

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

(Hybrid 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 Mary W. (St. Clements).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Beaches, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Brampton Recovery, Church Street, Danforth, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Fifth Tradition, Friendly, Hadenuffyet, Keep It Simple, King City, Leslie, Lighthouse, Love & Tolerance, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Noon Rap, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Primary Purpose, Responsibility, Rox Glen Traditional, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, St. Clements, Stepping Stones, Streetsville St. Andrews, The Dogs, The Indian Road, The Hill, and Welcome.

(Please note: some online attendees may not have included their group name in their Zoom screen name during the meeting; for this reason, some groups might have not been recorded as being in attendance in the above list. If you are a Rep and attending online, please include your group name and service position for accurate recording.)

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 02, 14, and 22.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: David G., Jomana A. (OC Chair), Kelli T. (OC Vice-Chair), Kelly L. (OC Secretary), and Lijon G.

SUBCOMMITTEES REPRESENTED: ARCHIVES, COMMUNICATIONS, INFO AA DAY 2025, IT SUBCOMMITTEE, CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES, GRAPEVINE, TWELFTH STEP, AND WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2024.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – July 2024

Errors or Omissions: No errors or omissions were forthcoming.

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Matt M. (Responsibility) and seconded by Steve C. (Rox Glen Traditional). Motion carried.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS – Jomana A. (Stepping Stones), Operating Committee Chair
Jomana shared the following information to those present:

- For in-person attendees: please sign in with Kelli T. in Reception, so your attendance can be recorded
- For members attending virtually: please be aware that when you send something in the chat, everyone attending virtually can see it; please be mindful
- **Upcoming Gratitude Month:** Our Gratitude Campaign is starting in autumn! This invites AA members to contribute to Intergroup. Pamphlets for the campaign have been provided this evening; please take these back to your groups and share widely

Service Positions Available:

- ORC 2026 Committee needs a Hotel Coordinator. Please email Jomana at oc.chair@aatoronto.org for more information on this service opportunity.
- Winter Season Virtual Alkathon 2024: Unfortunately, this event will be cancelled due to lack of interest. However, if some AA member feels very strongly about jumping in to start a committee to hold this seasonal event (round-the-clock virtual meetings Dec.24-25 and Dec.31-Jan.1), the OC is prepared to support them. Please email Jomana at oc.chair@aatoronto.org for more information on this service opportunity.

Motion to Suspend Regular Business – Elections for new Operating Committee Members

Motion moved by Jimmy S. (Fifth Tradition) and seconded by Bubba (Stepping Stones). Motion carried.

Jenn F. (Birds of a Feather), was introduced to Floor members as a potential OC candidate. She gave a brief address to the Floor, and a vote was taken to accept Jenn as a new OC member. Motion passed.

After this, Jomana outlined the qualifications and service commitments for this position, and asked if any there were any nominations/volunteers from Floor members. No members stepped forward for the position(s) at this time. **An election for 2 more OC members will be held at the August General Meeting. Please announce to your group members!**

COLLECTION OF THE 7TH TRADITION:

- As per our literature and the 7th Tradition, we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- In-person Collection: A 7th Tradition basket was passed; \$44.90 was collected.
- For Virtual attendees: The 7th Tradition link is as follows:
<https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>

FINANCE REPORT – Finance Chair not present: the following was sent via email:

	July 2024 (1 month)						
	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Variance	%
Contributions	10,608	8,618	1,990	23%	12,239	(1,631)	(13%)
Literature Sales	16,093	11,320	4,773	42%	9,355	6,738	72%
= Total Revenues	26,701	19,938	6,763	34%	21,594	5,107	24%
- Cost of Sales	11,009	9,198	1,811	20%	6,018	4,991	83%
- Expenses	26,657	16,240	10,417	64%	13,900	12,757	92%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(10,965)	(5,500)	(5,465)		1,676	(12,641)	

Contributions remain strong at 23% over Budget largely due to individual contributions. Literature sales also remain strong at \$16k or 42% over Budget with the 20% discount figured in. Overall Total Revenue was \$26,701 or 34% over Budget. Non-discounted Lit. Sales are \$19.9k in July and total discount is \$3,816.

Cost of Sales is 20% over Budget while expenses are \$10k or 64% over Budget. This can be attributed to an unbudgeted expense to hire an Office Administrator for an upcoming Maternity Leave. The result is a deficit of \$10,965 for the month, \$5465 over a Budgeted deficit of \$5.5k.
financechair@aatoronto.org

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Glenn G. (East York), Chairperson - **Verbal Report**

The Annual Archives Breakfast will be held on Sunday, November 10th at the Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke. Tickets are \$35.

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email archives@aatoronto.org

COMMUNICATIONS: Ted D. (Rox Glen Traditional), Chairperson - **Verbal Report**

- We have a new Editor: Lori C. (Friendly Group). Lori will be assisted by another new member of the team, Ann Marie B. (Six Points). We wish former Editor, Alice best wishes and appreciation for her service to the committee
- We are always looking for stories/articles from members (see email below to submit)
- The committee had also acquired a new web developer volunteer, Collin R.

