

# **Continental Europe Region (CER)**

## **Minutes of Meeting June 6&7 2009 – Madrid, Spain**

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### **I. Contact**

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Hi All-

If you want to follow-up on anything in this report you may contact me at:

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CER's web address is WWW.AA-EUROPE-NET. You will find European English-speaking meeting lists, CER reports, and CER officers' directory.

### **II. Background**

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CER is a region within the service structure of GSO-York. CER is the link between the AA groups and York. From its members come Continental Europe's delegates to the yearly GSO Conference held in York.

In CER are representatives from various IGs. There are also officers some of whom are IG reps. When there aren't enough IG reps then officers are elected from the general region. Consistent with guidelines from the "AA Service/World Concepts" CER is top heavy. Officers include Chairperson, Treasurer, alternate delegates, past delegates, and liaison officers for sub groups such as electronic media and Youth Outreach. At this meeting there were 8 voting members paid for by their IGs. There were 13 other voting members paid for by CER.

The purpose of CER is to:

- Provide an opinion from the region on GSO past actions and proposed activities
- Liaise between IGs on important subjects such as public information (PI) and budget
- Carry the message of recovery from the groups to central administration

CER is unusual in that it covers a large geographic region. Also, individual groups in the region function with minimal full-time members and have many visitors. And, they must coordinate with a host nation. As a result running a CER is expensive both in money and in the time to accomplish tasks.

These issues will be referred to in later parts of this report.

### **III. CER Passing the Message –**

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**A. Reports from Intergroups.** Each group represented at CER gave a short report

**Germany: Around Stuttgart** – Holding a round-up and new member festival in October

**Netherlands** – Donating packets to new comers, hold PI meetings around country, running help phone line

**Prague** – 32 meetings per week. A bi-lingual (English/Czech) convention will be held in Croatia

**Sweden** - translating "Language of the Heart" into Swedish. English meetings springing up in other towns. There will be a convention for young people in Stockholm in July.

**Madrid** – membership remains small

**Brussels** – a trilingual poster put up in metro, North Sea Convention continues

**Berlin** – spoke to Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at international school. New English groups in Leipzig and Dresden.

**Rome** – same ole', same ole'

**Costa Del Sol** – 40 meetings per week, visit prisons, advertising in English-language publications and on radio. Has a convention in December

**Milan** - 20 regular members. Spoke at a school. Ads in English-language papers.

**Denmark** (not present) - 3 meetings. 10-20 members. Danish AA is having first-ever AA public service announcements on national radio.

**Young People** – Makes presentations in schools. Trying to create a network of at least one young person from each IG. Looking into streaming DVD, "Who Me", on GSO website. The chairperson, Dallas, has offered to come down to AA-Riviera and help out.

**AreaA Newsletter** - CER communication tool. No current issue. New editor – see below

**PI Liaison** – Dorte has resigned. No report

**Archives** – All groups are encouraged to submit a brief history. A fill-in electronic form is available

#### **IV. Reports from March Conference**

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Conference revolved around a set of questions which the AA groups had given input to. Each of the CER delegates was assigned to a committee to discuss a subset of these questions – usually 2 or 3 questions per committee. A full report from Conference is due in August. Below is a "thumbnail" of each our of delegates' reports:

**Committee 1** – Q. In 2008 Conference was tasked with how to create literature on the evolution of the AA Service Structure. How would this be best achieved? A. A short outline was presented with our delegate and others thought was inadequate. The AA board was perceived by some as shirking responsibility. Q. Should Group Service Representative be changed to General Service Representative? A. No.

**Committee 2** - Q. Should Conference take an inventory of itself? A. Yes. The committee voted to restart the process that was outlined in 1999. Q. Would Conference consider holding a Primary Purpose week? A. Delegates didn't understand question and as a group they abstained.

**Committee 3** - Q. Could you share experience on personal responsibility and its place in AA at every level of service? A. Directed by HP each member responsibility carries the message in their assigned AA tasks. Q. How can Conference raise awareness of the use of AA money in carrying the message? A. Use the literature – The Pot, The AA Group page 10, Guidelines for GB #12. Raise awareness of Development Funds from the sale of Big Book used in countries just beginning AA. Share at local and IG level how monies are spent.

**Committee 4** – Q. Would you share experience with use of "open" vs. "closed" description of meetings. A. "Closed" is used inconsistently in the literature and often misunderstood. Suggest making literature consistent and clearly defining in a prominent place on all electronic communications. Q. How can the GSR best use literature to enhance their role? A. Study it so that they can make recommendations.

