

**MINUTES OF NORTH WEST INTERGROUP MEETING HELD AT  
CATTERALL VILLAGE HALL, GARSTANG ROAD, CATTERALL, PR3 1XN  
ON SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 12.30 pm**

<b>THE NWIG BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS ARE: -</b>	
<b>Name of Bank</b>	<b>Unity Trust Bank</b>
<b>Name of Account</b>	<b>North West Intergroup</b>
<b>Sort Code</b>	<b>60 – 83 - 01</b>
<b>Account Number</b>	<b>20464532</b>

**Officer's Present:**

Chair	Phil H	1
Secretary	Chris D	2
Treasurer	Jed C	3
ECLO	Neil D	4
HLO	Nigel C	5
Region Rep 3	Suzie	6
TLO	Debs	7

**GSRs Present: -**

Anna D	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	8
Barrie C	Morecambe Sunday	9
Charlie C	Lancaster Thursday	10
Chris D	Settle	Secretary
Chris L	Warwick Bridge (Carlisle, Wed)	11
Deborah T	Parbold Saturday	TLO
Duncan M	Carlisle Monday	12
James F	Lindale Sunday	13
Jim F	Longridge	14
Jo W	Kendal	15
Kath L	Penrith Tuesday	16
Lindsay A	Bartle Beginners	17
Margaret	Lancaster Saturday, St Chads	18
Michael A	Chorley - Monday	19
Nigel	Fleetwood	HLO
Paul N	Carlisle Thursday	20
Phil H	Garstang Friday	Chair
Robert H	Birkdale Wednesday	21
Terry W	Chorley, St Chads	22
Tom B	Garstang Monday	23
Tracy C	Carnforth Tuesday (Standing in for Adrian)	24

**Visitors Present: -**

Andy F	Lancaster Arch to Freedom	25
Cal C	Carnforth Tues	26
Catherine C	Lancaster Women's Group	27
Derek H	Leyland Thursday	28
Edward B	Lancaster	29
Geoff	Brindle Chorley	30

Gill R	Bartle Beginners	31
Jenny D	Lancaster, St Chads	32
Jim T	Bartle Beginners	33
Richard F	Garstang Mon / Fri	34
Rose M	Fleetwood	35
Scott H	Birkdale	36
Steve W	Chorley – St Chads	37
Wendy W	Penrith	38

**Attending remotely: -**

	<b>GSR for</b>	<b>Visiting From</b>	
Dawn	-	Lancaster	39
Catherine	Carlisle Women in Recovery	-	40
Simon	Morecambe Newcomers Wednesday	-	41
Susan	ONLINE Lancaster Teatime Daily Reflections (Friday)	-	42
Susanne	Lancaster Monday	-	43

**Late arrivals: -**

Adam D	Tarleton Friday GSR	44

1

**Introduction: -**

<b>Welcome</b>	By Phil.
<b>Thanks to the providers of technical support</b>	Neil and Jed.
<b>Thanks to the refreshment helper</b>	Scott.
<b>Introductions</b>	Around the table and remotely.
<b>Preamble</b>	Read by Nigel.
<b>Traditions</b>	Read by Tom.
<b>Declaration of Unity</b>	Read by Catherine.
<b>Aims of Intergroup</b>	Read by Richard.
<b>Number of members present</b>	43
<b>Number of members with voting rights</b>	43 – 15 visitors (1 online) = 28.
<b>Signing in sheet</b>	Phil reminded all to sign in please.

2

**To receive apologies: -**

Adrian (GSR Carnforth): Carl (Convention Conveyor): Jonathan T (Appleby): Eliane (Lancaster Women's Group): Liz (Windermere): Sarah (Southport Big Book Study).

3

To agree the **Minutes** of the NWIG meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025. (Paper 2025/16)

Wendy mentioned that she is from Penrith and not Carlisle. This had already been amended in the latest version of the minutes, as circulated on 30/04/25.

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025 are accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the above correction.**

Proposed by: Suzie.

Seconded by: Tom.

