

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 difficulties in water. 2. A thing on which someone depends for a means of escape from a difficult situation.

[https://
en.oxforddictionaries.com](https://en.oxforddictionaries.com)

It Might Have Been the Time...



IT is hard to say just when Alcoholics Anonymous began. It may have been at the time a friend came to see my husband, Bill. Or it may have been at the moment of Bill's spiritual experience. Most AAs feel it is the time six months later when he met Dr. Bob in Akron and, together, they started to help other alcoholics who wanted to be rid of their addiction.

But for me it was the day I first saw the released expression on my husband's face. We had been married 17 years, and were compatible and companionable. Our

interests were similar and we both deeply desired and strove for the other's welfare. The only, but considerable block to our happiness was Bill's uncontrolled drinking. In the early years he said that he could stop when he wanted and I thought I'd soon be able to make life so complete for him that he would wish to quit drinking entirely. Much later when he really did want to stop, he was absolutely unable to do so, and we both then became terribly confused and frustrated. Oddly enough he had been in other matters a person of strong will power, but his will seemed to melt away where alcohol was concerned. In his remorse and disappointment he was a tragic and heart breaking figure. I too felt myself a failure, for despite every endeavor, I had not been able to help him in time, nor could I aid him in the least in his final struggle for freedom.

TODAY I can talk and write about these intimate details of our life together. While Bill was drinking, I dared not even speak to my family about it and tried to hide the fact of his alcoholism in every way possible. Now that I have learned that Bill was actually a very sick man, that awful feeling of disgrace has left me. I have also learned how much help the telling of such experiences can be to those who are going through similar ones. After fifteen years in AA the old trying times are so far away and foreign to Bill's and my present way of life that it seems like the experience of someone else.

AFTER Bill left the hospital for the last time, he began to think of the thousands of alcoholics who wanted to be rid of their

malady. If they could be made to feel desperate enough, they might have a releasing experience just like his. He would hold before them the medical verdict that alcoholism was hopeless. So tirelessly, day and night, we worked. Our home was filled with alcoholics in various stages of sobriety. As many as five of them lived with us at one time. But none of them stayed sober for long. Then started a long process of trial and error, certain ideas were retained, but many discarded.

It was in June 1935 that Bill went to Akron, Ohio on a business trip. The venture failed. He finally contacted Dr. Bob, an Akron surgeon soon to become co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous. Bob too wanted above all to stop drinking. He and his wife, Anne, had done everything they could.

SOMETHING passed between these two men. There was real mutuality this time. By example they showed how it worked. Thus AA spread like a chain letter.

Bill had learned a great deal. At first he had tried to put every alcoholic he met in the way of a spiritual experience just like his own. As AA grew, he realized that what had come to him in a few dramatic minutes usually dawned on others in months or years. Sometimes the alcoholic himself does not even realize his own development, though his words and actions soon speak for him, for he is doing now what, of himself, he was unable to do before. He is staying sober and helping other people as never before. He is gaining a serenity, a joy in living.

(continued on page 2)

(con't) WATCHING Bill and the other men at the meetings, I noticed many of them had begun to grow by leaps and bounds. This made me look at myself. I had been given a sound religious upbringing and felt I had done for Bill all a good wife could do, although this was strangely mixed with a sense of failure. At first it never occurred to me that I too needed spiritual development. I did not realize that by living such an abnormal life, I might have become twisted, losing a sense of true values. After awhile I saw that unless I jumped on the bandwagon too, I would be left way behind. The AA Program I found could be most helpful to the non-alcoholic as well, a fact thousands of alcoholics' relatives and friends now apply to their own lives.

Those Clinton Street days are full of memories. Some of them are humorous, some tragic. But most of them bring back

“I, too, needed spiritual development”



a warm glow of hope and courage, of friendship and rebirth. For the fellowship in AA is unique. Ties are made overnight that it would take years to develop elsewhere. No one needs a false front. All barriers are down. Some who have felt outcasts all their lives, now know they really belong. From feeling as if they were dragging anchor through life, they suddenly sail free before the wind. For now they can be of tremendous and peculiar use to others having a dire need like their own.

https://www.aagrapevine.org/Free-Story-April-2020?srsltid=AfmBOoq8Z14dFbGwQnAsiOAtaChp4XzF9C-xb9Izyg_1YWZaw-SZ0k2U

<https://storiesofrecovery.org/history.htm>

<https://www.steppingstones.org/about/the-wilsons/lois-story/>

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS KIDS

In a relationship based upon the Traditions there is no such thing as individual authority. All decisions are arrived at by a majority agreement, reached after all elements of the problem or situation have been considered and a Higher Power has been contacted for guidance in the making of the decisions (an informed group conscience). Unfortunately, however, many times our relationships are unhealthy due to the dominance of one person or the other. The uninformed often times feels he/she has the ability to “know best” for its individual participants and tries to impose this attitude of “playing God” in the relationship.

All my life I feared authority. I had a very strange idea about it. I didn't like anybody else's authority. I only liked my own authority. Maybe it is not so strange if you're a sick alcoholic like me. But I certainly did not have any respectful attitude

for authority.

