

Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

Intergroup Council Monthly Meeting

Date: November 26, 2024

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with the Serenity Prayer. The roll call followed.

Attendance: Total: 16

In-person:

Officers (2): Chair, Secretary (IGR Emmorton Group)

Intergroup Representatives (IGRs), Committee chairs, and members (5): IGR Celebrate Sobriety (also Lunch Bunch), IGR Good Orderly Direction, IGR Three Legacies; Ways and Means Chair, IG Office Manager (also Morning Group IG liaison)

On Zoom/phone:

Officers (1): Treasurer

IGRs, Committee chairs, and members (8): IGR Good News Group, IGR Pursuit of Happiness, IGR Solution for Living, IGR Sunday Reflections; Answering Service Chair (Alt-IGR Sunday Reflections), Archives Chair, Institutions Chair (IGR Rule 62), Website/Technology Chair (IGR Rising Sun Big Book)

Council Chair report: The chair brought up the December change of meeting date. The Intergroup (IG) Council will meet the third Wednesday, December 17, rather than the fourth Wednesday.

Secretary report: The secretary presented the October minutes and no corrections or amendments were requested. There was a motion to accept and a second. October minutes accepted unanimously.

The secretary reminded attendees that minutes for review will be posted to the IG Council meeting events page at least a week in advance of the monthly meeting.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer presented a summary of the council's financial reports as of October 31, 2024:

Account balances:

- Operating Account: \$8,087.35
- Prudent Reserve Account: \$23,802.74

Revenue:

- Group Contributions thru October is \$22,083.12
- Individual Contributions & Birthday Plan thru October is \$3,946.81
- Office Events total \$21,977.00
- Literature & Medallion Sales total \$12,809.80
- Interest income totals \$20.85

Total Revenue is \$60,816.73 which is 93% of our budgeted revenue for 2024.

Expenses:

Through October, we have paid out a total of \$57,858.37 which is 91% of our budgeted expenses this year.

The treasure answered questions from attendees:

Q: Does the “office event” list item under revenue mean IG events?

A: Yes, everything Ways and Means falls under events.

Q: How do I see how much my group has contributed?

A: Groups can view group contributions on the sheet provided—either as distributed or posted online.

There was a motion to accept the report presented and a second. The treasurer’s report was accepted unanimously.

Office staff report: The Office Operations Committee continues to meet. They put an announcement in the bulletin to fill a position available on the weekend.

The council chair answered a question from the floor:

Q: Any sobriety requirements for the position?

A: At least three years.

Q: The Website/Technology Committee chair noted that the office did receive emails expressing interest in the position. Are these being responded to outside of the shared inbox?

A: One email was followed-up already. For the second received email, Council chair will follow up with the Office Operations Committee volunteer after tonight’s meeting.

Standing and ad hoc committee reports

Finance (standing): (position open)

Answering service (standing): All things are well. There is an occasional Comcast glitch that prevents people signing in. There is room for 4 or 5 more groups to participate.

The committee chair answered a question from the floor:

Q: Have we put an announcement in the bulletin?

A: No. We can put a blurb in next week’s if there is space. Website/Technology chair will take care of this.

Institutions (standing): Running well. For January [2025] the committee chair plans to reach out to all the groups currently participating and see if help is needed in any places.

From the announcement in the bulletin, the chair has 6 to 7 people interested in helping put out literature. Chair will arrange a meeting with those interested. The chair has information from previous CPC/PI committee chair about where literature is displayed and will use that to start discussion. After meeting as a group, the second step will be getting pamphlets after looking through the literature to see what’s recommended for placing in healthcare etc. places.

Website/technology (standing): The website and bulletin are running smoothly.

The committee chair had no update about the plugin add-on for WordPress—a way to add a text box so groups can add homegroup name or number to online contributions. That would eliminate the need for

a separate email from groups about their contributions and the treasurer can then more easily assign and acknowledge groups.

Ways and Means (ad hoc): The Halloween event made \$185. Upcoming events are the District 30 Thanksgiving alcahthon at Grace Reformed Episcopal Church in Aberdeen, 10 am to 10 pm, meetings every other hour. The January event is open for 150 tickets. Tickets are \$7 and being sold only online or in the office.

The committee chair will be focusing on more fundraising events for 2025.

Once IG is able to do more virtual website stuff [ticket sales and e-distribution], the committee can possibly do more events that require a commitment prior to setting up the event—like a bowling event that requires committed attendees prior to scheduling the event.

CPC/PI: (position open)

Archives (ad hoc): The committee chair recommended an experiment: taking something from the archives when asked to speak. The speaker can use something from our history as a prop or discussion topic or weave into their speaking. This could be about AA history overall or Maryland history or any of the older things IG has that may provide an interesting angle when you're called on to speak.

The committee chair answered a question from the floor:

Q: Did the committee chair go to an archivist convention?

A: Yes, the National AA Archives Workshop (NAAAW), attended by archivists from all over Canada and the US. The committee chair had an idea of putting some of our archival material on the computer but learned that Google and Dropbox both present anonymity issues. Both Google and Dropbox have the authority to enter into anyone's content; not that they do, but that they can.

Old Business

None

New Business

Change name From Ways and Means to Events: The committee chair explained that when stepping up to take the role, the committee needed a name for the email. Rather than use "ways and means@nemdaa.org" for the email, the chair went with "events@nemdaa.org." The committee chair would like to change the name of the Ways and Means Committee to the Events Committee.

There was a motion and a second. The name change was approved unanimously.

The committee chair asked that any mentions of "Ways and Means" in the bulletin and on the website be updated at the earliest convenience. For bulletin, for anything that says ways/means to say events.

2025 budget: The treasurer presented the 2025 budget. IGRs are to take the budget to their groups for discussion and input. The IG Council will vote on the budget in December.

The treasure explained there were not many changes. The treasurer estimated the income portion based on what was done in the past. Bingo income was raised, and the fall breakfast will be replaced with a

luau, which means less cost but also less income. Ways and Means and individual contributions were also increased.

Overall, the changes increase proposed revenue by \$200.

Expenses for events have changed a little; bank fees, which were not included at all last year, now \$20; PayPal increased to reflect more use of online ticket sales; web hosting fees went up because our web host is increasing fees. Everything else remained the same except payroll went up and so payroll services went up accordingly.

The treasurer answered questions from the floor:

Q: What's the basis for assuming we'll get \$1,000 more from groups? What's the assumption for lowering the income for events? Just wanting to ensure we have solid numbers behind the changes.

A: Felt confident bumping up individual contributions as we've come close to reaching our numbers for 2024. Event changes are based on previous numbers. Software went from \$900 to \$500. We now have QuickBooks, the cost of which is much lower than last year.

The council chair answered a question from the floor:

Q: Are we currently interviewing for another person in the office?

A: Yes. Also working on solution for weekend coverage.

Group Input and Suggestions: The council chair went to the Area IGLC monthly meeting. From the IGLC chair the council chair received an "Intergroup Inventory" paper. The council chair will go over that with the officers to see if that has value for us. If so, we will send the inventory back to groups with the IGRs and use feedback to improve IG.

The council chair answered a question from the floor:

Q: Has there been negative feedback?

A: No.

Q: Do we have a list of contacts we can send that out to?

A: Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm and closed with the Responsibility Statement followed by the Lord's Prayer.