

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup  
**General Meeting Tuesday, January 29, 2008**

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. John M. (Thornhill) read the Twelve Traditions.

**THOSE IN ATTENDANCE:** Anniversary, Back to Basics (Richmond Hill), Bayview, Beaches, Bellamy, Beverly Hills, Bramalea Care & Share, Daily Reflections, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Glenview Disc., Golden Mile, Half Century, High Park, Hill, Keep It Simple, Kingsway, Lakeshore, Lawrence Plaza, Leslie, Living Sober, Maple, Markland Wood, Mount Dennis, New Anchor, Noon Rap, Orleta (Polish), Parkway, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Principles Before Personalities, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Saturday Morning Disc., Scarborough Centenary, Shepherd, Silverbirch, St. Clements, City Central, Stepping Stones Disc., Sunday Northwestern, Sunnyside, Thornhill, Trial & Error, Tuesday Night Disc., U of T, Unionville, Welcome, Westmoreland, Weston, Woodbine, Woodbridge, Yorkville.  
**District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 04, 06, and 14. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, Corrections, Treatment, Twelfth Step, Public Information, Newsletter, Access Ability, and Website.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** *There was no tape recorder available for tonight's meeting. The Minutes were taken by hand and recorded into the laptop computer to the best of my ability. If any comments/remarks were left out, I give my apologies in advance.*

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**Adoption of Minutes – December 2007**

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by Dave K. (Woodbine) and seconded by James H. (Shepherd). CARRIED.
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**Chairperson's Opening Remarks (Harold Y., Port Credit)**

Harold commented that "it is nice to see so many people in attendance at this meeting". He further informed Floor members that "there are lots of things going on...and lots of changes". Floor members will be updated on these and other items at next month's General Meeting.

**Collection of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tradition**, which totaled **\$189.67** after coffee expenses.

**FINANCE REPORT (Gregg W., Rox Glen Traditional)**

Gregg thanked former Finance Chair, Ida Y. (Glenholme) for the fine job she did while in this service position. **The Finance Committee is currently looking for two new members.** 5 years of continuous sobriety and some finance/ accounting background preferred (but not necessary). Please send resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.

*Referring to the Bar Graph for December 2007:* We ended up this year 'in the black'; however, the figure is not as good as what was reflected at the end of 2006. Expenses for the month were \$5,000 over the income received. Also, the posting of cheques is still yet to be done, so these figures possibly are not the right totals. The committee is currently working on the 2008 Proposed Budget, which should be available for the next General Meeting. The Audit needs to be started; this will be done in February.

**ACCESS ABILITY (Donna MacQ., Sunnyside)**

The committee made an appointment with the Ann Johnston Health Centre. This was deemed to be not an Access Ability issue; however, the Centre was given Meeting Directories. This committee will be present at a Workshop at the upcoming Kingston Assembly (March) in addition to the ORC. **Next meeting: Sun. Feb.17 at 11a.m.**

**WEBSITE (Fran H., Kingsway)**

As per the decision of the Operating Committee, this committee will amalgamate with the Better Times Newsletter committee. The Website currently has only three members. **Next meeting: Sat. Feb.9 at 1 p.m.**

**Better Times NEWSLETTER (MarvW., Streetsville Action)**

The new edition is out, which features an article on the ORC. The committee is working on an article featuring the Blossom Time Convention and other interesting items. Please send in medallion/articles/anniversary announcements to BT by e-mail (online). **Deadline for copy: 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.** The committee **needs a secretary and a circulations person.** **Next meeting: Sat. Feb.9 at 1 p.m.**

**ARCHIVES (Roy R., Trial& Error)**

The Archives Breakfast was held in November; "we all had a marvelous time". 100 less tickets were sold than the 2007 Breakfast event. The New Archives Repository on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor at 234 is being organized. This committee will also be at the ORC. **Next meeting: Fri.Feb.15 at 7 p.m.**

**CORRECTIONS (Niels B., Hill)**

This committee will be present at the ORC and Info AA Day. All Districts are represented at this table. The Corrections webpage needs updating. **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.4 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.**

**CPC (Courtney, District 14)**

4 districts were present at the last meeting. CPC did a presentation at the St Augustine Seminary, which was well-received. This committee will also be present at the A.S.A.M. (scientific conference), the ORC, and Info AA Day. **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.11 at 7 p.m.**

**GRAPEVINE:** Harold reported that there will be no Grapevine Committee at Intergroup, due to lack of support at this table (decision as per the Operating Committee as a whole).

