

SOUTHERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES 1/10/26

Opening: Todd M opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Board Members Present: Todd M – Chair; Lorraine J - Vice-Chair; Bruce O – Treasurer; and Paul S – Parliamentarian.

New Member(s): None

Groups & Committees Represented: Buddy F – Bookstall Chair; Chris B – Monday Night Traditions; Dan W - St. Charles Step; Emme J – ODAAT; Faye S – We Are Not Saints; Jaimie R – North Beach; Janine G – End of the World; Jeanine W – St. Charles Step; Keith H – Lifeline Chair; Michelle H -- Monday Night Traditions; Roy B – Solomon’s Group.

Online participants: Bill L – Webmaster; Cindy – Awakenings; Bill – Freedom from Bondage.

Guest: Joe R, Area 29 Alternate Delegate to share information about upcoming Conference Agenda Review Committee (CARC) activities.

SMIA Chair Report: Chair Report

- The 52nd Maryland State Convention will be held June 19-21, 2026, at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel, Townson, MD. The flyer is available on the SMIA website.
- Provided flyers for the Final Conference Report Review (FCRR) along with the 2026 Calendar for Area 29 MD General Service, Inc. All Committee and Assembly meetings will be offered in hybrid format.
- As of January 1, 2026, the NEW mailing address for contributions to Area 29, Maryland General Services, Inc. is: Maryland General Service, Inc.
P.O. Box 234
Crownsville, MD 21032

Vice-Chair Report: Lorraine J is filling in as secretary for this meeting and wished everyone a happy and sober 2026.

Secretary Report: Motion and second to accept December 2025, minutes as posted online and in the Lifeline, all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O reported monthly contributions were \$570.85 and shared highlights on this month's and year-to-date expenses that are detailed in the January 2026 Treasurer's Report as it appears in the Lifeline.

Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corrections and Treatment: **Calvert** –Lorraine J reported that volunteers are taking meetings into the Detention Center and into Avenues Treatment Center. **Charles** – Jeanine W reported for Allison B that they need more female volunteers to bring meetings into the detention center. Eight male volunteers are in the process of being approved for a new men's meeting. **St. Mary's** – Roy B. reported 12 to 15 men attending weekly, with 25 men on the waiting list. Currently only 15 are allowed in at a time. Men are participating in discussions and bringing their Big Books. There is a lot of interest in the donated Grapevine magazines. More volunteers are always needed. Approval for access to the St. Mary's Detention Center is good for 5 years. Need at least 3 more solid AAs with 1 year continuous sobriety in order to be able to start a second men's group. Brandi T, District 36 Women's Corrections Chair, and Roy B are planning a hybrid corrections workshop in April.

PI/CPC: **Calvert** – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G continues to do an amazing job. **Charles** – No report. **St. Mary's** – Melissa W is the new PI/PCP Chair. Look forward to hearing more from her in the future.

Telephone: Melissa W reported via email that during the period from December 13 to January 10, there were 25 calls; Duration 1 hour and 15 minutes. Calvert – 7 calls, Charles – 6 calls, St. Mary's – 1 calls, 11 callers did not specify a county.

Melissa will step down as Telephone Chair in March. She selected March to ensure a smooth transition for the next phone chair. Her goal is to finalize the logistics for the GoToConnect system and update all resource and volunteer lists. Because the transition was difficult when she took over during the pandemic, she wants to make sure things are more organized this time. She will review the iCloud program with her successor. She will revamp the outgoing message so that there is an option for people who may need to talk, ask questions, need resources or just basic information in order to capture data on the callers that do not choose a specific area, possibly because they are not from the tri-county area. She hopes to attend next month in person to announce her replacement. She has someone in mind who has experience.

Where and Whens: There are 1,000 copies available. We will try to distribute them in a responsible manner.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H reported all is going well and noted new material is always welcome. The deadline for the following month's newsletter is the 27th of the current month.

EVENTS

Serenity Breakfast: Still need a chair for the catered event which typically takes place in May or June.

Picnic: Buddy F will be chairing this event. He has nothing to report at this time.

Gratitude Dinner: Michelle H reported that 170 tickets were sold and the feedback from attendees has been positive. She expressed gratitude for the SMIA board's participation. The food cost about \$1,000 more than expected. Total profit to come back to SMIA is \$860. Bruce O, Treasurer, advised he will need an accounting, with receipts, so he can complete the audit required by the SMIA bylaws. Michelle also noted that the cook, John, suggested that his church located just before the Thomas Johnson Bridge on the St. Mary's side of the river (site of the Kingston Creek meeting) has a hall that will accommodate 300 people and a large kitchen so we might want to consider holding next year's Gratitude Dinner there.

