

# GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023 (online meeting)

(These Minutes Unapproved 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 David T. (St. Clements).

## MEMBERS PRESENT:

**INTERGROUP REP/ALT:** Aurora, Back to Basics, Church Street, Dry on Danforth, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, Friendly, Gladstone, Keep It Simple, King City, Kipling, Long Branch, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Noon Rap, North Toronto, Primary Purpose, Queensville, Responsibility, Rox Glen Traditional, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Trial & Error, Twelve Steps, and Welcome.

**DISTRICT LIAISONS:** Districts 12 and 22.

**OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Eric S., Jomana A., Julie G., and Marvyn W. (OC Chair).

**SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS:** ARCHIVES, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AA DAY 2024, ORC 2024, TWELFTH STEP, TREATMENT, WSVA.

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

## ADOPTION OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2023

**ERRORS/OMISSIONS:** No errors/omissions noted.

**Motion** to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Tom C. (Twelve Steps) and seconded by Oscar C. (Responsibility). The Motion was carried.

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

Marvyn shared the following: "In October of 2021 Graham and I were elected to become the 2023 OC Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. At that time I sat down and thought to myself 'What can Marvyn bring to the Operating Committee?' The first thing I thought about was stability. 7 of the last 11 years I've served on the Operating Committee. I've never missed an OC meeting, and I've never missed a monthly Intergroup meeting. I've had a perfect record [of attendance]. I had dedication in working with others – or the possibility of working with others; getting new volunteers active on subcommittees (as Chairs and/or volunteers). The third most important thing was strong sponsorship; from an early age in AA I had a recovery sponsor who served as a past OC Chair, and two service sponsors."

"The one thing I really acknowledge over the past two years is GTAI's Procedures and Guidelines. If I see something in those procedures that adhere to myself, I act on. [Referring to a previous Motion whereby the past EC/OC Chair stays on for six months after serving their term of office] This item was removed in the Referendum in 2019; the Motion passed [to have this removed] by 93%. I will honour this, and I will be available offer my support to the 2024 Operating Committee in the form of advice or anything needed. This allows me to leave the service position in good hands."

"I want to thank you all for allowing us to be of service to you and your groups over the last two years!"

Marvyn also shared that there is a new meeting in the GTA (Suburban North): Markham Women's Meeting, a 10 a.m. meeting on Saturday morning. They really need support. There's some great meetings coming up during the Winter Season Virtual Alkathon: Sun. Dec.31 at 5p.m. features a speaker (Don M. /North Carolina) who will be giving a presentation on the Grapevine as he is a Special Worker with GSO.

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

## Motion to Suspend Regular Business – Elections for a new Operating Committee Member

**MOTION** to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate Elections moved by Brendan O. (Fellowship of the Spirit) and seconded by Don H. (Keep It Simple). Motion was carried.

**Election for a new Operating Committee Member (4):** Marvyn outlined the qualifications and service commitments for this position, and asked if any there were any nominations/volunteers from Floor members. No nominations were forthcoming. **Four (4) OC Members needed to start in January 2024! An election will be held at January's General Meeting. Please announce to your groups members! (Please see flyer in these Minutes; Appendix I)**

**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 – Bruce L. (Back to Basics), Finance Committee Member/incoming 2024 Finance Chairperson****2024 Budget**

	Actual				
	Actual 2022	Budget 2022	11 months 2023	Budget 2023	Budget 2024
Total Contributions	158,704	150,000	140,549	155,000	155,000
Literature Income	48,421	31,500	54,988	42,000	25,500
Total Revenues	207,125	181,500	195,537	197,000	180,500
Total Committee expense	2,755	11,900	6,114	18,300	23,500
Total Operating expense	92,734	92,580	95,491	97,630	100,700
Staff expense	73,931	77,000	93,993	81,000	90,000
Total Operating & Staff expense	166,665	169,580	189,484	178,630	190,700
Total expenses	169,420	181,480	195,598	196,930	214,200
Excess or (Deficiency)	37,705	20	(61)	70	(33,700)

At their December meetings the Finance and Operating Committees voted unanimously to accept and recommend the following to the GTAI groups. Please take this information to your business meeting. At the January General Meeting (January 30) there will be a motion to accept.

