

LIFELINE



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

life-line | \ 'lif- 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>

A New Year's Resolution or A New Year's Inventory?



We alcoholics tend to look down on New Year's Eve as "amateur night." We often stay off the highways, believing them to be filled with dangerous, untrained, drinkers who have no tolerance for alcohol. We like to believe that when we drank and drove, we did it well. There is a little bit of truth in this, because we did develop a tolerance for alcohol, but mostly it is what the Big Book calls "gutter bravado." Our tolerance just allowed us to drink more, and we were just as foolish as anyone else.

Because we looked down on New Year's eve, we usually didn't make New Year's resolutions, either. That didn't matter, because most New Year's resolutions are quickly forgotten, or quickly broken. They don't amount to anything, because they aren't backed up by anything. I suggest that, now we are sober, we make a New Year's Inventory rather than New Year's Resolutions.

The Big Book uses the image of a commercial inventory. It says "One object is to disclose damaged or unsalable goods, to

get rid of them promptly and without regret." In steps four, five, and ten, we do just that. Any day is a good day to look at our lives and see what needs to be disposed of, promptly and without regret.

When I was sixteen years old, I worked in a supermarket. I remember, during inventory, standing on a ladder and counting cans of Campbell's soup. I dropped most of them in a shopping basket as I counted. A few cans were old and dented, or old and leaking. I dropped them into a cardboard box, because they were unsalable. After being counted, they would be disposed of promptly, and without regret.

"Right now" is always a good time to take an inventory, to see what in our lives is of great value, to be enhanced in the days to come, and what can cheerfully be left behind. New Year's is just a convenient reminder. The Big Book language, "to get rid of them promptly and without regret," spares us from excessive guilt. Some things just wear out or are no longer useful.

Before Christmas, my wife Priscilla who is 77 years old, noticed that she was getting light headed a couple of times a day. She checked in with her doctor who asked her to wear a 24/7 heart monitor for a month to detect suspicious patterns. Within a half a day, it detected that her heart was stopping and it struggled to restart. The next morning, she was called into Regions Hospital in Saint Paul for an exam and told she needed a heart pacemaker. It was put in at 8 a.m. the next morning, and she was home again by 3 in the afternoon. Neither of us were upset. I just thought, "The natural pacemaker is worn out. It has to be replaced promptly and without regret."

The Twelve Step program's tools of taking inventory and taking action worked well for both of us as she is in Al-Anon. Within one more day, Christmas Day, she was feeling fine, just sore from the incision spot. Whether it is physical health, mental health, emotional health, or spiritual health, *(continued on page 2)*

(con't) it is useful for us to take our own inventory as we go along, with help from sponsors, doctors, counselors, and God. When I find something wrong with me, I think of those leaky soup cans, and do everything I can to get rid of it promptly and without regret. Happy New Year to everyone!

<https://blog.theretreat.org/a-new-years-resolution-or-a-new-years-inventory>

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.



The Cake Recipe

“Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path.”

The 12 Step program is a recipe for recovery. If we follow the directions thoroughly, as outlined in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, our Basic recovery text, we can recover like the hundreds of thousands alcoholics before us.

It is like baking a chocolate cake. If you follow the recipe exactly, you will make a chocolate cake. There is no doubt about it. You don't even have to believe you are going to make a cake, you will make a cake regardless of what you believe.

But what happens when we leave something out of the recipe such as baking powder? The cake will not rise. What happens if we leave the sugar out? It will not taste very good. What happens if we forget

to bake it? Leave enough of the ingredients and steps out of the recipe and in the end it will not even look like a cake, just a batch of goop.

Dr. Bob was once asked, “what is the most important step?” He replied, “think of the 12 steps as the 12 spokes of a wheel. Take one spoke out and the wheel will continue to turn, but it has been weakened. Removal of another spoke and you further weaken the wheel. Remove enough spokes and the wheel will eventually collapse. So it is with our 12 Step program. Removal of any of the steps will eventually result in a collapse.”

Of alcoholics who came to A.A. and really tried, 50% got sober at once and remained that way; 25% sobered up after some relapses, and among the remainder, those who stayed on with A.A. showed improvement. Other thousands came to a few A.A. meetings and at first decided they didn't want the program. But great numbers of these—about two out of three—began to return as time passed. (pg. xx, A.A. 4th Ed.)

