

AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 10th January 2026

Time: 14:00 PM

Present: Tas, Jo, Craig, Caroline, Grant, Anna, Mike, Lisa (SJ, Sandil, Retha, Gavin, Emily, Oliver via Zoom)

Apologies: Vuyani, Heinz, Mark, Kingdom, Darren, Brent

OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas and the members opened with the Serenity Prayer. Craig read Tradition No.4

APPROVAL OF & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Matters arising from previous minutes
 - **Rewording required under delegates** - Jo provided posters and **Brent** is engaging with Wedge and the Manger regarding meetings.
- The previous minutes were proposed by Craig and seconded by Anna.

VACANCIES

AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

1. Correctional Services

- Vacant
- Candidate needs to be committed and be aware that there is a lot of red tape to get through, e.g. Police clearance, etc.
- Must be available one day a week per facility
- Need to have a group of people who can stand in
- In delegates meeting – there is a link to the parole board to assist newcomers – GSO also has service packs at R500 per pack – need to consider costs

2. Treatment Facility

- Position vacant
- Have received AA packs for facilities and will send out advertisements for positions ASAP

3. Webmaster

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

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. National Secretary – Publications Coordinator

- Position vacant
- Minimum of three years continuous sobriety in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous
- Previous service experience at Group or Area Level
- Effective communication skills, verbal and written, inside and outside the Fellowship
- Effective leadership skills, inside and outside the Fellowship

GROUP REPORTS

- Reports were submitted as received

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

INTERGROUP (IG)

- Valentine's ball
 - The venue has been finalised at Hyderabad House in Edenvale, as it is the most cost-effective option.
 - Final ticket prices are still to be confirmed and will be communicated once available.
- 80th Anniversary
 - The Board's timeline is still awaited.
 - It was agreed that this item does not require focus at this stage.
 - ASA has a meeting scheduled for Monday; feedback will be obtained and communicated thereafter

PI

- No events were held during December.
- Monthly meetings will resume, and the 2026 schedule will be communicated in due course.

ARCHIVES

- Report received
- Proposal:
 - The proposal was circulated to members
 - Tas raised concerns regarding the background and context of the proposal. It was agreed that the proposal should be reworded to clearly explain:
 - The purpose of the proposal and why it is being submitted.
 - Whether the archive will be digital only, and how existing physical hard copies will be stored and made accessible.
 - The need for the archive to be accessible to AA members online, as limited access is currently an issue.
- Once reworded, the revised proposal will be shared on the Area WhatsApp group for approval, with a view to submission by 1 February.
- Retha requested that the proposal be taken to ASA as an East Rand Area proposal, rather than an individual submission.

OFFICE REPORTS

- Jo submitted the office report.
- Tas was thanked for standing in as Treasurer. It was noted that Mike has now been approved by the bank.

FINANCES

- Mike submitted the December financial report.
- Finances are currently stable

- For 2025, total group contributions amounted to R88,928, with just under 50% of this total contributed by three groups within the Area. It was noted that there will be no “name and shame”, in keeping with the principle of group autonomy.
- Mike proposed writing an article for the EastRander to encourage direct bank transfers. He also suggested creating pamphlets for distribution to groups, outlining contribution details and explaining how funds are used.
- Lisa (Northern Province) shared that Zapper can be used with minimal setup to create separate QR codes linked to one account, which would allow for contribution tracking and reporting.
- The first portion of delegate fees has been paid.
- Dust-Cover Big Books have been ordered and paid for.
- Jessica suggested that Mike visit groups to explain the importance of contributions and how funds are utilised. Tas also offered to attend these group visits

DELEGATES

- First meeting to be held on Monday, 12th January for ASA and then on the 15th January
- Proposals
 - All proposals need to be submitted by 1st February
 - Caroline to send East Rand Group numbers to Retha

LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- Fifty (50) copies of the dust-cover Big Book purchased
- Treatment and facility packs have been ordered
- Regarding the Plain Language Big Book, feedback was shared by Lisa on the WhatsApp group. It was noted that World Services did not initially make the book available outside of North America. Corrections have since been made and the book is currently being reprinted. The National Secretary for Literature will provide further communication once updates are available.

GENERAL

Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- It was agreed that workshops will be scheduled and advertised to all members.
- Craig confirmed receipt of the GSR PowerPoint presentation, which will form the basis of the next workshop. It was noted that:
 - The content is based on AA-approved pamphlets and source material, and does not reflect personal opinions.
 - Craig will contact Lisa and/or Sandil should any clarification or assistance be required.
- The workshop date will be scheduled after the Valentine’s Ball, and Craig will communicate the confirmed details.

Online Meeting Platform, Licensing and phone

- Proposal is still under review

World Service delegates

- It was noted that when rallies or conventions are held at Area level, World Service Delegates should be invited to speak and provide information on the use of funds.
- It was further clarified that such invitations remain at the discretion of the Group or Area, should they wish to extend an invitation.

AA Katlehong

- It was noted that Dineo is no longer serving as GSR and should be removed from the contact list.
- The group is currently seeking a new GSR.
- The group is still operating.

Matters Arising

- **AA Social Media**
 - Craig enquired whether AA Social Media could assist with marketing for groups. It was agreed that the request be sent to Gavin, who will forward it to the relevant parties for approval before distribution.
 - Sandil raised the question of how the Area can better carry the message. Gavin responded that he will facilitate this process in 2026. It was noted that individuals often share their contact numbers at group level. Suggestions included placing posters at hospitals and police stations. Gavin undertook to report back as soon as possible.
 - It was agreed that any outreach should ideally be a local drive, providing a local contact number for relevant groups. Sandil will liaise with Gavin and indicated that assistance with coordination is required.
 - Jessica raised concerns that some groups may not yet have sufficient sobriety to support newcomers and therefore should not advertise publicly at this stage. It was noted that in higher-risk areas, the AA Office number should be included instead.
 - Tas reiterated that groups are autonomous and it is at each group's discretion whether they choose to advertise. The Area's role is to assist groups that wish to do so, while ensuring that all actions align with the AA Traditions.
- **Clashing of Events**
 - Jo raised a concern regarding the Rally of the South and the Valentine's Ball being scheduled on the same day. It was noted that calendars are shared, including via Intergroup, and that while mindfulness is encouraged, there is no prohibition on events from different Areas clashing.
- **Group Anniversary**
 - Jessica noted the upcoming 3rd Anniversary of the Live and Let Live Group on 10th March will be celebrated on 15th March.
- **Audio Shares**
 - Retha queried how to proceed with audio shares from Gibson, including whether they should be forwarded to ASA or to Emily, and where they should be stored. It was noted that Emily needs to confirm storage capacity. Retha will discuss the matter with ASA and provide feedback.
- **GSR Proposal**
 - Sandil confirmed that an initial draft proposal relating to GSRs had been circulated. It was discussed whether this should be continued and condensed into a formal format.
 - It was agreed that the proposal should be Area-specific, aimed at supporting local GSRs, and used primarily for educational purposes within the Area rather than for Conference.
 - The revised proposal will be handed to Craig for use in future workshops.

The meeting was closed with the Serenity prayer.

The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 14th of February 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.