**INFORMATION AA DAY: (Brad H., OC Liaison)**

Event Flyers/Tickets were provided for reps to take back to their groups. The event will be held Sat., May 31 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Lansing United Church (Yonge/Sheppard subway). Tickets: \$5. A buffet lunch will be provided. This committee is **currently looking for a 2009 Chairperson; someone from Intergroup** (since this is a joint Intergroup/district endeavour, 2009 is Intergroup's turn). Please send resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234. **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.25 at 7:30 p.m.**

**ORC (Stephanie L., Operating Liaison)**

*A report was provided by Rene T., ORC 2008 Chair, which read in part:*

The conference is just around the corner ... I can't believe that it is here already ... we are almost ready with just a few ends to tie up.

All the speakers have been confirmed both out of town and local speakers ... we need a few people to chair discussion meeting so if anyone is interested please let me know.

The hotel coordinator reports a very slow hotel registration rate .. we get the meetings at a minimal cost because we contract to book so many hotel nights ... so please ...ask your members to try and book a room...if they do so through the hotel at the conference rate they are eligible to win two nights free accommodations at a time of their choosing. There will be a camera in the concert hall so that you will be able to see from the back of the room.

Pre-Reg is a little slow as well ...but about two thirds of those registered have purchased banquet tickets so if you are planning to go to the banquet ...better get your registrations in. There have been two draws already for the set of tapes for those who register early .. with 2 more to come...so get your registrations in so you qualify.

The Public Information people are working really hard in getting the word out ...we have a number of people from Ohio booked as well as registrants from Scotland...so tell everyone you know about the conference ...You are our best advertisement.

All the entertainment has been booked.. and we are hoping you will enjoy yourself.

We have worked very hard at giving you the best conference we can ... with a couple of surprises that we have planned.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service and I will see you at the February meeting

Rene Timleck  
2008 ORC chair

**PUBLIC INFORMATION (Bryan W., Rox Glen Traditional)**

7 Districts were represented at the last meeting. District 02 has started an initiative whereby they are sending literature into Remote Communities. District 06 is contacting Senior homes regarding placement of Big Books in those homes. District 10 initiative: placing Meeting Directories in all hotels. Bryan is asking members to sponsor the pamphlet holder/folder campaign for distribution to doctor's offices and pharmacies. New P.I. Events Coordinator: Romana K. (Rox Glen Traditional). Bryan was asked to go on a TV show recently (Tamil TV) re: alcoholism; he refused to go on TV but they allowed Bryan to talk by telephone to a panel present on the show. He kept the dialogue brief by asking for the questions beforehand. Panel members were non-AAs. *There was a question on the Floor about AA being on Facebook:* Bryan replied that "We have no opinions on this" as per our Traditions. Also, "we have no control on what goes out there". **Next meeting: Mon. Feb.18 at 7:30 p.m.**

**SELF-SUPPORT:** Harold reported that there will be no Grapevine Committee at Intergroup, due to lack of support at this table (decision as per the Operating Committee as a whole).

**TREATMENT (Mike C., Beverly Hills)**

Those attending the last meeting where the Chair, Alt. Chair, Districts 04, 06, 14, 18, and the Area 83 Chair, Gord H. (Bloordale), as well as the OC liaison (Reg S.). There will be a TF table at the ORC. The subcommittee will order pamphlets and other literature on loan for the table; to pay the difference after the ORC. A display for Info AA Day will be discussed next month. On Jan.19, Mike contacted Alex Chum at the Krasman Centre for psychiatric survivors and their families, who had contacted GTAI for AA Literature. The next day Mike was able to may them a few pamphlets and the GTAI 'If Drinking has become a problem' business cards. **Next meeting: Thurs. Feb.21 at 7:30 p.m.**

