

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

Held via Zoom (Host Group - Whiskey in my Milk) Meeting ID: 872 9913 3354

Password: 1555555

Or join by phone (02 8015 6011)

11am AWST - 12.30pm ACST - 1.00pm AEST

Item	Description	Who
1.0	<b>MEETING OPENING</b>	Chair
1.1	'We' Version of the Serenity Prayer	All
1.2	12 Traditions - Short Form	Chair
1.3	<b>Voting at Assemblies</b> Only GSR's and Area Officers have voting rights. All other attendees may participate fully in all other aspects. Please note if there are GSRs and Alternates from the same group then only the GSR can vote i.e. 1 vote per group	Chair
1.4	<b>Virtual Area Mailing List</b> You do not have to be a GSR to receive VA/AA communications. Anyone wanting to receive correspondence, minutes and newsletters from the VA and/or GSO can request these through <a href="mailto:aaavirtualarea@gmail.com">aaavirtualarea@gmail.com</a> If you want to stop receiving correspondence please send an email as above and your address will be removed from the list.	Chair

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

1.5	<p><b>Attendees:</b></p> <p>Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dale A. (Chair)</li> <li>• Andrew Mc (Delegate)</li> <li>• Jenny K (Treasurer)</li> <li>• Alison G (Alternate Delegate &amp; PI/CPC / Webmaster)</li> <li>• Terri G (Registrar)</li> </ul> <p>GSRs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ally F. (Plan B Into Action)</li> <li>• Glen (Whiskey in My Milk)</li> <li>• Cliff P. (Online Men's Group / TRCC Coordinator)</li> <li>• Kate C (Northern Beaches Breakfast Zoom)</li> <li>• Brian O (AA Aussie Recovery)</li> <li>• Michele (Alice Springs Women's)</li> <li>• Robert D (Down and Under Not Down and Out)</li> <li>• Andrew B (Geelong Online)</li> <li>• Caroline (On Awakening)</li> </ul> <p>Observers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane D (Northern Beaches Breakfast Zoom) – Minutes Secretary</li> <li>• Bob P. (Tuscon, Arizona)</li> <li>• John L. (Foster Wednesdays Secretary)</li> <li>• Harry F (International Three Legacies)</li> <li>• Darren (International Three Legacies)</li> <li>• Geoff S (Chair, General Service Board &amp; Southern Region Trustee)</li> <li>• Yvette (Secretary, Plan B Into Action)</li> <li>• Richard H</li> <li>• Lisa A (Shivering Denizens)</li> <li>• Karen B. (We Are Not Saints)</li> <li>• Maria (Shivering Denizens 1)</li> <li>• Carrie F</li> </ul> <p>Voting attendance = 15  Total attendance = 26</p>	All
1.6	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Jennifer International Three Legacies -GSR</p>	All
1.7	<p><b>Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft minutes from previous assembly (25/02/2024) circulated and taken as read.</li> <li>• Chair called for comments/suggested amendments.</li> <li>• Cliff P indicated that the order of business was inaccurate and that officer reports were read out prior to conducting business.</li> <li>• The chair moved that the draft minutes be ratified with the amendment to the order of business. Seconded: Alison G. Passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

<b>2.0</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY</b>	
<b>2.1w</b>	Webmaster indicated to the assembly that GSRs can now submit reports via the portal on the website <a href="https://aavirtualarea.org.au/group-report-form">https://aavirtualarea.org.au/group-report-form</a>	<b>Webmaster</b>
<b>2.2</b>	Webmaster confirmed that the flyers for this assembly and workshop, and previous assembly were completed as tasked.	<b>Webmaster</b>
<b>2.3</b>	GSR's to ask their groups for suggested topic for future workshops -to be raised in later business	<b>All</b>
<b>2.4</b>	Treasurer indicated to the assembly that 'donations' was replaced with 'contributions' in budget documents as tasked.	<b>Jenny</b>
<b>2.5</b>	All virtual groups when making contributions to GSO, are asked to include the word "Virtual" with their group name so GSO can identify as a virtual area contribution.	<b>All</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>GENERAL BUSINESS</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Election of Secretary - 2 year term</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chair indicated that no nominations had been received prior to the assembly and opened the floor for nominations.</li> <li>• Jane D was nominated by Alison G and second Michelle.</li> <li>• Ally F was nominated by Terri G but declined</li> <li>• Michelle was nominated by Andrew Mc but declined.</li> <li>• Jane D accepted the nomination and was invited to speak on eligibility.</li> <li>• The chair called for a vote: 12 in favour, 1 opposed, 1 abstain.</li> <li>• Minority voice was heard then the chair for a re-vote with the same result. Jane D elected as secretary.</li> </ul>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Sharing Sessions #2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delegate was invited to speak on the outcomes of the last sharing session by the chair. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The delegate reported to the assembly that the session was well attended, and many interesting themes had emerged as described in the report (attached).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Delegate</b>

