



LIFELINE



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

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

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

Since the day I entered the AA pro-
gram, I have had an insatiable appetite for
learning all I could about the disease of
alcoholism. After completing a very thor-
ough Fourth and Fifth step, then examin-

ing my motives for every-
thing I did in steps Six and
Seven, it occurred to me
that most of my problems
in life involved my interac-
ting with, "Those Other
People."

As I got further into
the steps and started to
process every one of
these interactions, it be-
came apparent to me that
the basic cause of my dis-
content was low self-

esteem and that, until I resolved that,
there would be very little peace of mind. I
had to get right with everyone.

They say that understanding is the
key to right living, so I read just about any-
thing I can get my hands on about these
issues. The principles that we learn in the
AA program are reflected in works such as
Emmet Fox's *Sermon on The Mount*,
Scott Peck's *The Road Less Traveled*,
Ernest Kurtz and Kathleen Ketchum's *The
Spirituality of Imperfection* and Max Ehr-
mann's poem, *Desiderata*. This kind of
reference material helps bring a better

perspective on how to reduce the obsta-
cles that stand in the way of my ability to
solve these problems. I should be willing
to get right with "every human being I
know" as suggested in step Eight (12&12).

Finding ways to remove my own judgmen-
tal attitude opens the door to love and
compassion.

Today, I can love everyone by simply
giving them the respect and acceptance

that I would want for my-
self. After doing my best to
adopt this plan of action
over the years, I can only
say that nothing that I
have ever done, with re-
spect to others, has been
more rewarding than this
approach.

I have, to the best of my
understanding, stopped
judging others by their
outside behavior and have
found the strength to look



Road to Mental Freedom Understanding Steps Six and Seven

Scott Peck describes the word Love
as: Caring for and nurturing another per-
son's soul. I now look at love as a verb
and not a noun. You can love someone
that doesn't love you back when you use
this definition. And, as a result, I truly wish
the best for every human being I know and
offer help and guidance when I can. I be-
came their best advocate.

If I want to heal, I must look deeper
and try to understand the other person. To
be strong enough to first, reign in my ego
and then realize that the other person may
be reacting to my adversarial position.

deeper. When I do that, I usually find a
person similar to myself, trying to protect
himself from his fears, and I just can't
bring myself to pile on and compound his
pain. My heart goes out to him, and I don't
have to deal with regrets later. My ego is
neutralized as I come to understand his
troubles.

The greatest gift I receive from all of
this is that I allow myself that same lati-
tude. Self-forgiveness and peace of mind
seems to be the natural result of my ef-
forts. I can accept everyone just as they
are and not mess with God's work.

The longer I am sober the more amazed I am at the things that keep appearing for which I am very grateful. It becomes evident after some time sober that benefits just seem to sort of pile up. And, if one isn't on the ball, he'll miss some of the most important things.

Someone recently quoted Will Rogers as having said that "while we may be on the right track, we'll get run over if we just sit there." It's true. As a result, I find it necessary, even though I might rather just "sit," to keep moving. I try to pick out the things that AA and sobriety give me, and to look them over objectively now and then.

Back in my drinking days I was positive that everything that took place in my life was earth-shaking and extremely important. After all, I was a very important person! How could there possibly be anything humdrum or unimportant about my life or anything in it? The only thing in my life at that time could possibly have been construed as important was the fact that I was always in some sort of trouble or difficulty because of my drinking. Otherwise my life was a pretty sordid, unimpressive mess.

It's absolutely delightful, now that I'm sober, to look at my life and find that it is filled to the brim with little things. As a matter of fact, there sometimes seems to be so many little things that there really are not always enough hours in the day to cram it all in. The beauty of it all is when one realizes that all these little things are important, and that if they are good things, then we are "on the right track."

One evening not long ago, in the warmth and comfort of my home, I found myself taking stock of all the little things it afforded me. I observed all the little things my wife and I had accumulated, or made ourselves, or worked on in the two years plus we've been married. I found, much to my amazement, that our little home is full of little things.