**WSOH:** We spent about \$950 for the event. About 250 people attended; this was down from 2006.

**Ad Hoc RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE (Lynn B., City Central)**

The committee is currently "walking people in" to change; there is a faster way to do this. Lynn mentioned the P&G regarding the subcommittee meeting requirement. The committee is working on putting the ad hoc Position Paper into ONE MOTION (Lynn and John M. from the OC to do this task). There are 18 items to go through a 90-day referendum. Lynn also mentioned the Incorporation idea for GTAI, and what would be involved. Lynn would like to ask for a 'straw vote' tonight from members to get a feeling for this initiative. *QUESTIONS:* Why Incorporation? Lynn: Six Tradition: Separation of spiritual material; also to protect OC regarding legal issues. This would definitely be a referendum item (to initiate this process). Does Incorporation require an adoption of a constitution? Lynn: It requires a Non-For-Profit-Act; a Board of Directors (like Trustees). Also, what is other intergroups doing? You can't protect just by the act of Incorporation; it offers limited protection, even as a not-for-profit. Dallas, Miami, and Ottawa intergroups are all incorporated. The primary focus of Incorporation would be the office; the groups will take care of themselves. **For other questions /concerns, please feel free to e-mail**

Lynn at [bridgesover@sympatico.ca](mailto:bridgesover@sympatico.ca). *STRAW VOTE WAS TAKEN: Floor was in favour of further investigation of this initiative.* **Next meeting: Thurs. Feb 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

**RECEPTION (Aaron K., Yorkville)**

4 districts, 5 subcommittee chairs, and 54 group reps were present at this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Walter C. (Alt./Parkway Group) explained that he has been a phone greeter for many years. On Jan 22, he was evicted by 234 by the police and now has a shoulder injury from this incident. He believes that the hand of AA always should be there for those still suffering. He has an album from people he has helped over the years. *QUESTIONS: Why were you evicted? Walter: I have no idea. The police did not explain why to me. Who initiated this action?: Ken from literature. Walter went on to explain that he would like this information, and so would his lawyer. Walter shared that he has been in AA for almost 40 years; 37 of those doing the phones. There was applause from Floor members honouring Walter for so many years of service work. A somewhat disgruntled conversation between Harold and Walter commenced. QUESTION FROM FLOOR: Why can't we discuss this further...it seems the Floor wants to know. Why is discussion of this being quieted down/discouraged from the OC table?*

A member was concerned re: the action taken by the OC to combine Website and Newsletter as one committee, and cancel Grapevine and Self- Support due to lack of support? Harold: We are using the P & G as a guide. "If we're wrong, please let us know".

**TWELFTH STEP (Jim O., Markland Wood)**

Jim gave thanks to outgoing 12 Step Chair, Mike K, for all his hard work. **WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!** One year of sobriety and a phone training session are needed to begin this service work. James will personally respond to all those wanting to volunteer. James' phone number is 416-937-4447, and his e-mail is [joman@royallepage.ca](mailto:joman@royallepage.ca). The next phone train session is Sun. Feb.18 at 1:30 p.m. There are some issues with getting members to update 12 Step information (more info on this next month). Comment to Walter: "Feel free to approach me with any concerns you may have". Walter: "Thank you very much for that". *QUESTIONS: What do Greeter Captains do? Jim outlined duties. Lynn: do you have to do Greeter Captain duty to be a committee members? Jim: we would appreciate a member taking on at least one month as a Captain. Harold mentioned that there could be "things that we could do better" like training for making 12 Step calls, so we could get back to our Primary Purpose. Fran mentioned that there is an excellent pamphlet for the Twelve Step volunteers that outline this very well. The updated list for 12 Step Contacts should be done by next week (Fran). Walter: concern about unanswered phone messages; gave example of member who slit his wrists.*

Carol (Tuesday Night Disc.) brought up a concern about cancelled Christmas meetings (three groups were not open in her area), **WE NEED BETTER INFO** on this cancellations. Fran commented that the information was posted on the website, in the Newsletter, and in each Greeter Deskbooks. Harold: "Every group is autonomous. If they were going to be cancelled, they need to phone 234 to let us know."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.

**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, Feb.26 at 8 p.m. at Glebe Rd. United.**