nassau intergroup of alcoholics anonymous®

news

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PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

Intergroup's By-Laws may be changed by not less than a ⅔ affirmative vote of a regularly scheduled Reps Meeting provided that prior to that meeting the proposed changes are published in two consecutive newsletters, read at two consecutive regular meetings and submitted by mail to all groups at least 45 days prior to the vote. (IAN By-Laws, Article X.)

The current By-Laws are available at:
https://nassauintergroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ByLawsRev08-2022-2Col.pdf

The following changes to the current By-Laws are proposed. Removed text is presented in strikeout, and new text is underlined.

By-Proposed Laws begin below.

By-Laws, Intergroup Association of Nassau, Inc.

As Revised ~~August 4, 2022~~ XXXXXX 2025

~~Article I — Name~~ **ARTICLE I – NAME AND STATUS**

The name of this organization is ~~the~~ Intergroup Association of Nassau, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in the State of New York.

~~Article II — Purpose~~ **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

Section 1. The Intergroup Association of Nassau, Inc., also known as Nassau Intergroup (NI), is an all volunteer organization formed by the Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups within Nassau County to serve all AA groups and meetings in Nassau County.

Section 2. The primary purpose of Nassau Intergroup shall be to assist AA groups within Nassau County in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the still sick and suffering alcoholic, both in and out of the AA Fellowship by performing those functions that individual AA groups cannot accomplish alone.

Section 3. To this end, in accordance with AA's Twelve Steps, Traditions, and Concepts for World Service, Nassau Intergroup is committed to the following functions:

- maintaining a central business office as a communications center for AA activities in Nassau County;
- operating a 24 hour "Hotline" service;
- ~~publishing and distributing a newsletter~~disseminating current information via newsletter, website and/or other means;
- publishing and distributing up-to-date schedules of meetings in Nassau County;
- facilitating periodic "Speaker Exchange" meetings for the AA groups;
- conducting regular business meetings to address any AA group concerns and NI business;
- performing other functions, which serve our primary purpose, as may be directed by the AA groups;

- cooperating with other service entities in the AA Fellowship.

~~Article III — Membership~~ ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership of Nassau Intergroup shall consist of the AA groups that are currently members of Nassau Intergroup and such other AA groups as shall become members of Nassau Intergroup in accordance with this article. (Each such AA group shall be considered a "Nassau AA Group" and collectively shall be referred to as the "Nassau AA Groups" or "the Groups".)

Section 2. Any two or more alcoholics in Nassau County, gathered together for the purpose of sobriety, may call themselves an AA group and be eligible for membership in Nassau Intergroup provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.

Section 3. Each Nassau AA Group's NI Rep ~~(NIR)~~ and Alternate NI Rep should have a reasonable amount of sobriety ~~(as defined by their respective Group)~~ and is encouraged to attend the regular monthly NIR Meetings and any special meetings of Nassau Intergroup. The suggested term of office is two (2) years.

Section 4. Although NI support has customarily come from its member AA groups, financial support is not a prerequisite for membership or continued membership.

Section 5. Member groups are encouraged to observe AA Traditions. Intergroup is available to provide experience, information and support to that end.

~~Article IV — Officers~~ ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Elected officers of the Nassau Intergroup shall be as follows:

(a). Chairperson,
(b). 1st Vice Chairperson,
(c). 2nd Vice Chairperson,
(d). Recording Secretary, and
(e). Treasurer.

Section 2. Elections shall be held at the October meeting of every even numbered year and shall be by the "Third Legacy" procedure as outlined in The AA Service Manual. The above officers are elected to serve for a two (2) year period, effective January 1st. Every AA group in Nassau County is entitled to one vote for each office.

Section 3.

(a). With the exception of the Chairperson (who cannot succeed oneself nor stand for any of the aforementioned offices for a period of two years), all other officers may succeed themselves for a second two year term.

(b). A spirit of rotation shall be given the greatest precedence in applying this section of these By-Laws.

Section 4. Should the Chair become vacant prior to elections, the 1st Vice Chairperson automatically succeeds. In the event the 1st Vice Chairperson is unable to assume the Chair, the 2nd Vice Chairperson will automatically succeed. If any of the other offices become vacant, the Chairperson shall appoint an interim Officer with the approval of the NI Reps.

Section 5. A minimum of two years sobriety is suggested prior to standing for the above positions. Extrapolating from the Third Legacy election procedures as outlined in The AA Service Manual, those eligible to "stand" for the above offices include the:

(a). registered NI Reps,
(b). current Committee Chairs and
(c). current Officers of Nassau Intergroup.

Section 6. At the September NI Reps meeting, nominations for officers shall be opened and shall remain open until elections at the regular October NI Reps meeting.

Section 7. A Nominating Committee shall be appointed no later than May 31st of each election year by the Nassau Intergroup Chairperson with the approval of the NI Reps. The committee shall consist of:

(a). the NI Chairperson,
(b). two members of the Steering Committee and
(c). two NI Reps not on the Steering Committee.

