

# DOWNEAST INTERGROUP

December 2023

Upcoming Events - See page 2 & 3



## 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 4th 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!**

**24 Hour AA Hotline - (207) 479-1779**

## Hello Winter!



Greetings Everyone!

December's newsletter is focused on the area's sober celebratory events for the holiday season as we know this time of year can be a difficult time for many. **DO NOT FRET!** There are chem-free safeguards in place throughout our area and the state.

We are excited to say that the plans are well underway for the **2023/2024 DEIG Alcothon** that will be held at Your Place Community Center on 4 Old Mill Rd Ellsworth. Functions Chair Chris has been planning a nice Spaghetti dinner with potluck sides of salads, dessert, etc which begins at 6 PM on New Year's Eve, and there will be meetings going around the clock into New Year's Day. Geoff will serve as Chef for the big breakfast at 8 AM with the Alcothon concluding at 11:00 am. The Bacon Man has donated bacon for the meal.

Check out page 2 & 3 for this event and the others in area.

## OUR REGION

Happy Holidays 🎄🌟 In loving service, *Nadine L.*

DEIG supports the following  
Maine AA Districts:

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





DISTRICT 6

## AA CHRISTMAS ALCATHON

Dec 24 & Dec 25, 2023  
Bath Recreation Dept  
4 Sheridan Road  
Bath, ME 04530

December 24	December 25
12PM - Setup	1AM - Meeting
4PM - Potluck	2:30 - Meeting
5:30 - Speaker Meeting	4 - Meeting
7:00 - Meeting	5:30 - Meeting
8:30 - Meeting	7:00 - Meeting
10:00 - Meeting	8:30 - Meeting
11:30 - Meeting	10:00 - Meeting
	11:30 - Meeting
	1PM - Meeting
	2:30 - Meeting
	4:00 - Meeting
	5:00 - Cleanup

Questions? Call or email Todd S  
207 841 4550  
district6chair28@gmail.com




## Christmas Alcathon

Monday, December 25, 2023

9:15am Morning Medicine | 10:45am As You Like It | 12:15pm  
Brown Bag | 1:45pm Queerorecovery  
3:15pm Wicked Sobah Sisters | 4:45pm Open

Location: Rockland Congregational Church  
180 Limerock Street, Rockland

Meetings and food all day | Please bring a dish to share  
Food | Fellowship | Fun | Love | Gratitude




You're Invited!

## New Year's Eve Alcathon

4:00 PM Sunday, 12/31 until 12:00PM Monday, 1/1

- Spaghetti Supper at 6:00PM New Year's Eve
  - Pot Luck Desserts or Side dishes to share
- Breakfast at 8:00AM New Year's Day
- Meetings every hour on the hour

*Come ring in the New Year with your sober friends and help pass it on to those for whom this night can be a challenge*

In person at  
**Your Place Community Center**  
8 Old Mill Road, Ellsworth, ME

On Zoom  
**Meeting ID: 6886597530**  
passcode: 732847



**AA DISTRICT 6  
NEW YEARS EVE GALA**

DECEMBER 31, 2023  
BATH REC DEPARTMENT  
4 SHERIDAN RD.  
BATH, ME 04530

SET UP - NOON  
POTLUCK - 5 PM  
SPEAKERS - 6:30 PM  
OWEN H - ACOUSTIC SET - 8 PM  
DESSERT RAFFLE - 9 PM  
KARAOKE - 9:30PM -12:30 AM  
CLEAN UP - JAN 1 AT 9 AM

Contact Todd S @ 207 841 4550 for more info  
or: district6chair28@gmail.com



BARN INVITES YOU TO  
COUNTDOWN TO 2024

*New Year  
Masquerade  
Dance*

12.31.2023, 7:30 PM  
142 Center Street  
Brewer ME 04412



**AA Workshop**  
**Date: January 20, 2024**  
Workshop: Homegroups The  
Heartbeat of AA  
Traditions C.S.I. Play  
Hosted By: District 14 Love & Service  
Facilitated By: Area 28 Love & Service  
Committee  
Food and Fellowship 12pm-1pm  
Workshop & Traditions Play 1pm-3pm

Fairfield Community Center  
61 WATER ST. FAIRFIELD, ME 04937  
CONTACT PERSON: JOSH T (207)307-1523



THE A.A. SERVICE MANUAL  
combined with  
TWELVE CONCEPTS  
FOR WORLD SERVICE  
by Bill W.

2021-2023 Edition  
REVISED AND UPDATED

## IT'S A CONCEPT THING! JOIN US

Each week we will learn about another Concept. The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience. Area 28 participants will share their interpretation of the Concepts and how they play out in their program, personal, social and work life.

### Tuesdays 7p-8p ET

November 7, 2023  
The Triangle & Concept 1

November 14, 2023  
Concept 2 & 3

November 21, 2023  
Concept 4 & 5

November 28, 2023  
Concept 6 & 7

December 5, 2023  
Concept 8 & 9

December 12, 2023  
Concept 10 & 11

December 19, 2023  
Concept 12 including  
The Warrantees

### LOGIN INFORMATION

<https://www.zoom.us/j/82379375600>  
or <https://us02zoom.us/j/82379375600>  
or <https://us02zoom.us/j/82379375600>

Zoom ID: 823 7937 5600  
Passcode: 066474

## DEIG NEW SERVICE POSITIONS & JANUARY DEIG MEETING

### 2023 New Service Appointments



#### New Steering Committee:

**Chair** - Bethany T.

**Secretary** - vacant - tabled till January meeting

**Treasurer** - Dave M.

**Literature** - Diller B. with Dave M. and Seneca M.

**Newsletter** - Nadine L. with Bill L.

**Meeting List** - Lynn M.

**Website** - Heath W. with Nadine L.

**Hotline** - Scott F.

**Functions** - Chris F.

**PI/PCP** - vacant - tabled until November meeting (Josh S.?)

**Archives** - Bill L.

**Guidelines** - Peter B. with Willy K. and Bill L.

### January 2024 DEIG Meeting - *PLEASE JOIN US!*

The next DEIG meeting will take place on the 4th Monday of the month, January 22, 2024. Join us either live or on Zoom 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 or by Zoom

-  
Zoom ID:6886597530 Password: 732847



Happy Winter Solstice!

