

**DOWNEAST INTERGROUP NEWS**  
Volume IX Issue 7 July 2014

The DownEast InterGroup Committee is a group of AA members coming together in the spirit of fellowship to help carry the AA message by publishing a newsletter, sponsoring AA-oriented social events, and distributing AA literature. We support communication and participation between AA members, groups, and districts. [www.downeastintergroup.org/](http://www.downeastintergroup.org/) We meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the Congregational Church in Ellsworth Falls.

## STEP 7

*Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.*

The second paragraph on page 76 Big Book contains the Seventh Step Prayer. It reads:

"When ready, we say something like this: 'My Creator, I am now willing that You should have all of me, GOOD AND BAD (which is another reference back to the Third Step). I pray that You now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to You and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do YOUR bidding. Amen.'"

Step Seven says, "Humbly ask Him to remove our shortcomings." so I'd like to attempt explaining the difference between just ASKING, and HUMBLY asking. Being humble is becoming aware of the littleness of ourselves, compared to the bigness of God. Did you ever think that your only problem is not getting your way? Being a servant of God is the highest attainment in AA. We CLIMB our way all the way to servant. That's what a winner is - a servant. We're just out there doing what God gives us the intuition to do. And when this transformation takes place, our needs are being met from the inside, so we don't have to go out and get anything to get fixed, we're ALREADY fixed because we already have everything we need, and we're simply moving through life, just looking for ways to be of service to God. So humility is an awareness that we are willing to go through whatever it takes to become God-centered. That means we're going to have to go through the pain of often not getting our way and voluntarily go through this transforming pain. - *Barefoot AA*

**LITERATURE:** Contact Diller at 266-9486 to purchase AA literature at cost, shipping fees are paid by DEIG. The new 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of the Big Book sells out fast at \$12 per book! More are on order. Get yours from us!

**From our last DEIG meeting on June 16 :**

**Chair Report:** Carla opened the meeting in the usual manner. She reported that the “Spring Fling” held in Orrington was a lot of fun, but she didn’t want to divulge too much about the event knowing that the Functions Committee would discuss more about that when they made their report. **Treasurer’s Report:** Accepted as given. Next month is the treasurer’s quarterly report. **Literature:** Hard Cover Big Books have sold out. Diller hopes to place another order after he meets up with Treasurer Steve. Literature sales and inventory are good.

**Newsletter:** We confirmed that phone number to reach Diller for literature purchases is included in the newsletter. Next month is the treasurer's quarterly report so the newsletter will have three pages. We are still looking for data contributions for the Intergroup Newsletter so please have your groups contact David about anniversaries and district activities.

**PICPC:** No report tonight. **Functions Committee:** See page 4 of this July edition for a summary of the Spring Fling event held May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Next DEIG meeting:** 6 pm, July 21. Committees meet at 5:30 pm.

### TRADITION 7 CHECKLIST:

***Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.***

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting?  
Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

*(The Traditions Checklists were first published in the AA Grapevine with a series of articles on the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous running November 1969 through September 1971).*

**From our last DEIG meeting on June 16 continued:**

**Hotline:** There were 27 total calls. To note a few, there were six calls from out of state, two from young college students, one from a man in the hospital, and two calls from Hamilton's nighttime visitor who calls him on a regular basis. Hamilton has operated the Hotline for a year and it is time to rotate the position. Hamilton does a great job and he really likes it. There was discussion that maybe we should have a phone committee and have Hamilton head up the committee's training. This is a very rewarding position so we hope to have volunteers.

**Website:** There is nothing to report as Willy hasn't heard from anyone involved in the website. Currently the website is up and running. Generally Willy communicates with Michael H on a regular basis and would know what to report, but he didn't see Michael this month. It was suggested that Michael type up a report for intergroup so we know what's going on with the website. **Alanon Roundup:** Alanon is having a Round-up and they have asked if someone from Downeast Intergroup would be available to represent AA at this event. It is assumed that they are looking for someone to speak at a meeting and possibly for someone to head up AA meetings that are held during their event. This Alanon roundup will be held on Mt Desert Island August 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> at College of Atlantic (COA). Bob states that some intergroup's have speakers lined up to speak at functions that are other than AA. At this time we need clarity of what exactly they want from us. Willy will invite Alanon Roundup folks to come to intergroup next month and discuss what they need.

Please send articles, events, corrections, anniversaries, and other group or district news to Newsletter Editor David T, PO Box 102, Searsport, ME 04974-0102 or email to [editor@downeastintergroup.org](mailto:editor@downeastintergroup.org) . You can also write to the Intergroup Secretary, PO Box 1633, Ellsworth, ME 04605-1633. Please mail contributions to support this intergroup to Intergroup Treasurer, PO Box 1633 Ellsworth, ME 04605-1633. We ask for your name and AA job title from all who contribute any items printed in this newsletter. Events listed are for your information, and are not necessarily sponsored or endorsed by AA or this intergroup.

# DOWNEAST INTERGROUP TREASURERS REPORT For Second Quarter 2014 as of 6/30/14

## Money and the DownEast InterGroup

The DownEast InterGroup was preceded by two intergroups. One was in the late 1980's and had many organizational meetings but limited service to groups. I was the only group representative to that organization. There was an AA service office in Bangor around the late 1990's. Both intergroups were relatively short-lived due to lack of group support. That lesson was not lost on the AA's who began the DownEast InterGroup (DEIG).

Services provided by the DEIG include: a monthly newsletter (printed quarterly), a schedule of meetings in the districts the DEIG serves, an AA hotline, setup to respond to calls for help and information about AA, and a process to buy AA literature. The intergroup also sponsors and organizes various functions for AA members. To date the DEIG has put together dinners with AA speakers, a monthly anniversary meeting, and the more elaborate DEIG Fairs. In all its endeavors the intergroup has practiced the principle of "corporate poverty" talked about in Tradition Seven from the book *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. The idea that the DownEast InterGroup is guided by the wishes of the AA groups it serves is central to how the DEIG operates.

So how does this direct what the intergroup does? Well, for starters the intergroup is supported solely by group/district donations and volunteers. AA members do the work at DEIG functions. AA members attend the Steering Committee meetings and share ideas from groups that become projects and services eventually provided. No money that is "ear-marked" for special projects is accepted by the intergroup. This means that, unlike our political system, special interest groups and individuals have little power at the intergroup. The ideas that prevail are supported by a substantial "group conscience" made up of all in attendance and supporting groups.

Group support pays for meeting lists that are distributed to groups for free and the phone system that is used as an AA information hotline. Well-meaning AA members have suggested selling meeting lists to help support the intergroup and this has always been resisted in favor of keeping the DEIG strictly dependent on group support.

One DEIG goal is to sell AA literature at the lowest price possible to AA members. To this end the intergroup orders larger numbers of books in an effort to get any volume discounts available and then sell them at cost also paying any shipping costs. In this way the DEIG sells literature as cheaply as possible. The money from books always goes back into buying more books in larger orders. The intergroup has on occasion diverted money to the literature fund to buy more books.

The DownEast InterGroup has worked consistently to follow AA principles and be of service to groups in its local region. While the bank account rises and falls depending on donations and projects or events underway it has remained rooted in functioning by group support. In this way it has avoided the "money-trap" that threatens all service organizations and maintained a position of corporate poverty.

The DEIG flourishes where others have failed, because of group support. —Thanks to Willy K. - Editor