

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

(Hybrid 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 Mary Jane M. (Willowdale Shepherd).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Aurora, Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Brampton Recovery, Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Fifth Tradition, Friendly, HadEnuffYet, Keep It Simple, King City, Lakeshore, Leslie, Lighthouse, Love & Tolerance, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, New Anchor, Noon Rap, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Primary Purpose, Prince Edward, Rox Glen Traditional, Sisters in Sobriety, Silverbirch, Six Points, St. Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, The Dogs, The Hill, The Indian Road, Westmoreland, and Willowdale Shepherd.

(Please note: some online attendees may not have included their group name in their virtual 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 at the virtual meeting for accurate recording.)

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 02, 14, and 22.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Bruce L. (Finance Chair), Jenn F., Jomana A. (OC Chair), Kelli T. (OC Vice-Chair), Kelly L. (OC Secretary), Lijon G, and Sean L.

SUBCOMMITTEES REPRESENTED: DUE TO SUSPENSION OF REGULAR BUSINESS TO FACILITATE THE MOTION, SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS DID NOT GIVE REPORT PRESENTATIONS AT THIS MEETING. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO THE RECORDING SECRETARY HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN THESE MINUTES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kelli T. (OC Vice-Chair) had the following announcements:

- For those in person who haven't signed the roll call at Reception, please do so;
- Minutes from the previous meeting are available tonight at the Reception table;
- Also available are Gratitude Campaign pamphlets/Gratitude Announcement posters (for group bulletin boards and/or secretary announcements at your group);
- October edition of Better Times is available.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – August 2024

Errors or Omissions: No errors or omissions were forthcoming.

Motion to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Jimmy S. (Fifth Tradition) and seconded by Matt M. (Responsibility). 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:

"Thank you all for being here; I am happy to be here. I am pleased to announce that we have a Winter Season Virtual Alkathon Chairperson, Thom L. (Noon Rap). Welcome aboard, Thom!"

oc.chair@aatoronto.org

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

Motion moved by Tom C. (Twelve Steps) and seconded by Mary Jane M. (Willowdale Shepherd). Motion carried.

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 October 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; \$10.45 was collected (after coffee/supply expenses).
- For Virtual attendees: The 7th Tradition link is as follows:
<https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>

As per Motion made at the August 27 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.**

Subcommittee Reports sent in by email are included in the latter part of these Minutes.

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:

- Clarify what service entails through outreach and education efforts.
- Encourage understanding and participation across service levels.
- Create an efficient online platform for sign-up and matching.
- 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.

Violet C-M. (Noon Rap) was given an opportunity to give a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation for the simplified Motion to attendees.

Jomana then **gave a recap on the simplified Motion:**

"The Motion tonight is about the creation of an *ad hoc* committee to explore the Motion made previously, and explore suggestions that we have; then report back with actual proposals on implementation of these ideas. We are not voting on the proposed items outlined previously."

To sum: It is a Motion for the creation of an *ad hoc* committee to investigate this proposal; not an implementation Motion.

Jomana shared the perimeters of discussion for the above Motion.

Perimeters for Discussion of Motion (based on the Twelve Traditions & Roberts Rules of Order):

- Every members has two minutes to share;
- Please get to your point when sharing...please stay on topic;
- Practice active listening;
- Who Votes: Intergroup Reps, or in their absence Alternate Reps;
- Operating Committee Members have a voice but not a vote;
- Members present decide whether to vote on this tonight or defer to the October General Meeting;
- "Please keep it classy and respectful! We are discussing ideas; not personalities. Remember: principles before personalities. Thank you!"

Order of Comments:

- A member of the in-person portion of the meeting goes first, followed by a virtual attendee in rotation;
- The order of members wanting to share/comment will proceed by order of hands raised.

Discussion commences.

Sean L., Operating Committee Member:

"Thank you, Violet, for that presentation. It was an excellent slide deck and I really like the slide pertaining to the information-gathering phase(s) and phase gates as a result. That sold it for me."

Alyson B., Morning Discussion Group:

"I'm not going to vote against it. However, the phrase that keeps running through my head is 'AA as such ought never be organized'. This seems like a whole host of organization, charts and so on. I'm wondering about my group [members]; are they going to fill out forms behind a private portal as opposed to saying at a business meeting 'I'd like to do that [service position]?' It's a whole lot of structure."

Steve C., Rox Glen Traditional Group:

"Great presentation, Violet. My question is – if I read it in the [previous] Minutes correctly – this has been done with other intergroup offices in Canada and North America? You also have the example of London UK. Has it been successful? I'm wondering about the numbers. Also, the cost [of this endeavour] was mentioned in the Minutes but not in your presentation tonight. To me, this idea seems to make a fair bit of sense; there does seem to be a lack of communication between the districts and Intergroup; even between the groups within the districts."