If we thoroughly follow the 12 Step recipe, we can recover. We don't even have to believe, just be willing to believe and we can recover from a seemingly hopeless state of mind and body.

<https://bigbooksponsorship.org/articles-alcoholism-addiction-12-step-program-recovery/big-book-study/cake-recipe/>

RECOVERY.

***You
must be
present
to win.***





TRADITION ONE: A PATHWAY TO UNITY

*Our common welfare should come
first; personal recovery depends
upon A.A. unity.*

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

The purpose of this blog is to enhance UNITY through thought and discussion of our basic understanding of what is meant by UNITY and to encourage learning and practical application of the Traditions as our path to UNITY. This proposed by asking three questions arising from Tradition One and providing historical published considerations of those questions.

- What is meant by UNITY?
- How does the experience of UNITY have singleness of purpose at its heart?
- How is practicing the Twelve Traditions our pathway to UNITY?
- Why is the experience of those who came before so necessary to learning and practicing the Twelve Traditions, our path to UNITY?

A.A. Traditions Booklet, Forward by Bill Wilson, 1955:
“...if as a movement, we remain a spiritual entity concerned only with carrying our message to fellow sufferers without charge or obligation; then only can we most effectively complete our mission...Unity is so vital to us AA’s that we cannot risk those attitudes and practices which have sometimes demoralized other forms of human society.”

Grapevine Article, February 1958, A.A. Co-Founder, Bill Wilson: “Our first duty, as a society, is to ensure our own survival. Therefore we have to avoid distractions and multipurpose activity...Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA group. Groups have repeatedly tried other activities and they have always failed...we have to confine our AA groups to a single purpose. If we don’t stick to these principles, we shall almost surely collapse. And if we collapse, we cannot help anyone.”

AA Grapevine, November 1948, Bill Wilson: “The Twelve Points of Tradition are little less than a specific application of the spirit of the Twelve Steps of recovery to our group life and to our relations with society in general. The recovery steps would make each individual whole and one with God; the Twelve Points of Tradition would make us one with each other and whole with the world about us. Unity is our aim.”

AA grapevine Article, January 1998, “Unity Seldom Means That We All Agree”: “What I have learned is that unity seldom means that we all agree on everything. Nor is unity served by setting aside our concerns and conforming to the majority opinion...My experience has been that unity is best achieved by a full hearing of all points of view, followed by some time for those involved to step back from emotional responses to the issue, as well as careful consideration and prayer...When we need to make a decision it’s important for me to allow the group conscience to work and to trust in the process of applying the Twelve Traditions in making our decisions. when I’m able to do this, I feel that I’m part of this Fellowship and that we united in our common disease, our common solution, and our common purpose.”

(continued on page 4)

(con't) **AA grapevine Article, April 2000, "Divine Wisdom":**
"Mention our Twelve Traditions, and I immediately think of the mistakes that early AA members made. That's where our Traditions came from, and each chapter in our "Twelve and Twelve" is a brief, often humorous account of problems encountered by early groups because of the character defects of sober alcoholics and the mistakes they made out of good, if misguided, intentions. The Traditions gave us both a sweeping inventory of the problems that threatened early groups, and an analysis of how the problems were rooted in and sprang from the alcoholic personality."

<https://bigbooksponsorship.org/articles-alcoholism-addiction-12-step-program-recovery/twelve-traditions-group-conscience-mob-rule/tradition-pathway-unity/>

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

The Spiritual Principle for Step One is HONESTY

While I was active in my alcoholic disease, honesty was not a spiritual principle I gave much thought to other than "I bought the last round, so this one is your turn" or "I did NOT say that about so and so (when I probably had)". My actions and behaviors were not honest. While I was hitting bottom and bouncing along I began to get a few moments of clarity – having a true glimpse of who I had become under the influence of alcohol. Life was not working the way I wanted it to, people were not behaving the way I wanted them to and none of it was my problem.

When my first sponsor brought me to my first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous I felt safe, I felt comfortable sitting in a chair and not having to say anything, I heard the language of the heart but couldn't tell you the words of it. Step One is the only step we can work perfectly. The other eleven steps of the program of Alcoholics Anonymous are ideals to which we should strive toward.