4

**Chair's Report** and any matters arising. (Paper 2025/17)

**Report Received.**

**Matters arising: -**

- It was proposed that the following important issues are pursued by NWIG (through the secretary) directly with the Board, in view of the fact that there is no confidence in NWR pursuing them.
  - Quarterly Financial Statements: The new layout, which has been implemented by the new Hon Treasurer Emma, is vastly superior to the previous layout and Emma will be thanked for this. However, these points remain: -
    - Financial Statement for quarter to December 2024 does not add up. Accuracy matters and must be achieved.
    - Now that the new layout has finally been agreed, the quarterly statements to December 2023, March 2024, June 2024, and September 2024 also need to be produced in the new layout, and circulated. (As the information is already available in the computer programme this will not generate any extra work, or any extra cost).
  - Prudent Reserve Deficit: The Prudent Reserve Deficit as at 31/12/2024 is £519,679: -
    - What has the massive increase in expenditure that led to this position actually been spent on?
    - Why is the Board not worried about breaking its own Prudent Reserve policy?
    - Exactly when did AAGB last have a deficit on the Prudent Reserve? What was the date?
    - Exactly how long did it take to reverse the prudent reserve deficit the last time there was a deficit? What date was it back in credit?
- **RESOLVED: That the secretary will pursue these questions directly with The Board.**

5

Secretary's Report and any matters arising. (Paper 2025/18)

**Report Received.**

**Matters arising: -**

- If any reports are given verbally today, either from Officers or GSRs, please forward brief details in writing to secretary.nwest@aamail.org after the meeting for inclusion in the minutes.
- The Action Points for NWIG Officers arising from the last meeting have all been completed or are in hand.
- We have 76 groups in NWIG – and contact details for 66 of them (87%). Those still missing are: -
  - Chorley, St Marys, Wednesday, 11.00 – 12.30.
  - Chorley, St Chads, Saturday, 11.15 – 12.45.
  - Chorley, St Gregory's, Saturday, 19.30 – 20.30.
  - Cumbria Recovery Online, Friday, 18.30.
  - Daily Reflections Online, Wednesday, 19.30.
  - Preston Just for Today, Bamber Bridge Methodist Church, Monday, 10.30 – 12.00.
  - Preston Recovery, Ashton Methodist Church, Monday, 20.30 – 21.30.
  - Preston Bamber Bridge One Day at a Time, St Mary's Parish Church, Friday, 10.30 – 12.00.
  - Whitehaven Keep It Simple, Lowca Community Hall, Monday, 18.45 – 19.45.
  - Wigan, Shevington We Do Recover, Shevington Methodist Church, Monday, 19.30 – 21.00.

6

**Region Reports: -**

- a) To receive the Minutes of the Region meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025. (Paper 2025/19)  
**Minutes Received.**

- b) To receive the NWIG Region Reps report. (Paper 2025/20)  
**Report Received.**

- c) To receive an update regarding the following ongoing concerns: -  
i) Inadequate level of detail in the GSO quarterly financial statements.  
ii) Accounts for the 75<sup>th</sup> event.  
iii) GSB spending notifications, clarify limit and means of notification. (Budget setting)  
iv) Data breach report.  
v) Prudent Reserve.

**Update Received in the Chair's report.****RESOLVED: Dealt with at item 4.**

- d) Any other matters arising.  
**None.**

7

**Treasurer's Report: -**

- a) To receive the Treasurers Report. (Paper 2025/21)
- **Report Received – subject to the following correction: -**
    - **Opening balance 17,251.24**
    - **Income 2,837.26**
    - **Expenses 1,704.35**
    - **Closing balance 18,384.15**
  - The cost of the banners will be moved out of PI expenditure and moved under general expenditure, because all LO's use them.
  - It was agreed to replenish the YPLO budget.
  - Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group Id in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference.
  - The bank account details are on the website and will be circulated with the minutes. (Given at the top of the first page).
- b) It was suggested by the Chair that if a satisfactory response for an explanation of what the £519,679 Prudent Reserve Deficit has been spent on has not been received from The Trustees by the time of the next NWIG meeting, that the assembly may wish to write to the Charities Commission about the problem, as previously agreed. Please take this point back to your groups to discuss.

(Extract from NWIG minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024: Page 6.**VOTE to report to the Charities Commission within 3 months, if satisfactory accounts had not been received.****The Group voted unanimously in favour.)**

8

To consider proposals from groups for expenditure on projects to reach the still suffering alcoholic.

- A) It was reported that NWR pay for adverts on Smooth Radio, and a Google ad campaign that is supposed to keep the fellowship name and helpline number at the top of google searches re alcohol problems and/or help, but that both campaigns only cover Manchester and the surrounding areas, and do not reach into much of our area in NWIG, and definitely not into Cumbria. It was therefore suggested that either NWR could be asked to extend the coverage of both campaigns (Radio and google ads) throughout the *entire* NWR, including Cumbria, or that in view of the size of the area involved, that NWIG could take the initiative and run a radio campaign and/or google ads campaign itself.

