

Minutes of the 155th MSIG Assembly on March 6th, 2018

Dates for your diary:

MSIG ASSEMBLIES 2018

QH 8pm Tuesdays 5th June / 4th September / 4th December

MSIG COMMITTEE 2018

6th November

United Reformed Church, 7.30pm Tuesdays 1st May / 7th August /

****MID SURREY SUMMER CONVENTION Saturday June 2nd, 2018, from 10.30am****

Attendance list

GSRs present:

Vivien, Aldershot Saturday; Hannah, Aldershot Wednesday; Jeff M. Aldershot & Farn Step Friday; Michelle, Byfleet Sunday; Oonagh, Chertsey Tuesday; Caroline, Cobham Monday; Paul, Compton Men's Breakfast Friday; Jill, Dorking Monday; Jason (alternate), Dorking Beginners Saturday; Jason, Betchworth; Steve, Egham Wednesday; Annette, Farnham Friday; Kath, Farnham Tuesday; Marta, Godalming Tuesday; Brittany, Guildford Monday Young Persons; Ed W., Guildford Sunday; Richard, Guildford Thursday; Rose, Guildford Saturday PM; Ken S., Guildford Monday; Tania, Guildford Saturday Into Action; Tony, Hawley Thursday; Matt, Hersham Tuesday; Stephen, Chertsey Tuesday; Tom, Staines Wednesday; Rachael, Walton on Thames Monday; Terry, West Byfleet & New Haw Thursday; Sarah, Woking Friday; Shaun, Woking Thursday; Phil, Walton on Thames Wednesday; Alasdair, Cranleigh Monday; Beverley M., Ockham Wednesday; Nick W., Guildford Friday Newcomers; Lucy C., Guildford Friday After 8 at 8; Gail G., Guildford Sober Sunday; Mark C., Guildford & Mellow Sunday; Carol, Sheerwater Monday; Jon E., Woking Tuesday; Tracy, Woking Thursday First Things First; Trish B., Womersley Thursday. (Total 39)

Committee Members present:

Alice N., Chair; Stef. S, Secretary; Tony M., Treasurer; Ellie C., ECLO; Yvette S., Health; Elizabeth M., PI; Lee E., Prisons; Lesley G., Probation; Kevin, Region; Marie, Region; John H., Schools; Lindsay M., Share; Peter G., Telephones & Convention; Zara H., YPLO; Barbara M., Archivist;

Visitors present:

Anne W. and Bob S., South East Region (SER) Conference Delegates; Alan T., SER Chair
Eddie C., nomination for Armed Services LO;

Meeting Minutes

1. Open

- a. Welcome and Traditions
 - i. All were welcomed and the Traditions were read out by Beverly.
- b. Housekeeping
 - i. All were asked to turn their phones onto silent and to not have food or drink on the carpeted area of the hall.
- c. Apologies
 - i. The following GSRs could not attend: Alan, Farnborough Sunday; Sue D, Employment liaison; Susan, Ockham Friday PM; Matt, Priory Knaphill Monday; Natalie, Staines Thursday; Michael, Dorking Saturday AM/Region

rep; Jackie, Lightwater Wednesday PM; Susie, Camberley Monday PM; Ken, Guildford Tuesday PM.

- d. GSR introductions
 - i. New GSRs were asked to introduce themselves before all attendees of the assembly were asked to introduce themselves. This was a new practice and we welcome feedback from GSR's about whether it is helpful and supported.

2. Administration

- a. Teas
 - i. Cobham Monday lunch time were thanked for the teas and coffee provided for the assembly.
- b. Expenses
 - i. All were made aware of the fact that they can get reimbursed by Tony for mileage or public transport travel cost to attend the assembly.
- c. 12 Step responder telephone forms and PI volunteer forms
 - i. Attendees were made aware of 12 Step telephone responder blank forms and PI volunteer forms that were located on the main table to take back to groups. A question was asked about how best to return these forms to the secretary or officers and Stef replied to take a photo of the list once it has a few contacts on it and email the image to Stef (PI forms) or Peter (telephone responder forms).
 - 1. **Action: All** to note, take forms, obtain contacts and forward to Stef.
- d. CCL/Attendance sheets
 - i. The new Confidential Contact List (CCL) / Attendance list was introduced. It was proposed that we share GSR and officer contact details (email and phone number) with each other going forward. The purpose of this would be to allow GSRs and the Committee to communicate more easily with each other in order to carry the message to the newcomer. A column was added to the sheet saying *'Happy for contact details to be shared with MSIG GSRs and Officers'* for all to tick if they were happy with this idea. This is a proposal at this stage and for all attendees to consider. It will be further discussed at the June MSIG Assembly. Alice suggested that GSRs could use generic email addresses such as 'GSRWestbyfleet@gmail.com' etc. This supplies the group with a history for the next GSR and also maintains some anonymity for members not happy to share their details with each other and the Committee. However, it is encouraged (but not mandatory) to share an email and a phone number in order to fulfil both our Group and Intergroup Primary Purpose of passing the message. Alice confirmed that whilst MSIG can make its own decisions on its practices, sharing service members' details within the intergroup is common usual practice outside of MSIG in neighbouring Intergroups and SER. Attendees were also asked to check that their details are correct and enter their 'date elected' on the CCL/Attendance sheet that was circulated.
 - 1. **Action: GSR's to** consider sharing contact details with each other and the Committee via an emailed CCL. To discuss at next meeting.
IF agreed this list would be emailed out to GSR's and Committee with the June Assembly minutes.

