

# BETTER TIMES

Produced for A.A. members, by A.A. members in the GTA



A.A. MEETINGS →

GET A SPONSOR →

DO SOME STEPS →

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A.A. MEETINGS →

Alcoholics  
Anonymous

MAY 2023

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## A Personal View of AA Information Day

**WRITTEN BY: KIM S., 2008 AA INFORMATION DAY CHAIR**

I can't remember when I attended my 1st Info AA Day, but I can tell you this - I loved it!

I was General Service Rep (GSR) for the Kingsway Group and had attended district meetings for a few months when the District Committee Member (DCM) mentioned Info AA Day. I really did not want to go because I thought it would be boring. Our DCM made it sound so interesting that I arrived with a pasta salad in hand and trepidation in my heart.

After I dropped off my salad, I went to the main room, got a coffee, and looked around. Almost everyone seemed to know each other, or so I thought. I felt a little lost.

What happened after changed my life.

I found the speakers to be incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about service, and the Committee Chairs sounded like they really liked what they did!

## Info AA Day 2023



Attending Info AA Day helps you to achieve your service potential with committee presentations and fellowship

**Sat. May 27 - 9am to 3pm**

**GSO Speaker, Area 83 Delegate Report  
Bloordale United Church  
4258 Bloor St. W.**

**Tickets \$10 - Potluck Lunch**

I also met some really interesting people. Some were there for the 1st time. Others had been there before. "Why?", I asked one lady, "would you keep coming back every year, just to hear the same old thing?". She said, "Oh, but it is never the same. I learn something new each year." Since that day, my sobriety changed, and I've not missed an Info Day.

I have held many positions at the District table and various committees including Info AA Day Committee. Honestly, I had no idea on how to serve in any of the positions that I volunteered to take on. But I learned everything along the way! That's the beauty of service.

My life has become richer from the work and people that I've met while doing service.

The woman in line was right. It is different every year and I do learn something new each time.

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*Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.*

*This is our twelfth suggestion: Carry this message to other alcoholics! (p. 89)*

*Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book. 4th ed., Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, 2002.*

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## History of Sponsorship

WRITTEN BY: GEORGE, IDAHO

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The concept behind the term "Sponsor" goes back to "The Great Depression" in the United States during the 1930's. Everyone wanted a job but there were few jobs available. The only men able to get work were Master Craftsmen.



For those individuals or companies so situated to be able to pay someone for their workmanship during the Great Depression, they would only hire the best at the skill needed, not those who were just in need.

For someone to become a Master Craftsman they had to be recommended by someone in the community who was known to be a Master Craftsman at that skillset and would attest to the quality of their workmanship and professionalism. The only way to become a Master Craftsman in a community was to work under a recognized Master Craftsman.



The Master Craftsman would "Sponsor" a "Sponsee" or Apprentice, until they were qualified to provide the same level of workmanship as the Master Craftsman. The person or company paying the Master Craftsman for work never paid the "Sponsee" or Apprentice.

The Master Craftsman or "Sponsor," would share his income with his "Sponsee" or Apprentice, until the "Sponsee" or Apprentice was certified by the Master Craftsman as being self-sufficient and able to work as a Master Craftsman.

I The term "Sponsor" and "Sponsee" was juxtaposed onto the relationship of someone who had worked the Twelve Steps to address their alcoholism or addiction, who had become self-sufficient, and was now going to impart their experience onto someone who was going to work the Twelve Steps to address their alcoholism or addiction.

It must be noted that the people who drank during Prohibition in the United States from 1920 to 1934, were likened to the addicts of today. Doing whatever they needed to do to get their illegal drug of choice!

Much folklore has been developed over the years since the 1930's as to how the term "Sponsor" and "Sponsee" came to be in the lexicon of Twelve Step programs. Yet the evidence shows that the action of "one alcoholic helping another" or "one addict helping another" is still alive in the spirit of a Sponsor helping a Sponsee today.



***"Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss." (p. 89)***





## In the Spirit of Love and Service

**WRITTEN BY: MARVYN W.,  
2023 GTAI OC CHAIR**

Over the last week, this alcoholic has been speaking to many alcoholics about the importance of "Spirit of Rotation" in AA Service.

My AA service journey started in 2006. I went to a District 06 Information Day and heard Robb W. of the Streetsville Group speak on Service Sponsorship.

