

8th December 2024, Online

DFRAT VERSION

This document is the draft version of the minutes as taken by the CER Secretary and reviewed by the CER Chair. If there are any queries or corrections, please contact secretary.cer@aamail.org before final approval at the next CER Regional Assembly.

1. Reports

All supporting documents including Region/Intergroup/Group Officer reports are available in the online Filestore: www.afiles.org -> Assembly 2024 (4) December, Online

Access to the Filestore can be gained by taking the following steps:

1. Go to <https://afiles.org/register-new.do>
2. Type in your First Name, Last Initial of Surname and your AA Mail email address.
3. Select "Read Only".
4. You will be asked to indicate the authorisation for access to the filestore. Please write in the big box that you wish to request access to: "CER Assembly Online Files Access" and you have been given authorisation by the CER Secretary, Carina H.
5. Click the "Request New User Access" button.

The ECSC will then reply in the next few days with your personal log-in details.

2. Opening

2.1. Opening with a moment of silence, reading of the 12 Traditions and the Declaration of Unity

2.2. Attendance

| # | Name | From | Service Position |
|----|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Alex H. | Berlin IG | RECL0 |
| 2 | Alistair R. | Prague | Treasurer |
| 3 | Anna T. | Costa Del Sol | Region Rep |
| 4 | Arendt S. | Italy IG | Region Rep |
| 5 | Bea | Berlin IG | Region Rep |
| 6 | Bill B. | Prague | GSR |
| 7 | Brian K. | Berlin IG | Region Rep |
| 8 | Carina H. | Vienna | Secretary |
| 9 | Chris S. | Costa Del Sol | Observer |
| 10 | Christian J. | Geneva IG | Region Rep |
| 11 | Dan F. | Belgium | Observer |
| 12 | Deborah | Madrid IG | Region Rep |
| 13 | Ed B. | Bavaria IG | Webmaster/Region Rep |
| 14 | Elizabeth B. | Italy | Delegate |
| 15 | Gilian | North Costa Blanca | Delegate |
| 16 | Harry M. | Netherlands | Region Rep |
| 17 | Ian | Costa Del Sol | RASLO |
| 18 | Iris | RNIG | Observer |
| 19 | Jan J. | IG Bavaria | Delegate |
| 20 | Jens L. | European Online IG | Region Rep |
| 21 | Jeremy S. | North Costa Blanca | Observer |
| 22 | Jo | Geneva IG | Alt. Treasurer |
| 23 | Joel | Zurich IG | Observer |

| | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 24 | Jonathan P. | Skopje | Delegate |
| 25 | Karen M. | Triborders | Alternate Delegate/Region Rep |
| 26 | Karyn | Triborders | Observer |
| 27 | Lars | Netherlands | Region Rep |
| 28 | Laurence | Catalunya | Region Rep |
| 29 | Levey P. | Budapest | Trustee |
| 30 | Linda | Triborders | Region Rep |
| 31 | Marina A. | Bavaria IG | Region Rep |
| 32 | Marisa | Geneva | Delegate |
| 33 | Markéta K. | Munich | Alternate Delegate |
| 34 | Mia | Malta | GSR |
| 35 | Muriel | Geneva | Region Rep |
| 36 | Nigel P. | European Online IG | Region Rep |
| 37 | Paul | Italy IG | Region Rep |
| 38 | Raymond B. | Costa Del Sol | Chair |
| 39 | Rebecca | Catalunya | Region Rep |
| 40 | Rob W. | Spain | PILO |
| 41 | Savannah R. | Budapest Group | GSR |
| 42 | Sarah V. | Berlin IG | HLO |
| 43 | Stephen | Vienna IG | Region Rep |
| 44 | Sybil K. | RNIG | Region Rep |

2.3. Apologies

Peter S. – Archivist, Tenzing B. – Arena Editor

3. Minutes from September 2024 Assembly

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 2024 assembly.

The motion was seconded.

Vote: Passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer Report & Budget Approval

Alistair presented the financial report, which can be found on the Filestore and answered questions regarding the report.

The proposed budget for 2025 was presented. Some members expressed concerns about approving a negative budget. The budget was amended slightly.

Motion: To accept the budget as shown with the provision that the proposed contribution to York is reduced by 500€ to a total of 4500€.

The motion was seconded.

Vote: The motion was approved by a 2/3 majority.

5. Nominations for Open Service Positions & Elections

5.1. Vice-Chair

Paul K. put forward his nomination. Paul K. gave his service resume and answered questions from the floor.

Daniel F. put forward his nomination. Daniel F. gave his service resume and answered questions from the floor.

Paul K. was elected as Vice-Chair with a 2/3 majority.