Workshops: Nothing to report

Bookstall Report: Buddy F reported there were no literature purchases this month. There were 12 orders for a total of \$315.80 in sales. District budgets are as follows: Calvert - C&T \$275; PI/CPC \$31; Charles – C&T \$375; PI/PCP \$250; St. Mary's – C&T \$99; PI/PCP \$18.60. There is a new book, "Book of Fellowship" that will be available as Item B-86. New York has announced a \$3 price increase on all books. SMIA will continue to sell previously purchased books at cost.

Buddy F has moved forward with the "Bookstall Bingo" fundraiser and dance. It will be held on February 14th from 4:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church. The flyer can be downloaded on the SMIA website. Contact Buddy F for details at bookstall@somdaa.org.

Web/Technology: Bill L reported that for the period 12/13/25-1/10/26 Main site total visitors was up 2.5% (initial visit); Bookstall site was up 17%. Most frequently visited pages: Home page – 2968; Where & When Calendar – 270; Announcements – 191; On-Line Meetings – 133 and Al-Anon Information – 127.

Site Updates and Changes - Changed the header, footer, and background to reflect the new year. Trusted servants for District 36 were updated on the District Information Page. All 2024 Lifeline, Financial information, and meeting minutes were archived. They can be accessed by requesting archived documents on the Archived Material Request page at <https://somdintergroup.org/amr.html>. **Meeting Change Information** - The Sunday Morning Sobriety Meeting moved back to The Great Recovery Lounge for the Winter. **Meeting Status** - Currently there are 136 meetings in our service area; 127 in-person, 6 hybrid, 8 on-line only, and 1 is suspended. **Document Posts and Updates** - Lifeline posted – 1/1/26; Finance Page updated – 1/1/26; SMIA Minutes posted – 12/22/25. **Note** - It is important to note that SMIA is not responsible for the accuracy of online or physical meeting information. This is the responsibility of the groups or districts that provide the information.

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. CARC 101--Joe R, Area 29 Alternate Delegate provided an overview of the CARC (Conference Agenda Review Committee) process.

CARC is your voice in Alcoholics Anonymous!

Although Area Delegates attend the General Service Conference in the spring of each year, the agenda items to be discussed and voted on are part of a year-long process that allows AA members, groups, districts, and Areas to submit ideas and concerns (proposed agenda items) to the General Service Office (GSO). These may include topics such as changes to Conference-approved literature and Public Information or social media policies. GSO staff and trustees review all submissions, eliminate duplicates, and determine which items are appropriate for inclusion on the annual General Service Conference agenda. Once the list of Conference agenda items is finalized, usually in February, it is distributed to individual Areas in the United States and Canada.* In Area 29 (Maryland), five CARC (Conference Agenda Review Committee) events are held to provide opportunities for members to discuss items and share group conscience; the Southern Maryland region participates in CARC II. Each CARC is assigned approximately seven items unique to that CARC, along with about three items that are shared across all five CARCs. Area delegates bring the input produced at these CARCs to the General Service Conference, where committees make recommendations that are discussed and voted on by the full Conference, with actions requiring a two-thirds vote to become advisory actions.

A WhatsApp group has been created for members who wish to participate in CARC II activities. CARC II leaders plan to hold two meetings: the first, likely in March, may be held virtually and will provide an overview of the CARC process. Attendees will volunteer to research an item and create a presentation to be presented at the second CARC meeting, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 4.

For more information or questions, members may contact James M., CARC II Leader, at jamesmelnick4@gmail.com. Information about CARCs can also be obtained on the MGS website at <https://www.marylandaa.org>.

There is a Mini Conference held on April 11th in Severna Park, MD, where agenda items from all the CARCS are presented and discussed.

*The CARC and General Service Conference process applies to AA service Areas in the United States and Canada; AA service structures in other countries operate independently through their own general service conferences.

2. Serenity Breakfast – Catered vs. Self-Prepared Menu. Group

This event is often held at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship in Piney Point and they do a good job of providing a tasty breakfast for a reasonable price, less than it would cost us to purchase and prepare the food. This event is a fundraiser. SMIA volunteers are still responsible for creating marketing materials, for ticket sales and for coordinating the silent auction. Historically, the silent auction has offered a good selection of quality items (artwork, collectibles, etc.) The question was asked, does a board decision in favor of a catered event interfere with the autonomy of the event Chair. The consensus was that it simply provides a framework for the event coordinator and simplifies the scope of the project. If we are able to identify a Serenity Breakfast Chair, they would still have the option of researching and identifying an alternate venue/caterer possibly one that is more centrally located.

Motion and **second** for the Serenity Breakfast to be a catered event, all in favor.

For the Good of the Order:

Paul S will celebrate 7 years at Cove Point on January 24th. Jaimie R will celebrate 5 years at North Beach on February 7th at 10:30 a.m.; Bruce O will celebrate 12 years at the Waldorf Group on January 31st.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.