The committee shall nominate candidates for each office at the September NI Reps meeting.

Names put forward by the Nominating Committee shall be members of good standing in AA, but not necessarily currently serving as an NI Rep, committee chair or Officer.

Section 8. Any member of the Steering Committee or Officer of the Nassau Intergroup may be removed from the Committee and/or a position of office in Nassau Intergroup for conduct considered prejudicial to the Nassau Intergroup or its purposes by a $2/3$ vote of the Committee. Anyone so removed from a position of office in Nassau Intergroup may be reinstated to their position by a 2/3 vote of a meeting of the NI Reps. Such a person shall have access to the NI Reps at a formal regularly scheduled meeting in order to exercise the aforementioned right to reinstatement.

~~Article V — Meetings and Voting Rights~~ **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS**

Section 1. The Nassau Intergroup Representatives shall meet on the first Thursday of each month. A quorum shall consist of those members present and at least the Chairperson or one (1) of the two (2) Vice Chairs of Nassau Intergroup.

~~(a). If the first Thursday should fall on New Year's Day or the Fourth of July, this meeting shall be moved to the second Thursday of that month. If the first Thursday should fall on any other day of observance, t~~The Chair may, in consultation with at least two (2) other officers, reschedule the meeting.

~~(b). The Chairperson, in consultation with at least two (2) of the other officers, shall adjust the date of any meeting cancelled due to inclement weather or any serious calamity.~~

Section 2. The Steering Committee shall meet on the last Thursday of each month. A quorum shall consist of 25% of the active Steering Committee membership.

~~(a). If the last Thursday should fall on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, or New Year's Eve this meeting shall be moved to the third Thursday of that month. If the last Thursday should fall on any other day of observance, T~~the Chair may, in consultation with at least two (2) other officers, reschedule the meeting.

~~(b). The Chairperson, in consultation with at least two (2) of the other officers, shall adjust the date of any meeting cancelled due to inclement weather or any serious calamity.~~

Section 3. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson upon reasonable notification in unusual circumstances. Only the business for which these meetings are called may then be considered and voted upon.

Section 4. All matters before the membership shall be decided by the "one group, one vote" principle. Again, calling upon *The AA Service Manual* for guidance; all NI officers, Committee Chairs and NI Reps have one vote each at the NI Reps meeting. Experience indicates that even though officers and committee chairs are members of an AA group that is represented by a NI Rep, they are entitled to a vote at the meeting. Alternates normally vote only if the regular NI Rep is not present.

~~Article VI — Steering Committee~~ **ARTICLE VI – STEERING COMMITTEE**

Section 1. The Steering Committee of Nassau Intergroup shall consist of:

(a). the five elected officers,

(b). the chairperson of each standing committee or the authorized alternate,

(c). the immediate past Chairperson, and

(d). two (2) members-at-large who may be appointed at the discretion of the Chairperson with the approval of the Intergroup Representatives.

(e). The Assistant Treasurer shall be a non-voting member of the Steering Committee, and may vote at a Steering Committee meeting only if the Treasurer is not present.

(f). The Chair may invite chairs of ad hoc and/or special committees to attend Steering Committee meetings as non-voting participants.

Section 2. The Steering Committee shall provide for the general administration of the Nassau Intergroup with the ultimate authority vested in the AA groups. Authority and responsibility shall be related.

Section 3. Any member of the Steering Committee who shall fail to attend three (3) consecutive Steering Committee meetings may be removed by the Chairperson with the approval of the Committee.

Section 4. Meetings shall be limited to members with the following exceptions who may attend without vote:

(a). past chairpersons,

(b). District Committee Member Chair (DCMC) of the Nassau General Service ~~Committee~~Group, and

(c). ~~invited guests~~additional invitees at the discretion of the Chairperson.

Section 5. Special Steering Committee meetings may be called by the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall call a special meeting at the request of five (5) members of the Steering Committee upon reasonable notification in unusual circumstances. Only the business for which these meetings are called may then be considered.

Section 6. Under no circumstance may any one individual have more than one vote at a Steering Committee meeting.

~~Article VII — Committees~~ **ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES**

Section 1. There shall be the following standing committees:

(a). Accessibilities ~~(12/96),~~

(b). Archives ~~(08/04),~~

(c). Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC),

(d). Corrections,

(e). Financial Review,

(f). Hospitals and Institutions (H&I),

(g). Literature,

(h). Meeting List,

(i). Newsletter – the Editor shall serve as the committee chair,

(j). Night Book,

(k). Office Manager,

(l). Office volunteer coordinator

~~(k). Office Volunteers - the Office Coordinator shall serve as the committee chair, there may also be an "Assistant Coordinator" and seven (7) "Daily Coordinators",~~

(~~l~~m). Public Information (PI),

(~~m~~n). Share-A-Day,

(~~n~~o). Speakers Exchange Meeting,

(~~o~~p). Technology ~~(3/18)~~, ~~and~~

(~~p~~q). 12th Step List~~.~~, and

(r.) Webmaster.~~-~~

Section 2. Temporary "ad hoc" or special committees may be formed by the Steering Committee. ~~, Big Meeting, and Picnic committees are ad hoc committees~~. Ad hoc committee chairpersons have no vote at the steering committee meetings, but are expected to provide updates of committee activities during their term.