My first successful experience in not being fearful of authority was in A.A.. I did not fear my sponsor but relied on him. I saw my sponsor as the expression of a loving God. My second experience in not being fearful was when I started listening to the group conscience. The more I followed what I heard in A.A. through the group conscience, the better my life became. Gradually I have extended this trust in the group in A.A. to that of the world. Tradition 2 encourages me to listen in order to have good relationships with you and to trust you as part of the group conscience. God may, just may, be speaking through you.

Life forces me to become an elder statesman or a bleeding deacon. The group conscience will correct me if I am out of line and I have a choice to complain like a bleeding deacon or lead by humble

example like an elder statesman. THANK GOD A.A. is SELF-CLEANING (with God's help of course).

Step-Tradition Parallel: Each tradition answers the question raised by the parallel step. The second step raises the question of how I can come to believe and what is sanity. I came to believe by trusting the group conscience in A.A., and then I began to trust God and eventually the world. The experience of trusting A.A. to keep me sober is the experience that gave me confidence in God and in you. This is how the second tradition helped me to come to believe.

As it states at the top of this page, the 12 Traditions were created to help each A.A. group maintain unity and relate better to the world about us. With that in mind, they have been widely used in helping us learn how to be in better relationships with everyone in our life. Below is a snapshot inventory you can take to see how well you are honoring the spiritual principle found in this Tradition (in and out of the rooms of A.A.).

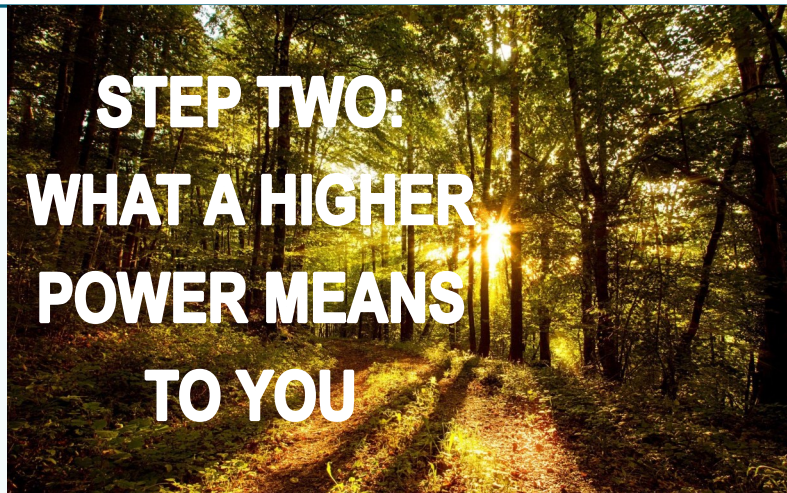
(continued on page 5)

Step Two of the Big Book, the foundation of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), suggests people should believe in more than just themselves. Step Two states, "We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves can restore to sanity." The idea here is the belief in a higher power beyond what we can see. This isn't implying that if you don't believe in God then you are insane. Rather it suggests humbling yourself towards this new outlook in your recovery. The backbone to Step Two — the idea that a higher power can restore sanity — suggests that we open our minds, either religion-based or spiritual-based, and embrace a higher power. Think of this step as a tool to contemplate how its mere existence can alter your outlook, relationships, and life. Think about what a higher power means to you. Indeed, attending meetings can provide you a sense of spirituality and support, but so can activities like surfing, spending time in nature, reading, and being creative. So how do you define spirituality as personal? Step Two encourages you to build on what you learned in Step One. For example, in step one, you accept you are powerless. Step two bridges off of step one by accepting you can't recover inde-

pendently; you need some form of help. Your version of a higher power can aid you in your recovery. A higher power is defined as a

spirit (or god) that has divine power over people's lives and nature. This definition, however, is subjective. Bill W., the co-founder of AA, found he could accept the concept of a higher power if it did not connect spiritual belief and religion. AA specifies that it isn't affiliated with any sect, politics, denomination, organization, or institution. Your own definition of spirituality means you receive something in return from your devotion to your practice — for example, yoga aids in connecting the mind and body. When you practice yoga, you learn to interpret messages from your body and quiet your mind. Quieting your mind gives you the time to process feelings of stress, anxiety, anger, and depression.

FINDING SPIRITUALITY - We are all individually responsible for finding and connecting with our spirituality. Let's say you engage in detoxification, inpatient, or outpatient program. During a therapy



session, your therapist may ask you to think about what makes you tick, or how you connect with yourself. The best answer would be what brings the most joy, peace, and purpose to your life.

RESTORING SANITY - A 12-step program will help repair the damage caused by alcoholism to both you and those around you. Remember, Step Two doesn't mean you're insane. The behaviors you display, mixed with an impaired and negative mindset, are a result of addiction and not indicative of your mental state. Belief and acceptance in a higher power in recovery will help you "restore sanity."

BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS - Damaged relationships come with the territory of addiction. Your words and actions can cause pain, anger, or resentment in both yourself and others. With a 12-step program, your loved ones can begin to express their emotions in a healthy environment.

