

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 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. The Twelve Traditions were read by Dee G. (District 18 Liaison, Steps to Serenity).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: Anniversary, Aurora, Bayview, Beaches, Beyond Belief (Sub.W.), Birds of a Feather, Bloordale, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship of the Spirit, Fellowship, Fifth Tradition, Gay Sober Men, Glenholme, Hadenuffyet, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, King City, Kipling, Lakeshore, Leslie, Living Sober, Love & Tolerance, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Mount Royal-York, Newmarket, North Toronto, Open Hands, Port Credit, Rox Glen Traditional, Saturday Morning Discussion, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, Spiritual Kindergarten, St Clements, Stepping Stones, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville St Andrews, The Dogs, Thorncliffe Park, Twelfth Tradition, Twelve Steps, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 06, 10, 12, 14, and 18.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cam B. (Finance Chair), Carlos D., David H., Gord H., Graham D., and Marvyn W. (Operating Committee Vice-Chair).

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Archives, Accessibility, Correctional Facilities, Finance, Grapevine, Treatment, Twelfth Step, and Winter Season Open House.

HOUSEKEEPING: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chairperson
Marvyn outlined the following: recording of the meeting.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – JULY 2021:

Errors and/or Omissions: No errors/omissions noted.

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Jordan (Streetsville St Andrews) and seconded by David P. (Thorncliffe Park). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chair
Marvyn welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting.

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/>

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

	July 2021 (1 month)							July 2021 Year-to-Date (7 months)							
	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2020	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Variance	%	Actual 2021	Actual 2020	Variance	%
Contributions	11,090	13,115	(2,025)	(15%)	21,727	(10,637)	(49%)	69,176	70,505	(1,329)	(2%)	69,176	76,035	(6,859)	(9%)
Literature Sales	3,988	6,666	(2,678)	(40%)	3,504	484	14%	43,034	46,666	(3,632)	(8%)	43,034	42,682	352	1%
= Total Revenues	15,078	19,781	(4,703)	(24%)	25,231	(10,153)	(40%)	112,210	117,171	(4,961)	(4%)	112,210	118,717	(6,507)	(5%)
- Cost of Sales	2,098	4,333	(2,235)	(52%)	1,686	412	24%	24,594	30,333	(5,739)	(19%)	24,594	28,143	(3,549)	(13%)
- Expenses	13,088	14,279	(1,191)	(8%)	15,151	(2,063)	(14%)	91,933	107,229	(15,296)	(14%)	91,933	97,599	(5,666)	(6%)
= Surplus / (Deficiency)	(108)	1,169	(1,277)		8,394	(8,502)		(4,317)	(20,391)	16,074		(4,317)	(7,025)	2,708	

- Prudent Reserve Market Value at June 30, 2021 = \$259 K. 2021 Prudent Reserve "Target" = \$266 K.
- June 2021 YTD expenses include a credit of \$3,207 for Wage Subsidy.

July 2021

- The deficit of \$108 was just below the budget of \$1.2 K
- Contributions were 2.0 K or 15% below the budgeted amount of 13.1 K and literature sales were very low at only 4.0 K or 40% below budget
- Total revenues of 15.1 K were 4.7 K or 24% below budget
- Expenses were 1.3 K below budget caused by committee, operating and staff expenses were all lower than budget