The 2024 budget proposal includes a **1-year 20% discount on all literature department products (books, pamphlets, medallions, aluminum chips and engraving charges)** from Jan 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The chart above reflects a reduction in Literature Income from \$59.5 K to \$25.5 K or a \$34 K decrease due to the discount. Hence the budgeted deficiency of \$34 K.

Since the beginning of 2020, \$87 K has been transferred to the prudent reserve fund and a \$20 K GIC purchased from TD Bank. This was a result of surpluses from 2020 thru 2022. We are not forecasting a surplus in 2023 only due to unforeseen HR costs. Because of these surpluses the prudent reserve is currently above policy and will continue to grow by an additional \$30 K in the next 2 years as the strip bond reaches maturity AND an additional \$8 K interest on the GIC and prudent reserve high interest saving account balance is earned.

Discounting literature by 20% provides a balance between implementing a larger discount that would result in a less controlled reduction in the reserve and no discount which would be equivalent to planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual surplus in 5 years and a higher reserve balance.

Intergroup has incurred committee expenses YTD November 2023 of only 6.1 K vs 2023 budget of \$ 18.3 K and 2024 budget of \$23.5 K. The expenses in the proposed budget are higher than needed. The committees could spend these amounts if they had programs/initiatives requiring funds. A good example of an initiative was the recent CPC/PI Go Awareness ad campaign for Kipling and Islington TTC stations and their 2024 \$4 K budget request. By budgeting the expenses higher than necessary Intergroup sends a clear signal to the chairs, committees and districts that there are funds to support and encourage initiatives.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

No formal subcommittee report submitted; the Chairperson gave a verbal report to Floor members. Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email [archives@aatoronto.org](mailto:archives@aatoronto.org)

### **COMMUNICATIONS:** Ted D. (Rox Glen Traditional), Chairperson

Our communications committee continues to expand to meet the evolving needs of the GTA Intergroup. We welcome Collin R. (Leslie Group) who will be joining Gigget W. in Web Development and maintenance as well as Imran R. who has accepted the service position as Communications Committee Secretary along with Better Times Distribution Coordinator. Thank you to the rest of our crew; Web Developer Imran M., our Web Administrator Bill M. and Gerrad S. as Webmaster; Meeting Submission Vetting Coordinators Maria P. and Athena M.

The first version of the “New Comer Page” is posted at aatoronto.org. You may expect to see minor changes to this page as we continue to tweak it with improvements. Thank you for any of your valued input to the Comm. Committee.

The Winter Virtual Alkathon one hour time slots are almost complete, thank you David P for your good works. The Communications Committee is hosting Dec.24<sup>th</sup> 5-6 pm with Mildred Franks from Rox Glen Traditional as speaker.

The Better Times is functioning smoothly; thank you Alice N. and Luke G. for your service. 600 copies of the January edition are being printed later this week and can be picked up at 234 after the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Next month the Better Times will be available for pick up from 234 and the OC Meeting at Timothy Eaton Church at the same time as it is distributed by Imran R. and the distribution crew. Thank you, Imran R. for the distribution and Alexx for the printing along with our contributors. As always, the coloured version will be available online and it looks great!

Finally, may I wish all of you the Best of the Season and to channel the second portion of the Serenity Prayer, may you be granted “Patience for things that take time, Appreciation of all that you have, Tolerance of those with a different struggle, and the Strength to get up and try again, one day at a time.

In closing, I think it’s fair to say the GTA Intergroup communications is in good hands.

In love and service, Ted D. - Chair Communications Committee

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

No formal subcommittee report submitted; the Chairperson gave a verbal report to Floor members. Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email [infoaa@aatoronto.org](mailto:infoaa@aatoronto.org)  
2024 Event to be held Saturday May 25th at Bloordale United Church.