December 21, 2023

❄️ longest day of the year ❄️

*The 2023 winter solstice falls on Dec. 21 at 10:27 p.m. Eastern Time.*

*moving into the return of light*



## SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS

We are always open to submissions from our members.  
Thank you Bob D. for your important Open Letter this month.



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### An Open Letter: Where Are You?

Dear AA Member,

I do not wish to offend anyone. I do want each of us to reflect on our behavior towards AA with an open mind, honesty, and willingness. I will share my own behavior and thinking. To begin with.....

Am I the only AA member to notice that in these post-covid days that attendance at meetings in person has dropped?

I have wondered why. It is true that on-line meetings and hybrid meetings have solved the problem of attendance by members who are unable to attend a meeting because of health, age issues, remoteness, and the daily pressure of events. But I am also aware that I can use these as excuses for not bothering to attend meetings in person. This is where a personal, spot-check inventory can help me.

Why am I not willing to go to any length or put at least 51% of my effort in staying sober? Is AA the first in my list of priorities? As has been noted in our literature, the publishing of the Big Book did greatly improve the spreading of this program of recovery, but it did not replace the importance of meeting attendance in Twelve Step work and the personal contact that results from fellowship.

How important is my own recovery? In my drinking days I certainly was willing to put more than 50% of my time in drinking, traveling to drink, and thinking about drinking. Just guess where you likely stood in this list of my priorities in my drinking days.

Am I Complacent? Comfortable with the current state of my recovery? Do I have more important business to do if I stay at home! The family? Would I have them? After all, it is much easier for me to stay at home, turn on an electronic device, and not bother to get dressed to go out to a meeting. I can easily drop off-line and get something to eat or do something else while I am supposedly listening. In fact, I can control the event by muting or turning off the squares so I do not even have to see you or hear you. Talk about power and ego!

Another plus of being on-line is certainly cheaper monetarily. No basket to donate into or pink can, since everyone knows that zoom doesn't cost anything. After all, someone can afford the \$15.99 a month. So what about seeing that the message is carried? After all, I got it, so I think. This attitude has a serious effect as it decreases the ability to make carrying the message possible. As a result, intergroups suffer, districts suffer, area suffers, and so does AA as a whole, here and abroad and most of all, the potential newcomer who doesn't get the message either. What about the book translations?

I must admit that during covid I attended meetings only on-line, so I made no in-person contributions and sent only a few checks to the many meetings I attended on the computer. However, for some reason, I did continue to send a anniversary birthday contribution to the General Service Board out of gratitude for my sobriety. Needless to say, I did feel a little guilty, for as a past trusted servant of AA, I certainly knew better.

What has prompted this letter to the fellowship has been my noticing that the attendance at post-covid meetings has dropped, in some cases so drastically, that I know of several meetings/groups that are in danger of closing because they can not make rent, let alone contribute to the other services. And even in the circumstances where those groups that are doing OK, attendance has dropped off, and so, therefore, have contributions.

Who is hurt by all of this? Certainly the newcomer, maybe you, and me. I know we can do better. "Joy of living" and "trudging the road" come to mind, which always brings a smile to my lips. I certainly do not want to offend anyone. AA saved my life for which I am eternally grateful.

Love through Service,  
**Bob D, Pleasanton, CA**

## DEIG NOVEMBER 2023 FINANCES



DEIG Finances - November 2023									
Operating Account			Literature Account			donations detail			
beginning balance	\$2,379.53		beginning balance	\$1,579.40		amount source			
							\$55.00	District 16	
Expenditures	\$91.58	Hotline Phone	Expenditures	\$549.43	AAWS		\$188.00	Frenchman's Bay Group	
	\$50.84	Vista Print							
	\$23.45	UPS Store							
	\$57.89	Newsletter							
	\$16.95	Zoom							
	\$46.81	Reimbursement							
total debit	\$287.52		total debit	\$549.43					
Revenue	\$243.00		Revenue		deposit				
							\$243.00	total	
total credit	\$243.00		total credit	\$0.00					
ending balance	\$2,335.01		ending balance	\$1,029.97					

## DEIG NOVEMBER CONTINUED BUSINESS REPORTS



*From the November Minutes:*

*"We need to update service positions on the website and provide Willy the emails in order to update the site. Bill said he would make sure Willy has that information. It was suggested that Willy try to remove from the website the links which don't currently work.*

*· Repeated from the October Minutes - Registering DEIG with the State as a non-profit 501c corporation: Geoff reminded us, as he did last month, that there is one piece of housekeeping that still needs our attention. The issue is that someone from DEIG needs to continue to register our organization with the State, as a non-profit, once a year. There is an annual fee of \$35.00. The rules that we must follow are:*

- o Need an agent (can be a member)*
- o Must operate/reside in Maine*
- o Must have officers and a Board of Directors (figure head positions)*
- o The Board of Directors must meet at least once per year.*

*Some of the people who are currently listed in these roles are no longer with us, or have moved out of the area, or moved on. We must decide who will fill these roles. We don't need to pay Alison, our lawyer who helped us file initially. We can do that ourselves. We discussed the need to decide this at the October meeting. It was noted that the Trustees and the Board need to be different people, and also not the same as the Steering Committee members. We need to update this information before we submit the registration to the State."*