***Q: What can I do as ASLO if there is no armed services presence within my Intergroup?***

A:

ASLO work is aimed at three groups: (1) the armed forces (2) public bodies that assist veterans (e.g. the NHS) and (3) charities that assist serving persons and veterans.

Therefore, even if there is no armed forces presence within an Intergroup, work is still necessary and valid, and an ASLO is needed.

For ideas on how to proceed as an ASLO (in particular if there is no armed forces presence within the Intergroup), have a read of the material contained at this link:

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/Members/Service/Disciplines/Armed-Services/Starting-out-as-an-Intergroup-Armed-Services-Liaison-Officer>

***Q: How can I help homeless alcoholic veterans within my Intergroup?***

A:

Local authorities will typically have teams that handle the question of homelessness, and there will typically be a number of charities that handle homelessness in the area.

An ASLO, possibly in collaboration with the PI officer for the Intergroup, can approach the local authority and/or the relevant local charities with information about AA and specifically about the availability of ex-servicemen and -women in AA to talk to problem drinkers about the possibility of AA helping them.

The aim of providing this information is so that the front-line workers, whether local authority or charity, who are actually in day-to-day contact with rough sleepers (many of whom are veterans) will be fully armed with the facts about AA and in particular about the armed services option.

This first of all enables rough-sleeping problem drinkers who are veterans to be informed about AA by professionals they’re already in contact with and so trust, and secondly creates a relationship between the ASLO and these front-line workers, so that, as often happens, the front-line worker can contact the ASLO directly to facilitate a conversation between a problem drinker and the ASLO (or PI officer).

This is the approach we’ve adopted in London, and it has resulted in veterans who are rough sleepers being put directly in touch with ASLOs and/or PI officers, and subsequently joining AA.

I’m not aware of any programme of directly approaching rough-sleeping problem drinkers who are veterans, but there is plenty of experience in facilitating contact through the relevant professionals, as outlined above, and this approach is successful.