Violet C-M, Noon Rap Group, responds:

"The cost wasn't mentioned again tonight because of time constraints. Also, I haven't been given the 'green light' to explore this yet, so that would be part of our research [if given the go-ahead]. For instance: what success London UK or New York have had with these kind of initiatives? I have reached out to London a little awhile ago (as a member) to investigate but I have yet to receive a response."

Violet continued:

"Thank you Alyson as well for your question. I know that it does seem like a lot of organization; absolutely AA ought never be organized. Members can and still should raise their hands in person [to volunteer for service]; this is just an additional avenue for the incoming generations to feel like that service is for them, too. Currently the messaging [about service] is through business meetings and such. Unfortunately, sometimes the information from Area 83, district or Intergroup doesn't get back to the groups. Groups that are struggling to find people to help facilitate their own groups: they're not going to highlight that there's service opportunities beyond the group level. What we're trying to solve is to bring the awareness of service opportunities at all levels; especially at the home group level; also, to communicate to the incoming generations in a way that they are 'listening'...which is through their devices [i.e. phone apps]."

Mary Jane M., Willowdale Shepherd Group:

"My concern here is that there is already an avenue on the existing website, created two years ago. It was being underused; underused is different than 'we need something new'. I'm concerned about the \$10,000 - \$20,000 price tag [for something] that would actually 'mimic' something that is already in place. If members want to find something that is available for within their group as well as outside their group [in terms of service opportunities], you go to our current website and look at the service committees highlighted there. There are email addresses listed for each service committee. Members interested can contact the chairperson regarding service opportunities. I think that - as new generations come in - there is already a program in place for this. If it needs enhancing, then enhance it. I'm not against improvements; however, I'm a little concerned about creating an *ad hoc* committee to delve into this idea so deeply if the end result is moot."

Violet C-M, Noon Rap Group, responds:

"Regarding the GTA Intergroup Website: all of the service committees are highlighted at the bottom of the Home Page. So yes: we have those subcommittees on the website, but they need to be at the top. An implemented 'service finder' could help to match members to service positions. This would make sense in a way that 'you're currently an Intergroup Rep so you can't simultaneously service as a member of the Operating Committee'; sobriety requirements for service positions, etc. There is information that we know as members active in service. Someone new to the service landscape encounters a 'wall' that might prevent them from leaping into service. You have to be 'intentional' with the information and awareness about service and service opportunities. We are taking what is there [on the website], enhancing it, and allowing the search feature to match interested members with potential service roles. Example: Area 83 has decided to do websites for districts but this is static content. So potentially we could take that and actually link it. It's about enhancement; not re-doing."

Evan H., The Hill Group:

"If feel I can give some input as to the younger generation as I am a younger member. It's a really great idea to connect people with service and make it a lot more efficient. The one thing that I'm hesitant about is it becoming a social media type of site, where it slows morphs into things outside of AA. For example, pitfalls occurring like members messaging other people on it; sending inappropriate messages etc. In terms of the website, the majority of people under the age of 30...if it's not an app they will not be interested much; it's just how it is. In this regard, and app would be more effective."

Violet C-M, Noon Rap Group, responds:

"Evan than you for the insight. I've actually had great conversations with members at The Hill. There's so many of you that there's not a problem filling service roles. The goal is to replicate

the enthusiasm for service that your group has, and get members to be engaged in service beyond the group level. Thanks for your input; I understand the hesitation around the social media site concern. This is not that; it's not a public service profile. The idea would be that it's a service profile that a member would create and it would help to generate matches for that specific member for current service opportunities and service as a trigger point for any new service position that comes up matching their interests. It's not public; there is no messaging. This increases the cost dramatically. If we want to do this 'cheap and cheerful' or if we want to go full out and include things like integration with chat...this would be too much."

Bert J., Silverbirch Group:

"I liked Evan's comment about apps; how younger people won't respond to a website or an email. Our Meeting Guide App (GSO) is a great example of this success. It's time that Intergroup Reps and GSRs also spread the word more about service opportunities at the Intergroup and district levels. I'm of the older generation but I'm young at heart and I understand what the new generation is living like now. Since I've been in the program of AA it's always been 5% of the members doing 95% of the work. This is because members don't announce service opportunities and what the fellowship needs at their groups on a regular basis. This is an expression of gratitude."

