



LIFELINE



*I am responsible
when anyone, any-
where, reaches out
for help, I want the
hand of A.A. always
to be there, and for
that I am responsible.*

life-line | \ 'līf- līn : 1. A rope or line used for life-saving, typically one thrown to rescue someone in diffi-
culties in water. 2. A thing on which someone depends for a means of escape from a difficult situation.

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

Sponsorship: That Which We Give Away,

We Keep.

"Every sponsor is necessarily a leader," wrote Bill W. in *The Language of the Heart* (p. 292). "The stakes are huge," he continued. "A human life, and usually the happiness of a whole family, hangs in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example — well, these attributes of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death."

The General Service Conference has focused on the timeless topic of sponsorship over the years, and the following excerpts from past Conference presenta-

tions provide a window into this enduring aspect of carrying the message from one alcoholic to another. Vera M. from southwest Ohio shared this about sponsorship: "When I came to A.A., nobody asked me to meet any specifications: they just accepted me as I was, with love. My first sponsor treated me with compassion, which, I believe, means with gratitude. She understood that sponsor and sponsee meet as equal people."

"Sponsorship is important to ensure that A.A. will continue," said Dorothy M. of southern Indiana. "My sponsor was there to suggest the things I needed to do to stay sober. She was there to answer the questions I had about the program. She was there to explain the Steps and to help

me work through them. She was there when I had no mind to think with. She was there to think for me. She was there with the kind of quality sobriety that I wanted. She was there to show me how to achieve quality sobriety. She was responsible."

Herb M., who served as A.A.W.S. board member in the 1960s, put it this way: "That which we give away we keep. That which we keep we lose. Such is the basis of our responsibility — to pass on to another alcoholic the message of love and understanding that made our own sobriety possible.... There has been unanimous agreement among us that the very substance of our sobriety lies in our willingness and our readiness to share this recovery experience with another."

Describing the privilege and responsibility that goes along with sponsorship in A.A., Peter W., a past Eastern Canada regional trustee, highlighted the fundamental role sponsorship plays in the Fellowship: "A.A. had its origin in the principle of sponsorship — the need we have for one another. This principle is equally as valid today as when Bill carried the message to Dr. Bob. The world of alcoholism has changed, will continue to change. But our need for one another remains as vital today as it was in Akron in 1935.

The privilege of being a sponsor insures our sobriety.

(continued on page 2)

(con't) It also helps us function effectively in recovery by recognizing the needs of others. It enables us to find within ourselves a response to those needs....

Sponsorship is woven intricately through our Legacies. To deny it could weaken our Fellowship.... Bill calls it 'the language of the heart.' It transcends the appearance and the personality of the individual and goes directly to the soul. Sponsorship is the silent legacy of our Fellowship, given to us by those who went before us. It can spell the difference between survival and stagnation."

In closing, Peter noted, "To love the lovable requires very little effort, but you and I are called upon to love the unlovable, to help that person become lovable. Can you think of any greater responsibility? Can you think of any better way to do it than sponsorship?"

<https://www.aacle.org/sponsorship-that-which-we-give-away-we-keep/>

SERVICE IS THE SECRET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 12TH STEP WORK

District 35 Treatment Committee

Is asking for people to carry the message into Treatment Facilities

ALPAS in La Plata – Wednesday Nights 7:00pm – 8:00pm

ANCHOR on Golden Beach Road – Tuesday Nights 7:30pm-8:30pm

CONTACT:

JEANINE 301-751-8115 DAN 301-751-1064

A woman gets on a bus with her baby. A drunk guy on the bus says, "That's the ugliest baby that I've ever seen. Ugh!" The woman goes to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to the drunk woman next to her, "That man just insulted me!" The woman says, "You go right up there and tell him off - go ahead, I'll hold your monkey for you."

The first and foremost Spiritual Principle in Step Twelve is Service. It would seem the Twelfth Step would be a culmination of all the previous steps. In a way it is, but we are also introduced to a few new ones, too. Among them is Service as the basis for this Step, and for that we are grateful. For without the Spiritual Principle of Service, none of us would even know about 12 Step Programs. Everyone that is in recovery is so, due to this step. Someone in recovery created, printed and brought meeting lists to the probation/parole office. Someone in recovery introduced our judicial system to the benefits of meetings. Someone in recovery brought a meeting to a facility where we were institutionalized. Someone built a website, telling us about AA in our area, region and around the world. Someone created a recording or answered the phone when we called the helpline. Thank goodness for all these "someones" as they did so as volunteers and in service to their fellowship. We are all here because someone else was of service.

<https://www.12keysrehab.com/the-spiritual-principles-of-step-twelve/#:~:text=The%20first%20and%20foremost%20Spiritual,for%20that%20we%20are%20grateful.>

Our primary purpose is to help the still suffering alcoholic. SMIA is committed to this principle and provides a 24x7 Telephone Service. We need phone volunteers! Go to our website, www.somdintergroup.org Click on the Phone List link, complete the online form - this is a secure method to add your name to the 12-Step Call List. This protected information is only shared with the Phone Committee Chair. You will be amazed before you're half way through.

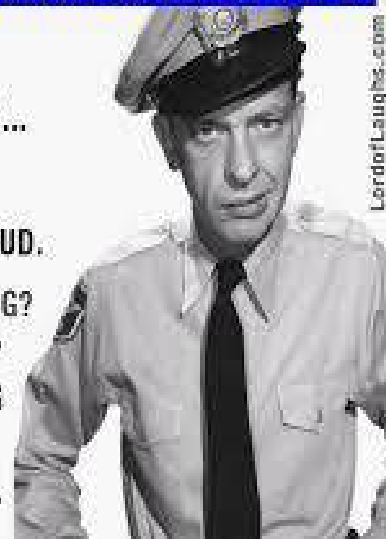
RECOVERY COACH BARNEY FIFE

LET'S GO OVER
OUR RELAPSE
PREVENTION PLAN...