(continued on page 4)

(con't) Step Two of AA enables you to assess your behaviors and see the damage caused by your alcoholism. While processing your actions, look within. Consider how you mistreated yourself through self-destruction. Recognizing, accepting, and changing your thoughts will restore — or instill for

the first time — a sense of self-worth.

SANITY - Finding a higher power that resonates with you will help you discover a better version of yourself. "Sanity" occurs when you accept sobriety as a process, not a means to an end; sobriety ebbs and flows. For example, there are

days when you are balanced and others when you need to find balance. Each day is an opportunity for improvement by accepting where you are, where you want to go, and how embracing Step Two can get you there.

<https://altacenters.com/step-two-higher-power-means/>

It Happened in February



February 1: 1918: Original date set for Bill Wilson's marriage to Lois Burnham. The date was moved up because of the war. 1942: Ruth Hock, AA's 1st paid secretary, resigns to get married.

February 2: 1942: Bill Wilson paid tribute to Ruth Hock, AA's first paid secretary, who resigned to get married. She had written approximately 15,000 letters to people asking for help

February 5: 1941: Pittsburgh Telegram ran a story on the first AA group's Friday night meeting of a dozen "former hopeless drunks."

February 9: 2002: Sue Smith Windows, Dr. Bob's daughter died.

February 10: 1922: Harold E. Hughes was born on a farm near Ida Grove, Iowa. After his recovery from alcoholism, he became Governor of Iowa, a United States Senator, and the leading dark horse for the Presidential Democratic nomination in 1972, until he announced he would not run. He authored the legislation which created the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and other legislation to help alcoholics and addicts.

February 11: 1938: Clarence Snyder ("Home Brewmeister" in 1st, 2nd & 3rd editions) had his last drink.

February 12: 1945: World War II paper

shortage forced reduction in size of the Big Book.

February 13: 1937: Oxford Groups "Alcoholic Squadron" met at the home of Hank Parkhurst ("The Unbeliever" in the 1st edition of the Big Book) in New Jer-

sey.

1940: With about two years of sobriety, Jim Burwell ("The Vicious Cycle") moved to the Philadelphia area and started the first Philadelphia A.A. group.

February 14: 1971: AA groups worldwide held a memorial service for Bill Wilson.

February 15: 1946: AA Tribune, Des Moines, IA, reported 36 new members since Marty Mann had been there.

February 16: 1941: Baltimore Sunday Sun reported city's first AA group begun in 1940 had grown from 3 to 40 members, with five being women.

February 18: 1943: AA's were granted the right to use cars for 12th step work in emergency cases, despite gas rationing.

February 20: 1941: The Toledo Blade published first of three articles on AA by Seymour Rothman.

February 21: 1939: 400 copies of the Big Book manuscript were sent to doctors, judges, psychiatrists, and others for comment.

February 22: 1842: Abe Lincoln addressed the Washington Temperance Society in Springfield, IL.

February 23: 1959: AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

February 24: 2002: Hal Marley, "Dr. Atti-

tude of Gratitude," died. He had 37 years of sobriety. Hal testified, anonymously, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse on December 3, 1970.

February 26: 1999: Felicia Gizycka, author of "Stars Don't Fall," died. In 1958 she married John Kennedy Magruder and divorced him in 1964. For most of her professional career, she went by the name Felicia Gizycka.

February 28: 1940: First organization meeting of Philadelphia AA was held at McCready Huston's room at 2209 Delancy Street.

Other February happenings for which we have no specific dates: 1916: Bill Wilson & sophomore class at Norwich University was suspended for hazing.

1938: Rockefeller gave \$5,000 to AA.

1939: Dr. Harry Tiebout endorsed AA, the first psychiatrist to do so.

1939: Dr Howard of Montclair, NJ suggests swapping "you musts" for "we ought" in the Big Book.

1940: 1st AA clubhouse opened at 334-1/2 West 24th Street, NYC.

1946: Baton Rouge, La., AA's hold their first anniversary meeting.

1946: 1946: Des Moines Committee for Education on Alcoholism aired its first show on KRNT.

1959: AA granted "Recording for the Blind" permission to tape the Big Book.

1981: 1st issue of "Markings," AA Archives Newsletter, was published, "to give the Fellowship a sense of its own past and the opportunity to study it."

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

1. Do I criticize or do I trust and support my group officers, AA committees, and office workers? Newcomers? Long-timers?
2. Am I absolutely trustworthy, even in secret, with AA Twelfth Step jobs or other AA responsibility?
3. Do I look for credit in my AA jobs? Praise for my AA ideas?
4. Do I have to save face in group discussion, or can I yield in good spirit to the group conscience and work cheerfully along with it?
5. Although I have been sober a few years, am I still willing to serve my turn at AA chores?
6. In group discussions, do I sound off about matters on which I have no experience and little knowledge?
7. Why is it necessary that a healthy relationship be one in which the members are equals?
8. How do you feel and react when someone tries to or dominates in your relationships?
9. Do you have an inherent tendency to dominate people around you? How can you correct his defect of character?
10. Are you someone who is always willing to allow someone else to take control and then complains because you don't like what was done, yet were unable to make a decision yourself?
11. What is the difference between suggestions, advice, and guidance?
12. Is God or a Higher Power the only authority in your relationships? How does this Higher Power express Himself to you when making any decisions?
13. Why is it necessary to give the minority opinion an open-minded evaluation in a group conscience?
14. Why is humility a necessary ingredient in applying Tradition II to your relationships?