July 2021 YTD

- The deficit of 4.3 K compares favorably to the budgeted deficit of 20.4 K
- Due to the lower than budget contributions in June and July we are now 1.3 K below our July YTD plan
- Literature sales are 3.6 K or 8 % below budget, the literature sales budget is 50% of the 2020 budget due to the pandemic. Literature have started to improve in August and for groups meeting in-person now is a great time for groups to stock or restock your libraries. **Helen will be on vacation for 2 weeks from the 5th to the 15th of October and we encourage you to place orders in September including medallion engraving wherever possible**
- Total revenues of 112.2 K were 5.0 K or 4% below budget
- Expenses are 15.3 K or 14% below budget for the following reasons: staff expenses: a combination of wage subsidy and lower than budgeted bookkeeping costs totaling 8.7 K, committee expenses lower by 3.7 K and lower operating costs mainly printing and phones. Year-to-date there have been only \$ in committee expenses
- Finally, Helen, Alexx and the Finance and IT Committee, have been working to prepare for the upcoming October Gratitude Month campaign. Intergroup relies on contributions from individual members and groups to sustain its operations and pay its bills.
- This year like last year we will be mailing and emailing Gratitude Month flyers to encourage contributions at this time of year. I will have more to say about Gratitude Month at the September General Meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

ARCHIVES: Glenn G. (East York), incoming Chairperson

Glenn introduced himself to those present, and also outlined his AA service history (including the Archives committee, where Glenn held positions as District 18 Archives Chair and as Archives Treasurer).

The Annual Archives Breakfast will be held on Sunday November 7; more information to follow. The book '80 Years of AA in Ontario' is in process. Reminder: there is an Area 83 Archives Workshop to be held on Saturday, September 25 (check Area 83 website: area83aa.org). Efforts in both the Archives Repository and in the gathering of Oral Histories of long-time members are still ongoing.

COMMUNICATIONS: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), OC Liaison

We are looking for a Better Times Editor, Webmaster and Alt Webmaster We are not meeting again until September.

INFORMATION AA DAY 2022: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), OC Liaison

Committee meetings for the 2022 Event will commence on Monday, September 27 at 7:30 p.m. Stay tuned!

Virtual ONTARIO REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Vice-Chair

A Chairperson is needed for the 2022 Event. 5 years of continuous sobriety and some experience with serving on a previous ORC event are needed. Please send service resumes to: orcadvisory@aatoronto.org as soon as possible, as the Advisory Committee will be meeting in September to select a Chair.

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

The two most commonly asked questions are "Can you help me get a sponsor?" and "How do I sign up/register for the course?"

We would like to find out if the membership at large has any appetite for having a pool of temporary sponsors either on the website or accessible through the Help Line, much like the 12 Step Callers List. Intergroup reps could poll their membership and have anyone interested in being on the Master Temporary Sponsor list email 12step@aatoronto.org and provide their name, group, cell number, postal code and perhaps age although I'll leave that to your discretion. We would try as much as possible to match callers up with sponsors in the same part of the city.

Newcomer Guides for Newer-comers

Because there is no service commitment available to brand new members (no ashtrays to clean or chairs to set up), we'd like to compile a list similar to the 12 Step Caller List whereby members with as little as a week of sobriety would contact a brand new newcomer and offer to take them to Zoom meetings for a week. Given they're both ostensibly doing 90 in 90, this will allow the Guide to feel useful, the newbie will feel somewhat safe, with the possibility of establishing lifelong connections. We would need their name, cell number and postal code so that if they wanted to meet for a coffee, and/or whenever in-person meetings resume, they would be able to hang out with relative ease. The hope is that each of them would then bring others into their midst, like I did in days of yore when five of us in our first month went to the same meeting every night of the week and held each other accountable if anyone didn't show up (plus we were doing ashtrays at our home group). My best friend of over 37 years in recovery was in that original 'fivesome', and we still attend meetings together via Zoom and speak on the phone practically every day, usually about practicing the principles in the latest challenging life event.

Finally, at our next committee meeting, we will begin addressing "spirit of rotation" in preparation for replacing me next summer. If anybody knows someone with above average computer skills who might be interested in the position, please let me know as I'd like to start breaking them in ASAP. I'm not in any hurry to leave, but I think we all know how difficult it is to fill these spots.

