

Virtual Area Assembly - Minutes

Sunday 28 May 2023

Held via Zoom (CSC Meeting ID: 869 4071 0713, Password: 100635)
11.00am AWST - 12.30pm ACST - 1.00pm AEST - 3.00pm NZST

1.0 MEETING OPENING

The meeting was opened at 1.00pm AEST by Andrew M, Alternate Delegate.

1.1 Voting

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

1.2 'We' Version of the Serenity Prayer

1.3 12 Traditions - Short Form

Therese, Delegate, read the 12 Traditions short form.

1.4 Virtual Area Mailing List

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 aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com If you want to stop receiving correspondence please send an email as above and your address will be removed from the list.

1.5 Attendees

Dale, Breakfast with Bill and Bob – VA Chair
Jenny K, On Awakening – VA Treasurer
Therese P, Gympie Goldfields - VA Delegate
Andrew M, Gympie Goldfields – VA Alternate Delegate (and Chair for this meeting)
Lisa M, On Awakening – VA Minutes for this meeting
Matt, Cairns Spiritual Concepts - GSR
Caroline, On Awakening - GSR
Alison G, Down Under not Down and Out – Observer
Andrew B, Geelong Sunday – GSR
Brian, AA Aussie Recovery – Alt GSR
Cliff P, Online Men's Group – GSR
Dianne C, Wed Womens Beachmere - Observer
Donna, Realm of Spirit – Observer
Geoff S, Southern Regional Trustee – Observer
Glenn O, A New Experience – GSR
Helen, On Awakening, - Observer
Jed R, Canberra Free Thinking – Observer
John S, Member – Observer
Kate C, Northern Beaches Breakfast Zoom – GSR
Katherine L, AA Alice Springs Women – GSR
Seren, A New Experience – Observer
Angie, She Found A Solution in Queens - Observer

1.6 Apologies

Paula-Maree, Northern Beaches Breakfast Zoom – VA Secretary.

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1.7 Receive and accept previous minutes

Motion:

The Assembly to approve the previous minutes as provided for 26 February 2023 as an accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Alison G

Seconded: Andrew B

Motion Passed: Unanimous

2.0 REPORTS FROM OFFICE HOLDERS

2.1 Delegate Report

Therese provided the following update:

- Asked to speak at non-English speaking meeting in South America on 10 June 2023 regarding establishment of the Virtual Area. Therese asked if anyone else wanted to join her for this if interested please contact Therese.
- Has been attending Virtual Area Committee meetings as appropriate.
- Posting fliers for Virtual Area promotion in a number of places and notification of this meeting. The WhatsApp thread that has now been closed was a very easy way to promote information for the Virtual Area.
- Attended the National Convention in Perth in March 2023.

Action:

Therese, Geoff S and Dale to connect offline and further discuss the involvement of the Virtual Area at National Conventions.

2.2 Treasurer Report

1. 2023 Conference Levy has been received and paid in full (Attachment 3)
2. Financial Report for period 26/02/2023 to 19/05/2023 (Attachment 1)
Donations \$2629.16 from five groups/two individuals (Attachment 2)
Interest earned \$11.95
Total Income \$2,641
Conference Levy \$1,500 (Attachment 3) now paid in full
Bank fees \$1.40
Total expenditure \$1501.40
Current balance as at 19/05/2023 \$4540.91

Most groups/individuals (those that Treasurer has contact details for) that donated continue to be acknowledged and thanked via email/phone.

Jenny has confirmed that there are no other expenses to come in relation to the Conference Levy.

3. Bendigo Bank (BB) correspondence
Spoke with BB re transaction fees, relates to cheques received from Goldfields for transfer of funds while they were assisting us while Virtual Area bank account being set up.
4. Prudent Reserve update
Refer Agenda Item 3.5.

2.3 Secretary Report

The Chair acknowledged Paula-Maree's efforts in the role of Secretary to date and noted her resignation from this position. On behalf of the Assembly, the Chair thanked Paula-Maree and wished her all the best for the future.

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3.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Nominations and Voting for new Virtual Area Secretary

Helen R, On Awakening expressed her interest in the role of Virtual Area Secretary. There were no other expressions of interest.

Andrew M shared the job description with the group.

Helen R provided a brief summary of her history, Sobriety Date: 24 October 2019.

Motion:

The Assembly to elect Helen R as the Virtual Area Secretary for two years commencing 28 May 2023.

Proposed: Therese Seconded: Matt Motion Passed: Unanimous

3.2 Website Sub-Committee Report

The Website Sub-Committee Report was read by Andrew B.

Alison G spoke to the prototype website which has been constructed with the following attributes in mind:

- Simplicity and ease of navigation, no superfluous content.
- Avoid duplication of content available on the Australian GSO, General Service and relevant Local Service websites.
- Content specific to AA Australia general service structure and running of the Virtual Area.
- Contain pertinent information for Australian virtual groups and their GSRs to maximise opportunities to participate in the general service structure.

