

Minutes of the 161st MSIG Assembly on September 3rd, 2019

Dates for your diary:

MSIG ASSEMBLIES 2018	QH 8pm – Tuesdays - 3rd Dec '19 / 3rd Mar '20 / 2nd Jun '20 / 1st Sep '20
MSIG COMMITTEE 2018	United Reformed Church, Wednesdays - 7.30pm - 6th Nov '19 / 5th Feb '20 / 6th May '20 / 5th Aug '20 / 4th Nov '20
REGION ASSEMBLY	Burgess Hill - Sundays at 10am on 22nd Sep / 17th Nov
MSIG WORKSHOP	TBC

****For more information on the above dates please visit www.aamidsurrey.org.uk****

Attendance list

GSRs present:

Michelle, Cove Sun; Paul, Guildford Mon; Trish, Worplesdon Sun; Rob, Guildford Meditation Mon; Matt, Hersham Tue; Lisa, Dorking Sat; Lisa, Dorking Thu; Emma, Guildford Women Wed; Brittany, Guildford YP Mon; Karla (alternate), Woking Tue; Jude, Esher Green Sat; Steve, Leatherhead Tue; Richard, Walton Fri; Caroline, Cobham Mon; Michelle, Byfleet Sun; Tim, Dorking Mon; Dino, Aldershot & Farnborough Fri; Alexa, Guildford Sun; Mel, Ockham Sun; Terry, West Byfleet & New Haw Thu; Richard, Camberley Mon; Emma (alternate), Guildford Sat; Fran (alternate), Ockham Wed & Farnham Fri & Farnham PM Tue; Giles, Hawley Thu; Steve, Staines Thu; Julie, Guildford Step Wed; Joe (alternate), Woking Thu; Rachael, Walton Wed; Alasdair, Cranleigh Mon; Andy, Godalming Tue; Janine, Woking Mon; Bridget, Aldershot Sun; Gerhard, Woking Thu; John H., Farnborough Tue and Thu; Vivien, Aldershot Sat; Caroline, Aldershot Wed; Oonagh, Chertsey Tue; Paul, Compton's Men Fri; Peter, Compton Wed; Quentin, Egham Wed; Katherine, Frimley Park Thu; Alex, Guildford Lunch Thu; Donna, Guildford Lunch Tue; Annie, Ockley Sun; Alistair, Sunningdale Fri; Emma Jane, Woking PM Fri; Roger, Guildford 8 after 8; Nicole - Wonersh

Committee Members present:

Catherine D., Vice Chair; Alice N. Chair; Stef S., Secretary; Ian K., Treasurer; Yvette S., Health LO; Marie, Region Rep; Michael, Region Rep; Peter, Telephones LO; Seth, ASLO and Brookwood St. John's Wed GSR; Ken W., Co-opted ECLO; Jason, Region Rep and Betchworth Fri GSR; Mark, Employment LO and Mellow Sun GSR; Nick, Convention Convenor & Guildford Newcomer Fri GSR.

Apologies:

Rose, Guildford Discussion Sat PM; Bob, North Holmwood Sat;

Visitors present:

Gail, Meeting in a Pocket; Phil R, Guildford After Eight/Probation candidate; Rachel, Conscience Chair and Chair of NE Surrey Intergroup; Bob S., PI candidate; Lex, Wonersh; Carol; Mikr; Kim G; Lynn S; Micky F, Share candidate.

Meeting Minutes

1. Open

- a. Welcome and Traditions
 - i. All were welcomed and traditions read by Michael.
- 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. GSR and Officers introductions
 - i. All attendees of the assembly were asked to introduce themselves and to let us know if they were visitors, new GSRs, alternates or officers.
 - ii. New GSRs were asked to ensure they've completed the form on <http://aamidsurrey.org.uk/gsr/> so that MSIG secretary has their details. Please also complete the pink form on [https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Submit-Your-Meeting-Information-\(Pink-Form\)](https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/AA-Meetings/Submit-Your-Meeting-Information-(Pink-Form)) if you are a new GSR or if there are changes to your meeting such as time or location.