Email Stef your and your groups' up to date details if in doubt.

- ii. The CCL/Attendance sheet also contained a column for 'Alternates' in the event that a group's GSR couldn't attend and an Alternate attended. The chair noted that the Alternate GSR should be elected by the group. (ref. p 81 of the AA Structure Manual for GB 2017)
- e. Raised hand count for voting
 - i. Of 69 groups there are 67 registered GSRs and of those 39 attended Assembly. Of a total of 17 serving officers - there were 15 in attendance.
- f. Eligibility to vote at Assembly
 - i. Alice talked through the reasons to update the GSRs view on the Assembly voting system. In the past there has been confusion about whether it's just GSRs or GSRs **and** Committee Members that are eligible to vote at Assembly. Both methods have been used in the 13 years of Alice's Intergroup experience. Members who could be eligible to vote are the 'Principal' Officers (Secretary, Vice Chair and Treasurer), Liaison Officers and Region Reps. The Chair has a casting vote only. The Convention Convenor (a short-term position) and the Archivist (a life-time post) do not vote. In the previous three years there have been inconsistencies – for example all sorts of members including the Chair voted in December 2017.
Intergroup members who do not attend Assembly do not have a vote. We had two versions of a previous MSIG Aims and Structure document, one showing Committee members voting at Assembly and one not, with no record of any GSRs' recent decision on this.
Rob left us all this thought to consider as he departed as Chair in December 2017 "... do we need to amend the voting system?" So it was time to review and update the wishes of our GSRs and the GSRs' decision in March 2018. It can be reviewed again in the future.
According to Alice's experience of attending the January 2018 Region Workshop and other Intergroups – many Intergroups in SE region and the South West London Intergroup do allow officers to vote at Assembly. In the event that the GSRs decide that both GSRs and officers are allowed to vote – it was clarified that someone who is both a GSR and an officer only has one vote. What is the GSRs' feedback on this topic?
 - ii. Trish B questioned whose conscience are the officers representing with their vote and that the word 'intergroup' suggests representing groups yet the officers don't directly represent groups. The chair responded that officers serve the groups, have responsibility in the Intergroup and could have a right of participation, according to Concept 4. Some Officers pointed out that as trusted servants they have teams and will ideally have an informed decision on how the topic concerns their area of service and their home group. Alice also referred GSRs to the GSR section of the AA Structure Handbook of Great Britain 2017, page 81, which states "Only GSRs and members of the intergroup committee are entitled to vote at intergroup meetings"
 - iii. The proposal 'shall MSIG allow both GSRs and Committee Members to vote at Assembly' was put to the GSRs and they voted 22 in favour with 9 voting against and 6 abstaining (out of 39 GSR's present – indicating 2 votes

unfortunately missed in counting). Thus the proposal was carried. We can review the conscience of the GSRs alone on this matter again in the next year or so.

3. Meeting minutes from 154th MSIG assembly

- a. These were proposed by the Chair and seconded by Lindsay and passed. No further matters arose.

4. Vacancies & Elections

- a. **VACANCIES** - *Please remember details of all roles are available in the AA Service Handbook for Great Britain, and from Committee Members who will be happy to discuss.*

- i. Probation – CURRENTLY VACANT Leslie is rotating out of the Probation Liaison role after over 3 years.
 1. **Action: All** GSRs to announce current Probation Liaison Officer vacancy to their group members and consider themselves, referring to Service Handbook for details.
- ii. Treasurer - Tony is rotating out of the role in December and we need to vote his successor in at the September MSIG assembly. Both Treasurers – incoming and outgoing attend the December/end of year assembly. This will be advertised in the June and September MSIG agendas. We currently have one nomination.
 1. **Action: All** GSRs to announce the Treasurer vacancy arising in September to their group members and consider themselves.
- iii. ECLO – Ellie is rotating out of the role in June and we need to find a successor. This vacancy will also be advertised in the June agenda. We currently have one nomination for this role.
 1. **Action: All** GSRs to announce upcoming Electronic Communications Liaison Officer vacancy arising in June to their group members and consider themselves.

