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/ We meet monthly on the 3rd 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

<u>LITERATURE</u>: Contact Diller at 266-9486 to purchase AA literature at cost, shipping fees are paid by DEIG. The new 75th 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 31st.

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

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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 - 19th 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.

Email newsletter items to editor@downeastintergroup.org by 6/26 owneastintergroup.org by 6/26 owneastintergroup.org by 6/26

HOTLINE 207-479-1779

DISTRICT NEWS

DISTRICTS 3, 11 & 25 - ALL QUIET

DISTRICT 8

District 8: Mellie is now District 8 chair. District discussed gathering a meeting list for people who are willing to take calls for the Hotline. It was decided that we don't need a list for Hamilton to use for Hotline as he already has a list of people he passes calls to. It was suggested that if anyone wants to be on the list, they should see Hamilton.

Ellsworth Group – Who knows the history of the Ellsworth Group? When, where and who? These are answers the Ellsworth Group is seeking. According to GSO records, the Ellsworth Group became a registered group on Feb. 05, 1976. However, we believe meetings were going on earlier than that. If anyone has information or can point us in the right direction or maybe know the names of people who could help, please contact Todd at teamsnackpack@yahoo.com. The Ellsworth Group meets Monday and Thursday nights at 7pm at the Congo Church across from the Ellsworth Police Dept. Thank you for all your help. – Todd, Ellsworth Group Secretary.

DISTRICT 10

Meeting was held on June 8 in Mattawamkeag with a healthy turnout. Topics discussed included allocation of funds, district picnic for 3rd weekend in August; Love and Service workshop in late September or early October; Harvest Supper in October; New Year's Eve Alcothon, bring ideas back from Groups; Pot Lucks at different meeting once a month to experience other groups in our district. Next meeting will be 2pm July 13 at Church of God, Route 2, Mattawankeag. (Please send us 1 or 2 meeting lists; and note the Free Spirit Group in Patten is in District 10 not 3, - Oops!) - Denise J

DISTRICT 16

Had a good district meeting on June 14, eight people showed up. Sure could use more support at District, come on folks, an hour a month isn't too long, we're going to need help for the Assembly. This is the working of the Fellowship, our Fellowship. District is looking into changing banks for cheaper checking. There are a couple of groups in District that could use support, although most are holding their own. Lincolnville has a new 12&12 meeting. Reentry meeting is hanging tough. Hopefully this meeting will be in our Fall District 16 Meeting List. Area Treasurer Nina will be our visitor next meeting on July 12th. Group donations are getting low, a little bit each month would really, really help. Mary T celebrated 26 years in Brooks, June 30th. – *Joe M.*

Volunteer Sign Up sheets for the Fall Assembly will be available for GSRs to take back to their groups at the July district meeting. SEND YOUR GSR or Alternate GSR! – *Josh F.*

DISTRICT 21

District 21 Picnic: District has planned their annual summer picnic and fliers are available.

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Life is a city of strange streets. Death is the market place where all of them meet. LIFE. - *Joe M*

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The teacher asked the little girl, "What do you think of God?" After a minute the little girl replied "He's not a think, He's a feel." - *Joe M*

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Did You Ever Wonder...?

"What is the difference between 'defects of character' in Step Six and 'shortcomings' in Step Seven?"

According to G.S.O.'s archives, Bill W. commented about his use of "Defects of Character" and "Shortcomings" interchangeably in the Steps in a personal letter he wrote dated March 7, 1963. "Thanks for your inquiry, requesting to know the difference between 'defects of character' and 'shortcomings' — as those words appear in the Steps. Actually I don't remember any particular significance in these phrases. In my mind, the meaning is identical; I guess I just used two ways of expression, rather than to repeat myself. It's just as simple as that."

In another letter, dated November 16, 1965, Bill again responded to a similar inquiry. His letter read, in part: "When these Steps were being done, I didn't want to repeat the phrase 'character defects' twice in succession. Therefore in Step Seven, I substituted 'shortcomings', thereby equating 'shortcomings' with 'defects.' When reading most people do equate that way and there seems to be no difficulty. I used them as though they both meant exactly the same thing — which they appear to many people. I guess it's a problem in semantics, all right. For example, it is possible to say that each time you fall short of an ideal, to that extent is your character defective. Looking at it in the other way, 'shortcomings' can be read as a mere failure to do what should have been done. So I guess you have to take your pick."

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Looking ahead

July 18-20 Area 28 Roundup, Sugarloaf USA

August District 21 picnic

October 17-19 Fall Assembly, District 16, Belfast

ANNIVERSARIES

July 27 Searsport - Ruth 27 years

July 28 Brooks - George 1 year (yeah!)

- Louise 25 years

(ask your Group/Meeting Secretary to send <u>your</u> anniversary to <u>editor@downeastintergroup.org</u> by the 26th)

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Fall Assembly Update: District 16, Belfast Area High School October 17-19. Buy meal tickets early to help purchase supplies.

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I can't, He can, I think I'll let Him

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend, I brought my broken dreams to God, because he is my friend. But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone, I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.

At last, I snatched them back and cried, how could You be so slow?

My child, He said, what could I do?

You never did let go.

In 'Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers' a nurse said he could be heard saying all the time, especially before going in to talk with someone detoxing ... "Of myself - I am nothing."

