

# BYLAWS OF THE HARRISBURG AREA INTERGROUP

## ARTICLE I -NAME

Section 1: The name of this association is Harrisburg Area Intergroup.

## ARTICLE II-PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of this Intergroup shall be to aid the individual groups in their common purpose of carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the alcoholic who still suffers and to encourage the AA legacies of unity and service by using the following resources:

- a. Maintain a 24-hour telephone answering service for those alcoholics seeking help;
- b. Provide a simple partnership consisting of representatives from Harrisburg Area AA groups to assist and stimulate local AA groups;
- c. Provide a comprehensive prison outreach program whereby meetings can be made accessible to inmates in county and state prisons, halfway houses, work release centers and youthful offender facilities;
- d. Maintain a monthly publication (Sobriety News) to announce membership of new groups, changes in meeting times and dates, upcoming AA events, all Intergroup business and activities, Intergroup and committee meeting minutes, and act as an instrument through which individual members may share their experiences, strength, and hope;
- e. Provide an internet site on which can be published meeting schedules and all other business relative to AA in the Harrisburg area;
- f. Provide a literature sales office for purchase of AA approved literature by group representatives or their designees;
- g. Provide regularly updated printed meeting schedules for all groups in the District 36 Harrisburg area; Intergroup Representatives can receive 15 copies at no cost when they come to our monthly intergroup meeting.
- h. Notify Intergroup representative of upcoming meetings, events, and other relevant information through the use of letters or e-mail
- i. In adherence to the 5th and 6th Traditions, we generally post only AA events. The criteria in place for an event to be posted is that it be put on by AAs, for AAs and about AA. For HAI purposes, if all answers to the following 3 questions are "yes," then the event will be posted.
  1. Does the event host identify as an **AA Group** or share the same **primary purpose: *To stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety?***
  2. Does the event refrain from affiliating **HAI** with any outside facility or enterprise?
  3. Is the meeting or event open to **all** alcoholics?

If any answer is **no**, the host may request an exemption, which involves bringing the event flyer to the next **HAI meeting** for a group conscience vote and if it passes, displaying the following disclaimer:



HAI's primary purpose is to help ALL alcoholics achieve sobriety and help others stay sober. Our event posting policy is based on the AA 5th and 6th Traditions. This posting does not imply HAI endorsement of or affiliation with the host, and If this event targets an AA Group subpopulation, hosts are urged to NOT turn away the still sick and suffering alcoholic in need of help, regardless of demographic.



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### **ARTICLE III-OFFICERS**

Section 1: The officers of the Intergroup shall be a Chairperson, a Co-Chairperson, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer, and Co-Treasurer. The term for each office is two years, recognizing AA's spirit of rotation.

Section 2: The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

**Chairperson shall:**

- a. Preside at all Intergroup meetings, assuring compliance with AA traditions and Intergroup's ByLaws.
- b. impartially guide the Floor, keeping discussion confined to the topic at hand and the meeting moving in a timely, fair, and effective manner;
- c. recognize members that wish to speak and indicate that the Floor is theirs for comments;
- d. introduce new representatives;
- e. maintain open communication with committee Chairs;

**Co-Chairperson shall:**

- a. assume responsibilities of the Chairperson when the Chair is absent;
- b. maintain communication with all committee Chairs;
- c. Assume responsibilities of Unity chair if vacant;

**Recording Secretary shall:**

- a. prepare minutes of each meeting and submit them in writing and to Sobriety News for additions, corrections and approval at subsequent meetings;
- b. maintain an accurate roster of group representatives and record attendance at meetings;
- c. establish from the roster those eligible to participate in voting and ensure that only eligible members participate in the voting process;
- d. record the results of all votes on any proposed motions;

**Treasurer shall:**

- a. keep written or electronic records of all disbursements and receipts;
- b. provide a monthly financial statement at Intergroup meetings;
- c. maintain a "prudent reserve" (enough to cover three months' expenses);
- d. provide notification to alert all groups when funds reach the level of prudent reserve;

**Co-Treasurer shall:**

- a. work alongside the Treasurer;
- b. assume all responsibilities of the Treasurer in the Treasurer's absence.

Section 3: An A.A. member should have two years of continuous sobriety, unless group conscience votes to allow a person of less time acceptable to serve as an elected trusted servant. All concurrent officers and group representatives are eligible to stand for Intergroup Office. In the absence of a volunteer, any A.A. member may stand for the open position;

**ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Any AA group in the Harrisburg area may be a member of Harrisburg Area Intergroup.

Section 2: This Intergroup shall have no control over the internal affairs, the management or conduct of any member group, the intent of these ByLaws being only to gain Intergroup unity, strength and cooperation; complete autonomy of each group must be preserved.

## **ARTICLE V-REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1: It is suggested that each AA group within the Intergroup choose one representative and one alternate to replace the representative in case of his or her absence.

Section 2: Al-Anon groups have their separate fellowship. Intergroup cooperates with Al-Anon to achieve common goals in recovery.

- a. Al-Anon Family groups shall be eligible for representation.
- b. Al-Anon Family groups may not vote on AA related issues.

