



ANCHOR + OCEAN SOCIETY, INC

Introduction

Anchor + Ocean Society, Inc. (a+o) was established in 2017 by a small group of friends in Massachusetts. We are a member driven society of women dedicated to strengthening, supporting, and enriching the lives of our members and our communities.

Inspiration

As a few women got together and shared their truths, it became clear that often our individual responsibilities are also shared. We each have our own story but the pieces are similar: moving to a new town, building a family, raising children, chasing ambitions, contributing to the greater good, making time for self, etc. The list is endless and shifting, but ever present.

When we recognized how much we had in common, we were also able to see the power, joy, and freedom in connection. We formed so that we could be there for one another: to share, to celebrate and to uplift.

The Story Behind Our Name

"Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean."

This quote by Japanese author Ryunosuke Satoro resonated with us as the initial idea of A+O was forming.

Tiny steps, small actions, little choices when added together make real change. As individuals, we show up for each other and it matters. As an "ocean" of women we can accomplish goals that may seem insurmountable for any one person.

As a historic seafaring region, New England is commonly associated with nautical symbols. Anchors are commonly spotted in our communities and as a symbol of

strength and support in an ever changing and chaotic world, the Anchor keeps us safe, supported, and steady, just as we do for one another.

Note: For Members Reference Only...

Seasons

Our operative year is referred to as a season. The "Season" and the majority of our events run from September - June.

Membership

In order to keep the group intimate and the dues requirements as low as possible, we cap our membership at 25 women per season. Membership is on an invitation only basis. Members in good standing from last season are automatically invited back for the next season. An invitation can only be extended from a returning member in good standing who has been in the group for 1+ years. A waiting list will be maintained and those on the list may be given priority for next season. Any former member that wants to re-join will be placed on the waiting list behind potential new members. All new member nominees will be vetted by the a+o board prior to invitations being extended. Members may initiate a vote on any potential new member if necessary.

Symbols + Colors

Our logo is an anchor (for obvious reasons) dipping into ocean waves. The colors in our logo are also symbolic and were carefully selected along with the symbols.

WHITE: color of new beginnings and possibilities, growth and hope

JADE GREEN: balance, kindness, compassion and contributions to society

SKY BLUE: tranquility, harmony and communication

We also have a rotating symbol that changes yearly and serves as the theme for every season

2018/2019: Pineapple – Welcome, Hospitality

2019/2020: Ships Wheel – Change, Movement, Travel

2020/2021: Whale – Challenges, Protection, Truth

2021/2022: Bee – Community, Brightness, Personal Power

2022/2023: Feather – Freedom, Strength, Trust

Dues

Dues for the 2022/2023 season is \$50. This goes towards a variety of expenses, events being the biggest. Member dues is maintained in a checking account and monitored by the VP of Treasury.

Event expenses include food and beverage, signage, decorations, entertainment and/or babysitting, rentals, etc. We also have to pay out Government Filing fees since we are Incorporated. General supplies are also included.

Dues can be paid by venmo @sierramhartley and is due by Oct 1 each season.

Charitable Giving Fund

As of the 2021 season, a+o has instituted an account (separate from our dues account) that will be contributed to throughout the season and donated to a charity of our choice at the end. At the beginning of each season, the VP Charitable Events will present several charities to choose from for that season. The entirety of the group will be given an option to vote on the charity choices, and the one with the majority of votes will be designated our **Charity of Choice** for the rest of the season. and the group will vote to select one.

Events

During each season, a+o plans and hosts a variety of events that are either social or fundraising related. All events will be open to all a+o members; some will be open to friends and family of a+o members, and others to the public.

We hold 1-2 events per month from September-June. All members are encouraged to sign up to plan + host 1 event/season. Collaboration with other members is encouraged! There are several annual events that we hold that have basic outlines already in place.

New for the 2022/2023 season, we will be selling tickets for each event to defray the cost of dues. We will also be asking members to BYOB for most events.

Roles

There are a variety of volunteer roles available within the group. Please see the **Organization Chart** and **Role Descriptions** for more info and sign up for a role if you can. It truly does take a a ton of behind the scenes work to run our organization, however if everyone pitches in a little here and there, things do run smoothly. Board positions are only open to those members who have been with the group for 2+ years. The President role is only open to those members who have been with the group for 4+ years.

