

# AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Time:** 14:00 PM

**Present:** Tas, Craig, Jo, Retha, Lisa, Andrew, Emily, Mark, John, Sue, Neil, Kime, Darren, Brent  
(**Zoom** – Jessica, Oliver)

**Apologies:** Moira, Rebecca, Mike, Caroline, Fabian, Ntombi, Anna, Gavin

## OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas. Members observed a moment of silence in remembrance of Sandil and Vivien, followed by the Serenity Prayer

## APPROVAL OF & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- No matters arose from the previous minutes. A spelling correction was noted for “RUSMAR” under PI.
- The previous minutes were approved, proposed by Lisa and seconded by Retha.

## VACANCIES

### AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

#### 1. Alternate Delegate

- The position is vacant

#### 2. Correctional Services

- The position remains vacant

#### 3. Treatment Facility

- The position remains vacant

#### 4. Webmaster

- The position remains vacant
- Current webmaster is happy to continue until position has been filled

#### 5. Intergroup Chairperson

- An application from Joe P was received and presented to the members present.
- As the CV had only been received the day before the meeting, not all members had sufficient opportunity to review it.
- Tas proposed that, under the circumstances, the application be deferred to the next Area meeting. The proposal was voted on and unanimously agreed to by members present.
- It was suggested that all CVs be submitted at least one week prior to an Area meeting.

## **6. Literature**

- An application was received from Andrew.
- Andrew was given the opportunity to answer questions from the members present. Questions included previous service positions, current service commitments, sobriety date (March 2026), and whether he had read through the requirements for the position, to which he confirmed yes.
- Andrew then left the room while the vote took place.
- For the purposes of this position, the committee considered the sobriety term requirement, and a majority vote was in favour of proceeding, with one vote opposed. The motion was approved.
- Andrew's application was subsequently accepted unanimously.

## **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. General Service Trustee – CPC / PI**

- The position is vacant

### **2. GSO & Board Updates**

- Lisa provided feedback regarding preparations for Conference. A proposal had been made to form a nominations committee consisting of previous members; however, the Board agreed to place the committee on hold for the time being. Concerns were raised by delegates that the process could give rise to perceptions of nepotism or favouritism.
- Due to Conference preparations, no literature orders will be processed by GSO next week.
- 80th Anniversary group contributions request
  - The Area will assist the Springs group, recognised as the first AA group in South Africa.
    - Gavin and Emily will lead and coordinate this initiative.
    - Emily has already received some information; however, additional historical information is still being sought. Members who may have further information are requested to forward it to Emily. Emily will also make contact Bill.

## **GROUP REPORTS**

- Reports were submitted as received
- SJ has stepped down as GSR for DMP
  - DMP held a group conscience meeting and members decided that the meeting will continue as normal
- John will serve as acting GSR for Airfield until a permanent GSR is appointed.

## **PORTFOLIO REPORTS**

### **INTERGROUP (IG)**

- Freedom Day braai – 27<sup>th</sup> April
  - The event was well attended, with over 70 people in attendance. Positive feedback was received, and Darren thanked all those involved in organising and supporting the event.
- ER Rally – Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> September
  - Advertising has been circulated by both IG and Area and will continue to be distributed.
  - The potjie competition will proceed as in previous years.
  - Nomination forms have been circulated, and GSRs are requested to encourage members to submit nominations as soon as possible.
  - IG will communicate all requirements relating to contributions.
  - Enquiries will be made with the ER office regarding which items from last year remain usable.
  - The invoice from the church is still outstanding, and Jo will follow up.
  - The hall has been painted, resulting in minimal additional décor requirements. The use of a projector is being considered.

- Christmas in July
  - Arrangements are largely finalised, with the venue confirmed. Further details will be distributed as soon as possible.
- New IG Chairperson
  - Consideration will be given to the best approach for the handover process and integration of the incoming Chairperson into the role.

## PI

- Gavin currently out of the country
- RUSMAR Staff Wellness Event
  - AA participation requested.
  - Gavin will follow up after 7 May.
  - Volunteers required.

## ARCHIVES

- Report received
- In preparation for the 80th Anniversary, GSRs are encouraged to assist with historical contributions (e.g., group history, milestones) for submission to General Service Office (GSO) and Archives.
  - Emily offered assistance to any groups requiring support; however, no groups have contacted her to date.
  - The submission deadline is 31 May.
- Milestone shares:
  - Emily has circulated the relevant information and documentation, and the process is progressing well.
  - When requesting permission from groups or members to record milestone shares, it must be clearly stated that no additional recordings are permitted.
  - Once recordings have been completed, they should be sent directly to Emily to ensure that the correct guidelines and procedures are followed.

