



Area C Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous  
**At St. Andrews Church, Laman St, Newcastle**  
 Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**Meeting Started:** 12:05 pm  
**Serenity Prayer:** said by all  
**Tradition 2 read by:** Jim K  
**Meeting type:** General Meeting

**Attendance:** Jim K (GSR Chairperson), Ian M (Treasurer, DCM, PS, LH), Andrew M (Delegate,), Chris W (Kincumber BBS), Stan A (Kincumber BBS), Peter D. (N'castle Beginners), Paul B (DCM Newcastle), Adrian (GSR/Sec Umina), Catherine (Sec/GSR Umina Beach), John C (Treasurer), Penny E (Gosford Women's), Paul F. (No Group), Jeff D. (Raymond Terrace).

**Chairperson:** Jim K

**Voting:** 8  
**Non-voting:** 4

**Apologies:**

**Minutes from the previous meeting:** Were read by all that were at that meeting

### **BUSINESS ARISING**

1. The area assembly is looking for a Postal Registrar.

### **Chairperson**

*Jim K*

Welcomed Central Coast attendees

**Jim K** presented a document to all attendee's which was read by the Area Delegate;  
 What happens at an Area Committee Meeting? (There is more than listed below)

1. Area business that needs discussion is brought up.

2. Bills that need paying are approved.
3. Proposed spending is discussed.
4. Part of the Area Delegates job is to go to conference, another part is to be the driving force of the Area so he is responsible for planning of;
  - a. Fund raising to get him to the conference.
  - b. PI planning
  - c. Area work coordinating (District's working, Goals, Rehabs, detoxes, phones, literature and such).

So these are discussed and committees to coordinate are formed

5. Refining the running of Area meetings.
6. Planning Topics for the conference.
7. The combined Newcastle districts fund things so these are discussed at Area Committee meetings.
8. The combined Newcastle districts entertainment fund and uses of said fund discussed..
9. Districts and what districts are doing discussed.
10. Planning the future direction of Area discussed.

Area C used to do this we need to get back to doing this.

The was a general discussion relating to the above including;

- Should GSR's be invited? Reference was made to the guidelines as to this question. The guidelines exert in short; *d. Committee Coordinators and or AA Members. (ie. PI-CPC Coordinator, Group Secretary and AA Member) may attend Area Committee meetings when asked, to provide the Area Committee with up to date information, without a vote.*
- The question was raised 'should more people vote on the issues?' and response 'GSR's are not involved enough to vote on these topics', the groups have had an opportunity to vote.
- Jim K and Paul B were in agreeance 'face to face' communication was better than by telephone conversations.
- The comment was made it is a matter of 'when to meet' not 'don't meet'.
- It was also commented that an additional committee was required to look after and report to the Area Assembly on 'entertainment and fund raising'. The general feeling of those at the meeting thought there was no need at this stage.
- The Chairperson put to a vote 'is Area C required to have Area Committee Meetings'. The result of the initial vote was; in favour 2, against 6. Two (2) people spoke as minority voice, one being Paul B saying it would create a closer relationship with Committee members (while improving his learning of the positions) and provide greater unity. He also mentioned issues such as 'convention topics' need to be discussed more regularly than 3 months due to the time constraints to maintain deadlines. Paul gave the example of 'topic for the convention' which was resolved later with Paul and Andrew M to convene and prepare report and to submit before the end of June '16). There was no need for a secondary vote as no one from the majority changed their vote, thus the motion was carried.
- Ian M addressed Paul B, letting him know he is open to any communication to assist him.

- Andrew M restated the reason for the breakdown of districts was an attempt to increase the GSR's and allow greater involvement in the decision making process.

## **REPORTS**

### **Lakeview Detox Report**

Since the last Area assembly all weeks have been presented at Lakeview except for the 10 days if was close over Easter, I would like to thank the presenters for their great work

Lakeview Coordinator  
Jim K

Moved: Paul B  
Seconded: John C

### **Delegates Report 16/4/16**

Over the Easter week-end I had the privilege to attend the Inaugural Australian Pacific Convention in Suva, Fiji.

The Convention was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel and was attended by about 150 A.A members and about 40 Al-Anon members from all Australian States and Territories and many Countries which include U.S.A, Argentina , Sweden, Hong Kong, New Zealand, England, India and Ireland.

On the Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> we had the P.I day which was attended by about 170 local Suva Doctors, Government Ministerial representatives, local Village leaders, the press and members of the Local Suva" Bula" group- from this both fellowships received immediate results with 12<sup>th</sup> step calls coming from the hotel staff members that night and more coming over the next few days and with some Fijian people returning day after day just to learn more.