"The only problem we ever really have is separation from God."

<https://take12.org/12#~:text=Tradition%20II%20encourages%20me%20to,part%20of%20the%20group%20conscience.>

Step Two: My Experience

In Step Two, we come to believe our sanity can be restored by a Power greater than ourselves. When I heard this, I was a little confused. What does this mean? Are you implying that right now I am insane? My answer quickly came from my sponsor. He said, "Yes, you are insane; you continue to drink and use drugs even though you know there are going to be extremely negative consequences." That is the definition of insanity, doing something over and over expecting different results.

Okay, I can accept that most of the situations I have been in when I'm drinking have been a little crazy. From jumping off of bridges to driving like I was in the Daytona500 kind of crazy! These were things I just thought you did for fun, but now looking back I realized that was insane thinking. Understanding there was something out there that has a better grip on reality than I did was not hard. I mean I should be dead, but something, and I don't know why, was looking out for me. My sponsor asked me to read page **62 – 63 in the AA Big Book**. It says:

"Selfishness – self-centeredness! That, we think, is the root of our troubles. Driven by a hundred forms of fear, self-delusion, self-seeking, and self-pity, we step on the toes of our fellows and they retaliate. Sometimes they hurt us, seemingly without provocation, but we invariably find that at some time in the past we have made decisions based on self which later placed us in a position to be hurt.

So our troubles, we think, are basically of our own making. They arise out of ourselves, and the alcoholic is an extreme example of self-will run riot, though he usually doesn't think so. Above everything, we alcoholics must be rid of this selfishness. We must, or it kills us! God makes that possible. And there often

seems no way of entirely getting rid of self without His aid. Many of us had moral and philosophical convictions galore, but we could not live up to them even though we would have liked to. Neither could we reduce our self-centeredness much by wishing or trying on our own power. We had to have God's help.

This is the how and why of it. First of all, we had to quit playing God. It didn't work. Next, we decided that hereafter in this drama of life, God was going to be our Director. He is the Principal; we are His agents. He is the Father, and we are His children. Most good ideas are simple, and this concept was the key-stone of the new and triumphant arch through which we passed to freedom.

When we sincerely took such a position, all sorts of remarkable things followed. We had a new Employer. Being all powerful, He provided what we needed, if we kept close to Him and performed His work well. Established on such a footing we became less and less interested in ourselves, our little plans and designs. More and more we became interested in seeing what we could contribute to life. As we felt new power flow in, as we enjoyed peace of mind, as we discovered we could face life successfully, as we became conscious of His presence, we began to lose our fear of today, tomorrow or the hereafter. We were reborn."

This was a large chunk of information for me to even start to comprehend, especially in early sobriety. So, let me break it down as simply as I can. Ask yourself this, "do I believe that some Higher Power can help me get sober?" If you say yes, then that is all you need to move on in the steps. Remember step two does not say "immediately believed," but rather **came to believe**. I have come to believe that my Higher Power is the only reason that I am still sober to this day.

<https://www.recoveryconnection.com/step-two-my-experience/>

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<p>1 Eileen M., 25 yrs, Kingston Creek</p> <p>Paula, 1 yr, Waldorf</p>
<p>2 Kim S., 29 yrs, Drunks "R" Us</p> <p>Gordon M., 43 yrs, KISS</p>	<p>3 Mike G., 4 yrs and Debbie B., 18 mos., Beacon of Hope (virtual)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 RC, 6 yrs, Patuxent River</p> <p>Fran C., 2 yrs, Battled and Rattled</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Susan N., 2 yrs, Not a Glum Lot</p> <p>Antoine, 7 yrs, 231</p>	<p>8 Will T., 4 yrs, Waldorf</p> <p>Jamie Q., 7 yrs, Laurel Grove</p> <p>Walter B., 39 yrs, Happy Hour</p>
<p>9 Anne G., 26 yrs, Keeping It Green</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 Beth M., 22 yrs, Step Sisters</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Jamie R., 4 yrs, North Beach</p>
<p>16 Bobby L., 28 yrs, Never Too Late</p>	<p>17 Eric S., 1 yr, Monday Nite Traditions</p> <p>Michelle T., 11 yrs, More Will Be Revealed</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 Mary W., 17 yrs, Step Sisters</p>	<p>20 Dave M., 11 yrs, Harmony</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Steve W., 2 yrs, North Beach</p>
<p>23 Allan C., 31 yrs and Dave K., 17 yrs, Prince Frederick Big Book</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 Dickie R., 40 yrs, Pat S., 13 yrs, and Rob A., 7 yrs, Poplar Hill</p>	<p>28 Brian B., 18 yrs, Cove Point</p> <p>Susan G., 35 yrs, Beacon of Hope (virtual)</p>	

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Nathan H., 4 yrs, Waldorf
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Bruce O., 11 yrs, Waldorf
9 Holly G., 1 yr, Never Too Late	10 David H., 11 yrs, Mon- day Nite Traditions	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Kenny G., 9 yrs , 231	22
23	24	25	26	27 Duke R., 23 yrs, Basic Text	28	29
30	31 Michelle H., 9 yrs, Monday Night Tra- ditions					



Volunteers needed for

SERENITY BREAKFAST 4/26/25



Sign up at the 2/8/25 SMIA Business meeting

Immaculate Conception Church,

28297 Old Village Road,

Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Or via Zoom @

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

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

Please be advised that the Thursday Bookstall will not be available for the next few weeks for purchases.



