



Bill Swanson <wswanson@gmail.com>

In regards to your letter and best wishes...

1 message

willy kelly <willyk28@yahoo.com>

Wed, Apr 13, 2022 at 8:02 AM

To: Bill Swanson <wswanson@gmail.com>

Cc: Bill Loomis <billloomis8@gmail.com>

Hello Bill,

First, let me say that I am sorry for your negative feelings regarding the Downeast Intergroup (DEIG) and me personally. You have made your concerns very clear to all who will listen.

Your work with the DEIG has made it clear that the website is very important to the DEIG and the groups/districts we serve. It is now also clear that the website meeting list and the booklet meeting lists need to be in close synchronization. I think this is an idea that you pioneered and we owe you a vote of thanks for that vision.

The DEIG tries to involve AAs in service and spiritual growth in all our endeavors. That, in great part, led to a web platform that could involve more people in the creation process. There is now a strong website committee that works directly on the webpage and the meeting list. We meet at least once a month outside of the Steering committee on Zoom to go over all aspects of the website and now the meeting list.

The fact is that the DEIG Steering committee voted, unanimously to adopt the new website and platform (WordPress). This vote was only after long and arduous consideration by the website committee. The most important issue in this decision was what was the best outcome for the intergroup. I understand this process has left you with hurt feelings and I am sorry for that.

You have directed much criticism toward me personally which I admit I think is uncalled for. I think you downplay the group conscience which is at the core of the intergroup's process and decision making. In fact, I think the DEIG is one of the most principled and spiritual AA-related organizations I have ever seen. This is due to their respect for and participation in, the committee process. While I can be a "direct" person, even influential at times, I have never controlled the intergroup and have always been held responsible to uphold the committee process and the group conscience. In your criticism, I think you have gotten off track on this point.

For all the hurt feelings there are some important points here.

- You did some good work for the DEIG.
- The DEIG wanted to move to a more user-friendly platform that could support more people's involvement in the creation process.
- You were paid for the work you did and there is no reason that the DEIG could not choose to try another way of carrying the message. In fact, the spirit of rotation suggests that this is an important part of healthy growth.
- By your own account, communication between you and the Steering committee and the Website has deteriorated to a standstill. None of us can do good work in that climate.

I am glad that you shared our "termination letter". It showed our gratitude and hope for your future success.

I hold no malice toward you and I hope you prosper in life, sobriety, and business.

I am certain that the DEIG wishes you nothing but the best.

Peace, Willy K.

P.S. While I am certainly free to express my own opinions I shared this email with the Website Committee for comment before I sent it to you.