

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH EAST LONDON INTERGROUP (WEST)

2024 SELIG(WEST) MINI CONVENTION

Following the success of what had originally been planned as a single event to celebrate the Intergroup's 30th Anniversary last year, SELIG(West) had then voted to hold an annual mini convention. It was decided that the theme of this year's convention would be 'Stepping into Service' and would begin with three Intergroup service speakers, followed by a light lunch and then a one hour AA meeting, to be held on Saturday 14th September at the Intergroup's meeting venue, the United Reformed Church in Love Walk, Camberwell.

In order to build awareness of the convention, a flyer designed by Jennifer [Social Secretary of SELIG(West) and as such the organiser of the event] was distributed around local groups. On the Friday night before the event on the Saturday, Mick, Stephen and Ryan went along to set up at Love Walk putting the AA pamphlets 'Growing into Service' and 'Now that I'm a GSR' on all the seats.

The doors opened at 12.30pm on the Saturday, and things got underway a half-hour later with Angela L, the Chair of SELIG(West) reading a passage from the AA Service Handbook. Stephen M, the first of the three Intergroup speakers then spoke inspiringly about the importance of getting involved with service beyond only our AA groups, stressing that it is through people coming together that structure is created. Explaining the role of the GSR in linking groups to the rest of the Fellowship, he told us that it is through GSRs coming together that an Intergroup is created with all its outward-facing service disciplines. He went on to explain that the Intergroup will then elect Regional Representatives to represent the Intergroup at Region, which in turn serves the Intergroups, and that a Region will elect delegates to go to Conference, which is the Group Conscience of the Fellowship, and then at the bottom of this service structure is the General Service Board, consisting of Board Trustees, which carries out the decisions of Conference.

Stephen also spoke of his own experience of how he got involved with service beyond his AA group, telling us that it was through the example of one particular person who was very active in service at Intergroup that he was inspired to get involved himself, and that he has undoubtedly grown enormously as a result of doing so.

Lucy G then followed Stephen, speaking about her experience as a Health Liaison Officer, saying that she had taken on this service role as a result of initially attending AA Open Meeting Workshops for medical students at King's College Hospital in Denmark Hill. She spoke of how she could see the medical students' eyes light up when they grasped what AA was all about, and was particularly struck by the large number of students attending the most recent Open Meeting Workshop that she had been to, some seventy students in total. She went on to say that the Open Meeting Workshops at King's had now inspired the setting-up of similar workshops at another teaching hospital.

The third and final speaker was Mick B, who like Stephen had become involved with service as a result of the example of one particular person. Mick spoke of his long experience of service with SELIG(West) where he has held a number of service positions over the years including Telephone Liaison Officer, Health Liaison Officer, Chair and Vice Chair, explaining that whilst these service positions may seem daunting at first, the most important thing to do in his own experience is 'just show up', and how as a result of this, service now just seems to come naturally.

A half-hour break for a light lunch followed the speakers' talks with a great job being done by Andy and Ryan setting up and serving the food along with teas and coffees. There then followed a one hour AA meeting, with Cass as Secretary and Claire doing the chair. It was great to listen to Claire's strong message of recovery as well as her own experience of service within the Fellowship. It was also very encouraging to see the convention well attended.

SERVICES POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT INTERGROUP

All service positions at Intergroup are vital to keep AA running and healthy. There follows a list of service commitments currently available at SELIG(West) that you, someone in your group or a sponsee would benefit from doing:

Telephone Liaison Officer

The Telephone Liaison Officer is responsible for co-ordinating the working of the Intergroup's telephone service activities.

Responder and Twelfth Step List Co-ordinator

This role involves maintaining a list of local responders and twelfth steppers in order to support the working of the Telephone Service. The suggested sobriety time is one year.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair has the responsibility of conducting the Intergroup meeting in the absence of the Chair. The suggested sobriety time is two years.

Probation Liaison Officer

The Probation Liaison Officer is responsible for establishing links with the Probation Services and keeping Intergroup informed on a regular basis. The suggested sobriety time is two years.

Prison Liaison Officer

The Prison Liaison Officer is responsible for supporting the sponsorship of prison groups. The suggested sobriety time is three years.

Armed Services Liaison Officer

The role of the Intergroup Armed Services Liaison Officer is to establish local links with The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force, and any other organisations connected with the Armed Services such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and Veterans-UK. The suggested sobriety time is two years.

Employment Liaison Officer

The Employment Liaison Officer has the responsibility of carrying AA's Message to employers within the Intergroup's area; employment specifically concerns any organisation employing or serving staff companies, trades unions and associations, government departments and/or related agencies. The suggested sobriety time is three years.

Share Liaison Officer

The Share Liaison Officer provides the essential contacts between members, groups and the editorial teams, and will actively encourage the contribution of articles and letters, and the promotion of the magazines. The suggested sobriety time is one year.

Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO)

The YPLO will be someone who came into AA at the age of thirty or younger. The service commitment will involve establishing close working relations with other service disciplines, in particular the Public Information Officer to assist with presentations where the audience is likely to include a significant proportion of young people, such as talks to schools, universities and young offenders' institutions etc. The suggested sobriety time is two years.

Should you feel you could commit to any of these service positions, please contact SELIG(West) Chair, Angela L on 07425 906867 or email: angela.lacey@gmail.com

HELP NEWCOMERS TO FIND MEETINGS

It is very important that correct details of AA meetings are available online, as many newcomers start their search for a meeting either online or by ringing the AA helpline (which uses the online information). Please therefore keep the aa-london.com website informed with the current status and details of your meeting.

Existing meetings can be updated by clicking on "ADD OR UPDATE A MEETING" on the aa-london.com Home page.

Any details updated with aa-london.com will be automatically forwarded to our General Service Office to be updated on www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk (unless members opt not to), thus avoiding the need to update twice.

NEXT INTERGROUP MEETING

SELIG(West) will be holding its next meeting at **Camberwell Green United Reformed Church, Love Walk, SE5 8AE** on **Wednesday 27th November 2024 (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start)**.

Please note that any AA member is welcome to attend as a visitor to find out more about what goes on at Intergroup.

