

GENERAL MEETING WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2023 (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. Gus V. (Bloordale) read the Twelve Traditions.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

INTERGROUP REP/ALT: 12 Steps, Anniversary, Beaches, Beverly Hills, Big Chunks of Truth, Bloordale, Brampton Recovery, Church Street, Deer Park, Dry on Danforth, East York, Fellowship, FOTS, Gladstone, Hill, Keep It Simple, Kipling, King City, Lakeshore, Living Sober, Long Branch, Love and Tolerance, Markham Village, Markland Wood, Meadowvale Fellowship, Midtown, Mississauga, Mount Royal-York, Fellowship of the Spirit, Midtown, Mississauga, Morning Discussion, Newmarket, Noon Rap, Pine Hills, Port Credit, Responsibility, Royal York, Silverbirch, Sisters in Sobriety, St Clements, Stepping Stones, Streetsville Action, Streetsville St. Andrews, Trial & Error, Tuesday Men's, and Welcome.

DISTRICT LIAISONS: Districts 02, 10, 12, 14, and 22.

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Cam B. (Finance Chair), Derek F., Don H., Julie G., Kelli T., Graham D. (OC Vice-Chair), Marvyn W. (OC Chair), and Saverio D.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS: Archives, Finance, and Treatment.

HOUSEKEEPING: Marvyn outlined the following: recording of the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 2023

Errors and/or Omissions: none were reported.

MOTION to adopt Minutes as presented moved by John C. (Pine Hills) and seconded by Nancy H. (Mississauga). The Motion was carried.

CHAIRPERSON'S OPENING REMARKS - Marvyn W. (Mississauga), Operating Committee Chair

- Congratulations to the 2023 ORC Event Committee for putting on an awesome event! On behalf of the GTA Intergroup Operating Committee, we'd like to thank Roman R. (Stepping Stones), 2023 ORC Chair and the entire 2023 ORC Committee, the 2024 ORC Shadow Committee for assisting the 2023 ORC Committee, and the ORC Advisory Committee that did hard work behind the scenes, in reference to pre-Conference responsibilities
- Tonight we are conducting our Annual Workshop (as per page 10 of the GTAI [Procedures and Guidelines](#)). If you are a new Rep, please download a copy of this document off the aatoronto.org website <https://www.aatoronto.org/about/policies-and-procedures/>
Section 9.3 - Workshop Meeting: The sole function of an annual Workshop Meeting is to provide an orientation to the Intergroup reps about the GTAI Procedures and Guidelines, the GTA Intergroup structure, and the general functioning of the Office/Literature Department. All the attending OC members and reps are given written histories and summaries of the Subcommittees of GTA Intergroup.
- At the end of the Workshop, we're going to have a question and answer period. After that, we're going to conduct some New Business that is being brought forward to the Floor for consideration; and we're looking for a vote at that time from Intergroup Reps (or in their absence, a vote from an Alternate)

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

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/>

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION Facilitated by Julie G. (Markham Village), Marvyn W., and Kelli T. (Hill), OC members

After welcoming new reps, Julie, Marvyn and Kelli shared the following information, and entertained questions from Floor members throughout the presentation:

GREAT TORONTO AREA

INTERGROUP

Purpose and Function

WHAT IS GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP ?

FUNCTION: GTA Intergroup provide essential AA services common to all groups; we are the point of contact between AA Groups, the public and the still suffering alcoholic.

PURPOSE: WORKING TOGETHER TO CARRY THE MESSAGE OF AA

- ✓ GTA Intergroup is your local service center, providing many of the products and services offered by AA's General Service Office (GSO) in New York
- ✓ It does this within the AA structure, under AA's 9th Tradition
- ✓ GTA Intergroup provides financial support to the Sub-Committees servicing the communities in getting the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic.

SERVICES GTA INTERGROUP PROVIDES

- Keeping an up-to-date meeting list, on the website and in print
- Provide Local Website aatoronto.org
- Responsible for 24 hour Telephone Help Line and 12 Step calls
- Members and Public Inquiries
- Literature Storage and Distribution
- Office space for all Sub-Committees to meet
- Newsletter - Better Times
- Group Liability Insurance

Your Group's 7th Tradition Contributions and time help make these services possible

WHO DOES GTA INTERGROUP SERVICES

District 2

Malton

District 6

Mississauga

District 10

*Toronto South
Central*

District 12

*Toronto South
West*

District 14

Toronto North

District 16

Spanish

District 18

Toronto East

District 22

Scarborough

TO CARRY THE MESSAGE TO THE STILL SUFFERING ALCOHOLIC

THE ROLE OF THE INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE



The Intergroup Representative is the voice for their group.