ARE YOU KEEPING
SECRETS?
NIP THAT IN THE BUD.

ARE YOU ISOLATING?
NIP IT IN THE BUD.

ARE YOU SKIPPING
MEETINGS?
NIP IT!
NIP IT IN THE BUD.





Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober—an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having a great time without a drop of alcohol.



1 *Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones*

at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.



2 *Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take*

one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.



3 *Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes—postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.*



4 *Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're*

timid, take someone newer than you are.



5 *Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good*

use. No office party is as important as saving your life.



6 *If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.*



7 *Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.*



8 *Worship in your own way.*



9 *Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.*



10 *Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember—"one day at a time."*



11 *Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts—but this year, you can give love.*



12 *"Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.*

The Transcendental Experience Of The 12 Steps

William James wrote *Varieties of Religious Experience* in which he closely examined the many ways people experience spirituality and religion. The authors of Alcoholics Anonymous who drafted the 12 steps were heavily influenced by James' work. In appendix ii, titled "Spiritual Experience" of the book, the authors cite James and his perspective on the educational variety of spiritual experiences:

Most of our experiences are what the psychologist William James calls the 'educational variety' because they develop slowly over time.

Working the 12 steps has a distinct purpose: to have a spiritual experience. In doing so, the authors believed, a person can be so inspired that they won't pick up a drink or a drug again, and that they will commence to live a life progressing along spiritual lines. It's "the personality change sufficient to bring about recovery from alcoholism" the authors believe happens as a result of a spiritual experience.

Transformation and change through transcendental experiences is not new. Prayer, meditation, and other forms of spiritual ritual have been poetically described as ecstatic or bringing about ecstasy. People feel connected to something bigger than themselves when they are in the midst of a spiritual experience. From feelings of unity, a primary theme in AA, to feelings of awe and inspiration, they experience a momentary pause in time where the many concerns of their humanity slip away. For alcoholics, this is a priceless experience. Alcoholism is larger than life. Caught within the man-made world, being trapped in the vertigo of alcoholism is remarkably limiting. Isolation, separation, and delusion create a hardened barrier between an alcoholic and their ability to remain curious about life. The spiritual experience is not novel as a solution to alcoholism.

Being struck by something so inspir-

ing as to create a life-altering change like not picking up a drink again is a profound experience, proven by science. Research shows that transcendental spiritual experiences which take someone out of self and into a realm of understanding beyond the self has a long-term effect. Studies have found that there are higher levels of being content with life, feeling more meaning in life, and greater senses of bonding to others after a spiritual experience. This is no more evidenced than a career alcoholic of many years spending a few months in meetings working the steps with a sponsor and coming to realize they never have to drink again. Alcoholics, renowned for their selfishness and self-centeredness, are able to gain the perspective necessary to realize their alcoholism, their recovery, and their lives, are about more than them. The 12 steps focus on service for this reason - to pass the pathway toward transcendence to others.

<https://enlightenedrecovery.com/the-transcendental-experience-of-the-12-steps/>

In AA, there is yet another common saying... "the newcomer is the most important person in the room." What this means, of course, is that someone who is new to recovery needs more seasoned members to help him or her feel comfortable, to understand the routine, and to help him or her decide if the 12-step program is the right course of action.

I think maybe I have lost sight of this fact. Because I go to meetings daily, I have come to know the regular attendees, and they have come to know me. Because I like to second guess myself, I can be slow to share in meetings. I will often have thoughts or insights on the topic, but by the time I have deemed them worthy to share, the meeting is usually long over. Between this lack of self-confidence and the worry that I will be redundant, I often sit quietly during the actual meeting.

Yesterday I wrote about a woman who does not believe AA



The Most Important Person in the Room

is right for her, and how one year ago I was in the same boat. Today a friend who has about the same amount of sober time I do chaired the meeting, and spoke passionately of the need to hang on during the early days, and how much better life will

get. For me, her story was repetitive, because I have come to know her personally. During the break, I watched as no less than 4 different people thanked her for chairing, and for sharing her experience. They were all in the early days of sobriety, and hearing her tell what it was like and what it's like now was a beacon of hope for them. Hearing how she inspired them was a wake-up call to me: I need to open my eyes *and* my mouth, and start paying forward what has been freely given to me.

Here's the moral of the past two days: thinking about others, rather than worrying about myself, is how I can be of service, both in an AA meeting, and in life.

<https://themiracleisaroundthecorner.wordpress.com/2012/11/07/the-most-important-person-in-the-room/?wref=tp>



My Name Is... And I'm an Alcoholic.

It's a phrase heard in A.A. meetings around the world. But where does it come from? Why do we say it? And should we keep doing so?

Surely, identification is an important concept in A.A. In fact, it could be considered the keystone of the program's entire philosophy: one alcoholic helping another.

Yet, as a Fellowship with lots of suggestions, but no official "rules," must a person declare, as many do when introducing themselves at meetings, that he or she is an alcoholic?

In A.A.'s formative years, cofounder Bill W. struggled with this question and often wrote about the dilemma facing newcomers as they grappled with their disease, often for the first time and often in a relatively "public" way at A.A. meetings.

