

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021 (online 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. Gord H. (Bloordale) read the Twelve Traditions.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: 12 Traditions, Anniversary, Beaches, Beyond Belief (Sub.W.), Bloordale, Church Street, Credit Valley, Danforth, Deer Park, Dry on the Danforth, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Fifth Tradition, Freedom (Brampton), Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, Hill, King City, Kipling, Leslie, Long Branch, Love & Tolerance, Markland Wood, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, New Life, North Toronto, One Paragraph at a Time, Open Hands, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Six Points, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville St. Andrews, Streetsville, Sunnyside, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Two Districts were represented.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cam B. (Finance Chairperson), David H., Gord H., Gord T., Graham D., Jeanette E., Marvyn W. (Operating Vice-Chairperson), Nina L. (Operating Chairperson), and Seán D.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Archives, Communications, Information AA Day 2021, IT Subcommittee, Finance, Twelfth Step, CPC, and Grapevine.

HOUSEKEEPING: Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), Operating Committee Chairperson
She outlined the following: recording of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 2020:

Errors and/or Omissions: No errors or omissions were recorded.

There was a **MOTION** to adopt Minutes as amended moved by Christy F. (Steps to Serenity) and Joe A. (One Paragraph at a Time). Motion Carried.

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

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety), Operating Committee Chairperson
Nina shared the following upcoming ideas for projects for this year:

- Improve communications between Intergroup, the GTA Service Districts and Area 83
- Continuing transparency to groups regarding happenings the Intergroup office, committees, and addressing questions from groups in the GTA. "We are here to serve the groups"
- Further Continuity: the OC endeavours to create detailed descriptions of the OC, and down to the last Subcommittee. This will eventually lead to a Subcommittee manual, which will aid the next service volunteers rotating into positions
- Newcomer's Workshop (February 2021 General Meeting): this will be beneficial to new Group Reps, Alternates, Committee Chairs, and Visitors. The Workshop will feature a preview of our new website, and will include a section on how to read the monthly Finance Summary

COLLECTION OF THE 7TH TRADITION:

- As per our literature and the 7th Tradition, we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- The 7th Tradition link is as follows: <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/7th-tradition/>
- It appears on our website Home Page on the top left of the screen: '7th Tradition'.
- Two icons have been added to the 7th Tradition feature on the website: a) one button for individual contributions; and b) one button for group contributions.

MOTION TO SUSPEND REGULAR BUSINESS – OC ELECTION

Motion to Suspend Regular Business to Facilitate OC Election moved by Bradley H. (G.S.M.) and seconded by Lee (Hadenuffyet). **Motion passed.**

The OC Committee is currently looking for a Secretary. After outlining the sobriety requirement and service responsibilities for the position, Nina then called for nominations/volunteers from Floor members. One member volunteered for the position. **Kelli T. (Hill) will serve as the new OC Secretary.**

FINANCE REPORT – Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chairperson

GTA INTERGROUP FINANCE REPORT DECEMBER 2020															
	December (1 Month)							Year-to-Date December (12 months)							
	Actual	Budget	Var	%	Actual 2019	Var	%	Actual	Budget	Var	%	Actual 2020	Actual 2019	Var	%
Contributions	23,577	25,000	(1,423)	(6%)	20,890	2,687	13%	171,825	159,000	12,825	8%	171,825	150,614	21,211	14%
Literature Sales	8,237	13,333	(5,096)	(38%)	8,299	(62)	(1%)	71,935	160,000	(88,065)	(55%)	71,935	154,198	(82,263)	(53%)
= Total Revenues	31,814	38,333	(6,519)	(17%)	29,189	2,625	9%	243,760	319,000	(75,240)	(24%)	243,760	304,812	(61,052)	(20%)
- Cost of Sales	6,399	9,167	(2,768)	(30%)	5,936	463	8%	44,835	110,000	(65,165)	(59%)	44,835	108,571	(63,736)	(59%)
- Expenses	14,228	17,058	(2,830)	(17%)	30,637	(16,409)	(54%)	159,153	207,300	(48,147)	(23%)	159,153	205,726	(46,573)	(23%)
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	11,187	12,108	(921)	(8%)	(7,384)	18,571		39,772	1,700	38,072		39,772	(9,485)	49,257	

Note 1: Prudent Reserve at Value December 31, 2020 was \$219,964. 2020 Prudent reserve "Target" is \$266,000.

