

Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

Intergroup Council Monthly Meeting

Date: November 25, 2025

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Serenity Prayer. The roll call followed.

Attendance: Total: 16

In-person:

Officers (1): Secretary (IGR Emmorton Group)

Intergroup Representatives (IGRs), Committee chairs, and members (5): IGR Gates of Insanity, IGR North East 12 & 12 Group, IGR Rising Sun Monday Night Group, IGR Three Legacies, IGR Young and the Restless

On Zoom/phone:

Officers (2): Chair, Treasurer

IGRs, Committee chairs, and members (8): IGR Celebrate Sobriety Fallston Speakers Meeting, IGR North East Big Book, IGR Port in a Storm, IGR Pursuit of Happiness, Answering Service Committee chair, Events Committee chair, Website/Technology Committee chair, Office manager

Council chair report: The chair noted they had not much to say, and sorry can't be there in person. Happy thanksgiving to all. We are managing well with our office manager's situation. We'll talk about the budget tonight.

Secretary's report: The secretary presented the October minutes and asked for amendments/corrections. There was a motion to accept as presented and a second. October minutes accepted unanimously.

Treasurer's report: The treasurer presented a summary of the council's financial reports as of October 31, 2025:

Account balances are:

- Operating Account: \$3,127.82
- PayPal: \$0
- Prudent Reserve Account: \$23,812.87

Revenue:

- Group Contributions thru October is \$23,007.51
- Individual Contributions & Birthday Plan thru September is \$1,358.00
- Institutions Contributions \$763.73
- Office Events total \$16,705.00
- Literature & Medallion Sales total \$13,738.62
- Interest income totals \$7.13

Total Revenue is \$55,572.86 which is 85% of our budgeted revenue for 2025.

Expenses:

Through October, we have paid out a total of \$59,327.42 which is 90% 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 manager report: The office manager has been out of the office the past few weeks, but has been trying to manage the emails and announcements and such. The treasurer has been helping in the office.

Per the treasurer, the office has been doing the way it usually is. Nothing extraordinary going on. The treasurer rearranged a few items in there. Average about 2 people a day that come in. Last Tuesday had 6 people come through. Few phone calls, mostly about anniversaries or putting things in the bulletin.

Questions arose from the IGRs:

Q: How many times did the Events chair have to come to the office to get supplies for after-hours requests?

A: There have been 3 requests for after hours. With the reduced hours of the office the Events chair would like to volunteer to keep the office open late one day a week in 2026.

Chair stated we will discuss that and thanked the Events chair for volunteering.

Standing and ad hoc committee reports

Finance (standing): (position open)

Answering service (standing): The committee chair noted that everything is well in the Answering Service world. The voicemail message was updated.

From weds Oct 28 to Nov 24 we had 147 calls total; 11 missed – 9 of those on answering service time, 2 on office time; 77 incoming calls and 59 outgoing.

Institutions (standing): Committee chair not present. No report.

Website/technology (standing): The committee chair had one update for this month: We received a recent request from Area 29 to add a header-bar link to include a link to the deaf AA website for resource for those deaf or hard of hearing.

The committee chair answered a question from the IGRs:

Q: WordPress plugin for tickets seems to be \$300?

A: The Events chair noted that they are looking for a less costly ticket plugin. Not needed until the spring breakfast, so we have time.

The committee chair clarified that only half of the \$300 is the ticket plugin. The other half covers other necessary website software.

Events (ad hoc): The committee chair noted there is not much to report. Unfortunately had to cancel the NFL watch party due to lack of support. Has lost the other members of the committee over the last 6 months and can't do it alone.

Will help the group with the spring breakfast. It will be a quiet winter events-wise.

The committee chair answered questions from the IGRs:

Q: Do we know when the spring breakfast will be?

A: April 26 and the fall breakfast will be Oct 17.

The IGR for Rising Sun Monday Night Group announced the group is hosting a New Year's Eve alcathon.

Events calendar:

What	When	Where	Cost
Rock N Bowl *	Fri - Nov 14th, 7-9:30pm	Harford Lanes, Aberdeen	\$20
NFL Watch Party *	CANCELLED	American Legion, Aberdeen	\$15
Bingo *	Sat - Feb 14th, 7-10pm	Level Hall Firehouse, HdG	\$25
Rock N Bowl *	Fri - Mar TBD, 7-9:30pm	Harford Lanes, Aberdeen	\$20
Spring Breakfast *	Sun - April 26th, 8-12 am	Level Hall Firehouse, HdG	\$20

TBD = To be determined

* Requires ticket purchase

Updated: 25 Nov 2025

CPC/PI: (position open)

Archives (ad hoc): Committee chair not present. No report.