Of particular note is the fact that it is believed that once a radio advert is made it remains the property of the fellowship after it has aired on the radio, and that it is possible to then run that same ad on hospital radio stations. In addition, it might even be possible to obtain the advert from NWR and use that, no harm in asking. But it was emphasised that NWIG need a PILO to drive any such potential initiatives forward.

There are three packages re adverts on local hospital radio and this could be a great way of reaching a large audience, although it was noted that it is not possible to test how effective an advertising campaign is.

It is also worth considering running adverts on the screens at doctor surgeries, another way of reaching a large audience.

There was some discussion about whether google ads actually work, and it was thought that maybe they don't.

**RESOLVED: Secretary to ask NWR for a copy of the radio advert for use in hospitals in NWIG.**

- B) It was reported that the Lancaster PI initiative has seven committee members, a provisional date for a local PI event in July 2025, and that the section in the handbook on running a PI event is being followed. However, the date of the event will be considered again at the next committee meeting and might be changed, and/or an additional event on another date added. The event seeks to attract professionals so will be held during the day. The committee are keen to hear from anybody wishing to join the committee, and those willing to help on the day. Costs are forecast as being £30 for the room, £100 for literature and £50 for refreshments; total £180.

**RESOLVED: That £300 is allocated to the Lancaster PI initiative to fund the event.**

- C) There is a member ready and willing to run a 12-step meeting in Lancaster Farms Prison. It would be a daytime meeting, held every fortnight, and the member would need to get clearance first. As he would be travelling a considerable distance to run this much needed meeting the cost would be travelling expenses of approximately £108 per month (120 miles x 45p x twice a month). The proposal was to approve the meeting in principle, and to approve the travelling expenditure for a trial period of three months to run from the date that Nicholas obtains clearance. A report on progress will come back to NWIG through Phil as stand-in Prison LO.

**RESOLVED: That the meeting is approved in principle.**

**RESOLVED: That the travelling expenditure is approved for a trial period of three months to run from the date that Nicholas obtains clearance.**

**RESOLVED: That a progress report will be made at the next NWIG meeting.**

**RESOLVED: That the "worksheets" that Nicholas is proposing to use will be presented at the next NWIG meeting.**

There was a lengthy discussion, the main points of which were: -

- General points: -
  - Tradition One (page 129 of the 12 x 12) clearly states, “No AA can compel another to do anything; nobody can be punished or expelled. Our Twelve Steps to recovery are suggestions; the Twelve Traditions which guarantee A.A.’s unity contains not a single “Don’t”. They repeatedly say “We ought . . . “but never “You must!”.
  - Tradition Two (Page 132 of the 12 x 12) clearly states, “No AA can give another a directive and enforce obedience”.
- Re the instructions to telephone responders: -
  - It was suggested that there are times when a member become so spiritually and/or morally unwell that it is obvious that they are not in a fit spiritual condition, and that action to remove them from the telephone responder’s rota (possibly temporarily) is a proportionate response to such a situation.
  - It was suggested that if NWIG had a Safeguarding Officer they could/would be involved in any situation where a telephone responder was removed from the rota.
  - The TLO agrees that the documents need to be rewritten.
- Re the instructions to 12 steppers: the feedback focused largely on the instruction “don’t meet the still suffering alcoholic in their homes”: -
  - This is not a “guideline”, it is a direct instruction.
  - This instruction contradicts the fellowship responsibility pledge.
  - 12 stepping is one of the most important services we provide.
  - Some newcomers are too ill to make it to a meeting, and their first contact with AA is when a 12 stepper visits them at home.
  - Members are more than capable of judging if a home visit is warranted, and appropriate, or not.
  - The “they are only guidelines” argument is senseless. Guidelines should not be something we adhere to when it suits us, but ignore when it doesn’t.
  - Following this ridiculous “guideline” will cost lives.
- Re inappropriate behaviour in meetings and/or groups. (The new documents under discussion do not address this matter, or even refer to it, but mention was made of inappropriate behaviour in meetings and/or groups in relation to safeguarding matters in general): -
  - We have all the answers we need in The Traditions. Use them.
  - If the issue/problem is inside the law, deal with it in the group’s conscience.
  - If the issue/problem is outside the law, take it to the appropriate authority.
  - We must use the traditions and concepts to protect ourselves and others at all times.
- Re the appearance of unapproved literature on the AAGB website: -
  - The unapproved literature was originally in two different places on the AAGB website. It has been removed from one of those places, but is still available in the second place on the website. It has not been entirely removed.
  - The concern is that literature should NEVER be able to just appear on the AAGB website before it has been considered by Conference.
  - A question was asked regarding whether the unapproved literature was passed at Conference 2025 or not. The Conference report is not available yet, but Suzie reported that she was on the Conference Committee that discussed how to improve our common welfare at all levels and encourage groups to seek their own conscience in regard to the safeguarding guidance, and that the answer was that the Committee asked the General Service Board to: -