### **I.T. SUBCOMMITTEE:** No report.

### **ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2024:** Lisa W. (Port Credit), 2024 Event Chairperson

No formal subcommittee report submitted; the Chairperson gave a verbal report to Floor members. Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email [2024orcchair@gmail.com](mailto:2024orcchair@gmail.com)

2024 Event ‘A New Freedom’ to be held March 15-17 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto.

To register, please visit: [www.aaorc.ca](http://www.aaorc.ca)

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

Twelfth Step Committee Report to Intergroup Tuesday, December 19, 2023

We have been looking for a way to generate more blue forms for the past three months, so here are the results:

- Bart has researched the possibility of having a call display installed on phone greeter phones that would identify them as GTA Intergroup, and that is no longer a possibility as of this moment. Perhaps in the future, something will materialize.
- Until then, if 12 Steppers want to get more 12 step calls, they are going to have to answer their phones every time they ring because greeters are calling from their own phones which may display as Unknown or an unfamiliar number.

- We promise the caller seeking help a one hour turnaround time, so it makes no sense to leave a message with the 12 Steppers. Until we have a confirmed yes, we have to keep looking for a 12 Stepper so a voice mail is not serving the purpose of having a confirmed yes.
- Greeters are sending texts and emails to 12 Steppers, so if they don't want to answer every call, they will need to monitor their Messages and email inboxes for possible requests.
- There are 81 names on the Phone Greeter roster so it would probably be too difficult for 12 Steppers to search the list against incoming calls, but it could be something to work on.
- We could also consider that when there is an in-house greeter on a shift, the remote greeter could pass the request over to them so that their call display would alert the 12 Stepper that it is a 12 step call request when their phone rings.
- All new 12 Steppers will understand that they will have to answer every time their phone rings if they want to be a 12 Stepper.

We will continue to explore other options and are open to any suggestions anybody might have.

As always, yours in Love and Service,

*Laura V.*

*12th Step Committee Chair*

*416.651.5092 (Landline)*

*416.504.4784 (Brief texts only)*

**WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2023:** Candis W. (Bloordale), Committee member

**Meeting Minutes: Dec 10th 2023** / committee meeting at 4258 Bloor St w Etobicoke Bloordale Church.

Attendees: Tony Z, Maria Z, Joan, Zobie, Ross, Candis, Tony M, Dave, Louise, Luke G.

**Event to be held Sunday December 25, 10-4, at Roncesvalles United Church.**

**Planning Included:**

Chair: (Tony Z) Tony Z indicated food delivery to church Dec 23. Confirmed inventory from the walk through on Dec 9th. Dinner plates, cutlery, napkins, sugar, stir sticks.

Alanon: (Maria Z) – Maria will print signs for washrooms, labels for storage bins, and meeting formats. Maria helped with the inventory at the church during the walk through.

Committee liaison: (Luke G) Luke will look into Chair tables that will be at WSOH.

Secretary: (Zobie G) CORRECTION, amount adjusted from last month's minutes from "Start Today Group \$400 donation"

Treasurer: (Tony Z.) Luke asked if any additional funds are required from intergroup, Tony indicated no. Tony Z indicated from the walk through of the church, we have left over supplies from last year, and we can use extra funds towards table decorations, Joan will purchase table decorations.

Volunteer Coordinator: (Zobie G) Zobie Still sourcing volunteers for set up/tear down, kitchen, decorations. Etc.

Garbage: (Adam and Pierre) Tony Z indicated to ensure the garbage is put into Eddie's truck, not the church dump bin.

Set up and Take down: (Joan S) Joan took count of the tables at the walk-through, there were 10 long wooden tables, and 21 folded plastic tables. Joan will pick up 300 candy canes, 50 table cloths, 10 Garlands, 30 Dollies, and will submit receipt to Tony Z.

Greeter: (Adesh) (sign up board will be at the welcome table the day of the event)

Kitchen coordinator: (Bryan with assistant Richard) Ross suggested to donate extra food left over food, to the Salvation Army.

