

Virtual Area Assembly - Draft Minutes
Sunday 27 August 2023

Held via Zoom (Host Group - Meeting ID: 904 060 050, Password: 209971)
 Or join by phone (07) 3185 3730
 11.00am AWST - 12.30pm ACST - 1.00pm AEST - 3.00pm NZST

Item	Description
1.0	Meeting Opened at 1pm by the Chair
1.1	'We' Version of the Serenity Prayer read by Andrew
1.2	12 Traditions - Short Form read by Ivan
1.3	Voting at Assemblies 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
1.4	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 aaavirtualarea@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 Cliff - GSR online mens group thursday Linda KK - past delegate new jersey USA Jeff B - Secretary online intergroup - Brian O - GSR AA aussie recovery Andrew M - Acting delegate VA, Goldfields Steve - GSR Triangle group Caroline - GSR On Awakening Helen - Secretary Jenny K - Treasurer, On Awakening Andrew B - GSR Online Geelong Rob - GSR Gympie Goldfields Alan - DAA Aus Observing Amelia E - (did not identify) Anne S - Northern Beaches Break zoom - sec in training Katherine L - GSR Alice Springs Women Joey - Northern Beaches Break zoom - outgoing Sec Brian - Caloundra - WSD Australia - guest today Janine F - virtual service NY intergroup rep - Observing Ivan C - National Indigenous Online - temporary GSR Brooke W - Virtual 3 Legacies - observing Jim R - (did not identify) Joanie J - International 3 Legacies - observing Jed R - Free Thinkers - observer Lisa M - Hiat sober voices - observer Alison G - Observer Dale - Chair - Breakfast Bill & Bob Bob P - Arizona - observer

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3.1	Brian - Brown paper bag appeal. In its first year collected over \$26,000. 25% goes to intl literature fund & 25% to sponsorship Asia zone. Third world countries don't have the meeting availability we have in Australia. BPB is a means of financing to help them. Collected in the week of 10 June. Brian happy to have his details shared. email: diferguson@bigpond.com , 0410 253 211. The Chair thanked Brian for sharing with us.
3.2	Jeff B - Chair Unity Committee, Online Intergroup AA - Purpose & function of OIAA. Presentation, overview of OIAA. History, intention to take OIAA to the next level. Primary reason to exist is to be an intergroup and list online meetings. The Chair thanked Jeff for his time and service.
1.6	Apologies Seren - A new experience Kate - Northern Beaches Caroline - On Awakening left at 2pm
1.7	Receive and accept previous minutes Motion: The Assembly to approve the previous minutes as provided for 28 May 2023 as an accurate record of that meeting. Proposed: Andrew M Seconded: Cliff P Motion Passed: Unanimous - 2 people abstained
2.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS ASSEMBLY
2.1	Social media coordinator - Agenda item raised by Therese who is not in attendance to speak to this. Item closed.
2.2	Other action items as per previous minutes
2.3	Therese, Geoff S and Dale to connect offline and further discuss the involvement of the Virtual Area at National Conventions. Discussions with Geoff had around the broader topic of increasing the awareness of the VA including publishing articles in AA newsletters and publications. Refer to item 3.6 for further details. Action item closed.
2.4	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. Job Description created and circulated with agenda. Agenda item closed
2.5	Dale to gain further clarification from General Service Office regarding what is meant by 'Australian' based groups. As per conference topic 31/2023, GSO has clarified that GSR's must live in Australia to be a part of the VA. Agenda Items Closed. .
2.6	Alison G and Dale to update the notice for the next meeting and provide to the Secretary for distribution. Flyer created and published on AA and VA website. Agenda Item closed.
3.0	GENERAL BUSINESS

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3.3	<p>Election of Virtual Area Webmaster. Note: is not a voting committee position. Alison G nominated herself.</p> <p>Motion: Dale called for Alison G to be appointed to the service position of Virtual Area Webmaster to oversee this task moving forward.</p> <p>Proposed: Dale Seconded: Andrew B Affirmative: 10 Motion Passed</p>
3.4	<p>Election of Area Delegate Dale thanked the outgoing area delegate. Call for nominations. Andrew M self nominated. Cliff P seconded. Proposed: Dale Seconded: Cliff P 9 affirmative Motion Passed. Andrew M confirmed as Area Delegate.</p> <p>Election of Alternate Delegate Decision to wait for the next assembly to vote for this position.</p>
3.5	<p>Host for November Assembly Cliff P - Online Mens Group (zoom details below)</p>
3.6	<p>Raising Awareness of the Virtual Area The chair noted that based on the presentation provided by Jeff B the OIAA have seen a 554% increase in virtual area meetings world wide. While participation in the VA is increasing, further support is need to ensure other online only meeting are aware they can be supported by the VA Writing articles in the various AA newsletter and publications is one way of achieving this. In the past quarter, articles about the work of the VA has been published as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AA Around Australia - Article by Alt Delegate Andrew M ● AA Members Forum - Article by Chair, Dale A. <p>Other known publications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reviewer - NSW ● Pathfinder - QLD ● Serenity Magazine - WA ● B-Line - ACT <p>GSR are asked to request support from group members in writing articles for these publications. If support is needed, please reach to the VA via aaausvirtualarea@gmail.com</p>
3.7	<p>Virtual Districts General discussion about the possibility and need for Virtual Districts with input from Cliff, Steve C, Andrew B, Alison G, Ivan C. Creation of a Virtual District/s is a decision for groups and not one for the VA. Lack of clarity around the process for creating virtual districts. Potential to formulate a Topic for 2024. If groups are interested in this, they are encouraged to contrat each other, alternatively the VA is available to facilitate these connections. Brooke W queried VA Aus (members living in Aust) because each country has different ways of doing things. The Chair reiterated the GSO's criteria that GSR's participating in the VA must live in Australia. Many Groups have a GSR and also a IRG (Intergroup Service Representative). There is no conflict here as the VA is involved in the General Service Structure and the Intergroup in Central Service Structure.</p>

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4.0	REPORTS FROM OFFICE HOLDERS
4.1	Delegate Report Report read by Andrew, as attached.
4.2	Treasurer Report Report read by Jenny as attached. 3 new groups donated and Treasurer acknowledged this as encouraging. Conversation had suggesting GSRs speak to their groups re any ideas and/or activities they would like the Virtual Area to do/assist/possibly fund and submit for November Assembly for discussion.
4.3	Secretary Report No report.
5.0	OTHER BUSINESS
	Andrew - special Conference Topics Assembly 24/9 1pm (VA Events). Encouraged GSRs to arrange a special group conscience to discuss topics prior to attending Assembly. Brian raised issue of surplus funds. Treasurer addressed that we have only been going a year and will reassess next year. Cliff suggested GSRs go back to groups with this to seek input. GSR Reports - the Chair thanked Cliff P and the Online Mens Group for submitting GRS Report (Attached). Encouraged all GSR's to submit reports prior to next assembly to share information with VA and other groups.
6.0	NEXT MEETING Sunday 26 November 2023 1.00pm AEDT Host Group details: online mens group ID: 841 1402 2446 Password: pn9aVB dial in 08 7150 1149 Workshop on the topic of 'Conference Charter' will be held in the lead up to the next assembly. Details to follow
7.0	MEETING CLOSE 'We' Version of Serenity Prayer. Meeting closed by Chair at 320pm

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.

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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:

- 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.

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