

# BETTER TIMES

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



## SERVICE

## WORK WORK WORK

DATE

7:00

8:00

9:00

10:00

*My Morning Online Meeting  
@ 7:30am*

To Do

*Organize Coffee and Cookies  
Move Staking Chairs to Main  
Meeting Room at the Church*

Studying the Pamphlet

The A.A. Group  
...where it all begins



**A Suggested Format for Conducting an A.A. Meeting**  
1. Good Evening Ladies and gentlemen. This is the regular meeting of the Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am an alcoholic and your Secretary.  
2. Let us open this meeting with a moment of silence to do with as you wish followed by the Secretary Prayer:  
**God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
Courage to change the things I can, and  
Wisdom to know the difference.**

3. Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; neither addresses nor wishes to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor disapproves nor attempts to influence the action of any organization, institution, or individual. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.  
(note: Some groups ask other members to read the Serenity Prayer.)

5. If it is the custom of the group:
  - Ask any new members to introduce themselves by their first name and last name.
  - Ask any visitors to introduce themselves and say where they are from.
6. Introduce the Chairperson or Secretary for the evening. If yours is a discussion type meeting, the Secretary conducts the discussion.
7. Thank the Speaker or Chairperson as well as any others who read.
8. Make regular announcements about group business, events and announcements from The Point newsletter, and information about the availability of literature. Ask for announcements from the floor.
9. Pass the basket(s).

We have no dues or fees in A.A. We are entirely self-supporting, declining outside contributions. This self-support includes our rent for this room, the coffee and refreshments, and contributions to our Central Office, the New York Office, and to the General Service Committee to carry the message to the Hospitals & Institutions. We are unable to get to outside meetings.

Close the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, or any other determined by group conscience.  
effort to open and close the meeting on time. This format is suggested only.

ed literat  
P-16

MAY 2021

Alcoholics  
Anonymous

*Arrange Speaker for  
Wednesday night Meeting.*



# Virtual Information A.A. Day

## Saturday, May 15, 2021



**Key Note Presentation:** General Service Conference Report by Area 83 Delegate

**Special Guest Speaker:** A Member of the General Service Office Staff

### Presentations:

Accessibility	Public Information
Archives	Self-Support
Communications	Spanish Speaking District (District 16)
Corrections	Treatment
Grapevine	12th Step Committee
GTA Intergroup	Cooperation with the Professional Community

### Workshops:

Unity of Purpose - Intergroup and Districts  
Working Together in Support of Our Community  
How Do We Get Active in Service? The Importance of 12th Step Work  
The Home Group - Review of Our Pamphlets and other GSO Literature  
Staying Connected in This Time of Isolation

My name is Christy, I am an alcoholic and a member of the [Steps to Serenity](#) group. I am grateful to serve as your 2021 Information A.A. Day Chair. I am joined by our Vice-Chair Marvyn W., who is a member of the [Mississauga](#) group and the Intergroup Operating Committee Vice-Chair

We invite all A.A. members to join us for the 2021 Virtual Information A.A. Day which has been an informative annual event since 1980.

Join us for a day of workshops and presentations on becoming active in service. Various service committees of the GTA Intergroup, district and our Spanish language district will give overviews of service activities, opportunities and initiatives. Connect with others from our 8 districts and GTA Intergroup area.

Hear our Delegate's report on the General Service Conference and get to know a New York General Service Office staff member. Please see the adjacent flyer which is available to download from our GTA Intergroup website [aatoronto.org](http://aatoronto.org) or from your district's website.

Bring a sponsee, bring a newcomer or invite your sponsor to join you and all of us on May 15th from 9:00-3:00 pm. This is a free event. Closed Captioning is available, and fellowship at the start and end of the day.

[Spanish District 16](#) invites you to participate in Zoom meetings in Spanish, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:00 pm. Come and share your recovery experience or to get information on alcoholism and how we are getting sober by practicing the A.A. program. The Spanish District will be also participating on the Information Day for anyone interested in what we're about.

