

Proposed By-Laws

Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (M.A.I.N.)

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods.

Article II. Purpose

Section A. The Purpose of MAIN is:

- To improve the quality of life for Maine's low to moderate-income residents;
- To develop leadership in Maine's low to moderate-income communities;
- To develop local, state and national resources to bring to bear on state and local issues that affect low to moderate-income people;
- To develop an atmosphere of sharing and cooperation among Maine's low to moderate-income neighborhoods;
- To involve through direct participation Maine's low to moderate-income residents in self-help solutions to their problems;
- To strengthen local indigenous organizations through community organizing;
- To encourage and help low to moderate-income neighborhoods not yet organized to develop viable democratic organizations either as regional MAIN groups or as separate entities;
- To encourage the interchange of ideas and replication of programs;
- To further the development of local control, ownership and empowerment; and
- To build a coalition of low to moderate income community based organizations who will work together to effect major public policy issues and programs that affect the lives of Maine's entire low to moderate income population.

Section B. MAIN has the right to enter into agreements with other groups to further its purpose.

Section C. MAIN has the power and authority:

- To receive, administer and expend funds and contributions for the purposes outlined above; and
- To have all powers that may be conferred upon a charitable institution formed under the laws of the State of Maine governing corporations without capitol stock (Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act).

Article III. Area to be served.

The area to be served will be the State of Maine.

Article IV. Meetings

MAIN will hold at least eight statewide membership meetings each year at which decisions are made based on the consensus process. If consensus cannot be reached, a

vote by 2/3rds of members present will carry the decision. Members, who request it, will be given notice at least seven (7) days notice in advance of all meetings. Every other year, a conference will be held to prioritize which issues will be worked on over the next two years. Election of officers will also be held at this conference. Members will be given at least twenty (20) days notice of the biennial conference.

Article V. Membership

There shall be three classes of membership.

Section A. Community organizations in Maine that have a majority of members that are low-income as defined by MAIN's Board of Directors/membership.

Section B. Community organizations in Maine that have low-income constituencies/clients shall be eligible to be associate members of MAIN.

Section C. Any individual is eligible to be a member of MAIN.

Article VI. Dues

Section A. Community organizations shall pay annual dues of \$100, or whatever the group can afford. Individual members shall pay annual dues of \$5.00, or whatever the member can afford. No organization or individual will be denied membership if unable to pay annual dues.

Section B. The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

Article VII. Officers

Section A. Leadership in MAIN consists of a Chair, Vice-Chair (two, if possible), Treasurer, Secretary & Membership Chair. They will be elected at the biennial conference by a majority of members present.

Section B. Duties.

1. *Chair:* Represent MAIN in the media and before the Legislature and other public events.
2. Facilitate Monthly meetings. Along with other officers, make decisions for MAIN in between meetings when necessary.
3. *Two vice-chairs:* Represent MAIN in the media and before the Legislature and other public events when Chair designates. Along with other officers, make decisions for MAIN in between meetings when necessary. Help support Regional MAIN groups. Seek candidates for broad geographic representation.
4. *Secretary:* Take notes at monthly meetings and submit for posting on MAIN website and to the email network. Oversee communications with allied groups.
5. *Treasurer:* Maintain the banking account. Pay bills. Help develop a yearly budget and fundraising plan. Give quarterly reports.
6. *Membership Chair:* Communicate with members. Foster relationship with member organizations. Encourage contacts to be members.

Section C. Resignation/Removal/Vacancy.

1. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the president or secretary.
2. Any officer may be removed at a special meeting called expressly for that purpose by 2/3rds of the members present. No officer shall be removed except for just and sufficient cause.
3. If an office becomes vacant, a majority of those present at a members meeting may choose a successor who shall hold office until the next scheduled election.

Article VIII. Committees.

Committees shall be formed as needed to carry out the purposes of the organization.

Article IX. Amendments to the by-laws

1. These bylaws can be amended at the biennial conference of the members by 2/3 vote of members present. At least 20 days notice must be given prior to the conference of the proposed changes.
2. Any member in good standing may initiate an amendment or repeal.