

DOWNEAST INTERGROUP

October 2023



24 Hour AA Hotline - (207) 479-1779



WHO WE ARE

The Downeast Intergroup Committee is a group of AA members coming together in the spirit of fellowship to help carry the AA message through publishing a newsletter, sponsoring AA events, and distributing AA literature. We support communication and participation between AA members, groups, and districts. We meet every 3rd Monday of the month at the Union Congregational Church of Ellsworth Falls, 2 Falls Ct., Ellsworth, ME. Doors open at 5:30 pm for literature purchase and the meeting begins at 6:00 pm.

Everyone is welcome!



Welcome October



We hope that you have been enjoying the autumn splendor surrounding throughout the region. The multitude of colors and the mild weather is truly a blessing, just like the gift of our sobriety. We have so much to be grateful for.

With the changing seasons, comes the rotation of positions for officers and committee members right here in our own districts and Intergroup. Please check out the list of the positions and responsibilities on page 2 of this newsletter.

If you are interested in serving in the of the open positions, we will be voting in new nominees at our next DEIG meeting on *Monday, October 23, 2023, at 6:00 (doors open at 5:30 pm.)*

If you have any questions beforehand, reach out the our acting Chair, Bill L at chair@downeastintergroup.org for more information.

OUR REGION

DEIG supports the following
Maine AA Districts:

Districts 3
District 8
District 10
District 11
District 16
District 18
District 21
District 25





DEIG FINANCES



DEIG Finances - August 2023									
Operating Account				Literature Account				Donation Detail	
Beginning Balance	\$1,342.61			Beginning Balance	\$858.90			Amount	Source
								\$400.00	Safe Harbor Group
Expenditures	\$14.40		Newsletter	Expenditures	\$0.00			\$93.00	Pass It On Group
	\$91.42		Hotline Phone					\$110.00	District 16
	\$16.95		Zoom					\$100.00	Stark Raving Sober Group
Total Debit	\$122.77			Total Debit	\$0.00			\$20.00	Liberty Serenity Group
								\$60.00	Brewer Beginners Meeting
Revenue	858.00		Donations	Revenue			Deposit - Sales	\$75.00	William & Alexandra
Total Credit	\$858.00			Total Credit	\$0.00			\$858.00	Total
Ending Balance	\$2,077.84			Ending Balance	\$858.90				



TRADITION TEN

Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Tradition Ten, like all our traditions, is an important tradition and concentrates on the purity of A.A. As long as we respect these traditions, Alcoholics Anonymous can remain intact and pure to its primary purpose and continue to have a message carried to alcoholics who suffer in and out of the fellowship.

We should be proud that we (A.A. as a whole) have never allowed ourselves to be divided by any major issue that the world has presented. In doing some research for this project, I learned more about a group called the Washingtonians. Their first vision was to be an organization of alcoholics who helped one another stay sober. And they were just that for a while. Their membership grew to over one hundred thousand members in the early 1900's. But, they allowed influential people, who weren't all alcoholic, to use their society for their own reasons.

Because of this, they basically got sidetracked and their attention was diverted from staying in the solution to the disease of alcoholism.

Fortunately for us, people in early A.A. history, learned from the Washingtonians. They decided, and have taken the appropriate action, to stay out of public controversy by creating our tenth tradition. Because A.A. continues to be the number one most effective influence on my life and keeping me sober, I take personal responsibility to make sure I leave my opinion on outside issues away from sponsorship and the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous and pray that all others do too. This has to do with tradition one and our common welfare. Our recovery depends on us sticking together with the same vision in keeping A.A. pure.

Garrett D. Serenity Group, Cinemas Palme D'Or, Theater 4, Palm Desert, Sunday



DEIG SERVICE POSITIONS

The DEIG will be electing new officers for some positions at the October 23, 2023, meeting. Below you can find out a bit more about intergroup and the positions that may be available for the upcoming term. If you are interested and would like more information, please email Bill L. to find out more at:

chair@downeastintergroup.org or editor@downeastintergroup.org.

(Excerpts from DEIG Guidelines)

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A. The Steering Committee meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of each month. The Steering Committee consists of Group Representatives (one per Group), District Representatives, DEIG Officers (Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and Chairs of the DEIG Committees (including Functions, Literature, Hotline, PI/CPC, Meeting Lists, Website, Newsletter, Guidelines, and Archives). The Steering Committee manages the general operation of the DEIG. No individual has more than one vote regardless of how many positions they fill.

B. Each participating Group has one (1) vote.

C. Each participating District has one (1) vote.

D. Each Steering Committee officer has one (1) vote.

E. Each Steering Committee, Committee Chair has one (1) vote.

F. However, at present, the Steering Committee agrees that all A.A. members present can have a vote during the monthly meeting.

G. A passing vote is constituted by a simple majority of the Steering Committee members present.

H. The Steering Committee recognizes the principle of respecting the minority voice.

STEERING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

A. Chairperson

- a. Plans an agenda for the monthly Steering Committee meeting.
- b. Leads the monthly Steering Committee meeting.
- c. Opens the building and keeps keys to the facilities.
- d. Oversees any elections.
- e. Collects and disburses the mail.
- f. Is a member of all standing committees.
- g. Assumes responsibilities, when necessary, for Committee Chairs not present.

B. Alternate Chair Assumes Chairperson's responsibilities, when necessary, for the committee.

C. Secretary

- a. Attends Steering Committee meetings and records proceedings of the meeting.
- b. Emails copies of monthly minutes and Treasurer's report to the current email list of members/Groups.
- c. Provides printed copies at the following meeting.
- d. Provides corrected minutes to the Steering Committee.
- e. Purchases supplies for ongoing DEIG business.
- f. Assumes Chairperson's responsibilities, in lieu of Alternate Chair, when necessary, for the Committee.