Maybe we should have a symposium on Volunteerism in AA and explore why those of us who reap the rewards of doing Service consistently fail to inspire the herd. Yours in Love and Service, Laura V.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE – NEW YEAR'S ALKATHON: Eddie A. (Lakeshore), WSOH 2021 Event Chair

Marvyn shared that the Winter Season Open House survey (sent out to Reps earlier this month) showed an overwhelming response to holding both an in-person Winter Season Open House event, and also hosting a Virtual New Year's Alkathon. "Thanks so much to Reps who responded to the survey! Your group's input was valuable to us."

Marvyn announced that Eddie A. (Lakeshore) has volunteered to chair the WSOH event. Eddie has had previous experience serving as WSOH Chair. Marvyn then invited Eddie to share about the progress/planning for the event.

Eddie shared that he is in the process of putting together a WSOH committee, and has reached out to former committee volunteers for this effort. Gord H. (Bloordale), Operating Committee member, has gratefully volunteered to liaise this year. Eddie has started reaching out to previous locations of the event. He reported that the event cannot be held at St. James Cathedral Centre – Snell Hall – 65 Church St., Toronto (2017 location) and he is also trying to reach out to College Street United Church, 452 College Street, Toronto (corner of College Street and Bathurst) where the 2019 Event was held. Response from that facility is still pending. Gord H. has committed to reaching out to the Bloordale United Church for the possibility of using their facility.

Any member wanting to volunteer for this committee can reach out to Eddie via Marvyn W., Operating Vice-Chair at oc.vicechair@aatoronto.org (WSOH committee email will be activated soon).

DISTRICT REPORTS

ACCESSIBILITY: Tom D. (Mount Royal-York), Chairperson

Monthly meeting

- Third Sunday of every month at 11a
- Next one is September 19, 2021 on Zoom
- <https://www.aatoronto.org/event/accessibility-2021-09-19/>
- **All members of AA are welcome**, especially those who have difficulty accessing AA meetings for any reason

Area 83 Survey: Accessibility Survey

- The Area 83 Accessibility Committee is going to be sending out a survey to the districts and groups of Eastern Ontario looking to learn
 - If, when, or under what conditions groups have/are planning on transitioning to in person meetings
 - What accessibility concerns or considerations they have for re-opening in person
- Consider jump starting this discussion in your group at your next business meeting (if you haven't already), so that you'll be ready when the survey comes out

Hybrid Meetings

- Greg R of District 18 shared some research from how other AA groups have done hybrid meetings.
- They are attached to this report

AA Preamble Website

- The new AA Preamble has been posted on aa.org
- https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-92_en.pdf

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: Máire O'B., Toronto Inter-District Corrections Chair

Corrections has been fairly quiet for the last month. The Ontario Corrections Institute is not yet re-opened. The Toronto South Detention Centre and the Toronto East Detention Centre are still not allowing volunteers in. There have been no Bridging the Gap requests. We are continuing to finesse our PowerPoint presentation for Probation and Parole offices in the GTA. We expect to get this rolling in October. We have finessed the Pen Pal Workbook. We can now approach the institutions here in the GTA and perhaps the Area to see how and when we can get this operational.

Bridging the Gap

The Bridging the Gap Program, or BTG, connects the new member being discharged from a facility to A.A. in their community. You are being asked to be that connection, what is called a Temporary Contact. When a new, soon-to-be discharged member contacts us, we match that person to a Temporary Contact in the community where they will be living.

If you have volunteered for this type of service, we will call you, get the okay and then send you their contact information. Your job is simple. You contact the new A.A. member and arrange to take them to an A.A. meeting, preferably within 24-48 hours of their discharge. Your commitment is taking them to as many as six meetings.

During this time, you help them become acquainted, get phone numbers and perhaps locate a sponsor and a home group. You introduce them to others in A.A. so they have a broad, healthy base, then you are available to serve as a Temporary Contact for another person. Yours in love and service, Máire

COOPERATION with the PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC): David T. (Welcome), Committee Member

There was no committee meeting held in August. The next CPC Toronto Meeting is Monday September 13, 2021, 7pm-8pm EDT, Zoom ID: 854 7547 0291 PW: 002060

GRAPEVINE: Scott M. (Bloordale), Chairperson

Greetings friends! I'm alcoholic; a member of the Bloordale Group & my name is Scott. Hi! I have the honour & privilege to serve the fellowship as your GTAI Grapevine Committee Chair.