## **ARTICLE VI-MEETINGS**

Section 1: Meetings shall be opened at chairperson discretion with the Serenity Prayer and the 12 traditions and closed with the "Lord's Prayer."

Section 2: The Harrisburg Area Intergroup shall hold regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.

Section 3: The attendance of at least 10 member groups shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at any regular or special meeting of the Intergroup.

Section 4: A special meeting may be called at any time upon 14 days of published notice via email and post on Sobriety News.

Section 5: The order of business shall be as follows: roll call, reading and adoption of minutes, chairperson's report, treasurer's report, committee reports, completion of old business, and consideration of new business.

Section 6: The meeting for the election of officers shall be held in December, concurrent with the General Service Panel rotation.

## **ARTICLE VII-Voting Procedures**

Section 1: Only group representatives or their alternates shall be eligible to vote on Harrisburg Area Intergroup matters.

Section 2: Any A.A. member present at Harrisburg Area Intergroup may make a motion, usually during New Business.

- a. Any A.A. member can make a motion by being recognized by the Chair and then stating the body of their proposal.

- b. Another A.A. member must second any motion put on the Floor. Any motion not seconded dies immediately and is not eligible for further discussion.
- c. Any motion that goes against the ByLaws is out of order and should be called as such by the Chair.

Section 3: Once a motion has been seconded, the Chair restates the motion and opens the Floor for discussion on the motion. Thorough discussion of a motion is essential for an informed group conscience.

**Guidelines For Discussion:**

- a. Speakers wait to be recognized by the chair before addressing Harrisburg Area Intergroup.
- b. Personal remarks or other interruptions are out of order in any discussion.
- c. Discussion is confined to the motion made and seconded.
- d. Debate on a motion continues as long as members wish to discuss the question.
- e. Any IGR may choose to “call the question” which prompts a vote to end discussion.
- f. If the discussion is no longer moving forward, any IGR may move to postpone or table the motion being discussed.
- g. IGRs may make an amendment to the motion on the floor. The amendment must be seconded and voted on by the body. Discussion then returns back to the main motion.

Section 4: When discussion has ended the Chair will call for a vote. A simple majority of eligible voting IGR is required to pass any motion unless otherwise specified.

Section 5: Once a vote has been conducted, the Chair will call for “Minority Opinion”. During Minority Opinion sharing, no IGR may speak on the issue from the standpoint of the Majority. Minority Opinion is only for expression of minority opinion. Following Concept 5 for World Service, this sharing by the minority is important “so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration”.

Section 6: After sharing of the Minority Opinion, the Chair will ask if anyone has changed their vote. If anyone has changed their vote on the issue, the Chair will call for a revote on the motion.

Section 7: The Harrisburg Area Intergroup shall follow Third Legacy Voting Procedures for the election of all Intergroup Officers, electing via closed ballot and by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority where possible.

**ARTICLE VIII-COMMITTEE**

Section 1: The committee chair shall present the committee report at the regular monthly Intergroup meeting. Committee meetings shall be held separately from the monthly Harrisburg Area Intergroup meeting and meeting times and minutes shall be publicized on Sobriety News.

Section 2: Committee Chairs shall be elected by a simple majority of Intergroup members.

Section 3: The duties of the Committee Chairs shall be as follows:

**Activities Chair shall:**

- a. Plans and organizes A.A. outreach events for Harrisburg Area Intergroup.

**Literature Chair shall:**

- a. Maintain a prudent stock of A.A. approved literature.
- b. Oversee and facilitate the sale of literature to local A.A. groups and members
- c. Communicate sales and purchases with Intergroup Treasurer

**Unity Chair shall:**

- a. Visit groups within the area to offer information on the role of Harrisburg Area Intergroup and to encourage the group's involvement

**Public Information (PI) Chair shall:**

- a. Perform activities which may include:
  - Giving presentations about A.A. to schools and organizations.
  - Providing information about A.A. through digital and print materials.
  - Ensuring local media have accurate information about A.A. through PSAs, anonymity-protected interviews and press kits

**Cooperation with the Profession Community (CPC) Chair shall:**

- a. Perform activities which may include:
  - Establishing better communication with professionals working with alcoholics
  - Finding simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating
  - Explaining clearly what A.A. does and doesn't do

**Corrections Chair shall:**

- a. Coordinate the taking of AA Meetings into Cumberland County Men's and Women's Prison, Cumberland County Men's Work Release Centers, Dauphin County Men's and Women's Prison, Dauphin County Men's and Women's Work Release Centers, Perry County Prison, and SCI Camp Hill State Prison

**Treatment Chair shall:**

- a. Coordinate the taking of AA meetings into local treatment centers
- b. Provide local treatment centers with literature and educate professionals about what AA is and is not

**A.A. Hotline Chair shall:**

- a. Ensure that the hotline is assigned to a volunteer group each month
- b. Maintain resource binder with relevant contacts for local members and institutions

- c. Maintain associated hardware and subscription services

**Accessibilities Chair shall:**

- a. Assist AA members who have a variety of challenges in accessing the A.A. message
- b. Provide resources and guidance to groups so that they can accommodate all A.A. members