It is a comfortable, homey home, and it is all these little things in it, that we have found together, made together, worked on together, that make it so. The world is full of houses with people in them. Many of them, perhaps most of them are far more pre-



tentious than ours. They are furnished more lavishly, and display much more material wealth than our little home, but houses are not always homes, and ours is.

Almost everything in our little home reflects either my wife or I or both of us. It is a home which shows our love for each other, and the little things in it add up to something that money cannot buy . . . love.

Suddenly, therefore, while I was reflecting on all this, I knew that as a result of all these little things in my life, I had something which many people never find in a lifetime, a real home, with real love in it. There is nothing little about love or a happy home. The other things might all be little, but they added up to something grand and glorious and very big.

One thing always leads to another, and I was suddenly never more aware of, or more grateful for my sobriety than at that moment. I sat there in my chair, looking into the fire in the fireplace, oblivious to the ever-present TV commercials, and thought, who needs booze, or bars or movies or even TV for that matter, when you're sober and there's a fire in the fireplace?

Thus, after all these years, I am slowly learning that I don't have to be big and important. I don't have to have the finest car or the latest fashions in clothes. I no longer need or desire to make an impression on others. All I need is sobriety, and God in His Heaven has seen fit to make this possible for me through AA. I am grateful for it, and, for all the little things in my life that go together to make it a happy one.

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.

I was once chairing my home group and therefore sitting at the front table. A group from an adolescent treatment center visited and

they sat near the front row. During the meeting the basket was passed quickly down that row since no one among them had any, or much money with them.

A woman near the end opened her purse and retrieved what seemed to be a dime. The gal next to her advised, "You don't need to do that."

"Yes, I do!" she replied. Tears welled in my eyes—a rare event for me. I knew exactly what she meant. That dime didn't mean much to the group but to her, contributing what she could, meant everything.

I joined AA in the early '80s. In the suburbs where I went to meetings, practically everyone was tossing a dollar bill in the basket. It didn't seem like much to ask—a movie cost several times that. I asked around and the locals said around 1975 a full dollar donation became de rigueur.

By 1980, what had been double-digit inflation slowed and stayed low, but persistent, until the pandemic pushed it back near 10%. It now takes \$5.71 to purchase what \$1.00 in 1975 could.

Many churches ask their congregants for sacrificial giving – for donations so large that they have to give up something important to meet that goal. AA asks no such thing! But several years ago tossing a buck in the plate stopped meaning anything to me. I knew I had to up that

Whoever Pays the Piper Calls the Tune

amount so that I really felt I was making a contribution.

Indeed, at my home group, we sometimes get no more people in attendance than the few dollars in rental required by the church. In other words, the first dollar I toss in the basket pays the church for my seat at that meeting, leaving nothing to the group or AA as a whole. A good friend started going to his bank and getting a stack of \$2 bills and would toss one in each collection basket. It made a point.

I know there are some of you who, at one time or another, can only afford to part with one dollar, if that, for the collection plate and that's fine – give what you reasonably can. But, there are others who, given a little encouragement, can and will contribute more. Consider yourself encouraged!

Many groups have not yet really recovered from the pandemic and so their donations to our central office (www.aacle.org) at their March Fund Drive have dwindled. Likewise for AA as a whole (www.aa.org) which expects a million dollar shortfall from last year, reducing its already-too-small prudent reserve.

Both entities encourage individual donations in addition to their atrophied group donations. Remember, AA has no other source of income other than a small profit from sales of its literature and these con-

tributions.

Some years ago, the church (where my home group meets) greatly raised our rent to pay the cost of the custodian they felt necessary to have on duty at that time. Our group treasurer told the church we could not afford it and then left for parts unknown. I was asked to fill in and soon found that part of the problem was that a few hundred dollars from the collection had never found their way to the bank.

