

Alcoholics Anonymous Area E AGM 2019
Minutes of Meeting: Saturday, 2nd Feb 2019 @ 12:30 PM

Chair: Trevor

Attendance: 24 people

Trevor H	Area Chair	Lane Cove Mon PM	Present
Rosemary	Area Secretary	RtR North Syd Tue PM	Present
John B	Area Delegate	Seaforth Tue PM	Apology
Anna S	Area Alternate Delegate	Dee Why Thu PM	Present
Michael S	Area Treasurer	RtR North Syd Tue PM	Apology
Rosemary	Area Group Liaison	RtR North Syd Tue PM	Present
Andrew I	Area Webmaster	RtR North Syd Tue PM	Apology
	Area Public Information Coordinator		Vacant
	The Mixer Editor		Vacant
Mary H	GSR	RtR Kirribilli Fri PM	Present
Michael B	GSR Alternate	RtR North Sydney Tue PM	Present
John R	GSR	Narraburn	Present
Garry T	GSR	Gordon Mon PM	Present
Chris C	GSR	Manly Sun AM	Present
Lee S	GSR	Dee Why Curl Curl Bfast	Present
David M	GSR	Neutral Bay Tue 8pm	Present
Bethany	GSR	Lane Cover Mon PM	Apologies
Bruce M	Member	RtR North Syd Tue PM	Present
RJ	Member	Baulkham Hills Sun PM	Present
Marita	Member	RtR Kirribilli Fri PM	Present
Cheryl	Member		Present
Jack S	Member	RtR Kirribilli Fri PM	Present
Sash A	Member		Present
Matt W	Member		Present
Paula	Member		Present
Anthony	Member		Present
Paul C	Member		Present
Tina S	GSR	Mona Vale Sun AM	Present
Zoli S	GSR	Cremorne Mon PM	Present
Jenny	Member	RtR Kirribilli Fri PM	Present
Susan	NS CSO Office Manager		Present

Meeting Opened: 12:30pm
12 Traditions Read By: Michael B
Previous Minutes: Accepted

Chairman's Report: Trevor
Trevor tabled the following report:

I hope that over the past 12 months, those in Area E service positions have found their roles fulfilling. I believe that my sentiments would be echoed by all on the Area E Committee and the GSRs when I say that I would like to share my gratitude for the service that each person has contributed to Area E this past year: we can achieve together what we could not achieve alone. This contribution ranges from regular attendance at meetings and contributions to discussion, to contributing agenda items, to stepping up to service roles, to getting public information initiatives running, to taking Area E's viewpoints to Conference.

Since May 2018 we've been using Google Docs as a means of distributing documents and collecting reports ahead of meetings so that we can use more of our meeting time for discussion and decision. I hope we can continue to improve on these practices to better employ accessible technology.

Area E held an Assembly in October to discuss the 2018 Conference topics. Thank you to all who participated in that Assembly for your contributions to the discussion.

At the Founder's Day event in Carringbah, Nick spoke about the AA Australia Structure Survey and shared about the success that Area G has had in holding quarterly assemblies in cooperation with the Sydney CSO. The structure survey closed on for submissions on 31 August and we look forward to hearing what that structure inventory committee has been able to learn from those responses.

In the meantime, we carried forward the discussion of increased cooperation between Area E and the Northern Sydney CSO. Thank you to our guests Gabrielle N (Area G Delegate), Susan M (NSCSO Office Manager) and Mark W (NSCSO Trustee) who joined our meeting in November to hear more about what Area G has done and to discuss whether any of those ideas will work to produce similar positive results in Area E. As a result of the input from those present, I have pulled together a draft proposal for submission at the NSCSO and Area E AGMs proposing a pilot combined assembly on the subject of 12th Step work at & beyond the group level. It is my fervent hope that we can improve the experience of service at Area E to increase the sense of achievement and purpose on offer.

Area service appears not to be everyone's cup of tea; to those who have withdrawn from Area E service over the past year, thank you for your contributions and we wish you well with your program in other spheres. We hope to see you again as we trudge the road to happy destiny. For those of you who have not yet given it a try, please consider nominating for open positions either in advance or from the floor on the day. Service beyond the group contributes to our collective responsibility: when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there.

Delegate's Report: John B

Anna tabled the following report for John:

A report on the 60th Australian General Service Conference, held in November 2018, was submitted to the Area E December meeting and is available for members upon request. If members require any additional information please contact me. In addition the full Conference Report is available on the service website; aaservice.org.au.

Area E committee members, GSRs and other members assisted in the distribution of a further service questionnaire to Groups and members in the Area. Thank you to all the members participating in this service activity and also to the Groups and members completing the questionnaire. The information received from Groups and Members throughout Australia was summarised and a report was prepared and submitted to the 2018 Conference.

Conferences' responses, in previous years, to a Topic submitted on 'taking an inventory of the AA Service Structure in Australia' resulted in Advisory Actions including the preparation of a report on the AA Service Structure in Australia, that included a history of the Fellowship in Australia, how the Fellowship in other countries is structured and suggested options for the service structure in the future e.g. maintain the current structure or implement structure changes. All Areas in Australia had a role to fulfil for this project and members in Area E were pro-active in ensuring that the area fulfilled its responsibilities.

Within Area E, in addition to fulfilling these responsibilities there have been other positives that the Fellowship can build upon e.g.

- More effective communications between the Area committee, Groups and members
- Members and Groups greater awareness of the general service structure within Area E and the central service functions either performed or coordinated by the Northern Sydney Central Service Office at St. Ives
- Groups having a member attending the Area E and NSCSO meetings
- Groups being aware of service opportunities that they can undertake in the community as well as members taking service jobs with either Area E or the NSCSO

Also, members of the Area E and NSCSO committees have commenced discussions seeking to identify ways of working together more co-operatively and effectively in undertaking service activities.

