

## MSIG Committee Meeting Minutes from 01/05/2018 Meeting

1. Present: Alice N., Stef S., Ellie C., Peter G., Zara H., Lindsay M., John H., Marie, Michael B., Eddy C., Dina, Kevin, Catherine D., Barbara M.
2. Apologies: Sue D., Anne W., Yvette S. Tony M., Elizabeth M., Lee E., Mark C.
3. Dates for your diary:
  - a. **MSIG Assemblies**: 5<sup>th</sup> of June; 4<sup>th</sup> of September (Conscience); 4<sup>th</sup> of December (AGM).
    - i. Venue: Quaker Hall (QH), Guildford, GU1 4LH. 8pm start.
  - b. **MSIG Committee**: Tuesdays: 7<sup>th</sup> of August; 6<sup>th</sup> of November.
    - i. Venue: United Reformed Church, Portsmouth Road, Guildford. 7.30pm start.
  - c. **MSIG Traditions Week**: 26<sup>th</sup> of March – 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018.
  - d. **Region dates**: Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 10.30am. Workshop: September.
    - i. Venue: London Meed School, Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill, RH15 9YQ
4. Introduction
  - a. All introduced themselves to the group.
  - b. Stef introduced the CCL (confidential contact list) to the group and the added two columns entitled 'Email you're happy to release to all GSRs' and 'Phone number you are happy to release to all GSRs' as this will be circulated at next Assembly for all GSRs to complete.
  - c. Concerns were raised about stalking if all GSR and officer phone numbers are available to all within MSIG. However, as Stef pointed out, the officer phone numbers are already on the back of the MSIG Assembly agenda.
  - d. Alice introduced the agenda and the PI list. Lindsay had sent two agenda additions to Stef for the committee meeting which Stef has overlooked.
    - i. **Action: Stef** to send PI list to all relevant liaison officers electronically.
    - ii. **Action: All** who took a hard copy of the PI list to please keep safe if used as reference.
5. Assembly preparation
  - a. Officer reports
    - i. Always due 2 weeks and 2 days before next assembly to allow for Assembly agenda to go out 2 weeks before assembly.
      1. **Action: Officers** to send reports to Stef by Sun, May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Service structure poster
    - i. We agreed that this would be framed for assembly.
      1. **Action: Bob** to frame.
6. Vacancies
  - a. We currently have the following vacancies:
    - i. Probation – no-one has come forward so far. Lindsay suggested that it's someone who has been to prison and Alice suggested that we keep an open mind.
      1. **Action: All** to think of someone who would be good in this role.
    - ii. ECL0 – Dina has been nominated by Ellie. Any person nominated should ideally be put forward by their sponsor and home group GSR. Dina

introduced herself to the group: Dina came to AA 9 years ago and has been sober for the past 7 years. Her home group is Guildford Wednesday Step and Dina is GSR at this group. She has done tea service, greeting, literature and secretary. Dina is also helping the Vice Chair with WTF cards and flyers for workshops and is familiar with the traditions. Dina is looking forward to taking on this service position as she is a graphic designer (currently not working as such) by training and doesn't have much experience with web design. As Ellie will support her and sponsor her into the role this is a good opportunity for Dina to gain experience. Ellie is confident that Dina will do a good job in the role and pointed out that it's refreshing that both the service position and the candidate will benefit from Dina filling the role.