This is a not an uncommon problem for groups that don't mandate an occasional treasurer's report and verification of the bank statement. The church asked me if the rent was unaffordable. I told them "No. But, by meeting it, we will not have any monies to support the downtown office or national organization." Their board cut our rent in half! They get it! Fortunately, two other 12-step groups joined us at this church around the same time period, sharing the custodian cost.

I'm an archivist for two AA entities and for a local city's historical society. Much of the funding for this historical society comes from grants. I can tell you from experience that Bill W's fear of accepting funds from outside sources that "whoever pays the piper is apt to call the tune" is absolutely true and also much of my time there is spent writing grant proposals.

AA is saved from this by refusing outside support. But, the other side of this coin is that it must have inside support: Our Own Contributions.

<https://www.aacle.org/whoever-pays-the-piper-calls-the-tune/>

The Spiritual Principle of step 7 is Humility: In step 7, we ask for a Greater Power to remove our worst shortcomings. This undertaking requires humility on two levels. First, to recognize our failings. Second, to admit we cannot remedy them with spiritual help.

<https://12steppers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Spiritual-Principles-of-AA-PDF.pdf>

Step Seven along with its companion Step Six, eluded me for years. Probably, this resulted from my failure to realize that these steps must be worked steadily over time. For me, at least, there would be no immediate release from all of my shortcomings. My belief that there should be such a release, if I worked the program the "right way", led to discouragement, self blame and anger. Even so I was able to make some progress. Pride, arrogance and ego, along with anger, rage and resentment were reduced in intensity and frequency shortly after I asked for their removal. Rarely have they returned to pre-Seventh Step levels. However, there has not been a complete removal of these defects and I have to ask for their removal and deal with them on a continuing basis.

For me much of this step is about humility; the humility to know that I can not remove or even reduce my shortcomings in any meaningful and sustainable way by gritting my teeth and putting my back to it, in other words, by the use of my own unaided will. After acknowledging my defects I must ask for their removal in toto, as well as incrementally. The Seventh Step prayer (page 76, Alcoholics Anonymous), has been very helpful for me. "My creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength as I go out from here to do your bidding. Amen".

For me it became important to add myself to the list "my fellows", when saying this prayer. Otherwise it took on a meaning of deprivation and lack of worthiness that did little to further my recovery. In addition to praying for the removal of defects I must co-operate by using my will not to act out my character defects, to the best of my ability.

When I first came into recovery, I thought that humility and humiliation were similar. Humility, in my understanding, meant to put oneself down, (rather than acknowledge one's strengths), and bow, scrape and mumble with downcast eyes. That image is not something I aspired to. In fact it revolted me. In the program, I have heard humility described in various ways that are helpful. One definition of humility comes from the Latin word "humus", which means soil or ground. Others are: "knowledge of one's assets and liabilities without judging them", and "to be right-sized".

Another important word in this step is shortcomings. It has been said that Bill Wilson once stated that there is no difference



between defects of character in the Sixth Step and shortcomings in the Seventh Step. While I have no problem with these terms "defects of character" and "shortcomings" at present, I find that the term "defense mechanisms" is usually more useful to me. Using "defense mechanism" instead of "shortcomings" or "character defect" highlights the fact that there are subconscious thoughts which often drive me to act out in ways that are not in line with my best thinking, highest aspirations and values. Since I can not control what goes on in my subconscious mind, this term further illuminates my need for the help of a higher power.

This step asks me to put down my whips and chains, to finally stop blaming myself and others in areas where I fall short of the mark. If I could have eliminated my faults on my own, I would have been perfect years ago! However, I can not even though I can control some of my defects to some extent, some of the time. The Seventh Step tells me that I must call upon my Higher Power for help and surrender all to Him if I wish to grow and flower. I must trust and be willing to do whatever work is put in front of me.

If I insist on keeping my character defects by refusing to ask God to remove them or fail to cooperate by doing my share of the work, I am consigned to go into relapse or remain on a plan while living on a plan.