The Delegates job is for one, three year term. In rotating off it, I would like to thank the many members in Area E that have provided encouragement and assisted me.

Yours in Service.

John B., ER Area E Delegate

Alternate Delegate Report: Anna S

A report was presented at the meeting but not available to be included in the minutes.

Secretary's Report: Rosemary P

Rosemary tabled the following report:

Hi, I have had the privilege of carrying out the secretary role for 3 years and it has helped me learn a lot about Area, the various AA Service Bodies and how they all interact. As of this year with the committee member and GSR reports being updated to Google Docs and with the format of the minutes template it has cut the time down by 50% when creating the minutes which is a fantastic productivity improvement.

Treasurer's Report: Michael S

Michael tabled the following report:

This is my finale report and always a privilege to serve.

The current balance is \$7284.99 balance for 29/01/2019

Below are the transactions for the year of 2018:

NCSO Donations	\$5363.80
Printing.	\$677.48
Ku rin Gai.	\$204
Levies	\$3800

As well the committee has agreed on a prudent reserve of \$6,000 which is noted on the previous minutes

Group Liaison Report: Rosemary

Rosemary tabled the following report:

Even though I volunteered for this position I have not fulfilled the role as it should be hence I don't have anything to report and I sincerely apologise.

Web Master Report: Andrew I

Area E Website <http://areaeraa.info>

Andrew I tabled the following report:

Huge thanks to the committee for the opportunity to serve the Area and AA in this way. Apologies I cannot be with you all at the AGM today, my son Oliver's 1st B'Day party is happening today and with family in from interstate I'll be in attendance, a true Joy of Recovery.

Trevor has been kind enough to show me the 2 programs we use, Wordpress and Mailchimp. I have been posting the minutes from each monthly meeting to the website. Also have included some extra links in the links page to the AA Around Australia publication and the 3 AA advertisements that have been used for the cinema advertising initiative.

It was decided by the conscience of the committee that subscribers to the website would appreciate less communications i.e. one per month, but in that one communication, a succinct and well-presented summary of all points are included plus links etc.

My plan for the next 2 years is to increase the subscriber base by at least double. Also to more finely hone the communications and communication style from the Area Committee, in such a way that we can create a greater

sense of connection and information between the Area and the Groups, hopefully increasing the feeling of Unity between the Committee, the Groups and all AA members.

Yours In Service,
Andrew

PI Report: Vacant

Area E PI & Co-Operation with the Professional Community Sub-Committee: John B, Michael B
John B tabled the following report:

1. Information sent to National PI&CPC Co-Coordinator, Dave S. He is considering and will respond:
 - Premises are booked from lunchtime Friday to the Saturday evening. We have had to fit in around permanent bookings. On Saturday morning, the area available is smaller and activities will most likely need to be restricted for AA members.
 - At last month's ER Area E committee meeting. It was suggested inviting a guest speaker from America. Inquiries are being made as to what this would entail.
 - Our attention needs to address developing a Forum program. Our thoughts are:
 1. Discuss with members in ER Area E
 2. Seek your input, including contacting PI&CPC Co-coordinators from all areas in Australia for their suggestions
 3. Consider having a public meeting on the Friday evening, with participation from areas in Eastern Region
 4. Consider holding a social function on the Saturday evening
2. Overseas Guest Speaker:
 - Contact made with a member from Area G involved in organising Overseas Guest Speakers for the Roundup and he will make inquiries for us.
 - Indication of arrangements: a speaker needs to arrive a few days earlier; suggestions allow \$200 per day for accommodation (min. 5 days), \$2,500 for airfare and other travel costs. Speaker pays other out of pockets.
3. Costings from 2017 National PI&CPC Committee
 - Seed capital
 - Area D \$2,000
 - Receipts
 - Donations from Groups \$2,164.95
 - Registration fees \$405
 - Donations \$21.70
 - Payments
 - Room hire (incl. morning & afternoon tea) \$2,329.59
 - Literature \$204.50
 - Banners \$150.65
 - General \$79.97
 - Loss funded by Area D \$173.06

Area E Service Position Rotations:

Service Position	Newly Appointed for 2019
Area Delegate	Anna S
Alternate Delegate	Lee
Treasurer	Rosemary
Secretary	Jenny
Group Liaison	Anthony

PI Coordinator	David
Mixer Editor	Vacant
PI & CPC Sub Committee – Additional Volunteers	Chris Jack

General Business:

- NSCSO and Area E combined quarterly assembly proposal:
 - MOTION CARRIED: To hold a pilot combined NSCSO and Area E quarterly combined assembly.
 - Before proceeding the motion also needs to be carried at the following NSCSO AGM.
 - Advertising at the Cinemas last year demonstrated how co-operation between the 2 committees can work to implement initiatives.
 - Both structures will remain intact but they come together to make decisions faster where both are required. Especially funding PI initiatives.
 - Susan – CSO Office Manager –outlined how they had discussed this topic it at a previous meeting and agreed to go ahead with the pilot. They have yet to determine an agenda but it is anticipated to include items like PI initiatives, how to manage the committee etc.
 - John R spoke about how it is important to proceed with caution. If we look back at history when CSO was first setup in 1988 this idea of a combined meeting was brought up. He cautioned that we need to be careful and remind ourselves as what Area is there for. It is not for 12 Step Service work but the real function is informing the groups about structure, sending someone to the yearly GSO Conference and being the conduit between GSO and meetings.
 - It was raised that the current structure has been in place for 30 years and it is not working.

NEXT MEETING: March 4th March at 07:30