

**WORCESTER AREA INTERGROUP, INC.
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

GUIDELINES

(Approved 7/28/2000)
(Amended 06/09/2005)
(Amended 06/12/2008)
(Amended 4/16/2009)

ARTICLE I

DEFINITION OF GUIDELINES

A. These guidelines apply only to the Worcester Area Intergroup members, its officers and committees. They are formulated to promote unity and efficiency in conduct of Worcester Area Intergroup and the operation of its office.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE OF WORCESTER AREA INTERGROUP

A. The primary purpose of Worcester Area Intergroup, Inc. is to carry the message to the alcoholic, offering all available services to those who seek help

B.

B. The secondary purpose of Worcester Area Intergroup, Inc. is to improve communications and cooperation between member groups in the general area through the following:

1. To maintain a 24-hour answering service.
2. To maintain and update a twelve-step list.
3. To maintain and update a meeting list.
4. To arrange and improve AA activities committees.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

A. The body of Worcester Area Intergroup, Inc. shall consist of one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate from each participating group, said Delegate and Alternate to be the true and designated representative of its individual group conscience.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A. Length of sobriety to be a Delegate or Alternate shall be determined by individual groups. Recommended one (1) year sobriety.

B. Each Delegate and Alternate shall serve for a period of time to be determined by individual group.

C. Each Delegate and Alternate shall serve and represent one (1) group only.

D. Delegates may succeed selves at Intergroup; however, it is suggested that new Delegates be elected in the spirit of rotation.

E. Separate groups, although meeting at the same address, shall be considered autonomous and shall be so represented.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

A. The meeting of the Delegates shall be held at a time and location that is agreeable to the Delegates to be set by a majority vote at the January Delegates meeting. A vote to change the meeting time and location may be brought about by a motion and a second and majority vote of the Delegates at any time if so needed.

B. Each participating group has one (1) vote. No Delegate or Alternate may vote unless present during the vote in question. The Alternate may vote only in the absence of the Delegate.

C. No group member may represent a group unless elected Delegate or Alternate of said group.

D. Passing vote is constituted by a simple majority of the member groups present.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS (Steering Committee)

(Suggested Minimum Sobriety 2 Years)

(Suggested Service Experience 6 months)

A. **Chairperson** – Presides at Delegate and Steering Committee meetings. Has no vote at Steering Committee Meeting or Delegates Meeting except to break a tie and may not make or second a motion. Automatically rotates to Trustee position for next term of office.

B. **Alternate Chair** – Presides in the absence of the Chairperson; chairs the Nominating Committee (Article VIIB). Automatically rotates to Chairperson position for next term of office.

C. **Treasurer** –Is responsible for balancing the monthly bank statement, weekly issuance of checks to be co-signed by the Alternate Treasurer, or in their absence, by the chairperson or Office Manager. An outside firm will prepare all financial reports, all tax returns and W2's. The Treasurer is responsible for mailing all quarterly payroll tax returns and annual tax returns by their due dates. (Retaining a copy for the Intergroup office permanent files.)

D. **Alternate Treasurer** – Assumes the duties of Treasurer in his/her absence. Responsible for cosigning all checks issued. Notifies the Office Manager or Chair if unable to cosign checks. Meets at least once a month with Treasurer to become familiar with all duties performed by Treasurer. Automatically rotates to Treasurer position for the next term of office.

E. **Secretary** –Records, reports and distributes minutes of the Steering Committee and Delegates meetings to the Steering Committee, Delegates and Intergroup Office. Maintains the Delegate mailing list and keeping count of monthly representation to insure quorum is met if necessary. Responsible for obtaining signatures for the Massachusetts Annual Report and mailing it by the due date. (Also retaining a copy for the Intergroup Office permanent files). Per Massachusetts State law, the Secretary must be 18 years old or older and be a Massachusetts resident.

F. **Trustees (4)** – one (1) of which will be the immediate past Chairperson. Assists officers in all manner of business and vote only at Steering Committee Meeting unless they are also Delegate or Alternate Delegate for a member group.

G. **Office Manager** – Is a voting member of Steering Committee and functions according to the job description. The candidate for this position is approved solely by the Steering Committee.

H. **Assistant Office Manager** – Has a vote at the Steering Committee meeting in the absence of the Office Manager and functions according to the job description. The candidate for this position is approved solely by the Steering Committee.

