

Minutes for the NEMDAA Intergroup Council Meeting on 23 January 2024

The Council Chair called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm on 23 January 2024 with a moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer. The meeting is posted on www.NEMDAA.org.

Roll Call:

- **Attendance: Total = 20**
- **At the Intergroup Office (10):**
 - **Officers (2):** Chair (Sunday Reflections), Secretary (Daily Reflections)
 - **IGRs & Committee Chairs and Members (8):** Back to Basics (Area 29 Chair), Bel Air Women's Big Book, Celebrate Sobriety, Just for Today, Plug in the Jug, Solution for Living, Rising Sun Group, Area 29 Alternate Delegate (Visiting)
- **On Zoom/Phone (10):**
 - **Officers (1):** Treasurer (Sobriety on Friday)
 - **IGRs & Committee Chairs (9):** Archives Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair, Finance Committee Acting Chair, Institutions Committee Chair (Rule 62), Emmorton 8:30 Group, Forest Hill Friday Night, Good News Group, North East Big Book, Pursuit of Happiness

Officer & Committee Reports:

- **Chair's Report:**
 - The Chair reviewed the report from the agenda, which is posted to the website, beginning with an announcement that the next Bingo event will take place on 2/17. The Chair and her home group (Sunday Reflections) will host the event and tickets (paper only) are still available.
 - The Chair shared that the office has had heating issues; the property manager has been notified. The Intergroup also renewed its lease through February 2025 at \$625/month.
- **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary asked if there were any requested corrections or additions to December meeting minutes, which were posted to the website for approximately one month. A motion was made to accept the December minutes as written. The motion was seconded, none opposed, and the motion passed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer reviewed the December/end of year financials, which are posted to the website. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded, none opposed, and the motion passed. There was additional discussion about medallions. The office was notified earlier today that Wendell's (the vendor from which we purchase sobriety medallions) will be increasing all of its prices from 5-15%, depending on the product. A suggestion was made for the office staff to research whether there are less expensive, alternative sources. The Intergroup Chair took an action to follow up on this suggestion.
- **Office Coordinator:** The Intergroup Chair reported that the office staff purchased a WordPress guidebook to facilitate working with the Website Committee on the transfer of responsibility for website content updates from the Committee to the office.
- **Answering Service:** The Intergroup Chair reviewed an email update from the Answering Service Chair, which stated that the Answering Service is running smoothly. The Answering Service is willing to take on extra hours due to inclement weather or any early office closings and is also willing to take on up to seven (7) more groups. The Answering Service thanks participants for their service!

Minutes for the NEMDAA Intergroup Council Meeting on 23 January 2024

- **Cooperation with the Professional Community / Public Information (CPC/PI):** The Intergroup Chair shared a suggestion on behalf of the CPC/PI Committee Chair to compile a list of places where information is needed and then ask groups to commit to keeping specific locations stocked with information. We could use a spreadsheet to track the locations and responsible groups.
 - The Archives Committee Chair suggested that the CPC/PI Chair reach out to the Districts for this information.
 - Other attendees suggested supplying hotels with meeting guides and pamphlets.
 - It was also suggested to share with the CPC/PI Chair a link to the AA Guidelines for CPC: <https://www.aa.org/aa-guidelines-cooperation-professional-community>, as well as information about the virtual Area 29 PI & CPC meeting scheduled for 3/17: <https://www.marylandaa.org/events>
- **Finance:** The Finance Committee Acting Chair shared that the Committee hasn't met since the Council approved the 2024 budget in December. The Acting Chair is planning a meeting for next week and will discuss the medallion price increase.
- **Institutions:** The Institutions Committee Chair shared the following updates:
 - The Harford Memorial Hospital Behavior Health Unit (BHU) will officially close on 2/6/24, so the last meeting will be held on 1/29/24. The BHU will re-open at the new Aberdeen location with meetings to resume on 2/12/24. The Institutions Committee is still awaiting an update from the BHU staff with specific information for the new meeting location (floor, room, etc.). Meeting day and time will remain unchanged.
 - The Concerted Care Group (CCG) in Elkton, MD reached out with interest in having meetings at their location. The Institutions Chair is gathering information.
- **Ways & Means:** The Intergroup Chair shared a report from the Ways & Means volunteer. No venues have responded to requests for planning information for future events. The Committee will skip February since there is already a Bingo event planned. The volunteer is open to suggestions and thanks all members for their patience and consideration.
- **Website:** The Intergroup Chair reported that the Website Committee looked into an email that the office received from a member, which notified us that the Intergroup website is very difficult to find using Google. Earlier today, the Website Committee lifted the "robot block" to improve our search results. It was previously blocked to keep the website from crashing. The Intergroup Chair will ask the Website Committee to monitor the website status and provide an update at the next Council meeting.
- **Archives:** Nothing to report – the Archives Committee Chair noted that he has not been to the office since December to work on the archives. Other members commented that the new cabinets look great!

Old Business:

- **Meeting Directories:** The office still has a surplus of Spring 2023 meeting directories but there have been numerous meeting changes, warranting a reprint. The Secretary will send a bulletin announcement to the office to request group updates by 3/31/24 in order to print new directories in April.
- **New Year's Eve (NYE) Dance:** The report has not yet been finalized for the event. The Treasurer will follow up with the ad hoc NYE Dance Committee for final numbers.

Minutes for the NEMDAA Intergroup Council Meeting on 23 January 2024

New Business:

- Bingo: This was listed on the agenda as new business but was discussed in the Chair's Report. No further discussion at this point in the meeting.
- Area Report: Two Area 29 representatives attended the Intergroup Council meeting to provide an update on upcoming events.
 - The Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) will be held on February 22-25 in Hershey, PA. The Area 29 Chair encouraged all to attend if they can.
 - Founders' Writings Sharing Sessions: In light of recent changes to our literature, the General Service Office is asking for Fellowship input on how we should treat the Founders' writings. Area 29 is hosting four upcoming Sharing Sessions via Zoom for members to provide their feedback to the Area Delegate, who will relay the feedback to the General Service Conference. Information for these sessions can be found on the NEMDAA website.
 - The Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) will meet on 3/23/24 in Parkville, MD. This is our opportunity to learn more about and share our opinions on some of this year's General Service Conference topics. All AA members are welcome to attend and encouraged to participate!
 - Area 29 just completed a full WordPress redesign of their website – check it out at: <https://www.marylandaa.org/>

Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm with the Responsibility Statement and The Lord's Prayer.