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email cc.chair@aatoronto.org

Articles/Submissions/Medallion Announcements for the Better Times Newsletter:
bettertimes@aatoronto.org

INFORMATION AA DAY 2025: De R. (Rexdale United), 2025 Event Chairperson

The Committee met Monday, August 26, 2024 at 7 pm with 11 in attendance. The need to begin the 2025 Info AA Day Committee meeting in August was to give time to find an adequate venue for the event. May is a busy month for churches and community centres so the sooner we vet the better.

It was clear the committee wanted a venue more centrally located, close to transit and highways. Jen F, OC Special Events Liaison will check with two locations, while Bert J will check with Lansing for availability May 24, 2025. No one stood for Venue Coordinator, however individuals will seek out various venues.

Bert J filled the position of Treasurer with John M managing until the new term.

Lisa B filled the position of Communications with John M helping with printing of flyers and tickets for the Assemblies, Area Committee Meetings and the ORC.

Lynn E with Gregorio filled the Hospitality positions and both have held these positions before so lunch will be awesome.

As Chair it is my responsibility to contact GSO for a speaker, however the committee agreed it would be a wonderful idea to have a Canadian Eastern Trustee invited instead. This can reduce our costs, and several people on the committee will reach out for availability.

We also discussed increasing the contribution from Intergroup and to take back to our districts if they would be willing to increase contributions as well.

All in all it was a great start and hopefully a venue suiting our needs can be found and booked quickly.

Thank you to all for their support and participation. Hopefully when we meet September 30 there will be more of us as people rotate into their new positions.

That's it for me. Thank you for allowing me to serve. De R. infoaa@aatoronto.org

I.T. SUBCOMMITTEE: David T. (St. Clements), Chairperson

The following report was submitted by GTA Intergroup's Tech Support person, Sean L., which David read to those present:

1. Back in the beginning of the month our SSL certificate on our domain name expired. In response, I got us perpetually renewing, free certs from WP Engine and transitioned the site onto WPE's preferred new managed plan
2. Our domain name itself was up for renewal this coming September, so I got that renewed for 10 years
3. I've figured out and tested having google group emails for committees. I'm working on a document to outline how this change would operate, how chairs will have to communicate who their members are back to us to get added/removed to/from groups, etc. etc. The tech piece is easy: it's the change management piece that needs to be agreed to and communicated out to all the committees first
4. I've begun auditing our google infrastructure. We have 76 email accounts in play, many of which are individually named accounts that need to be reviewed. Along with this we already have a lot of google groups and subaccounts. It's a bit of a gnarly mess. So I'm focusing first on getting the lay of the land, seeing what's active and used, before coming up with a recommended approach and policy
5. Lastly about google: Google sunset 'Universal Google Analytics' (also known as GA 3) this past Sunday. For a brief few years the website was tracking data effectively, but it was never transitioned to the Google's new platform. As a result, we have no analytics on how people use the site for the last 5+ years, which is a shame. I was able to log in and download all the data we did manage to collect before google deleted it today. I'll work to set the site up on GA 4 in the coming weeks

Cheers, Sean techsupport@aatoronto.org David T., Chair: it.chair@aatoronto.org

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025: No Report

The committee will commence meeting for 2025 Event planning in September.

TWELFTH STEP – Verbal Report

- The committee has implemented a new phone shift: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this shift, please contact Chelsea P. 12step@aatoronto.org
- The committee is looking for a Secretary
- Stephanie thanked the Communications Committee for posting our Hotline number on the site

For those wishing to volunteer for our phone hotline, please email 12step@aatoronto.org (1 year of continuous sobriety needed to volunteer)

Twelfth Step Committee Chair: 12step.chair@aatoronto.org

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2024: Zobie G. (Bloordale), 2024 Event Chairperson

Our committee consist of approx. 10 people who are the prime chairs for: Set up, Decorations, Kitchen, Food Prep, Garbage, Turkey/Ham, Coffee & Desserts, Greeters, Take Down, Meetings, Servers.

Everyone is welcome, the community, AA and Alanon, children and families, A flow of people in and out, people stay as long or little as they like.

Doors open Dec 25th 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers prep the day prior, food decorations, chairs and tables.

On the day of the event, volunteers shake hands and welcome at the door, serve food, ensure coffee is made and filled, garbage is maintained, and cleaned. At the end of the day, everything is cleaned, washed, swept, and put away by 4 p.m. on Dec 25.

Winter Season Open House has been an event put on by AA Toronto Intergroup since 1944 at the first event held at AA Central Office at 1170 Yonge St.

Why are we looking for a new venue?

We are in need of looking for a new home to host this event. Currently we have been at the Roncesvalles united church for about 30yrs, (however Winter Season Open House has been running as an event since 1944). The current venue is not fully accessible. In past years people have been carried down the stairs to the dining area, several years ago, the church added an accessible ramp but only to the upstairs area and not the downstairs dining area. People were continued to be carried down the stairs, which is dangerous. We were against this behavior, however people kept carrying people down the stairs. We asked the church for many years if the church will have an accessible ramp for the downstairs dining area and they indicated that it's not possible.

We can no longer encourage this activity of carrying people down the stairs due to safety issues. Therefore the committee is looking for a fully accessible venue in the downtown area with a big kitchen who is open Dec 25, that will serve the community this special event

December 24th: 8am set up - 1p.m.

