

## **Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous**

### **Intergroup Council Monthly Meeting**

**Date:** May 27, 2025

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 (9):** IGR Celebrate Sobriety, IGR Fallston Early Saturday, IGR Just for Today; IGR MH Noon, IGR Rising Sun Group, IGR Rule 62, IGR Solution for Living, Events Committee chair (Emotional Sobriety), Website and Technology Committee chair (Rising Sun Big Book Group)

***On Zoom/phone:***

**Officers (1):** Treasurer

**IGRs, Committee chairs, and members (4):** Answering Service Committee chair (Alt IGR Sunday Reflections), Institutions Committee chair, Office staff (Morning Group), visitor

**Council chair report:** Chair reported we extended the inventory questionnaire due date to June 30. The chair asked IGRs and their groups to submit; we have 28 responses at the current time. We want to get as many as we can. Chair asked if IGRs could start doing that and making announcements at other meetings.

The officers have started having a monthly meeting and will continue that going forward. This hopefully will allow us to bring up issues and do a better job. The next one will be discussing the inventory and the website.

Q: What is the total number of groups we can potentially get surveys from?

A: There are about 128 meetings and unknown how many are groups. But a good question. The chair is hoping to get around 100.

**Secretary report:** The secretary presented the April minutes and asked for any amendments/corrections. There was a motion to accept as written and a second. April minutes accepted unanimously.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer presented a summary of the council's financial reports as of April 30, 2025:

*Account balances are:*

- Operating Account: \$8,150.27
- Prudent Reserve Account: \$23,810.97

*Revenue:*

- Group Contributions thru April is \$8,753.65
- Individual Contributions & Birthday Plan thru April is \$944.10
- Office Events total \$11,211.00
- Literature & Medallion Sales total \$5,603.22
- Interest income totals \$5.23

Total Revenue is \$26,511.97 which is 40% of our budgeted revenue for 2025.

*Expenses:*

Through April, we have paid out a total of \$25,124.28 which is 38% of our budgeted expenses this year.

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

**Office coordinator report / Office Operations Committee:** Report provided by Events Committee chair. Since resignation of one office staff member, the Events Committee chair and treasurer have stepped up to fill extra hours. We're looking for a volunteer and still open to that. The survey will give us a better idea of how to operate the office and suspect we'll be having fewer office hours.

We likely won't have a steering committee any more. Events, treasurer, and office staff will handle office work and office coordinator will handle back-end details, like coordinating comcast account and similar.

The office will be available to sell items during planning meetings and the office is open for sales the night of the Intergroup Council meeting.

**Standing and ad hock committee reports**

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

**Answering service (standing):** The committee chair reported 19 groups participating in Answering Service. Total 197 calls; 20 missed; 9 of those during office hours and 11 during answering service.

Only thing the chair noticed was experiencing the second time the website has gone down in a month.

The Events Committee chair commented that all missed calls to the office are followed up.

Treasurer has experienced, in the office, that the phone rings 1x and when answered it's a dial tone. That gets counted as a missed call.

***Institutions (standing):*** The chair reported all has been quiet. Put forward that to date Institutions has been a chair—a one person committee. The chair is asking for anyone wanting or interested in joining the committee, perhaps someone from Cecil County to help divide and conquer.

The member handling efforts at Cecil County Detention Center requested a case of *Inmate to Inmate* softcover books to hand out, and chair will be ordering a box of those soon.

The Council chair mentioned Three Legacies group is taking coins to Perry Point and they are going through them quick. But group will continue supporting.

The committee chair answered a question from the IGRs:

Q: Regarding the call for assistance, would chair like to put something in the bulletin?

A: Yes, please. Direct them to the chair's email, primarily focused on Cecil County to have more coverage there.

***Website/technology (standing):*** The chair stated the website has gone down more than twice in the last month. We run the website using WordPress software. It is not entirely accurate to say the software we're running is 2016; it is what's called a theme named 2016. Chair explained our webmaster and his activities to keep the site updated, back up when it goes down, other technical responsibilities (like fighting off botnets and bad actors trying to hack the site)—there are all kinds of reasons the site might go down. Most recently one of the WordPress updates was exceptionally large which overwhelmed our servers. Our servers are local (at the webmaster's house). Once chair has the information to address these issues will bring that information to the treasurer and the council.