Turkey and Ham Coordinator: (Dave) Dave has confirmed 14 turkeys and 14 hams so far (waiting for contact info for Jeff-Jim's donation)

Food Prep: (Tyler)

Food Purchase: (Tony Z) Tony Z working on the grocery list to submit. Tony indicated Steve will assist with the food from the food terminal at a discounted price or donation. All to be delivered to the church in time for food prep.

Meeting coordinator: (Tony M - AA and Maria Z - Alanon) Tony Z confirmed room set up for each room. 1 Speaker meeting set up, and 1 closed discussion set up.

Coffee/pop/water/desert: (Angela, Candis and Ross) Ross indicate 2 cases of water being donated. Ross will pick up 10 bags of ice on Dec 25. There are Bins and 1x cooler in storage. Tony will bring x1 cooler. The Walk through identified a large and small coffee urns. Ross will bring x1 cooler. Candis will look into additional pie serving spoons. Will have 2x Costco cakes, 3 donut boxes. Cookie donations. Church has a juice water dispenser; Candis indicated Angela may use it depending on drink count.

Literature: (Latifa). Candis can bring Treatment information and pamphlets.

Entertainment: (Tony Z) Steve to rent equipment.

Welcome Table: (Louise) (name tags and 7th tradition box, sign up boards for servers)

Decorations: (Latifa) Committee sourcing volunteers to show up on Dec 24 8am to Decorate.

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

Greetings and good evening! We are less than a week away from the opening of our 4th annual Winter Season Virtual Alkathon, which launches at noon on December 24. We have a dedicated link for the entire 4-day event, it is plastered all over the website, and I shall mention it here in a minute. However, this brief notice is to inform you that we still have **9 time slots for a 1-hour A.A. meeting still available** in this year's G.T.A.I. Winter Season Virtual Alkathon. Can you help us fill them?

Your group may already be hosting a meeting, but those groups may now book a 2nd, if you wish. You may belong to another subcommittee, in which case that committee could book a spot to convey what it is you do to help carry the message. The 12th Step, Communications and Accessibility subcommittees have already done so. Or you could be an individual looking to do more service over the holidays, in which case you can book a spot to chair and invite a friend to speak and you've got a meeting!

Our tech team takes care of everything to help you or your group host a meeting, including admitting people, unmuting, screen sharing of any readings you want and more, so all you need to do is simply chair the meeting that you want. Our online space is safe and secure and our meetings are open to anyone. We have never had a Zoom bombing incident yet!

And speaking of our tech team, we are still looking for volunteers to help us run the event. We like to schedule at least 2 tech people per meeting, and we still have some gaps in our schedule. So to any even slightly Zoom-savvy people, please contact our committee ASAP. Our email is: [winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org](mailto:winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org).

In short, there are still several ways you can help us to make this the best Alkathon yet, as an individual looking to do service over the holidays, or as part of a group or committee. And now for the moment you have all been waiting for – the link for the Alkathon in its entirety, all 44 meetings including Al-anon, is: **ID# 881 7169 5564 / Password 580516**

We hope to see you there! And for those of you involved in this year's event, we look forward to working with you to help carry the message online this holiday season. Season's greetings to all, and thank you for letting me be of service.

David P., WSVVA Chair

## DISTRICT REPORTS

**ACCESSIBILITIES:** No report.

**CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES:** No report.

Marvyn mentioned the committee has decided to commence a hybrid meeting format for their monthly meetings, starting in January. Dan H. (D06 Corrections Chair) will be present at 234 to welcome the in-person attendees moving forward.

**COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY/PUBLIC INFORMATION:** No report.

**GRAPEVINE:** No report.

**SELF SUPPORT:** No report.

This subcommittee currently needs a Chairperson; please contact Jomana at [oc.chair@aatoronto.org](mailto:oc.chair@aatoronto.org) for more information.