ARTICLE VII

ELECTIONS

A. It is recommended that a nominee for any office of the Steering Committee must have a minimum of six (6) months service and attendance as an Intergroup Delegate or Alternate Delegate in addition to a minimum of 2 years of continuous sobriety.

B. A nominating committee composed of three (3) members of Intergroup (with the Chairperson to be the current Alternate Chairperson and two (2) Delegates/Alternates appointed by the Intergroup Chairperson) shall submit a slate of officers at the regular October meeting. At this point, nominations from the floor will also be accepted provided the nominee(s) is/are present and willing or have to have given his/her prior approval in writing.

C. Elections are held at the November monthly Delegates Meeting. Additional nominations from the floor will be accepted providing the nominee has accepted the nomination. During the period of October to November meetings, interested, qualified members of Alcoholics Anonymous may submit their own names for election provided it is in writing and received no later than 5:00pm the day of the election.

D. When three (3) successive attempts to elect an officer end in a tie, the names of those involved shall be placed in a hat (or other device) and the winner selected by lot.

E. The offices of Chairperson and Treasurer shall be filled by the Secretary casting one (1) vote for the members present indicating the Alternate Chairperson elected to Chairperson, the Alternate Treasurer elected to Treasurer and the Chairperson elected to Trustee.

F. Newly elected officers assume office on the first of January. Term of office for all officers will be one (1) year.

G. When an officer is absent for two (2) consecutive Steering Committee meetings without prior approval from the Steering Committee, said office may be declared vacant. Whenever such a vacancy occurs the office shall be filled by a majority vote of the Delegates present at meeting following monthly meeting in which the vacancy occurs. An office will become vacant upon

disqualification under guidelines or upon resignation. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Chairperson or Treasurer during the first six (6) months of the term, the Alternate Chairperson or Alternate Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Delegates present at the following monthly meeting in which the vacancy occurs. If the vacancy occurs in the second six (6) months of the term, the Alternate Chairperson or Alternate Treasurer will automatically fulfill the duties of Chairperson or Treasurer and still be able to succeed the office the following term. If needed, as determined by the Steering Committee, a temporary Alternate Chairperson or Alternate Treasurer will be elected by the majority of Delegates to fulfill the rest of the term ending December 31. (The above provision in Article VII-Elections-E shall not apply to the temporary Alternate Chairperson or Alternate Treasurer).

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

A. During the November elections all Committee Chairpersons (volunteers or nominated) shall be appointed by the incoming Chairperson subject to disapproval by the Delegates. Conference Committee Chairpersons, because they are joint committees, will also be subject to disapproval by the District 25 GSR's at their next monthly business meeting. These Conference Committees are Treatments Facilities, Correctional Facilities and Public Information.

B. Any person so appointed, if not present, will have given his/her prior approval in writing.

C. Committee Chairpersons, with the exception of Joint (Conference) committee chairpersons will serve for a period of a one (1) year term to be concurrent with those of the Officers. Joint (Conference) Committee chairpersons (Corrections, Public Information and Treatment Facilities) shall be two years with the term to start on January 1st of the odd numbered years and ending on December 31st of the even numbered years.

D. Each Committee Chairperson is responsible for presenting a written report at the monthly Delegates' Meeting.

E. Each Conference Committee Chairperson is responsible for conducting, or appointing an alternate to conduct a committee meeting on a pre-scheduled date and time. In the event that no person can hold said meeting, it is the responsibility of that Committee Chairperson or Alternate to notify the Intergroup Office of the cancellation of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX

PROCEDURE

A. Procedures should be harmonious with the Twelve Traditions and Twelve Concepts of AA World Services.

B. Roberts Rules of Order (Simplified) will be used as a procedural guideline at Worcester Area Intergroup Meetings.

ARTICLE X

FINANCES

Worcester Area Intergroup shall maintain a checking account that requires two (2) signatures following the restrictions and provisions below:

- A. No ATM or Debit cards shall be allowed.
- B. Authorized signatories shall be Treasurer, Alternate Treasurer, Chairperson and Office Manager.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

These Guidelines may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of member group Delegates present, provided a copy of proposed amendment is submitted in writing to each member group present at the prior meeting at least twenty-five (25) days before the meeting at which action is to be taken.