Note 2: YTD Actual 2020 expenses include a credit of \$29,259 for the wage subsidy.

Month of December 2020: We ended the month with a surplus of 11.2 K or 1 K below budget. Contributions were 24.6 K which is 1.4K and 6% below budget and 13% greater than December 2019. Literature sales were 8.2 K equaling 38% below plan and 1% below 2019. In total revenues were 31.8K or 30% below plan and 8% above 2019. Expenses were 14.2 K or 17% below plan due to lower than planned committee and staff expenses.

Year-to-Date December 2020: The surplus for the year is 40 K compared to the budgeted 2 K. Without the wage subsidy the surplus would have been 10.5 K. Total contributions were 172 K or 13 K above budget and 21 K above 2019. The positive budget variances for group and individual contributions were 8.5 K and 4.3 K, respectively. Literature sales YTD were 80 K which is 88 K or 55% below plan and 53% below 2019. Year-to-date literature income is 23K below budget, fully attributed to pandemic related cancellation of in-person meetings. YTD expenses are 48 K below plan. Had Intergroup not received the wage subsidy YTD expenses would be have been 19 K below plan. The cause of the variance is committee expenses were only 6.3 K or 19 K below the plan of 25.3. Cam then asked whether there were any questions on his report, and answered the questions from members accordingly.

2021 BUDGET DISCUSSION/VOTE – Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chairperson

	Actual	Budget	Actual **	Budget	Budget
	2019	2019	11 months 2020	2020	2021
Contributions					
Total Contributions	150,614	142,715	149,257	159,000	160,000
Literature Income	45,380	60,100	25,404	50,000	28,000
Total Revenues	195,994	202,815	174,661	209,000	188,000
Total Committee Expenses	16,438	26,150	6,107	25,300	10,500
Total Operating Expenses	107,036	140,828	98,703	109,000	95,900
Staff Expenses	79,515	75,600	69,244	73,000	81,500
Total Operating & Staff Expenses	186,551	216,428	167,947	182,000	177,400
Total Expenses	202,989	242,578	174,054	207,300	187,900
EXCESS or (DEFICIENCY)	(6,995)	(39,763)	607	1,700	100

** 2020 Actual Staff Expenses excludes the wage subsidy for comparative purposes.

2021 Budget Discussion and Motion to Accept:

Last month Cam presented the GTA Intergroup's 2021 Budget as approved and recommended for acceptance by the Finance and Operating Committees. It is a balanced budget. The assumptions take into consideration the ongoing

impact of COVID-19 on literature income, committee and operating expenses and a level of contributions consistent with 2020. At this time, Cam welcomed discussion and will then request a motion to approve. Cam then asked whether there were any questions regarding the 2021 Budget, and answered the questions accordingly. At this point Cam asked the Floor for a motion to accept the 2021 Budget as presented.

Motion to accept the GTAI 2021 Budget as presented moved by Charlie D. (Streetsville St. Andrews) and seconded by Jerrad H. (Fellowship). (Due to technical difficulties with the Zoom polling feature, the vote on the Motion occurred under Unfinished Business)

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: No report.

