

AVP INDIANA BY-LAWS
Adopted: February 24, 2016
Amended: July 22, 2017

ARTICLE 1

Name, Scope, Function & Structure of Organization

These By-Laws shall govern the Indiana state organization for the Alternatives to Violence Project under the name of “Alternatives to Violence Project Indiana” (AVP Indiana). Until such time as other regional groups become established, the organization shall be structured into three levels: core organizing group, facilitators, and members that have participated in one or more workshops.

All groups that use the name “Alternatives to Violence Project Indiana” or “AVP Indiana” shall adhere to the following mission statement:

The mission of the Alternatives to Violence Project is to empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation and trust.

Founded in and developed from the real life experiences of men and women in prison and others, and building on a spiritual base, AVP encourages every person’s innate power to positively transform themselves and the world.

AVP is an association of community groups and prison based groups offering experiential workshops in personal growth and creative conflict management for adults and youth. The organization provides support for the work of these local groups.

1. Local Group of AVP/USA

As a Local Group of AVP/USA our organization, taking 501(c)(3) status from AVP/USA, shall submit a financial statement to the Finance Committee of AVP/USA annually by a date to be specified by the Finance Committee.

2. AVP/USA, its regions and locals are all-inclusive organizations. AVP Indiana and its affiliates shall not discriminate in any of their policies, appointments or other activities on account of race, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious conviction, socio-economic status, or criminal history. This list is meant to suggest intent, not to be exhaustive.

3. AVP Indiana does not engage in political action or lobbying and does not promote any specific political view as an organization. Members may not espouse a political position in the name of AVP or when in their role as AVP facilitators. Questions may be answered honestly in a workshop, however AVP facilitators may not proselytize a particular political or religious belief.

4. AVP Indiana does not promote any religious doctrine.
5. The programs of AVP Indiana are educational in nature, and are not psychotherapy.
6. AVP Indiana shall be financially self-sustaining

ARTICLE II
Incorporation – Tax Exemption

AVP Indiana is incorporated under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a tax exempt organization. The state of incorporation shall be determined by its Core Organizing Group. Its Articles of Incorporation shall contain all provisions required by law to preserve its status as a not-for-profit tax exempt organization.

ARTICLE III
Core Organizing Group

1. A Core Organizing Group shall be convened and include the Co-Coordiators, the Treasurers and anyone who has participated in at least one AVP workshop who wishes to be involved.
2. AVP Indiana shall be governed by policies and decisions agreed upon by an Annual State Gathering in conjunction with AVP/USA. The Core Organizing Group is responsible to the members of AVP Indiana and the authorities of the state of incorporation for the management of the property and affairs of the Corporation. The COG shall delegate all tasks to appropriate members, except those specifically required to fulfill its fiduciary responsibilities.
3. The Core Organizing Group shall meet at least once a month and yearly at an Annual State Gathering. A record of decisions made at the Annual State Gathering is to be approved by the Core Organizing Group and posted on the AVP Indiana website promptly after each annual meeting.
4. Quorum: At any meeting of the Core Organizing Group, one half of the total membership of the COG shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IV
Annual Gathering

- There shall be an Annual State Gathering of AVP Indiana each year, at a time and date set by the Core Organizing Group.
- The Annual State Gathering is the ultimate policy making body of the State Corporation.
- The Treasurer(s) shall present to the Annual State Gathering a report, verified by a Finance Committee, showing:
 - the assets and liabilities of the Corporation at the end of the preceding fiscal year;

- the principal changes in such assets and liabilities during said fiscal year;
- receipts of the Corporation (designating those restricted to particular purposes) during said fiscal year; and
- disbursements during said fiscal year.

Such report shall be permanently filed with the records of the Corporation and posted to the website within sixty (60) days of the Annual State Gathering.

- The Core Organizing Group shall submit to the Annual State Gathering a proposed budget.
- Ratification of Important Matters of Policy: Issues determined by any committee, in consultation with the Core Organizing Group, to involve important matters of policy shall be submitted for ratification to the Annual State Gathering.

ARTICLE V Officers

1. The officers of the Corporation shall be the Co-Coordiators and Co-Treasurers, who shall be affirmed in office during the Annual State Gathering. Vacancies may be filled by the Core Organizing Group naming these officers and for a term to be reaffirmed during the next Annual State Gathering.
2. The Co-Coordiators: The Coordinators shall be nominated by the Core Organizing Group with input from the facilitators. The Coordinators shall be affirmed by the Annual State Gathering and serve a one year term and can be reaffirmed for successive terms. The Coordinators shall have the authority to sign on behalf of the Corporation all contracts and other instruments under seal. One Coordinator shall keep all records, digital and paper of the meetings of the Core Organizing Group and the Annual State Gathering.
3. Recording Clerk: At each meeting, one Coordinator will be designated to keep the minutes of the proceedings. Digital minutes will be posted to the AVP Indiana digitally shared documents folder after the meeting.
4. The Treasurers: The Treasurer shall be nominated by the Core Organizing Group with input from the facilitators. The Treasurer shall be affirmed by the Annual State Gathering and serve a one year term and can be reaffirmed for successive terms. The Treasurer shall have custody of the corporate funds and securities and keep accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in books belonging to the Corporation, and shall deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name and to the credit of the Corporation in such depositories and with such right of withdrawal and access as may be designated by the Core Organizing Group. The funds of the Corporation shall be disbursed as ordered by the Core Organizing Group and the Treasurer shall make proper vouchers for such disbursements and shall render to the Core Organizing Group, whenever it may require it, an account of all the transactions and of the financial condition of the Corporation. The Core Organizing Group shall from time to time determine who shall be authorized on the

Corporation's behalf to sign checks, drafts or other financial instruments.

The Core Organizing Group may provide that the Treasurer can authorize execution on behalf of the Corporation resolutions which a bank may require as prerequisite to opening, maintaining or changing an account without requiring the Core Organizing Group to pass such a resolution in the exact form required by the bank. This provision constitutes approval by the Core Organizing Group of such resolutions in whatever form the bank may require that the Corporation's Treasurer approve.

ARTICLE VI Standing Committees

1. Core Organizing Group:

The Core Organizing Group shall be composed of the Co-Coordiators, the Treasurers, and all interested facilitators. The COG shall nominate, with input from facilitators, to the Annual State Gathering persons to be appointed as Coordinators and Treasurers. The Core Organizing Group has the responsibility to share information to facilitators in regards to the budget and other matters.

The Annual State Gathering may establish or dissolve committees when there is an interest from the membership to do so. Such an action shall be noted in the minutes of the Gathering where it occurred.

All new committees are responsible for recruiting their own members, appointing their own clerks and recording clerk and for determining their budgetary needs and method of functioning.

Committees shall provide annual reports to the Annual Gathering and post these reports to the website within sixty (60) days of the Annual Gathering.

ARTICLE VII Decision Making

Decisions of AVP Indiana shall be made by the consensus process that incorporates ideas from the entire group.

ARTICLE VIII Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year of the Corporation shall be twelve months and shall run from January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE IX Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by the decision-making process described in Article VII, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been mailed or emailed to all facilitators in the local group and the general state AVP community at least 30 days in advance of the date set for

action on the amendment. In order that as much of the community as possible is represented at least indirectly at the Annual Gathering, it is the responsibility of local groups to inform all of their members both inside of prison and in the community of any proposed changes to the by-laws.