Kelli T., Operating Committee Vice-Chair:

"It's an *ad hoc* committee; all we are voting for is the formation of an *ad hoc* committee that looks into this possibility. All of these questions will have to be investigated. I'm all for having an *ad hoc* committee to do this. As Mary Jane alluded to, we do have subcommittee pages currently on our website. Every committee has a page and email address. One of the things that this *ad hoc* committee can surface for us is ways to use our website better. I look forward to that and to working with our new Web Developer, Collin R. If you know anybody that has any web experience the Communications committee could use their help. Then we could get this stuff done a lot faster! With all these volunteers, we could certainly have a better use of our website real estate and future features like our Help Chat."

Bill M., Mississauga Group:

"Who and when is this *ad hoc* committee going to be formed? Who is going to form it, and who will be in it?"

Jomana and Violet invited **Thom L., Noon Rap Group**, to answer:

"The first stage of this is information gathering; developing a deeper understanding of the problem. It's not meant to 'solution'; it's not meant to be a website or an app or a social media experience because we don't know what it's going to be at this point. We do have some sources for inspiration (New York/London) and there's a lot of technology out there to help people learn about service and service positions that are available. They wouldn't predicate upon someone's eagerness to participate in a meeting. It would just allow them to use a phone to learn how to be more connected to AA. With that in mind, we started to gather some members who are technically capable and interested in sobriety and this idea. I'm trying to find members that are younger; people that came into AA and wondered why they couldn't connect to service information from their phone. Short answer is the *ad hoc* committee will be composed of members who are interested in learning more about how to respect AA's Traditions and principles but at the same time reaching people that aren't currently being reached."

Jomana A., Operating Committee Chair:

"I asked Thom some questions. The first one was 'Is this an open call to interested members interested in service and technology to participate in this *ad hoc* committee?' (Yes). The second part of my question was 'Is there going to be a sobriety requirement to participate on the *ad hoc*

committee?’ For example: to be an OC member you have to have 2 years of continuous sobriety.”

Violet C-M, Noon Rap Group, responds:

“I think that would be counterproductive, because this is the issue that we’re trying to overcome. Which is ‘How do we get members into service sooner?’ We’d like to have their voice on the committee as well as their input. It’s not me or Thom running this. Thom is a software architect with 14 years of experience. It would be a group consensus; it’s not a Violet or Thom idea. It’s a GTA Intergroup idea. That’s why I would suggest that we have whomever would like to join and participate [with no set sobriety requirement].”

Jomana A., Operating Committee Chair:

“To recap, Violet says there is no sobriety requirement to join this *ad hoc* committee. How many members do you want on the *ad hoc* committee?” (Answer: 5-10 members)

Thom L., Noon Rap Group:

“I just want to get as many people as possible to experience service in AA. We want to elicit as much feedback as we can from as many members/groups that are going to be served. So, anybody that wants to participate in this is welcome. There does have to be structure and the people facilitating this *ad hoc* committee would have a certain amount of sobriety. I really don’t know and I’m open to suggestions.”

Discussion ends.

Jomana called for **sense of the Floor** if those attending tonight wanted to defer the vote until October, or vote tonight. **Those members present agreed to proceed with a vote this evening.**

Jomana then gave a **Motion Recap:**

Motion to create an *ad hoc* committee (committee members’ number TBD but so far 5-10 members) **in order to explore possible technology applications** regarding enhancement of AA service education and service opportunities for members via:

1. 12-step service profile; and
2. Matching and resources and portals.

This *ad hoc* committee will report back to the Intergroup Floor with propositions on requirements, steps, and cost.

There is no sobriety requirement to participate on this *ad hoc* committee. Volunteers need to be interested in service and technology.

A Vote was taken.

Vote in person:

- 9 voted in favour of the Motion;
- 0 votes against the Motion;
- 0 abstentions.
- Total voting in person: 9

Vote online:

- 22 voted in favour of the Motion;
- 2 voted against the Motion;
- 3 abstentions.
- Total voting online: 27

Total Vote: 36. 31 for Motion; 2 against Motion; 3 abstentions. MOTION PASSES.

Jomana closed the discussion/vote by saying "Congratulations! Violet and Thom can move forward! Feel free to connect with the Operating Committee to see how this can be brought back to the Intergroup Floor to see how you can share your findings and proposals and implementation is we get to that point. Thank you!"

Floor members shared applause for the presentation and discussion of this Motion.

After the discussion and vote, there was a question about the Voice of the Minority being exercised at this time (Bert J., Silverbirch).

The feedback that was received from Kelli T. (OC Vice-Chair) was that the Voice of the Minority is reserved for Area level and does not have a space in this meeting.