D. Alternate Secretary

Assumes Secretary's responsibilities, when necessary, for the Committee



DEIG SERVICE POSITIONS...CONTINUED

E. Treasurer

- a. Attends Steering Committee meetings and presents an up-to-date accounting to the members present.
- b. Oversees DEIG bank accounts including Steering Committee and Literature Committee accounts.
- c. Maintains an accurate accounting of all DEIG income and expenses.
- d. Pays and/or reimburses all DEIG expenses.
- e. Completes deposits and maintains a record of Group/individual donations.
- f. Provides a monthly and year-to-date report to the DEIG Secretary.
- g. Provides printed copies to the meeting.
- h. Provides passwords, logins, and account numbers to the DEIG Chairperson.

F. Alternate Treasurer

Assumes Treasurer's responsibilities, when necessary, for the Committee



The Future Safety of AA ~Tradition Ten

Reading the traditions at meetings is nice, but I like to know the history behind each of them. The discovery of how they came about, and their purpose is difficult to sum up in the short form. Reading the long form in the back of our Big Book is a start. Tradition Ten is relatively short – “No AA group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate AA, express any opinion on outside controversial issues – particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters, they can express no views whatever.”

We live in a pretty contentious culture/society right now and I wonder if we, as a whole, are honestly keeping Tradition Ten. What does history tell us about other situations that have confronted AA that may have a bearing on this tradition? To get a truly good look at the past in this area, I went to a wonderful source: Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age. It tells of the many pitfalls and dilemmas that AA faced in its formative years. Pages 123-128 are all about the development of Tradition Ten and how our founders thought the future safety of AA greatly depended on it.

We learn from the mistakes of others. The Washingtonian Society, a movement among alcoholics which started in Baltimore in the 1800's, almost discovered the answer to alcoholism. “At first the society was composed entirely of alcoholics trying to help one another.” Their membership grew past five hundred thousand. “Had they stuck to their one goal, they might have found the full answer.” They didn't! They got involved in politics and with reformers. At the time the abolition of slavery was a stormy political issue which they got involved in. They might have survived that involvement, but then they became temperance crusaders trying to change everyone. The Washingtonians collapsed, no longer helping alcoholics.

AA was determined not to go down that path, hence the Tenth Tradition: Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the AA name ought never be drawn into public controversy. That is the goal and purpose of Tradition Ten.

“So long as we don't argue these matters privately, it's a cinch we never shall argue them publicly.” My question and food for thought is this – Are we staying clear of our present controversies and not arguing about them privately, so we won't publicly?

The guidelines for keeping our program alive and helping alcoholics are all there. Are we safeguarding AA by understanding and following them? That is the responsibility of every AA member.

Submitted by: Mary Lou Q.T.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Check out the upcoming AA and Clean and Sober activities below:



AREA 28 FALL ASSEMBLY

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 9
OCTOBER 20-22, 2023
BOOTHBAY REGION AMERICAN LEAGION POST 36
25 INDUSTRIAL PARK RD
BOOTHBAY, ME 04537

SCHEDULE

- Friday**
Dinner on your own in beautiful Boothbay Harbor
Registration opens at 5:30PM.
Program begins at 6:30
Movie: *My Name is Bill W*
Light refreshments will be provided!
- Saturday**
7:30AM Registration Resumes
8-9AM Breakfast
9AM Assembly
12-1PM Lunch
1-5PM Assembly
5-6PM Dinner
- Sunday**
Held at Boothbay YMCA
261 Townsend Ave. Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538
8-9AM Continental Breakfast
9AM Assembly Reconvenes

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER GO TO:
maineaa.org/fall-assembly-pre-registration/

HELP US BE SELF SUPPORTING!

MEAL TICKETS
Friday-Sunday: \$35
*All meals have vegan and GF options!

SEND CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
District 9
P.O. Box 48
Newcastle, ME 04553
Cash payment available at registration

HOTELS
Please use this link for best available prices.
Reserve early for best prices.
<https://groups.guestreservations.com/EventPage7429357>

Fishermans Wharf Inn: 22 Commercial St, Boothbay Harbor, ME, 04538, From \$169.99
Mid Town Motel: 96 McKown St, Boothbay Harbor, ME, 04538, From \$191.50
Tugboat Inn: 80 Commercial St., Boothbay Harbor, ME, 04538, From \$179.99
Flagship Inn and Suites: 200 Townsend Avenue, Boothbay Harbor, ME, 04538, From \$185.90



HALLOWEEN DANCE

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN AND SPECTACULAR

Saturday
October 28th, 8:45pm
142 Center St
Brewer ME

Show up in your best costume for a chance to win a prize!
\$5 Entry

Gratitude

And

Spaghetti

(Sauce cook-off)

November 4, 2023

1pm - 4pm

Mattawamkeag Church of God

Route 2 Mattawamkeag

Bring Your Best Spaghetti Sauce

or

Bring a Salad, Dessert or Garlic Bread

(Pasta provided by AA District 10)

Judging and Eating!

Winners Announced!

Raffle!

Countdown!

For More Information call or text Chris L at (207) 290-4776



4 Old Mill Road, Ellsworth

Empty Bowl



TO BENEFIT YOUR PLACE RECOVERY CENTER
SAT, NOV. 4TH 5-6:30PM

Reservations Suggested
Visit our website yourplaceinc.org for tickets and info
Live Music by Frank Baxter, Maine Piano Man

Sponsored by
Machias Saving Bank