The 170 invited guests were "sponsored" by donations from groups with-in Australia at a cost of \$45.00 ea with many groups supplying or committing to send books and literature when needed.

The Al-anon fellowship received many requests for help with plans for groups to be opened as soon as possible, I realised that we are not affiliated with any other fellowship but if our fellowship had not decided to have Al-anon participation then the enquiries would probably not materialized.

It seems the Fijians hold "Party nights" on week-ends (Binge drinking) and start with "Grog" (Kava) followed by beer and whatever and usually has negative results to some who participate.

I had the privilege to be asked to Chair a meeting on the Friday afternoon titled "the joy of helping others" with Rhonda G as Timekeeper and I was also asked to be the timekeeper of the final meeting.

The Chairperson pointed out our responsibility statement and it was accepted that as an A.A fellowship our duty was to carry the message to those who needed it and to that point we had been extremely successful, although some of the media reports did not go as planned we believe the message has still been delivered.

Those who could stay for the closing day were treated to a Closing Ceremony to beat all others ---- we had the opportunity to thank the hotel staff that had been gathered in front of the stage and we were treated to a farewell song in the Fijian language, by those staff, which left all of us in awe.

The youngest member (1 month, from the Bula Group) received a copy of the book "From one to another", which was presented by the oldest member present Mr Ron C.

Although I attended the as a paying guest (not as a Delegate) I still had the chance to talk to and introduce myself as the incoming Delegate for Area "C" E.R.

Our congratulations go to the committee for their fantastic work in organizing the Convention,

Your hard work was not in vain. We all have planted the seed of recovery in Suva.

Every-thing else on the Delegate scene is quiet and has not really happened yet but should soon.

Andrew Millar  
Delegate Area C

Moved: Adrian  
Seconded: Paul B

### **Treasurer Report**

Opening Bank Balance		\$1,455
Expenditure		
PO Box 196	\$186	
Delegate 'fare equalisation'	\$670	
Closing Bank Balance		\$599

John C  
Treasurer

Moved: Andrew M  
Seconded: Paul B

### **Secretary report**

#### 1. Correspondence from Leigh Farqhar, National PI Co-ordinator

Re: Eastern Regional Forum, hosted by AREA D

Theme: For Fun and For Free

Location: Stapleton Ave Community Centre

Address: 34 Stapleton Ave, Sutherland

Date: Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Time: 9:00am to 4:30pm

Open to: All

Morning and Afternoon Tea provided

#### Contacts

Area Delegate 0432 369 058 or [easternregionareaddelegate@gmail.com](mailto:easternregionareaddelegate@gmail.com)

Area Secretary 0490 516 041 or [easternregionareadsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:easternregionareadsecretary@gmail.com)

The purpose of Regional Forums is to provide direct contact and sharing among all who are active in, or interested in, service work of one kind or another.

#### 2. 2017 Cairns Convention

Flyers will be available on the day of the Area Assembly

Jeff D

Secretary

Moved: Andrew M

Seconded: Adrian

## **District reports**

### **DCM (Newcastle) Report**

*FOTSG, Newcastle Beginners, Grass Roots, Newcastle City Topic Group, Turning Point, Contact Group*

### **Apologies**

**In attendance:** Paul B. DCM, Jim K. GSR Beginners

### **Open with Serenity Pray**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Tradition**

For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

### **Treasure Report...**

**GSR Reports** Groups are doing well and have seen a few members joining groups.

### **Last Month Business**

- Solicitors to Be Visited and completed
- Churches to be planned
- Topics for convention
- Letter To House holds

### **New Business**

- What is needed for Churches (Big Book to delivered)
- Review letter to be sent with pamphlet
- Get new pamphlets for PI
- Shifting boundary for Newcastle district
- Topics for conference
- See helpline co-ordinator to fill vacancies with extra engine server

### **Topic 1**

Topic for 2016 convention Passed at Newcastle Beginners Meeting forwarded to Newcastle District to be discussed and voted on; then if passed presented to Area C by district for discussion and vote if passed submitted to national office for 2016 Convention.

If not passed by District and Area it is not to be submitted.

Area Delegate Convention Member Topic

**Background:** For a lot of years we have had a reoccurring topic on Area Delegate's length of term: 2 years' verses 3 years'. The augment for and against are summed up this way.

1. That a 3 year term puts delegates out of line with the rest of the Area Committee 2 year's terms creating havoc with area Delegate elections - The best candidate's may have left a year before.

2. On the other side it is argued that Area Delegates usually don't become effective convention members till the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their term, so a three year term is needed to have 2 years of effective convention membership.