My defects prevent me from living my life fully, abundantly, joyously and freely. Although I have worked this step, as well as the others, very imperfectly, I have already tasted true joy, peace, freedom, love and abundance. I know that I need to continue to look at my defects, become willing to have them removed, on an ongoing basis, ask God to remove them and do my best not to act out on them. If I can do this, I know that my journey to freedom and serenity will continue.

The Traditions: A Framework for Recovery - Part 7

Tradition Seven: *“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.”*

As I may have mentioned before, the primary purpose of any and all Twelve Step groups is to carry its message to the suffering alcoholic/addict. This tradition especially makes that possible.

The idea here is that we cannot be beholden to anyone, except ourselves. As we say in meetings, we have no dues or fees, but we do have a basket to put them in; in other words, we have expenses. Alcoholics Anonymous must remain independent of outside influence. Also, we must be able to provide our own literature, pay rent for rooms where we meet and have office space for our central offices.

In the early days of AA, after some bitter lessons with regard to mixing money and spirituality, the AA groups of the day were reluctant to ask the members to contribute, and members were also reluctant to contribute because of the controversy. However, the need for more people to

answer phone inquiries and respond to letters was greatly increased in 1941 by the publication in the Saturday Evening Post of an article written by Jack Alexander about Alcoholics Anonymous. The Post was, at the time, a major source of information for many in America. At the time, the Foundation, as it was then called, was located in New York. The article introduced the idea to the mass public that there was an answer to the nightmare that is alcoholism. After the magazine came out, the office was overwhelmed with inquiries. It quickly became evident that there was a great need for what AA was offering.

There have been many opportunities in the intervening years for AA to accept outside contributions in the form of money left to AA in members' wills, and other sources. However, it was determined that the best policy was one of “corporate poverty,” which means enough money to meet expenses, with a prudent reserve

kept for emergencies. This policy is still followed today. The early members knew that whoever “paid the piper, was apt to call the tune,” and chose wisely to avoid any possibility of distraction.

And that is why AA does not have endless pledge drives like PBS, or bake sales or dues or fees, or any other non-sense like that. Members who are able contribute money at each meeting, and each meeting sends contributions to the local intergroup or central office, area office, and General Service Office, so that the message can be carried that there is a way for alcoholics to live and be free.

<https://www.tptampa.com/the-traditions-a-framework-for-recovery-part-7-by-john-b/>



Tradition Seven: Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

1. Honestly now, do I do all I can to help AA (my group, my central office, my GSO) remain self-supporting? Could I put a little more into the basket on behalf of the new guy who can't afford it yet? How generous was I when tanked in a barroom?
2. Should the Grapevine sell advertising space to book publishers and drug companies, so it could make a big profit and become a bigger magazine, in full color, at a cheaper price per copy?
3. If GSO runs short of funds some year, wouldn't it be okay to let the government subsidize AA groups in hospitals and prisons?
4. Is it more important to get a big AA collection from a few people, or a smaller collection in which more members participate?
5. Is a group treasurer's report unimportant AA business? How does the treasurer feel about it?
6. How important in my recovery is the feeling of self-respect, rather than the feeling of being always under obligation for charity received?

<https://www.aacle.org/aa-traditions-checklist-from-the-aa-grapevine/>



We Stopped Donating?

Like many businesses, AA will now be charging for some things that used to be free, such as:

1. Being rocketed in the Fourth Dimension \$49.99 per trip, fuel surcharge applies, extra baggage NOT included. Fifth dimension trips optional. "Straight to the Moon, Alice" – still free. See your sponsor for details.
2. Sponsorship – was free, NOW \$9.99 per month, with 4 vis-its/15 phone calls per month free, after that, \$2.00 each.
3. Membership Dues now \$29.99/per month, 10% discount for 1 year plan.
4. Seating Charges – Each seat now \$1.00 per meeting, with a

20% discount for the 90-in-90 plan.