Area 29 Maryland PI/CPC

**PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND COOPERATION WITH THE
PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY
COMBINED 2025 COMMITTEE**

Table Exhibitions

Give presentations about A.A. to schools and organizations, and set up exhibitions at professional events

Audio, PSAs, Internet

Ensure local media has accurate information about A.A. through PSAs, anonymity-protected interviews and digital press kits

A Resource for Professionals

Professionals who work with alcoholics share a common purpose with Alcoholics Anonymous: to help alcoholics stop drinking and lead a healthy, productive life.

DISTRICT CHAIRS AND INTERESTED A.A. MEMBERS ARE INVITED!



Join us online
at 3 p.m. EDT
on the 3rd Sunday
of the month
862 7457 8272
Pw: 199887

WWW.MARYLANDAA.ORG
A29CPCPI@GMAIL.COM



1ST ANNUAL FREDERICK SOBER BOWL

presented by

**West Central Intergroup
Activities & Workshop Committees.**

A Family Night of Food, Fellowship and Football.



Sunday, February 9, 2025 @ 6 PM

Northstar Community Church

5112 Pegasus Court - Suite E

Frederick, MD 21704

Chicken/coffee will be supplied.

Bring a covered dish to share - sign up

<https://mealtrain.com/r918o7>



2025 VIRTUAL

**Northeast Regional
A.A. Service Assembly**

HOSTED BY

AREA 45

**FEBRUARY
21 - 22 - 23**

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Northeast Regional Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly (NERAASA) is for GSRs, DCMs, Area Committee Members and Intergroup/Central Office Representatives of the Northeast Region to:

- discuss General Service Conference issues/concerns.
- address Recovery, Unity and Service in the NE Region.

PROGRAM

- **Panel Presentations** on current A.A. issues.
- **Floor Discussions:** including the Northeast Regional Trustee's report
- **Roundtable Sharing Sessions** Topics include:

Accessibilities/Remote Communities, Archives, Area Chairs / Alternate Area Chairs, Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC), Corrections, Area Delegates/Alternate Area Delegates, District Committee Members (DCMs) / Alternate DCMs/District Committee Member Chairs (DCMCs) / Alternate DCMCs, General Service Representatives (GSRs) / Alternate GSRs, Grapevine/La Villa, Intergroups/Central Offices, Literature, Public Information (PI), Registrars, Secretaries, Treasurers, Treatment, Websites/Technology, Young People, Español



\$35

**TO ATTEND BY
PHONE, TABLET
OR COMPUTER.**

Register Now



WWW.NERAASA.ORG

Be a part of AA's Group Conscience

CARC III

Conference Agenda Review Committee

PLANNING MEETING

3/3/2025

6pm - 7pm

ZOOM MEETING

Meeting ID: 857 0174 6869

Password: 678031

We will be distributing agenda items and filling remaining available service positions. There are several service opportunities to fill which do not require any prior CARC experience

Email registrar@marylandaa.org if you would like to help but cannot attend this meeting

ALL ARE WELCOME

Be a part of AA's Group Conscience

CARC III

Conference Agenda Review Committee

FULL MEETING

3/23/2025

2pm - 4pm

Doors open 1:30pm

HYBRID MEETING

St Johns Parkville
8808 Harford Rd
Parkville, MD 21234

Zoom ID: 891 9298 2223
Password: CARC

ANY member of AA may attend a CARC meeting and provide direct feedback to the Area Delegate on any of the proposed changes to AA that are on the agenda of the upcoming 2025 General Service Conference

marylandaa.org

ALL ARE WELCOME



THE "WHAT'S THE POINT?"

A.A. MEETING

BIG BOOK
AS BILL SEES IT
GRAPEVINE
TWELVE
&
TWELVE



ALL MEETINGS
ARE
LITERATURE
BASED
EACH WEEK IS
DIFFERENT
A.A. APPROVED
LITERATURE

COME OUT AND CHECK US OUT

GOOD SAMARITAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

20850 LANGLEY RD. LEXINGTON PARK

THURSDAY EVENINGS 8:00 PM.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HOME GROUP MEMBERS
WE HAVE SERVICE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

COME OUT AND FIND OUT
WHAT'S THE POINT! OF LIVING
THIS LIFE OF RECOVERY
AND HOW WE DO THIS
"ONE DAY AT A TIME."

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.

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

Treatment Center Committee

"The District 36 Treatment Center Committee"

**is looking for female fellowship members,
who are willing and have a year
or more of sobriety to bring
in-house A.A. meetings into
the Jude House**

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm.

Please contact this committee at our email:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com

This is a very rewarding experience!

