

AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 11th April 2026

Time: 14:00 PM

Present: Tas, Jo, Retha, Caroline, Fabian, Gavin, Brent, Emily, Lisa, Darren, Anna, Andrew, Moira
(**Zoom** – Mike, Craig, Neil, Sandil, SJ, Rebecca, Jessica, Oliver, Ntombi)

Apologies: Kingdom

OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas and the members opened with the Serenity Prayer.
- Darren read Tradition No. 7

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 Gavin and seconded by Jo

VACANCIES

AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

1. Correctional Services

- The position remains vacant

2. Treatment Facility

- The position remains vacant

3. Webmaster

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

4. Intergroup Chairperson

- The position remains vacant
- Darren will continue in the role until a suitable candidate is appointed.

5. Literature

- The position remains vacant

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 has been filled
2. **National Secretary - Literature and Publications**
 - Position has been filled
3. **GSO & Board Updates**
 - 80th Anniversary
 - GSO shared a request for group contributions (history, milestones, etc.) in preparation for the 80th Anniversary celebrations.
 - 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.

GROUP REPORTS

- Reports were submitted as received
- GSRs are urged to please submit their reports timeously
- LALL will host the Springs Online Group 2-Year Anniversary in April.
- SJ reported challenges with service group structures and is working toward resolving these as soon as possible:
 - Guidelines are needed regarding rotation and sobriety time requirements.
 - All queries should be directed to Jo via email or WhatsApp to avoid delays.

PORTFOLIO REPORTS

INTERGROUP (IG)

- Intergroup (IG) held a meeting earlier today.
- Freedom Day braai – 27th April
 - A no-charge “bring and braai” event is planned. Members are encouraged to donate items such as rolls, salads and charcoal.
 - Venue has been confirmed as Sunnyridge Primary School
 - Further donations are being requested.
 - Planning is on track, awaiting invoice from the school.
- ER Rally – Saturday, 5th September
 - Date confirmed.
 - Proposed venue: Benoni Methodist Church – confirmed, awaiting invoice.
 - The logo used at the South African AA Convention KZN will be reused.
 - Pricing guidelines
 - The purpose is public information, not fundraising
 - Recommended contribution: **R50 per person**, with a note that additional donations are welcome.
 - Non-AA attendees will not be charged; AI-Anon will be reimbursed accordingly
 - Poitjie competition will proceed as in previous years
 - Auction items – 3 key items will be sourced and will also liaise with Literature & Archives
 - Advertising to commence as soon as possible
- Christmas in July will go ahead (possibly Bingo; details to follow)
- GSRs are encouraged to share information regarding the Chairperson position within their groups.

PI

- PI activities have increased; report received.
- A successful event was held at Life Clinic Glynnwood.
- An outreach visit by Kingdom to Katlehong was conducted; attendance was low
- NHLS Event (21–23 April)
 - Volunteers confirmed for the first two days; additional volunteers required for the third day.
 - Event to be held in Sandringham; East Rand Area will assist, with JWRA taking the lead.
- Curroseal Event (28 April)
 - To be facilitated by Sandil and Mike.
- Rasmor 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 is happy to support groups requiring assistance.

OFFICE REPORTS

- Report received
- Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book (currently priced at R170) stock is running low, with approximately 25 copies remaining. The next stock will be priced at R240.
- 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.
 - Still a lot of stock left
- Literature sales low
 - Sandil noted that some mobile apps are distributing literature for free but are not official, which may be impacting sales.
 - GSRs are requested not to advertise unofficial apps, as literature sales are an important part of supporting AA.
 - Where literature is needed, members should be directed to official sources (link to be provided).
 - It was noted that some apps may not align with AA Traditions.
 - Lisa advised that Alcoholics Anonymous South Africa (AASA) does have an official app.
 - Internationally, Alcoholics Anonymous World Services (AAWS) communicates clearly regarding copyright and infringement.
 - Literature remains a major source of income.
 - AA does not issue licences for digital distribution—only for printed materials.
- A large quantity of PI items has been returned; stock levels remain high

FINANCES

- Mike reported and apologised for not submitting the March report.
- Finances remain healthy.
- Zapper update: To be advised.

DELEGATES

- Retha reported that there was nothing new ASA following last month's meeting; however, a new project is expected after the upcoming conference.
- Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday evening next week.
- Brent had nothing new to report.
- Tas advised that it is likely Brent will not attend the conference due to overseas travel commitments
 - Linda has been notified that Sandil will attend as proxy.

LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- Lisa attends national literature committee meetings.
- No new updates; all positions are currently filled.

GENERAL

Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- Workshops
 - Craig will host a Sponsorship Workshop on 16 May:
 - Time: 10:00 – 13:00
 - Format: Interactive and engaging
 - Open to members from other areas
 - Darren to include details in the *EastRander* and distribute via social media and the office.

Matters Arising

- Open Portfolios at Area:
 - A subcommittee will be formed to engage with groups and encourage service participation.
 - Sandil will coordinate this initiative.
 - The purpose is to identify and encourage volunteers for service (not for screening applications).
- Jo shared that Vivien (a longstanding member of AA) has passed away; condolences noted in memory.
- Retha celebrated 10 years—congratulations acknowledged.
- Rebecca reported that the Thembisa group is currently struggling but remains committed to continuing.

The meeting was closed with the Serenity prayer.

The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 9th of May 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.