On Dec 24th 8am (set up day)

- Grocery delivered to venue.
- Volunteers slice, dice, chop and peel all the veggies and food for the meal.
- Chairs and tables are set up with table covering. Decorations in the main dining area.
- Serving tables and chafing dishes set.
- Signs for meeting rooms posted.
- Meeting rooms chairs set up (30 chairs in each room).
 - One with microphone if required, for the speaker meeting.
 - Other room chairs set up in a circle for closed AA discussion meeting
- Microphone set up in dining area (for welcoming guest, and announcing meeting times).
- Welcome table at front dining area for AA and Alanon meeting schedule and volunteer serving sign up board.

December 25th: 7am set up till 4:00 p.m.

- Turkeys and Ham arrive at the church
(All our 20 Turkey's and 8 Hams are donated and cooked by AA volunteers in their homes and brought to the venue for slicing by a professional butcher who comes every Christmas morning 7am to volunteer his time for this event, and makes homemade gravy! Yum!)
- December 25 doors open 10am-4pm.
- We serve a free meal to everyone. (7th tradition donation bins)
- Turkey and Ham meal with stuffing, salads, sides, with delicious desserts. Breads and Pop, coffee, tea, water.
- A.A and Alanon meetings are put on throughout the day. (Open speaker meetings and closed discussion meetings). In separate meeting rooms.
- Holiday music playing in the background in the dining area. Fellowship, chatter, and a friendly place to be where no one is alone for the holidays.

2022 = approx. 360 attendees

2023 = approx. 400 attendees (estimated served 600 plates/meals served)

2024 = Total expectant attendees to flow through for 2024 would be approx. 400 people.

Winter Season Open House Chair met with the accessibility committee for ideas and suggestions for venues. For several months, we called venues, and made appointments for venue walk-throughs and was unsuccessful of finding a venue that met all our needs.

After intense searching, we were successful at a venue that met all our needs.

**The 2024 WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE event will be held at:
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
230 St Clair Ave W Toronto On M4V1R5
Entrance off Dunvegan Rd.**

Winter Season Open House Committee meeting dates:

Meeting at Bloordale United Church- 4258 Bloor St W Etobicoke On M9C1Z7

- Sunday Sept 15th at 9am-11am
- Sunday Oct 20th at 9am-11am
- Sunday Nov 17th at 9am-11am
- Sunday Dec 15th at 9am-11am
- Sunday Jan 5th at 9am-11am

Hurray! Zobie G., Winter Season Open House Chair 2024-2025 wsoh@aatoronto.org

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES: No Report.

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email accessibility@aatoronto.org

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: David G. (Friendly), OC Liaison – Verbal Report

David reported that Rob F. (Area 83 Corrections Chairperson) has also stepped in to serve as the GTAI Corrections Chair.

The Lindsay Jail is accepting (male) AA volunteers.

Corrections meets monthly (hybrid meeting) on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. (check online calendar www.aatoronto.org for details). correctionsarea83@gmail.com

CPC/PI: No Report.

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email cpc@aatoronto.org

GRAPEVINE: Imran R. (Port Credit), Chairperson

Happy to report that GV in the GTA is alive and well. We meet once a month every 3rd Sunday at 10 am on Zoom. All are welcome to attend, but particularly if your group has a Grapevine Rep please connect them with us (my phone number is in the signature below) so they can feel supported and we can learn from each other.

Grapevine is a very important part of the program and we depend on members and their groups to help us spread the word. Your group can support Grapevine by:

1. If you don't have a GV rep, then consider bringing this up at your business meeting and introducing this service position. It would be great for members who are relatively new to

the program as well as long timers. They will be spreading the word and working on their own sobriety at the same time.

2. Consider asking your group to purchase a couple of Grapevine subscriptions at only \$36 USD a year per subscription. Many groups hand these out to newcomers or resell them at cost and any remaining copies can be sent to corrections for a good cause
3. Consider purchasing a pack of 30 back issues for \$56 USD. The stories and message are timeless and always relevant.
4. Add a Grapevine display to your group's literature table. We can help to make this for you
5. Invite us out to your group's medallions or anniversaries so we can bring our district Grapevine displays as part of the celebration

At a personal level you can help spread the word by purchasing a subscription for yourself, a sponsor or sponsee (makes a great gift). The digital subscription is only \$2.99 USD a month or you can purchase a print subscription.

Over the next couple of weeks you will find us at the following events, please drop by to say hello and check out all the wonderful GV books that we have on display:

- Aug 31 – 1 year Justin at Port Credit
- Sep 8 – 1 year Tyler B at Lakeshore
- Sep 20 – 25 year Bruce at Islington
- Sep 21 – D22 info day
- Oct 5 – Mississauga Fall Roundup

Yours in Gratitude and Service, Imran R. 647.298.5871

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email imrashid_3@yahoo.com

SELF SUPPORT: No Report.

Self-Support statistics from GSO: Program Services 2023: \$9,000,000/Active Groups: 57,222/
Cost/Active Group: \$157.28 (contributions) Next meeting: Thurs. Sept. 26.

TREATMENT: Chair not present: the following was sent via email:

The committee has not met since May and will try to meet again Sunday September 15th at 4pm if there is enough interest.

D02

No report for District 02 in August as the Chair is on vacation but will send an update later this week.

