

Employment liaison report

The majority of employers now see alcoholism as an illness that needs treating and have progressive policies towards their staff. Bizarrely, they are now less interested in talking to AA than ever. The majority outsource employee welfare to specialist organisations and so an employee who approaches their HR manager with a drinking problem is encouraged to contact them. This has made it very difficult to make headway with local employers. The majority of the larger departments outsource employee welfare and are not interested in talking to me. The best I can hope for is that they keep the information on file and if they find themselves needing to access us, they have it available. The service handbook does suggest that PI takes the form of a committee which includes employment, and I think this is something we need go bear in mind.

I have also assiduously followed up contacts within the job centre who are encouraged to work with us by the DWP. They are responsible for assisting job seekers with alcohol problems to get back, and to work. Although my contacts have been acknowledged there has been no follow up from them.

With my region liaison officer hat on, I ran a workshop on employment at the last regional assembly. Very few intergroup have an ELO and none came to workshop, so we joined with PI. I am due to meet with the board member who leads on employment so I am hopeful of some further direction.

Nonetheless, I have made contact with many local employers and they know we are here, and willing to assist.

Share liaison report

MORE THAN HALF OUR MEETINGS ARE NOW SUBSCRIBING TO SHARE MAGAZINE

As many of you are aware, I have been on my annual 'tour' round the MSIG meetings for the last few months, reminding you all about Share magazine and why it still needs our support, both in terms of subscriptions and in supply articles and photographs to the editor.

Firstly, thank you to all the meetings that have gone out of their way to make me feel so welcome and also a HUGE thank you to the 37 meetings that now take regular copies of the magazine. That is a massive increase of well over a 100% in the last 12 months. Add to that the fact that we are now seeing regular editorial and photographic contributions from our Intergroup - and this really is a tremendous achievement.

Remember, Share is always on the lookout for articles or photographs for the magazine. Don't forget to send any good pictures or articles to AAShare@gsogb.org.uk. Keep up the good work and I look forward to seeing you again at the same time, next year!

TLO Report 1st November 2017

MSIG Telephone Service continues to perform well with the majority of our shifts being filled every month and new responders regularly joining the team. I attended the Annual Meeting of Regional TLO's on 11th August 2017 at GSO representing SE region as we are currently without a RTLO. We had a great workshop spread across two days which proved to be a valuable learning experience.

I also attended the regional workshops at Burgess Hill on 24th of September chairing The Telephones workshop. We had a productive morning session discussing topics ranging from Polish

Language meetings to Best practice for dealing with abusive callers. Solent and Southdown Intergroups are suffering with a particularly nasty abusive caller and we will have our concerns raised at the next national telephone sub-committee meeting in early November.

YIF

Peter G

Electronic Communications Liaison Report

The website is receiving steady numbers, in September there were 1,355 and October received 1,306. I can see that the meetings finder page is the most popular page (other than homepage) so I am pleased people are using that tool. Also interestingly one of search phrases used to get to the website was 'young people AA Guildford' so it is good we have some specific information for our younger members to make them feel welcomed.

New content: John kindly let me make his book 'Mid Surrey Memories' available for download online. I was initially going to have it as a pdf to download but after some research, I decided to make it into a proper ebook so that people can download it onto their phones and read it (the text can be re-scaled etc. which makes it easier to read on a phone) It is available for free so please spread the word in your groups. You can find it under 'AA members' on the 'Archives' Page.

<http://aamidsurrey.org.uk/archives/>

I am currently working on developing the 'History of AA section' Bob S from Friday Newcomers very kindly provided e with his powerpoint presentation that he did for the 'Magical History Tour' It is going to take a little time to make it into web pages but I hope to have it finished by the next intergroup meeting.

Other than the website work, I do my best to keep you informed of local AA news and events via the email newsletters and the website news section. If you have any news you would like posted on the website you can email me at eclo@aamidsurrey.org.uk

Yours in fellowship

Ellie C