b. ELECTIONS

- i. **Secretary – Stef S** has been our co-opted secretary since December and she was voted in unanimously during the 155th MSIG assembly following a brief summary of her AA Service History: Stef's sobriety date is July 2010 and she has served in all group service positions over the past 7.5 years. She was GSR at the Sunday Byfleet meeting before putting her name forward for MSIG Secretary. Prior to that Stef was secretary at the Windmill meetings at St. Peter's and has organised the Esher mini convention for two consecutive years.
- ii. **Public Information LO** – Elizabeth M has been our co-opted PI liaison since last year. She gave us a brief summary of her AA Service History: Elizabeth's sobriety date is September 2014 and she is currently GSR of Woking Monday Newcomers. Elizabeth has served on the PI team since earlier in 2017, assisting our former PI Jonny. She has also been assisting Bob and Lesley in various events recently. She enjoys PI work as she likes meeting new people. She was voted in as our PILO unanimously.

- iii. **Armed Services LO**– MSIG hasn't ever had anyone in this role, bar a few months, so this is amazing progress for MSIG considering all the armed services locations in our intergroup area. Eddy was nominated by Yvette, our HLO. Eddy gave us his AA CV: Eddy's sobriety date is March 2012 and he is currently serving in the Army based at the Ministry of Defence. Eddy has held a variety of service positions and has already made contact with other ASLOs in the South East and London Regions of AA. Eddie's home group is Weybridge Saturday morning. He is very committed to pass the AA message within the armed services. He was voted in unanimously.

5. Service updates

- a. **TREASURER** – Tony – Contributions were up by 25% in the last three months and we've spent £2K less over the past five months than we did in the same months in the previous year. Tony stressed the point that groups need to let him know when payments are made so that he can match the contribution with the group. We have a £8,500 balance. Tony proposed to send £7K to region, as we will have more contributions coming in and we typically keep about £1K - £2K in reserves. A GSR asked whether we should hold money back for the MSIG annual convention in June. Tony replied that we are invoiced after the convention in June so no need to hold anything back now. Another GSR asked what local projects we could support and Tony replied that even if we send money to region now we will continue to have a healthy enough cash flow to support local projects given that we will continue to receive contributions. A GSR asked whether we should print more Meetings in a Pocket (MIAP) and have MSIG pay for them; however, only one group has asked for additional copies of MIAP. Bob S., Conference Delegate for South east region, asked whether we can get money back from Region if we need it. Tony replied that this may be a possibility but that he didn't think we would need to ask for money back. It was also questioned whether Region need the funds to which Tony replied that Region does need our contributions. The question of whether to send £6.5K to region was put to the vote and it was voted in favour unanimously.
 - i. **Action:** Please mark or notify your Group's contribution very clearly.
- b. **HEALTH** – Yvette told the group that she was very impressed with the Chiltern & Thames region's health materials. She was particularly inspired by them going into Custody Suites and explained that there are at least two in MSIG, in Guildford and Woking. Yvette has had communication with the Chief Inspector and will pursue this further. Yvette has also spoken to Psychology students at Guildford College and other initiatives include working with GRSs and their local GP practices, such as attending GPs training days.
- c. **PROBATION** – Lesley explained that the Probation team now consists of 5 members and that an AA group now meets every other week within the Probation offices. Once/month the Probation offices are putting on a 'one stop shop' where other services such as housing etc are setting up table to make these services more available to those on probation. Lesley said they could be encouraged to access some services themselves. Lesley also requested that others attend the Wednesday lunch time AA meeting at the Probation office. Currently very few probationers