## OFFICE REPORT

- Report received
- Sandil participated in a PI event together with Stella. Jo was able to recover most of the marketing materials; however, the ER tablecloth is still missing, and Stella will assist in attempting to locate it
- There are currently no Big Books in stock. A new delivery is expected on Friday, 15 May.
- T-shirts from previous rallies and conventions remain in stock. It was agreed they may be sold at a discounted price of R50. Mugs may be sold at best offer. Candles will remain at the current price.
  - Mugs may be sold to groups in batches.
  - Still a lot of stock left
- Literature sales increased during the past month
- Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book pricing
  - The current GSO price is R227, with ER receiving a 10% discount, bringing the cost price to R204.30. Discussion took place regarding whether the book could be sold below the GSO listed price.
  - The matter was put to the members for consideration.
  - It was noted that the intention is not for Area to make a profit, but rather to cover costs.
  - While an increase in price is necessary, members wished to keep the cost as low as possible. A selling price of R220 was proposed and agreed to by all members present.
- GSRs were requested to regularly check meeting listings on the website and other platforms to ensure that all information remains accurate and up to date.

## FINANCES

- Mike submitted the financial reports for both March and April 2026
- Tas reviewed both reports and confirmed that all appears to be in order, with no issues noted. The Area remains in a sound financial position
- GSRs are encouraged to verify that all group contributions are accurately reflected

## DELEGATES

- Retha reported that she and Brent will be attending the Conference next weekend and expressed a positive outlook regarding the upcoming proceedings
- AASA will not be meeting this month as all matters are currently up to date
- GSRs are once again encouraged to assist delegates by ensuring that group information and statistics are accurately reported, as these details are taken forward to Conference
- Brent will no longer be travelling overseas

## LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- Lisa attends national literature committee meetings.
- GSRs are requested to encourage members to submit contributions for the South African version of the *Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book*. Progress has been slow due to a lack of suitable submissions being received. Members were reminded that submission guidelines are available on the website, and audio submissions are also accepted

## GENERAL

### Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- Workshops
  - Craig and Mike will be hosting a Sponsorship Workshop on 16 May:
  - Time: 10:00 – 13:00
  - Format: Interactive and engaging
  - Open to members from other areas
  - Any catering contributions are welcome

### Matters Arising

- Open Portfolios at Area:
  - A subcommittee will be established to engage with groups and encourage greater participation in service.
  - Tas recommended that this item be carried over to next month's meeting, which was supported by all members present.
- Founder's Day
  - Founder's Day falls on a Wednesday this year.
  - Groups currently holding meetings on Wednesdays include:
    - Edenvale Lunchtime (not considered a suitable time)
    - Kempton Park
    - Sunnyridge
    - Kwa Thema (not considered a feasible option at present, but potentially in future)
    - Benoni Recovery Group
  - It was proposed that the meeting focus on the history of AA, the founders, and discussions led by long-standing AA members. Tas suggested that the Kempton Park group be considered as the hosting group and approached Jessica regarding the proposal. Jessica confirmed that the group would be willing to host, particularly as a smaller group. Security arrangements may also be considered if required.

- Andrew confirmed the group's acceptance of the proposal, and all members present were in favour, with no objections raised. Should the hosting group require financial assistance for any related expenses, they were requested to advise Area so that support can be provided where possible.

## DISCUSSION – CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

- It was noted that the proposals will be discussed at Conference, and this Area conscience meeting served to provide delegates with Area input on specific items. It was also acknowledged that should delegates receive additional information at Conference that materially impacts the Area's current position, they may, within their role as trusted servants and in accordance with guidelines, exercise their discretion when voting and provide feedback to Area thereafter.
- Tas proposed the following, which was supported by all members present:
  - **Proposals 1, 2, 3, 12, 14, 18, 20 and 26** – To be left to the delegates' discretion for voting.
  - **Proposals 4, 7, 9, 24 and 25** – Delegates to vote at their discretion.
  - **Proposals 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, 23 and 27** – These proposals had previously been rejected and, should they be raised again, the recommendation would be to vote against them.
  - **Proposal 22** – Should this proposal be reintroduced, support was recommended, provided any revisions are approved by Conference rather than by a subcommittee.
  - **Proposal 10** – Should this proposal be reintroduced, delegates may vote at their discretion.
- Proposals for Discussion:
  - **Proposal 8 – Big Book Dustcover**  
Area discussions focused primarily on affordability and practicality. It was agreed that pricing should remain the priority, and delegates may vote according to any additional information received at Conference.
  - **Proposal 16 – Digital Archives**  
Area supported the proposal as originally presented and agreed that AASA should create a digital platform for broader access. Delegates were requested to vote in favour, particularly as this initiative originated from East Rand Area.
  - **Proposal 17 – Availability of AA Literature**  
Area supported the proposal that GSO import books not currently published locally, as it was considered practical and beneficial. Delegates were requested to vote in favour.
  - **Proposal 21 – Regional Forums**  
Area supported the proposal for all Areas to host regional forums to encourage information sharing and greater service participation. No objections were raised.
  - **Proposal 28 – Safety and Security at Meetings**  
Area was in favour of the proposal, with discussion highlighting the importance of establishing appropriate guidelines and support structures for handling safety and harassment concerns within meetings.

**The meeting was closed with the Serenity prayer.**

**The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.**