Brampton Detox:

Thursday at 8pm – Speaker meeting

Saturday at 1:30pm – Closed discussion meeting

Sunday at 8pm – Speaker meeting

St Leonard's:

Tuesday at 8pm – Closed discussion

Addictions Rehab Toronto:

Every Third Wednesday at 7:30pm – Speaker meeting

D06: No Report

D10: No Report

D12

Summer being what it is, there has not been much movement lately. Meetings at our on board facilities (CAMH, Saturday Nooner, Womens' Own, are all being filled (thanks to our members). Still hopeful about adding a few more in the fall.

However it is disheartening that some groups continue to hold private Treatment meetings and take part in district service sharing. This prevents other meetings from having a fair share of service (except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole.)

D14

Nothing new to report as things are quiet with the facilities during the summers. Had a few Bridging the Gap requests which were taken care of.

D16 Spanish: Does not attend or send reports

D18

No Treatment Chair for District 18 at the moment. I am currently working with Fred Victor to get the meeting back on track at the Edward Village Shelter. Will be meeting with management in the next few weeks and will attend their staff meetings in the near future to discuss our AA program.

D22

Delta Shelter/Homes First Service Meeting site closed on July 25, as per Management's request at this time.

Progress Shelter/City of Toronto Service Meeting site is currently on hold for the month of August. The Committee has not yet determined the future of continuing service meetings at this site.

Holiday Inn Shelter/Salvation Army (401/Progress) is open to us providing service meetings 2x/month, possibly to begin in September. The days/times of these meetings has not yet been determined but will be at the next Treatment

Committee meeting scheduled for August 29, 6 pm, via Zoom ID 853 9263 4979; passcode 808085.

An email was sent to the Scarborough Health Network's Community Mental Health Clinic (1940 Eglinton Ave E., at Warden) to introduce the possibility for a service meeting there. To date, there has been no response.

No additional Literature orders were placed for this service period. Similarly, there have been no Bridging the Gap requests for this service period.

As always, I welcome inquiries about D22 Treatment work at any time. Please reach out at the email below. Yours in gratitude & service, Valerie L., Chair/D22 Treatment

Area 83 Report: No Report Chairperson, Brendan O. treatment@aatoronto.org

AREA 83 REPORT: Amy L., Area 83 Alt. Delegate

General Service items from the Alternate Delegate- Area 83 August 27, 2024

1. The International Convention in Vancouver July 3-6, 2025

Registration opens up on September 10, 2024

- [2025 IC Registration Form - EN \(aa.org\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions About the 2025 International Convention & Travel to Canada | Alcoholics Anonymous \(aa.org\)](#)

Note: This is an event that attracts 50K attendees, and GSO has reserved a block of 10K rooms for us. Cost to register: \$160.00 (USD) per person/

Reserving accommodations can be done at the time of registration. If you are interested in going to the event and need a place to stay, it is strongly recommended that you sign up for housing when you register.

2. Plain language Big Book: A tool for Reading Alcoholic Anonymous.

Will be available for purchase on November 1, 2024. The cost of this will be \$11 USD.

See this link for the [Flyer for Plain language Big Book](#)

3. Area 83 is taking an Inventory.

Conducting an inventory for Area 83 seems like a practical step given the changes that have occurred since the last inventory in 2015. This will help evaluate how well Area 83 is fulfilling its purpose. As per the Service Manual 2021-2023, the purpose of an Area is:

1. To elect a delegate who will represent the area's conscience at the annual General Service Conference.
2. To form a local decision-making structure so groups can collectively decide on matters that affect their area.
3. To carry out Twelfth-Step work that may not be practical for groups, districts or intergroups to take on by themselves.

By conducting an inventory and survey, we can assess how well these objectives are being met and identify areas for improvement. This process aligns with the tenth step's principle of continued self-assessment and correction. It's an important initiative that will contribute to the ongoing growth and effectiveness of Area 83.

There are 23 questions that takes about 5 minutes.

Download the flyer with a QR code [HERE](#) or go directly to the google survey [HERE](#)

Deadline to complete the survey is November 10, 2024

4. Area 83's **Area committee** will be meeting on September 7. The meeting is hybrid, and all are welcome to join. You can find details about this meeting and the agenda and all other Area events using the Online calendar [Events for August 2024 \(area83aa.org\)](#)

5. Assembly, November 1-3, 2025

A hybrid event, the weekend will include a full day on Saturday of great workshops, and Sunday is the business meeting and elections for the 2025-2026 (Panel 75) Area Officers.

6. Don't forget to check the **News Icon on the Meeting Guide App**. Under this icon you can read a lot of great news directly from GSO.



this icon you

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Motion: Enhancing Service Education and Accessibility.

Moved by Violet C.M. (Noon Rap) and seconded by Don H. (Keep It Simple).

1. Demystifying Service & Online Sign-Up and Service Matching:

- o Clarify what service entails through outreach and education efforts.
- o Encourage understanding and participation across service levels.
- o Create an efficient online platform for sign-up and matching.
- o Connect willing participants with relevant service opportunities.

2. Portals for Artefacts and Catchment Service Opportunities:

- Establish knowledge-sharing portals at different levels (committee, district, group for those who are willing/interested).
- Maintain anonymity and segregation of duties.
- Enhance security and futureproof where possible.