Bill wrote convincingly about allowing the newcomer as much freedom as possible in deciding just how and when he or she might identify as an alcoholic, noting in a 1946 essay written for the Grapevine, titled **Who Is a Member of Alcoholics Anonymous?** — an article which later formed the foundation of Tradition Three: "That is why we judge the newcomer less

and less. If alcohol is an uncontrollable problem to him and he wishes to do something about it, that is enough for us.... Nowadays, in most groups, he doesn't even have to admit that he is an alcoholic. He can join A.A. on the mere suspicion that he may be one, that he may already show the fatal symptoms of our malady."

Bill clarified further, as referred to in the **Twelve Traditions Illustrated** pamphlet in the section on Tradition Three: "Who determines whether or not newcomers qualify, whether they do want to stop drinking? Obviously nobody except the newcomers themselves; everybody else simply has to take their word for it. In fact, they don't even have to say it aloud. And that's fortunate for many of us who arrived at A.A. with only a halfhearted desire to stay sober. We are alive because the A.A. road stayed open to us."

Bill rarely, if ever, introduced himself from the podium specifically as an alcoholic, and there is nothing in A.A. Conference-approved literature indicating how members should introduce themselves at A.A. meetings or whether it is necessary to do so at all.

Yet, in today's A.A. environment, tense moments often follow in meetings when people don't introduce themselves as alcoholics or, conversely, overidentify themselves with phrases like "I am a cross-addicted alcoholic," or "I'm chemically dependent."

Many A.A. members feel this second case is the more concerning, threatening our unity and singleness of purpose. "When I say at an A.A. function that 'I'm a drug addict and an alcoholic' or 'I'm a cross-addicted alcoholic,'" wrote Rosemary P., a past delegate from Pittsford, New York, in an enduring article in the January 1990 Grapevine, "I am telling you that I'm a special kind of alky — my case of alcoholism is different from yours! I add an extra dimension to my disease — one that, because of our singleness of purpose, should not be addressed at an A.A. meeting. I have just cut our common bond in half and, more importantly, have diluted my own purpose for being there."

So, where did this custom of self-identification come from and how did it etch itself so indelibly into the A.A. landscape of the

(continued on page 6)

(con't) 21st century? Like many things in A.A., nobody is really sure just where it came from, and with only a few of the Fellowship's early-timers left, not many are able to provide plausible theories, leaving little more than speculation to go on.

However, according to an early friend of A.A., the late Henrietta Seiberling, the expression dates back to meetings of A.A.'s forerunner, the Oxford Group Movement, which had its heyday in the early 1930s. Mrs. Seiberling, a nonalcoholic who had sought spiritual help in the Oxford Group meetings, was the person who introduced Bill W. to A.A.'s other cofounder, Dr. Bob, who was then struggling to deal with his drinking by attending Oxford Group meetings in Akron.

At small meetings, the members knew one another and didn't need to identify themselves. But in the large "public" meetings, where there was "witnessing" along the lines of an A.A. talk today, personal identification became necessary. Chances are that someone at some time said, "*I am an alcoholic*," but Mrs. Seiberling couldn't be sure. Nor did she remember that the phrase was used at early A.A. meetings in Akron, before publication of the Big Book.

One early New York A.A. does recall hearing the expression, however, sometime after World War II, in 1945 or 1946; and it is a matter of record that in 1947 a documentary film entitled "*I Am an Alcoholic*" was produced by RKO Pathe, lending further credence to the notion that the phrase was recognizable in recovery circles even then.

Growing from there, it has now become an almost obligatory part of the lexicon of recovery and, with its various alternatives and self-revelatory permutations, a somewhat controversial way of introducing

oneself at meetings.

Today, there are many who feel that resolution of the conflict they feel when members introduce themselves as "addicts" or with some other categorization beyond simply "alcoholic," lies within the Fellowship. Suggested Rosemary P., "*Isn't it the responsibility of each of us to keep our program intact, to pass it on to the newcomer as it was given to us? Importantly, can we do this with Box 4-5-9, Spring 2012 3 'My name is... and I'm an alcoholic' patient explanation, tolerance toward differences — and more patient explanation? I believe we can, through committed sponsorship, strong home groups and active service. That way, our new members will learn how to be a part of A.A., not a fragment of it.*"

Others feel it is important to be honest and reflective of "*who they really are*" in their introductions at meetings, while many feel it is important to separate our issues and take them individually to the programs designed to address them: Narcotics Anonymous for drug addiction; Overeaters Anonymous for addiction to food, and so on. And still others feel that it is less important how we identify ourselves, either as "addicts" or "alcoholics," and offer an introduction at meetings simply as "*a member of A.A.*"

Finding a balance among these approaches is an ongoing exercise in humility, trust and acceptance within the Fellowship, as members seek to be inclusive yet cognizant of the singular bonds of alcoholism that keep us all connected.

As expressed in the Big Book, in the Chapter "*Into Action*," "*We have entered the world of the Spirit. Our next function is to grow in understanding and effectiveness. This is not an overnight matter. It*

should continue for our lifetime. Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. We discuss them with someone immediately and make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help. Love and tolerance of others is our code."

https://www.aacode.org/my-name-is-and-im-an-alcoholic/?fbclid=IwZX00bGhNzW6CMTEAAR3X4EUJ_Fkgx1DX2K9xWz0f-yxZ7TD8UVAcdZF0KvZ0gBanz0H0U_aem_6Xorh6MRdRfueEvaB7mQ

Carrying the Message

I have found the benefits of carrying the message to other alcoholics to be many and varied. I learn so much from taking new people through the Big Book, it keeps me on my toes and keeps my own recovery fresh. I am keen to impress on the newcomer that it is their recovery, and they need to take responsibility for it. I am more than happy to take them through the Big Book and explain the Programme of recovery to them as we progress. I have to admit, my ego ran wild when I started to sponsor people. I was desperate for them to have what I had but have learnt through experience that everyone's recovery is a bit different. I can offer my experience and some suggestions, but as much as possible I keep the message to that in the Big Book and keep it simple.

