

Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009

The meeting convened at 8 p.m. with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. Marrey (Restoration & Recovery) read the Twelve Traditions. **THOSE MEMBERS PRESENT:** A Place to Share, Agincourt Acorn, Anniversary, Aurora, Bayview, Bellamy, Birds of a Feather, Beyond Belief, Bloordale, Credit Valley, East York, Erin Mills, Fellowship, Glenholme, Half Century, High Park, Hill, K.F., Keys to Serenity, Lakeshore, Lansing, Leslie, Living Sober, Long Branch, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale South, Midtown, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, One Day at a Time, Open Hands, Orleta (Polish), Pine Hills, Port Credit, Primary Purpose, Principles Before Personalities, Prince Edward, Recovery (Thornhill), Restoration & Recovery, Rexdale United, Richmond Hill, Rox Glen Traditional, Royal York, Saturday Morning Disc., Shepherd, Silverbirch, St. Clements, Steps to Serenity, Streetsville, Sunday Northwestern, Thornhill, Twelfth Tradition, Unionville, Welcome, Westmoreland, Weston Sunday Open, Willowdale, and Yorkville. **District Liaisons:** Districts 02, 04, 14, 18, and 22. **Subcommittee Chairs:** Archives, Info AA Day 2010, ORC 2010, Public Information, Website/Newsletter, Winter Season Open House 2009, and Twelfth Step.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – October 2009: MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by John B. (High Park) and seconded by Glen B. (Recovery/Thornhill). MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRPERSON’S OPENING REMARKS – Florence B. (Noon Rap), Operating Chairperson: After announcing some housekeeping items, Florence remarked how good it was to see so many members committed to service, and added that “...God is in my life, and is also evident at the group level, and I’m grateful to notice this.” Those present acknowledged the new group reps with applause; Florence stated that there will be a new rep orientation session to be announced at a later date.

Collection of the 7th Tradition, which totaled \$210.90.

FINANCE REPORT – Bruce L. (Back to Basics), Finance Chair:

GTA Intergroup Alcoholics Anonymous **Finance Report for the month of October 2009**

Summary:

	<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>NET INCOME</u>
OCTOBER	\$35,546	\$14,072		\$21,474
COMPARISION TO BUDGET	-2,079	- 1,816	-263	
OCTOBER YEAR TO DATE	\$214,545	\$141,964	\$72,581	
COMPARISON TO BUDGET		43,170	- 36,155	79,325

October income is under budget due to lower than expected gratitude and group donations. This is probably due to donations being high in September. Literature sales were above budget. Expenses were slightly under budget in most categories. The year-to-date surplus in income is explained by the ORC contribution, increased donations and gratitude and literature sales. Year to date expenses are lower than expected due salary costs, delayed audit billing, 2007 property tax rebate and 2008 refund and committee expenses. **In detail:** In the month of October, donations were \$26,822, below budget by \$5,178. Year-to-date donations were \$120,229, which was \$19,063 over budget. October Income before Operating Expenses was \$35,546, under budget by \$2,079. Sales were \$13,116, over budget by \$3,978. YTD Income before Operating Expenses was \$214,545, over budget by \$43,170 mainly due to the ORC contribution and higher than expected individual gratitude and group donations. Total expenses for October were \$14,072, under budget by \$1,816 due to an under run in most operating expense categories. Year-to-date total expenses were \$141,964, which is \$36,155 under budget. In addition to deferred legal / audit expenditures, there has

been a general under run in payroll, operating and committee expense. The new phone system cost less than forecast and 2007 property tax rebate was not budgeted. Net income for October was \$21,474, in line with the budget. Year-to-date net income was \$72,581, over budget by \$79,325 the combined impact of gratitude donations, unusually high group donations, the ORC contribution, deferred legal/audit expenses and lower than expected operating expenses. **Prudent Reserve as of October 31, 2009** – Book value + accrued interest: \$124,981.