Leverage the existing familiarity with Toronto Intergroup. Build upon established connections for continuity.

Additional Requirements:

- **Software Architect:**
 - Design, implement, and hand over the system.
- **Volunteer Management:**
 - Existing volunteers oversee and manage the remainder.

Discussion.

Jomana introduced the discussion, and then invited Violet to address the Floor and explain the Motion above more fully. After an initial address, Violet went through a detailed document with those present (see supporting documents in Appendix of these Minutes).

Motion Introduction – Violet C-M (Noon Rap)

Service is a full side of the recovery triangle, and an important aspect of our recovery. Challenges around understanding, communication, accountability and engagement have been reported. (*additional info in examples)

The GSO Service Manual emphasises the importance of connection, cooperation and unified service – to ensure the viability of the fellowship, now and into the future. This motion is to support Service education and accessibility. To compliment what is currently done, not replace it. To this end, we will collaborate with committees and Area 83 to ensure everything is done in harmony.

It is important to note: Anonymity and segregation of duties and levels will be kept top of mind. This approach offers resource equity, and provides a handover mechanism for knowledge sharing, archives, and resource continuity. This is in the spirit of rotation.

This network would be designed to promote district/intergroup cooperation, communication, as well as knowledge sharing at all levels and committees. It can help us prevent duplication of work or effort – while serving the primary purpose; to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

Each generation communicates and accesses information differently, this will help us amplify our voice – and reach more people. Intergroups worldwide have embraced this and are thriving. We must speak where newer generations are listening; the medium is the message.

Examples (Why is this Important?)

- 5% of people are doing 90%+ of the service work.
- District 10 website failed when the lead “trusted servant” left the program; wasting time, money and resources.
- Valuable events such as Winter Season Virtual Alkathon cannot occur without volunteers who can step up and plan and host it.
- Positions are going unfilled, or retained by the same trusted servants for years.
- Service opportunities are typically only discussed at business meetings, or posted on bulletin boards, etc...
 - Many groups find it hard to get volunteers at group level, let alone anything else.
 - People comment they had no idea that opportunities exist at the level outside of their homegroup.... and that it is so much fun to be of service!
- Things that should be common knowledge: Where to find a job description, GSO Service Manual, Service Sponsors.

- Missing Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and change management can lead to security issues and google conundrums to untangle.
- Difficulty finding qualified & interested people for niche (Better Times Editor) or committee roles such as OC (cannot be GTAI rep) or others where the qualifications are unclear.
- Reports back from IG & GSR to groups, can sometimes paint a bleak picture. This does not make it attractive to others to get involved.
 - *Let's flip the narrative: Service is rewarding, and it can be fun.*
- Service can be challenging, or a reason for someone to change groups (politics, toxicity), or at the extreme, cause us to "go out" altogether.
 - 12 traditions help us get along, but only so much as we let them.

Simplified Motion – Aug 27, 2024

We propose creating an ad-hoc committee to explore this motion and report back with a proposal. A research document has been provided separately, should you wish to review it.

TAB 1 - 12-Step Profile & Matching

- **Create a "job search" type platform for GTAI 12-step service opportunities.**
- **AA members can create a service profile.**
 - This info connects volunteers with...
 - ✓ Current service opportunities which fit their profile.
 - Including job descriptions.
 - An anonymous email to express interest.
 - ✓ Future service opportunities via email &/or text alerts.
 - Volunteers for service "raise their hand" digitally this way. The committee rep confirms receipt and volunteers from online and established channels are reviewed and invited for election, if required.

TAB 2 – Resources & Portals

- **Set up pages for committees, districts, and groups to add to as they like.**
 - Public landing page with a template or existing URL – general resources, job descriptions
 - Password-protected portals for storing archives like minutes and templates.
- **Offer Networking, Learning & Collaboration Spaces**
 - Outreach to promote understanding and participation
 - Service-related educational events (in addition to Info AA day)
 - ✓ Lunch & learns or evening after work coffee chats
 - ✓ 12 step service "office hours"
- **Benefits**
 - Protects anonymity and privacy.
 - Provides a secure space, safer than Google alone.
 - Prepares for future success.
 - Attracts and speaks to incoming tech-savvy generations.
- **Intergroup's role**
 - Build a framework, maintain it, and pay for licences, space, upgrades, handles the common needs of all in the GTA intergroup.
 - Supports groups, committees or districts to manage their own content in the portals; including admin level password reset. (For an incoming trusted servant).
 - GTAI is already well-known. Build on this success and connect more AA Members to service.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Software Architect:**
 - Design, implement, and hand over the system.
 - May work with Area 83 to ensure no duplication of efforts.
- **Cost Estimate:**
 - One-time project-based estimate: \$10,000 - \$20,000.
 - Annual upkeep \$200 +
- **Volunteer Management:**
 - Existing volunteers oversee and manage the remainder.

In the interest of time, Jomana asked Floor members if they wanted to continue discussion on this motion or defer discussion until the September General Meeting.