**When:** Event begins at 9:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Room opens at 9:00 am for fellowship with additional time for fellowship until 3:00 pm

**Where:** Zoom Meeting ID: 891 7009 5334 Passcode: 899415

**Who:** All members of A.A. are welcome to attend this event!

Queridos compañeros y compañeras, [El Distrito 16 Hispano](#) de Toronto y GTA les informa que seguimos compartiendo en las juntas virtuales por zoom los Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes, de 8:00 pm en adelante. Te invitamos a que nos acompañen a compartir su experiencia, solicitar información, y participar en el programa de A.A. En el día de información de A.A. El Distrito Hispano estará dando información de los grupos en el área en donde se comparte en Español y sus horarios, te esperamos. Felices 24 Horas.

# THE IMPORTANCE OF ASL AT ONLINE

## A.A. MEETINGS

### MAY IS SPEECH & HEARING AWARENESS MONTH

Our GSO-NY pamphlet F-107, [Serving All Alcoholics Making the AA Message Accessible](#) begins, "While there are no special alcoholics, there are alcoholics who experience access barriers to receiving the A.A. message." The Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing alcoholic is in one of those groups.

My name is Yael S. and I'm an alcoholic who is Deaf. Although I was Deaf in one ear as a child, I heard normally with the other ear. So, basically, I grew up as a "hearing" person and English was my first language. When I got sober at 34, I was still able to hear at A.A. meetings. A.A., then and now, is my lifeline to health and wellbeing. However, as I aged (I'm 75 now), my hearing went from bad to none at 65. My first concern was getting the message at A.A. meetings.

What was I going to do? I had previously learned some limited [American Sign Language](#) (ASL) trying to get A.A. meetings interpreted in the town where I got sober, Dayton, Ohio. So, I knew just barely enough to benefit from interpreters, who were kind enough to donate their services. Living now in Atlanta, I found one Deaf A.A. meeting, but no regularly interpreted meetings.

Finally, in 2010, I hooked up with other alcoholics in A.A., both hearing and hard-of-hearing. We started online text-chat A.A. meetings, which helped to keep me connected to A.A. However, we soon discovered that Deaf people were not comfortable with an English-based meeting because English was not their first language: ASL is their first language. As described in the referenced F-15 pamphlet, "ASL is a complete language with its own unique customs and norms, as well as some regional variations." It is difficult to translate English idiomatic expressions into ASL. (For example, when Bill W. in the Big Book, p. 101 refers to "whoopee parties".)

About 2011 several of us started on-line A.A. discussion meetings in ASL, using a variety of platforms (Oovoo, Omni-join). We attracted a small number of alcoholics with a few limited online ASL meetings. Most of the attendees were very new to A.A. with no other A.A. meetings to support them or sponsors to provide guidance. So, by the time COVID-19 hit us in 2020, we were already well-versed in accessible online A.A. meetings in ASL, but none (that I'm aware) that were interpreted in ASL.

However, as we all have experienced, that has changed drastically in 2020. For us in the deaf community, COVID-19

was a Godsend because now there are many ASL as well as ASL-interpreted meetings. While the ASL-only meetings tend to have members with newer sobriety, the ASL-interpreted meetings have many members with long-term sobriety and many years of working our 12 Steps. So newer members (both hearing and deaf) get the benefit of those with experiences at staying sober. It is definitely a "win-win" situation.

One thing that I have found troubling is that I have been unable to connect with ASL-interpreted meetings in Canada. Maybe they do exist, but I have not been able to find them. I have a Deaf A.A. friend in B.C. who has tried, unsuccessfully to connect to other deaf members or ASL-interpreted meetings in Canada. At this point, he attends meetings online that are U.S. based, but he would very much like to connect with other deaf Canadians.

Our responsibility declaration states; "I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help. I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And, for that, I am responsible." So, while we cannot MAKE anyone sober, we can make the message accessible so that all alcoholics who want to get sober, have access to the tools to stay sober.

Yael, S., Deaf A.A. member from Atlanta

Visit Online Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous:  
[https://archive.aa-intergroup.org/directory\\_dhoh.php](https://archive.aa-intergroup.org/directory_dhoh.php)

I want to express how heavy addiction and alcoholism are in the deaf community. My Father was born deaf-mute and died last year from liver cancer as a result of drinking. There is a lot of insecurity in a man, woman, or child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Unfortunately, some turn to alcohol or substance abuse like the rest of us.