At our last GTA Committee meeting, held on the 17th, we had attendance from 2 of 8 Districts and our Committee Liaison, Dave H. All Group Grapevine Reps as well as anyone interested in Grapevine may attend our regular 3rd Tuesday of the month meetings. District 06 had ordered 100 Grapevine magazines from the District 18 Grapevine inventory, and these magazines were delivered to the men in custody at the Toronto South Detention Centre. The September Grapevine magazines are in & it's been shared that there is a new publisher. For those that subscribe to the monthly publication, please watch for your magazines in a white envelope now.

The September issue of the AA Grapevine magazine has a special section on Young, Sober & Free in AA. There are stories on a 15 year-old that got sober, a gal that found joy at a sober dance, and a gal that got sober by following her fathers' example. If anyone tonight is interested in the September issue of Grapevine for \$3.00, please use the chat to message me & I'll work on how to get you a copy.

There will also be a new book available as of September 3rd. It's called Prayer & Meditation where AA members share the many ways they connect spiritually.

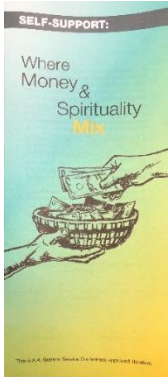
The 2022 Grapevine pocket planner & wall calendar orders are now being taken. The deadline is September 1st. The pocket planners are \$5.50 & the calendars are \$10.50. If it is too late to see your (GSR) General Service Representative to place your order, you can use the chat tonight if you want to place your order with me, as I am placing my order tomorrow. As a side note, Marge C., from the Streetsville group has had her submitted photo selected for the wall calendar coming in 2022.

Again, a reminder to please check the aagrapevine.org or aalavina.org websites for new information including how to submit your story or photo, or how to purchase a subscription in Canadian dollars. Also, worth noting, the Streetsville Group has donated a yearly subscription of the Grapevine in print to the Jean Tweed Women's Treatment Centre in Etobicoke. Thank you for that. Please contact me through the email: grapevine@aatoronto.org for any of the sales above or further inquiries.

PUBLIC INFORMATION: David T. (Welcome), Committee Member

David shared that efforts are being made to send electronic copies of the AA pamphlet 'AA for the Older Alcoholic – Never Too Late' (P-22/downloadable at www.aatoronto.org) to Retirement Home Directors in the GTA. Also, the committee is hoping to connect with both Women's Centres and Women's Community Centres for AA literature needs. The next committee meeting will be held on Monday, September 20 (check our website committee calendar for details).

SELF SUPPORT: Gord H. (Bloordale), OC Liaison



- Attendance: Marrey P. ADCM D06, Ann S. D22, Bert J. D22, Lou-Anne Z. D06, David T. D10 (Facilitator), George H. ADCM D14, John D. D12, Gord H. OC Liaison, and De R. D02.
- Reports from Committee Members: Bev H. (D06) gave a presentation to the committee – still missing Self-Support, P.I., and all other Alternate Chairs.
- Lou-Anne (D06) volunteered to step up as Alt. Chair at the next District meeting
- John D. (D12) – still pushing Self-Support message at district meetings. District sent \$1,000 to GSO
- Ann S. (D22) – sent \$500 to GSO. That district still having issues filling Chair positions
- Gord H. (OC Liaison) reminded those present about the Self-Support packages and the suggestions in the pamphlet about the split to the various AA entities.

The Self-Support pamphlet 'Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix' (pictured left) is available to download from the GSO Website www.aa.org or from the GTAI Literature Department (pamphlet F-3).

TREATMENT: Sean L., Chairperson

We had a meeting on Thursday August 19. We had four districts in attendance: D6, 10, 12, and 22.