**Finance Chair shall:**

- a. Work with Treasurer and Committee Chairs to develop annual budget for Harrisburg Area Intergroup
- b. Head other financial projects and research as necessary

**Website Chair shall:**

- a. Manages the Harrisburg A.A. Website ( [www.aaharrisburg.org](http://www.aaharrisburg.org) – Sobriety News)
- b. Keep printed meeting list, meeting guide app, sobriety news online meeting searches up to date
- c. Keeps up with the incoming emails and changes concerning A.A. groups

**Section 4: The responsibilities of the Committee Chairs and Harrisburg Area Intergroup Members shall be as follows:**

a. Any chair position that misses two consecutive meetings without communicating to the chair or co-chair of Harrisburg Area Intergroup in writing will go to a vote from Harrisburg Area Intergroup members to consider the position vacant.

b. The term for each committee chair is two years, recognizing A.A. spirit of rotation.

**ARTICLE IX-AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: Amendments to these ByLaws shall be adopted under the following guidelines:

- a. establish a committee to review the proposed changes for one month to ensure that any change is in accord with AA traditions, if approved by this committee then;
- b. provide a 60-day published notification of the proposed changes to all groups, using but not limited to, the following instruments:
  - 1. Sobriety News
  - 2. Unity Committee
  - 3. e-mail
- c. adoption of any changes requires a 2/3 majority vote of participating Intergroup membership present following the 60 day notification period.

**ARTICLE X-TRADITIONS**

Section 1: These ByLaws are based in the spirit of the 12 traditions of A.A., where traditions shall be observed in any given situation.

## ARTICLE XI-FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Section 1: While realizing that there are no dues or fees in AA, we also realize that if the aims and purposes of Harrisburg Area Intergroup are to be served and carried out, it must be self-supporting. This support must necessarily be derived through the voluntary contributions of the area AA groups and the individual members of AA. There shall be no mandated fees assessed on any AA group at any time.

Section 2: Supplementary financial support can be obtained through special Harrisburg Area Intergroup's sponsored AA events.

Section 3: All funds and property received by, or coming into the custody of, Harrisburg Area Intergroup are trust funds and property of Harrisburg Area Intergroup, to be expended only for the purposes authorized, and only in accordance with the traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. In the event of a sale or dissolution of Harrisburg Area Intergroup the said surplus funds and properties are hereby prohibited for private inurement to any persons, officer, and committee chair or otherwise.

Upon the dissolution of the corporation or the organization, the Board of Directors or governing staff or trusted servants shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation or organization, dispose of all the assets of the corporation or organization in such manner, or to such organization(s) organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization(s) under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors or governing staff or trusted servants shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation or organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. In no event shall any of such assets be distributed to any member, trusted servant, trustee, director, or officer, or any private individual.

Section 4: All funds of the Harrisburg Area Intergroup deposited in banks or depositories, shall be deposited in the name of Harrisburg Area Intergroup, and all withdrawals from such accounts shall be made only by checks or similar orders, signed by either the Treasurer or the Co-Treasurer. Only banks that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used as depositories.

Section 5: The Treasurer's report shall be made at each Harrisburg Area Intergroup Representatives Meeting.

January 3, 2008	Unanimously adopted
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Amended: July, 2012.	(Article III, Section 3)
Amended: March 4, 2016	(Article II, Section 1; Article II, Section 1, Subsection d., f., i., and j.; Article 3, Section 1; Article 3, Section 2, Chairperson, Subsection b., c. and e., Co-Chair, Subsection b., Recording Secretary, Subsection a., c. and d., Treasurer, Subsection b., e. and g.; Article 3, Section 4; Article 4, Section 2; Article 6, Section 5, Section 6, Section 7; Article 7; Article 8, Section 1 and Section 2).
Amended: February 2, 2017	(Article III section 2)
Amended: May 4, 2017	(Article III, section 1; Article VI, section 6)
Amended: November 5, 2017	(Article III, section 2, subsection chairperson and treasurer).
Amended: September 7, 2019	(Article XI section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
Amended: 8/4/2022	(Article II, section 1, subsection f, g, h; Article III, section 2, subsection Treasurer, a; Article III, section 3;

	Article IV, section 1, 2, 3; Article VI, section 1,2,4,6; Article VII, section 2, subsection a, subsection b; section 3 subsection Guidelines e, f, g, section 4, 5, 7; Article VIII, section 3, subsection Activities, a, subsection Literature Chair, a, b, c, subsection Unity Chair, a, subsection Public Information Chair, a, 1, 2, 3, subsection Cooperation with Professional Community Chair, a, 1, 2, 3, subsection Corrections Chair, a, subsection Treatment Chair, a, b, subsection A.A. Hotline Chair, a, b, c, subsection Accessibilities Chair, a, b, subsection Finance Chair, a, b, subsection Website Chair, a, b, c; Article X, section 1; Article XI, section 3, section 4
Amended: 03/06/2025	Article XI, section 3
Proposed Changes: 11/06/2025	Article VIII, section 4, subsection a,b
Proposed Changes: 11/06/2025	Article II, section 1, subsection i

Revised 11/06/2025