2. Administration

- a. Teas
 - i. Wonersh Thu 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 Ian for mileage or public transport travel cost to attend the assembly.
- c. Attendance sheets
 - i. The attendance list was circulated and Stef requested that attendees tick the appropriate boxes to indicate their presence or to state whether they are an alternate.
- d. Raised hand count for voting
 - i. A total of 43 GSRs, 9 officers and 3 who are both GSRs and officers were present. We also welcomed 11 guests. Among the attendees we had 55 votes. Assembly agreed that for any election or proposal to pass a simple majority of votes in favour was required.

3. Minutes from 160th Assembly

- a. Steve proposed the minutes and Michael seconded the minutes. There were no matters arising.

4. Vacancies & Elections

a. ELECTIONS

- i. We had a candidate each for PI and Share magazine present and two candidates for Probation. However, one of the Probation candidates could not be present at the Assembly.
- ii. It was put to the GSRs that we could either delay the Probation LO election until the December Assembly, or vote on the Probation LO role with one candidate absent. Assembly voted in favour of the latter.
- iii. Public Information – Bob introduced himself to the Assembly (CV was circulated w/ agenda)
- iv. Share – Micky introduced himself to the Assembly (CV was circulated w/ agenda)
- v. Probation – Phil introduced himself to the Assembly (CV was circulated w/ agenda)
- vi. Probation – Emma introduced Paula (absent candidate) to the Assembly (CV was circulated w/ agenda).
- vii. Paper ballots were handed out to all who are eligible to vote.

- viii. Bob S was elected as Public Information Liaison Officer. Micky F. was elected as Share Liaison Officer and Paula J was elected as Probation/Criminal Justice Liaison Officer.

b. **VACANCIES**

- i. Schools and Young People's LO are currently vacant. Upcoming vacancies in December are for Telephone Liaison and Electronic Communications Liaison officer.

5. Vice Chair update

- a. Catherine D, vice chair informed Assembly (during the conscience in relation to the safeguarding topic) that she will organise a workshop on safeguarding. All are encouraged to contact her with ideas and indication if they are willing to get involved in a sub-committee to discuss the workshop further.

6. Chair report

- a. Alice reminded Assembly that **November is Alcoholics Anonymous Awareness month** and asked Groups to consider having one or more open meetings in November to welcome visitors. Please would groups let Stef and Alice know ASAP, so we can compile a list of open meetings in MSIG for AA awareness month. This will be available to print out to use as an invite or to leave with GP surgeries, libraries etc.

7. Treasurer report

- a. We have a healthy balance in our accounts and the accounts are attached to these minutes.
- b. It was requested that the treasurer information sheet is circulated again.
- c. MSIG currently has £7,000 in hand and costs of £5,000 over the next three months.
- d. Assembly agreed to send £5,000 to SE Region.

8. Officer updates

a. **Health**

- i. The bus adverts went well and Yvette proposed to run the campaign again. November is fully booked and Yvette proposed January instead. For 25 bus adverts it'll cost £4,476. Assembly voted on the proposal and the majority of votes are for this campaign.

9. Annual Conscience Meeting of MSIG Assembly of GSR's and Officers

- a. As has become our tradition and in the interests of impartiality, this element of the Assembly was chaired by Rachel E. who is chair of another Intergroup. Two questions were discussed -
 - a. Q1: Should Assemblies change location each quarter to cover a wider geographical spread? There were concerns that organising and booking other venues could be difficult. One suggestion was that groups with large enough venues host the Assembly in turn. It was suggested that we investigate further why GSRs don't attend and focus on those GSRs/meetings that are never or rarely represented at Assembly.
 - b. Q2: Leaflet on Violence and Personal Conduct – should groups have further literature on this topic, such as a card with action points listed? What is the appropriate action to take when a member is threatened? Several guests spoke about having been intimidated / threatened at a meeting and no other members took action. The Violence and Personal Conduct AA leaflet and our AA Structure Handbook suggests action we can take to protect members, but both are somewhat out of date. The Vice Chair further elaborated on her

ideas of a workshop on Safeguarding and it was agreed that this is a broad and important topic that requires more than one person planning it. All are encouraged to contact Catherine if they are interested in getting involved in the safeguarding workshop

10. Other business

- a. Caroline (GSR Cobham Monday) offered to provide teas at the December Assembly.

11. Closing

- a. Everyone was thanked for their attendance and Joe led us out with the Serenity Prayer.