Section 3. The committees shall follow the respective AA Guidelines as provided by Nassau Intergroup.~~-~~

Section 4. The NI Chairperson shall be provided with a list of all committee members.

Section 5. Committees shall report to the AA groups at the regular monthly meeting when appropriate.

Section 6. Each committee chairperson shall be recommended by the respective standing committee or appointed by the NI Chairperson, with the approval of the NI Reps.

~~Article VIII — Finances~~ **ARTICLE VIII - FINANCES**

Section 1. Nassau Intergroup will seek to accrue and maintain a prudent reserve of approximately six months of the combined annual expenses of Nassau Intergroup and its various committees (e.g., H&I, Literature, Share-A-Day, etc.).

Section 2. The operating fund of Nassau Intergroup (e.g., the NI bank accounts other than the dedicated sub-accounts and the reserve account) shall not exceed one-quarter (1⁄4) of the then-current annual budget.

Section 3. An "Assistant Treasurer" shall be appointed by the NI Chair (in consultation with the Finance Committee) and confirmed by a simple majority vote of all present and eligible to vote at an NI Reps Meeting. The Assistant Treasurer shall be primarily responsible ~~(under the supervision of the Treasurer) to calculate and prepare the quarterly or annual literature sales tax reports, and to control and track the NI expenses for large events such as the Alkathons, Share-A-Days, Picnics and the Big Meeting. As an unelected, non-Officer position, the Assistant Treasurer shall have "view only" access to the main NI Bank accounts, and limited withdrawal authority only from a separate "events" account.~~ for providing support to the Treasurer as needed.

Section 4. The Financial Review committee shall:

(a). be composed of the following members:

(i) a Committee Chair,

(ii) a past NI Treasurer, to be appointed by the NI Chair and confirmed by a majority vote, of all present and eligible to vote at an NI Reps Meeting (however, if no past Treasurer is available, another person of commensurate fiscal responsibility and experience, shall be selected from the floor at an NI Reps Meeting and confirmed by a majority vote of all present and eligible to vote at an NI Reps Meeting),

(iii) two NI Reps selected from the floor at an NI Reps Meeting and confirmed by a majority vote of all present and eligible to vote at an NI Reps Meeting, and the then-current Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, who shall be ex officio members but have no votes.

(b). meet at least every other month ~~starting in January~~, to review finances and budget, and to ensure that expenditures, the operating fund balance and prudent reserves are in compliance with these Bylaws, and with any standing procedures approved by the membership at an NI Reps Meeting and that Nassau Intergroup is operating in a manner that will preserve its status as a tax-exempt non- profit organization under the appropriate State and Federal codes,

(c). present the previous year's annual report at the ~~January~~ February Steering Committee meeting and then at the ~~February~~ March NI Reps meeting, and

(d). prepare the yearly budget for review at the October Steering Committee meeting and for presentation at the November NI Reps meeting, so that the NI Reps will have a month to review it before voting on it in December.

Section 5. Nassau Intergroup shall not be operated for profit and all income and earnings shall be used exclusively for NI purposes, so as to maintain and preserve its status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization under State and Federal codes. No part of the net earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any member, Officer or private individual, except that reasonable compensation may be paid for services rendered to or for Nassau Intergroup.

Section 6. If for any reason, Nassau Intergroup shall cease to function, all monies, records, and other property held in its name shall become the property of its successor AA organization, or if none such exists, it shall become the property of the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

~~Article IX — Parliamentary Protocol~~ **ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY PROTOCOL**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern Nassau Intergroup in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these By-Laws, the AA Traditions and the Twelve Concepts for World Service.

~~Article X — Amendment of By-Laws~~ **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These By-Laws may be amended by an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 of the NI Reps present at any regular meeting of the Nassau Intergroup provided that prior to the meeting at which voting is to take place, a copy of the proposed change(s) has been:

1. (a). published in NI newsletters, on the NI website and/or email blasts for two (2) consecutive ~~NI Newsletters~~months, and
2. (b). ~~read~~ presented for review at two (2) consecutive regular NI Reps meetings.

~~and~~

~~(c). submitted as a mailing to each eligible group at least forty-five (45) days before that meeting.~~

Amendment(s) will be effective immediately unless specifically otherwise stated.

End of the Proposed By-Laws.

These proposed changes will be presented for discussion at the August and September Reps Meetings, and will be up for amendment and a final vote at the October Reps Meeting.