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

3.3	<b>Sharing Session #3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delegate called for the GSRs to suggest topics for the next sharing session.</li> <li>• The assembly agreed to introduce a more specific topic. After discussion, the feel of the assembly was that issues of online safety were most pertinent.</li> <li>• The chair moved that the topic of Sharing Session #3 be ‘How to Facilitate Safely Running Online Meetings &amp; Implementing AA’s Safeguarding Policy’. Second: Jane D. Passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	Delegate
3.4	<b>Support for Trustee Remote Communities Committee (TRCC) Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRCC report was read.</li> <li>• The TRCC Coordinator called for the GSRs to canvas interest from group members regarding any interest in travelling to remote locations to carry the message.</li> </ul> <p>Groups or members can contact Cliff P via email:  <a href="mailto:trustedservant69@gmail.com">trustedservant69@gmail.com</a></p>	Cliff
3.5	<b>Aust Convention 2025 – Topic Session on the Virtual Area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Assembly picked up on the theme of a virtual presence at the next National AA Convention in 2025 and discussed possibilities and logistics.</li> <li>• The chair proposed that sub-committee be formed to explore and propose sessions on recovery in the virtual space for the 2025 Convention. Seconded: Alison G. Outcome: Passed unanimously</li> <li>• Action: GSRs to seek nominees for the sub-committee.</li> <li>• Action: Dale to liaise with COC on timeframes and deadlines.</li> <li>• Action: Dale to notify COC to include in programming meeting agenda</li> </ul>	Chair       <b>Action:GS Rs</b>  <b>Action:Dale</b>
3.6	<b>Upcoming workshops</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chair reported to the assembly that the topic of the next General Service Workshop will be, August, The Brown Paper Bag Appeal, presented by World Service Delegate Brian F and, the following with be, November, the work of the Trustees Remote Communities Committee (TRCC) by Dominic H</li> </ul>	Chair

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

3.7	<b>Service positions to be voted at next assembly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chair indicated that the committee positions of Chairperson and Treasurer will be rotated at the next assembly and that the job descriptions are available at <a href="http://aavirtualarea.org.au/service-opportunities">aavirtualarea.org.au/service-opportunities</a></li> <li>Action: GSRs to notify their home group members and canvas for interest.</li> </ul>	<b>Chair</b>  <b>Action GSRs</b>
3.8	<b>AA Publications</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chair called for the assembly to support for AA publications and encourage group members to write articles about virtual meetings for various AA publications.</li> <li>Action: GSRs to ask their groups for contributions.</li> </ul> <p>Members can contact the VA for guidance on what to write about or for any information about these publications at: <a href="mailto:aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com">aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com</a></p>	<b>Chair</b>
3.9	<b>Proposal to Establish a Quorum Requirement for Virtual Area A Assemblies</b> -See attached Proposal & Motion to adopt (of same name)	<b>Andrew</b>
4.0	<b>REPORTS FROM OFFICE HOLDERS</b>	
4.1	<b>Treasurers report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The treasurer presented the budget and financial report to assembly.</li> <li>The treasurer reminded the assembly that the position is being rotated at the next assembly and encouraged those interested to get in contact via <a href="mailto:aaausvirtualarea.treasurer@gmail.com">aaausvirtualarea.treasurer@gmail.com</a></li> <li>The delegate thanked the treasurer for the report and indicated that Virtual Area A was now holding a substantial amount of funds beyond prudent reserve and operating expenses. The delegate called for the assembly to decide at this assembly where these funds should be moved onto.</li> </ul>	<b>Jenny K</b>

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

4.2	<p><b>Delegate report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delegate indicated that the full report had been distributed and presented an abridged version.</li> <li>• The chair called for any business arising. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The delegate indicated to the assembly that he had intended on introducing a discussion about implementing a quorum but in the interest of prioritisation intended to continue the discussion about passing on surplus Virtual Area A funds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Approval of budget and treasurer report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretary reminded the assembly that the Treasurer report had yet to be ratified by the assembly.</li> <li>• The treasurer proposed that the Treasurer report be approved. Second Andrew Mc. Passed unanimously.</li> <li>• The delegate proposed that the treasurer’s report be ratified at all future Assemblies. Second Robert D Passed Unanimously</li> </ul> <p><b>Use of Virtual Area A funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delegate reminded the assembly that Virtual Area A was holding funds more than what is prudent as per AA tradition and moved that the assembly approve the treasurer to pass all funds beyond prudent reserve and budgeted expenses to the General Service Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The motion was discussed and subsequently withdrawn by the delegate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The TRCC Coordinator moved that Virtual Area A reimburse TRCC \$437 for the ‘Message Stick donations. Seconded: Andrew Mc. Outcome: passed unanimously.</li> <li>• The GSR for Online Mens moved that Virtual Area A allocate remaining surplus accordingly: \$2000 to 2025 National Convention Organising Committee and \$5600 to General Service Office. Seconded: Brian O. Outcome: passed unanimously.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action GSR’s:</b> Discuss with groups possible ways to allocate surplus funds to serve VA in General Service.  Delegate reported for VA, the natural progression of funds would be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- cover the conference costs for Delegate/Alt Delegate to attend &amp; other General service costs of VA</li> <li>- contribute surplus funds over and above prudent reserve to GSO/GSB (currently running at \$2264.72 per week shortfall from 7th Tradition Contributions to cover operating costs as per most recent GSB finances report)</li> </ul>	Andrew Mc
-----	--	-----------

