friday, September 15, 2023

FOR FURTHER INFO, PLEASE CONTACT the Operating Committee Chair at oc.chair@aatoronto.org
or the GTAI Operating Committee IT Committee Liaison at zeroth57@gmail.com