There is very little support in the rooms and not very many sign language interpreters or people who sign in general in 12 step rooms. I'm sure that if we as a community reached out and investigated where and who can assist with this issue there would be more deaf people in the rooms getting the help they need.

I remember my Father used to take me to meetings when I was a child. He would leave halfway through a meeting because there was nobody to interpret for him. I was a small child and couldn't sign as I do today. I urge 12 step programs to take action to foster growth of deaf or hard of hearing community members. Kris

## STEP FIVE: CONFIRMED AWARENESS

When I asked God to relieve me of the "bondage of self" in [Step Three](#), I had only a vague concept of what that might be, but when my sponsor helped me go through the [Step Four](#) directions from the Big Book, I developed a much clearer insight—I began to realize that this bondage was what had been blocking me from the truth in drink. Someone said: "*An alcoholic cannot drink on the truth, only on a lie.*"

The [Big Book](#) suggests that we begin [Step Five](#) at "first opportunity" ([p. 74](#)) which tuned out to be approximately ten minutes after completing [Step Four](#). My sponsor Carl helped me realize from my [Step Four](#) list, where I had been selfish; dishonest; resentful; and fearful to an extent that I had never realized. As a matter of fact, he pointed out that most all of my character defects, etc., would fall under one or more of these four "grosser handicaps" ([p. 71](#)). They were like an umbrella!



If I improve on these four major items, then the minor ones would become less destructive, or hopefully disappear. [Step Five](#) not only simplified the step process but brought about a confirmed awareness of my defects for God to remove in [Step Seven](#). I Also learned the necessity of facing up to selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear if I were to live in the spirit of [Step Ten](#). It was pointed out that these four defects are mentioned in [Step Ten](#) ([p. 84](#)) and [Step Eleven](#) ([p. 86](#)). These four demons were indeed enemies of my sobriety.

This new awareness has brought me to realize why going on the wagon or *quitting drinking forever*, year after year, never lasted. My personality problems (bondage of self) remained active throughout those periods of abstinence. Although [Step Five](#) has not completely removed these dangerous barriers, I have been able to maintain a "personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism" ([p. 567](#)) for many years. Thank God for

## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

I was a miserable drunk for the last dozen or so years of my drinking. I was only concerned about myself and what I could get out of life. The people I hurt the most, were the people closest to me, my family. My Mother took the brunt of my alcoholism; I put her through a lot. Our relationship was strained, solely by my own doing. I can recall thinking of my Mother, and the fear, shame and guilt would come flooding in. Every time I thought of my Mother I would cringe on the relationship I had created. I would drink even more to stuff those feelings down; it was a brutal cycle of remorse and drink.

Then I was forced into A.A. and got sober. I began to put in an effort into rebuilding our relationship and I would write and call consistently. Around the two year mark and with my sponsor's insight, I flew back and was able to make my amends. What a relief and a gift to be able to do that. A bigger gift was having my Mother see me living sober for another 5 years or so, perhaps becoming a son she could be proud of.

Today when I think of my Mother, I no longer cringe. I immediately smile or burst out laughing. The greatest gift sobriety has given me, is to always think of my Mother fondly. The baggage of the past has been replaced with loving memories. It's kind of fitting that I'm writing this now; spring is in the air, and flowers are blooming all over the place. My Mother was an avid gardener and loved her flowers. Today I can bask in the sunlight and enjoy the day. It's probably no coincidence that during my walk, I stopped to gaze at the spring flowers, and that enabled me to be in a happy place during troubled times.

Love you Mum.

Dave R, [The Dogs Men Online](#)



**FIV5**

A weed in the mind,  
past memory frozen in time.