I am continually grateful for the way my sponsor carried the message to me, by keeping it simple and following the instructions in the Big Book. My spiritual experience came suddenly and powerfully, I understand this is not normally the case, but I only have my story and have to be true to that. I remember vividly returning from a convention with my sponsor and having an indescribable wave of light, power and energy run through me. Having a bipolar disorder, I was terrified at first it was the start of a manic episode.

I have learned over the years that whether that spiritual experience comes quickly or slowly is not too important. It's not like my life has been all plain sailing since, and I know that my recovery continues to progress as long as I am doing the right things every day to maintain and grow my condition. If I let up on these actions, I will quickly slide back towards that deadly first drink. Working with others and carrying a positive message in meetings is a great way to keep me on track. Thanks.

<https://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/magazines/carrying-the-message/>

"AND FINALLY, WE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS BELIEVE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF ANONYMITY HAS AN IMMENSE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. IT REMINDS US THAT WE ARE TO PLACE PRINCIPLES BEFORE PERSONALITIES; THAT WE ARE ACTUALLY TO PRACTICE A GENUINE HUMILITY. THIS TO THE END THAT OUR GREAT BLESSINGS MAY NEVER SPOIL US; THAT WE SHALL FOREVER LIVE IN THANKFUL CONTEMPLATION OF HIM WHO PRESIDES OVER US ALL."

Principles First – People Second

Why are we repeatedly asked in the Traditions to give up ourselves for the greater good? The answer is because any relationship we have that does not involve sacrifice is a relationship that likely will not

endure. Each tradition straightens out a disastrous attitude we had about relationships. The twelfth tradition teaches us that a spirit of sacrifice (often times through anonymity) is vital to good relationships.

Giving up the expectation of rewards for doing good is difficult for most of us. It's easy for us to give and then think, "Well, I'll get a reward, even if I don't get public recognition for what I did." To remove that reward symbol from the back of our minds for whatever good we do is part of practicing anonymity. The next time you hear a speaker in A.A. whose personality is exciting from the platform, see if you can hear the principles behind their words? To which step, tradition, or concept can you relate their pitch? Setting ourselves aside and focusing on the principles of our program is a crucial compo-

nent in the foundation we need for studying the Traditions and learning how to be in healthier relationships with our fellow A.A.'s and with those in the world around us.

Step-Tradition Parallel

The twelfth step poses the question, "What is a spiritual awakening?" I believe that the evidences of a spiritual awakening are found in a person who practices the twelfth tradition in all their affairs. Such a person sacrifices self in order to practice principles. Their motive in practicing all of the traditions is anonymity: they sacrifice to help others.

The twelfth tradition completes the twelfth step in the following way: I become spiritually awake when I carry the message by anonymously practicing sober principles.

<https://take12.org/t12/>



It Happened in December

December 1: 1940 – Chicago

Daily Tribune begins a series of articles on AA by Nall Hamilton

December 2: 1943 – Bill speaks to 300 at meeting inside San Quentin

December 5: 1985 – Dave B, founder of Montreal Group dies weeks before 50th anniversary Now his story is in the 4th Edition Big Book.

December 6: 1939 – Bert the Tailor lends Works Publishing \$1000

1979 – Akron Beacon reports death of Henrietta Sieberling

December 7: 1949 – Sister Ignatia accepts Poverello Medal of St Francis on AA's behalf

December 8: 1997 – "AsWeSeelt" email list started December 8, 1997

December 10: 1975 – "Birds of a Feather" AA group for pilots is formed

1934 – Bill admitted to Towns Hosp 4th/last time (fall '33, '34 in summer, midsummer and final admittance).

1941 – Dallas Morning News reports 1st AA group formed in Dallas

December 12: 1934 – Bill has Spiritual Experience at Towns Hospital

1937 – Bill meets with Rockefeller Foundation and tries to get money

December 13: 1934 – Ebby visited Bill at hospital, brought William James's book, "Varieties of Religious Experience".

1937 – Rockland State Mental Hospital takes patients to meeting in New Jersey

December 19: 1939 – Drunks in Los Angeles hold their 1st AA meeting there

December 20: 1945 – Rowland Hazard dies

December 27: 1893 – Rev Samuel Shoemaker is born

Other significant events in December for which we have no specific dates:

1934 – Bill & Lois start attending Oxford Group meetings.

1938 – Using Oxford Group principles, Bill closes the loopholes and changes the 6 steps to 12.

1939 – First AA group in mental institution, Rockland State Hospital, NY.

1940 – 1st AA group formed in St. Louis, Missouri

A.A. Cleveland has about 30 groups.

1948 – Dr. Bob's last major talk, in Detroit.

1950 – Grapevine article signed by both Bill and Dr Bob recommend establishing AA General Service Conference.

1955 – 'Man on the Bed' painting by Robert M. first appeared in Grapevine. Painting originally called 'Came to Believe'.