The 2010 Budget is almost ready for presentation/approval. The **Finance Committee is looking for 2 members for 2010**. 5 years of continuous sobriety and some business/accounting experience would be helpful but not required. *Please send service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.* **Questions:** Margaret T. (Bayview) asked what the Prudent Reserve figure is (*please see Finance Report above; last line item in report*) and also inquired what it represents; Bruce replied that the figure represents nine months' operating budget. David (Welcome) had a concern regarding tax receipts for Gratitude donations and breaking anonymity. Bruce explained that a small amount of receipts were erroneously sent out utilizing two-window envelopes which showed 'Alcoholics Anonymous – Toronto Intergroup' (our legal charitable name). This was *corrected immediately* and one-window envelopes are now used exclusively for the purpose of anonymity.

ACCESS ABILITY – Phil M. (Bloordale), **Operating Committee Liaison:** This committee will be attending the 'People In Motion' [agencies helping people with disabilities] event in June 2010. Access Ability will be working in tandem with the CPC committee on this venture. As per non-profit status, these committees will be receiving a discount for attendance fees for the event. The committee has recently given out 2 Braille Big Books (*this item is available through the Lit.Dept. at 234*). **Next meeting:** Sun.Dec.13 at 11 a.m. at 234.

ARCHIVES – Roy R. (Trial & Error), **Chairperson:** The Archives Breakfast held recently as a resounding success: 250 people were in attendance, and more than 250 members bought tickets. The event cleared over \$3,000, and these monies will be handed over to GTAI's general operating funds. Roy extended a big thank-you to all who attended and assisted in make this event such a success. **Archives will not be meeting in December.**

CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES: no report given. **Next meeting:** Mon.Dec.7 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

CPC – Victoria B. (Steps to Serenity), **CPC committee member:** *Written report on file.* The committee is working on how to communicate/do committee business more effectively through computer programming. The committee intends to utilize part of their committee budget to purchase informational DVDs from GSO to distribute to the professional community. CPC is also working on an initiative to get pamphlets/information packages out to the members of the clergy, correctional facilities, youth facilities, and various health facilities (i.e. retirement facilities). **Next meeting:** Mon.Dec.14 at 7 p.m. at 234. **Question:** Larry (Beyond Belief) inquired as to whether the CPC DVDs are available on the Web; Florence replied that she will get in touch with GSO New York regarding this item.

INFO AA DAY 2010 – Jim A. (Leslie), **DCM Dist.18:** the event, which will take place on Sat. May 29, 2010 at Lansing Church, has a theme: '*Growing Through Service*'. Graphics and tickets for the event will be made available in March. The 2009 event sold a total of 277 tickets. In response to a question from the Floor, Jim outlined the event: service panels will address attendees during the morning, followed by a pot luck lunch, the Area Delegate's address, and a GSO Speaker will also give a talk. **Info AA Day will not hold a committee meeting in December.**

ORC 2010 – Jim B. (Saturday Morning Disc.), **2010 event Chair:** The event, themed '*Celebrating Sobriety*' will be held march 19, 20, and 21 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. Everything is on schedule. Registrations are beginning to roll in. Event placards/registration flyers were made available to reps at this meeting. Greeter Volunteer forms for the event are also available to reps. Inquiries please call 416-487-2677 or e-mail at orc@aatoronto.org. There are early bird draws for those who register early. There was a question from the rep for the Port Credit group over discrepancies in the pricing of the hotel rooms; Jim will inquire and clear up the matter. **Deadline for resumes for 2012 ORC Chair is the end of December.** *Please send service resumes to the Operating Committee c/o 234.*

PUBLIC INFORMATION – **Vivien C.** (Fellowship), **incoming P.I. Chair:** Vivien announced that the upcoming P. I. Workshop re: Speaking at Non-AA Meetings has been deferred until the New Year. **P.I. will not meet in December.**

RECEPTION – **Rick McC.** (Six Points), **Operating 1st Vice Chair:** 79 reps were present this evening.