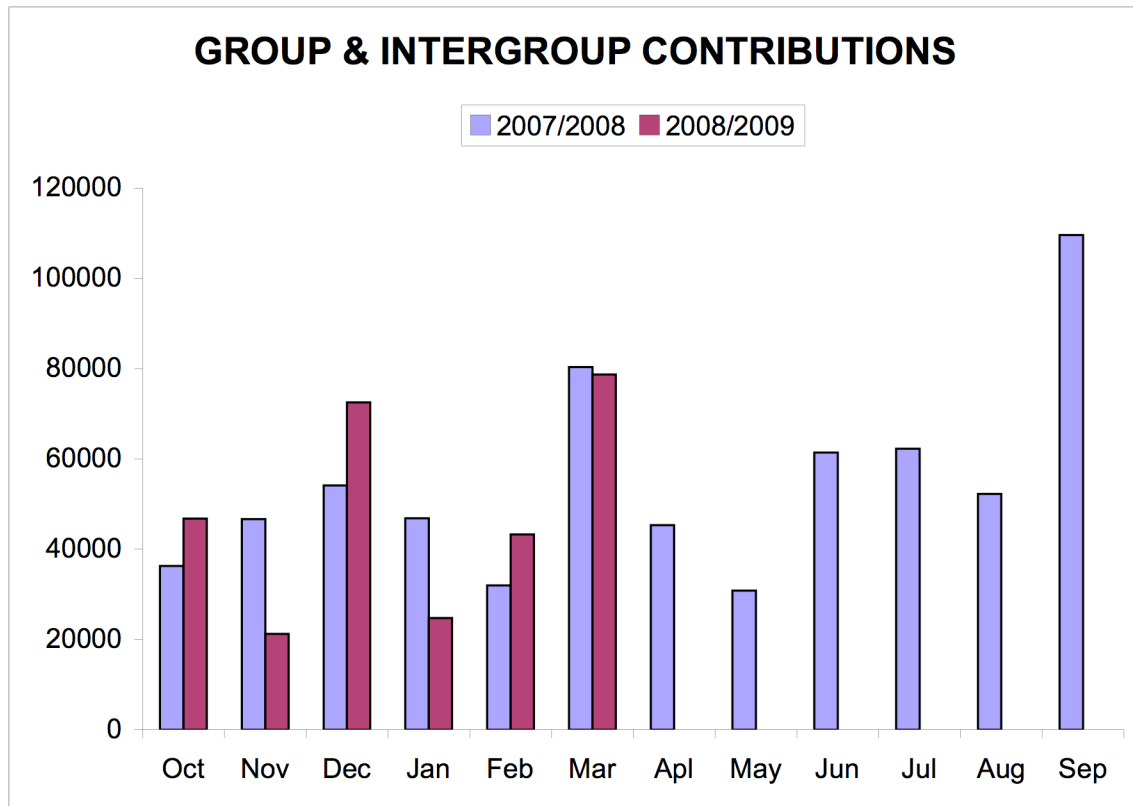
**Committee 5** – Q. Share E/S/H of leadership in AA. A. Leadership needed to communicate AA structure. Important points spelled out in AA literature. Q. Would uploading audio of plenary sessions stimulate interest among fellowship. A. No.

**Committee 6** – Q. Would fuller understanding of our principle of anonymity improve our ability to fulfill primary purpose. A. Yes. Review literature and discuss our personal experiences in group. Q. Should GSO staff be able to vote at Conference. A. No.

## V. CER Administration

**CER Finances** - CER has taken in € 6,924.4 in 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009. These contributions come from various IGs particularly Tri-Borders, which is in Germany. 65% of our expenses are travel to CER meetings. We are running a slight deficit but trying to start a prudent reserve.

**GSO Finances** - Contributions are 20% below last year.



Literature sales are down. GSO has stopped incurring overtime to stem expenses. They have suspended new projects. Their 2 main pass-the-message activities were a House of Commons Day and distribution of a DVD, "Journey of Discovery" to each AA group.

**CER Cost Reductions** - Given the situation CER voted to go from 4 to 3 in-face meetings per year beginning 2010. Also, the number of possible reimbursable positions has been reduced. Travel expenses of former Conference delegates will not be paid for. A couple other positions were removed from the payable list.

⇒ I believe there could be more reductions. While the togetherness of CER meetings is important for morale and dealing with GSO, there could be more streamlining here. Also, some of CER's activities could be conducted by video conferencing. GSO is already looking into this for their operations.

### Other Admin

- CER Next Meetings - Milan in September. Stockholm in December. Attendees were nearly unanimous in agreeing to home-stays to cut costs.

- CER Input to 2010 conference - Any member may submit material for conference. This could be in the form of 1) a question about how to best pass the message 2) a suggested share session 3) an operations question to the GSO board. I volunteer to organize a group to discuss AA-Riviera input to Conference. All submissions must be received by CER by August 31, 2009
- Changes in CER Personnel - PI Liaison Officer Open, Telephone Coordinator -accepting nominations. Karen M. – elected Assistant Treasurer.
- CERES – group to create an association for CER. Still working.
- ECLO – Electronics committee of CER. Site working well. ECLO will not create a bulletin board for the site. CER has storage space available on GSO York site.
- Telephone Committee – CER is willing to fund countrywide telephone service. Only Germany participates and system is working well.
- Secretary Report – “Welcome to Region” handbook approved. All IGs are asked to submit officer contact information.
- ArenA – Jay G. from Stockholm elected Editor and Jens of Copenhagen volunteered for committee

**CER Tasks for AA-Riviera**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Submit names of IG officers to CER Secretary	Karl O. & Maria P.	
Communicate CER activities to individual groups	Karl O. & GSRs	
Organize AA-Riviera workgroup to give input to conference	Karl O.	
Encourage groups to complete archive fill-in-form	Theo C.	
Upload this report to AA-Riviera.org	Mike C.	