Motion to table discussion of this Motion until the September 24 General Meeting, and suspend regular business to facilitate discussion moved by Bert J. (Silverbirch) and seconded by Bubba (Stepping Stones). **Motion passed.**

As regular business is being suspended at the September meeting, Jomana encouraged subcommittee chairpersons to submit electronic reports to the administrative assistant (admin@aatoronto.org) to include in the September minutes.

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



Opportunities In Service:

- Phone Greeters/12 Step Volunteers:
- Bilingual Member Resource (12 Step Calls):
- Communications Chairperson:
- Operating Committee Members (2):
- Finance Chairperson
- Finance Committee Members

Please Contact:

12step.chair@aatoronto.org
12step.chair@aatoronto.org
oc.vicechair@aatoronto.org
oc.chair@aatoronto.org
oc.chair@aatoronto.org
financechair@aatoronto.org

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS:

Reception Report: (OC Vice- Chairperson provides a count of how many members were in the meeting: Zoom and in-person.) In-person attendance: 20. Online attendance: 36. **TOTAL HYBRID ATTENDANCE: 56.**

- "On behalf of the Intergroup Operating Committee, thank you all for Attending and continuing to be interested in serving a fellowship that has given us our lives back."
- "If you are able and willing, please help clean up and tear down the meeting. Please stack chairs eight high and put them away at the back of the room using a dolly."

Motion to adjourn moved by Violet C.M. (Noon Rap) and seconded by Ivan G. (Birds of a Feather). Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

Next GTAI Monthly General Meeting: (held on the last Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.)
A **hybrid meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2024** at 8 p.m.

Appendix I: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR MOTION RESEARCH & DUE DILLIGENCE

GTA Intergroup Website - Service Education & Participation Enhancements August 27, 2024

Service Opportunities

12th Step Signup For Service

This form takes submissions from users looking to get involved with service, and gathers their personal information and interests.

1 2

Name (required)

First Last

Email (required)

How would you like to be contacted?

How to Get Involved

- Hotline Resources
- Virtual Service Facilities Guide
- New Group Sign Up Form
- Update Meeting Listing
- Request an AA Group
- Transfer/Restart Suggested Pathway
- 12th Step Sign Up Form
- NYIG Rules

https://www.nyintergroup.org/get-involved/#gt_301

12th Step Signup For Service

12th Step Signup For Service

This form takes submissions from users looking to get involved with service, and gathers their personal information and



Are you interested in any of the following opportunities? (1 year of continuous sobriety is required)

- ☐ 12th Step Phone Contact
(You will be put on a list of volunteers willing to call back someone in need)
- ☐ Telephone Service
(You will be put on a list of volunteers willing to help remotely answer the NYIG Hotline)
- ☐ Web Chat Service
(You will be put on a list of volunteers willing to help remotely answer chats that come in from our website)
- ☐ Volunteer Coordination
(You are interested helping to keep our hotline open by finding and/or scheduling volunteers)

Are you interested in joining any of the following Committees?

- ☐ 12th Step Service Committee
- ☐ Group Relations
- ☐ Corrections and Treatment Facilities Committee
- ☐ Public Information Committee
- ☐ Website Committee
- ☐ Archives Committee
- ☐ Sober News
- ☐ Events Committee
- ☐ Finance Committee

Previous

Submit

From NYC Intergroup Page

The screenshot shows the Alcoholics Anonymous London website. The header includes navigation links: HOME, NEW TO AA?, FIND A MEETING, RESOURCES, SERVICE, EVENTS, INTERGROUPS, ABOUT US, and VIDEOS. The main content area features the AA logo and a description of the fellowship. A sidebar on the left lists various services like COMMUNICATIONS, TELEPHONE, PRISON, etc. The 'ALL MEETINGS' section is highlighted, showing a table of meetings with columns for Day, Time, Title, Place, and Postcode. The table lists meetings for Monday at 13:00, including 'Morning Daily Reflections' and 'Morning Response Bookshop'.

The screenshot shows the 'NEW TO AA?' section of the Alcoholics Anonymous London website. It provides information for newcomers, including contact details for the AA office and a list of services. The 'Chat Now' section describes the chat room's purpose and requirements. The 'Email Responders' section outlines the role of email responders and the requirements for becoming one. The 'Our website' section mentions the website's development and maintenance by volunteers. The 'Help' section provides contact information for the AA office and the London City Intergroup.

Chat now – not a bot, but someone on the other side to answer questions.

This is a smaller version of the 'NEW TO AA?' section, showing the same navigation links and introductory text as the larger screenshot above.

• Solve with the region electronic communications liaison officer

• Setting up an AA email account

- you can choose just for our website
- you can also set up an account for your AA email on your telephone, laptop and/or desktop computer
- first register with the confidential directory by downloading and completing this registration form before sending it to us
- General for our Office in York
- once you are registered in the Confidential Directory you may apply for your email password
- click here to apply for your email password

flexible shifts of up to two hours each week.
endorsement from your Intergroup or region chair
supporting each other and sharing their experiences. A Skype chat room

Example – What a listing type could look like



AA Greater Vancouver Intergroup Society
604.434.3933 (24 Hours)
staff@vancouveraa.ca
3457 Kingsway, Vancouver, BC

Sign up for our Newsletter:
Email address

Terms & Conditions of
www.vancouveraa.ca

© 2011 Greater Vancouver Intergroup Society AA (Vancouver) | Site Map | Privacy

Area 83 info – has a page for districts, but results = not found

- <https://www.area83aa.org/how-it-works/district-websites-2>

The screenshot shows a Google Map of the Greater Toronto Area, specifically focusing on the District Map of Mississauga. The map is color-coded to show different administrative districts. Key districts visible include Vaughan (blue), Markham (purple), Oakville (green), and Mississauga (yellow/orange). The map also shows surrounding areas like Brampton and Burlington. A legend in the top left corner indicates that the map was made with Google My Maps. The map is titled 'District Map' and 'Mississauga Area 02'.