5. The "Pink Cloud" was free, NOW \$14.99 per cloud, with a \$5.00 per event environmental cleanup fee. These are the NEW ozone-free Pink Clouds that do NOT add to global warming.

6. Coffee to be \$1.50 per cup, with a 10% discount for 5 or more cups.

7. Hugs now will be \$2.50 each.

8. Conscious contact with GOD now \$9.99/month, with the first 450 minutes free, then 0.10 cents/minute fee over. New "double your minutes for life" plan is a low \$49.99 one time charge-holidays and weekends extra. See the current rate schedule, as GOD is VERY busy.

9. Accidental "cell phone going off during meeting charge" now set at \$25.00 per ring (not per call).

10. "I've Been Thinking" fees to now be \$3.00 each, with a re-lapse re-entry fee of only \$99.99 each, if you're lucky enough to make it back into the rooms. *By tongue in cheek, Akron Intergroup News, Oct 2009*

<https://www.aacle.org/what-if-we-stopped-donating/>

Share Your Hospital or Treatment Experience Story

Bill emphasized that alcoholism was a malady of mind, emotions, and body. Bill learned this important fact from Dr. William D. Silkworth of Towns Hospital in New York. Bill had often been a patient of Dr. Silkworth. Though a physician, Dr. Bob had not known alcoholism to be a disease. Responding to Bill's convincing ideas, Dr. Bob soon got sober, never to drink again. This sparked the founding of A.A.

Both men immediately set to work with alcoholics at Akron's City Hospital. One patient quickly achieved complete sobriety. These three men made up the nucleus of the first A.A. group.

Visits to hospitals and treatment centers by AA has diminished over the years and COVID and the change in attitude of medical providers has worsened this effort. Southern Maryland Intergroup Association takes meetings into local treatment centers where the residents are eager to hear local stories of recovery.

Did the hospital or treatment center you were in offer A.A. as a resource? Share your experience, strength and hope with us by sending your story to **somdlife-line@gmail.com**. You never know who might need to hear from you.

<https://www.aacle.org/tell-your-hospital-or-treatment-experience-story/>

Big Thanks from our Chair!

Hello to all,

On behalf of the Southern Maryland Intergroup Association I would like to thank everyone who helped out on our recent events - the Workshop, Serenity Breakfast and Picnic. These events take time and planning and I want to thank all the people behind it, from those who make the flyers, the set-up people, clean-up people, the cooks, committee chairs, and mostly those who attend. We are proof that we can learn to live and enjoy life without alcohol. I thought these events were very successful, but their success was only possible through your unselfish attitudes and willingness to participate. On behalf of SMIA, thank you and bless you all for everything that you do. Buddy F., SMIA Chairperson

JULY 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| | 1 Danny W., 4 yrs, Harmony | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Brandi T., 10 yrs, ODAAT | 8 | 9 Travis S., 16 yrs, Hollywood | 10 | 11 John D., 10 yrs, Almost Normal | 12 Jerry C., 24 yrs, Bayside | 13 Steve G., 6 yrs, Helping Others |
| 14 | 15 Susan B., 7 yrs, MWBR | 16 | 17 Laura B., 29 yrs and Lisa T., 1 yr, Awak- enings Todd S., 3 yrs, Patuxent River Billy B., 10 yrs, There Is A Solution | 18 Sean B., 6 yrs, Charlotte Hall Keith H., 35 yrs, Almost Normal | 19 Mary F., 25 yrs and Joe H., 23 yrs, Leonardtwn | 20 Linda B., 49 yrs, Waldorf |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 Brian B., 8 yrs, Pop- lar Hill | 26 Riley F., 1 yr, Cove Point | 27 Brad H., 18 yrs, Middle- ham |
| 28 Sherrie T., 10 yrs, Never Too Late Bill B., 14 yrs, Solomon's | 29 Sherri B., 43 yrs, Southern Sobriety | 30 | 31 Cindy C., 15 yrs, Awak- enings | | | |