The decision for Step One is Do I want God's mercy or to continue with the merciless obsession? After reading the Doctor's opinion in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous, reading Step One in the Twelve by Twelve with my sponsor then looking at the unmanageability of my life and the consequences of my actions the decision became easier to make. I did not want the merciless obsession any longer. It took my several more weeks to read the complete first 164 pages of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous then to have the head to heart drop to actually believe I was a real alcoholic.

Now, having many days and years of sobriety to reflect upon, Step One continues to serve me on a regular basis with the daily business of living even though alcohol has been out of the picture for some time. I can take ANY situation that I have allowed me to be in a state of restless, irritability and discontent and apply Step One followed by the rest of the steps and come to a place of freedom once again.

<https://coigaa.org/the-spiritual-principle-for-step-one-is-honesty/>

My sponsor and I during my first six months of sobriety.



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.



STEP ONE

Step one combines simplicity with unadorned honesty. To begin the recovery journey all I had to do was make a decision; admit something. It was now an undeniable fact that I had reached a point where the ability to resist the compulsion to take a drink had been destroyed. Quantity and frequency choices were no longer mine.

Here's how most of my days would start. We owned and I operated a restaurant and bar in rural Indiana. I mean rural – corn, soybeans, hogs, and dairy cows rural. As experienced drinkers know, the standard shot glass is 2 oz. with a white line at the 1 oz. level. At six o'clock in the morning I filled the glass up to the line with whiskey, added a blurb of peppermint schnapps, dribbled in several drops of bitters, tossed it down the hatch and chased it with black coffee. Three of these little beauties in the space of five minutes eliminated those pesky hangovers.

Needless to say, my life needed new management. I suffered from what I call alcoholic usurpation, a form of thievery that robbed me of the ability to apply reasoned judgment to the reality of my daily life. Alcohol played the role of a skilled embezzler and I, the alcoholic, played the role of co-conspirator using denial, blaming, feigned ignorance, and other concealment tactics to cover the losses. Inevitably, bankruptcy occurred. The cover up was exposed. Confession time had arrived.

In one sense, my admission of powerlessness over alcohol was motivated by a feeling of guilt associated with and derived from the consequences of my drinking.

But more importantly, the admission signified my unconditional surrender. Life looked bleak.

My first experience with AA was part of a treatment program in 1980. By 1984, reliance on willpower had led to perpetual relapses; helplessness and hopelessness saturated my entire being. These two feelings combined with self-loathing drove me back into the rooms of AA where I was met with empathy and camaraderie, and surprisingly, the realization that I had already done Step 1.

Four years of intermittent AA attendance had not resulted in sustained sobriety but it had not been a complete waste. I

AA Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable.

My Step 1: Came to the realization that alcohol consumption had severely impeded my ability to accomplish every one of my life's aspirations.

had seen the joy and heard the laughter; I had enjoyed the self-deprecating humor, and had learned from the stories of success and the agony of failure. I wanted what those people had, I wanted sobriety.

At first glance, Step One may appear to be somewhere between formidable and impossible to a still suffering alcoholic who had been beaten down to a near zero sense of self-worth. Here is where reason and common sense finally came into play for me. Every AA meeting I attended presented evidence of successful recovery. All I needed to do was open my mind to the possibility that I too could succeed. As distasteful as the concept of powerlessness may be, Step One restricts it to one thing, powerlessness over alcohol. Completion of this part of the step requires only one concession – a commitment to abstinence.

As the third tradition of AA states "... the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." Pure simplicity! Well, maybe not so simple. One might ask, does doing step one actually require a commitment to abstinence? Based on the wording of the third tradition, I think it does. If I state a desire to achieve something, the statement itself carries with it the implicit necessity for commitment. My stated desire to stop drinking carries with it a commitment

(continued on page 6)



(con't) to abstinence. In this context what else could the word stop mean? The second suggestion in Step 1 is also a limited request. It does not say that we alcoholics have always lacked the competence to manage our lives. The implication is clear, my powerlessness over the mind altering effects of alcohol created the unmanageability. More simplicity – remove the cause, then rebuild a lifestyle based on reason and common sense. I was told repeatedly that compared to a life based on alcoholic

fiction, reality isn't that bad. Beyond any doubt, I now know that to be true. In retrospect, I now understand that the intense pain created by my addiction motivated two significant changes in attitude. Four years of ambivalence toward the seriousness of my addiction had been replaced with the belief that sobriety was both necessary and doable. Today, those two principles, necessity and doability, are tools I apply to important decisions on a regular basis. The completion of Step One pri-

marily required honesty, but it also suggested the immediate need for some humility and gratitude. Four years of failure to stay sober had taught me that reliance on my own volition was not a winning strategy. Powerlessness and unmanageability needed to be reversed. I had finally realized the necessity for outside help, and I already owed a debt of gratitude for the "welcome back" support I had received. Help was staring directly at me; all I needed was enough humility to accept it.