That day changed my AA service life in sobriety. Not only did Robb W. become my first service sponsor, he also handed me the *2006-2007 AA Service Manual*, *The Twelve Concepts for World Service*, and referred me to two pamphlets: *The Home Group Pamphlet* and *Questions & Answers on Sponsorship*.

If this alcoholic takes on more than one service position at a time, that choice takes away a service commitment for another alcoholic and eventually will send an alcoholic into a position of AA

service burn out! I've found myself facing this situation.

After submitting my resume for the 2025 ORC Chair, it was noted that holding the GTA Intergroup OC Chair and 2025 ORC Chair may present a conflict of interest.

Step 10 of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous provides suggestions on how one can make right decisions along our journey of recovery. After doing a Step 10, I now realize that my next right decision would be to withdraw my resume for consideration for the role of the 2025 ORC Chair.

My next service commitment (beyond my Home Group), will find me, as my higher power directs. In the mean time, at the end of 2023, members of the GTAI Operating Committee, in the Spirit of Rotation, will be completing their tenures. We are calling on to The GTA Intergroup fellowships to take on a service commitment on the GTA Intergroup Operating Committee.

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*GTA Intergroup needs new Operating Committee members to help fill the vacant positions of GTA Intergroup Chair, GTA Intergroup Vice Chair, Finance Chair and OC Secretary.*

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Please reach out to any OC Operating Committee member to answer any questions that you may have regarding these vacant roles.

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

### MAY CONTINUOUS SOBRIETY BIRTHDAYS

Alex M .	5 Parkway Group	May 15
Patrick S.	Willowdale Group	May 18
Peter S.	1 Willowdale Group	May 18
Mildred F.	50 Roxglen Group	May 18
John F.	60 The Hill Group	May 18
Linda S.	30 Anniversary Group	May 26
Zin W.	30 Bloordale Group	May 28
Niki R.	20 Streetsville Group	May 30
Alex S.	1 St.Clements Group	May 31
Hugo M.	1 St. Clements Group	May 31
Malcolm M.	1 St. Clements Group	May 31
Joanne M.	30 St. Clements Group	May 31
Pat K.	45 St.Clements Group	May 31

### UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Tuesday May 16 7:30 PM Grapevine, Online Meeting ID 835 8647 4415 PW 351360
- Thursday May 18 7:00 PM Treatment Centre Monthly Meeting, Online Meeting ID 871 5159 4174
- Sunday May 21 11:00 AM Accessibility Committee Online Meeting ID 824 8962 1874 PW 799763
- Thursday May 25 7:00 PM Self Support Committee Online Meeting ID 820 9238 0206 PW 319853
- Tuesday May 30 8:00 PM GTA Intergroup Meeting
- Tuesday June 6 8:00 PM Communications Committee Meeting Online ID 850 5256 7237 PW 984555
- Wednesday June 7 7:30 PM Correctional Facilities Committee Meeting Online ID 883 8002 9737
- Friday June 9 7:00 PM Archives Committee Hybrid Meeting 234 Eglinton Ave. East #202 or Online ID 841 5376 9412 PW 018851
- Wednesday June 14 7:00 PM Twelfth Step Committee Meeting Online ID 813 0646 6967 PW 572 531

## ABOUT US

**BETTER TIMES** is published monthly for AA members in the Greater Toronto Area.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Greater Toronto Area Intergroup.

### HOW TO REACH US:

Submit articles, group news, medallions, event notices or letters to the editor by email ([alice@aatoronto.org](mailto:alice@aatoronto.org) or [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org)) by the 10th of the month, prior to the month of the next issue.

**Editorial Ctte:** Marvyn W. (OC Ctte. Chair), Tedd D. (Comms. Ctte. Interim Chair), Alice N. (Editor), Dave R. (Graphics), David N. (Cartoonist), Kelli T. (OC Liaison), Imran (Web Developer), Kyle (Webmaster), Gerred (Alternatie Webmaster)

## JOIN US!

We looking to fill the following service vacancies within Better Times: (i) Have You Heard Coordinator/Editor, (ii) Secretary, Circulation Coordinator, (iii) Copy/Story Reporter, (iv) Article Coordinator, (iv) Cartoonist coordinator to work with David N our BT Cartoonist. Please reach out to Marvyn W. [oc.chair@aatoronto.org](mailto:oc.chair@aatoronto.org) for more information

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Dr. Bob's Last Talk



SUBMITTED BY: BERNADETTE M. – KING CITY GROUP

**Dr. Bob (1879 - 1950) delivered his final message at the First International Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in Cleveland, Ohio, July 1950. Text of this message follows:**

My good friends in AA and of AA. I feel that I would be very remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to welcome you here in Cleveland not only to this meeting but those that have already transpired.

