

# NORTHEASTERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

By-Laws  
Adapted July 8, 1987

Incorporating all additions & amendments  
Through January 2022

## Preamble

The Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, Incorporated, is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Maryland to pursue such activities as set forth in its charter and by-laws as such places as designated by the Intergroup Council and its elected officers. The Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous is an association of independent Alcoholics Anonymous Groups created and now designed by those groups for one purpose: To serve the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is an organization whose aim is to maintain services for those who seek, through Alcoholics Anonymous, the means of arresting the disease of alcoholism through the application to their own lives, in whole or in part, of the Twelve Steps which constitute the recovery program upon which the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous is founded. The Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous is not affiliated with and sect, denomination, political party, organization or institution, public or private; takes no sides in any outside issues, is not allied with, or opposed to any cause. The Northeastern Maryland Intergroup shall be guided by the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of Alcoholic Anonymous, these by-laws and additions thereto.

## Article I

### Section 1. The Intergroup Council

- A. The Intergroup Council of the Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. (the “Intergroup”) shall be made up of the assembled chosen representatives of each group in the Intergroup area that desires to participate in Intergroup affairs.
- B. Each group shall have one representative, regardless of size or number of meetings.
- C. The Intergroup Council shall meet monthly at a time and place to be designated by the Council.
- D. There shall be no dues or fees for Intergroup Council membership or participation. The Intergroup shall be supported by voluntary contributions from groups and individual members, in accordance with A.A. Traditions and practice.
- E. Any member of Alcoholics Anonymous may attend an Intergroup Council meeting, but only designated representatives of the groups, elected Intergroup Officers and standing committee chairpersons may participate in the discussion and voting (no proxies will be allowed). The Intergroup office manager shall be considered a voting member of the Intergroup Council with the right of participation and voting on issues coming before the Council except in special situations that involve his/her past job performances, job qualifications, or money compensation. (Amended 8 January 2003)
  1. For this purpose, the Public Information, the Cooperation With the Professional Community, the Institutions, the Answering Service, the Website/Technology\*\* and Finance\* Committees will be considered standing committees. (Amended 25 January 2022) \*\* (Amended 10 January 2012)\*. All standing committee chairpersons will be required to have at least one year of continuous sobriety. (Amended 9 January 2008)

2. Invited guests may address the Council when requested by the Chair or a majority of the Council Members.

F. The purpose of the Intergroup Council is to provide services to alcoholics seeking help in accordance with the Twelve Steps, Traditions and Concepts of the Fellowship.

Specifically, the Intergroup's primary objectives are to:

1. Provide an office for service to groups, A.A. members and any alcoholic seeking help.
2. Provide a telephone answering service for alcoholics seeking help.
3. Provide, in the Intergroup area, information about Alcoholics Anonymous to individuals and the public at large.
4. Provide and sell to groups and individuals literature about Alcoholics Anonymous that is conference approved and certain other material that the Intergroup may deem appropriate for sale.
5. Provide a list of volunteer members of Alcoholics Anonymous who are willing to assist on Twelve Step calls.
6. Provide an up-to-date directory of meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in the Intergroup area.
7. Provide, as appropriate, meetings at institutions in the Intergroup area.
8. Provide a weekly bulletin, of appropriate group news and activities within the Intergroup area or of interest to the fellowship at large, until such time as the council decides to do otherwise. (Amended 14 March 2007)

G. The Corporation is organized exclusively for educational purposes. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except the Corporation shall authorize and empower to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in Article Three hereof. No

substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation shall not continue any other activities not permitted to be carried on [a] by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code or [b] by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(C)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

## Article II

### Section 1. Elected Officers and Their Duties

- A. The CHAIRPERSON shall be elected by the Intergroup Council and shall be the chief executive officer of the Intergroup; shall have the responsibility for the general management of the affairs of the Intergroup; shall conduct the resolutions of the Intergroup Council; shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Intergroup Council and shall be member, ex-officio, of all committees he appoints, and direct the overall activity, in counsel with the Intergroup Council, of the Intergroup; act as treasurer or secretary in the absence of either or both; appoint committees from among the membership for the on-going business or any special activity undertaken by the Intergroup.
- B. The SECRETARY shall be elected by the Intergroup Council and assist the chairperson in all areas of activity and operations concerning the Intergroup Council at the direction of the chairperson, shall function as chairperson in the absence of same but not succeed to the office should it become vacant during their term as secretary; take and record minutes

