**Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous**

**Intergroup Council Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

The chair called the meeting to order at 6:59 pm with a moment of silence followed by the Serenity Prayer. The roll call followed.

**Attendance:** **Total:** 15

***In-person***

**Officers (3):** Chair, treasurer, secretary (IGR Emmorton Group)

**Intergroup Representatives (IGRs), Committee chairs, and members (7):** IGR Three legacies, IGR Just for Today, IGR Rising Sun Monday Night, IGR Solution for Living, Institution Committee chair (IGR Rule 62); Ways and Means Committee chair, office staff member

***On Zoom/phone:***

**Officers (0):**

**IGRs, Committee chairs, and members (5):** IGR Good News, IGR Spirit of Life, Answering Service Committee chair (alt-IGR Sunday Reflections), Website/Technology Committee chair (IGR Daily Reflections), Archives Committee chair

**Council Chair report:**

One office staff member has taken a temporary leave of absence. The council chair, office staff, and active volunteers are working on coverage as a group. The solution is a work in progress, and the office may be closed without notice. A notice will be put on the website when this occurs.

In discussion, the Answering Service committee chair asked to be kept informed when unexpected office closures occur to make sure phones are covered when the office is closed.

**Secretary report:**

A motion was made to accept the August minutes amended to clarify that the July minutes were approved. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The new secretary will update the August minutes and have them reposted to the website.

**Treasurer’s report:**

The treasurer reported the following summary information: $6,810.47 in the operating account; prudent reserve of $23,802.74; group contributions totaled $17,810.62 through August; individual and birthday plan contributions totaled $3,291.81 through August; office events income was $15, 867; literature and medallion sales were $10, 439.55; and interest income, $25.80. Total revenue was $47, 408.98, and total expenses were $45,773.50. Both revenue and expenses represent 72% of budgeted revenue and expenses for the year.

The treasurer answered three questions from council members:

What is the birthday plan? A: Individuals submit contributions in recognition of a sobriety anniversary and they base the contribution amount on the number of years being celebrated.

What are the “Accounting Fees” as listed on the profit and loss statement under expenditures? A: The only expense that should be in there is for the accountant to process tax returns. The number currently includes other accounting fees, payroll processing, and Paypal. The treasurer will reallocate the expenses accordingly.

The “Spring picnic” is a line item on the profit and loss sheet under expenses but has no matching line item under Revenue. What was the Spring picnic income? A: The treasurer explained that Ways and Means income appears in a single line item as “Ways and Means Events.” The Ways and Means Committee chair noted that the picnic made about $20. The Ways and Means Committee chair has done reconciliation sheets for all events.

**Office staff report:**

The office staff had no report but did share that the office is running smoother considering recent challenges and the office is getting more support generally and more effective support, with Website/Technology committee chair and treasurer a big part of that.

Office Operations committee made no report.

**Standing and ad hock committee reports**

***Finance (standing):*** (open position)

***Answering service (standing):*** The committee chair is proceeding to get in touch with group contacts, and overall has gotten a handful of calls since taking the chair position.

The Ways and Means committee chair and Answering Service committee chair will discuss the possibility of having the Answering Service committee chair’s phone number be set as the default forwarding number for the office line.

***Institutions (standing):*** The committee chair has received and responded to emails from groups interested in institution work. The committee chair received a call for help from a treatment center. The Institution Committee does not serve treatment centers, but the chair was able to connect the caller with individual AA members.

A council member asked about Cecil County Detention Center. CCDC does have individuals taking meetings into the men’s side. The committee chair can connect anyone interested with the individuals leading those meeting efforts.

The question arose whether the Institution Committee will need any copies of the new *Plain Language Big Book* leading to general discussion of creating a mass book order. The *Plain Language Big Book* comes in a soft-bound version only, contains only the first 164 pages, no stories, and costs $11 each. A notice will go in bulletin, as well as IGRs taking the information back to groups, to build a single book order around who wants copies.

The committee chair noted that with the CPC/PI position open, literature racks for facilities in the Intergroup area are going unfilled. A notice will go in the bulleting seeking CPC/PI help filling racks or at least finding out where all the racks are. There is a budget for CPC/PI to cover costs.

***Website/Technology (standing):*** The committee chair is coordinating with office staff when website and bulletin updates are needed. The website was updated to reflect the temporary office-hour schedule of Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm.

The committee chair brought up digital ticket sales. Do we want or plan to have digital ticket sales for Ways and Means events? We are paying $100 per year for the WordPress digital ticket plugin. The plugin will renew in February 2025, so there is time for further consideration.

A separate question came from the committee about whether we can get a plugin or form on the contributions page to get the group info needed to assign payments to a given group. The committee chair will look into this and report back.

The committee chair also noted that the December council meeting is on Christmas Eve. The committee chair motioned to move the meeting to December 17 (third Tuesday). The motion was seconded and approved with near unanimity, minus one joking dissent.

The Answering Service committee chair noted that the Zoom meetings also require updating. They are currently plotted out for council meetings until February or March 2025. The treasurer will renew the Zoom account for 2025.

***Ways and Means (ad hoc):*** The pig roast was a great success, making about $1,100. The committee chair asked the treasurer to earmark that money for the picnic in June 2025. The committee chair plans for that picnic to be free to attendees and also to pay parking for up to 50 people/vehicles.

Fall breakfast is proceeding with Rule 62 Group doing well heading this up; the council chair signed the facility contract.

The committee chair then brought up skipping the Fall breakfast in 2025, replacing it with a luau and “Rocky Horror Puppet Show.” The breakfast events are a success but they take bandwidth and the committee is looking to do events that take less work as well as cost less to set up. General consensus and council chair support holding one breakfast per year.

The committee chair plans to have a breakfast in April 2025. The breakfast ticket price needs to increase to $17 each based on event costs. The committee chair will bring price increase to the council for a vote when the event planning gets closer.

The committee chair is in discussion with District 30 about potentially helping the district with its Thanksgiving Alcathon.

For 2025 the committee chair is exploring what to do and what monies are needed. The chair is considering paid events and free events in between to reduce overlapping events. All ideas are welcome.

***CPC/PI:*** (open position)

***Archives (ad hoc):*** The committee chair is attending the National AA Archives Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa. The chair is particularly interested in finding out how other intergroups maintain files on the computer. The chair will gather archiving information to bring back and implement.

**Old Business**

At the August meeting, the Rising Sun Monday Night Group put forth a motion to allow full names and nicknames in the bulletin at the individual’s request. The motion was seconded. The council delayed the vote until this September meeting so IGRs could get group input.

The council chair found that the council had actually discussed and voted on this 6 or 7 months ago and declined allowing full names and nick names. The chair is comfortable continuing that.

With the new information, the council chair asked IGR Rising Sun Monday Night if the group wants to continue with motion to which the IGR responded that the group does want to continue with the motion.

Subsequent discussion addressed removing the bulletin from the web, difficulties of returning to email-only distribution, and some history about the concerns over nicknames. Also, several IGRs shared their groups’ input.

After a vote, two groups supported the motion and the remainder of voting groups, committee chairs, and officers opposed. Motion denied.

**New Business**

The treasurer announced that it is time to plan next year’s budget. With no Finance Committee chair, the officers are automatically the Finance Committee for budget creation. Any other committee chairs are welcome to be on the committee.

Whether joining the committee or not, committee chairs need to provide information on what monies they need for next year’s budget.

The Finance Committee will try to have something ready for October presentation, but if not, then November.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm and closed with the Lord’s Prayer followed by the Responsibility Statement.