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

4.3	<b>Registrar report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The registrar report was read.</li> </ul> Registrar's Email: <a href="mailto:aaausvirtualarea.registrar@gmail.com">aaausvirtualarea.registrar@gmail.com</a>	Terri
4.4	<b>Chair report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chair report was taken as read.</li> </ul>	Chair
4.5	<b>Public Information/Co-Operating with Professional Communities (PICPC) Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The alternate delegate indicated that a report had been circulated prior to the assembly and provided a verbal update.</li> <li>The alternate delegate indicated that the creation of a specific purpose email address should be considered.</li> </ul> Anyone wanting to contact the PICPC (Alison) please email: <a href="mailto:aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com">aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com</a>	Alison
5.0	<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
5.1	<b>Next Assembly host</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was agreed that DUNDAO be the host.</li> </ul> Meeting ID: 896 3077 0119 PW: dundao  <b>All please note: motion carried for change of times for next Assembly &amp; Workshop below (see 5.2)</b>	All
5.2	<b>Modification of Assembly schedule</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The delegate indicated that as Virtual Area A assemblies have reached a level of attendance that allows for significant business to be conducted.</li> <li>The delegate moved that the next assembly Sunday 25th August 2024 have the following schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>9am to 11am AEST - First session of business</i></li> <li><i>11am to 11.30am AEST - Break 1</i></li> <li><i>11.30am to 12.30pm AEST - General Service Workshop</i></li> <li><i>12.30pm to 1pm AEST - Break 2</i></li> <li><i>1pm AEST onwards – Second session of business</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> Second: Robert D. Outcome: 11 in favour 2 abstain – carried by majority.	

**Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**  
**Sunday 26 May 2024**

<b>5.3</b>	<b>Timing of committee member rotation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assembly discussed the importance of the delegate and alternate delegate rotating at the same time, the merits of a dedicated election assembly, and whether the most logical assembly being immediately after Conference.</li> <li>The delegate moved that a comprehensive discussion be deferred until next assembly. Second: Alison G. Outcome: passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Next VA Assembly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Date: Sunday, 25 August 2024</li> <li>Time: 9-11am and 1-3pm AEST</li> </ul>	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Meeting closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The chair led the assembly in the Serenity Prayer (“we version”).</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>

	<b>Forward agenda</b> Rotation of office bearers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>August 2024: Chairperson and Treasurer</li> <li>August 2025: Webmaster</li> <li>November 2025: Alternate Delegate</li> <li>December 2025: Delegate</li> <li>February 2026: Registrar.</li> <li>May 2026: Secretary</li> </ul>	<b>All</b>	
--	--	------------	--

### AA Aus Virtual Area

#### Purpose

Supporting any AA group based in Australia which hold meetings in formats other than face to face (i.e., online, phone etc), the AA Aus Virtual Area provides groups with a voice at the General Service Conference of Australia.

Conference covers just about all kinds of AA activities and is a platform for the discussion of all actions affecting the movement as a whole.

#### Scope

Through sharing sessions, discussion, workshops, visits by guests from other AA service areas, sharing group problems etc, we seek to undertake the following to the best of our ability and within the context of virtual AA in Australia:

## **Virtual Area Assembly – Minutes DRAFT**

**Sunday 26 May 2024**

- To provide support, guidance and information for GSR's of individual groups as well as Districts.
- To maintain communication links between members of AA as a whole
- To support and encourage the health of the conference structure and by the same token, for growth and harmony of our beloved fellowship.
- To suggest, discuss and plan means of carrying the message to those alcoholics still suffering within our Area.
- To elect and support a Delegate for conference who can act as the voice of AA groups with our Area.
- To learn first-hand, via our Delegate what is happening in AA Australia and World Services.

Guided by our 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts, the emphasis shall always be on peace and unity within our fellowship; attracting more service participation among AA's virtual Members.

Note: The AA Aus Virtual Area can only support groups that are not represented by another Area.

### **Declaration of Unity**

This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come.

Reprinted with permission of AA World Services Inc.