**Topic 1** As a solution to this I would like to propose a slight change in the Service manual that would allow Area Delegates to server two terms of two years as Area Delegates, with the Terms having to be five years apart. Area Delegates who have served a two or three or in some cases 4 year terms are allowed to serve a second term of two years. Area Delegates that have held Board positions before or after their first term as an Area Delegate Convention Member are excluded from eligibility for a second term as an Area Delegate Convention Member, World Delegates for the purpose of this Area Delegate Convention Member Topic will be considered Board Members and also will be excluded from doing a second term as an Area Delegate Convention Member.

**Conclusion:** This will solve the above problems of points 1 and 2 and also allow a lot of experienced and effective conventionmembers to be available to convention again thus helping the convention and AA as a whole. It will also deal with Area Delegate burn out caused by the three year terms.

#### **Topic 2**

Topic for convention passed at Fellowship of the Spirit Group Meeting brought forward to the Newcastle District to be discussed then voted on. If a yes vote is passed the topic will be presented to Area C and if passed yes submitted to the National Office for 2016 Convention. If not passed by District and Area it will not to be submitted.

**Back Ground:** Last year Area C was left with \$100.00 in the bank after 2015 convention was held in Newcastle.

**Solution:** When Convention is held in an Area we propose that a percentage of the profits from Convention to be given to the Area in which the convention is held. This topic to go to area and be decidedto go to Convention.

**Conclusion:** The percentage of the profits would relieve the burden on the Area for the cost of putting on the convention.

Paul B  
DCM (Newcastle)

Moved: Andrew M  
Seconded: Adrian

#### **DCM Port Stephens & Hunter District (PS&HD)**

### DCM Report To Area C Assembly from Port Stephens & Hunter District 16-04-2016

Three groups are now embarking on a Dr's AA Info run.

Total Agricultural Show is on the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> April & 1<sup>st</sup> May this year. Our District is having its usual site "H1" & soon we will be asking for volunteers to help out for a day or so.

Many thanks to Lyndal for getting more volunteers to help out at the Mater for the current fortnightly format. Also thanks to Lyndal AA is allowed to visit another more specialised group at the Mater 4 times a year.

We had at least 6 members from our district go to the 1<sup>st</sup> Australasian AA Convention in Fiji this Easter. All of them reported the convention was wonderful & they made many new friends. Some have already booked for next years convention in Cairns on July 7-10.

## District Committee Member

Ian M

Truth group

Moved: Paul B

Seconded: John C

## Gaol Report

Presented by Paul B

Over the last three months there has been a large amount of staffing shortages at Cessnock Correction Centre which has hindered AA time to see prisoners. A solution to the problem the days of our visit was changed to Fridays. This has not changed the staffing problems so we just keep trying each week.

Lenny Steele

Moved: Ian M

Seconded: Andrew M

## GENERAL BUSINESS

### General Service Office

The GSO for the Greater District of Newcastle does not have an office and it was suggested the word 'office' be removed from the title to prevent confusion of those seeking contact. Jim K has already addressed this.

A reminder was made of the financial responsibilities of Districts, General Service Office (GSO) and Central Service Office (CSO) due to a district cost incurred at the Newcastle Convention. The GSO receives all revenues generated from admission, literature and paraphernalia sales should fund everything for this event. Although attendances at the 2015 Convention were down it was noted the hall hire was decided less than what it would have been in a major city so the it would still have been profitable a profitable event.

### New Meeting on the Central Coast

A new BBS meeting recently started at Kincumber and is considering introducing workshop/s commencing with service information. This group was represented by Chris W and Stan A. The Greater Newcastle district has purchased 10 discs titled 'Love and Service' which were distributed at the meeting and may be useful for the above workshop and other Groups to distribute, loan or use in workshops.

Comments from the floor included previous positive responses to 'workshops' when preceded by a BBQ. Eg: BBQ @ 11:30am with workshop at 1:30pm.

Paul F

Stood down from position of Postal Registrar

Am I required to be here as I'm not a GSR or DSM, nor do I have a home group? The response was no, then Paul left the meeting.

#### Area Delegates Term of Office

Referring to Topic 1 presented by Paul B (DCM Newcastle report). After a general discussion on this issue it was put to a vote to altering the 'term of office', resulting in 5 votes for No and 3 votes for Yes. Thus the motion was not carried.

#### **Next Meeting:**

St Lukes Anglican Church Hall,

149 Blackwall Road

Woy Woy

1:30pm, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2016

#### **Correction:**

**Meeting will be held at the C.W.A Hall, Corner Sydney St and Ocean Beach Parade Umina at 2.00 P.m**

Meeting Closed at 1:35pm (With Serenity Prayer)

***NB: We are still looking for venues for the Area assemblies for October, so don't hesitate to submit a venue.***