- attend the meetings if any. There is interest in a similar idea in NE Surrey, but some old timers have reservations. For more detail please see Lesley's probation report.
- d. PRISON – Lee outlined that prison meetings are running smoothly. Coldingley is running well and the secretary at Send is changing over. This is a great service and Lee encouraged all to get more involved.
 - e. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – Ellie gave an update and encouraged GSRs to take a MSIG website tent card for their meetings. Ellie also informed the GSRs of the new addition to the website, a GSR tab (under 'members'). This tab contains information relevant to the GSRs, new and current, and will be improved.
 - i. **Action:** GSRs please display www.aamidsurrey.org.uk tent card at your meeting
 - f. ARCHIVES – Barbara announced that a few copies of Mid Surrey Memories are still available at £2.50/each. Barbara also requested some volunteer help with sorting through materials to be archived as there is still a lot to be catalogued.
 - i. **Action:** If **anyone** is interested to assist with archives please let Barbara or secretary know.
 - g. TELEPHONE – Peter informed the group that as Kelly is now doing the rota he's freed up to recruit more telephone responders. Peter has also been nominated as Regional Phone Liaison.
 - h. CONVENTION – Peter announced that they are recruiting to fill service positions for the convention in June.
 - i. **Action: All** please email Peter if you can help.
 - i. SHARE – Lindsay referred us to her report as time for Officer Reports was short.
 - j. Lindsay informed us there are 30 copies of Meeting in a Pocket remaining which are free of charge to rehabs.
 - i. **Action:** If **GSRs** or **PI** would like any more please let Lindsay know.
 - k. YOUNG PEOPLE – Zara asked the attendees to take one of her contact detail cards from the table.
 - i. **Action: All** to let their groups know that the Young People meeting exists.
 - l. SCHOOLS – John asked everyone to email him with the PSHE contact details of their local schools if available. Lucy, GSR of Guildford Friday After 8's, said she would be able to help John with information.
 - i. **Action: All** to action if they can help.
 - m. REGION – Marie asked everyone to read her report.
 - i. *Splitting the Intergroup* - Alice said that a certain amount of information and ideas have been gathered which would be available to the Intergroup. There is no current plan to push the idea of a split forward, but due to the huge size of MSIG, its best to be informed a sits likely to be necessary one day. We can discuss at future Assemblies.

6. Conference

- a. Conference question responses need to be submitted via the MSIG website ideally by March 11th.
- b. Region Service Nomination
 - i. Anne has been nominated to become Southern National Conference Rep Convention Committee Member which is a Regional post. Assembly unanimously supported Anne in this. Alice will send her MSIG nomination to the Secretary of South East Region.

7. Chair

- a. Alice provided an update on her visits to other Intergroup assemblies within the SE Region and London South. She reported that other Intergroups' assemblies tend to be longer, and/or more frequent whilst also representing fewer groups and GSRs. SWIG is larger but meets 6 times per year. Some Intergroups invite all GSRs to provide individual group updates. We have a very large number of groups and relatively few and short Assemblies. This does mean we don't have time for items that could be beneficial to MSIG.

8. Vice Chair

- a. Chair (Alice) was standing in as Catherine is not taking up her post until June. There were no other nominations and Catherine is very committed to AA service in Mid Surrey, so it seemed wise to proceed. Though this wasn't properly highlighted at the December Assembly. The advantage is that it gives a staggering of service between the Chair and Vice Chair, and Catherine is happy to serve only as Vice Chair. This would bring us in line with the Service Manual, which suggests staggered rotation of Intergroup Officers (p.88)
- b. Where to Find Cards, which are the responsibility of the Vice Chair will be updated in May, in time for the June convention.
 - i. **Action:** All - If you have any updates to your meeting details please email the Vice Chair at vicechair@aamidsurrey.org.uk.
- c. Catherine will hopefully pick up rescheduling the viewing of 'Bill W. discusses traditions' in June.

9. GSR Forum

- a. This time is set aside for GSRs to share their experience with each other or raise any matters of interest or concern. The Chair asked the GSRs whether they would like officers from MSIG to attend their meetings and if so, make themselves known as such. Sarah, Woking Friday PM, stated that her meeting needs more attendees and any visitors are welcome. Marie asked whether it was true that GSR commitment has gone from 3 years to 6 years. Chair responded that it's been and still is a minimum of 2-year and a maximum of 3-year commitment, in line with other service positions (ref: AA Structure Handbook, p. 81)
- b. Voting - The Chair stated that an abstention (i.e. not voting) can have the same effect as a vote against a proposal.
 - i. **Action: Chair** will clarify the source of this statement at the next assembly.

10. June MSIG assembly teas

- a. Ockham Wednesday has offered to do teas at next assembly.
 - i. **Action: Bev** to please bring her own tea, coffee, sugar, etc and to get reimbursed by Tony against receipts.

11. Meeting close

- a. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting was closed with the Serenity Prayer.

MSIG Committee Contacts - March 2018

Position	Name	Mobile/Home	Email
Chair	Alice Neal	07773 369 081/01483 285 897	chair@aamidsurrey.org.uk
Vice Chair	Catherine D	From June '18. Contact Stef or Alice in the meantime	
Treasurer	Tony M.	07771 834 522	treasurer@aamidsurrey.org.uk
Secretary	Stef S.	07739 851 653	secretary@aamidsurrey.org.uk
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