Based on cost, available features and projected Virtual Area requirements, the subcommittee recommended the Virtual Area go with:

GoDaddy Website Builder and Domain + Managed WordPress Basic (20GB storage):

- o \$11.95 monthly (\$143.40 annually)
- o Increasing to \$15.95 monthly (\$191.40 annually) in 2024
- o Custom domain for \$0.29 increasing to \$2.91 monthly in March 2024

A prototype Virtual Area website has been created and was screen shared for the Assembly to view: <https://alcoholicsanonymousvirtualarea.godaddysites.com/>

The following feedback was provided:

- Change the wording from 'Group Contributions' to 'Contributions'.
- Remove 'Sydney' and replace with Australia to reflect the aa.org.au website.

Motion:

The Assembly approve the proposed Virtual Area website with the changes discussed.

Proposed: Andrew B Seconded: Jenny K Motion Passed: Unanimous

Motion:

The Assembly approve www.aavirtualarea.org.au as the Virtual Area domain.

Proposed: Andrew B Seconded: Therese Motion Passed: Unanimous

Motion:

The Assembly establish the service position of Virtual Area Webmaster to oversee this task moving forward.

Proposed: Andrew B Seconded: Cliff P Motion Passed: Unanimously

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Motion:

The Assembly approve the Website Sub-committee to continue management of the website until the next Virtual Area Assembly (August 2023) when nominations for the position of Webmaster will be voted on.

Proposed: Dale

Seconded: Andrew B

Motion Passed: Unanimously

Action:

Dale to work with the Website Sub-committee to create a position description for the position of Virtual Area Webmaster and provide this to the Virtual Area Secretary to distribute within the fellowship in the lead up to the August Virtual Area Assembly.

3.3 General Service Workshops

It was proposed to hold three general service workshops immediately prior to the next three Virtual Area Assemblies.

Workshop 1 - AA's Service Structure (August 2023) presented by Chris and David.

Workshop 2 - Conference Charter (November 2023) presented by Lisa R.

Workshop 3 - How to formulate and submit a topic to conference (February 2024) presented by Derek R.

It was noted that Conference recently voted to redo its format, committee structure, etc. which may affect the content being presented at these workshops. Revision of the AA Service Manual and Guidelines will be part of this work. No timeline has been confirmed by Conference for the completion of this work. More will be known after the next Board meeting (July 2023) and then Conference (November 2023).

Motion:

The Assembly approve three general service workshops to be held immediately prior to the next three Virtual Area Assemblies (August 2023, November 2023, February 2024) subject to the presenters being able to provide content in keeping with the changes that are being made by Conference.

Proposed: Dale

Seconded: Andrew M

Motion Passed: Unanimous

3.5 Virtual Area Prudent Reserve

Jenny K provided the Assembly (February 2023) with a budget forecast for the next 12 months which gives an indication of the financial commitments of the Virtual Area.

The Assembly discussed inclusion of costs such as website hosting, contributions to the General Service Office and contributions to AA activities such as Public Information.

Motion:

The Assembly approve holding an amount specifically for the Conference Levy of \$2,500, separate to the prudent reserve.

Proposed: Cliff P

Seconded: Matt

Motion Passed: Unanimously

Motion:

The Assembly approve holding a prudent reserve of \$3,000, separate to the amount held for the Conference Levy.

Proposed: Jenny K

Seconded: Matt

Motion Passed: Unanimously

3.6 Welcome to Virtual Area Document – Paula-Maree

Deferred to next meeting – top of agenda.

3.7 The role of a Social Media Coordinator – Therese

Deferred to next meeting – top of agenda.

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3.8 Virtual Area central Zoom account

No further discussion required.

4.0 OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Group Representation at Virtual Area Assemblies

Dale has confirmed with the General Service Office that GSRs who represent a group at the Virtual Area Assembly are required to be Australian Residents, as per the Department of Immigration's definition of Australian Resident.

Dale has confirmed with the General Service Office that AA Groups that are part of the AA Australia Virtual Area are required to be 'Australian' based with meetings held in Australia.

Action:

Dale to gain further clarification from General Service Office regarding what is meant by 'Australian' based groups.

4.2 Raising Awareness of the Virtual Area

Requested to be a discussion topic on the next agenda.

5.0 NEXT MEETING

Sunday 27 August 2023

1.00pm AEST/AEDT

Host: Goldfields Group

Zoom ID: 904 060 050 / PW: 209971

Action:

Alison G and Dale to update the notice for the next meeting and provide to the Secretary for distribution.

6.0 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 3.30pm with the 'We' Version of Serenity Prayer.