**AFINet Annual General Meeting 29 September, 2022 at 7:30 (UK time)**

39 AFINet members attended the AGM

1. **Minutes of the AGM held on 09/09/2021 were approved with no amendments.**
2. **Chair of Trustees’ Gallus Bischof gave an update on AFINet activities and ongoing projects.**

Chair Dr Gallus Bischof expressed his regret that AFINet members could not meet in person; and reported that everything AFINet has been undertaking lately has been influenced by Covid pandemic.

The highlights of his report were that:

* The membership status is good, we have currently 508 members from 43 countries.
* Nevertheless, we want to increase membership further, and we especially want to increase membership from low-middle income countries.
* After we had another successful virtual conference in September 2021 with 74 participants, 16 presentations and one round table discussion, we are planning to organize our second face-to-face conference on June 15-16 in Rotterdam. A call for abstracts will be sent out in late October or November 2022, and abstract submission will be open in January and February 2023. Notification of acceptance will be sent out no later than mid of March 2023 in order to give participants enough time to plan their travels. In addition, bursaries will be offered to participants who otherwise could not attend the conference. In addition, a survey on preferences regarding the formats offered at the conference will be sent out to all AFINet members after the conference in the first week of October.

Gallus Bischof thanked Richard Velleman for organizing a monthly series of Webinars on AFINet-related topics, available for everyone in- and outside of AFINet. Webinars have been promoted not only within AFINet, but also through other organisations dealing with topics relevant for AFINet. So far, 21 Webinars have been successfully realized and have been well received by participants from all over the world, including people who are not (yet) members of AFINet. The trustees decided to move on to a bi-monthly mode in 2023, and times will be more flexible in order to enable members from different time zones to participate.

* The Webinars are always recorded and made available at the AFINet Website within a few days following each Webinar. AFINet members interested in presenting a Webinar on an AFINet-related topic should contact Richard Velleman ([hssrdbv@bath.ac.uk](mailto:hssrdbv@bath.ac.uk)).
* A major way of communicating with AFINet members and on providing AFINet-related materials is our website [www.afinetwork.info](http://www.afinetwork.info). The focus for the website is as a repository, a place where members can easily access materials such as unpublished (and some published) papers, assessment tools, and latest versions of intervention manuals. Some AFINet materials are already translated into languages other than English and we have considered whether to translate parts of the website and further materials but this has not been a priority. However, the website now has a ‘Select Language’ button (top right on the first page) which creates an automatic translation of all text on the website (but not of any downloadable documents). We would strongly encourage all members willing to translate materials from the language in their own language in order to make our materials available for non-English speaking communities. To further improve this facility, all AFINet members are encouraged to share research findings and materials for clinicians, researchers and family members in their language. Please send material to [administrator@afinetwork.info](mailto:administrator@afinetwork.info), with some indication of what the material is about.
* AFINet is aiming to edit an International Handbook on Addiction and the Family. Several AFINet members have already volunteered to contribute, and the Editors (Marcela Tiburcio, Abhijit Nadkarni, Jim Orford, Richard Velleman, Gill Velleman and Gallus Bischof) have approached authors from outside AFINet as well, in order to make the handbook a true reference work in the field. After long negotiations, the Book proposal has been accepted by Springer be. If you are interested but have not responded to our first call, you can send an email to gallus.bischof@uksh.de.
* Development of the 5-Step Method has played an important role in the history of AFINet and of the Addiction and the Family (ADF) group that preceded AFINet. Trustees are agreed that AFINet wishes to promote all effective forms of help for AFMs, not only the 5-Step Method, but also agrees that AFINet provides ‘a home’ for the 5-Step Method. During the last year members of AFINet have been active in promoting the 5-Step Method by training practitioners and trainers and/or collaborating on incorporating the Method into services or research projects, sometimes on a national level. During the last year there have been 14 courses run by accredited 5-Step Method trainers in in England, Ireland, Italy, Holland and New Zealand.
* Many thanks are due to Eileen Farrar, Martha Canfield, Anne Whittaker, and Cassandra Borges Bortolon, for having edited and put together excellent AFINet Newsletters, approximately every six months, during the last year (and for the years prior to that). The last Newsletter was published in July 2022.

[The 2021 reports of both the Chair and Treasurer and the minutes of the 2021 AGM are available at https://www.afinetwork.info/members/agm-2021 where the constitution, previous reports and AGM minutes can also be found (member login required).

The 2022 reports of both the Chair and Treasurer are available at <https://www.afinetwork.info/members/agm-2022> (member login required)]

1. **Treasurer Professor Richard Velleman presented a report on AFINet’s current financial status (see attachment).**

The economic situation of AFINet has improved due to generous donations especially from Organizations receiving 5-Step Method training and from conference and webinar participants. Since there are ongoing costs regarding the maintenance of the website, it was discussed whether introducing fees might be an option to financially secure the future of AFINet. An alternative option (to be discussed further) might include an option for voluntary membersip fees for those who can afford it.

1. **Ongoing plans, Conference 2023:**

Beside the book project, the trustees are planning to hold a face-to-face conference in June 2023 in Rotterdam, organized by our trustee Dorine van Namen. Dorine has been able to obtain a grant from the city of Rotterdam that will be crucial for making this event possible. The University of Rotterdam will be providing rooms for free. Many thanks to Dorine for her invaluable engagement.

1. **Election of Trustees**

Fourteen members have served as Trustees since 2021: Gallus Bischof (Chair of Trustees; Germany), Richard Velleman (Treasurer; England), Gill Velleman (Secretary; England), Cassandra Borges Bortolon (Brazil), Eileen Farrar (USA), Jim Orford (England), Tuuli Pitkänen (Finland), Ronaldo Rissetto (Brazil), Ed Sipler (Northern Ireland), Lorna Templeton (England), Paul Toner (Northern Ireland), Dorine van Namen (Netherlands), Alicia Ventura (USA), Anne Whittaker (Scotland). Since the last AGM in September 2021, Trustees have held four meetings, all online. For the current election, Lorna Velleman, Ronaldo Risetto and Paul Toner are not standing for re-election. Gallus Bischof expresses his gratitude for their support while serving as trustees.

AFINet members standing for election are: Gallus Bischof, Richard Velleman, Gill Velleman, Cassandra Borges Bortolon, Eileen Farrar, Candice Groenewald, Jim Orford, Tuuli Pitkänen, Ed Sipler, Dorine van Namen, Alicia Ventura, Anne Whittaker.

The vote was supervised by Therese Collins, all Candidates were elected without a dissentient vote and six abstentions from voting.