<https://toledoameetings.com/important-dates-in-alcoholics-anonymous/>



DECEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Crystal S. 8 yrs, Never Too Late	2 Ole Willie, 16 yrs, Monday Nite Traditions	3 Nick H., 10 yrs, Blue Top Noon	4 Robert R., 1 yr. Patuxent River Mike D., 9 yrs, Grateful Alive	5 Rene G., 35 yrs, Poplar Hill Seth H., 5 yrs, Basic Text	6	7 Casey M., 33 yrs, Kingston Creek Ken S., 13 yrs, We Wuz Wurz Luke R., 2 yrs and Brad H., 14 yrs, Saturday AM 12 & 12 Breakfast
8 Phil T., 41 yrs, Never Too Late	9	10	11	12 Sam O., 16 yrs, Harmony	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Shawn H., 5 yrs, Harmony	24	25	26	27	28 Steve H., 34 yrs, Kingston Creek
29 Tim I., 7 yrs, Never Too Late	30	31 Donna S., 8 yrs, Hollywood				



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JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 John W., 37 yrs, Kingston Creek
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 Dennis B., 49 yrs, Kingston Creek
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

DISTRICT 9

CHRISTMAS

Party

Dinner - Speaker - Dancing
Bus Driver Mike

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7
6PM TO 10:30PM**

**WESTMINSTER VFW #467
519 POOLE RD. WESTMINSTER**

Bring your favorite dessert and
enter to win the
BEST DESSERT CONTEST

TICKETS: \$15

To purchase tickets

Email: events@d9mdaa.org



District 36 New Years Alcothon

**December 31st - 7:00 PM
through
January 1st - 7:00 PM**

Non-stop meetings every hour

We need volunteers to lead meetings - call the
contact below to volunteer for this service
opportunity

Food will be available,
and we encourage you
to bring a covered dish
or dessert

Come out and share
the message of
recovery!

Location

Knights of Columbus Hall
41605 Fenwick St
Leonardtown, MD

Contact

Pete D.
240-309-5182

District 36 Christmas Alcothon
*December 24th - 10:00 PM
through
December 25th 10:00 PM*

Continuous meetings every hour

Food and coffee will be available, and covered dishes and desserts are
welcome!

We are looking for leaders to chair meetings - Call the contact below to volunteer
- This is a great opportunity for service work!

Location

Hollywood Volunteer Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Lane
Hollywood, MD

Contact

Mary E., Chair
240-237-2954

DISTRICT 1 PRESENTS:

Anchored in Hope

Crossroads Church
150 Ball Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685

2024

New Year's Eve Party

Ring in the New Year

with friends, fellowship, music and more!

Door Prizes & 50/50 Raffle

Buffet Dinner/Speaker at 7:30 p.m.

Entrees (Vegetarian Option Available)

Drinks & Coffee Provided

Please bring a dish to share:

Last Names (A-L) side dish; (M-Z) dessert

For questions or to volunteer

Text Jerry @ 240-882-5291

Tickets
\$20

ADULTS ONLY

THANK YOU

District 36 Grapevine Article Writing Workshop The "ABC's" of CARRYING THE MESSAGE to the Sick & Suffering!!!



Dec

08

1-3 pm

Patuxent Presbyterian Church
23421 Kingston Creek Road
California, MD 20619

Learn About

- ✓ Topic Examples
- ✓ Resources
- ✓ Dispelling Myths
- ✓ Getting Organized
- ✓ Staying Focused
- ✓ Ways to Submit Entries

GSO & Grapevine
Representatives

Writing Materials
& Supplies

Beverages &
Snacks



GAME NIGHT!!!

C'mon by the Leonardtown Knights of
Columbus hall on Saturday, December

28th from 6-9:00pm,

at 41605 Fenwick Street Leonardtown.

We will provide some board games and
decks of cards for playing.

Coffee provided. Bring a dessert for yourself
if you wish.

For information call: 240-237-2954.

Join in the fun at GAME NIGHT

Saturday, December 28th!!

Area 29

You Are Invited

GSR ORIENTATION

First Monday of Every Month
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Zoom ID: 845 5904 4220

Password: GSR

New to General Service? Want to learn more
about it or get a refresher?

All new General Service Representatives
(GSRs) in Area 29—and any member of
Alcoholics Anonymous—is welcome to attend
our monthly orientation session!

Alcoholics Anonymous

Love, Unity and Service

Survey Results & Save the Dates

Save the Dates - 9/22/24 & weekly on Sundays

For the Review of the

2024 Final Conference Report

from the 74th Annual Meeting of the
General Service Conference

Survey says:

Sundays at 7 p.m. EDT

Starting 9/22/24

75 min. meeting length

15 min. Parking lot afterwards

Spanish Interpretation

Zoom ID in process

Meetings will be recorded

Volunteers needed for weekly mailings!



Contact either: aa.fcrr@gmail.com
finalconferencereportreview@gmail.com



Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

July 3–6, 2025 | Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

October 7, 2024

This is Patrick C., your 2025 International Convention Coordinator. We are exactly 268 days away from the 2025 International Convention and the excitement is palpable.

Planning is on task, and I thank you all for your loving support and your patience.

In the past weeks, Showcare has processed emails sent in by attendees. We have over 22,000 attendees who have registered.

The high demand has impacted the availability in our "official room block." With the enthusiasm being so high for the 2025 International Convention, we sold out earlier this time around.

We are doing the following things to address the situation:

- 1) We are reaching back out to all hotels for additional rooms. This is what we have done for previous conventions to adjust inventory.

We are adding rooms. You can regularly check for availability in the "official room block" and book rooms if they become available by returning to your registration record online. The link is in your registration confirmation.

- 2) In the Online Registration and Housing system we have links to alternative housing that is available outside our room block and in the greater Vancouver area, including hotel rooms, Airbnb and housing at local universities. The university housing includes breakfast!