Come join up and try it out!

The Committee Contact:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com



**2024 FINAL
CONFERENCE
REPORT
REVIEW**

**Connecting with
LOVE, UNITY &
SERVICE**



861 9125 3637

PW 841099

Zoom dial in: 301-715-8592

Sundays @ 7pm EDT

**Join us weekly to finish
out our review of the 2024 Conference
Report now through end Jan. 2025**

**Únase a nosotros semanalmente para finalizar
nuestra revisión del Informe de la Conferencia de
2024 desde ahora hasta fines de enero de 2025**

AMOR, UNIDAD Y SERVICIO

Spanish interpretation provided

AA.FCRR@gmail.com or

FinalConferenceReportReview@gmail.com



"BLUE TOP @ NOON"

Lexington Park United Methodist Church

21760 Great Mills Road

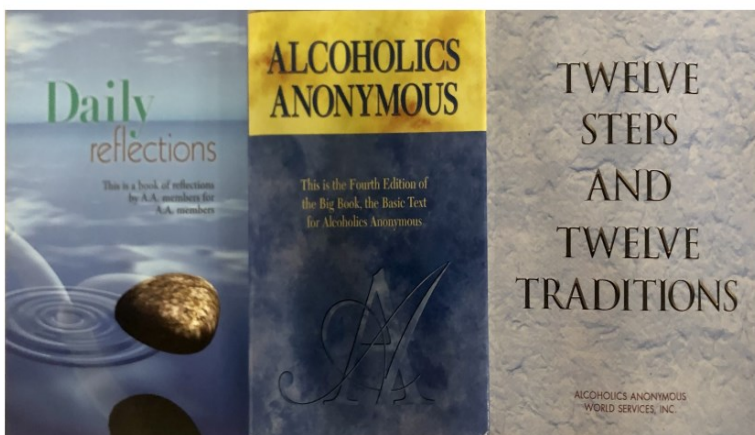
12:00 noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Tuesday will be the Daily Reflections

Wednesday will be the Big Book

**Thursday will be a Step/Tradition meeting
Come check us out and join our group!**



A-29 Accessibilities E-Blast

August 2024

MGS Inc. Area 29

MarylandAA.org

How Accessible is your group?

Take your group's accessibilities inventory!



Use this QR Code to access the Accessibility Checklist (smf-208) found on the AA.org website to determine if a group site and location is truly accessible to all.

Next, update your status!



Ensure that your meetings' accessibility status is correctly listed in your local Intergroup directories. The intergroup directories are where The Meeting Guide app pulls its information from. Use this QR code to locate your local intergroups contact information. Correct listings ensure that those with disabilities can accurately choose what meetings will work for their needs. Note that any wheelchair accessible meeting will also be walker accessible.

What to do if someone with Accessibility needs attends your meeting?

1. Consider assigning a "buddy" as a point person for any needed assistance during the meeting such as getting them coffee or help finding the bathroom. Ask the person what would be helpful in terms of assistance.
2. Preferential seating up front may be helpful for the hard of hearing, and the aisle or other seating for those in wheelchairs or with walkers.
3. Afterward provide phone numbers of local members, the Accessibilities Committee contact information Accessibilities@marylandAA.org and that of the local intergroup. Let them know that if they want to come back and need additional accommodation, we can help arrange that and/or provide a group contact to help with arrangements.
4. For any verbal communication barriers, It is often best to provide information in writing or text. Many smartphone apps are available for immediate accessibility such as talk to text (AT4) and text to talk, image reading/ screen reading (*Envision AI*) and even sign language translators and text to sign language.

Help the Area 29 Accessibilities Committee!

Let us know where to focus our attention in Area 29. Take the Group Accessibility Survey! [Groups Accessibilities Survey](#) – MGS | Maryland General Service (marylandaa.org)



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!

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!

SMIA Meeting Minutes

1/11/24

Opening: Buddy F. opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

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

New Member(s): Faye S. – We Are Not Saints

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L.–Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall, Phil. – Never Too Late, Nathan H. – Waldorf Group, Todd M. – St. Charles Step Group, Emme – O.D.A.A.T, Frances R. – KISS Group, Faye S. – We Are Not Saints, Norma H. – 12 Steps Home, Pat S. – Charlotte Hall Group, Keith H. – Almost Normal/Lifeline, Melissa W. – Never Too Late/Phone Co-Chair

SMIA Chair Report: Buddy F. gave the monthly Chair report. Buddy reported that beginning January 12th, there is a new podcast “Our Primary Purpose – GSO Podcast” which can be found at www.aa.org or other applications where podcasts can be found. AA Service Manual combined with the Twelve Concepts of World Service has been updated. It can be ordered under code BM31. Buddy attended the Intergroup Liaison Meeting, announced that Baltimore Intergroup was established in 1945 and will be celebrating their 70th anniversary, as well as issues some areas are having with participation in their district meetings on the eastern shore. Our Common Welfare is always looking for articles/submissions. You can visit AA.org if interested.

Vice-Chair Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary Report: December 2024 minutes accepted as posted online and in the Lifeline, motion and second to accept, all in favor.