<https://aaagnostica.org/2019/09/18/johns-recovery-step-one/>



It Happened in January

January 1: 1943: Columbus Dispatch reports 1st Anniversary of Columbus AA

1946: The A.A. Grapevine increased the cost of a year's subscription to \$2.50.

1948: First A.A. meeting was held in Japan, (English speaking.)

1988: West Virginia A.A. began first statewide toll-free telephone hotline.

January 2: 1889: Bridget Della Mary Gavin (Sister Ignatia) was born in Ireland.

January 3: 1941: Jack Alexander told Bill Wilson the Oxford Group would be in his Saturday Evening Post article on A.A.

January 4: 1939: Dr. Bob stated in a letter to Ruth Hock that A.A. had to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere.

1940: First A.A. group was founded in Detroit, Michigan.

1941: Bill and Lois Wilson drove to Bedford Hills, NY, to see Stepping Stones and broke in through an unlocked window.

January 5: 1939: Dr Bob tells Ruth Hock in a letter that AA has "to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere".

1941: Bill Wilson told Jack Alexander that Jack was "the toast of A. A. — in Coca Cola, of course."

January 7: 1984: "Pass it On" was published on this Dates.

January 8: 1938: New York A.A. split from the Oxford Group.

January 10: 1940: Dr Bob tells Ruth Hock in a letter that AA has "to get away from the Oxford Group atmosphere".

1940: 1st AA meeting not in a home meets at King School, Akron, Ohio.

January 13: Dr. Earle Marsh, author of "Physician Heal Thyself," sober 49 years, died

January 15: 1937: Fitz M brings AA meetings to Washington DC. 1941: A.A. Bulletin No. 2 reported St. Louis group had ten members. 1948: Polk Health Center Alcoholic Clinic for Negroes started operations with 14 willing subjects. The Washington Black Group of A.A. cooperated with the clinic.

January 17: 1919: 18th amendment, "Prohibition," became law.

January 19: 1940: First A.A. group met in Detroit, Mich.

1943: Canadian newspaper reported eight men met at "Little Denmark," a Toronto restaurant, to discuss starting Canada's first A.A. group.

1943: Wilson's returned from 1st major A.A. tour started in Oct 24 1943. 1999: Frank M., A.A. Archivist since 1983, died.

January 20: 1954: Hank Parkhurst, author of "The Unbeliever" in the first edition of the Big Book, died in Pennington, NJ.

January 21: 1951: A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob. 1954: Hank P who helped Bill start NY office dies in Pennington, New Jersey.

January 23: 1961: Bill W. sent an appreciation letter, which he considered long-overdue, to Dr. Carl Jung for his contribution to A.A.

January 24: 1918: Bill Wilson and Lois Burnham were married, days before he was sent to Europe in WW I. 1945: 1st black group St. Louis 1971: Bill Wilson died in Miami, Florida

January 25: 1915: Dr. Bob Smith married Anne Ripley.

January 26: 1971: New York Times published Bill Wilson's obituary on page 1.

January 27: 1971: The Washington Post published an obituary of Bill Wilson written by Donald Graham, son of the owner of the Washington Post.

January 30: 1961: Dr. Carl Jung answers Bill's letter with "Spiritus Contra Spiritum."

Other significant things that happened in January:

1938: Jim Burwell, author of "The Vicious Cycle," a former atheist, gave A.A. "God as we understand Him."

1939: 400 copies of manuscript of Big Book circulated for comment, evaluation and sale.

1944: Dr. Harry Tiebout's first paper on the subject of "Alcoholics Anonymous".

1944: Onset of Bill's 11 years of depression.

1948: 1st A.A. meeting in Japan

1951: The A.A. Grapevine published memorial issue on Dr. Bob.

1984: "Pass It On," the story of Bill W. and how the A.A. message reached the world, was published.

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

A.A. Number Three: Bill Dotson--Recovery by God's Power

In the last two years--after 20 years of research and digging--we have been able to put together the simple facts about how the first three AAs got sober by the power of God. The details are laid out in The Dick B. Christian Recovery Guide, 3rd Ed.