Registration or Reservation questions? Call (514) 380-9375 during business hours (9 am – 5 pm Eastern). Press 1 for English, press 2 for Spanish, press 3 for French, or email: 2025IC@showcare.com

Convention-related questions? Call G.S.O. at (212) 870-2025.

Still need to register for the Convention?

- Attendees can access the **Online Registration and Housing Process** via a link on our website at <https://www.aa.org/international-convention>.
- The **Print and Mail in Form Registration Process** will allow attendees to pay for the registration fee and our additional product offerings by **check or money order only**.

(continued on page 13)

General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
P.O. Box 459 | Grand Central Station | New York, NY 10163 USA | (212) 870-3400 | www.aa.org

(con't)

UNABLE TO ATTEND THE 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN PERSON? WE HAVE NEW OPTIONS FOR YOU TO PARTICIPATE.

You can use the Online Registration or Print Registration Form to:

- Register for a Virtual Session Program Track. This is a two-day 8 session virtual program track. The sessions will be live streamed as they are taking place and will not be available for purchase after the Convention. Cost is \$35 (USD).

Purchase the 2025 International Convention Three Big Meetings Video Product. It will be an anonymity-protected video recording available for viewing after the Convention is over. Cost is \$60 (USD)

To wrap up, we are now in the normal process that occurs after the major push on the first days of registration.

Remember, each attendee and their friends will have an experience. The fellowship we seek can be found from across the world. New friends are waiting to be made. First time in-person connections from so many who, to date, have only met in online groups and meetings.

To assure your own convention experience, please register and come to the 2025 International Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia! We look forward to seeing you there!

Patrick C.
2025 International Convention Coordinator



CLEAN AIR GROUP
The Clean Air Group
Is in need of support
And home group members
Come on out and check us out
Friday nights 6:30pm.
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
44078 St. Andrews Church Rd.



NOT QUITE RIGHT
The Not Quite Right Group
8:00pm. Friday Nights
Good Samaritan Lutheran Church
20850 Langley Rd. (Middle Building)
Lexington Park, Md.
Is in need of Support
and Home Group Members

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GROUPS?**

Service Opportunities!

PI & CPC Area 29 Maryland

Teaming up to
Provide
Comprehensive
Service to A.A.



Cooperation with the Professional Community

MEMBERS OF C.P.C.
COMMITTEES INFORM
PROFESSIONALS AND
FUTURE PROFESSIONALS
ABOUT A.A.

JESSICA W., CPC CHAIR
CPC@MARYLANDAA.ORG

- Establishing better communication with professionals working with alcoholics.
- Finding simple, effective ways of cooperating without affiliating.
- Explaining clearly what A.A. does and doesn't do.

Public Information

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC
INFORMATION
COMMITTEES CONVEY A.A.
INFORMATION TO THE
GENERAL PUBLIC

KATHI K., PI CHAIR
PI@MARYLANDAA.ORG

- Giving presentations about A.A. to schools and organizations
- Providing information about A.A. through digital and print materials.
- Ensuring local media have accurate information about A.A. through PSA's, anonymity protected interviews, and press kits.

Join us at 3 p.m.
on the 3rd
Sunday of the
month

ID: 854
5914 3395

Pw: 199887

District Chairs
and Interested
AA members
are invited!

CONTACT: A29CPCPI@GMAIL.COM



Maryland Deaf Access
Committee (MDAC)
Alcoholics Anonymous
Visit our Website!
<http://mdacAA.org>

We organize the funding
and scheduling of in-
person / hybrid
AA meetings
interpreted in American
Sign Language (ASL)

PayPal QR code >>>



✓ We follow all of
AA's 12 Traditions

✓ We rely on contributions
from only AA members
& AA entities

✓ We provide language
Access via ASL
interpretation

✓ Our focus is to make AA
accessible to the Deaf and
Hard of Hearing

Contributions accepted via PayPal@
MarylandDeafAccess@gmail.com

Grapevine Meeting!

4th Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm

Did you know that The Area 29 Grapevine Committee is a traveling literature store? We have a large variety of AA Grapevine books for sale. Please reach back out if your group, District, or intergroup is hosting an event or workshop and would like us to come and sell literature.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85217774704>

pwd=TVhEdFpKdmxSRINvNnJHU1p
YWDVaQT09

Meeting ID: 852 1777 4704 Passcode: 019347

Brandi D., Area 29 Grapevine Committee Chair

For more info: grapevine@marylandaa.org

Group and District GVR's encouraged to attend, all
are welcome!

Are you looking for a fun service position?

Please join us and find out more! All are welcome to
attend!

Fall 2024 CONTRA Study

September 10, 2024 through December 17, 2024

Tuesdays from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM Eastern Time (US/Canada)

Moderated by Trusted Servants from Areas 13 (DC), 29 (Maryland) & 45 (Southern New Jersey)



Zoom Meeting ID: 847 4641 4040

Passcode: 330331

Dial-in number for phone callers: +1 (301) 715-8592

We invite all A.A. members to this virtual study of the
CONcepts, TRAditions & The A.A. Service Manual