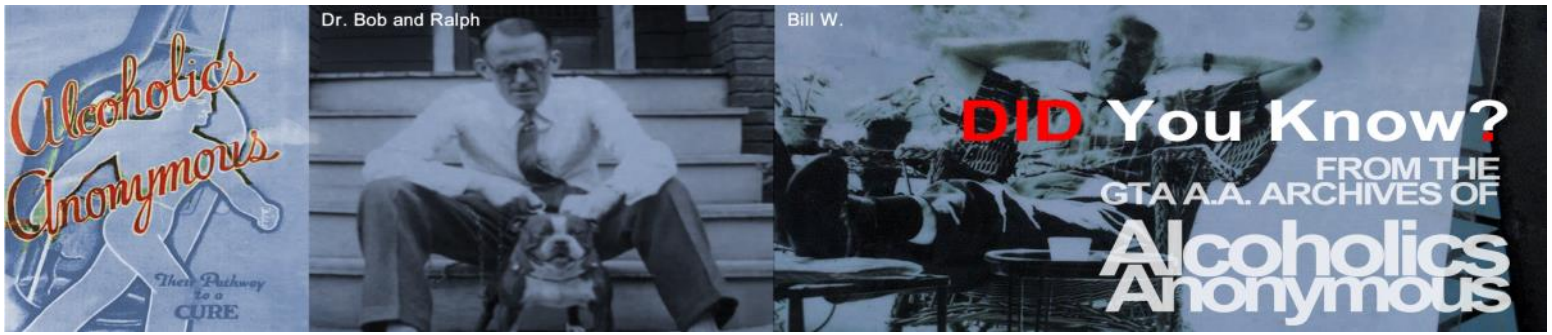
Cuts the blood from the heart,  
splitting chambers apart.

Free yourself from that cave,  
for your worst needs no  
shame.

Present in this bright day,  
open up to ease pain.

The Lone Wolf ~ J.S.W





○ On May 8, 1941 Ethel M., (story in Big Book "From Farm to City") is reputed to be the first female member in Akron Ohio to sober up. Ethel spoke at the [ORC](#) in 1953.

○ On May 11, 1935 in poor spirits and tempted to enter the hotel bar, Bill W. realized he needed another alcoholic and phoned clergy members listed on the Mayflower Hotel (Akron, Ohio) lobby directory. He reached Rev. Walter Tunks who referred him to Oxford Group member Norman Sheppard who then referred Bill to Henrietta Seiberling. Bill contacted her by phone and introduced himself as "a member of the Oxford Group and a rum hound from NY." Henrietta invited Bill to meet that afternoon at the gatehouse at Stan Hywett Hall on the Sieberling estate. She viewed Bill's arrival as the answer to her prayers for Dr. Bob and called Anne Smith to arrange a dinner the next day.

○ On May 12, 1935 Mother's Day, Bill W. (age 39) first met Dr. Bob (age 55) his wife Anne and 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 and 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 to Bill and talked until after 11 pm. Dr. Bob's planned 15 minutes turned into 6 hours.

## A LIVING AMENDS TO ANNIE

In his novel Angela's Ashes , Frank McCourt wrote: *"love her as in childhood through feeble old and grey for you'll never miss a Mother's love 'til she's buried beneath the clay"*.

How true this is and I write this today on the anniversary of my mother's passing, the word death seems too final to me and believe she has passed through to a better place. Being in my first year of recovery, this will be the first time I will not wash away the memories and pain of losing my Mom with alcohol and finding yet another reason to drink. Instead, I work through the feelings head on and sober with some help from God, my family and fellowship with the friends I have come to know and love through Alcoholics Anonymous. My thoughts on this day have shifted from sad, negative uncomfortable feelings to more aware and understanding ones.

Through the steps of A.A. and letting go of resentments I have found a way to both apologize and forgive. The only 'living amends' I can make to a deceased mother is to face each day with hope and action. To find more space in my heart for love and kindness, to feel at least some of the love only a Mother knows. Spending time in prayer with careful thought and understanding of my past lifts my spirituality and helps me to feel a deeper connection in life and to make up for the loss of time we can never get back in the physical world. In the fog of alcoholism, the biggest casualty we suffer is the loss of time:

time you wish you had back  
time to show the changes you have made  
time to just talk  
and time to say I love you Mom, just one more time.