From Ares 83 Gilde App

General Service Districts of Alcoholics Anonymous

Part of AREA 83 – Eastern Ontario International

8 Service Districts of the GTA (Zone 1)

District 02 Malton -north to Hwy.7 -south to Eglinton Ave. W. -west to Mississauga -east to Keele St.	District 06 Mississauga -north to Eglinton Ave. W. -south to Lakeshore -east to Scarlett Rd./ south Kingsway -west to Sixteen Mile Creek/Kerr St.	District 10 Toronto South Central -north to Eglinton -south to Lakeshore -east to Don Valley -west to Avenue Rd.	District 12 Toronto South West -north to Eglinton Ave. W. -south to Lakeshore -east to Avenue Rd. -west to Scarlett Rd./ south Kingsway
District 14 Toronto North Central -south to Eglinton -east to Bayview -west to Keele -north past Major Mack. Includes Aurora, Keswick, Newmarket, Sutton, Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Woodbridge	District 16 Distrito Hispano De Toronto (Spanish) NO DISTRICT BOUNDARIES	District 18 Toronto City East -north past Major Mack -south to Lakeshore -east to Kennedy -west to Bayview -all the way to Lake Simcoe	District 22 Scarborough -north to Steeles Ave -south to Lakeshore -east to Port Union -west to Kennedy

From the GTA/ Office

- 02 – referenced back to TO intergroup
- 06 – <https://aamississauga.org/district-6-website-guidelines/>
- 14 – only area 82 affiliated sites - referenced back to TO intergroup
- 12 – only area 82 affiliated sites - referenced back to TO intergroup
- 10 – website BROKEN - <http://www.district10toronto.org/>
- 18 – says it is temporary <https://www.district18.org/>
- 22 – referenced back to TO intergroup
- 16 – referenced back to TO intergroup

From independent Google search

GREATER TORONTO AREA DISTRICTS



From the GTA/ Office

WORKING WITH LOCAL INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICES

Traditionally, general service committees and intergroup/central offices perform different functions. Intergroup/central offices provide local services, while general service committees maintain the link between A.A. groups and the General Service Board by means of the Conference. (Some parts of the U.S./Canada structure may not have an intergroup/central office.)

These two autonomous but vital service structures coexist in many areas. All of A.A. benefits when intergroup/central offices and general service work together in mutual cooperation. A.A. groups may elect a representative to their local intergroup/central office.

Many areas find that a liaison between the intergroup/central offices and the area committee is very helpful in maintaining good relations and communication. In some areas the liaison has a vote at the assembly; in others, a voice, but no vote.

More information on working together is available through G.S.O. and in the pamphlets "The A.A. Group" and "Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix," as well as in the Guidelines on Central or Intergroup Offices (with excerpts found in Appendix S).

APPENDIX S:

GENERAL SERVICE AND INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICES

WHAT IS A CENTRAL OR INTERGROUP OFFICE?

A central or intergroup office is an A.A. service office that involves partnership among groups in a community—just as A.A. groups themselves are partnerships of individuals. An intergroup/central office is established to carry out certain functions common to all the groups—functions that are best handled by a central/office—and it is usually maintained, supervised and supported by these groups in their general interest. It exists to aid the groups in their common purpose of carrying the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

FUNCTIONS OF AN INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE

A.A. experience has demonstrated that intergroup/central offices are helpful, particularly in populous areas. There are nearly 700 intergroup/central offices throughout the world, performing vital A.A. services. These constitute a network of service outlets and A.A. contacts to help carry the A.A. message. The following suggestions outline the basic services an intergroup/central office might offer:

1. **A.A. Inquiries**—By providing an Alcoholics Anonymous listing in the local telephone directory and on appropriate websites, the intergroup/central office may receive inquiries from those seeking help. They will refer the caller to a nearby A.A. group, where sponsorship may be arranged, or have a Twelfth Step peer contact them. Many local A.A. offices now have their own website.
2. **Office Facilities**—The intergroup/central office can maintain a conveniently located office in which paid workers and/or volunteers coordinate local A.A. services.
3. **Meeting Lists and Other Literature**—At regular intervals, the intergroup/central office may publish and distribute up-to-date lists of meetings and other information about local A.A. services. Many intergroup/central offices sell A.A. Conference-approved literature for the convenience of local groups.
4. **Information Exchange**—The service office may function as a clearinghouse for the circulation and exchange of information among all the A.A. groups in the community. In this same connection, a logical function of the intergroup/central office is to provide "exchange" meetings, where group program chairpersons meet regularly to exchange meetings with other groups.
5. **Local Committees on Public Information (PI) and Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)** in cooperation with district and area PI and CPC committees—The intergroup/central office is an ideal contact with those in the community seeking information about A.A. Thus, A.A.'s relations with the public and professionals in the alcoholism field are often handled through the cooperation of general service committees and intergroup/central offices. To avoid duplication of efforts and other difficulties, good communication between all parts of A.A. is paramount. A.A. Guidelines and Workbooks on PI and CPC are available on G.S.O.'s website at www.aa.org.
6. **A.A. in Correctional and Treatment Facilities**—The intergroup/central office can maintain contact with local groups in correctional facilities and treatment facilities, offering literature and providing A.A. contacts and arranging for A.A. speakers and visitors to meetings. When there is a correctional or treatment committee for this purpose, the service office may assist it through close cooperation with local hospitals and prisons. Intergroup/central offices handling institutional contacts can find A.A. Guidelines and other service material on aa.org for shared experience in providing these services.
7. **Local A.A. Events**—An A.A. intergroup/central office is a logical body to manage the details of an annual dinner, picnic or convention, if the participating groups wish it.

