

Minutes of the 154th Mid-Surrey Intergroup Assembly

Tuesday 5th December 2017

Web Site address – www.aamidsurrey.org.uk

MSIG ASSEMBLIES:

[Email secretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk](mailto:Emailsecretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk) re items you would like on the March Assembly Agenda

Tuesdays: 6th March; 5th June; 4th September (Conscience); 4th December (AGM). Venue Quaker Hall (QH), Guildford, GU1 4LH

MSIG COMMITTEE: Tuesdays: 6th February; 1st May; 7th August; 6th November.

Venue - United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford, 7.30pm

MSIG WORKSHOP: CONFERENCE QUESTIONS DISCUSSION Wed 31st January 8.00 pm QH

The Movie - BILL W On The TRADITIONS Thurs 1st March 8pm

Venue: Church House, 20 Alan Turing Rd, Guildford GU2 7YF

REGION DATES: Sunday 14th January 10.30am- 12.20pm Workshops ALL members welcome;

19th March – Pre-Conference Assembly,

London Meed School, Chanctonbury Rd, Burgess Hill RH15 9YQ

- 1. Opening:** The Chair, Rob E opened the meeting promptly at 8pm and requested Tony, Treasurer to read the 12 Traditions.

He thanked Elizabeth M, GSR for Woking Monday Newcomers for kindly taking the minutes of the meeting.

He thanked Woking Monday Newcomers, and Lesley G. for teas

Apologies: David (Dorking); Lucy (After 8); Lee (Prison Liaison Officer); Annette (Farnham Friday); Sue (Aldershot); Ken (Monday Meditation); Sue D (Employment Liaison) and Brittany (Young Persons).

- 2. Introduction of new GSRs:** Bill (Cove Farnborough, Thursday evening); Jackie (Lightwater); Marc (Sunday night); Michael (Saturday morning, Weybridge), Beverley (Ockham, Wednesday), Phil (Walton, Big Book). All new GSRs were urged by the Chair to register themselves with Alison B our secretary and on the national website. This is the link <https://goo.gl/iBWrJS>

Quorum: The Chair and Secretary, Alison, carried out a raised hand count to ensure a quorum was established for voting. A total of 37 GSRs (or Elected Alternates) were present.

- 3. Minutes of 5th September MSIG Assembly:** These minutes were duly proposed and seconded as a fair representation of the MSIG Meeting. There were no matters arising.

4. Vacancies/Nominations

Vacant positions were notified:

- **Armed Forces Liaison Officer and**
- **Public Information Liaison Officer (temporarily being covered by Elizabeth M) and**
- **Secretary**

Vote of thanks for the outgoing MSIG Secretary. Alison who has completed her term of office despite a trying and difficult year at the personal level. No official nominations had been received for the post.

- Central focal point for all communications with GSRs
 - Pass on information to GSRs at their request
 - Hold details of all GSRs
- Prepare agendas and Minutes for Intergroup and Committee meetings
 - Send out all correspondence in timely manner

Alison shared that the position was a very rewarding piece of service, and members could seek further advice from herself, Alice N, Anne W and Trish who had all served as past Secretaries.

5. Nominations and Elections:

Health Liaison Officer: Yvette S. was nominated, and was invited to present her credentials. In a nutshell, Yvette has enjoyed continuous sobriety since 25/01/10 and has served as GSR and various other positions. As a retired doctor after 30 years' service, she has had first-hand experience of dealing with medical professionals and recently participated in a collaborative NHS Health/PI event with Elizabeth (stand in PI). Yvette was duly nominated and unanimously voted in.

Regional Rep: Andrew D is rotating out after 3 year's service to MSIG, and explained his role as the link between Intergroup and Region. To replace him, he has nominated Michael B, current GSR of Dorking Saturday, as Region Rep. His sobriety date is 02/2005 and has variously served as Secretary (3x), GSR (3x) and as P.I. Liaison Officer in 2008. Michael was unanimously welcomed and voted in.