1. New treatment chairs in D6, D12, and soon in D10. District 22 is still without a treatment chair so if you know of anyone in that geographic region who has any interest, please pass on our event listing.
2. CAMH allowed in-person CAITS meetings for one week before they were canceled again at the beginning of August, and now the chairs for both D10 and D12 are in the process of arranging new virtual meetings and reaching back out to facilities that originally declined Zoom meetings at the onset of the pandemic.
3. Had some lively and interesting discussion around how to deal with facilities that don't want us to give them printed materials -- they want laminated one-sheets or digital content.
4. Bridging the Gap Program: Sean briefly explained the Treatment Committee Bridging the Gap program for members. As stated on the GSO Website, under 'Treatment': 'According to the A.A. 2014 Membership Survey, 74% of our members cited treatment or counseling as an important part of their journey to A.A. The local Bridging the Gap program, or BTG, connects the new member being discharged from a [treatment] facility to A.A. in their community. Clients can request contacts through the A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Request form. A.A. members can serve as A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging the Gap Volunteers.'

We continue to look for a Secretary for the Committee. Contact treatment@aatoronto.org. Our next meeting is September 16th at 7:30pm on Zoom. Check the listing on the website.

INFORMATION FROM AREA 83: James O'D., Alternate Delegate (Area Website: www.area83aa.org)

Area 83 holds 7 Area Committee Meetings each 2 year term. **The next Area Committee Meeting** will be held on September 11th, 2021 at 10:00 am. This will be a virtual Zoom meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Zoom Information: <https://area83aa.org/about-area-83/area-committee-meeting-2>

Meeting ID: 878 1326 4090. Please contact Area 83 Secretary for password details, at area83secretary@gmail.com

Meeting Agenda: <https://area83aa.org/docs/acm/2021/ACM%20Agenda%20Sept%2011,%202021.pdf>

Area 83 Fall Assembly: Area 83 holds 2 Assemblies each year in Kingston, Ontario. The next Area Assembly and Service Information Day will be held October 22-24, 2021 (Virtual Assembly).

Zoom information: <https://area83aa.org/events/kingston-2>

Meeting Guide App (right): From the GSO website Home Page: <https://aa.org/>

New & Enhanced Features

- Search — Find A.A meetings by name or location, in addition to day and time
- Daily Reflections — a selection of reflections by and for A.A. members
- Enhanced location functionality
- Expanded user interface, with a new menu bar and “Contact” feature.
- “News” — Learn about events at the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and Grapevine, as well as information about updates within the app.

RECEPTION:

It was reported that there were 37 Reps, 5 Alternates, 6 OC Members, 8 Subcommittee Chairs, 5 District Liaisons, and 2 Visitors for a total attendance of 65 members.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Unfinished Business was forthcoming.

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



[Better Times Editor](#)

[Phone Greeters](#)

[Bilingual Member Resource](#)

[2022 Virtual ORC Chair](#)

[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)

[Self-Support Chair](#)

[Finance Committee Member](#)

NEW BUSINESS

Angela O. (Rep, Mount Royal-York) shared that, at their group's last business meeting (August 3), a Motion was passed at that meeting that Angela was to inquire with Intergroup about the possibility of setting up a “nuisance list”; a list for groups to refer to of people who have misbehaved themselves at multiple meetings, despite many cautions from groups' members to curb the disruptive/harassing behaviours. This entails harassment of women, in particular. In this light, Angela mentioned that she reached out to Nina L. (Sisters in Sobriety) recently via email with this concern, and is awaiting a response.

Marvyn replied that it is best to wait for Nina to respond; after talking to Nina, this item could be brought to the Intergroup Floor for discussion at a later date.

CHAIRPERSON'S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their participation and patience this evening.

A **Motion to adjourn** was moved by Tom M.G. (St Clements) and seconded by Don H. (Living Sober).

The Motion was carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, September 28, 2021** at 8 p.m.