Sep 10, 2024 – Registration & Orientation

Sep 17, 2024 – Traditions 1, 2 & 3

Sep 24, 2024 – Traditions 4, 5 & 6

Oct 1, 2024 – Traditions 7, 8 & 9

Oct 8, 2024 – Traditions 10, 11 & 12

Oct 15, 2024 – Service Manual, pp. I-VIII, 1-6, 85-104

Oct 22, 2024 – Svc Man Ch 1 2 3 & pp 105-14, 160-2

Oct 29, 2024 – Svc Man, Chapters 4 5 6 & pp 164-8

Nov 5, 2024 – Svc Man, Chapters 7 8 9 & pp 169-73

Nov 12, 2024 – Svc Man Ch 10 11 12 & pp 155-9, 163

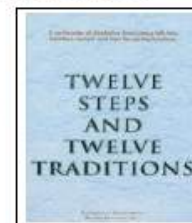
Nov 19, 2024 – Service Manual, pp. 115-154

Nov 26, 2024 – Concepts pp I-VIII, C1-C2, Con 1 2 3

Dec 3, 2024 – Concepts 4, 5 & 6

Dec 10, 2024 – Concepts 7, 8 & 9

Dec 17, 2024 – Concepts 10, 11 & 12



CONTRA Study Materials

(provided via email following registration):

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, B-2 (free participant download at www.aa.org)

The A.A. Service Manual combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service, BM-31, 2021-2023 edition

AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist, July 2018 revision

Fall 2024 Contra Study Service Manual Questions

A.A.W.S. Concepts Checklist, SMF-91, 08/18 edition

We will cover approximately three chapters of reading material per week, with associated questions. Only those who have read the assignment and have written answers to the weekly questions will be invited to read their answers to the group. All others are welcome to join the meeting and listen.

Presented by Trusted Servants from
Areas 13 (DC), 29 (Maryland) & 45 (Southern New Jersey)

For more information, contact:
2024contrastudy@gmail.com

SMIA Meeting Minutes 11/9/24

Opening: Lorraine J. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Board Members Present: Lorraine J. - Vice-Chair, Bruce O. – Treasurer, Paul S. - Parliamentarian and Kristi P. – Secretary

New Members: None

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L.–Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall, Ray C. – Never Too Late, Nathan H. – Waldorf Group, Robert W. – Sunday Morning Sobriety, , Norma H. – 12 Steps Home, Todd M. – St. Charles Step Group, Pat S. – Workshop Chair, Andy X. – Keeping it Green, Emme – O.D.A.A.T, Lisa T. – Awakenings, Joanie B. – Poplar Hill Group, Zee S. – Sunday Morning Sobriety, Emme J. – ODDAAT, Sara S. – Bedouin Group, Sheri R.- End of the World, Roy B. – Solomon's Group

SMIA Chair Report: Kristi P. gave the monthly Chair report on Buddy F's behalf.

Vice-Chair Report: Lorraine J. thanked Melissa W. for her service as Phone Chair. Melissa did a phenomenal job and helped to reduce costs.

Secretary Report: Motion and second to adopt the October 2024 minutes, as reported in the Lifeline, all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. shared the October 2024 Treasurer's Report. Based on planned expenses, a shortfall of \$1,820.59 is predicted. If the Gratitude dinner is successful and contributions keep coming in, it may offset shortfall. Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, all in favor.

Committee Reports

Bookstall Report: Bill L. reported there

were 6 orders; 4 were processed and two were cancelled and refunded because they were outside of the service area. Order totals were \$882.86. We ordered 10 copies of the Plain Language Big Book, but Bill does not believe they've been received. All orders are shipped to Buddy.

Web/Technology: Total visitors 2,921 (down 3%). Most frequently visited pages: Home Page, Where and When Calendar, Anniversary Calendar, On-line Meetings and Where and When Search. No site updates and changes. Meeting Change: We Were Drunks moved to St. George's Episcopal Church in Valley Lee, MD. Currently there are 129 meetings in our service area; 121 meetings are in-person, 6 meetings are hybrid, 8 meetings are on-line only. Document Posts and Updates: Lifeline Posted – 11/1/24, Where and When PDF updated 10/12/24, Finance Page updated 10/29/24, Minutes posted 10/19/24.

Gratitude Dinner: Dinner will be November 16th. Joanie B. reported everything is moving along. 12 tickets left.

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert – Lorraine reported everything is going great. Charles – no changes. St. Mary's – no changes.

Lifeline/Archives: No report.

Picnic: Looking for a chair.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G. is doing a great job. Ordering 2 more literature racks. Will now have presence in Substance Abuse Office in Lusby and at The Beach. Charles – no report. St. Mary's –working on Alcolthon for Christmas and New Year's, more info to come.

Telephone: Sheri R. is the new Telephone Chair. Sheri R. reported that from

9/14- 10/12 there were 15 calls, total duration 27 minutes. St. Mary's – 3 calls, Calvert – 9 calls, Charles - 1 call, 2 calls not identified. From 10/12-11/9 there were 18 calls, total duration 38 minutes. St. Mary's – 6 calls, Charles – 2 calls, Calvert – 3 calls, 7 calls not identified. There were a handful of calls from Cambridge, MD.

Serenity Breakfast: Looking for a chair.

Where and When: No report.

Workshops: No report.

Old Business: No update.

New Business: Lorraine requested we provide monthly updates for the Districts on their Public Information and Corrections budget balances.

For the Good of the Order: District 1 Chili Cookoff and Bonfire on 11/9 from 4-8 p.m. in Port Republic, MD. Bill L. will be celebrating 14 years at the Harmony Group at 7:30 p.m. Zee S. will be celebrating 11 years on 11/10 at Great Escape Recovery Lounge at 10 a.m., North Beach will be celebrating 53rd anniversary on 11/9 from 4-6 p.m. Sunday Morning Sobriety is now back at 85 High Street. Game Night at Knights of Columbus in Leonardtown on 12/28 from 6-9 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer.