AUGUST 2024

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|---|
|  | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Beth H., 21 yrs, Living Sober Jeanette W., 4 yrs, ODAAT Kevin M., 29 yrs @ Keeping It Green | 5 | 6 | 7 Aaron S., 3 yrs, Grateful Alive | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 James C., 5 yrs and Ray C., 3 yrs, Nev- er Too Late Bobby U., 33 yrs, Solo- mon's | 12 Chuck M., 2 yrs, Harmo- ny | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Michael O., 33 yrs, Satur- day AM Breakfast |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Justin B., 4 yrs, Solo- mon's Suzie L., 19 yrs and Scott B., 2 yrs, Nev- er Too Late | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

"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!



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.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HOME GROUP MEMBERS
WHOSE POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

COME OUT AND FIND OUT

WHAT'S THE POINT! OF LIVING

THE 12 STEPS OF RECOVERY

AND HOW WE DO THIS

"ONE DAY AT A TIME."

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GROUPS!**

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



THE 64TH **ICYPAAUSTIN** TEXAS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA

JUL * 4-7 * 2024

JW MARRIOTT AUSTIN
110 E 2nd St. Austin, TX 78701

ERA OF CHANGE



BOOK
ROOM



REGISTER
TODAY



www.the64thicypaa.org

SUMMER PICNIC!!!

THE NORTH BEACH
GROUP



FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!!!

SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 2024

4:00 ~ 6:00
8912 Chesapeake Ave
North Beach, MD
20714

District 1 BBQ

Saturday, July 20th
12 noon - 6 pm
Bring side dish or dessert



1140 Hilendale Way
Prince Frederick, Md 20678
Bring yer swimmin' trunks!

SAVE THE DATES
Sept. 13 - 15, 2024

When it comes to Technology...

We're going...

BACK TO THE FUTURE

For its 10th Anniversary,
the NATIONAL A.A. TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP (NAATW)
returns to where it all began:

St. Louis, Missouri

- Join us for a weekend of in-depth presentations, discussion and fellowship
- The call for presentations as well as in-person and online registration information is forthcoming
- Check our website - NAATW.org - for workshop info updates



Service Opportunities!

JOINT MONTHLY MEETINGS

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/85217774704pwd=TVhEdFpKdmxSRINvNnJHU1pYWDVaQT09>

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 Accessibilities Committee MONTHLY MEETING

Join us @ 3pm on the
2nd Sunday of the
Month

Zoom ID:
848 0308 9697
Password: Area29

The Area 29 Accessibilities Committee explores, develops, and offers resources to alcoholics with significant barriers to receiving the AA message and to participating in our program of recovery.

Scan the Code!
Take the Accessibilities
Survey



District or Intergroup
Chairs and all
interested AA Members
are invited!

For more information email the
Accessibilities Chair at
Accessibility@marylandaa.org

SMIA Meeting Minutes 6/8/24

Opening: Buddy F. opened 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): Brandy T. – ODAAT (Area 29 Accessibility Chair)

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L. – Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall, Jamie R. – North Beach, Mary F. – Leonardtown Group, Zee S. – Sunday Morning Sobriety, Lisa T. – Awakenings, Janine G. – Ladies Recover Too, Mandy W. – ODAAT, Keith H. – SMIA Lifeline Chair, Pat S. – Never Too Late – Workshop Chair, Jeanine W. – St. Charles Step Group

SMIA Chair Report: Buddy F. reported there was no liaison meeting. The Spring Contra study has 2 weeks left, June 13th and June 20th from 9-10 p.m. to discuss Concepts 10-12. There is a position opening for Alcoholics Anonymous World Services Non-Trustee Director, if anyone is interested.

Vice-Chair Report: no report.

Secretary Report: Kristi P. read the SMIA May 2024 meeting minutes. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. gave the May 2024 Treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion was seconded and passed.

Committee Reports

Bookstall Report: Bill L. reported all literature prices have increased to reflect the increase from World Services.