FINANCE REPORT – the following report was sent via email:

	August 2024 (1 month)						
	Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Variance	%	Actual 2023	Variance	%
Contributions	4,347	8,616	(4,269)	(50%)	4,555	(208)	(5%)
Literature Sales	9,147	11,320	(2,173)	(19%)	13,415	(4,268)	(32%)
= Total Revenues	13,494	19,936	(6,442)	(32%)	17,970	(4,476)	(25%)
- Cost of Sales	6,270	9,198	(2,928)	(32%)	9,045	(2,775)	(31%)
- Expenses	19,044	16,809	2,235	13%	13,282	5,762	43%
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(11,820)	(6,071)	(5,749)		(4,357)	(7,463)	

Contributions are down by 50% vs. Budget but consistent with 2023 numbers. Literature sales are on Budget at \$9,147 after discount or \$11,239 before discount. Total literature sales for the year are \$116,717 with a total discount of \$21,503.

Cost of Sales is 32% below Budget at \$6,270; this is offset somewhat by expenses being higher than Budgeted. Overall for the month there is a deficit of \$11,820 vs. a Budgeted deficit of \$6,071, however for the year the deficit is \$12k less than Budgeted.

financechair@aatoronto.org

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: the following report was sent via email:

I am an alcoholic, a member of the East York Group, having the honour, privilege, and responsibility to serve as the Chair of this Intergroup's Archive Committee, my name is Glenn.

Tickets are selling fast for the GTAI Archives Breakfast, scheduled for Sunday November 10th at Bloordale United Church starting at 9am. Tickets are \$35 and include: Coffee, Juices, Fruit

platters, Bacon, Sausages, Scrambled eggs, condiments, dessert, Archives displays, Door prizes, Raffle Prizes, Fabulous long timer speaker and more! Please see our flyer on the aatoronto.org website.

Committee members continue to solicit: long timer personal artifacts and documents, oral and group histories, defunct group tablecloths and materials. Our Archivist Eddy G. Has been on a whirlwind tour attending long time medallions and group anniversaries. Additionally, he has been providing historical data for some of these events. David, our assistant Archivist continues to sanitize Area 83 Eastern Ontario International minutes (removing last names). He also updates the database as needed.

I enjoy chairing this committee. Our members are very active when it comes to collecting and documenting our history. Each meeting provides another historical tidbit. Please join us if you are interested. We meet on the second Friday of each month at 7pm online and most times in person at 234 Eglinton Avenue East in the Boardroom. Please check to see if one or more of us will be there in person. Please note that our December meeting is held at a local restaurant. Please join us if you wish. Yours in loving service, Glenn archives@aatoronto.org

COMMUNICATIONS:

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: the following report was sent via email:

Good evening all, I am an alcoholic, member of the Rexdale United Group and I have the pleasure of serving as your Info AA Day Chairperson and my name is De.

We met Monday evening, September 23, 2024 with 7 in attendance. With the help of the Committee, we sourced several Venues: Timothy Eaton, which was not available, Rexdale United, again unavailable. We are considering Lansing, which meets all our needs in terms of space and kitchen facilities. They also have a PA system and AV system for power point presentations and located off the 401 and easy access by Subway. Another option is the Native Canadian Centre Toronto, where Birds of a Feather meet again easy Subway access. Both are available and both are Accessible.

We still require a Venue Coordinator, however, to view the facility and other tasks.

Regardless of venue this year's event will be potluck which our Hospitality and Culinary Coordinators Lynn E of District 18 and Gregorio A. District 16 will provide us with more details as time goes on. Historically potluck has been a great success and both Coordinators are well versed in our culinary needs.

Our Communications and Graphics Coordinator, Lisa B District 12 has already been busy and has two flyers for us to look over and discuss at our next meeting.

Discussion is ongoing regarding whether or not to have Guest Speaker, and we will invite the incoming Delegate to give his or her report-back from the General Service Conference.

We are still in need of a Secretary, Venue Coordinator, Program Coordinator and Host. Please ask your groups if there is someone who would like the opportunity to fill these positions or be a part of our Committee. We need everyone's voice and ideas to make this coming event a successful one.

And just as a reminder, any member of Alcoholics Anonymous is welcome to join our Committee and share in the planning of our event. Everyone has a voice and a vote. This is a collaboration with all eight Districts and their Committees and all service Committees at Intergroup. We hope to have great representation from both, and ideas how to plan the Program for the day. We want as many AA members to be a part of the planning. We need ideas and the best way to accomplish this is to have as many members on the Committee with all varied experience as possible.

