

# AA EAST RAND AREA ASSEMBLY MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Time:** 14:00 PM

**Present:** Tas, Jo, Craig, Caroline, Neil, Brent, Retha, Anna, Emily, Lisa, Sam, Kingdom, Kimeshan, Ceren, Moira  
(**Zoom** – SJ, Sandil, Jessica, Toto)

**Apologies:** Gavin, Mike

## OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was chaired by Tas and the members opened with the Serenity Prayer. Craig read Tradition No.3
- Tas welcomed Moira and Neil, GSRs for Benoni Recovery Group and WOM respectively.

## APPROVAL OF & MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Matters arising from previous minutes
- The previous minutes were proposed by Retha and seconded by Darren.

## VACANCIES

### AA EAST RAND AREA VACANCIES:

#### 1. Alternate Delegate

- Area has accepted Jody's resignation
- The position is currently vacant. Requirements include 5–6 years of sobriety, patience, availability due to the time-consuming nature of the role, and a willingness to learn.
- An advertisement for the position will be sent out.

#### 2. 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

#### 3. Treatment Facility

- Position vacant

#### 4. Webmaster

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

## 5. Intergroup Rep

- 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

- Mark's resignation was accepted, and he has agreed to assist with the handover.
- The position requires a minimum of two years' sobriety.
- An advertisement for the position will be circulated.

## 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
- The Springs Group: It was agreed to explore ways to proactively assist the group. Tas and the Delegate will engage with them.
- Members were encouraged to make a concerted effort to attend other meetings, particularly smaller groups.
- Jess reported that Live and Let Live will be celebrating its third anniversary on 15 March. Members were encouraged to support smaller groups and share experience, strength, and hope.
- Sandil reported on efforts to grow the group within the local community, and it was agreed that relevant information would be sent to offer support.

## PORTFOLIO REPORTS

### INTERGROUP (IG)

- Valentine's ball
  - It was noted with regret that the event was cancelled due to the venue closing and the limited time available to make alternative arrangements. The decision was made to cancel and focus on the next event.
  - The deposit has been refunded.
  - Members who have already paid will be offered the option to donate their payment or receive a full refund as soon as possible.
- Lack of commitment from members
  - Concerns were raised regarding a lack of member commitment when selling tickets. It was agreed that GSRs should be approached when advertising events; however, participation cannot be forced.
  - Each Intergroup member has been assigned a list of GSRs to contact.
  - It was noted that financial constraints may be a factor affecting attendance.
- 27<sup>th</sup> April – Freedom day braai
  - a no-charge event. Members are invited to a bring and braai. Further details will follow.
- Resignation
  - Darren stated that his resignation was due to personal changes and a reduced capacity to fulfil the requirements of the role, which is hands-on in nature. Darren has served Intergroup for approximately

- four and a half years.
- GSRs are encouraged to advertise the vacant position

## PI

- No events were held during January.
- Gavin reported that we have been invited by Life The Glynnwood and Life Glynnview to participate in their staff Wellness day in March and information will be provided

## ARCHIVES

- Report received
- A donation was received from Joe (Airfield Group), with appreciation and thanks.
- The process of obtaining an external hard drive for storage purposes is underway.
- Recording of milestone shares
  - Discussion took place regarding the recording of milestone shares. Uncertainty was expressed around legal and ethical considerations.
  - It was noted that explicit permission would be required from the member sharing, and that all members present would need to be informed of any recording.
  - Two recordings have been received to date.
  - Concerns were raised regarding website use and compliance with the POPI act, including members' right to request deletion of recordings in the future. Questions were raised about how to manage content if recordings have already been downloaded by others.
  - While acknowledged as a positive idea, there was agreement that a clear and compliant process needs to be established.
- Archive proposal is in and currently under consideration for approval

## OFFICE REPORTS

- Jo submitted the office report.
- Bank signatories have been finalised
- GSRs were requested to check and verify their meeting information.
- Mike will be looking into getting a Zapper code linked to the East Rand bank account.
- Ongoing errors have been noted on the "Meeting in a Pocket" platform. Lisa will confirm the decision and any further action to be taken.