RECOVERY.

You must be present to win.

December 2024

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions:

\$66.52

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of Financial Position October 25, 2024 - November 24, 2024

Assets	
Primary Business Checking	\$ 4,506.24
Primary Business Savings	\$ 1,848.34
Prudent Reserve	\$ 4,453.00
PayPal	\$ 692.72
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$ 100.00
Total Assets	11,600.30
This Month's Expenses	
Bookstall Purchases	\$ -
Liability Insurance	\$ -
Lifeline Printing	\$ (103.23)
Misc	\$ -
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (56.29)
Post Office Box	\$ -
Rent	\$ (150.00)
Webmaster	\$ -
Website	\$ (48.23)
Where & When	\$ -
Picnic	\$ -
Travel	\$ -
Workshops	\$ -
SMIA Archives	\$ -
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ -
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ -
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ (357.75)

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity May 1, 2024 - Apr 30, 2025

		BUDGET
Year to Date Income		Shortfall
Contributions	\$ 2,591.39	71%
Bookstall	\$ 1,943.79	44%
Gratitude Dinner	\$ -	100%
Serenity Breakfast	\$ 1,385.00	-39%
Total 2024 Income	5,920.18	59%
		BUDGET
Year to Date Expenses		Left to Use
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (2,210.94)	45%
Liability Insurance	\$ (273.00)	0%
Lifeline Printing	\$ (522.68)	46%
Misc	\$ -	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (266.01)	18%
Post Office Box	\$ (120.00)	0%
Rent	\$ (1,050.00)	42%
Webmaster	\$ (1,011.50)	67%
Website	\$ (467.65)	45%
Where & When	\$ -	100%
Picnic	\$ (1,205.40)	-21%
Travel	\$ (131.32)	84%
Workshops	\$ -	100%
SMIA Archives	\$ -	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (216.99)	-21%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (96.00)	4%
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	0%
Total 2024 Expenses	\$ (7,571.49)	57%

Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of
Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining
For our planned expenses, we currently have a

4.75 Months
5 Months
(374.37) Shortfall

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
DONATIONS:

ST CHARLES STEP

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

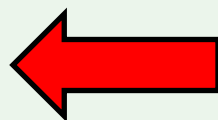
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

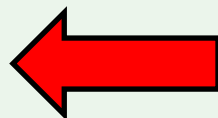
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

PLEASE NOTE THAT GSO AND MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ADDRESSES HAVE CHANGED

**General Service Office
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407**



**Maryland General Service
PO BOX 1834
Frederick, MD 21702**



**Southern Maryland Intergroup (SMIA)
P.O. Box 767
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622**

**District 1 Trust Fund (Calvert)
P.O. Box 234
Barstow, MD 20610**

**District 35 (Charles)
P.O. Box 1981
La Plata, MD 20646**

**District 36 (St. Mary's)
P.O. Box 1334
California, MD 20619**

ATTENTION GROUP TREASURERS:

****Remember to include the 6-digit GSO Group Number on all correspondence to Maryland General Service.***

Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities*

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

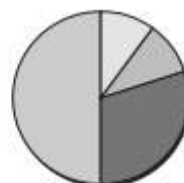
Your Group Service # _____

(Be sure to write group name and service # on all contributions.)



____% to district
____% to area committee
____% to G.S.O.
____% to intergroup or central office
____% other A.A. service entities
____% other A.A. service entities

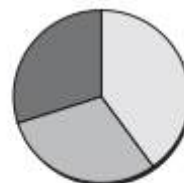
OR



10% to district
10% to area committee
30% to G.S.O.
50% to intergroup or central office

OR

If you have no intergroup/central office.



40% to district
30% to area
30% to G.S.O.

SMIA SERVICE TEAM:

Chair: Buddy F.
Vice Chair: Lorraine J.
Secretary: Kristi P.
Treasurer: Bruce O.
Parliamentarian: Paul S.
Web/Bookstall: Bill L.
Lifeline/Archives: Keith H.
Telephone: Sheri R.
Where & When: Pat P.

**THE DEADLINE FOR ALL
LIFELINE MATERIALS IS
THE 27th OF EACH MONTH.**

DISTRICT 35 - CHARLES CO.

***Please come out and join us
at our next District Meeting -
the first Thursday of the
month @ 7pm***

**Peace Lutheran Church
11610 Rubina Place
Waldorf MD 20602**

**Mailing address:
PO Box 1981, La Plata,
MD 20646**

NEW BOOKSTALL HOURS:

First and Third Thursday of the
month 6:00pm - 6:45pm
Second Saturday of the month 9am - 10am

DISTRICT 1 CALVERT COUNTY

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Grapevine Rep

Accessibility Chair

District Meeting:

7 PM, 3rd Monday

**St. Paul's Episc.
Church**

**Prince Frederick, MD
District 1 Trust Fund**

PO Box 234

**Barstow, MD 20610
www.calvertaa.org**



***SERVICE KEEPS
US SOBER***

DISTRICT 36

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

PO Box 1334, California, MD 20619

www.district36mdaa.org



DISTRICT NOTES

***Please send any up-
dates for the Where &
When to:***

**[smia.whereandwhen@
somdaa.org](mailto:smia.whereandwhen@somdaa.org)**

***Current meeting guides
are available at the
monthly SMIA meeting
on a limited basis.***

The next SMIA Meeting will be held on

Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 AM

Join us in person @

**Immaculate Conception Church,
28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD
20659**

Or via Zoom @

**[https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?
pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09](https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09)**