5.2. YPLO

Christopher S. put forward his nomination. Christopher gave his service resume and answered questions from the floor.

Yasmin B. put forward her nomination. Yasmin B. was not present at the assembly.

Christopher S. was elected as YPLO with a 2/3 majority.

5.3. Conference Delegate

Markéta K. put forward her nomination. Markéta K. gave her service resume.

Willy W. put forward his nomination. Willy W. was not present at the assembly.

Markéta K. was elected as Conference Delegate with a 2/3 majority.

5.4. PILO

Sybil K. had been nominated. Sybil K. gave her service resume.

Sybil K. was elected PILO with a 2/3 majority.

6. Delegates Discussion

General Service Conference 2025:

The Delegates first gave an overview Conference Process and reported that the Conference Questions 2025 have been published in the AA Service News Winter edition. The Delegates are now seeking Feedback from groups, Intergroups and also individual members. Feedback can be sent via the online form LINK or per email to confdel.cer@aamail.org

Background to issues around perceived Lack of Unity between GSB and the Fellowship:

The Delegates gave a brief background to their perceived lack of unity between the GSB and the Fellowship, which goes back to Conference 2022 when Delegates raised concerns about GSO having accepted government COVID assistance funds to cover staff cost, when these could have been covered by the prudent reserve. It was felt that the General Secretary (GS) and board members reacted defensive to these questions and deflected from the actual issue being raised.

At Conference 2023 the CER Delegates observed further incidents were board members and the GS responded “snidey” to questions raised from the floor. The CER Delegates addressed their Conference experience to the board in a letter and received a disappointing answer back in the form of notes written in the original letter.

At Conference 2024 some of the CER Delegates felt there were great improvements from the last year, but this sentiment was not shared by the newer Delegates to the team.

It was discussed that, given the response (or lack thereof) to the previous letter, sending another letter would probably not be effective. Thus, the Delegates want to take the opportunity to raise some specific questions / suggestions with the General Secretary and other board members at the GSO Road Show / Forum in March 2025.

These suggestions can be found in the online Filestore and were shared on screen during the assembly. Assembly members discussed the specific points. Below is a brief summary of comments:

- Suggestions regarding the name ‘AA GB: It is generally understood that AA GB includes Continental Europe and is not called ‘AA UK’. AA GB is also the name of the legal entity. Members from the UK are very much aware that CER is an important part of AA GB. However, it was raised that membership from CER was forgotten in the last membership survey.
- In terms of improvement in unity and acknowledgment, the treasurer reported that we now receive a note of acknowledgment when we submit a 7th Tradition contribution.

- There seems to be a willingness to be more open and transparent. It was cautioned that just trying to point out things that are being done wrong will be met with resistance. Several members pointed out that we do not want to make accusations but rather have open conversations.
- It was suggested that we focus more on a spirit of 'we' instead of pointing fingers at the GSB/General Secretary.
- Using 'confidentiality' may be a red flag. Confidentiality can be used to hide something and will raise suspicion with some people.
- Referencing from people outside of AA has been done in the past. Since in this example it was a quite controversial person it was suggested that we may stop with this practice altogether.
- There is a concept that references the 'custodial oversight' and there is a sense that the board may could do better that, on certain issues, they would encourage regions to exercise this custodial oversight. This would be an important point to raise at the Road Show/Forum.
- Our Trustee reiterated that there is no us/them, it is just we. All Trustees are members of the fellowship. A requirement for being a Trustee is having served as Conference Delegate. Anyone wanting to understand better what is going on, put yourself forward as Conference Delegate, become a Chair of your Conference Committee to join the Conference Steering Committee or get involved in service at a Subcommittee of the board. You will get a better insight into the workings of the board. Remember, all Trustees except of the Non-Alcoholic Trustees are just alcoholics, wanting the best for AA.

7. Intergroup Reports

The following IGs/groups have submitted a report, which can be found in the online files.

- 7.1. Berlin IG – Bea & Brian**
- 7.2. Budapest Group – Savannah R.**
- 7.3. Catalunya IG – Rebecca**
- 7.4. Costa de Sol IG – Anna T.**
- 7.5. IG Geneva – Muriel & Christian**
- 7.6. European Online IG (EOI) – Jens L. & Nigel P.**
- 7.7. Italian IG – Paul. K. & Arendt S.**
- 7.8. Madrid IG – Deborah**
- 7.9. Netherlands IG – Lars & Harry M.**
- 7.10. North Costa Blanca – Gillian**
- 7.11. Rhine Neckar IG – Sybil K.**
- 7.12. Triborders – Linda**

The following IGs/groups have not submitted a report and are encouraged to do so. Below is only a short summary.