CONTACT INFORMATION

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. 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

											_	Income	<u>April</u>	May	May June YEAR TO DATE	
					YEAR TO						YEAR TO	Literature Sales	\$456.30	\$141.45	\$604.75	\$1,664.75
GROUPS / DISTRICTS		<u>April</u>	May	<u>June</u>	DATE	GROUPS / DIST	TRICTS	April	May	June	DATE	7th Tradition	\$11.00	\$14.00	\$15.10	\$81.10
District 3						District 16		\$20.00	\$10.00	\$55.00	\$115.00	Events .		\$574.00.		\$574.00
Bangor	Step Sisters	\$30.00			\$30.00	Belfast	Off the Wall Group		\$10.00.		\$10.00	Anonymous .		\$50.00.		\$50.00
Bangor	Bangor/Brewer Friendly Gp.					Belfast	Noon Beginners Meeting					Total Income	\$467.30	\$779.45	\$619.85	\$2,369.85
Brewer	Out to Lunch Bunch .					Brooks	Circle Group		\$11.00 .		\$11.00					
Brewer	Came to Believe Group .					Belfast There is a solution group .			\$10.00.		\$10.00	Expenses	<u>April</u>	May	June YEAR TO DATE	
Brewer	Fresh Start Group .					Belfast	Happy Hour Group		\$6.00 .		\$6.00	P.O. Box .				\$96.00
Dover Foxcroft	But For The Grace of God C.					Belfast	Attitude Adjustment Group		\$10.00.		\$10.00	Literature	\$569.30	\$507.20	\$503.70	\$2,094.80
Dover Foxcroft	Free At Last .					Belfast	Sunday Morning Sunshine Mtg		\$13.00.		\$13.00	Meeting List .		\$350.79.		\$662.02
Orono	Spiritual Group	-				Stockton Spgs	Down-n-Back group	-	\$20.00.		\$60.00	News Letter	\$50.50	\$33.45	\$33.45	\$320.70
Orrington	Gratitude Group .				\$57.00	Searsport	Saturday Night Men's Group					Office	\$40.00	\$14.00.		\$452.16
Dover Foxcroft	Living in the Moment Gp .	-			\$30.00	Searsport	Sunday Night Group					PI-CPC .				
Parkman	There is a solution .		\$25.00		\$25.00	District 21		\$42.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$126.00	Hot Line	\$53.73	\$53.73	\$53.73	\$273.93
Patten	Free Spirit .			\$12.50	\$22.50							Events	\$11.38 .			\$411.38
Brewer	North Brewer Group		\$100.00		\$100.00	Sedwick	Open Door Group					Rent	\$40.00.		\$40.00	\$80.00
District 8			\$180.00		\$180.00	Blue Hill	Friday Night Group					Total Expenses	\$764.91	\$959.17	\$630.88	\$4,390.99
Ellsworth	Noon Timers .					Brooklin	Bridge to Recovery				\$50.00					
Ellsworth	Saturday Night Live .					Bucksport	Unity Group					SUMMARY	<u>April</u>	May	<u>June</u>	
SW Harbor	High Road Group .					Castine	Shipshape Group				\$40.00	Previous Months Ba	\$370.76	\$513.95	\$975.48	
Ellsworth	Step Sisters .		\$45.00		\$45.00	Orland	Riverside AA Group					Donations	\$440.80	\$641.25	\$138.50	
Ellsworth	Ellsworth Group .					Penobscot	Northern Bay Big Book Mtg					Income	\$467.30	\$779.45	\$619.85	
Hancock	Frenchman's Bay Group .		\$50.00		\$50.00	Blue Hill	Serenity by the Bay Group					Expenses	\$764.91	\$959.17	\$630.88	
Bar Harbor	Island Serenity Group					Blue Hill	Stark Raving Sober					Actual Balance	\$513.95	\$975.48	\$1,102.95	
Sullivan	Sullivan Harbor Group .					SDI	Stonington/Deer Isle Group		\$101.00.		\$156.76	'- Prudent Reserve	-\$140.00	-\$140.00	-\$140.00	
Winter Harbor	Winter Harbor	\$180.00			\$180.00	Blue Hill	Tuesday Noon timers				\$30.00	'- Literature balance	-\$109.66	-\$161.09	-\$60.04	
Bar Harbor	Bar Harbor Group .					Blue Hill	New Freedom Grp.				\$16.45	'- Events Reserve	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Salisbury Cove	Slip Not's				\$50.00	Bucksport	Sunday 12&12					Operating Balance	\$264.29	\$674.39	\$902.91	
Gouldsboro	Literature Group	\$88.80			\$88.80	District 25		\$30.00.			\$30.00					
District 10			\$20.00		\$20.00	Machias	Machias Valley Group					LITERATURE	<u>April</u>	May	June Y	EAR TO DATE
Millinocket	Noon Time Group .		\$9.25		\$22.30	Lubec	Lubec Top of the Hill Gang					Beginning Balance	\$222.66	\$109.66	-\$161.09 .	
						Whiting	Quoddy Head Light Group					Contributions .		\$95.00	\$0.00	\$127.15
District 11				•		Camden	12 Sterp Grp.			\$50.00	\$50.00	Literature Sales	\$456.30	\$141.45	\$604.75	\$1,664.75
						Winslow	Morning After Group	\$50.00 .			\$50.00	Literature Expenses	\$569.30	\$507.20	\$503.70	\$2,094.80
	Sub Totals	\$298.80	\$429.25	\$12.50	\$900.60		Totals	\$440.80	\$641.25	\$138.50	\$1,684.81	Ending Balance	\$109.66	-\$161.09	-\$60.04	

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