Vice Chair: The outgoing V-C, Alice nominated Catherine D for the role, which involves the following duties:

- Compilation, printing and distribution of the MSIG "Where to Find" cards
 - Organise MSIG Workshops
 - Stand in for the Chair where necessary

Catherine D was requested to present her AA CV: She shared that she had been an alcoholic for a very long time and embraced sobriety in 2001. Her home group is Fleet Big Book on Mondays. Previous service positions include GSR, Secretary, Literature, in fact all positions except Treasurer. Catherine came along to the June Intergroup to support a GSR-friend and was asked then if she was willing to do service, and she is very willing. She was voted in unanimously.

PLEASE NOTE - Catherine will not be taking up this position until after the March Assembly, as she is away. This does however give MSIG some staggering of Principle Officers.

Chair: Rob E is rotating out as Chair after 3 years, and Alice N, former Vice Chair thanked him for his long service to MSIG.

Alice N. has been nominated for the position of Chair. She is 14 years sober and she has served at group level as Secretary, Treasurer and GSR of her home group - Guildford Friday Newcomers. She

has also served the Intergroup as Convention Convenor, Secretary, Region Rep, and most recently – Vice Chair.

She was part of the subcommittee that organised a very successful local PI event for clergy. She has worked the Steps, has a Sponsor and sponsors ladies (on the night she was not able to present her AA CV but a brief version included here for completeness). She was unanimously elected.

Telephone Assistant: was announced as vacant at this point. Kelly volunteered for the position and was asked to contact Peter our Telephone Liaison Officer.

Ratification of Officers:

Tony M - Treasurer; Peter - Telephone Liaison Officer (LO); Ellie C - Electronic Communications LO; Lee E – Prison LO; Lindsay M - Share magazine; Peter and Mark – Mini Convention Convenor and Co-convenor; Marie and Kevin - Regional Reps; Sue D – Employment LO; Zara - Young People's Liaison Officer; Barbara M – Archivist; Lesley – Probation LO

6. SERVICE UPDATES

Treasurer

All the accounts have been audited by Mark, Alexa and Susan (for further details, see the Treasurer's Report).

The Mid-Surrey "Memories" printing funds would be recovered, as evidenced by Barbara, Archivist who confirmed 650 had been received on the sale of these books. They would make excellent Xmas presents!

Direct payments into the MSIG account have continued successfully and without incident. So long as groups remember to include their reference numbers, this method of payment has proved to be very smooth and helpful. The Treasurer confirmed that 3 months' rent must be maintained as a prudent reserve with a maximum ceiling of 1,000. An amount of 4,000 should therefore be sent up to Region. The proposal was put to the meeting and approved.

Belinda (Friday lunchtime, Women's Big Book study Merrow) questioned the concept of quantifying the sums by amount or by percentage.

Region: A vote of thanks was put forward as a sign of appreciation for all the work done by Regional Rep Andrew. He informed the Meeting that the AA South East Region would be holding Workshops on Sunday 14th January at London Meed School, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex from 10.30hrs to 12.30hrs. All Officers, GSR's and Group members are invited.

Telephone LO: In order to be able to brief callers over the festive period, Peter requested that the meetings which would not be occurring over Christmas/New Year should be communicated to him and posted on the website.

Probation LO: Lesley informed MSIG that the AA Meetings in the Probation Offices in Guildford had commemorated one year of existence despite challenges at the beginning. The objective was to introduce the concept to Probation Officers to encourage users to attend, and an average of 6 - 10 members were attending on a regular basis. AA was welcomed by the Probation service and received the support of Debbie (Officer in charge).

The designated title of Probation officers had recently been changed to "Responsible Officers". Supervisors would be more influential in future. The next Probation meeting would be held on 20th December, and the Prisons Officer, Lee was Secretary.

Informal Discussion Groups: Lesley told us that these meetings, previously held at the Cathedral, were moving to a new venue at the Research Park.

Share Magazine: Lindsay informed us that January Share magazine would focus on Step One and sponsors were encouraged to let their sponsees know. Each month the magazine takes on a new step and tradition The question has arisen regarding those groups which could not afford to get a subscription. However, Lindsay would continue to visit all groups throughout the year.

At the moment, the **Share magazine is desperate for photos** without any identifying features of people or famous buildings for the magazine and calendar. The main challenge for 2018 will be to source activities and to obtain stories for publication.

