



# A.B.E. Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous

P.O. Box 149, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0149 • (610) 882-0558

**DATE: Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

**Chairperson** – Kevin M. ([chairperson@aalv.org](mailto:chairperson@aalv.org)) and Rich H. (Vice-Chair) called the meeting to order.

**Secretary** – Darlene H. ([secretary@aalv.org](mailto:secretary@aalv.org))

- 35 groups were represented during Roll Call
- The February 2025 meeting Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer** – Brandon M. and Pam B. ([treasurer@aalv.org](mailto:treasurer@aalv.org))

- Brandon presented the financial report from February 2025. The report was approved as submitted.
- He is asking representative to check their group's contributions each month to make sure that Intergroup received them and that each group is properly credited.
- Insurance and taxes were paid this month for the balance of the year.

**Bookstore** – Lois ([bookstore@aalv.org](mailto:bookstore@aalv.org))

- Lois noted that the Bookstore is very busy and many items are selling quickly. She will be placing another large order.
- A large stock of Spanish-language books is still available.

**Unity** – Dawson N. ([unity@aalv.org](mailto:unity@aalv.org))

- No report this month.

**Schedules** – John D. ([schedules@aalv.org](mailto:schedules@aalv.org))

- John again brought a draft copy of an updated schedule for Reps to review and edit as necessary.
- There is no change to the number of Valley-wide meetings overall.

**Public Information** – Deb Z. ([publicinfo@aalv.org](mailto:publicinfo@aalv.org))

- Deb noted that the 2025 budget includes \$4,900 for the Public Information committee, most of which is allocated to public service announcements. Instead of allocating all of the funding to ViaMedia as we have in the past, it was recently suggested that some funds be utilized for PSA's on social media as well. In response, the committee reached out to a social media firm to reallocate some funds to social media posts. Half of the \$4,900 will be allocated to traditional PSA's and half will be allocated to social media PSA's. The new social media consultant is a member of AA. All of the ads come from AAGSO, but they are tailored to aalv.org.

**Hospitals & Institutions (H&I)** – Tom C. ([institutions@aalv.org](mailto:institutions@aalv.org))

- Tom reported that the Allentown Halfway House will now be hosting an AA meeting on Fridays through 2025.
- Meeting commitments are full and running well.
- Tom is also trying to organize a meeting at Victory House in Bethlehem.

**Telephone Hotline** – Bobby. ([telephone@aalv.org](mailto:telephone@aalv.org))

- Bobby presented a new handout to teach people how to address incoming calls from the hotline. It will be distributed to all who sign up for the hotline to answer calls.



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## District 37 Fred ([d37adcm@gmail.com](mailto:d37adcm@gmail.com))

- Fred reported that District 37 has a pre-conference sharing session coming up . The information is on the Area 59 Website.

## District 57 – Janis ([district57@aalv.org](mailto:district57@aalv.org))

- Janis attended and suggested that IG reps encourage their home groups to also send a representative to the monthly GSR meetings if they are not represented now. The meetings are held at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church in Allentown and they are open meetings.

## Old Business

- None.

## New Business

- Kevin described the current proposal to host a Sober Tent @ Musikfest this year. Because the decision is time-sensitive, a vote on the matter is requested this evening. Representatives received prior emails from the Intergroup Officers that described the event, attached some information from the Traditions and other literature, and an open e-mail from the Mustard Seed group. A response was received from GSO and a printed copy of the response was handed out at the meeting.
- Robert mentioned the Holistic Fair at Allentown as a comparable event. AA has had a booth at that event in prior years.
- Pam noted that there is not cost for the insurance required by ArtsQuest because Intergroup is already insured.
- Bill raised a concern about manpower for the event.
- John raised concern about payment from an outside agency and the signing of a contract.
- Lori V. outlined the history of how this project evolved. She is a member of Mustard Seed and also a Northampton County Commissioner. Northampton County partnered with ArtsQuest to make a \$10,000 donation for the Sober Tent. The cost of the tent is \$8,500. ArtsQuest also requires a contract and insurance from the host of the tent space.
- Joe M. of GOYA wanted to know if it was just AA or is it also other entities? He wondered what the contract commits AA to.
- Jim asked how the Public Information committed handles literature at office buildings. He wondered why we have to pay here? He agreed that the project helps support spreading the message, but wondered about anonymity. Deb noted that members can maintain anonymity while still doing Public Information service.
- Jeff of Dryland encouraged that a core committee or central coordinator be assigned to make sure that the tent is well manned.
- Kevin called for a vote to determine whether there is support for this project. There were 17 meetings that voted yes and 16 meetings that voted no.
- Dissenting voters were allowed an additional opportunity to comment:
  - o Amy read through some notes from her home group’s business meeting. They were concerned with tradition violations related to anonymity, endorsement, and perceived contributions.
  - o Mike expressed concern about setting a precedent, but thought it was a good project if it occurs without AA affiliation.
  - o John felt the project is a violation of the Traditions, but it could work if AA could pay its own way.
  - o Taylor of Sunlight noted that his group was concerned about anonymity and the utilization of the funds. They would like to revisit this topic for next year’s Musikfest.



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- Kevin call for a second vote to reconsider whether Intergroup would pursue the Sober Tent. In the second round there were 14 yes votes and 16 no votes.
- Therefore, Intergroup will not formally be involved in the Sober Tent in 2025.

Kevin thanked the Representatives for their patience since this was a very long meeting.

Kevin adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting – April 22, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Thank you for your service!

**ABE Intergroup Steering Committee**