Appendix S

8. **A.A. Bulletin or Newsletter**—The preparation of a publication for periodic distribution in A.A. groups.
9. **Accessibility**—Many intergroup/central offices carry information on groups that are wheelchair accessible, or which may provide American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation for members who are deaf. Some offices have equipment or materials for communicating with alcoholics who have visual and auditory challenges, those who are housebound or chronically ill, those who are living with the effects of brain damage or stroke, and others who may have less visible challenges.

COMMUNICATION

Communication—between the intergroup/central office and general service area committees or the district committee and the G.S.O.—is the key to working together. In 1990 the General Service Conference stressed the importance of communication and recommended that delegates establish and maintain contact with offices in their areas to share Conference information and assure that intergroup/central offices have a voice in the Fellowship through their existing service structure.

Try to find out what is going on by getting together from time to time with corresponding committees in your area. It is important to share ideas and discuss activities so as to avoid duplication of effort. It is not important who does the work (the general service committee or the intergroup/central office committee in your area) but that the work gets done—that help is there for the next alcoholic who needs us and our Fellowship.

Intergroup/central offices and general service area committees are complementary, rather than competitive. A.A. operates. Both exist to help insure A.A. unity and to fulfill A.A.'s primary purpose of carrying the message.

In 1986, the first A.A.W.S./Intergroup/Central Office Seminar was held to discuss questions on literature distribution, pricing and discounts, and to share ways to work together. Seminars are now held each year. Seminar history and information can be found at: www.icaaa.org.

For its own part, G.S.O. also seeks to keep intergroup/central offices well informed. As a regular policy, the G.S.O. newsletter, Box 4-5-9, as well as activity updates and A.A.W.S. Highlights, are sent to each intergroup/central office that lists itself with G.S.O. Therefore, it is important to remember to update office contact information. The staff member on the Group Services assignment is the liaison with intergroup/central offices. You may contact Group Services by calling (212) 870-3400 or emailing groupservices@aa.org.

INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICES AND G.S.O.

Common experience has shown that A.A.'s worldwide unity is best served if A.A. groups maintain their own separate contacts with G.S.O. Direct group contact with G.S.O. doesn't take the place of service provided by a local service office, but helps G.S.O. to keep in closer touch with all groups. There are, however, some important areas of interest in which close contact between the intergroup/central offices and G.S.O. is not only desirable but necessary. Some intergroup/central offices, for example, like to be provided with New Group Information Forms so that newly formed groups can be immediately listed with G.S.O. These forms as well as forms for changing group information are available on aa.org.

Groups should not assume that if they list themselves with an intergroup/central office they are automatically listed in G.S.O. New groups are encouraged to send a Group Information Form directly to the General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163, or emailing memberservices@aa.org.

GROUP REPRESENTATION AT AN INTERGROUP/CENTRAL OFFICE

Service centers usually have no authority on their own account; they derive it from the participating groups. Intergroup/central offices are essentially A.A. service entities, "directly responsible to those they serve," as described in Tradition Nine. Local group representatives reflect the groups' conscience in the service center operations. In most communities, an intergroup/central office committee or steering committee is set up to handle the administrative activities of the service office. The steering committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and deals with general policy and plans. Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on intergroup/central office problems and accomplishments. It is extremely important to keep a two-way flow of information going between the intergroup/central office and groups.

Source: "A.A. Guidelines: Central or Intergroup Office" p. 917



Winter Season Open House 2024

Wed., December 25, 2024

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

230 St. Clair Ave W. Toronto M4V 1R5 (Entrance off
Dunvegan Rd.) ***Fully Accessible* FREE EVENT***

All Are Welcome

Fun, Food, Fellowship, AA and AI Anon Meetings – details to follow

Volunteers!

We have Service Opportunities for...

Greeters, Set-Up, Kitchen Help, Food
Prep, Servers, Turkey Cookers, Meetings
Support, and Tear-Down

Contact Zobie G., Event Chairperson

416-709-0178

wsoh@aatoronto.org



2024 Event Committee Volunteers are Welcome!

Committee meetings:

Bloordale United Church, 4285 Bloor St. West, Etobicoke

- Sunday September 15 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Sunday October 20 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Sunday November 17 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Sunday December 15 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Sunday January 5 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.