## FINANCES

- Group contributions were noted to be low, and GSRs were requested to check the reflection of their group contributions.
- While the balance is currently low, it was noted that the financial position remains stable following the refund related to the Valentine's Ball.
- The second payment of Delegate fees (R4,000) was approved. Area has the funds available and the payment will be processed. No objections were raised.

## DELEGATES

- Retha submitted report
- ASA minutes were attached, noting that all four projects have been completed and are ready for Conference
- PI
  - It was noted that the last meeting was held in November
  - It was recommended that there should be school visits; however, no feedback has been received.
  - Brent reported that there is no communication from PI.
  - Lisa clarified that the primary role of the Area Delegate is to attend and represent the Area. It is the responsibility of the PI Committee to convene meetings and provide feedback to Conference.

- Brent advised that he has contact with Wedge and the Manger, and that a CA meeting is held on Thursdays at the facility.
- A proposal was made to suggest a Big Book meeting for these facilities. Brent will speak to Sandil.
- It was noted that holding an AA meeting at Horizon may be against the Traditions, as the primary purpose is sobriety from alcohol, while the majority attending are addicts. Caroline shared that she encounters a similar situation at House of Mercy and continues to facilitate AA group sessions there, encouraging patients to remain focused on alcohol and not to substitute addiction from drugs to alcohol
- Report
  - It was noted that figures received from GSRs are unfortunately incomplete and incorrect
  - Caroline will send a reporting template to GSRs for weekly reports. GSRs may be requested to submit reports and be informed of their importance; however, groups cannot be compelled to do so. Cooperation will be encouraged, not enforced
- Conference Proposals
  - Proposals sent to Area members need to be reviewed and discussed at Area before the May Conference meeting.
  - This discussion will allow Area to give direction to Delegates, who carry the Area's mandate.
  - Where Area has no group conscience on a proposal, delegates may use their own discernment. Members were reminded to read the proposals.
  - The delegates will be reviewing the rejected proposals next weekend. We will take a WhatsApp vote on any rejected proposals we believe the delegates should re-introduce. Please read through the conference proposals sent, specifically the rejected ones, so that this can be discussed, if necessary.

## LITERATURE – NATIONAL REPORT

- Mark's resignation was noted
- Jo's report will be checked for any additional Literature-related points.

## GENERAL

### Primary Purpose – AA East Rand Area

- A Primary Purpose Workshop has been scheduled for 28 February. Craig has prepared the content.
- Caroline will send the GSR template to Craig for use at the workshop.
- Gavin has assisted with social media advertising.
- A suitable venue still needs to be confirmed by Jo.
- A suggestion was made that the next workshop focus on Intergroup.

### Matters Arising

- Tas and Darren attended the Kempton group as visitors
  - It was noted that smaller groups with low attendance often experience a shortage of long-term sobriety and limited shares of Strength, Hope and Experience
  - Where members with longer sobriety are unable to attend regularly, the effectiveness of the group may be impacted.
  - A proposal was made to create a volunteer list of members with long-term sobriety who are willing and able to attend smaller group meetings to assist.
  - Smaller groups could request a volunteer to share on specific AA topics, such as the Big Book, possibly committing to one meeting per month.
  - There were no objections to Tas sending out a notification to encourage members with long-term sobriety to participate and help carry the message.
- The Impala Park Group (Courage to Change) has reopened, with notification received by Jo
  - Contact has not yet been established.
  - It was agreed that the group will not be added to the website until it has been confirmed and verified that the group is fully operational.
- Darren raised a suggestion regarding the *EastRander* newsletter:
  - Vacant positions should be circulated via the newsletter, with a section at the end listing all vacancies, including time commitments and role descriptions.

- It was noted that sobriety time serves as a guideline for stability and commitment

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

**The next assembly will be held on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2026 @ 2pm, at the Area Office.**