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

No formal subcommittee report submitted; the Chairperson gave a verbal report to Floor members. Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email [treatment@aatoronto.org](mailto:treatment@aatoronto.org)

**AREA 83 REPORT:** No report.

**RECEPTION:**

Present were 20 Reps, 8 Alternate Reps, 4 OC Members, 7 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons and 3 Visitors, for a total attendance of 43 members.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Incoming GTAI Operating Chair, Jomana A. (Stepping Stones), shared about the upcoming hybrid format General Meeting on January 30: "This meeting is going to be a hybrid meeting; meaning it will take place in person at Timothy Eaton Church (St. Clair West, where the Hill Group meets). There will also be a hybrid [virtual] component, which we are currently working on [setting up]. Our administrative assistant will make sure you get all the information for the meeting so you can decide if you want to attend in person or keep attending virtually."

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 \(12 Step Calls\)](#)
- [Workshop Chairperson](#)
- [Operating Committee Members for 2024\(4\)](#)

**NEW BUSINESS**

As per the Agenda, **Marvyn read out his Recommendation Report to Floor members** (see Report; Appendix II of these Minutes).

**CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS:** Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and dedication to service. He also mentioned that it was an honour and a privilege to serve as GTAI Operating Chair for the past term.

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Violet C-M. (Noon Rap) and seconded by Don H. (Keep It Simple). Carried.

As per tradition, Jomana A. was invited to formally close the meeting. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** An online meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 30 at 8 p.m.\***

**\*PLEASE NOTE: In person/hybrid monthly General Meetings (in-person at Timothy Eaton Church, St. Clair Avenue West at Dunvegan; upstairs) to commence on Tuesday, January 30. 2024.**

## APPENDIX I



# FOUR OC MEMBERS NEEDED!

## SERVING ON THE GTAI OPERATING COMMITTEE: WHAT'S INVOLVED?



### The Operating Committee ('OC') is composed of ten persons:

- Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer (a.k.a. - the Chair of the Finance Committee)
- Secretary
- Six committee members, (will be assigned the role of OC Liaison to a Subcommittee)

### Qualifications of Members of the Operating Committee

- Members of the EC must have a minimum of two years of sobriety.
- Experience in various service positions within one's home group and in General Service are helpful.
- Helpful to be familiar with GTAI's Operating Procedures and Guidelines manual in tandem with Twelve Steps and Twelve Concepts.

### 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.
- The term for a member of the OC is one year; this term may be renewed annually, for up to 2 more years, to a maximum of 3 continuous years.
- Term for OC Chair and OC Vice-Chair is 2 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.
- At the end of their term of office, members of the OC are ineligible to serve on the OC for a period of 24 months.

### Monthly Responsibilities as an OC Member

- Attends the monthly OC Meeting (held on the Wednesday before the monthly General Meeting – **Currently meeting online at 8:00 p.m.**)
- Attends one monthly (or bi-monthly) subcommittee meeting, as part of OC Liaison duties

- Attends of monthly General Meeting (last Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. **Currently meeting online**)
- All members of the OC may attend meetings of the Finance Subcommittee. Only the Chairperson of the OC may have a voice and a formal vote at the meetings.
- Attend the quarterly meetings held with District Reps ('Joint Sharing Meeting') where members of each service level share information about current activities

## Monthly Responsibilities as an OC Liaison to GTAI Subcommittees

- Attends monthly meetings of subcommittee(s) as an assigned OC Liaison in a non-voting capacity unless requested by the subcommittee to take an active part in its operations.
- Observe activities of subcommittee
- Report on committee's activities
- Prepare a brief (point-form) written Liaison report for the monthly OC meetings
- The Intergroup Liaison for a committee may be required, in the absence of the Committee Chair, to present the committee report about committee activities at the General Intergroup General Monthly meeting and take questions back to the committee to be answered at a later meeting.

## FAQ ABOUT SERVING ON THE OPERATING COMMITTEE

### Q: What is GTA Intergroup's Mission?

**A:** Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is a coordinating body that supports the 12-step work of AA groups in the Toronto area, providing a point of contact between individual groups, our members, the public and the still suffering alcoholic.

### Q: Can I still serve as the Intergroup Rep. for my Home Group and serve on the Operating Committee?

**A:** No. If you are elected to the Operating Committee, you must resign as your Intergroup Rep.

### Q: What are some of the attributes that may be desirable for those considering this position?

**A:** As our Second Tradition states -- our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. The Operating Committee does not govern, but it is in a position of authority in its recommendations and decision-making on behalf of Greater Toronto Area Intergroup.

