

South East London East Intergroup (SELIGe)

Minutes of meeting held on 17th July 2024 8 - 9.30pm

Present:

Brian (gsr Deptford thurs), Tony (gsr Motts it works if you work it & Prison Liaison Officer), David (gsr Motts Not a glum lot), Maureen (gsr Charlton Living Sober), Alan (gsr Kidbrooke), Colin (gsr Greenwich R2R), Harriet (intergroup Social secretary), Patrick (gsr Mottingham sunday), Shaun (Intergroup treasurer), Alison (gsr Deptford Saturday & Electronic Communication Liaison Officer ECLO), Patience (gsr Lewisham newcomers & intergroup secretary), Roger (intergroup Chairperson).

Visitors

Clare, Pennie, Su, Jas

- **Welcome**

Moment of silence, Declaration of Unity, Preamble, and Traditions.
Special mention for Bill G who sadly passed away on Saturday 13th July. Bill was a valued friend to many of us and dedicated AA officer in this intergroup over many years.

- **Introductions and apologies for absence**

Apologies: Debs, Denise, John Paul, Alex, Safo

- **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the previous Intergroup meeting on 7th May 2024 were approved.

Proposed by Brian and seconded by Maureen

- **Nominations and Elections**

- Roger outlined the existing Intergroup services positions which are vacant and an overview of their duties.
- Please note that Alan has stepped down from serving as Public Information Officer.

- The following positions are now vacant:

- **Health Liaison Officer** – working with the NHS & community groups & public health groups etc.
- **Employment Liaison Officer** – works with employers to raise awareness of AA and the services we can offer.
- **Public Information** – works with any public facing events or initiatives to attract people to AA. This includes working with university open days, Lewisham People's Day, and Plumstead Make Merry.
- **SHARE Representative** – SHARE is a magazine for AA by AA focusing on a step a month. The SHARE rep will encourage AA groups (and outside AA eg rehabs) and individuals to take subscriptions to SHARE. Great opportunity to do service and visits lots of groups!

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- **Young persons rep** – an increasingly important role as growing numbers of members under 30 years old join AA.
- **Region reps**
- **Intergroup Chairperson**
- **Intergroup secretary**

Action: All GSR's to announce vacancies at meetings.

If you, your sponsees or members of your group have an interest in any of these roles they will be loving sponsored into the role and supported throughout. They make as much or little of the role as they would like. They can also create a team of people to cover the role. Please note that there is a requirement of at least 2 years continuous sobriety for most positions at intergroup.

Elections

11 present able to vote (in favour/against/abstain)

Nominees provide verbal AA CV before voting takes place.

Intergroup Chairperson - Brian

Nominated by Harriet, seconded by Alison. Vote: 11 in favour. **AGREED**

Intergroup secretary – no-one came forward.

Roger volunteered to take on role for the next meeting (September 2024) only. A new volunteer will need to be elected at the next meeting. This is usually a 3-year commitment. **AGREED**

Region Rep - Patience

Nominated by Tony, seconded by Maureen. Vote: 11 in favour. **AGREED**

Action: Roger to contact Brian re; chairperson role

Thanks to Roger and Patience for their service and welcome to new officers.

- **Intergroup Service Officers Reports**
- **Prison Liaison Officer – Tony**

“Belmarsh numbers have picked up again with 5-8 prisoners attending every week. We are taking literature in to the main prison.

Thameside has 20 prisoners attending every week, with a waiting list, Literature is being taken into the main prison.

We are still looking for postal prison sponsorship, all correspondence will go via GSO so no [volunteer] address will be published, we are struggling to give our recovery program because of lack of sponsors, please please promote this at all meetings”.

Post script; Postal Sponsor Service is open to both men and women volunteers. Please note all inmates are men as we do not have a women's prison in our area. Please contact Tony for more details on 07960 516 608.

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Thameside: Alan is planning to start a step 1-3 meeting at Thameside on Friday mornings. It will be an open meeting for inmates and prison staff will be encouraged to attend to learn how the AA programme works. Jas will take on service at Thameside too.