We meet virtually the 4th Monday of each month (except for December when we will not meet) and zoom information can be found on the Events Calendar at aatoronto.org

Any questions about joining us or more information about Info AA Day, please contact me at derail416@gmail.com

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

De R. District Committee Member District 02 – Malton, Info AA Day Chair

I.T. SUBCOMMITTEE:

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

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025: the following report was sent via email:

Good evening everyone, I am an alcoholic, a members of the Beaches Group & I have the honor of serving as your ORC 2025 Chair & my name is Eddy G.

-The ORC will be held at the Sheraton Centre Hotel on Friday March 14 to Sunday March 16, 2025. The theme is "A New Happiness".

-The ORC 2025 Committee & the ORC 2026 shadow committee positions have been filled (there are 10 positions for each).

-We held our first meeting in person at the Sheraton on Sunday September 15 at 10:30 am. Members got to know each other & there were some short reports. After the meeting we had a walk through the hotel to observe the rooms we will be utilizing during our weekend event.

-Currently, we are preparing a detailed budget for the ORC Advisory Committee.

-Also we are working on the ORC Website & hope to have it updated soon.

Thank you, yours in service, Eddy G., ORC 2025 Event Chairperson

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email egesicki@rogers.com

TWELFTH STEP:

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 – the following report was sent via email:

Winter Season Open House 2024:
December 25th 2024 10am-4pm
Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
230 St Clair Ave W Toronto ON M4V1R5
Entrance off Dunvegan Rd. *Fully Accessible*

December 25th

- December 25 doors open 10am-4pm.
- Free meal to everyone. (7th tradition donation bins throughout)
Turkey and Ham meal with stuffing, salads, sides, desserts, breads, pop, coffee, tea, water.
- A.A and Alanon meetings are put on throughout the day.
(Open speaker meetings and closed discussion meetings).

We need your help.

Volunteers are needed for:

- **Set up** December 24th, 8am set up – 1 p.m. (just show up at 230 St Clair Ave W Toronto Entrance off Dunvegan Rd.) No Parking lot on this day as the church has an event and they require the parking lot.
-Volunteers slice, dice, chop and peel all the veggies and food for the meal.
- **Dessert Donations** required (please inform the committee wsoh@atoronto.org)
- **Turkey and Ham donation** required.

TURKEY RULES

- If donating a turkey let us know us know in advanced by providing your name and number to any committee member who will forward it to the Turkey Chair Dave or email us at wsoh@atoronto.org
- DO NOT STUFF the turkey (due to allergies)
- Cook the turkey before hand
- (if not cooked, the committee will find someone to cook it)
- Doesn't have to be hot when picked up or brought to the church
- Bring the turkey or ham to the church on Dec 25 by 8am (no later than 8am, as the butcher will be slicing all the turkeys at that time)
- If you cannot make it to the church on Dec 25, someone can pick it up from you on Dec 24. Preferred cold for transportation.
- Hams must be fully cooked
- Most packaged hams from the grocery store come already cooked, if so, leave them in the package.
- Average Ham bone in is about 19 lbs. (serves 30-40 people)
- Average boneless ham is about 6.7 lbs. (serves 25 people)

Committee Chairs needed to set up their display tables Dec 25 10-3pm

Examples: of past committees who have setup tables:

- Archives
- Grapevine

Our Committee

We have an enthusiastic, committee that is thriving and eager to get started on the event at the new location.

Our Committee met on Sunday Sept 15th at 9am-11am.

Our committee consist of 19 people, all our service positions are filled.

Kitchen/ Food Prep Chair for volunteers/ Turkey and Ham /Purchaser/ Meetings/Desserts & Drinks/Garbage & Washrooms/ Greeters / Secretary/ Set up and Tear down/ Decorations/ sound system & DJ/ Welcome table & sign up board /Literature table / 7th Tradition & Treasure/ Volunteer Coordinator.

We are hoping to meet with someone from the Hill group, who will provide us access to their bin of utensils to use for this event.

Winter Season Open House Committee meeting dates:

Meeting at Bloordale United Church, 4258 Bloor St W Etobicoke ON M9C1Z7

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

To contact WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE: wsqh@aatoronto.org

Zobie G., Bloordale Group, Chair - Winter Season Open House 2024-2025 416 709 0178

WINTER SEASON VIRTUAL ALKATHON 2024:

This year's newly appointed Event Chairperson is Thom L. (Noon Rap). Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email winterseasonvirtualalkathon@aatoronto.org

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITIES:

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

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: the following report was sent via email:

COMBINED GTA & AREA 83 CORRECTIONS MEETING

September 3, 2024 – In person and via Zoom

Chair: Rob F (Area 83 Corrections Chair) (On Line)

Attendees: In Person – Jim R (D06-Corrections Chair), Lynn E (D22-Corrections Chair), Scott O (D12-Corrections Chair), Tom P (D12), Cam B (D12) On Line – Tony D (D02-Corrections Chair), Graham D (D06), Tony F (D14-DCM), Eileen S (D28), Minutes: Eric G (D10)

Meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 PM.