As the Trusted Servant of their group, they have the right of decision to vote at the Intergroup General Monthly Meeting on behalf of their group.



The Intergroup Representative participates in Intergroup General Monthly Meetings with other such Representatives to share their groups' experience in carrying the A.A. message.

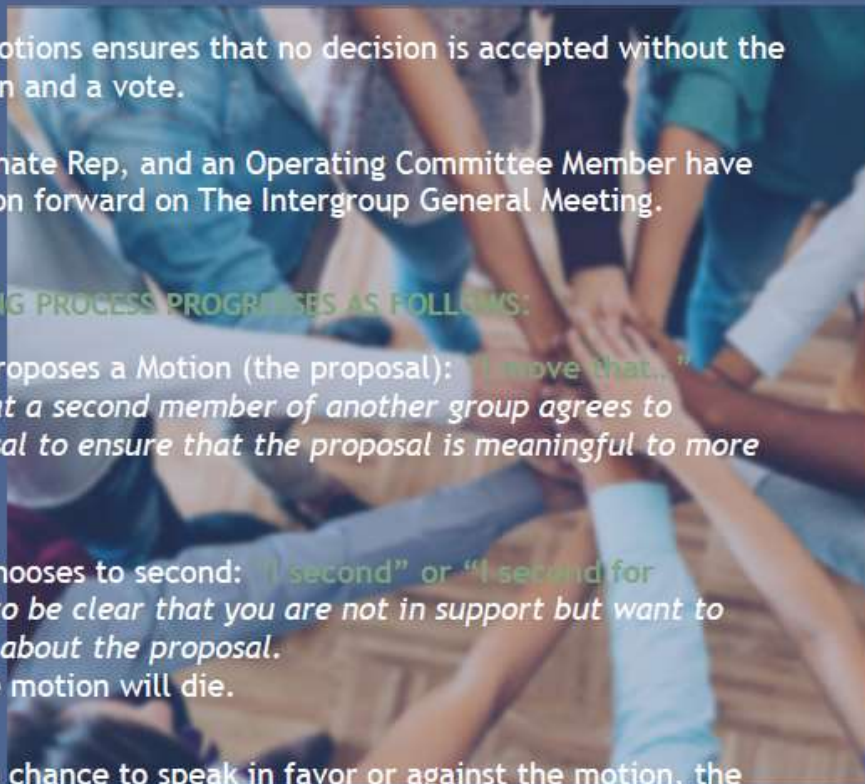
THE ROLE OF THE INTERGROUP REPRESENTATIVE



- ✓ *The Intergroup Representative* keeps their Home Group well-informed about GTA Intergroup's activities.
- ✓ *The Intergroup Representative* obtains guidance from their Home Group about matter to be considered at the Intergroup General Monthly Meeting
- ✓ *The Intergroup Representative* can nominate a candidate for and/or stand for election to become a member on the Operating Committee.

INTERGROUP GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING VOTING PROCESS

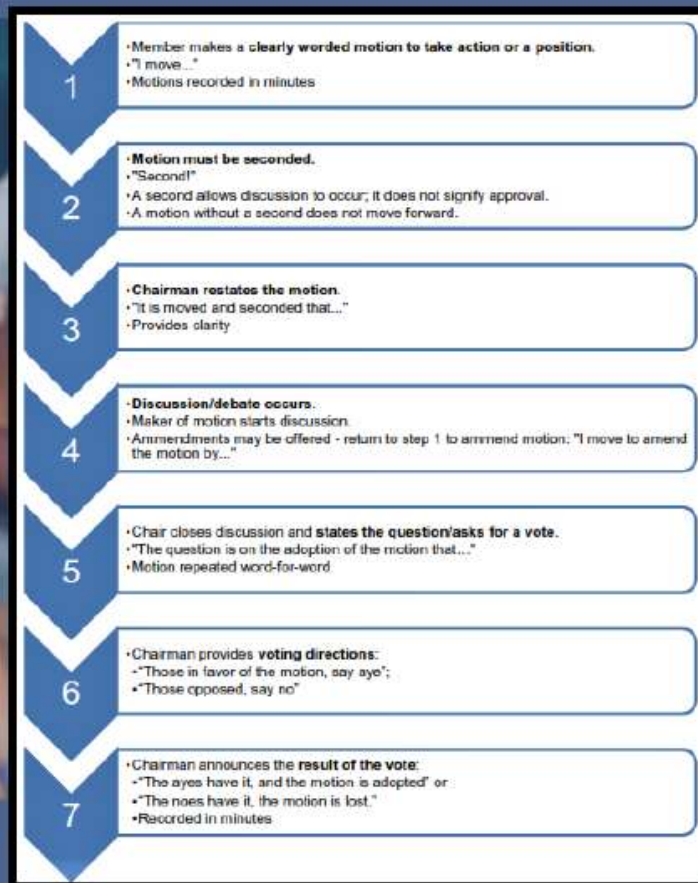
- ✓ Motions are statements that describe a proposed action or decision.
- ✓ The process of making Motions ensures that no decision is accepted without the opportunity for discussion and a vote.
- ✓ An Intergroup Rep, Alternate Rep, and an Operating Committee Member have the right to bring a Motion forward on The Intergroup General Meeting.