ARCHIVES: David T. (St. Clements), acting Chairperson

1David announced that an Archives committee member, Peter N. (Bayview) passed away recently. Peter was to serve as incoming Archives Chair. David and Eddy G. (Archivist) will serve as interim chairs until a new Archives chair steps up to serve. David have been busy verifying/scanning Area 83 minutes. Eddy has brought in boxes from Sunnyside Group and the Streetsville Group including minutes from Long Branch Group, Aurora Group and Wexford Group. We are still processing the 80 year book materials and hope to liaise with our editor soon to hand over the collected materials. We have requested a virtual room at the ORC to allow us to have time for an Archives Presentation at the Virtual ORC. The Archives Committee is researching submitting a bid for the 2023 National AA Archives Workshop to coincide with the 80 year anniversary of AA in Canada. We stand ready to assist groups with their group histories or bringing our virtual displays to one of your Group or Long Time Member's Anniversaries.

COMMUNICATIONS: Carla T. (Welcome), Chairperson

Much of our work has focused on the changes to the website. The committee has done some of the writing and research for the website, as well as providing pictures. Sean L. will present the latest version shortly.

Cam (Finance) has expressed concerns that the 7th Tradition Contribution form has changed making it more difficult to track donations. Originally, the default was to the individual, now Cam finds that many people just leave it blank.

Webmaster David is aware of the glitch and is working on the problem. I will follow up.

The February issue of Better Times will focus on the ORC, and the March issue will be about the 25th anniversary of the Newsletter. The committee supported Mary's plan to republish the 1st edition of the Newsletter along with the March edition. We have a large number of writers lately. Mary is looking for people writers who can write about this years' ORC experience.

INFORMATION AA DAY: Information AA Day 2021 Event Chair, Christy F. (Steps to Serenity), DCM Dist.18

Our Committee has met twice. At our first meeting our Officers were elected. We have Marvyn W., GTA Intergroup Vice-Chair as our Vice-Chair, Jill B. District Committee Member D06, as our Treasurer, and Ann J. District Committee Member D10, as our Secretary. Other service roles were secured at our second meeting. We discussed and voted on a new position, Zoom Team Captain, so to enable forming a role to coordinate holding a virtual Information AA Day.

At our first meeting we were given our roles and responsibilities as well as outgoing members shared experiences and suggestions. Excellent templates from former Treasurer, Susan K., and the invaluable binder containing a number of years of minutes and committee work from former Chair, Bert J. Our entire GTA AA fellowship is the stronger for their diligence in meeting those needs with the full repertoire our Traditions and Legacies of Service provide so to ensure the welcoming hand of AA remained extended.

We set May 15 with May 29 as a back-up date for the first Information AA Day. I immediately wrote to our Area 83 Delegate, Kimberley M., and the General Service Office, for our GSO staff member participation. Both agreed to pencil themselves in for our tentatively scheduled May 15, 2021 event. This event is planned to be virtual.

Our next steps involve engaging and exciting members to take on the various service opportunities in the planning stages as well as day of event roles.

Please share with your group and members our tentative date, May 15, and encourage any interested folk in contacting us at: infoaaday@aatoronto.org or any of the Info AA Day meetings, found on the Intergroup web site, aatoronto.org under Events -> Committee Meetings, for Zoom log on info. Our next meeting is scheduled for Mon. Feb.22, at 7:30 pm.

IT SUBCOMMITTEE: Michael W. (Welcome), Chairperson

The IT Sub-Committee's primary purpose is to provide technical stewardship to its stakeholders, the Operating Committee, Intergroup office and various Sub-Committees.

Sub-Committee Responsibilities:

1. Guidance on technology solutions to the operating committee, subcommittees and Intergroup office.
2. Evaluation of proposed IT solutions for the Intergroup office inclusive of software, hardware, networking, telecommunications, internet and third-party providers
3. Providing assistance and direction in best practices for creating and maintaining frameworks, complex or critical systems and for third party service providers and managed service providers.
4. Provide assistance: in defining new requirements, developing Request for Proposals (RFPs), selection of potential providers, review and evaluation of responses, reviewing statements of work, price quotes, contracts.
5. Create and maintain all technical documentation of the Intergroup office and aatoronto.org website.
6. The subcommittee will not take on any of the daily IT support duties of the Intergroup office. This is currently provided by a managed service provider but may provide direction and support if requested.

