## **Meeting Minutes for the NEMDAA Intergroup Council on May 25, 2021**

The Council Meeting was called to order by the Intergroup Chair at 7:00 PM on May 25, 2021 via Zoom. (The meeting was posted on the NEMDAA Website and an email reminder send to all active members.

The meeting was opened with the Serenity Prayer.

Roll Call: IG Chair, SOS IGR, Just for Today IGR, Happy Hour IGR, Fallston Early Saturday IGR, Office Manager, Women for Sobriety IGR and treasurer, Good News Group IGR, Emmorton IGR, Belair Big Book IGR, Alternate Delegate Area 29, Beware the 4 Horsemen- IGR

**Chair Report:**

Governor Hogan announces end of statewide mask mandate, and lifting of all capacity

restrictions on indoor and outdoor venues and dining.

NEMDAA office still requires mask and 6 ft distancing.

●

Meeting/Fellowship Supportive Safety – Be respectful of others as we transition back to in-

person meetings.

●

IGLC Monthly Meeting – May – minutes available on NEMDAA website

●

All District 11 officer positions are still vacant and available.

▪ Fellowship appeal published 14 Feb 21 Bulletin, MGS available for officer

 training

 Rex spoke with members of North East Saturday.

●

Budget concerns update

o Appeal to Fellowship published in 7 Feb 21 Bulletin.

o Finance Committee met May 15, 2021-report to follow.

●

New Ways and Means Committee chair, Kelly U

o Fall Picnic planning

●

Institutions Committee chair vacant, calling all Members...

o Perry Point update-see Office Manager’s report

**Secretary’s Report (online)**

Debbie C - Approved as posted by all present.

**Treasurer’s report (online)**

Lisa P.-Large purchase of literature

 $121 deficit last month

 Increased income anticipated as more meeting go live

 Delayed tax filing

 Lisa to check if extension needed for Personal Property Tax Return filing.

 Report approved as posted by all in attendance.

**Office Manager’s Report May 25, 2021**

NEMDAA Intergroup

Intergroup Office Manager's Report – May 25, 2021

**Consider giving** your sponsor, sponsee(s) or other AA friends one of the **new titles** we are carrying at the IG office bookstore. These make great anniversary gifts!

**New Grapevine titles on our shelves in May:**  *Young & Sober, In Our Own Words: Stories of Young AAs in Recovery, AA in the Military and Take Me to Your Sponsor( Grapevine cartoons).*  Contact the Intergroup office if you are interested in purchasing any of these new titles. All Grapevine titles have been **reduced to $11.50**.

Rachael requests that we consider adding the **Hazelden** meditation book “Keep It Simple” to the store inventory. (see book description here: <https://www.hazelden.org/store/item/2872?Keep-It-Simple> )

**Institutions Update:** Joanne spoke with Denise Santori, supervisor of the VA program (Bldg 22).

The VA hospital is still shut down, no visitors allowed, clients do not go to outside meetings,

only zoom meetings.  I also asked her about the end of summer AA/VA picnic and she said that is a possibility.  Please let me know of any updates or information you have regarding Institutions’ commitments, such as who to contact, etc.

There are a few copies of the Final Report from the 2020 Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference left – Stop by to pick up some **FREE copies** for your home group members, sponsor or sponsees. Get yours before they are gone.

**Volunteer Staff** are helping with the Office spring cleaning and general office duties. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering at the office, please email the office.

**Physical Meeting Listing** is updated weekly and a printable pdf is available on the website. Printouts are also available as needed at the office. During this month, the following meetings informed the office that they would be opening/reopening physically: BelAir Women’s Group, Early Bird, Sisters of Sobriety, Twelve Step Study & Willimas Street Group (both at the Mann House), Havre de Grace Lighthouse. New Physical meetings: Cut It Out, Pursuit of Happiness,

**Meeting Openings/re-openings** - please include with your requests for Meeting openings or re-openings any **literature or medallion** purchases you anticipate so we can be sure to be fully stocked and ready to assist you.

**New Door Lock** installed at the Office. Please contact Rex, Intergroup Chair if you have a need for a key.

**Additional Discussion-**

12 step calling list form updated by Joanne and Jeff. Need plan to distribute list.