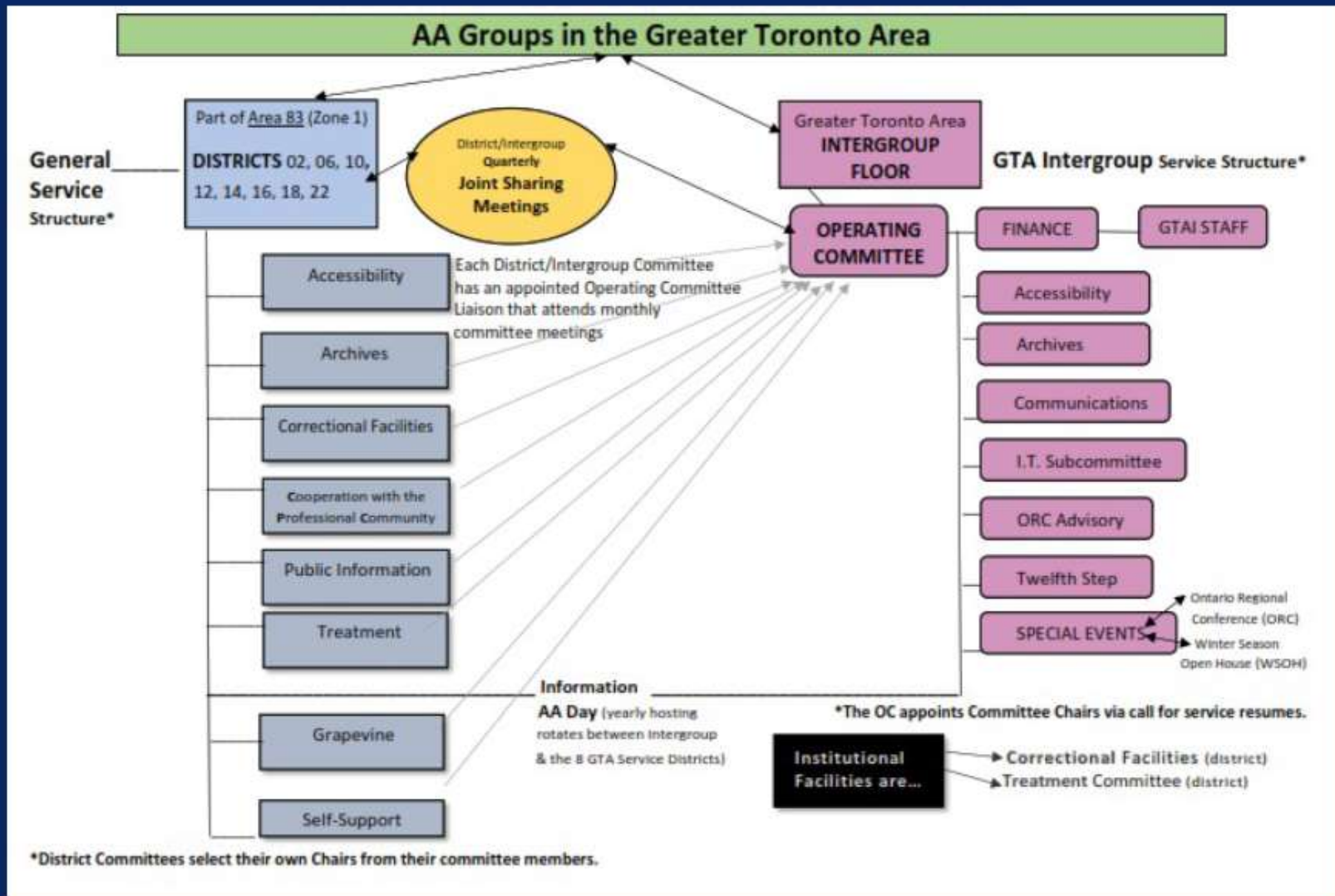
TYPICALLY, THE MOTION MAKING PROCESS PROGRESSES AS FOLLOWS:

- i. A member of the group proposes a Motion (the proposal): "I move that..."
 - *Motions require that a second member of another group agrees to consider the proposal to ensure that the proposal is meaningful to more than one person.*
- ii. A member of the group chooses to second: "I second" or "I second for discussion" if you want to be clear that you are not in support but want to entertain a conversation about the proposal.
 - Without a second the motion will die.
- iii. Once the group has had a chance to speak in favor or against the motion, the Chairman will lead to a vote.

DETAILED STEPS OF A VOTING PROCESS



GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP SUB-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



INTERGROUP OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

✓ FINANCE

- Composed of 5 voting members
- Responsible the financial soundness and well-being of the operations of the Intergroup Office
- Presents Financial Budget to OC and the GTAI Members for approval
- Obtaining audited financial statements by independent external accountants
- Helps with operation of the GTAI Central Office

✓ Operating Committee

Composed of ten persons:

- Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Treasurer (a.k.a. - the Chair of the Finance Committee)
- Secretary
- Six Committee Members, (OC Liaison to a Subcommittee)
- OC Liaison are required to attend the Sub-Committee meeting that they are assigned to.
- The Chairperson shall be the Executive Officer of the Intergroup Office and shall perform such other duties as are incidental to this office.
- Responsible for the GTAI General Meeting, and attending the Joint Shared meeting

INTERGROUP SUB-COMMITTEES



ARCHIVES

- Preserving the history of AA in the GTA, receive, classify, index, and preserve all relevant AA materials from the GTA



COMMUNICATIONS

- GTA Website, Better Times Newsletter and GTAI Meeting Directory
- Use a variety of channels to communicate with the AA fellowship in the GTA



INFO AA DAY

- Collaborates with District to arrange and present Info AA Day for the AA Members of GTA to encourage service in the fellowship
- Tentatively May 27 In Person

INTERGROUP SUB-COMMITTEES



ORC

- Responsible for organization of the annual Ontario Regional Conference sponsored by the GTA Intergroup



Twelfth Step

- Responsible for the 24hr Help Line
- Connect Newcomers to AA meetings
- 12 Step Calls



Special Events

Winter Season Open House / Alkathon

- Organize a fellowship event where AA members serve & are served in the spirit of the season.



Information Technology

- Recommendations of solutions on technology to Intergroup
- Guidance on cost-effective IT solutions to include software, hardware, networking, telecommunications, internet and 3rd party providers
- Review statements of work, price quotes and contracts

“Service is for everyone - Stay Connected!”

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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



[Phone Greeters/12 Step Volunteers](#)
[Twelfth Step Committee Members](#)
[Bilingual Member Resource \(12 Step Calls\)](#)
[Operating Committee Members \(2\)](#)
[Workshop Chairperson](#)
[Finance Chair](#)
[Better Times Editor \(1 more\)](#)
[Web Administrator \('Webmaster'\) and Alternate](#)

NEW BUSINESS

After the Workshop presentation, Marvyn stated the following:

- Every Motion presented on the Intergroup Floor has to have a 60% vote in favour, in order for the Motion to be passed;
- Only Intergroup Reps (or Alternate Reps in their absence) with a '1' indicated beside their name on the Zoom participants list have a vote tonight

Marvyn then asked Eric S., Welcome Group Rep, to address those present:

Motion by Eric S. (Welcome) to reconvene Intergroup [General] Meetings, starting in April 2023, to Timothy Eaton Church, 230 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto. The meeting would be a hybrid of in-person and Zoom attendance. Eric continued: "If the Motion doesn't pass, then it would remain as a Zoom meeting."
Motion seconded by Angela O. (Mount Royal-York).

Eric was given the opportunity to address his group's Motion: "Originally the Motion was going to be done as three choices; a lot of Intergroup Reps took this back to their groups. Due to the fact that we need a 60% in favour voting result, we thought that having three choices might divide the vote and this would always remain a Zoom-only meeting. This has some merit; however, the fellowship aspect to having meetings in person is missing. When the pandemic had passed and groups went back to in-person meetings, some groups like Welcome still provided a hybrid format for Speaker meetings. So this was the rationale behind presenting this Motion in its current structure."