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

Committee Reports

Bookstall Report: Bill L. reported There were 566 visits to the Bookstall this month. There were 7 orders for a total of \$406.15. \$41.00 of that total was deducted from the District 36 Corrections and Treatment budget. Purchases from AA World Services totaled \$932.23. Purchases from the Token Shop totaled \$178.20. Changed the page header and site identity to reflect 2025. Updated several pamphlet prices due to World Services price increases.

Web/Technology: Total visitors 2,668 (down 14%). Most frequently visited pages: Home Page, Where and When Calendar, Online Meetings, Announcements and Where and When Search. Site updates and changes: Site background, header, and footer changed to reflect 2025. The New Group form was changed to include On-Line meetings. The Change Group form was changed to include On-Line meetings, meeting reopening, and temporary meeting suspension. The individual forms for each of those requests were deleted. The data associated with those forms was archived. The site menus were reduced by removing the aforementioned forms and consolidating the following to one menu item; Contact and About; Finance and Contributions; Documents, Forms, and FAQs. A form was added to the Announcement and Events page to allow users to submit announcements and

events, including an upload field to add flyers for the event. Also includes a link to Adobe's free PDF converter, because PDF format is preferred. Added additional options to the Contact form. Updated the Group Listing Guide.

Meeting Change: There was an incorrect group identification for The Ladies Recover Too Group where the location was listed as the Phillips House. This was changed to the correct location, the Great Escape Recovery Lounge. Meeting Status: 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 – 01/01/25, Finance Page updated – 01/01/25, Minutes Posted – 01/01/25, Where and When Updated – 11/11/24

Gratitude Dinner: Looking for a volunteer to chair. We usually hold the event on the second Saturday of November. Buddy received a report from Gratitude dinner and after quick review it appears there was a profit of \$887.06. Buddy and Treasurer to review the report.

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert –no report. Charles – Norma reported women meet at 3:30 on Thursday's at the detention center. St. Mary's –Kim K. reported we are back in the detention facility, currently have 16-18 volunteers that are participating. Attendance sheet filled out during meeting must be given to the front desk when you leave. Men's meeting is Wednesday at 7 pm (arrive at 6:30), Women's meeting is Monday at 7pm (arrive at 6:30). Due to construction, you now have to pick up the phone to get buzzed in and we can now leave literature. Kim is thinking of stepping down. for the Men's meetings and Roy B. has expressed an interest in taking over.

(continued on page 16)

(con't) Lifeline/Archives: Keith H. reported we are printing 25. If more are needed, let Keith know. Submissions are still needed and appreciated.

Picnic: Buddy F. volunteered to chair the picnic. Looking at holding the event at Hallowing Point Park. Going to try to rotate between counties each year.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G. is doing an amazing job. Charles – no report. St. Mary's – Buddy reported there are three people doing this service to cover the north, central and lower half of the county. All is going well.

Telephone: Melissa W. reported that she and Sheri R. are currently co-chairing and transitioning. There is a new volunteer for St. Mary's. Melissa W. reported that from 12/14-1/11 there were 23 calls. St. Mary's – 9 calls, Calvert – 1 call, Charles - 8 calls, 5 calls not identified.

Serenity Breakfast: Pat S. is the chair. Breakfast will be held at Immaculate Conception on April 26th, Time: TBD. Looking

for volunteers to sell tickets. Tickets: \$20. Want to ensure that District 35 has annual 4th Step Workshop, checking to ensure there is no conflict with the workshop.

Where and When: Buddy reported we are down to approximately 375. Discussed possibly breaking the annual order into semi-annual order to reflect recent meeting changes. Please check for any updates prior to the next printing in February. Tabled to discuss with Pat.

Workshops: None.

Old Business: Elections will be held in March for the Chair and Secretary positions. In the spirit of rotation, Charles County is next in line to Chair. The Secretary position does not require rotation. You must have two years of sobriety to serve. Corrections and Treatment and PI/PCP budgets will now be included in the Treasurer's report. Corrections and Treatment annual budget of \$375 and PI/PCP annual budget of \$250. To date Charles has not used any of their budget, Calvert has used their PI/PCP budget, but none of

their Corrections and Treatment budget. St. Mary's has used \$41 of their Corrections and Treatment budget and \$175 of their PI/PCP budget. Note – funds do not roll over once the fiscal year is over at the end of April.

New Business: None

For the Good of the Order: Lorraine reported that the Southern Maryland Round-up Banquet is sold out. Names can be placed on waitlist. There are only a couple of hotel rooms left, so act fast. Registration is still open. Paul S. will be celebrating 6 years at Cove Point on January 17th. Frances R. is celebrating 33 years on January 12th at the KISS Group. Nathan H. is celebrating 4 years on March 1st at Waldorf Group. Todd M. will be celebrating 7 years on January 23rd at St. Charles Step Group and Dennis B celebrated 49 years at Kingston Creek on January 11th.