Through my higher power and with some stillness and pause, I have found a way to connect to Mom more and on this Mother's Day and will spend a little more time with her in spirit and show her the side of me she always knew was there. I am starting to see glimpses of the son she saw and loved through the difficult and vacant times, knowing there was so much more to grow toward and try each day to get closer to what she felt every day. I trust Mom is looking down with a smile saying carry on son, you are getting there just keep moving forward. Happy Mother's Day Mom, at least for today I will do just that, one day at a time.

Patrick W., [Restoring Life](#)

This is A.A. General Service  
Conference-approved literature



GREATER TORONTO AREA  
INTERGROUP

# A.A.'s LEGACY OF SERVICE

by Bill W.

What is the basic A.A. service?

The Fellowship's responsibility

The pioneers' battle for the Big Book

News stories and sudden A.A. growth

Beginnings of group and world services

Origin of the Twelve Traditions

G.S.O. today

Birth of the General Service Conference

THIS IS A REPRINT FROM  
"THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL"

The complete manual, an invaluable  
guide in Fellowship activity, is available  
from the General Service Office.

P-44

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

[Phone Greeters](#)

[Bilingual Member Resource](#)

[2 Operating Committee](#)

[Members](#)

[Self-Support Chair](#)

[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)

[Finance Committee Member](#)

[Communications Committee](#)

[Secretary](#)

[Better Times Editor](#)



## MEDALLIONS



NAME	YEARS	DRY DATE	GROUP	CELEBRATION
Carmen C.	1	Apr 9 2020	<a href="#">Bayview</a>	May 2
Laurie C.	30	May 6 1991	<a href="#">Erin Mills</a>	May 10
Andrea W.	5	Apr 18 2016	<a href="#">Sisters in Sobriety</a>	May 12
Bev B.	2	May 15 2019	<a href="#">Amazing Grace</a>	May 18
Cam H.	10	May 24 2011	<a href="#">Erin Mills</a>	May 24
Heidi F.	35	May 26 1986	<a href="#">Mississauga</a>	May 30

## SUBMIT A BETTER TIMES ARTICLE!

Please send us in your own words, your ideas, your journey, your experience, strength and hope in 200-500 words to [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org)

## THIRTY YEARS SOBER

I am looking at the best way to celebrate 30 years of sobriety and for me, that is really to tell a very quick story and hopefully reach out and touch someone's heart who is still struggling with sobriety as I was for many years. I could not imagine a birthday, a Christmas, or actually almost any day at all without a drink.

In my day, drinking was a way of life: all of my friends drank, everyone at work drank, and most of us were stupid enough to drink and drive and were lucky not to get caught. I really thought I was different, I thought I was the only one who had blackouts and would be scared to talk to anyone the next day because most days I had no idea what had transpired.

There were several things combined that made me realize that I needed to stop. I was a single Mom and sole provider for my son, who was and is, my world. It was hinted that I could lose him to social services if things didn't change. Around the same time, we had had a company Christmas party and the next day I received a letter from my boss that started with "Dear Sheila, we are sorry you feel the way you do" - My blood ran cold and I literally was frozen in fear - what had I done? What had I said? To this day I have no idea and it still haunts me. I think you can picture the state my world was in at this point and it was certainly not good.

I went to A.A. with the intention of showing "those people" how to drink, instead I found some profound help, answers and wisdom there. I was not alone, it was not only me and there were people who cared about what happened to me when I thought there was no one.

With the help of family, friends, A.A., and a local treatment centre that offered a day program so I could still be at home with my son when I needed to be, little by little, day by day, I was shown, and I could see, that there most certainly was life without alcohol, and a good life. About 3 months into sobriety I was in a store with my Mom, and I remember that all of a sudden it was like a film, or cloud had been lifted from my eyes and my mind. I could see and feel with a clarity I had not known for many years.

This is certainly a much edited version of my 30 year journey, but I must tell anyone who will listen, I am GRATEFUL every day for my sobriety ... and when I think that that journey started 30 years ago, I cannot believe it. In fact if someone else told me that very thing, I would have thought them to be an untruthful person - isn't that sad? So please I beg anyone who is struggling, or slipping, or unable to make that decision for whatever reason, please, please do it. If I can do it day by day for 30 years, I know that anyone can, alcohol was such a big part of my life.