Items of Old Business at the January 12 and 19, 2021 Committee meeting:

- Office Server Move To Cloud: Kevin reviewed the current server configuration looking at both server and application software that would need to be migrated to a Cloud based service
- Current Technology Service Contracts: reviewing current contracts for future streamlined options and solutions
- Documentation: Documentation on existing systems, office hardware, networks, firewalls etc. has been uploaded to the G Drive.
- 234 Risk IT Assessment: Carried over.

Committee member skills are required (see call-out for IT volunteers in these minutes, under Unfinished Business)

ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE: No report.

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

There are 14 new phone trainees. On the current 28-day schedule, there are 172 volunteers (224 shifts total).

Overnight greeters, however, are urgently needed! We currently have 12 volunteers on the roster; we need 26. The overnight schedule commitment is for one week; each night between 9:30 p.m. to 9 a.m. the following day. "We want to stay 'live', serving the still-suffering alcoholic". Nina added that Reps "please make a compelling call-out" to the membership. Also needed: 12 Step Volunteers who speak languages (Russian, Farsi, Chinese, Tamil, and Tagalog). Please email 12step.liaison@aatoronto.org for more information, to volunteer, and/or for phone training.

WINTER SEASON ALKATHON: No report.

DISTRICT REPORTS

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: No report.

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): Lou-Anne Z. (Sisters in Sobriety), outgoing Chairperson

Two boxes of CPC pamphlets and our literature rack have been returned to the Intergroup office. We are in good shape for supplies. We discussed the upcoming Pri-Med Convention in May 2021. It was decided at that time that we would need more information from the Convention coordinator before we registered. I have obtained more information and the original quote of \$120. 00 is incorrect. That price is only for admittance into the Convention; the cost for a Virtual Booth is going to be much higher than the \$1,075.00 that we paid in 2018. We will be discussing this further at our next meeting. At our next meeting we are looking forward to welcoming all new CPC Chairs and Alternates. We will hold elections for our new Committee Chair in February. If anyone is interested or knows someone in their group who may be interested in service with the Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee, please let them know that our next meeting will be on February 8th at 7:00 pm.

GRAPEVINE: John M. (Danforth), outgoing Chairperson

Calendars and Pocket Planners are available now. Please submit your orders to me at 416-277-4285 or at grapevine@aatoronto.org and I will arrange delivery. Our committee meeting this month had 4 districts represented 2, 6, 14, and 18. You can submit your story or a joke to the Grapevine through the Grapevine app. La Vina is looking for

stories from subscribers for their 25 Anniversary issue The Topic requested is “What Does La Vina mean to me.” Work is progressing on an On-Line Catalogue of Grapevine and other Literature via the Intergroup Website. In February we will hold elections for the incoming positions of Chairperson and Secretary. I will attach the duties of the Chairperson and Secretary to this report (see below).

DUTIES OF THE GTA GRAPEVINE INTER-DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Chairperson's position is as follows:

- Set the Agenda for the meeting between the District Grapevine Chairs in the GTA;
- Chair the meeting every third Tuesday of the month (currently on Zoom);
- Attend and give a report to the Intergroup General Meeting every month (Last Tuesday evening of the month);
- Attend the Joint Sharing Session and give a report on the Committees' activities (Quarterly).
- Encourage all district Grapevine Reps and Alternates to join us to share activities in your district.
- Attend other Special Meetings as requested to report on the committees activities.