Further to the Motion, Marvyn suggested looking to May 2023 as a start date – if the above Motion passes – in order to prepare for the hybrid meeting in terms of technology needed (IT Subcommittee input) and appropriate planning. There were no objections from the Floor.

A discussion ensued among Floor members, and questions/concerns were addressed.

Motion to vote on the above Motion tonight moved by Ted D. (Rox Glen) and seconded by Christopher S. (Long Branch). Carried.

Voting results

Those groups in favour of the Motion:	Those groups against the Motion:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 Steps• Anniversary• Beaches• Bloordale• Fellowship• Gladstone• Hill• King City• Kipling• Lakeshore• Long Branch• Love & Tolerance• Meadowvale Fellowship• Mississauga• Mount Royal-York• Pine Hills• Port Credit• Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Big Chunks of Truth• Beverly Hills• Brampton Recovery• FOTS• Midtown• Newmarket• St. Clements• Streetsville St. Andrews• Tuesday Men’s Discussion <p>(2 abstentions were noted but groups not recorded; abstentions do not count in overall vote)</p>

Results: 18 votes for the motion; 9 votes against the Motion; 2 abstentions noted. TOTAL REPS VOTING: 29. **MOTION PASSED.**

Marvyn asked **if anyone from the Voice of the Minority** (those groups who voted against the Motion) **wanted to address the Floor.**

Brendan O. (FOTS): “I think we’re putting the cart before the horse; we don’t know if the church will take us; we don’t know the details of what it will take to implement a hybrid meeting; we don’t know what it will cost...shouldn’t we put that together before we make a decision? We have no information.”

Marvyn: “The church got back to us in February [in the affirmative] so we know that’s a possibility. We haven’t talked to them in the last month but I’m sure they will honour our intentions. Yes; you are correct about the tech information, which is why we are having Michael W. (Welcome) IT Subcommittee Chair at our April meeting to give a report to the Floor and clarify the tech side of this initiative.

Cam B. (Deer Park), Finance Chair, added: “Brandon I do understand what you’re saying; I also want to say that the Operating Committee has been discussing this initiative for quite some time. There were opinions on both sides shared at that time. In order to do this, we thought that we needed an Intergroup Rep to come forward and propose this idea and ‘lead us’ in the direction of investigation [of the hybrid possibility]. If we didn’t have that proposal – and we didn’t have Reps wanting to do this initiative– then why would the IT Subcommittee start putting resources into it? By having this Motion accepted tonight, NOW we can begin that process. If – for whatever reason – this idea is impossible, then this fact will be reported to the Floor.”

Brendan: “My question is – if there are logistical problems and costs involved...once we’ve already voted that we’re doing this, does that mean we’re going to spend whatever it takes to do this? Cam: “Absolutely not. It has to be investigated and determined to be feasible.”

Brendan: “Not to be pedantic, but that wasn’t what the Motion was about; to investigate. The Motion was ‘we are doing this next month’ and we need to change that Motion to [state] May [as the starting date]...”

Marvyn: “I feel we stay the course and try to do the best we can.”

Mike C. (Beverly Hills): “Last weekend we had the ORC. One of my group members attended the event and he didn’t wear a mask. I asked him how many people attended that were wearing masks; he said 4 or 5 people. So, 4 or 5 people out of the entire ORC attendance is a very small number. So, if we are going to have a hybrid meeting, who is going to be wearing masks at the Timothy Eaton Church? Everyone? Are there going to be anti-vaxxers there? I won’t come to an in-person meeting [due to health concerns]...”

Marvyn: “All I can say is that we have a personal choice whether to wear masks or not wear masks. We have to leave it up to the alcoholic; the member themselves to make that choice. If they don’t feel comfortable at an in-person meeting, they have the hybrid option.”

Marvyn added that there will be a report on the planning of the hybrid-format General Meeting implementation from the IT Subcommittee at the April General Meeting. We also need to check on room availability at the Timothy Eaton Church. In light of this, **we hope to have this new General Meeting format in place by the May General Meeting** (Tues. May 30, 2023).

CHAIRPERSON’S CLOSING REMARKS

Marvyn thanked everyone for their patience, participation and dedication to service.

A Motion to adjourn was moved by John C. (Pine Hills) and seconded by Christian H. (Tuesday Men’s). Carried. The meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Declaration.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: An online meeting via Zoom will be held on **Tuesday, April 25, 2023** at 8 p.m.