There were 445 visits to the On-Line Bookstall since the May meeting. There were 7 orders since the last meeting, all of which are complete for a total of \$396. Chips and Medallions were purchased from the Token Shop for \$204.00.

Web/Technology: Total visitors 3,215. Most frequently visited pages: Home Page, Where and When Calendar, Announcements, On-line Meetings and Where and When Search. No site updates and changes. Meeting Change: The North Beach Women's Group changed to a regular open discussion meeting. The Warner Group is no longer hosting an on-line meeting. Currently there are 127 meetings in our service area; 120 meetings are in-person, 5 meetings are hybrid, 6 meetings are on-line only, and 1 meeting is reported as suspended but has an on-line presence. Document Posts and Updates: Where and When PDF updated 6/7/24; Lifeline posted 6/2/24; Finance Page updated 5/31/24; Minutes posted 5/26/24.

Gratitude Dinner: No updates. Dinner will be November 16th. Looking for chair and volunteers.

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert – Lorraine reported that Mark B. is leaving and Riley F. will be taking over as chair. Charles – Janine reported nothing new to add. St. Mary's – nothing new to report.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H. reported everything is going well and he will take over printing. He will be printing 20 copies/month and will take any feedback if the amount of copies needs to be revised.

Picnic: Buddy F. reported he is still in need of volunteers. Note – \$5 fee per vehicle fee will be paid to the park, not SMIA.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G. will be taking over as chair. Charles – no new report. St. Mary's – Mary F. reported that Sandy C. is the new chair.

Telephone: No report.

Serenity Breakfast: Mary F. reported that Serenity Breakfast was very successful. Was held on June 1st from 8-11:30 am. Speaker Mark A. shared his experience, strength and hope. All tickets were sold and food was good. We made \$1300 from the event. Mary thanked everyone for the opportunity to chair and thanked all of the volunteers and attendees.

Where and When: Bill L. reported on Pat's behalf. The PDF was updated on 6/7. There weren't many changes. Smoke Free Sobriety at Peace Lutheran Church had an incorrect address which was corrected.

Workshops: Pat S. reported there is no report for upcoming events. Requested members submit topics for workshops.

New Business: Bruce O. presented the new budget which is posted online. Everyone should take back to groups before vote at July SMIA meeting. Brandy T. (Area 29 Accessibility Chair) gave an excellent presentation (Serving All Alcoholics in Making AA Message Accessible). She provided handouts with additional information. Exciting things happening: Linguistic District (District 29) and the Accessibility Committee will be hosting a virtual workshop on June 9th.

For the Good of the Order: Buddy reported the Delegate reached out and is willing to come and give a presentation on his experience in New York and the Plain Language Big Book, if interested. Pat S. reported there will be the 1st Annual Cornhole and Bocce Ball tournament on June 15th from 4-8 p.m. in Callaway, MD. Looking for volunteers.

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

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: Melissa W.
Where & When: Pat P.

July 2024

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions:

\$446.03

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of Financial Position May 25, 2024 - June 24, 2024

Assets

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|----------|
| Primary Business Checking | \$ | 7,112.71 |
| Primary Business Savings | \$ | 3,001.14 |
| Prudent Reserve | \$ | 3,300.00 |
| PayPal | \$ | 171.34 |
| Bookstall Cash on hand | \$ | 100.00 |

Total Assets **13,685.19**

Expenses

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Bookstall Purchases | \$ | - |
| Liability Insurance | \$ | - |
| Lifeline Printing | \$ | (59.87) |
| Misc | \$ | - |
| Phone Answering Service/1-800# | \$ | (28.63) |
| Post Office Box | \$ | - |
| Rent | \$ | (150.00) |
| Webmaster | \$ | - |
| Website | \$ | (48.23) |
| Where & When | \$ | - |
| Picnic | \$ | - |
| Travel | \$ | (131.32) |
| Workshops | \$ | - |
| SMIA Archives | \$ | - |
| Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing) | \$ | (24.99) |
| Bank Charges and Fees | \$ | - |
| Other - Tax Filings | \$ | - |