Reports

Lynn E (D22)

Coordinating for Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC). Meetings Wednesday and Sunday at 6:30 PM. Two new volunteers now oriented. Tom P has done first walk-through and looking forward to continuing. Recently some lockdowns, may be related to available staff. Good supply of Grapevines, Big Books and 12 and 12's. Lynn now located in District 18, will be continuing as Corrections Chair for D22 until December, unsure after.

Tony D (D02)

Meetings restarted at Ontario Correctional Institute (OCI). Currently coordinated by Eddie G (Lakeshore group) on Mondays at 6:30 PM. Using 12 and 12. Internal Sunday meetings also restarted by clients. Not sure if outside speakers as before Covid. Good supply of Big Books and Grapevines. Thinking of starting a possible Big Book study. Volunteer Coordinator difficult contact. Trying to get more volunteers cleared for entry, may involve attendance at police station and fingerprints. Going on holiday shortly and will try to check with Volunteer Coordinator again upon return.

Jim R (D06)

Attended at Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) today, 3 volunteers, checked 3 ranges, 1 available, approximately 10 clients attended, meeting well received. Purchased case of softcover Big Books (40 copies \$328) through Intergroup paid for from Corrections Committee budget. D06 has agreed to pay for second case. Trying to obtain back issues of Grapevines through Intergroup (new condition but one-year-plus-old). Currently short of Grapevines.

Scott O (D12)

Has been away so no updates at the moment.

Eric G (D10)

Continuing to volunteer at TEDC. Thanks to Lynn E for coordinating. Last shift went well. Brief discussion re: Eric G possibly continuing as D10 Corrections Chair if position vacant, no D10 meeting in August and will follow up for September meeting.

Eileen S (D28)

Supporting D28 - Oshawa, Newcastle, Port Perry area. Available to assist with Bridging the Gap requests.

Tony F (D14)

ADCM. Limited activity in August. Resupplying pamphlets to District police stations, parole offices, courts, halfway house and treatment facility (for alcoholics who have suffered head injuries, Finch Avenue area). Attended Forum in D14 (general service focus, not specific to Corrections), "awesome fellowship" and saw Rob F.

Trevor O (D36)

E-Report (attached) as has standing AA commitment Tuesday evenings.

Rob F (Area 83)

Recently injured (ankle) but able to attend functions. No Bridging the Gap requests. Two upcoming Service Days (D02 and D22). Has requested attendees bring used Grapevines if possible. Will be attending Area 83 Committee meetings and giving Corrections Report this Saturday.

Lynn E confirmed D22 Service Day on Saturday, September 21. Corrections speaker will be Gale R. Picking up Corrections Display from Intergroup office. Will also ask organizers to remind attendees to bring Grapevines if possible.

Discussion re: one-on-one versus larger group meetings at Institutions. Each has own rules often based on security.

Discussion re: literature. Total Corrections budget of \$600 annually. In the past spending directed by GTA Intergroup Corrections Subcommittee Chair (8 Districts, currently no Chair). \$328 spent to date for case of Big Books to TSDC. May have further requests, for example for TEDC. Generally \$100-\$150 also needed for pamphlets to distribute at Ontario Regional Conference (ORC).

Lynn E advised that GTA area Districts have been offered a hospitality suite at the ORC for 2025. Being organized with details to follow.

Meeting concluded at approximately 7:50 PM.

Next meeting Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7 p.m. in person at 234 Eglinton Avenue and on Zoom (hybrid). All are welcome.

New Zoom Meeting ID 885 4649 3562 Password 559493

Inquiries about specific subcommittee activities: please email correctionsarea83@gmail.com

CPC/PI: the following report was sent via email:

My name is Dorothy A and I am currently serving as Chair Person for the CPC/PI Subcommittee. If am a member at Erin Mills Group Mississauga D06 as well as the subcommittee PI Chair at D06 Mississauga.

Our Committee meetings are not well attended; over the past few months there are only two districts attending.

Three information cards are available for use by the CPC / PI committees in the Toronto Intergroup Area. They are eye-catching developed using GSO website ideas and have all the info needed for the newcomer to reach AA Toronto Intergroup website and available in sizes. Currently in use at D22 and D06.