The first three were, in this order, Bill Wilson, Dr. Bob Smith, and attorney Bill Dotson. Though a few Christian A.A. critics, and others opposed to A.A. have contended that none of the early AAs was a Christian, the facts show otherwise; and we have documented them. The important facts about these early Christian AAs have to do with the time, the way, and the process by which they got sober. All were required to declare a belief in God. All were required to declare that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Savior. And all were required to study the Bible, pray, and observe a Quiet Time. And--there were no Twelve Steps, no Twelve Traditions, no pages of a Big Book to follow, no drunk-alogs to hear, and no meetings as we know them today. See our class: "Introductory Foundations for Christian Recovery".

How, then, did the A.A. pioneers get sober, maintain sobriety, and make new lives? The answer is that they built on the principles that the first three AAs had proved would work. Each of the first three AAs believed in God and said so. Each of the first three AAs had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. And each of the first three AAs had been involved in extensive Bible study--something not fully established until our recent books on The Conversion of Bill W. and Dr. Bob of Alcoholics Anonymous. Each of the first three AAs had turned to God for help, been cured of their malady, and so stated. See particularly pages 180-181 and 191 of the current edition of "Alcoholics Anonymous."

Now, we have a very good picture of the story concerning Akron attorney Bill Dotson--the third AA to get sober and maintain sobriety, and the first alcoholic upon whom Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith "worked" successfully. Here is the Dotson story as we have discovered it in this month of January, 2011--particular as verified by a tape of Bill Dotson's recorded



talk now being circulated. Dotson had a seemingly hopeless battle with alcohol. By the time he met Bill and Dr. Bob, Dotson had been hospitalized for alcoholism eight times in the previous six months.

He had been a Deacon and Sunday School teacher. He and his wife were much involved in church life. He believed in God. He often referred to the Bible. And he stood on the teachings of Jesus. In fact, in his recorded talk, Dotson opened the address by praying "in the name of Jesus." Typically, Dotson had prayed a good deal, declared many times he would quit drinking, and--as he put it--drank too much, got drunk too often, and been unable to quit. Dotson also recognized the role of the Devil in his plight. One frequent temptation from the Adversary, came, said Dotson, in the argument that if Dotson quit, he would have "no fun." As Dotson put it, the Devil was paying him lots of attention.

Finally, on his last hospitalization, Dotson's wife told him he was going to quit--something he doubted. She said that two men (Bill and Dr. Bob) had been "licked" just as he was, and that they had the same weakness that he did. She assured Dotson that these two would not accept a cent for their services

When Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob visited Dotson, they made some very simple points:

- (1) They asked Dotson if he wanted to quit.
- (2) They asked him if he could do it by himself.

(3) They asked him to admit he had his drinking problem.

(4) They asked him if wanted help and would ask for help.

(5) They said the action had to come from Dotson and that if he wasn't interested, they would be on their way.

(6) Then they asked him if he believed in a "higher power." But Dotson replied emphatically stated that he believed in God and the Bible.

(7) They told him that if he sought and received help, it would be necessary for him to help others as well. He was told he must "take the message" to others.

(8) They told him he needed to call on God for help, and they left.


(9) In their absence, Dotson reflected and asked God for help. He was instantly cured.

(10) On the return of Bill, Dr. Bob, and Mrs. Dotson, Dotson declared he was leaving and never drank again. The date was July 4, 1935.

Wilson declared that this date marked the founding of the first A.A. fellowship--Akron Number One. Both Wilson and Dotson confirmed Bill Wilson's statement that the Lord had cured him of his terrible disease and that he just wanted to keep talking about it and telling people (See the 4th edition of the Big Book, page 191).

