

AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 14th March 2026

Time: 14:00 PM

Present: Tas, Jo, Craig, Caroline, Brent, Emily, Lisa, Jessica, Kingdom, Rajen, Mike, Darren, Anna
(**Zoom** – Gavin, Sandil, Oliver)

Apologies: SJ, Fabian, Neil, Retha

OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas and the members opened with the Serenity Prayer.
- Craig read Tradition No.11
- Rajen was welcomed back in his role as Deputy GSR from the Sunnyridge group

APPROVAL OF & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- There were no matters arising from the previous minutes
- The previous minutes were approved, having been proposed by Jo and seconded by Jessica

VACANCIES

AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

1. Alternate Delegate

- A CV was received from Sandil
- Retha's term will end in September 2026. Sandil, if elected, would fill the role of alternate delegate until then, whereafter he will become one of the two delegates, and the alternate delegate position will again be vacant.
- A vote was taken and all members present were in favour. Sandil was duly elected.

2. Correctional Services

- The position remains 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

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

- Darren will continue in the role until a suitable candidate is appointed.
- It was noted that Intergroup is a service role created by Area, and that sobriety time guidelines are suggested by Area.
- A proposal was made that Intergroup Chair service be for one year, with a minimum of one year's sobriety, after which extension would be at the discretion of the member. The proposal was put to the meeting and was carried unanimously.

6. Literature

- The position remains vacant
- The position requires a minimum of two years' sobriety.

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
- No applications received to date. Linda V to send out the vacancy again for closure by 25 March 2026.

2. National Secretary - Literature and Publications

- Vacancy to be forwarded to area/district offices with closing date of 25 March 2026

3. GSO & Board Updates

- It was reported that there are supported proposals.
- Preparations are now moving forward towards Conference.

GROUP REPORTS

- Reports were submitted as received
- It was noted that the GSR report template currently refers to "active members". This should be amended to "core members". - Caroline will update the template and include a definition of "core member" (i.e. a member's home group / home meeting).

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

INTERGROUP (IG)

- Intergroup met earlier in the day
 - Valentine's Ball refunds are being clarified, specifically which members require refunds, and which members are willing to donate their refunds. Darren to liaise with Mike.
- 27th April – Freedom day braai
 - A no-charge "bring and braai" event is planned. Members are encouraged to donate items such as rolls, salads and charcoal.
 - An indoor venue is being sought due to possible weather concerns.
 - Sunnyridge Primary School was suggested as a possible venue. Area approval was requested for the booking cost to be covered by Area, which was unanimously supported.
 - Further donations are being requested.
- Rally
 - Planned for September (date to be confirmed).
 - Proposed venue: Benoni Methodist Church – Jo to please check availability and cost

- No major concerns were raised. Representatives were asked to assist groups that do not currently have Intergroup representation.
- Resignation
 - Until the vacant position is filled, an alternate chair will work alongside Darren. Two members have volunteered to assist.

PI

- No events were held during February; activity has increased in March.
- A successful event was held at Life Clinic Glynnwood, with approximately 60 visitors. Appreciation was expressed to all members who assisted.
- A Wednesday event request was declined due to short notice.
- A further event is planned for Friday, 20 March. Safety concerns were raised due to the location (Katlehong and Tsakane), volunteers who can speak local languages are still required. Kingdom has offered assistance and will liaise with Gavin.
- Sandil and Mike will facilitate events in April.
- Remaining literature stock is being reviewed. Gavin will liaise with the office regarding storage.
- Appreciation was expressed to Darren for social media support.

ARCHIVES

- Report received
- A process has been introduced to record milestone shares. A format has been provided for GSRs to assist where Emily is unable to attend. Initial feedback has been positive.
- POPI considerations were discussed. Members must give informed consent before recordings are shared publicly. A consent form from GSO is available. Recordings can be destroyed if required.
- Members granting permission acknowledge that recordings may be posted publicly.
- It was suggested that personal information be minimised in recordings.
- Members were encouraged to visit the office archives.

OFFICE REPORTS

- Report received
- Big Books (priced at R170) are running low.
- Members are encouraged to check websites for updated meeting lists.
- Approximately 25 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.
- A speaker system has been donated by Kime and is currently being used at meetings.
- Errors were identified in the "Meeting in a Pocket" booklet. Lisa will edit these for the next print run.
- Jo has now been working in the office for one year. Her contract allows for a discretionary review. A salary increase of 4% (R200) was unanimously approved.

FINANCES

- The February financial report was received.
- The deposit from the Valentine's event has been returned. Darren and Mike will liaise regarding refunds. Tas and Jo made personal donations.
- Zapper payments will go live from Friday. Codes will be distributed to groups to encourage contributions. A parent account structure with group-specific codes is being investigated.
- Delegate and GSO literature payments have been made.
- Mike to arrange for a fixed monthly rental payment for the office space at the church
- Finances are currently in a healthy position, and funds are available to support the Freedom Day Braai.

DELEGATES

- Brent submitted report
- A meeting was held on the 24th of February with six members in attendance. Challenges across various areas were discussed.
- Suggestions were requested regarding celebrations for AA's 80th anniversary. National guidance will be provided by ASA and GSO, while Areas may also plan their own initiatives.
- Delegates' meetings will now take place on the first Monday of each month at 18:00.
- Four proposals were rejected; it will be confirmed whether these will be resubmitted.
- Proposals will be reviewed at the April and May Area meetings. Caroline will send a reminder to members to review them in advance.
- Brent may be travelling to the USA for approximately three months from early April. If so, an Alternate Delegate or proxy will attend the conference. Brent will confirm with Tas ASAP.

LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- Lisa advised that the committee is obtaining new quotations for the Big Book following concerns about pricing. Progress is slow due to vacant positions.
- The VAT threshold has increased significantly; AA therefore does not fall within VAT requirements.
- The South African publication is in its final stages and is expected to be printed in 2026.

GENERAL

Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- Appreciation was expressed to Craig for facilitating an informative GSR workshop. Groups were advised that they may invite Craig to present at their relevant group meetings on the role of the GSR.
- A Sponsorship workshop is planned as the next focus area. Craig will confirm a suitable date.
- Sandil indicated willingness to facilitate a Traditions workshop. This is generally scheduled for November, and Sandil will liaise with Craig.

Matters Arising

- Jessica advised that the Live & Let Live Group will celebrate its 3rd anniversary on 15 March.
- No concerns were reported by the Impala Park Group.
- Rajen reported that the Sunnyridge Group is progressing well with newcomers. It was noted that many attendees identify as addicts.
- Oliver (HATS Group) reported experiencing online security issues, which required a change of platforms and the implementation of additional security measures. The group is otherwise functioning well

The meeting was closed with the Serenity prayer.

The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 11th of April 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.