Meeting in a Pocket/MIAP: A discussion ensued regarding the provision and distribution of these booklets as well as other materials to treatment centres, NHS Windmill (Barbara), homeless shelters (Susan). Gail reported that the Sober Sunday meeting gave newcomers a copy of Living Sober. However, the MIAP will be sold from now on at 60p a copy with the residual being held by Lindsay. MSIG has spent £1,600 on these booklets which were proving to be very popular, although it was noted that some meetings seemed to be over- stocked. It was necessary to get a clear idea of the actual need at MSIG given that each meeting was autonomous and could define their own requirements especially providing free or subsidised literature. Please contact Lindsay for more details.

RING FENCE funds for Health and Public Information activities: A vote was taken and approved. Officers and GSRs are invited to bring forward suggestions for enhanced ideas for passing the message which would be charged to Health and P.I. budgets in collaboration with concerned Liaison Officers.

7. Conference Questions: The flyer for our MSIG Conference Questions Discussion has already been distributed to all members. The questions themselves will be published in the near future. As such it was imperative that all GSRs join the discussion in January to ensure that their group was adequately represented at Conference.

The 2018 Questions can be located in the Winter edition of Service News, and at www.aamidsurrey.org.uk or www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk

The MSIG Conference Questions Discussion will be held on Wednesday 31st January at 8pm at the Quaker Meeting House, 2 Ward Street, Guildford GU1 4LH (opposite public library on North Street).

8. Chairperson's Final Report

Rob E informed the Meeting that 10-15 years ago, the blue books (Handbook and Structure) didn't exist. At the time, Aa had a black file for the Service manual, and we had our very own Aims and Structure (A&S). In the last 3 years MSIG has been using the Service and Structure handbooks for guidance and has not referred often to the A&S. Essentially there are two issues relating to **an MSIG Aims and Structure document** on one hand, and on the other, the **voting at Assembly**.

Currently we have 2017 Handbooks available for MSIG GSR's and Officers – currently sold by GSO for 1p each as they are so critical to the UK fellowship. The meeting could consider in future whether we need our own Aims and Structures in addition to using the national handbooks.

Also - do we need to amend the voting system? Currently only GSR's are invited to vote at MSIG Assemblies, but various Aims and Structures produced by MSIG have allowed the Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chair and Liaison Officers a vote (and others have not!) with the Chair having the casting vote.

Intergroup money - With the use of projector and slides, a visual presentation was given by Rob E indicating that in 2016, a total 67% of funds raised locally in Mid-Surrey went to Region. This translates to a sum of £14,000 pounds sent to Region.

The Chair urged the Meeting to consider whether we wanted to increase our local work and thereby spend more of our income helping to pass the message in Mid-Surrey. Specific areas such as Public information could be bolstered and expanded. Groups should look at how and where they could increase, and/or expand current 12 Step work.

When compared to other Intergroups, Mid-Surrey (one of the largest) is one of the best contributing Intergroups in the country despite the rise in expenditure of printing costs. Transportation costs can be reimbursed fully by the Treasurer, upon presentation of receipts. The costs of publication of the "Meeting in a Pocket"(MIAP) which is entirely funded by us locally amounted to £1,590.

The outgoing Chair challenged the GSR's and groups to review three issues:

- How do we compare to other IGs?
- How do we feel about the current split between local and region expenditure?
- How do we feel about level of current expenditure at local level?

Size and possible split of Mid-Surrey Intergroup, the Chair called on the Working Party which had been created to review the matter and to provide an update.

Marie reported that unfortunately there was no specific progress to report as Ann had been unwell although the map of MSIG boundaries has now been placed on the website. She will meet with Bob S and Anne W in the New Year.

9. Vice Chair – No announcements – covered under Conference Workshop and Elections.

10. GSR Forum

White P.I. forms were available for any volunteers. It was noted that Jonny, former P.I. Officer found these forms invaluable. Please ask group members to fill them in and then return to the Chair via email.

Stefanie (GSR Byfleet Sunday) registered her interest in the role of Secretary and Alice will be in touch with her, and other nominees over the holiday period.

11. Any Other Business:

The Egham Step Meeting is moving to a new venue, details to be notified, by Steve.

Caroline of Cobham Monday has volunteered her group to do teas at the March Assembl

Serenity Prayer and close. The 154th MSIG Assembly was brought to a close with the Serenity Prayer.

MSIG COMMITTEE CONTACTS January 2018

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