- Review and amend Chapter 5 in the AA Structure Handbook, specifically para 5.1, to distinguish between
  - The Safeguarding Policy which applies to the charitable organisation (AAGB), and
  - Guidance provided by the remainder of this section of the Structure Handbook section 5 – Section 8, and
- Review the GSB of AA Safeguarding Policy Document (specifically the language used), and
- Clarify what “safeguarding” means in the fellowship.
- **RESOLVED: Secretary to write to GSB asking for the reviews recommended by Committee four to be conducted as soon as possible and the clarification on what “safeguarding” means in the fellowship to be circulated urgently.**

10

**Liaison Officer Reports** and matters arising: -

- a) Armed Service LO (Sam). (Paper 2025/26)
  - **No report received.**
- b) Electronic Communication LO (Neil). (Paper 2025/27)
  - **Report received.**
  - The zoom access is good today. Neil was thanked for taking charge of it.
- c) Health LO (Nigel). (Paper 2025/28)
  - **Report received.**
  - Intention is to mirror the system working at LRI at Preston hospital.
  - There is a Champions Day at Preston on 4<sup>th</sup> June. This will be a great opportunity to carry the message.
  - Any documents that the HLO wants storing should be sent to the secretary. We are using Google Docs and Sheets at NWIG in preference to the archaic filestore system on the AAGB website)
  - Let Nigel know what literature you took away today please.
- d) Prison LO (VACANT: Phil covering). (Paper 2025/29)
  - **Report received.**
  - We know only have a meeting in one prison, out of five.
  - Wymott prison is screaming for a meeting.
  - Lancaster Farms want to move the meeting to daytime or to Thursday night, instead of the current Wednesday night.
  - Its time to consider having a Prison Committee to spread the workload across our huge area. Let Phil know if you would be willing to be on a Prison Committee.
  - Phil has received one story from a member who got sober in prison, and is still sober five years after release, for inclusion in the proposed booklet. Three more have been promised. Please send him details of anybody else who might be able to contribute a story.
- e) Public Information LO (VACANT: Phil covering). (Paper 2025/30)
  - **Report Received.**
  - The bus company that ran our adverts last time is no longer operating.
  - There are many other opportunities to reach out, lots of things we could be doing, but we need a PILO to convert the ideas into action.

- f) Telephone LO (Debs). (Paper 2025/31)
- **Report Received.**
  - A member expressed surprise at the fact that a relatively new member whom she is sponsoring was accepted for service as a Telephone Responder. It was rather too soon for the sponsee to have a good working knowledge of the steps and traditions, the sponsor thinks.
  - It was pointed out that the guidelines for telephone responders state that a minimum of twelve months continuous sobriety is ideal, but do not, in fact say anything about familiarity with the steps and traditions being a requirement for this service. However, NWIG did vote some time ago to require that telephone responders are familiar with the steps and traditions.
- g) Young Persons LO (Carla). (Paper 2025/32)
- **Report Received.**

11

**Sub-Committee Reports and matters arising: -**

- a) Inspiring Service Sub-Committee Report. (Jenny and Debs). (Paper 2025/33)
- **Report received.**
  - There are now six or seven members of the committee.
  - The committee meets on zoon on the last Wednesday of the month.
  - Only three of the four documents that the committee wished to circulate for approval at today's meeting were in fact ready in time and circulated in advance of today's meeting for consideration in groups.
  - **RESOLVED: That the Inspiring Service Sub-Committee Initial Report, the NWIG Group Officer Welcome Document, and the NWIG Welcome for New GSR's document are approved in principle for circulation.**
  - **RESOLVED: That the final draft of the "Gratitude in Action" document will be sent to the Secretary for circulation asap and will be considered at the next NWIG meeting. (Please discuss it in your groups).**
- b) NWIG 2025 Convention Committee Report. (Carl and Natalie). (Paper 2025/34)
- It was reported that Carl has been obliged to stand down as convention conveyor and that a committee of one (Natalie) is not a committee. (But thank you Natalie for your dedication).
  - Suzie has supplied us with details of a very good potential venue for the event (Longridge Civic Hall), and confirmed that it is available on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025.
  - However, since the next NWIG meeting on 10/08/25 is only two weeks before the proposed date of the 2025 Convention, it was pointed that we cannot realistically form a committee and get all the preparations completed in time.
  - It was therefore proposed that the NWIG 2025 One Day Convention is cancelled and that we concentrate instead on forming a new committee immediately and making a head start on a 2026 One Day Convention asap.
  - **RESOLVED: That the NWIG One Day Convention is cancelled.**
  - **RESOLVED: Please bring nominations for the NWIG 2026 Convection Committee to the next NWIG meeting.**
  - To Carl and Natalie; all of NWIG send you our gratitude and thanks for the work that you put into this, and we hope to see you both soon.