1. Alice confirmed that Ellie will be available to assist Dina.
  2. Alice confirmed that Dina will stand for election as ECLC at assembly in June.
    - a. **Action: Dina** to prepare a brief AA CV to present to Assembly.
  - iii. Treasurer – we need to vote Tony's replacement in at the September Assembly.
    1. **Action: Alice and Tony** to discuss.
  - iv. Region rep – Kevin is rotating out in September. He has spoken to a few people.
    1. **Action: Alice** to send an email to all GSRs before the Assembly agenda goes out on Tue, May 15<sup>th</sup>.
7. Maximizing participation during Committee and Assembly
- a. We agreed that too much time at Assembly was given to officers and it was suggested that the chair limits the time per officer, selects certain officers for each Assembly and that we change the order of the agenda and officers are moved to the end (and GSR forum nearer start). Alice said that she grew more interested in Intergroup in her early sobriety as a result of hearing interesting news from Officers. Barbara pointed out that no-one ever complains when officers don't speak. Eddy added that it seems most important that GSRs speak and that officers can always answer questions if there are any.
  - b. In terms of engaging GSRs at Assembly it was suggested that perhaps we have a couple of guest speakers that would be of interest to the GSRs to start the GSR forum. However, as Catherine pointed out, we need to distinguish between workshops, Assembly and GSR forum.
  - c. Michael suggested that we speak about sponsoring service members into their roles. Michael referenced a treasurer at his group who wasn't sponsored in and Alice referred to the AA Structure handbook.
  - d. Peter shared that there are two meetings in the UK now that are offering contactless payment for Tradition 7; apparently their takings have increased by 30%. Peter suggested that we ask the treasurer from this meeting to speak at Assembly.
  - e. John suggested that a GSR speaks at Assembly about their experience – what's the role and how are they finding it.

- i. **Action: Alice** to consider whether to pursue this new agenda (i.e. guest speakers to kick off the GSR forum) for Assemblies in the future.
    - ii. **Action: Alice** to consider who will provide an officer report at June Assembly based on who didn't have a chance to speak at last Assembly.
    - iii. **Action: Stef** to move GSR forum closer to the beginning of the Assembly agenda.
    - iv. **Action: Stef** to ask GSRs to send her agenda items within 48 hours of Assembly when sending out the agenda.
  - f. We discussed how we can engage GSRs further in how to work with prisons, schools, Share, etc. and Michael suggested that in the longer term we may be able to put Forums on the website for discussions and take topics from there to assembly.
    - i. **Action: Dina and Ellie** to consider what this may look like.
  - g. PI meetings – other Intergroups have separate PI meetings but MSIG doesn't.
    - i. **Action: PI, Health, Schools, Prisons, and YP** to consider whether they would like to have the last 30 minutes of each committee meeting to themselves?
8. AAmail.org and MSIG website purpose
- a. The York website currently has a page for MSIG from which we previously linked to our page. However, we should not have an outside link on the National website, so we need to remove the link and instead guide people to our website via a search engine. Ellie is trying to get access to do this but hasn't been granted it by the York web masters yet; support seems to be sporadic.
  - b. We are hoping to move to aamail.org email extensions in the future, but we need to feel confident in GSO support for this.
    - i. **Action: Ellie** to feed back to Dina.
  - c. Alice received an email from one GSR suggesting that the existence of a MSIG website might be confusing to the newcomer given that the nationwide AA website exists and the MSIG website doesn't list meeting across intergroup borders. It was suggested that we continue to raise awareness of the website through the tent card which Ellie last distributed at March Assembly. If the GSR wishes, the purpose of our local website may be discussed in our September Assembly Conscience meeting. Ellie and Alice have made very slight adjustments, which signpost newcomers clearly to the national website.
  - d. GDPR
    - i. York is looking at this currently and will advise.
  - e. York's website hosts all officers contact details and each of us can have access to this list. York will provide a password once each of us has submitted a signed form.
    - i. **Action: Alice** to send Stef the form to circulate.
9. PI and Health Wallets
- a. Alice informed Committee that she had authorised the printing of wallets for use in all PI activities. These wallets are modelled on a version that Chiltern & Thames Intergroup use for distributing PI relevant information to any professionals. Yvette showed them to us at Committee in February, and Committee liked them. However ideally we would seek GSR approval, and not doing so in March was an oversight by Alice. Alice made an executive decision to go ahead with the printing of 1000 wallets, so that Yvette can present her initiative that involves groups, to the GSR's in

June. In addition to Yvette's initiative, she based her decision on these wallets being available for all MSIG Liaison Officers to use in their PI work and also that the GSR's have shown an interest in spending money locally on passing the message of AA.