**Committee Reports**

**Answering Service**: Jeff L. -Updated 12 step calling list form. Plan to be developed for distribution to groups

 Jeff to step down end of summer-position to be posted in bulletin.

**CPC/PI:** Phil H.- Not in attendance

**Finance**: Jean B. met with Lisa, Joann, Georgia. 5/15.

 Budget review-decreased $5000 after removing events.

 1st quarter shows $700 deficit

 To review renaming accounts.

 Web posting fee increase $25/month

 To review budget in 3 months to see if adjustments need to be made-by Lisa and Jean.

**Ways and: Means**: Kelly U. Fall Picnic- Susquehanna Park -need to reserve pavilion, check if permit needed for bingo. Jeff H to check if conflict with District 30 picnic.

**Website-** Georgia-Read by Deb from email.

1- digital NEMDAA Directory  - updated on website - 1 x per week. Usually with new Bulletin. - thanks to Rachel - the Council at Large is printing it out with every update.

2 -  continuing to update meetings daily. Taking off attendance restrictions when requested by home group.  Suggested that all requests even verbal be documented by Email trial and labeled in emails for tracking.

3 - Virtual meeting updates. - each group to be called/emailed to confirm status.

4 - Listing of Hybrid and Virtual meetings - MD state of emergency - ended. Maintaining of virtual and meeting reopening pages will be evaluated and committee will make recommendations by September Council Meeting.

5 - Bulletin :

Joanne - doing opening, final thought and office news.

Rachael - working on placement of information in all other areas, proofreading entire documents and checking links.  Preparing NEMDAA Directory for weekly update.

Committee - writing, posting, editing, final publishing.

6 - Website Budget - asked for increase. Monthly AWS (server host) increased.

7 - Website updates -  updates are made each morning between 2 am and 5 am. (Including event updates, Meeting updates, checking emails, rotation of events, district updates, etc)

8 - Website, meetings, anniversaries updates and email inquiries - committee handles Saturday after 2 PM through Tuesday 9 AM.

9 - Website (wordPress) updates, Bulletin Builder software, website security, and answering all Tech questions - thank you Jeremy.

10 - Jo and Rachael are taking on more and more website posting.   It’s a process of learning. “The more they do, the more they do “.

**Questions of what to post on the website - ????** - Lots of meetings and homegroups have requested to be listed on the NEMDAA Website.  We continued to follow the principle of listing our area.

**History - prior to the website update  in February 2020** - we did not list any meetings that were virtual or any meetings that were not included in our geographical area.

**What we've been doing** - In March 2020 when State Closed us down we took the site to a Status of Emergency and listed all the Groups in our area with virtually meeting codes if requested by the group.  We posted Service, and Conventions, and Holiday Alcathons - after verifying the sponsor,  and asking if AA Traditions would be followed.

**What does the Council want?**  The Groups at Large in Harford, Cecil and parts of PA and Baltimore have not been asked.

**What do the NEMDAA ByLaws say?**  I still have to review those - we follow the traditions - There is quite some concern within groups that people are still virtual.  There is the accessibility issue that virtual addresses, the council needs to decide.

**What does AA at large say** - another question to be researched.

**How can the current staff monitor and update the website and the meetings?**  It's a good bit of work just to handle the groups we service in our area.  If the council decides to list meetings out of our service whether they be virtual or physical - will there be criteria, or certain regions, what information will the council require that they supply, and most of all who will verify that the meetings are safe.

**With all that said I was taught to "Keep It Simple "Sally"" (or whatever prefer there).**

Rex suggested focusing on our own 3 districts for maintaining updates. Address later whether to expand meeting postings.

**Institutions-Chair needed.**

Thanks to Joann for Perry Point connection

**Archives**- Tom-not in attendance.

**Volunteers**- see office manager report.

**Old Business**

Reviewed proposal to change all Ad Hoc committees to standing committees. Involves Ways and Means, Archives, Website, Answering Service. Will require Bylaws change. Rex to review and address in future Council meetings

Note that Bylaws were attached to previous minutes.

**New Business**

June 16- District 28- Report back for GSC by Delegate

Jean B reported that wording to be changed in Preamble from ‘men and women’ to ‘people’. Had been discussed by 70th and 71st GSC and approved. Change to be posted by June 15. New Preamble effective July 2021. Other literature changes pending.

Meeting concluded at 8:10 pm with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord’s Prayer.