My heart goes out to all who struggle, it is not easy, but it **IS DOABLE** with strength, hope and help.

Sheila B.  
[Lakeshore Group](#)





# GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

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[www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org)

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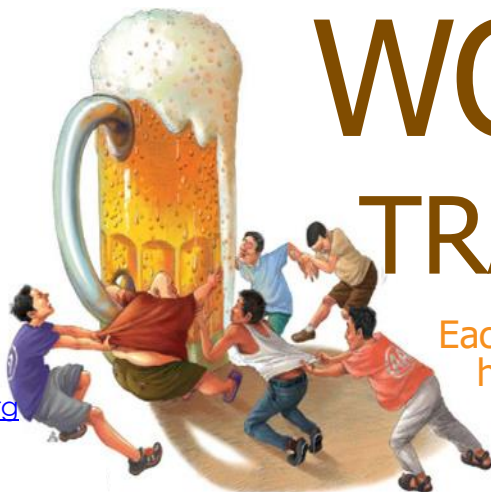
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ALL MEDIA INQUIRIES TO THE  
OPERATING COMMITTEE CHAIR  
[oc.chair@aatoronto.org](mailto:oc.chair@aatoronto.org)

# WORD search

## TRADITION FIVE



Each A.A. group ought to be a spiritual entity  
having but one primary purpose  
that of carrying it's message  
to the alcoholic who still suffers.

F	U	S	Y	L	F	A	W	W	X	T	P	A	S	A	J	V	Q	O	L	TRADITION
Y	M	S	M	V	K	R	G	O	C	T	Q	N	Q	O	J	I	X	A	E	FIVE
T	U	H	Q	E	L	I	L	R	T	H	F	F	R	Y	S	F	U	H	U	GROUP
P	F	Z	A	P	A	K	S	S	O	P	N	F	L	A	L	T	M	K	U	EACH
Q	W	C	L	D	T	E	C	C	K	U	T	N	A	Y	I	Q	J	Y	N	PRIMARY
C	H	Q	C	Q	F	X	Y	P	S	I	P	B	F	R	Z	I	R	U	U	ALCOHOLIC
M	S	U	O	M	Y	N	O	N	A	K	I	I	I	I	D	R	N	S	Y	SUFFERS
N	O	J	H	Z	F	D	D	R	W	L	V	P	E	E	A	D	Q	O	T	FELLOWSHIP
V	M	E	O	C	T	Y	B	J	I	E	S	P	N	C	S	C	R	B	I	DISCOVERY
G	N	L	L	D	N	A	E	T	H	B	Z	T	M	J	R	P	T	R	N	SINGLE
O	M	A	I	Z	H	X	Y	P	N	A	I	C	I	S	Y	H	P	I	U	MESSAGE
O	S	Z	C	I	F	P	N	I	R	F	X	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	A	OBLIGATION
P	L	R	M	Y	O	R	V	V	Y	I	L	W	M	D	C	P	Z	T	Y	ABILITY
R	I	I	M	R	U	M	E	Z	G	R	M	N	U	Y	B	I	K	Y	M	IDENTIFY
I	L	W	C	E	K	D	G	U	J	K	C	A	C	I	P	H	U	O	C	COMPULSION
N	P	E	L	V	M	R	M	L	F	E	C	V	R	L	D	S	A	V	A	SOBRIETY
C	H	S	W	O	N	B	E	Z	S	E	M	N	H	Y	I	W	V	S	I	FAITH
I	X	Y	O	C	O	D	E	C	O	M	P	U	L	S	I	O	N	T	N	SPONSOR
P	G	K	E	S	I	W	B	R	O	M	L	O	U	H	T	L	A	I	O	PHYSICIAN
A	D	O	Q	I	T	F	H	M	S	V	C	Q	E	H	N	L	U	L	I	ANONYMOUS
L	F	M	K	D	I	N	P	H	N	C	E	S	L	D	E	E	V	L	T	SPIRITUAL
E	X	Y	P	L	D	C	L	G	O	O	O	R	F	I	S	F	K	F	A	CARRY
L	W	K	M	R	A	R	E	V	D	P	U	T	Y	A	A	A	H	W	G	PURPOSE
G	F	S	C	O	R	T	I	R	R	F	P	J	I	J	E	I	V	M	I	UNITY
N	N	U	U	S	T	K	G	U	W	J	Q	B	D	C	S	T	D	E	L	PRINCIPAL
I	I	X	M	N	E	O	P	A	X	X	W	O	D	W	I	H	G	O	B	DISEASE
S	F	Z	P	O	A	U	M	U	U	E	C	J	D	H	D	X	T	G	O	ANSWERS
R	Y	M	T	P	T	D	D	N	A	N	S	W	E	R	S	J	M	F	Y	STILL
H	O	Z	B	S	W	Y	O	D	S	U	F	F	E	R	S	T	K	O	H	MEMBERS
																				RECOVERY