<https://mauihistorian.blogspot.com/2011/01/aa-number-three-bill-dotson-recovery-by.html>

JANUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 John W., 37 yrs, Kingston Creek
5 Sara S., 11 yrs and Ella D., 9 yrs, Bedouin Mandy W., 1 yr, ODAAT	6	7 Kaki B., 31 yrs, Laurel Grove	8 Dan P., 2 yrs, Grateful Alive (Huntingtown) Mary Jo., 5 yrs, Step Sisters	9	10	11 Peter A., 13 yrs, Early Risers Dennis B., 49 yrs, Kingston Creek Neal Z., 1 yr, We Wuz Wurz Eddie H., 38 yrs, North Beach
12 Francis R., 33 yrs and Will 4 yrs, KISS	13	14	15	16	17 Paul S., 6 yrs, Cove Point	18 Claudia D., 14 yrs, Early Risers
19	20	21	22 Josie S., 37 yrs, Awak- enings at Noon	23	24	25 Rick H., 36 yrs, We Wuz Wurz
26 David D., 16 yrs and Joe B., 1 yr, KISS	27	28	29	30 Chris L., 35 yrs and Larry W., 2 yrs, Poplar Hill	31	

FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Eileen M., 25 yrs, Kingston Creek
2 Kim S., 29 yrs, Drunks "R" Us	3	4	5 RC, 6 yrs, Patuxent River	6	7	8 Will T., 4 yrs, Waldorf
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Eric S., 1 yr, Monday Nite Traditions	18	19	20 Dave M., 11 yrs, Harmony	21	22
23 Allan C., 31 yrs and Dave K., 17 yrs, Prince Frederick Big Book	24	25	26	27 Dickie R., 40 yrs, Pat S., 13 yrs, and Rob A., 7 yrs, Poplar Hill	28	

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

**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**



DISTRICT 1 PRESENTS:

Anchored in Hope

Crossroads Church
150 Ball Road
St. Leonard, MD 20685

2024 New Year's Eve Party

Tickets \$20

ADULTS ONLY
THANK YOU

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

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 (AVA) 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 \(marylandaa.org\)](https://www.marylandaa.org)

Maryland General Service, Inc.

Dec. 20, 2024

District 46, Area 29
C/O Trinidad H., DCM
Area 29 MGS Panel Members

Hello All,

Following the vote at the Area 29 Assembly on Saturday, Dec. 14th, regarding movement of District 46 to Area 12 Delaware, a member in our Area asked the MGS Board of Directors to review the action approved, suggesting it is "unactionable". The MGS bylaws do specify as a Board responsibility to advise and guide the Area Assembly through their past experience, service and wisdom. Therefore, the MGS Board of Directors agreed to a review, to determine whether the motion is indeed unactionable.

After prayerful consideration the Board did not find the motion to be fully unactionable. There is a path forward to fulfill what would be best for the groups in District 46, as determined by them, while keeping in mind past precedent regarding such moves and our Fourth Tradition regarding taking actions that would affect other groups or AA as a whole. As a board we did agree that additional actions are necessary, and perhaps clarity regarding the motion would be helpful. Thus, we agreed that the motion is "unactionable at this time". To fulfill our role in advising and guiding we recommend this matter be brought to the next Area Committee meeting for further discussion, keeping in mind the following points:

- An Area serves its members, and if it would be best for our members for this change to happen, we should endeavor to facilitate that as smoothly as possible;
- There is much precedent for moving individual groups from one Area to another;
- Movement of Districts from one Area to another has been exceedingly rare. Thus, we should keep in mind the potential effect on groups in the district that have not expressed a desire to move, neighboring districts, and AA as a whole. We are aware of one such move in our history (1985 moving the Virgin Islands from Area 77 Puerto Rico to Area 15 South Florida). That was brought before the General Service Conference as it involved changing geographical boundaries. We should be wary of establishing a new precedent, as that could affect AA as a whole;
- The Area 12 Assembly would need to also approve the change. Perhaps the motion should reflect Area 29's support if also approved by the Area 12 Assembly;
- Perhaps the change in Area boundaries will indeed increase service participation amongst the groups in District 46

The MGS Board has no opinion regarding the specifics of this change in Area boundaries, believing that a fully informed group conscience generally reflects God's will. And we will support whatever is eventually decided to be best for our fellowship and our members. However, after discussion we are united in our opinion that Area 29 should further discuss the points above, particularly those surrounding past and future precedents and the need to obtain the approval of the Area 12, Delaware Assembly.

Yours in Love and Service,
Maryland General Service Board of Directors

Members:
Kurt W., Chair, Immediate Past Delegate
Don B., Board Member, Past Delegate
Linda J., Board Member, Past Delegate
Terry P., Board Member, Panel 74 Delegate
Frank M., Board Member, Panel 74 Area Chair



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.