Those considering serving on this committee may on occasion deal with sensitive and contentious issues. Maturity, attention to detail, discretion and dedication to the good of the organization are desired.

### Q: As a Committee member, would I be personally liable in the event of bankruptcy/lawsuits?

**A:** No. As a charitable organization, AA Greater Toronto Area Intergroup has insurance coverage for committee members.

### Q: Who can I talk to about serving on the Operating Committee?

**A:** You may speak with anyone on the Operating Committee or former Operating Committee members for further information. You may be nominated to serve, or you can nominate yourself.

More detailed information about the role and responsibilities of Operating Committee Members can be found in the *GTAI Operating Procedures and Guidelines*, which can be accessed online at [aatoronto.org](https://www.aatoronto.org) -- under About Us: Link: <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/policies-and-procedures> or feel free to send an email with your questions to [oc.chair@aatoronto.org](mailto:oc.chair@aatoronto.org)



## APPENDIX II



Good evening GTA Intergroup, Alcoholic Marvyn W., Mississauga Group, outgoing 2023 GTAI OC Chair.

**As per 4.5 of the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup Procedures and Guidelines dated October 2019, the 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 monthly meeting.**

Cam B. Finance Chair, Graham D. OC Vice Chair and the OC Chair, and the entire GTAI Operating Committee would like to thank Greater Toronto Area Intergroup Floor for the opportunity to serve over the past 2 years, to uphold the Responsibilities, Daily activities of 234 Eglinton East Central Office and have GTA subcommittees to adhere to the Procedures and Guidelines re-established by the GTA Intergroup floor in 2019.

### **First things First - Success achieved by GTA Intergroup over the past two years:**

- We the Operating Committee, worked with the GTAI Yearly approved Budgets in 2022 and 2023. The End results were Surplus Budgets.
- Signed a new five year lease agreement to occupy 234 Eglinton Ave East #202 Central Office starting in 2022
- Created a new Archives Repository at the 234 Central Office
- Created a new kitchen to be used by staff, phone greeters, archives staff, subcommittee members and guests
- Created a much needed phone greeters room, for members who prefer not to do phone greeter service on their own personal devices or within the privacy of their own home
- Supported the 2023 ORC Committee and 2024 ORC Committee to host conferences at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Toronto, first conferences since 2019
- Worked with the Archives Committee to publish the new '80 years in Ontario' AA book
- Worked with the Communications Committee to publish an AA Meeting Directory Book. The first since 2018
- Worked with the IT Team, Finance Committee and the Twelfth Step Committee to add a new phone vendor Unite Communications
- Hired a new 5 day week Office Manager/Literature Shareena Newman who started with GTAI in April 2023, to work with our long time, very conscientious staff member Alexx .V our Administrative Assistant
- Built a new [aatoronto.org](http://aatoronto.org) website and launched it on July 18, 2023. with many new features left to come

We do not want to elaborate on success, since that is what the GTA Intergroup Floor expected.

At this time, we want to recognize GTAI trusted Servants, who stood for key positions within GTA Intergroup.

### **Alcoholics Anonymous remains a "We Program".**

Over the last two years, we have witnessed a very strong and stable GTAI Operating Committee, thanks to the following AA members who stood as Trusted Servants of the GTAI Operating Committee:

- Graham D Markland Wood, OC Vice-Chair
- Cam B Deer Park Group, Finance Chair
- Kelli T the Hill Group, OC Secretary 2024 Incoming OC Vice Chair
- Julie G. Markham Village Group
- Don H. Living Sober Group Newmarket
- Ky T. Waterfront Community Centre Group
- Luke G. High Park Group
- Eric S. Welcome Group
- Jomana A. Stepping Stones Group Incoming 2024 OC Chair
- Bruce L. Back to Basics Group 2024 Incoming Finance Chair
- Derek F. St. Clements Group
- Lee M. High Park Group
- Dave H. Beaches Group
- Saverio D. Unionville Group
- Gord H. Bloordale Group
- Mary M. Erin Mills Group
- Gord T. Welcome Group