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

Step Two Promises from *Alcoholics Anonymous*

"We found that as soon as we lay aside prejudice and expressed even a willingness to believe in a power greater than ourselves, we commenced to get results, even though it was impossible for any of us to fully define or comprehend that Power, which is God." **Page 46.**

"Much to our relief, we discovered we did not need to consider another's conception of God. Our own conception, however inadequate, was sufficient to make the approach and to effect a contact with Him." **Page 46.**

"As soon as a man can say that he does believe, or is willing to believe, we emphatically assure him that he is on his way. It has been repeatedly proven among us that upon this simple cornerstone a wonderfully effective spiritual structure can be built." **Page 47.**

"With this attitude, you cannot fail. The consciousness of your belief is sure to come to you." **Page 55.**

Monthly Contributions:

\$723.04

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of Financial Position January 25, 2024 - January 24, 2024		Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity May 1, 2024 - Apr 30, 2025		
Assets		Year to Date Income		BUDGET Shortfall
Primary Business Checking	\$ 5,696.51	Contributions	\$ 3,729.97	59%
Primary Business Savings	\$ 1,848.44	Bookstall	\$ 3,107.17	11%
Prudent Reserve	\$ 4,453.00	Gratitude Dinner	\$ 884.06	12%
PayPal	\$ 1,147.64	Serenity Breakfast	\$ 1,385.00	-39%
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$ 100.00	Total 2024 Income	9,106.20	37%
Total Assets	13,245.59			
This Month's Expenses		Year to Date Expenses		BUDGET Left to Use
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (669.94)	Bookstall Purchases	\$ (2,880.88)	28%
Liability Insurance	\$ -	Liability Insurance	\$ (273.00)	0%
Lifeline Printing	\$ (99.11)	Lifeline Printing	\$ (724.89)	24%
Misc	\$ -	Misc	\$ -	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (56.40)	Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (378.70)	-17%
Post Office Box	\$ -	Post Office Box	\$ (120.00)	0%
Rent	\$ (150.00)	Rent	\$ (1,350.00)	25%
Webmaster	\$ -	Webmaster	\$ (1,011.50)	67%
Website	\$ (115.84)	Website	\$ (693.20)	18%
Where & When	\$ -	Where & When	\$ -	100%
Picnic	\$ -	Picnic	\$ (1,205.40)	-21%
Travel	\$ -	Travel	\$ (131.32)	84%
Workshops	\$ -	Workshops	\$ -	100%
SMIA Archives	\$ -	SMIA Archives	\$ -	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ -	Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (229.99)	-28%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (16.00)	Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (128.00)	-28%
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	0%
Total Expenses	\$ (1,107.29)	Total 2024 Expenses	\$ (9,126.88)	49%
Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of		5.86	Months	
Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining		3	Months	
For our planned expenses, we currently have a		\$ 4,239.59	Excess	
Remaining Service Committee Budgets	Calvert	C&T	PI/CPC	
Budget Year 2024 (01May2024 - 30Apr2025)	Charles	\$ 375.00	\$ 15.00	
As of 12Jan2025	St.Mary's	\$ 375.00	\$ 250.00	
		\$ 334.00	\$ 137.80	

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Grapevine Group
Basic Text
Leonardtwn Big Book
Emotional Sobriety

Early Risers
Awakenings
Sobriety First
Not A Glum Lot

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

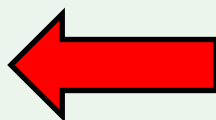
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

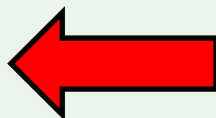
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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

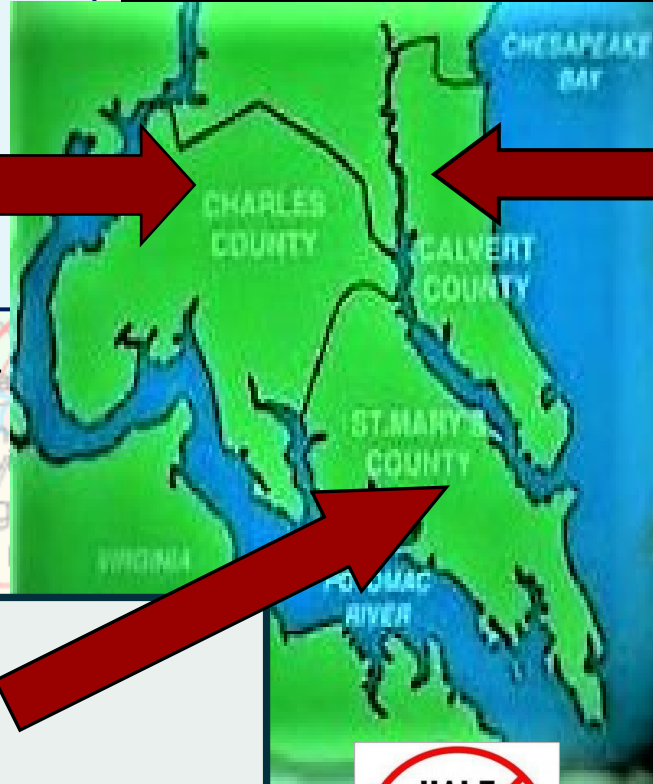
Grapevine Rep

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



***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.***

DISTRICT NOTES

The next SMIA Meeting will be held on

Saturday, March 8 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)**