TREATMENT FACILITIES: no report given. **Next meeting:** Thurs. Dec.17 at 7:30 p.m. at 234.

TWELFTH STEP – **Jim O.** (Markland Wood), **Chairperson:** The 12 Step Annual Holiday Party for all Greeters, 12 Step Volunteers, and 12 Step Committee members will be held on Sun Dec. 13 1-4 p.m. at 234 (*see flyers*). The details are also on the web. The recent 12 Step Workshop went well; another workshop will be held in the new Year. ***The 12 Step Committee needs volunteers!*** **Next meeting:** Wed. Dec.9 at 7 p.m. at 234. Regarding the new phone system: there have been concerns expressed regarding the fact that when calls come in to 234, the number and caller name shows up on the phone screen. Jim stated that it is the responsibility of the Greeters to maintain anonymity in this regard. When Greeters dial out, the screen says '234' on the phone of the person receiving the call.

WEBSITE/Better Times – **Aaron K.** (Yorkville), **Chairperson:** *Written report on file.* The Website/Better Times would like to thank all the past contributors for their articles and announcements. We are here to be your voice on the web and in print. Please give us notice of meetings that are cancelled or confirmed to be open for the Holidays. Go to the website for a list of Candlelight/Holiday Meetings, notices and updates. A list of 70 meetings is up now on the site. I would like to thank the fellow subcommittee members for their ongoing efforts, and to thank GTA Intergroup for the opportunity to serve. **Deadline** for Jan. issue (out Dec.15) is **Dec.5.** **Next meeting:** Sat. Dec.5 at 11 a.m. at 234.

WINTER SEASON OPEN HOUSE 2009 – **Vlad G.** (Mississauga), **2009 event Chair:** *Written report on file.*
WSOH status report: My name is Vlad G. I am the Alternate Intergroup Representative for the Mississauga group. I am also the WSOH chair. I would like to take this time and express my gratitude for this opportunity. About 2 weeks ago, I got a check cut in my name for the whole WSOH budget for \$1100. I was shocked because at my group you have to be sober for 5 years before handling money. This brought tears to my eyes knowing that you trust me with this money knowing that I only have about 9 months of continuous sobriety. This service I am doing is extremely rewarding and is doing me tons of good. Not sure what it does to you, just kidding! I would like to thank those who helped, those who came to the committee meeting, those who gave me suggestions to bring back to the committee table, and those who supported me throughout this whole time because God know I had no idea what I am getting myself into, all I thought I will be doing is telling alcoholics what to do! Also, a special thanks goes to Marvyn W. for all his excellent documentation skill and all his emails showing me what I should do next. Thanks to Brian T for his excellent response time to my requests and question and also special thanks to the Intergroup office for forwarding me any inquires submitted by fellow AAs. And a special thanks to you all for allowing me to doing this service. ***Thank you!!!!*** Okay, so the report: So far we got 11 turkeys to be cooked which I confirmed with the 11 cooks that volunteered. There are 4 drivers available at the moment. We got 4 people to chair the closed meetings. At the moment we only have 2 people cooking hams. I looked into finding how to get to Wright Ave, by buses since the subway will not run that early. Please spread the word about this event since it is sponsored by intergroup and it is a very good way to stay sober and do service. *After this report, Marvyn W. (Mississauga), event Treasurer, asked for donations of desserts/sweets/fruit for the event.* **Next meeting:** Sat. Dec.5 at 1 p.m. at 234.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Florence announced that the updated **Procedures & Guidelines** (changed as per the Referendum) will be up on the Website Fri. Nov.27 at 5 p.m. She asked that members look the document over, and referred any questions/concerns be forwarded via e-mail on the site to the Operating Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: A question from the Floor regarding the Regent Park Christmas event was deemed an outside issue as per our Traditions.

After some closing remarks about housekeeping items, a MOTION TO CLOSE was moved by Colin (Markland Wood) and seconded by Patrick (Glenholme). MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tues. Dec.15 at 8 p.m. at Lansing United Church.