Old Business

The Council chair postponed discussion of old business to allow time to discuss the 2026 preliminary budget. *[Pending old business incudes webpage activity; recruitment for IGR, officer, and committee positions; and the NEMDAA Intergroup pamphlet.]*

New Business:

2026 Intergroup Budget (PayPal & credit card policy)

The treasurer shared the budget sheet and went over each line-item amount, income and expenses.

For income budgeting:

- We did up the fall and spring breakfast ticket event pricing to \$25 from \$20. At \$20 it is a money-losing event.
- We added bulletin subscriptions because we do have individuals who receive a mailed bulletin, and we suggest \$50 a year as a subscription as the cost of the mailing is ~\$200 to serve 3 people.

For expenses, we know several costs are likely to increase; insurance going up is confirmed; and we have adjusted for that. The Archives Committee has requested a \$350 budget for an archive improvement project. Postage is going up. Rent has gone up. Gas and electric has gone up and is a big leap from last year.

We have payroll reduced, because at 4 days the budget would be in the hole ~\$7,000. So, the budget is based on 3 days a week for the office being open.

The income versus expenditures results in an operating loss of \$952. We have money that will carry over into the next year and it will cover the loss.

The Website/Technology Committee chair suggested the most efficient use of our meeting time is for clarifying questions from IGRs so they can take the budget back to the groups.

Question arose from the IGRs:

Q: Is the Events chair tracking which days of the week they're being asked to come to the office off-hours?

A: One was a Wednesday and one a Friday. Looking to the Council chair's data/statistics to determine the best time to have a late-night office opening.

The Council chair noted that the group donations have gone down, and we can only work within the monies we have available. Which is why the budget addresses what it does.

Definitely worth a shot to have a late night open.

Q: Has there been any discussion for which days of the week the office will be open?

A: Not as yet because the budget has not been approved yet. We would look at the year's data plus data from the office manager to determine best days to be open based on the actual office activity numbers.

The Council chair stated it's a changing world and much happens online. I'm open to any suggestions that help us keep services open. We can't go into deficits of five figures.

Q: Should we be posting that there is a lack in the bulletin?

A: The Council chair said that's a good question. I'm trying to process what I think about it. Looking to the IGRs for any input.

Q: How do we address the problem of low contributions?

A: The Council chair noted it's a difficult issue and my group, for one, is unable to contribute anywhere near what they used to. It's a common issue going on and one of lessening participation.

Q: Would it be or have we spread the word of where your money goes? What the money is used to do; how it benefits those contributing?

A: World Services has a treasurer's pamphlet that suggest what groups can do with sharing their money and what it goes to.

Various sharing then occurred:

An IGR said, I like the ideas I've heard suggesting how to raise awareness. Personally, I want to know where groups are distributing their money when I put money in the basket; so I ask. At the individual level or our group level, we should ask what groups are doing with their money. Whatever we can do to raise awareness is a factor I can see we can help.

Groups can do more than say "in accordance with the 7th tradition" when passing the basket, to educate those in the meeting about where the money goes.

The treasurer noted they have provided a green card for IGRs that can be read during meetings that explains the 7th tradition.

An IGR mentioned that in other areas, institution commitments are passed out each Intergroup meeting. So, if people want commitments they had to come to the Intergroup meeting to get their commitment.

IGRs continued to share thoughts and feelings about groups not participating.

The Council chair stated let's take this reality back to our home groups and come back next month to look at the budget. We'd really appreciate your feedback with what you think. Once this budget is passed, we've got a year to make changes. It is flexible and can be adjusted as details change through time.

Someone stated maybe we should just throw something in the bulletin to encourage contributions.

The Council chair said that's something we can talk about. I always want to be mindful that if we put our hand out too much, they stop listening. So, it is a great idea, the decision is when? Now, we're in the Christmas season and may be an awkward time to ask.

Group Input & Suggestions

Not discussed. The meeting ended with the budget discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm and closed with the Responsibility Statement followed by the Lord's Prayer.