8 ½" x 11"; 5" x 8" and 4" x 5".

The 3 cards are to be printed on glossy paper stock. The cost is approximately \$175.00 for 750 cards – 250 of each size. Intergroup has supported CPC/PI with the initial batch of posters and cards. More can be obtained from Vista print.

D02 held a service information day focusing on Individual stories of successful service in AA on Saturday September 14th 2024.

D22 held a service information day also in September 2024.

D06 presented at the University of Toronto in Mississauga Campus Be Well Fair on Thursday September 19th. A very successful event which attracted a good number of students to the event focusing on the students' health and well-being.

Hoping to have a proposal and an affirmative vote for approval during the October Intergroup meeting for the GO Transit Campaign again in Dec 2024. This time focusing on Kipling Station in the West and at another station in the East. I have a quote of \$1000.00 for both during the holiday season of December 2024. Bert has provided two posters, for use in this poster.

We are trying to get more groups active and hoping Business Cards will give some Districts tools to work with.

My position in D06 is coming to an end in December 2024; I am rotating out in the spirit of rotation and this committee will need a new chair.

Yours in loving service, Dorothy A CPC PI Sub Committee Chair Area 83

GRAPEVINE:

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

SELF SUPPORT:

Next meeting: Thurs. Sept. 26 (virtual).

TREATMENT - the following report was sent via email:

Reports

D02

Rexdale group will alternate months for the Saturday detox meeting (June, August, September, and November)

The Bad Boys Group has volunteered to be responsible for The Wednesday meeting at ART. Living and Learning Group is responsible for St. Leonard's Tuesday night meeting. Brampton Recovery is responsible for Sunday evening detox meetings.

Freedom is responsible for the Thursday Meeting at the detox.

The Brampton detox now has a 28 day in-patient program that many of their clients opt into taking.

We have begun to form a small treatment committee to support the Saturday and Thursday detox meeting. Masks are no longer required to be worn at the detox.

BRIDGING THE GAP:

There was 1 BTG request this month

TREATMENT FACILITIES UPDATE

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

Cawthra shelter (every wed) / (every 6 weeks) Jean Tweed continues to be well served by the district.

We have officially got a small committee that's willing to outreach for the target list

We've made contact with Credit Valley Dual Diagnosis and in talks with CMHA

This is my only update for Sept – that we've created duo tangs for Jean tweed with all the meeting format sheets and readings, safety card info in a larger print than 12 and it's 8 altogether- done for accessibility purposes in the space -

D10 No Report

D12

The last month has mostly gone well for treatment, although no new facilities have been added. I have set meetings with Shawna, our contact at the Sacred Space at CAMH, and we are working to get another meeting with heads of wards for easier access to the meeting for their client residents.

The District is discussing a letter in which we have been requested to sign to go into the meetings, and will be discussing that with Shawna as well to be certain of what CAMH wants, single district signing or each chair person per meeting.

D14

Talked to Charlie D from District 14 and things have been quiet in Treatment in D14 over the summer.

D16 Spanish: Does not attend meeting or send reports

D18

There is no Treatment Chair at the moment but Lynn E will fill in till year end. Efforts are being made to get the Edward Village Shelter meeting back on track as attendance from residents has been low and there have been disruptions during the meeting.

D22

On behalf of the D22 Treatment Committee, I am happy to share the following update:

City of Toronto Progress Shelter (tel. 416 396 4612) 705 Progress Avenue (Bellamy/Progress area) Building F (south west corner of the complex) is resuming its open speaker format meetings, every other Thursday, 6:30 pm, beginning September 19. *These meetings are listed on aatoronto.org website and open to any community AA-ers.

Holiday Inn/Salvation Army Shelter 50 Estate Drive (Progress/Markham Road), will begin to offer open speaker format meetings, every other Thursday, 6:30 pm, starting September 12. *This site has restricted access which means only Committee members or host group members

supporting the meetings are allowed to attend. It will not be listed on aatoronto.org Committee members will Chair/Speak at both sites for the month of September. Thanks to the Fellowship Group for agreeing to host the month of October, rotating between sites. We are actively seeking D22 home groups to host a month of meetings, for November & December, during which time further discussion/evaluation of the meetings will be undertaken. Please contact the Treatment Chair ASAP to get your home group on the Fall Schedule.

Site visit with CPC/PI to explore future service meeting offerings at Scarborough Health Network's Community Mental Health Clinic (1940 Eglinton Ave East at Warden) is pending.