I hope very much that they have the presence of so many people and the words that you have heard will prove an inspiration to you - not only to you, but may you be able to impart that inspiration to the boys and girls back home who were not fortunate enough to be able to come here. In other words, we hope that your visit here has been both enjoyable and profitable.

I get a big thrill out of looking over a vast sea of faces like this with a feeling that possibly some small thing that I did a number of years ago, played an infinitely small part in making this meeting possible.

I also get quite a thrill when I think that we all had the same problem. We all did the same things. We all get the same results in proportion to our zeal and enthusiasm and stick-to-itiveness. If you will pardon the injection of a personal note at this time, let me say that I have been in bed five of the last seven months and my strength hasn't returned as I would like, so my remarks of necessity will be very brief. But there are two or three things that flashed into my mind on which it would be fitting to lay a little emphasis; one is the simplicity of our Program. Let's not louse it all up with Freudian complexes and things that are interesting to the scientific mind but have very little to do with our actual AA work.

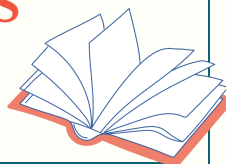
Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to the last resolve themselves into the words "love and service: We understand what love is and we understand what service is. So let's bear those two things in mind. Let us also remember to guard that erring member the tongue, and if we must use it, let's use it with kindness and consideration and tolerance.

And one more thing: None would be here today if somebody hadn't taken time to explain things to us, to give us a little pat on the back, to take us to a meeting or two, to do numerous little kind and thoughtful acts in our behalf. So let us never get such a degree of smug complacency that we're not willing to extend, or attempt to extend, to our less fortunate brothers that help which has been so beneficial to us."



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Alcoholics Anonymous

Area 83 Eastern Ontario International

**DATE: Saturday, June 10th, 2023**

**LOCATION: 234 Eglinton Ave. E., Buzz # 202 |**

**Toronto, Ontario**

**TIME: 1 - 3 pm**

**HYBRID MEETING CREDENTIALS**

**Meeting ID: 820 3244 0262**

**Passcode: 838383**

Area 83 Archives will hold the Annual Archives Workshop on Saturday June 10th, from 1-3 pm, at our newly designed GTA Intergroup boardroom. The goal of the Annual Archives Workshop is to exhibit our local AA history, inform members of the different aspects of archives and encourage greater involvement and participation. There will be presentations on the following topics: a personal view on archives, written & oral group histories and preservation & storage of materials. There will also be a tour of the GTA Archives Repository, where many local AA items that will be shown. All are welcome!

## Did you know...?

### GTA Groups/Meetings Started in May

- May 8, 1946 - Kingsway Group
- May 25, 1960 - Port Credit Group Street Meeting
- May 16, 1978 - Kipling Group
- May 5, 1980 - Bellamy Group
- May 2, 1981 - Lansing Group
- May 1985 - Half Century Group

**TO DONATE AA/GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS TO THE GTA ARCHIVES PLEASE CONTACT THE GTA ARCHIVIST  
EDDY G. at 416-536-7536.**

On May 12, 1935 Mother's Day, Bill W. (age 39) first met Dr. Bob (age 55) his wife Anne & their son

Smitty (age 17)

at Henrietta Seiberling's gatehouse in Akron, Ohio at 5 pm. Dr. Bob was so badly hung over he could not eat dinner & planned to stay only 15 minutes.

Privately, Bill told Dr. Bob of his alcoholism

experience in the manner suggested by Dr.

Silkworth. Dr. Bob then opened up & he & Bill talked until after 11 pm.

Dr. Bob's planned 15 minutes turned into 6 hours.



*On May 3, 1980 the 1st Information AA Day was held in Toronto. This year's event will be held in-person on Saturday May 27, 2023.*