Opinions expressed in *BETTER TIMES* are those of the authors and don't necessarily reflect those of the GTA A.A. Intergroup. The Editor reserves the right to edit submitted articles for length, content and grammar in accordance with layout and quality purposes. Submit group news, medallions, other event notices to: [communications@aatoronto.org](mailto:communications@aatoronto.org)

Letters or articles to the Editor (200-500 words) for *BETTER TIMES* at [bettertimes@aatoronto.org](mailto:bettertimes@aatoronto.org)

## TRIAL and ERROR GROUP

[Wednesday 8 pm to 9 pm open meeting](#)

Group founded March 7, 1971 turns 50 years in 2021!

The first 4 or 5 weekly meetings were held at the home of Simon M. and then moved to its current location Mimico Presbyterian Church, 119 Mimico Avenue in Etobicoke.

The group founders are Simon M., Gord H., Ruth J. and Bruce M. Simon is our only surviving founder and member who celebrated 55 years of sobriety in September 2020. Early members include Betty H., Jean D., Eric S., Jean M., Murry D., Brian G. and Al H. to name a few. Next to Simon, Betty H. is our second longest surviving member at 48 years of continuous sobriety. The original slogan board was made by Al H. and is still on display at the group.



We gave a try at a second weekly meeting, I believe in 2010, and it was a Big Book discussion format. But due to lack of support, the meeting was discontinued after 2 or 3 years. The group has never missed a weekly meeting since it began. Even during the transition from our last in-person meeting on March 25, 2020 and our first online meeting on April 1st, we didn't miss a meeting due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

From the onset the group has hosted a Christmas Eve daytime gathering every December 24th. This gathering would usually include food, fellowship and a noon gratitude meeting. This event had gradually dwindled in support and interest. It had us rethink the event.

Approximately 5-6 years ago we teamed up with the [Long Branch group](#) to host a 4 hour gathering that included a full turkey dinner lunch with an A.A. meeting and a short A.A. Grapevine play entitled *Ebby*. We see 100+ in attendance every year.



Mid-period members include such people as Marcella C. Maggie F., Joyce S., Dave K., Joan B., Elmer W., Roy R., Rob A., Dan H., Dick O., Sal P., Harry M., Heather T. and Eugene C. Members Roy R. and Joyce S. both went on in General Service to become Area 83 Delegates. Roy R. became Panel 53 Delegate in 2003-2004. Joyce S. became panel 65 Delegate in 2015-2016.

Our members still serve the coffee and tea from the kitchen window, and are strong believers in greeting our guests at the door. We're quick to encourage our newer members to get active by helping set up the meeting, serving coffee and tea in the kitchen, greeting at the door, and attending our monthly business meetings, where they will eventually go on to fill different service positions within the group. We believe in getting them connected with a sponsor as soon as possible. My favourite part of the group is its welcoming atmosphere and my first ever sense of belonging.

Dan H. [Trial and Error Group](#),

Dave R. [The Dogs Men Online](#)



GREATER TORONTO AREA  
INTERGROUP

## GTA GROUPS BEGUN IN MAY:

May 8, 1946

Kingsway Group started by Tom E. and a small group of members is today the oldest group in the GTA as it turns 75 years.

May 16, 1978

Kipling Group turns 43 years.

May 2, 1981

Lansing Group started by Gord McG, Ted and Terry from York Mills Group and John McN. turns 40 years.