Thanks to James D (Keep it Simple) and Jason L (Anniversary Group) for supporting the Treatment Booth at this month's upcoming D22 Service Day, September 21, 1-4 pm at the Oakridge Community Centre. This is an excellent chance for you to find out if Treatment Service work can meet your needs for continued sobriety! Come visit. Bring an AA friend. Chat with us to find out more....GSR's especially are reminded that my service term as Chair of this Committee ends soon.

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, the Treatment Committee welcomes new members! Our next (online) meeting is October 20, 4 pm, ID: 853 9263 4979; passcode: 808085.

Area 83 Report: No Report

GTAI Treatment Chair Report

Focus to the end of the year on the following:

- Try to work with DCM's to update the description of Treatment Chair in District Procedures;
- Keep working on the Master list of Treatment Target facilities & provide any background.
- Continue to develop guides and scripts on how to approach targets to discuss AA
- Get as many resources and history of work done on to Google drive to be accessed for all future District and Intergroup Chairs

Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday Oct 20th 4pm but we can discuss changing the time as this seems to be part of the lack of attendance. **Meeting ID: 868 2207 4860 Passcode: 787289**

Yours in Gratitude and Service,

Brendan O., GTAI Treatment Chair 416-737-3193 treatment@aatoronto.org

AREA 83 REPORT:

Inquiries about specific activities in Area 83: please email alternate.delegate83@gmail.org

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):
- Operating Committee Members (2):
- Finance Chairperson
- Finance Committee Members
- *ad hoc* Committee: [tech volunteers](#)

Please Contact:

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

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business was forthcoming.

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: 37. **TOTAL HYBRID ATTENDANCE: 57.**

CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS:

- “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.”
- “This was the best discussion among Floor members I have witnessed; great job, everyone!”
- “If you are able and willing, please help clean up and tear down the meeting. Please stack chairs and put them away at the back of the room using a dolly.”

Motion to adjourn moved by Jimmy S. (Fifth Tradition) and seconded by Brock C. (Danforth). 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, October 29, 2024** at 8 p.m.



Mission Statement

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

is a coordinating body that supports the 12 step work of GTA AA groups, connecting AA groups, AA members, the public and the still-suffering alcoholic.

What is Gratitude Month?

Gratitude Month (held each autumn) is an annual campaign for local AA members and groups to support Intergroup's continued efforts to carry the message of hope and recovery.

It is our hope that AA members and AA groups continue to assist Intergroup in carrying the message, and to remain self-supporting.

No Amount is Too Small!

How GTA Intergroup Carries the Message of Alcoholics Anonymous:

- By maintaining the **Phone Hotline 416-487-5591** (operates 24/7!)
- By arranging **Twelfth Step Calls** to Newcomers
- Staff operate the **Literature Store**, provide admin. support to all subcommittees, and respond to queries from AA members and the public
- By maintaining the **GTAI Fellowship website** www.aatoronto.org
- A soon-to-be-launched **Newcomer Page & Help Chat** feature
- Sponsoring the annual **Ontario Regional Conference**
- Publishing the monthly 'Better Times' **newsletter**
- Preserving and display of **AA archival materials** of historical significance

Ways to Contribute:

- **Mail a cheque or money order.** Please make cheques payable to 'Toronto Intergroup'

- **By VISA or MasterCard**

- **Online at** www.aatoronto.org

- **Interac e-Transfer:** contributions.aatoronto.org

Other Options include monthly pre-authorized debit (PAD) or by making a cash, debit or credit card contribution by visiting our office (address/hours below).

In keeping with AA's 7th Tradition, contributions are accepted only from AA members.

Intergroup is a registered charity, and official receipts are provided upon request.

Toronto Intergroup: 202 – 234 Eglinton Ave. East, Toronto M4P 1K5

Office Hours: TUES to FRI 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Email: litdept@aatoronto.org

Winter Season Open House

~ FREE Event ~

Wed., December 25, 2024

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New Location:

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

230 St. Clair Ave W. Toronto M4V 1R5 *Fully Accessible*

Turkey, Ham, Stuffing, Vegetarian & Vegan Sides, Salads, Desserts, Coffee & Pop



Looking For Donations:

Turkeys*Hams*Desserts*Pop

Please contact us (see contact info below) if you can help

If anyone is interested in
SETTING UP for the event,
We would love your
service!

Come on Tues. Dec. 24th 8 a.m.

To decorate and/or
slice, dice, chop, and peel veggies
at

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church
230 St. Clair W., Toronto
Dunvegan Rd. Entrance

For More Information, Please Contact:

Zobie, Winter Season Open House 2024 Event Chairperson

416-709-0178

wsoh@atoronto.org

Ross, Winter Season Open House Volunteer Coordinator

WinterSeasonOpenHouse@outlook.com