- of meetings of the Intergroup Council and make such minutes available in the Intergroup office; be in charge of all corporate records other than financial; have custody and responsibility of the Seal of the Intergroup and shall affix the same to documents as duly authorized and directed by the Intergroup Council.
- C. The TREASURER shall be elected by the Intergroup Council; shall assist the chairperson in all areas of activity and operations concerning the Intergroup Council at the direction of the chairperson; shall have care and custody of the funds of the Intergroup; manage all accounts and pay such authorized bills and obligations of the Intergroup as they may come due; keep a true and accurate account of same; will present an accurate financial report at each and every meeting of the Intergroup Council and this report shall be subject to reasonable examination and question by members of the Council; shall work in cooperation with any outside accountant or bookkeeper engaged in such duties by the Intergroup; shall assist in the preparation and completion of any and all such records for taxes or any other such records or documents required by law.
- D. ELECTION - The foregoing named officers in this section shall be elected in accordance with Article III, Section 2, Paragraph A of these by-laws. Officers upon election shall take over their respective duties and responsibilities on the first day of the month following the election. (Amended 12 January 2005)

### Article III

#### Section 1 Authority of the Intergroup Council and Officers

The Intergroup Council as herein described and its elected officers is fully authorized and is the only such authorized body to conduct the affairs of the Northeastern Maryland Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous, Inc. Any property and general business of the Intergroup shall be managed by the elected officers in counsel with the Intergroup Council.

#### Section 2 Election and Term of Officer or Officers

- A. Elected officers shall hold office for a term of two (2) years and shall be elected from the present or past representatives at the June meeting of the Intergroup Council, in even numbered years beginning in 1988. Nominations for candidates for office will be made and recorded at the May meeting of the Intergroup Council preceding the election meeting. A proposed nominee for office must have three (3) years of continuous sobriety and must be present to accept the nomination at the nomination meeting or must declare his/her intention to accept the nomination to the chairperson prior to the nomination meeting. (Amended 13 January 1993) Election shall be in accordance with the Third Legacy Procedures as outlined in the A.A. Service Manual, which shall be read at the nomination/election meetings. A quorum at this proceeding and all Intergroup proceedings shall be those eligible representatives present.
- B. Any elected officer who become unable to fulfill the duties of his/her office through ineligibility, resignation, or incapacitation shall be removed from office and the Intergroup Council will elect, as soon as possible and practical and in accordance with the appropriate provisions of Paragraph A of this Article and this Section, a replacement to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the existing term.
- 1) Definitions: Ineligibility is breaking of sobriety or non-performance; incapacitation is sickness wherein the officer is unable to perform his/her duties The Intergroup Council shall be the sole judge in questions on ineligibility and incapacitation. Removal from office can be effective only with a two-thirds majority of those present and qualified to vote.
- C. Elected officers serving a full term cannot succeed themselves.

#### Article IV

Section 1 Procedure for effecting, amending, revising, adding to, or dissolving these by-laws.

- A. These by-laws shall become effective immediately upon approval of a two-thirds majority of those eligible group representatives or their alternates in attendance at a special meeting or meetings for the express purpose, and no other, for adapting these by-laws.
- B. Proposals for revisions or amendments to these by-laws can be made annually at the regular meeting in January. They shall be submitted to the Intergroup Chairperson by November 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered by a committee appointed by the Intergroup chairperson. This committee will review any proposals and present a report at the January meeting for approval by a two-thirds majority of the Intergroup Council members present. If the report is accepted and includes any revisions, they will become effective July 1<sup>st</sup> of that year; if the report is rejected the Council members will be given an opportunity to review the report with their groups and a final vote will be taken at the March Intergroup meeting. Any revisions approved by two-thirds of the Council members present will be adapted and put into effect July 1st of that year.

#### Article V

After provisions of Article IV, Section 1, Paragraph A have been fully complied with, the three officers of the Intergroup Council shall set their signatures immediately hereunder and initial each page. Such witnessed copy of these by-laws shall be imprinted with the Corporate Seal and be taken as the definitive copy and shall be held by the secretary in accordance with his/her duties. As many copies of these by-laws as needed may be distributed to the Council members.