

AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 8th August 2026

Time: 14:00 PM

Present: Tas, Craig, Mike, Caroline, Retha, Moira, Emily, Johan, Graham, Kimi, Darren, Fabian, Kingdom, Lezelle, Naveshan, Jessica (**Zoom** – Tumi, Kim, Sam, Oliver)

Apologies: Jo, Brent, Gavin, Rebecca, Ntombi, Neil

OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas and opened with the Serenity Prayer
- Craig read Tradition No. 5

APPROVAL OF & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- No matters arose from the previous minutes.
- The previous minutes were approved, proposed by Retha and seconded by Kimi

VACANCIES

AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

1. Delegate

- Sam D applied for the position and gave a brief introduction of her AA career and service
- Lisa asked Sam whether she understood the time commitment involved. Sam confirmed that she understood the commitment required and was determined to succeed in the role.
- Sam was excused from the meeting.
- The appointment was put to a vote and carried unanimously

2. Alternate Delegate

- Darren applied for the position and gave a brief introduction of his AA career and service.
- Darren was excused from the meeting.
- The appointment was put to a vote and carried unanimously

3. Correctional Services

- The position remains vacant.

4. Treatment Facility

- The position remains vacant.
- GSO is attempting to provide assistance at a national level.
- Graham M applied for the position.
- Graham introduced himself and gave insight into his history with AA, his length of sobriety, his views for the portfolio and his ability to act in the position. He also provided information on his unique experiences that will benefit the programme.
- Graham was excused and there was much discussion about his application.

- A major concern is his limited length of sobriety, but it was agreed that this can be balanced by his enthusiasm, capacity, and willingness. This is a portfolio that has been open for a long time and we want to encourage service and participation even (and especially) from newer members.
- It was recorded that it is prudent to become more familiar with the Applicant and to gain insight into his understanding of the programme etc.
- It was suggested that Graham be appointed as an Assistant to Treatment Facilities, serving as Deputy to Brent, in his capacity as Delegate, for a period of six months, including visiting the Manger. The arrangement will be reviewed after six months.
- The proposal was put to a vote and carried unanimously

5. CPC / PI

- Gavin will be rotating out in September

GSRs are encouraged to motivate members to sign up for service positions

- New members may serve as “understudies” where sobriety length does not yet meet requirements.

GSO & BOARD VACANCIES:

1. GSO & Board Updates

- Board meeting next month – Lisa will update
- 80th Anniversary Celebrations
 - Gavin and Emily have been appointed to lead and coordinate the Area's involvement in this initiative.

GROUP REPORTS

- Group reports were received and accepted as submitted.
- The Area welcomed Lezelle, the new Benoni Recovery Group GSR.
- Tumi, the temporary GSR for DMP, advised that following the July Area meeting, a new GSR had been elected. Kim will serve as the new DMP GSR.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

WEBSITE

- The website portfolio continues to run well.
- Tas will follow up with Andy regarding the website

INTERGROUP (IG)

- Christmas in July – 25th July
 - Attendance was low; however, feedback from those who attended was positive
- ER Rally – Saturday, 5th September
 - The entry fee will be R50 for AA members, while non-members may attend free of charge.
 - Speaker nominations closed at the end of July, and all nominated speakers have confirmed their availability.
 - The Potjie Competition has received an enthusiastic response, with an increasing number of entries confirmed.
 - Retha will liaise with Darren regarding T-shirts.
 - Biscuit donations are still required.
- Heritage day braai – 24th September
 - The braai will be held at the Bokkie Park in Boksburg.
 - The event will include a Tradition Seven collection to raise funds for Gratitude events.
- Gratitude dinner – 28th November in Edenvale area (TBC)
 - Planning for the Gratitude Dinner is underway.

PI

- The PI report was received as submitted.

ARCHIVES

- The Archives report was received as submitted.
- A request was made for a secure, sheltered location at the Rally to protect the Archives display and materials from windy conditions.
- A proposal was made to create a service advertisement featuring photographs of Area service members, including the Greeter for Newcomers service.
- Archives has received donations intended for auction. It was suggested that the purpose and intention of the donations be confirmed before proceeding. It should first be established whether the items are already held in the GSO Archives, after which they may be considered for the Area auction

OFFICE REPORT

- The Office Report was received as submitted.
- Jo is currently on leave until 31st August 2026
- Anil will attend to incoming telephone calls during Jo's absence.
- Caroline will monitor and respond to incoming emails

FINANCES

- Mike's June and July Financial Report was received
 - Contributions are currently low. Mike will contact the groups to investigate and encourage increased contributions
- Zapper payment facilities:
 - Mike to advise on final details
 - It was clarified that Zapper will be used for contributions only, while Speedpoint will be used for sales, in order to clearly distinguish contributions from purchases

DELEGATES

- Retha sent a letter of thanks following the completion of her term of service. She will now take a one-year cooling-off period.
- Tas expressed his thanks to Retha on behalf of the Area for her dedicated service.
- Retha expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve over the past nine and a half years and confirmed that she will assist Sam with the handover.

LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- No National Literature Report was received.

PROJECTS / INITIATIVES

- Safety Desk
 - It was agreed that a Safety Desk Subcommittee should be established.
 - Craig was proposed as Chair, with Lisa as Trustee, Sam as Delegate, and one GSR, Kingdom, to serve on the subcommittee.
 - All present were in favour of the proposed subcommittee
 - The subcommittee should be established and operational as soon as possible.
 - Comprehensive documentation has been received from JWRA and will be reviewed.
 - A Safety Desk will be established at the ER Rally

- POPI
 - It was agreed that a POPI Steering Committee should be established, with no objections raised.
 - Tas will chair the committee, with the Alternate Delegate, Lisa on an ad hoc basis, and Moira serving on the committee.
 - All present were in favour of the proposed subcommittee
 - The committee should be established as soon as possible.
 - All relevant documentation has been received from KZN.
 - Andy will be consulted regarding the website requirements
- Operating Procedure Manual
 - The purpose of the manual will be to document the procedures and processes followed by the East Rand Area.
 - The existing procedures will be revisited and refined, with no objections raised.
 - The subcommittee will consist of Tas, Craig, Mike, Jo and Caroline.
- It is envisaged that the above initiatives will be established and operational by the end of the year

GENERAL

Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- The success of the Sponsorship Workshop prompted discussion around future workshop topics, including:
 - Emotional Sobriety Leading to Service
 - Due to preparations for the ER Rally, it was agreed that this should be promoted towards the end of November.

Matters Arising

- The current cost of the Dust Book to the Area is R228. The possibility of setting the member purchase price at R240 was discussed.
 - A final decision will be made upon Jo's return
- WhatsApp group for GSR and office holders, delegates and trustees
 - It was confirmed that the WhatsApp group is intended solely for current GSRs, Office Holders, Delegates and Trustees.
 - Members who rotate out of or resign from their respective service positions will be removed from the group, as the group is specifically intended for those currently serving in these positions.
 - Members will be advised prior to their removal from the group

The meeting was closed with the Serenity prayer.

The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 12th of September 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.