**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GROUPS?**



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

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 12/14/24

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

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

New Member(s): Phil T. – Never Too Late

Groups & Committees Represented: Bill L.–Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall, Phil. – Never Too Late, Nathan H. – Waldorf Group, Todd M. – St. Charles Step Group, Pat P-. Where and When Chair , Andy X. – Keeping it Green, Emme – O.D.A.A.T, Zee S. – Sunday Morning Sobriety, Sara S. – Bedouin Group, Roy B. – Solomon's Group; Lisa T. – Awakenings Group, Frances R. – KISS Group, Michele B.

SMIA Chair Report: Buddy F. gave the monthly Chair report. Buddy reported the Area 29 Delegates report, as well as the Area 29 Intergroup Liaison report. Buddy also mentioned the Area 29 Conference Agenda that is posted on www.marylandaa.org for the upcoming CARC meeting.

Vice-Chair Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary Report: Kristi P. read November 2024 minutes, motion and second to adopt, all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Buddy F. shared the November 2024 Treasurer's Report. Monthly contributions were \$66.52 and monthly expenses were \$357. To date, SMIA's yearly contributions are \$5,920.18, and Expenses are \$7,571. **As a result of predicted annual shortfall, SMIA is encouraging contributions from groups so we can continue to carry the message.** Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, all in favor.

Committee Reports - Bookstall Report:

Bill L. reported there were 18 orders; 6 were processed and 12 were completed. Order totals were \$384.00. We ordered 10 copies of the Plain Language Big Book, and it is sold out. Additionally, this product is out of stock at World Services.

Web/Technology: Total visitors 3,124 (up 3%). Most frequently visited pages: Home Page, Where and When Calendar, Contact Page, Where and When Search and Anniversary Calendar. Site updates and changes: Minor change to the Announcements page to improve navigation through flyers. Meeting Change: Beyond Sobriety was changed to 7:00 PM. 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 – 12/1/24, Finance Page updated – 11/27/24, Minutes Posted – 11/21/24, Where and When updated – 11/11/24.

Gratitude Dinner: A final report was not presented, but it looks like the Dinner raised over \$800.00. Buddy would like to thank each and every person involved in the success of the Dinner.

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert – Sara reported on behalf of Lorraine reported that everything is going well. Charles – Zee S. reported all is well, with the exception of looking for anyone looking for service. St. Mary's – Buddy reported that the Jail is now open. They are taking meetings in for Women on Monday and Men on Wednesday. Must arrive at 6:30 for 7:00 pm meeting.

Lifeline/Archives: Buddy reported that Keith is still looking for material to include in Lifeline.

Picnic: Buddy has volunteered to chair the picnic.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G. is doing a great job. We now have racks in all three substance

abuse offices in Calvert. Charles – no report. St. Mary's –no report

Telephone: Melissa W. reported that she and Sheri R. are currently co-chairing. Melissa W. reported that from 11/10-12/12 there were 22 calls. St. Mary's – 2 calls, Calvert – 4 calls, Charles - 1 call, 15 calls not identified.

Serenity Breakfast: Pat S. volunteered to chair date in early May.

Where and When: Pat P. reported we are down to approximately 450 for distribution.

Workshops: None.

Old Business: Discussed possibly listing breakdown of committee budgets in the Treasurer's report.

New Business: As a result of budget shortfall, SMIA is encouraging contributions from groups so we can continue to carry the message. SMIA elections will be held in March. Looking for volunteers to fill the Chair position (Charles County is next in rotation) and the Secretary position. When elections are held, SMIA would also like to appoint volunteers to chair events. Bill advised that flyers on the web will not be updated after 2nd edition, unless there is a significant change.

For the Good of the Order: . The District 36 Christmas Alcothon will be at Hollywood Volunteer Fire Department from 12/24 at 10 p.m. to 12/25 to 10 p.m. The District 36 New Year's Alcothon will be at Knights of Columbus (Leonardtown) from 12/31 at 7 p.m. to 1/1 at 7 p.m. District 1 will be having an Anchored in Hope New Years Eve Party at Crossroads Church at 7:30 p.m. Games Night at the Knights of Columbus (Leonardtown) will be held on 12/28 from 6-9 p.m. Sara S. will be celebrating 11 years at the Bedouin Group on January 5th. Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer.