Total Expenses **(\$286.73)**

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

Revenue

| | | |
|--------------------|----|----------|
| Contributions | \$ | 606.03 |
| Bookstall | \$ | 802.00 |
| Gratitude Dinner | \$ | - |
| Serenity Breakfast | \$ | 1,385.00 |

Total Revenue **2,793.03**

Expenses

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----------|
| Bookstall Purchases | \$ | (929.98) |
| Liability Insurance | \$ | - |
| Lifeline Printing | \$ | (132.45) |
| Misc | \$ | - |
| Phone Answering Service/1-800# | \$ | (57.26) |
| Post Office Box | \$ | (120.00) |
| Rent | \$ | (300.00) |
| Webmaster | \$ | - |
| Website | \$ | (93.81) |
| Where & When | \$ | - |
| Picnic | \$ | - |
| Travel | \$ | (131.32) |
| Workshops | \$ | - |
| SMIA Archives | \$ | - |
| Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing) | \$ | (24.99) |
| Bank Charges and Fees | \$ | - |
| Other - Tax Filings | \$ | - |

Total Expenses **(\$1,633.50)**

Annual Net Assets **1,159.53**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS:

Monday Night Lexington Park Group
Lexington Park Step Sisters Group
Living Sober Group

Hope on the Hill Group
ODAAT Group

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

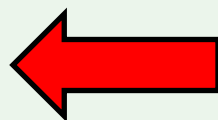
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

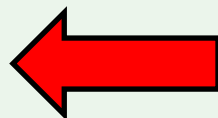
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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)

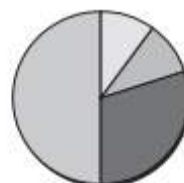
Your Group Service # _____

(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

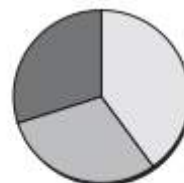
OR



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.



**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**

***SERVICE KEEPS US
SOBER***

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

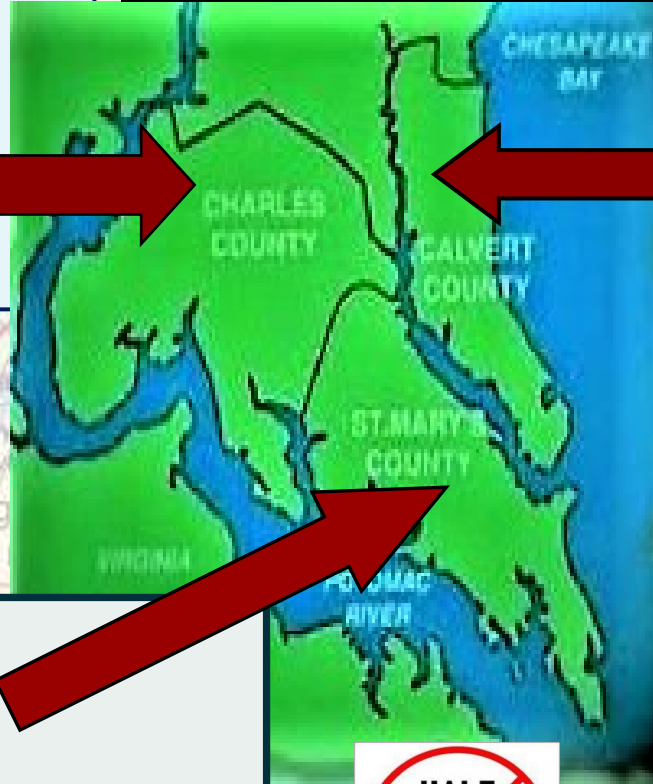
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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**



**HALF
MEASURES**

DISTRICT 36

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

PO Box 1334, California, MD 20619

www.district36mdaa.com



***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, August 10 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)**