- i. **Action:** Alice to inform GSRs at June Assembly.

#### 10. Officer update

- a. For assembly the agenda will include the officers' written reports and alternating officers will present highlights at the assembly.
  - i. **Action: Alice** to decide who will speak at June Assembly and to contact them.
- b. *Lindsay – Share*
  - i. Lindsay has a list of all groups that subscribe to Share magazine from York and this list contains 78 groups which is impossible as MSIG only has 68 groups.
    1. **Action: Alice** to provide Lindsay with list from WTF cards to reconcile.
  - ii. Lindsay asked the committee whether she should continue to visit meetings that don't subscribe to Share and leave them some copies. Alice responded that this is a decision for GSRs and to raise it at next Assembly. The cost associated to visit all groups in MSIG is £500 in fuel money.
    1. **Action: Stef** to put on agenda for June Assembly.
  - iii. Alice shared that she had visited a meeting where members were asked to pick a Share topic randomly from a bag and could then to submit an article on the topic to Share magazine.
  - iv. Meeting in a Pocket (MIAP) – we clarified that the minutes from the 154<sup>th</sup> Assembly (December '16) stated that 'the MIAP will be sold (to groups) from now on at 60p a copy with the residual being held by Lindsay'. We also recalled that PI and Health are to receive them for free for PI purposes, in particular treatment centres even though this wasn't explicitly stated in the minutes from the 154<sup>th</sup> Assembly.
  - v. Only one GSR has actually requested more copies so far which would indicate that GSRs don't want them. All around the table however found them very useful and feel that GSRs are just not being very proactive in requesting them. Some also felt that they should be provided free of charge as GSRs are more likely to take them.
  - vi. We agreed that we would print 1,000 additional copies and announce at June Assembly that if GSRs want them at 60p each to contact Lindsay. They will continue to be free for PI and health. Costs for printing will be approx. £500.
    1. **Action: Lindsay** to confirm costs and arrange printing.
    2. **Action: Stef** to add to June Assembly agenda.
- c. *Peter – Convention*
  - i. Overall convention preparation is in a good place. Peter is waiting for one last speaker to confirm.
  - ii. There will be Alanon participation and Archives will have a display in the adjoining hall.

1. **Action: Peter** to assign volunteers to archives stand.
2. **Action: Peter** to speak to Health and PI so see if they want a stand.
- iii. Service positions are still available if anyone wants to help.
  1. **Action: All** to let Peter know if they or anyone in their group can volunteer.
- d. Young persons
  - i. Zara asked about guests/professionals she invites to the convention having to pay. Alice feels they should not. Non alcoholics would often attend via Alanon, but we must clarify the situation for other invited guests and professionals who may well attend without charge.
    1. **Action: Alice, Peter and Zara** to discuss further.
  - ii. Zara said she will rotate out in September and asked for the upcoming vacancy to be posted on the June and September Agendas.
- e. Region
  - i. We don't currently have dates for Region events or Region meeting minutes.
    1. **Action: Region reps** to provide both to Alice and Stef.
- f. ASLO
  - i. Eddy has attended the health fair at Deepcut Barracks and spoke to a few key people.
    1. **Action: Eddy** to consider giving something out at fairs to attract people to the stand.
  - ii. Eddy has also met with officers from the Eleventh Brigade in Aldershot and will be going to the unit's Health Committee. Eddy has access to all military email and has four years left to serve and is therefore in an ideal position to influence military stakeholders. Lindsay also spoke to the head of HR at Deepcut who holds an open door session on Sundays for military personnel who want to discuss more difficult topics. Eddy confirmed that the army recognises that alcohol is a problem.
- g. Young People
  - i. Zara would like to rotate out at the end of the year. We therefore need to advertise the role in the June agenda.
    1. **Action: Stef** to add to agenda.
  - ii. Barbara suggested that those rotating out speak at June MSIG Assembly.
    1. **Action: Alice** to take into consideration.
- h. End of meeting – the meeting was closed in the traditional way by all present standing and saying the Serenity Prayer.