DUTIES OF COMMITTEE SECRETARY

- Attend the GTA Inter-District Grapevine Committee (Third Tuesday of each month currently on Zoom).
- Take minutes of the meeting and compile reports from Chair, Area Chair, and each District.
- Distribute via E-Mail the complete minutes in reasonable time after the meeting.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Seán D. (Stepping Stones), Operating Committee Liaison

There is no incoming P.I. Chairperson at this time. Low attendance is reported at the P.I. table. P.I. Members are needed! Please approach your group GSRs with this information.

SELF SUPPORT: Gord H. (Bloordale), Operating Committee Liaison

This committee urgently needs a Chairperson and District Self-Support Chairs. There is currently very low attendance at the monthly Self-Support meeting. There is a plan in place to reach out to each of the 8 GTA Service Districts. In the meantime, Reps are asked to reach out to their group GSRs for support. As Bill W. stated in terms of Self-Support: “Give a lot of time, and a little money”.

TREATMENT: Sean L. (District 12), incoming Chairperson

We had our first committee meeting of the new cycle on Thursday January 21st at 730pm on Zoom. In attendance were reps from District 6 (Marrey) and 18 (Alan L), as well as our committee Secretary from District 12 (Olga M.) and myself. District 12 will be electing their Treatment rep this Thursday January 28th, and after that has been settled I'll be setting up a meeting with our contact at the CAMH CAITS program, which is our largest treatment initiative, historically, as we got up to 6 meetings a week pre-COVID. As this was our first meeting, we did introductions, and laid out how the committee functions and what Treatment does in the GTA.

RECEPTION: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chair

Marvyn reported that there were 48 Reps, 5 Alternates, 8 OC Members, 6 Subcommittee Chairs, 2 District Liaisons, and 4 Visitors for a total attendance of 73 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Finance Committee Member needed

The sobriety requirement for the Finance Committee member position: 5 years of continuous sobriety, and some business/accounting background preferred. Please send service resumes to admin@aatoronto.org

New Better Times Editor/Layout Editor Needed

If any member has experience and/or interest in either editing (reading, writing, editing content) or layout (graphic design), the Better Times would love to have you! Please contact communications@aatoronto.org or bettertimes@aatoronto.org for more information.

Self-Support Committee Chairperson Needed

Two years of continuous sobriety, and some service experience preferred. Email self-support.liaison@aatoronto.org for more information.

IT Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to an IT Subcommittee, whose mandate encompasses researching and recommending cost-effective IT solutions for the Intergroup Office. Qualifications for this subcommittee include: IT Professionals(s) with

degrees in computer science, college diplomas in computer science, and/or various highly technical certifications or equivalent (such as A+, CCNP, CCIE, MCSE, CISSP, AWS, Linux).

The committee should be primarily composed of IT Professionals with a minimum 4 to 5 years of work experience in one of the following: field systems administration, AWS, VOIP, Linux, Apache, PHP, Database (MySQL MSSQL), network administration, desktop computer technician, web application development, information security, IT project management. **For further information, please contact Michael W.** (IT Subcommittee Chair) it.chair@aatoronto.org

2021 GTAI Budget Vote

Motion to accept the GTAI 2021 Budget as presented moved by Charlie D. (Streetsville St. Andrews) and seconded by Jerrad H. (Fellowship). Due to the Zoom Polling feature malfunctioning, a vote was taken at this time to accept the 2021 GTAI Budget (by a show of hands). Result: 36 voted for the Motion; 1 abstention noted. **Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

GTAI Website Update Presentation: Deferred until the February General Meeting (Workshop).

Training Seminar Discussion - Feb/Mar: Training Seminar/Workshop to be held in February (see Chairperson's Opening Remarks). Please encourage your group members to attend!

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

For upcoming monthly General Meetings, Nina requested that members sign in with their name, last initial, service position, and group for each and every General Meeting. This ensures accuracy for the Reception Report.

A Motion to adjourn was moved by Kat M. (Markland Wood) and seconded by Christa E. (Beaches). The Motion was carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, February 23, 2021** at 8 p.m. **This meeting will be a Workshop Meeting.**