7.13. Vienna IG - Stephen M.

Not a lot of service. Recent fellowship events were poorly attended.

7.14. IG Bavaria – Ed B & Marina

Two Intergroup Meetings since the last regional meetings. IG meetings are hybrid. Finances are in good order. New officers including a new Region Rep, Marina, have been elected.

7.15. Millenium Chapel Group Malta – Mia

7.16. Macedonia – Jonathan P.

One recurrent theme emerging from the reports was that Intergroups are becoming more and more interested in cooperating with their host nation via a Host Nation Liaison Officer role. All region reps are encouraged to reach out to other Intergroups who have a Host Nation Liaison Officer to share experience strength and hope.

It was suggested that CER may look into establishing a Regional Host Nation Liaison Officer. The suggestion will be taken up by Steering Committee.

8. Report from the Group Inventory

The Secretary presented the work of the Steering Committee and relevant officers that was done to take up the suggested actions resulting from the Group Inventory from 2024.

Please refer to the detailed report and outcome of actions on the Filestore under “ReportInventoryActionItems”

In order to record two suggestions for CER proceedings in the Digest of Decisions it was suggested to take a formal vote on the proposed changes:

Motion: To adopt the following suggestions that came out of the 2024 Group Inventory:

1. All Officer reports ought to have a short executive summary at the top.
2. The CER Secretary ought to create an annual report that will contain a short highlights report from all CER officers.

The motion was seconded.

Vote: The motion was approved by a 2/3 majority.

Included in the report on the group inventory was also a report on the action items from the previous assembly. All actions had been completed.

The Steering Committee and the Archivist decided to form an Archives Working Group to assist with the digitalisation of the CER archives. Anyone interested in joining this Working Group please contact the Archivist Peter S. and the Secretary at archives.cer@aamail.org and secretary.cer@aamail.org.

9. Regional Officer Reports

All Regional Officers are encouraged to submit a written report. Where there is no written report, only a short summary of the report is given.

9.1. HLO

Sarah V. attended the PI workshop in Costa Del Sol that resulted in interesting conversations and potential initiatives. Many people are not aware of what the different service disciplines are, so it is important to let people know anything they can do to carry the message is important.

9.2. PILO

Rob W. gave his report, which can be found on the Filestore.

Rob has been attending workshops and wants to encourage local groups and Intergroups to spend their 7th Tradition on PI activities, instead of simply passing the money to CER. Public outreach activities can be very simple.

9.3. RASLO

Ian gave his report, which can be found on the Filestore.

9.4. Webmaster

Ed B. gave his report and presented statistics of the website usage. The report can be found on the Filestore.

9.5. RECLO

Alex H. gave her report, which can be found on the Filestore.

The CER website runs two responder service hotlines; the helpline and the group change. The helpline needs more responders. Please contact the RECLO ecomms.cer@aamail.org to find out more.

Alex is available to attend Intergroup meetings to answer any questions about electronic communications and GSO services, such as AA Mail, Intergroup microsites, the Filestore, etc.

9.6. Arena Editor

Tenzing sent his apologies. He did not submit a report. The Arena Working Group finalised the guidelines, which will be presented to the assembly in June 2025.

9.7. Archivist

Peter S. sent his apologies. He did not submit a report.

9.8. Trustee

Levey P. gave his report, which is on the Filestore. Levey P. read out a letter that asks for contributions by the regions to continue doing vital service work.

10. Upcoming Quarterly Assemblies

10.1. **March 1st – 2nd 2025** – Prague (includes the GSO Road Show) – An invitation will be sent out soon. An information of how to make your booking at the hotel has already been sent out.

10.2. **June 7th – 8th 2025** – Online on Zoom

10.3. **September 6th – 7th 2025** – Face2Face – No Proposals yet

10.4. **December 6th – 7th 2025** – Online on Zoom

Intergroups/Groups who are willing to host a Face2Face CER assembly are encouraged to submit their proposal to the CER Secretary (secretary.cer@aamail.org) and the Steering Committee. More information about hosting a CER assembly and how to prepare a proposal can be found [here](#).

11. Action List Arising out of the Assembly

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|-------|---|-------------|-----------|
| 11.1. | Discuss the creation of a Regional Host Nation Liaison Officer position and organize when to bring this before the assembly | by 3/25 | SC |
| 11.2. | Clarify voting procedures and put them in writing | by 6/25 | SC |
| 11.3. | Finalise the Annual Report and print copies for distribution in March 2025 | by 13/12/24 | Secretary |
| 11.4. | Follow up with GSO about creating AAMail addresses for non-official service positions | ASAP | Secretary |
| 11.5. | Add the officers' names for the outcome of elections to the Digest of Decisions where it is missing in the previous years | ASAP | Secretary |