- **Treasurer - Shaun**

Treasurers Report:

Opening balance on 8.5.24: £12,889.46

Income from groups:

£1780.04

Outgoings

Charges: £15(£5 monthly)

Summer Social: £424.00 (including 100 refundable deposit)

Closing balance on 17.7.24

£14230.50

- **Social secretary – Harriet**

Arrangements in place for **Intergroup Summer Picnic** on 3rd August 2 – 5pm at Horn Park bowls Club, Eltham Road, SE12 8UE. All welcome.

- **ECLO – Alison**

SELIGe micro-site is up and running on the main Alcoholics Anonymous GB website. Up-to-date information and meeting details required.

Action: Roger to liaise with Alison re list of meetings.

GSR's to check their meeting info is current via aa-london.com website or by completing the Pink Form (online or on paper).

- **GSR reports**

See reports document on Google drive and those submitted via WhatsApp.

- Alan raised the issue of finances/ role of treasurer in meetings. Discussion and shared experience. Agreed that this meeting will be Meeting of the Month for August to raise tradition 7 income. Reminder that there is a shared platform AA/AI Anon meeting on the last Thursday of each month.
- Maureen reported that the Wednesday evening (6.30pm) at CGL in Charlton is well attended.
- Patience reported that a treasurer is required at the CGL Lewisham Newcomers meeting [postscript: position now filled as of 18.07.2024].
- Service positions available at Blackheath Step meeting (Friday) & Mottingham Sunday evening. Please see gsr reports for more info.

- **Any other current business (AOCB)**

- Alison reported on the issue of the conduct of an individual in a number of SELIGe meetings, specifically relating to foul language, drinking and predatory behaviour towards other members. Extensive discussion sharing experience and suggestions. The following points were discussed:

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- Tradition 1: "Our common welfare should come first..." means that a meeting should be a safe place for all.
- Tradition 4 "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole". This does affect AA as a whole.
- Tradition 3 "The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking" does not permit such behaviour. The Group is entitled to ban members either permanently or temporarily through a Group Conscience.
- If criminal behaviour takes place in or around a meeting it is appropriate, and would be encouraged by intergroup, for the police to be contacted.
- A cautionary note was raised about 'naming and shaming' the individual at intergroup. This could be open to abuse. The person was not named during the intergroup meeting.
- AA GB has advice on the website about violent and abusive behaviour.
- It was also reported that when the issue was brought to the attention of serving officers those raising their concerns did not feel that they were given appropriate credibility - this is disappointing. Members of intergroup have agreed to support those in this Group and all Groups, taking responsibility to provide a safe environment for all.
- Members of the Group felt that their concerns had been taken seriously by Intergroup and even though there are other/additional avenues to address the issue that Intergroup had done as much as they could. All present agreed to consult with sponsors and fellows who may have had experience in dealing with such behaviour and be allies to fellows who are vulnerable inside and outside of the meeting. This includes signposting support and providing a barrier when someone is acting inappropriately (ie stopping them entering a meeting).

Action: Alison to report back to those individuals concerned.

All GSR's to bring such issues to the attention of intergroup.

Meeting of the Month: August – Kidbrooke. September – St. John's, Saturday 11.15am.

- **Close**
- Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11th September 2024 8 - 9.30pm
- Serenity Prayer

Action Points:

- There is a template on Google docs for serving officers and gsr's to submit their reports. Please complete in preparation for the next meeting.

Serving Officers

Service	Fellow	Elected date
Archivist	Richard	
Chair	Brian	July 2024
Electronic Communications Liaison Officer (ECLO)	Alison	January 2024

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Employment Liaison Officer		
Health Liaison Officer		
Prison Liaison Officer	Tony	
Probation Liaison Officer	Alex	May 2024
Public Information		
Regional Representative	Patience	July 2024
Secretary		
SHARE Representative		
Social Secretary	Harriet	January 2024
Social Treasurer	Keeley	
Telephone Liaison Officer	Jo	May 2024
Treasurer	Shaun	
Twelfth Step Responder	Dee	January 2024
Vice-Chair	Debbie	September 2021
Young Person's Liaison Officer (YPLO)		

Details of SELIGe WhatsApp group are below.

WhatsApp Group

If you would like to join the South East London Intergroup (East) WhatsApp Group use:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/EGm7unoTrONFyiswY3CzRa>

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SELIG(East)

WhatsApp group



This group is to be used for Intergroup business only.

Please be respectful. Do not contact people within the group without their permission.