### **GTAI Subcommittee Chairs**

- Laura V. Mount Royal/York Group, Twelfth Step Committee Chair
- Jordan A. The Dogs Group, Alternate Twelfth Step Committee Chair
- Carla T. Welcome Group, Aaron K Yorkville Group and Ted D., Rox Traditional Glen Group, Communications Chairs
- Tony Z. Bloordale Group, WSOH Chair
- David P. Birds of A Feather, WSVA Chair
- Michael W. Welcome Group and Kevin N. Parkway Group IT Team Chair
- Glenn G. East York Group, Archives Committee Chair Eddy G. Beaches Group GTAI Archivists
- David T. St. Clements Group 2022-2023 Self Support Chair
- 2023 ORC Committee Chair Roman R. Stepping Stones Group, 2024 ORC Current Chair Lisa W. Port Credit Group
- 2023 Info AA Day Committee Chair Bert J. Silverbirch Group, 2024 Current Chair Julie G. Markham Village Group
- Greg R. Markham Village Group Accessibility Chair
- Joe A. One Paragraph at a Time, Dorothy A. Credit Valley Group CPC/PI Committee Chairs
- Maire O'B. Beaches Group 2022 Corrections Committee Chair
- Scott M. Bloordale Group 2022 Grapevine Committee Chair
- Sean L. Steps to Serenity Group 2022 Treatment Facilities Committee Chair, Brendan O'S Fellowship of the Spirit 2023 Treatment Facilities Chair

A Special Thank You to our 2022 Area 83 Liaison James O'D. 2022 Alternate Delegate, and 2023 Area 83 Liaison Amy L. 2023 Alternate Delegate.

We hope, as our Subcommittee Chairs rotate off in the Spirit of Rotation, that they consider becoming members of the GTAI Operating Committee, as you see tonight, help is required.

## **Recommendations**

Primarily based on the 2019 Procedures and Guidelines, as the 2022 & 2023 Operating Committees adhered to, even with of lack of volunteers, and the landscape of Covid Pandemic

### **Recommendation #1**

GTAI Intergroup Operating Committee assemble an *ad hoc* Committee to revise the 2019 Procedures and Guidelines.

## **Recommendation #2**

A Referendum needs to be called by the GTA Intergroup Floor to vote on Changes, Deletions and Amendments to the 2019 P&G.

In reference to 1.3 GTAI Mandate, Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is a coordinating body that supports the 12 Step work of AA groups in the Toronto area, providing a point of contact between individual groups, the public, and the still suffering alcoholic.

Your 2022-2023 OC Chair took ownership of the point contact person, for all inquiries and complaints from, Home Groups, the Public, Individual Members, Journalists, and other Media Partners.

Over the last 2 years, No lawsuits, grievances, resentments or situations that could have affected our Tradition 11 happened. Each inquiry was dealt with by either the OC Chair, the Operating Committee or passed on to an AA PI member.

## **Recommendation #3**

It would be very important for the GTA Intergroup Operating Committee to appoint a very knowledgeable AA member to deal with these various inquiries and to become the point of Contact member, for the 1.3 GTAI Mandate

### **1.5 Composition of GTAI**

GTA Intergroup is composed of:

- Intergroup Representatives from AA groups in the Greater Toronto Area

Over the last 4 years of the Covid Pandemic, our Area 83, and our 8 GTAI Districts compositions have changed, and GTAI may need to follow with the same compositions.

Example: AA Solutions Seekers Group is an Online Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous Home Group and has aligned with Area 83 and District 10.

In June, the above mentioned Home Group requested to make a contribution to GTAI intergroup and requested their Daily 7:00 AM meeting listed on GTAI.

We spoke to the GSR/Intergroup Rep who is here tonight and decided, being aligned with Area 83 and District 10, qualified AA Solutions Seekers to become a member of GTA Intergroup.