January 2025

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc

Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions: \$415.54 www.somdintergroup.org/contribute SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622			
Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of Financial Position November 25, 2024 - December 24, 2024		Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity May 1, 2024 - Apr 30, 2025	
Assets Primary Business Checking \$ 3,068.45 Primary Business Savings \$ 1,848.39 Prudent Reserve \$ 4,453.00 PayPal \$ 1,147.64 Bookstall Cash on hand \$ 100.00 Total Assets 10,617.48		Year to Date Income Contributions \$ 3,006.93 67% Bookstall \$ 2,334.17 33% Gratitude Dinner \$ - 100% Serenity Breakfast \$ 1,385.00 -39% Total 2024 Income 6,726.10 54%	
This Month's Expenses Bookstall Purchases \$ - Liability Insurance \$ - Lifeline Printing \$ (103.10) Misc \$ - Phone Answering Service/1-800# \$ (56.29) Post Office Box \$ - Rent \$ (150.00) Webmaster \$ - Website \$ (109.71) Where & When \$ - Picnic \$ - Travel \$ - Workshops \$ - SMIA Archives \$ - Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing) \$ (13.00) Bank Charges and Fees \$ (16.00) Other - Tax Filings \$ - Total Expenses \$ (448.10)		Year to Date Expenses Bookstall Purchases \$ (2,210.94) 45% Liability Insurance \$ (273.00) 0% Lifeline Printing \$ (625.78) 35% Misc \$ - 0% Phone Answering Service/1-800# \$ (322.30) 1% Post Office Box \$ (120.00) 0% Rent \$ (1,200.00) 33% Webmaster \$ (1,011.50) 67% Website \$ (577.36) 32% Where & When \$ - 100% Picnic \$ (1,205.40) -21% Travel \$ (131.32) 84% Workshops \$ - 100% SMIA Archives \$ - 100% Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing) \$ (229.99) -28% Bank Charges and Fees \$ (112.00) -12% Other - Tax Filings \$ - 0% Total 2024 Expenses \$ (8,019.59) 55%	
Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of 4.09 Months Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining 4 Months For our planned expenses, we currently have a \$ 127.15 Excess			

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS:**

**Never Too Late
Cobb Island
Positive Identity**

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

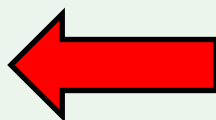
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

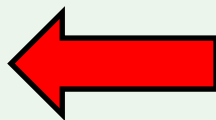
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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)

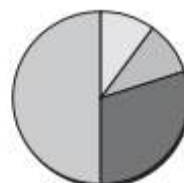
Your Group Service # _____

(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

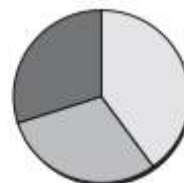
OR



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:

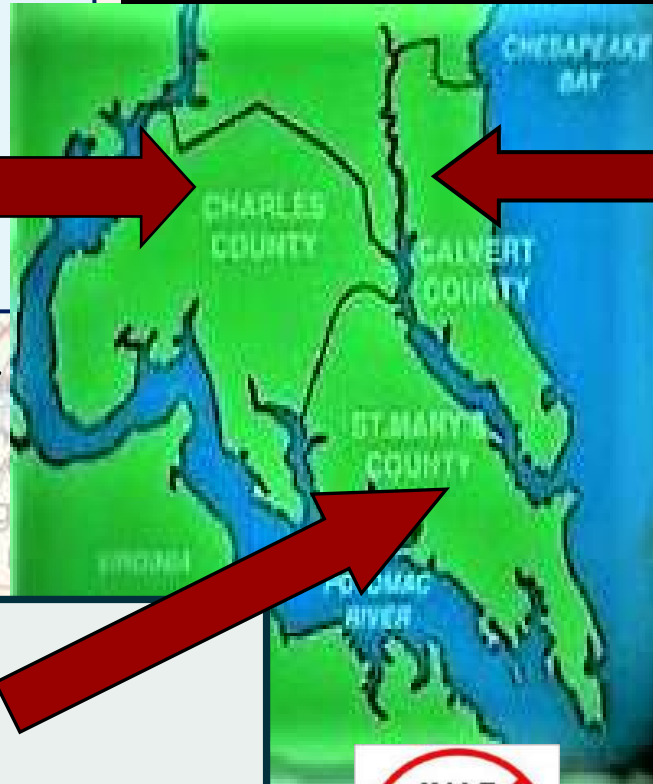
7 PM, 3rd Monday

**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, February 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)**