12 **Nominations for vacant service positions:** - (See the Service Handbook for details of the roles and requirements).

i	<b>Archivist</b>	<b>Charlie.</b>
ii	Employment LO	None.
iii	Prison LO	None.
iv	Probation LO	None.
v	<b>Public Information LO</b>	<b>Kath.</b>
vi	<b>Region Representative</b>	<b>Duncan (Carlisle) and Catherine (Lancaster)</b>
vii	Share LO	None.
viii	Vice-chair	None.

13 **Election of Officers:** -

- **Charlie was elected as Archivist.**
- **Kath was elected as PILO.**
- **Duncan was elected as Region Rep 1.**
- **Catherine was elected as Region Rep 2.**

14 **GSR Reports. (Paper 2025/35)**

- **Received.**

15 **Any Other Business:** -

**None.**

16 **Finance:** -

A) To consider forwarding an amount of surplus funds to NWR.

**RESOLVED: To make a contribution of £1,000.00 to cover the cost of insurance and Conference Delegate fees.**

B) To consider withholding the excess of surplus funds over £1,000.

**RESOLVED: To withhold the excess of surplus funds over £1,000.**

17 **Dates of next meetings:** -

10/08/2025	In person and online
09/11/2025	In person and online

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**Notes for GSRs to take back to groups:**

- Can everybody carry on broadcasting that NWIG would be delighted to hear from the remaining groups for which we don't have contacts at the moment.
- Think about visiting Region – especially if you are considering becoming a Region Rep.
- Please put your group number on contribution's to NWIG so that they can be identified. Group ID in banking reference - please put in the first 4 or 5 characters of the reference
- **All groups are urged again to bring specific proposals to NWIG on how to use the surplus funds to reach the still suffering, along with details of exactly how they will actively participate in doing so.**

- If you have items to be added to the micro site, send them to the ECLO at [ecomm.nwest@aamail.org](mailto:ecomm.nwest@aamail.org)
- Everybody interested in establishing a hospital 12-step list in their own area contact Nigel the HLO at [health.nwest@aamail.org](mailto:health.nwest@aamail.org)
- If anybody knows the members thought to be running a meeting in Haverigg prison, please could you ask them to let NWIG have a report on the current position.
- Request stories from members who got sober in prison, and are still sober five years later, for use in a pamphlet for prisons.
- Request help with the production of the prison pamphlet from members with printing and/or publication experience.
- Consider visiting a prison meeting to share.
- Consider becoming a telephone responder.
- Consider adding your name to the 12-step list.
- Ask everybody to speak a little about their own service work and the way in which this has contributed to their sobriety when sharing in meetings.
- Consider joining the Inspiring Service sub-committee.
- Consider joining the 2026 NWIG Convention sub-committee.
- Announce all the vacant service positions at NWIG – particularly PRISON LIAISON OFFICER.

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**Actions to be added to the list of ongoing actions from this meeting: -**

- Secretary: Pursue the listed questions directly with The Board.
  - Treasurer: The cost of the banners will be moved out of PI expenditure and moved under general expenditure, because all LO's use them.
  - Treasurer: It was agreed to replenish the YPLO budget.
  - Secretary: Ask NWR for a copy of the radio advert for use in hospitals in NWIG.
  - Treasurer: Allocate £300 to the Lancaster PI initiative.
  - Secretary: Write to GSB asking for the reviews recommended by Committee four to be conducted as soon as possible and the clarification on what "safeguarding" means in the fellowship to be circulated urgently.
  - Jenny/Debs: Send the final draft of the "Gratitude in Action" document to the Secretary for circulation asap, so that it can be considered at the next NWIG meeting.
  - Treasurer: To make a contribution of £1,000.00 to NWR.
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