## **Recommendation # 4**

We would hope that GTA Intergroup would confirm with a Referendum Motion and Vote to acknowledge that all Online Intergroup AA Home Groups affiliated with GTAI Districts 02,06,10,14,12,16,18,22 eligible to become an GTA Intergroup Home Group.

## **Recommendation #5**

Communication Committee Website Initiatives:

\* Build a Help Chat Service on [aatoronto.org](http://aatoronto.org) as soon as possible to compliment the efforts of our current Twelve Step Committee.

Currently Hamilton AA, District 19 Area 86, London Ontario AA & Cambridge AA all have Helpchats to help the tech-savvy alcoholic

Sean L.'s 2020 Helpchat *ad hoc* committee provide a Recommendation Report that we need to act on as soon as possible

\* Build a Literature Store on [aatoronto.org](http://aatoronto.org) as soon as possible, a GTA Intergroup Home Group purchased a \$200 US Literature order last week from GSO New York,

A Literature Store cart system would help us compete with other AA Literature providers.

## **Recommendation # 6**

Implement the New Intergroup Rep *ad hoc* Committee Recommendations that Angela O. (Mount Royal-York Group) presented at the August General GTAI Monthly meeting. A Test pilot Meeting Coordinator Vetting Process

Initiative project was conducted by the Communications Committee in September. The Results: 12 new Intergroup Reps. We need to continue and add new Initiatives to recruit new GTAI Home Group Intergroup Reps.

### **Recommendation #7**

Proposed Change: Form a New Committee to help the 2024 GTAI Operating Committee deal with tough decisions that may be required.

## **GTA Intergroup Advisory Committee**

### **Composition of Advisory Committee**

- minimum 5 or 10 years in the Program
- service as an Intergroup rep
- service on an Intergroup Committee
- service on the Operating Committee
- expertise in Law, HR, Employment Consulting, Accounting
- expertise in finding new Subcommittee Chairs, Committee Members and Volunteers

### **Recommendation #8**

We need to locate and appoint a workshop Chairperson to create Hybrid Workshops at 234 Office and other venues, to start educating our members on the AA service program.

Recently a former Operating committee member, Gord H of the Bloordale Group, asked a meeting of 25 AA members, how many knew 'what a 12 Step call was'? 3 members raised their hands.

We need to educate our fellow members on the importance of becoming a 12 Step Caller, the Importance of becoming a Phone Greeter, and sitting on the GTA Intergroup Operating Committee.

### **Recommendation #9**

It is a must that we get back to face to face In-person 12 Step calls as an option to the desperate still alcoholic who has a desire to stop drinking.

As this alcoholic is a success story of a 12 step Call, believe me nobody loves zoom meetings more than me. However, as a desperate alcoholic, zoom would not have been the solution for me to stop drinking.

On July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005, a phone call was made to 416-487-5591 for help, as a desperate alcoholic who could not stop drinking. Roger C, a phone greeter answered my call and saved my life. He offered me the first 7 questions of the Beginner's pamphlet which we answered yes to 6. Roger said Marvyn you qualify as alcoholic and asked me if two alcoholics could come and visit me. They took me to my first AA meeting, Strength In Recovery, and dropped me off. That night gave me hope, not to pick up a first drink. It has worked so far proving that the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has worked since 1935. There is no need to change the still suffering desperate alcoholic's options, an In-person face to face 12 step call, an In-person meeting, a zoom meeting or talking to an AA buddy over the phone.

Each one of these options provides hope that any still suffering alcoholic can experience a new freedom and a new happiness, as it states on Page 83 of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, our AA Promises.

**That concludes my Recommendations Report covering the 2022 and 2023 terms.** Once again, we, the GTAI Operating Committee, would like to thank the GTA Intergroup Floor for allowing us to serve, and now it is my pleasure to turn over the meeting to our Incoming OC Chair from the Stepping Stones Group, Jomana A, who can ask for a motion to close with the Responsibility Declaration.

## **In Gratitude & Service,**

**Marvyn W**

**Chair, Operating Committee**

**GTA InterGroup**