If you experience a problem with the site, please email. Email is a Google product and not affected by website down time.

If you are trying to get on the website to link to a zoom meeting and the site is down, try using the Meeting Guide app. It has the link, meeting number, and password for every virtual meeting in our service area. The meeting app auto updates from our site twice per day.

The committee chair answered a question from IGRs:

Q: Are we using the latest technology to operate our website?

A: We use Amazon Web Services to host our servers and WordPress for how and what you see on the website. It is secure, it is cost efficient, and it is relatively easy to use. The webmaster built the website and the bulletin builder.

Q: When we get more info back from the survey, just looking forward to money and support specifically for the website. Is there some way we need to invest in that? Better, less worrisome for security, and less work for webmaster.

A: Chair waiting for the webmaster to look into the servers and making them more robust. Once options are available, the committee chair will present that to the council.

Q: Is the webmaster looking for help like the Institutions chair? Having someone to help?

A: I don't know if more than one person can take on the responsibility that the webmaster has. But as for volunteers, always welcome.

Q: So the barrier to keeping the technology running is really that AWS is not giving us the proper services we need or is it WordPress? We're in a situation where we're getting upgrades that take up too much storage. What I'm getting at is are we in need of finances to get us beyond that pressure?

A: Per the Council chair, if we need to upgrade the servers we will. The website is a matter of concern. If we have to spend a few extra dollars to make a more robust site, then we should do that.

Per the committee chair, we have to balance useability as well. We don't have experts lining up to help with the website.

**Events (ad hoc):** Committee chair is trying to mix the events up with one a month—something small and free or low cost followed by something bigger.

The putt putt event in May was small but great.

What	When	Where	Cost
PICNIC	Sat - June 14th 11-4pm	Deer Creek Picnic Area HdG	Free
HIKE	Sat - June 19th 9am	Elk Neck State Park NE	Free
<i>Date misprinted: It is actually June 21.</i>			
Rock N Bowl	Friday - July 12th 7-9:30pm	Harford Lanes Aberdeen	\$20
LUAU	Sat - August 23rd 11-4pm	Deer Creek Picnic Area HdG	\$20
<i>Need volunteers willing to take trash out of the park as the park requires taking the trash out. Has set aside parking for 50 cars for free.</i>			
Putt Putt	Sun – Sept TBD* 2pm	Churchville Mini Golf	\$7
Rocky Horror	Sat – Oct 25th 7pm	Grove Church Aberdeen	\$20
Rock N Bowl	Fri – Nov TBD* 7-9:30pm	Harford Lanes Aberdeen	\$20
Raven's Watch Party	Sun – Dec 7th 1pm	American Legion Aberdeen	\$15

\*TBD = To be determined

Committee is losing one of it's biggest supports, we could use help. There are only three on the committee as it is.

The committee chair noted that as a nonprofit we can ask for things, so if anyone knows anyone ...

One of the individuals helping with events is going to reach out for some potato chips.

Secretary emphasized that yes, we are a nonprofit but through our bylaws we operate under the Traditions, self-supporting, and need to keep that forefront.

Committee chair expressed that she didn't say for free, she'll always support what we get.

Also looking for an overarching "library license" that allows us to have a public showing of any movie we want. Anyone who knows about that type of license and getting one can help.

Looking to make money on the Rocky Horror show and the license to show that movie is \$1,000.

**CPC/PI:** Committee chair not in attendance. No report.

**Archives (ad hoc):** Committee chair not in attendance. No report.

### **Old Business**

Old business was covered earlier in the Council chair and Website/Technology Committee reports. Along with reviewing the survey responses, we will monitor monthly activity of website (review stats including WordPress)

### **New Business**

#### ***Group Input & Suggestions:***

Q: If website/tech needs help, what would a person do? What do you need for the website?

A: This will also depend on the office hours based on the inventory, it's very helpful to have help answering emails, updating the website and bulletin. We need people who understand how to use WordPress. Someone who can help monitor the email as we do try to cover email at all hours.

We could use help to make web updates, such as updating the archives web page – people who know how to work with websites to make them more engaging (e.g., photos).

In short, email, WordPress, and website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm and closed with the Responsibility Statement followed by the Lord's Prayer.