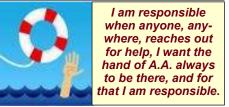
JUNE 2025 Volume 49 #3:



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

https:// en.oxforddictionaries.com

The Start and Growth of A.A.

The history of A.A. began in the United States, spread to Canada, and then went worldwide. A.A. presence now exists in more than 180 countries. Following is a short history about the start of A.A. and some of its key contributors.

A.A.'s Beginning

A.A. began in 1935 in Akron, Ohio, as the outcome of a meeting between Bill W., a New York stockbroker, and Dr. Bob S., an Akron surgeon. Both had been hopeless alcoholics.

Before their meeting, Bill and Dr. Bob had each been in contact with the Oxford Group. This mostly nonalcoholic fellowship emphasized universal spiritual values in daily living. The Episcopal clergyman, Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, led the Oxford Groups in the U.S. at that time.

Under this spiritual influence, and with the help of an old-time friend, Ebby T., Bill had gotten sober. Bill maintained his recovery by working with other alcoholics. Yet, before meeting Dr. Bob, none of these other alcoholics had actually recovered.

At the same time, Dr. Bob's Oxford Group membership in Akron had not helped him enough to achieve sobriety. When Dr. Bob and Bill finally met, the effect on the doctor was immediate. This time, he found himself face-to-face with a fellow sufferer who was succeeding.

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 (though the name Alcoholics Anonymous was not yet used.)

Growth Starts Slowly, Then Expands

Quickly

In the fall of 1935, a second group of alcoholics slowly took shape in New York. A third appeared at Cleveland in 1939. It took four years to produce about 100 so-

CHARLES B. TOWNS HOSPITAL 233 Central Park West New York, New York For ALCOHOLISM and DRUG ADDICTION

PRYSOLICA PROYECTION basing as ofdict problem in landed to write for Heapital Herature. This institution has operalized in additions for over 20 years. In method of treaspent has been fully described in THE JOURNAL A.M. A.; in The Handbook of Therapy, from the A.M. A. Prin; and is other sciencide discussor. The treatment is a regular begalar procedure, and promite a definite means for eliminating the mode products of aboth and dirags from the listent. A complete Department of Physical Therapy, with guarantees and their relatives for physical releading, is maintained. Operated as an "open" confidence of the Physical Therapy with guarantees and their relatives for physicals are not only invited for utged to prompting and step with their patients.



ber alcoholics in the three founding groups.

Early in 1939, the Fellowship published its basic textbook, Alcoholics Anonymous. The text, written by Bill and reviewed by many of the early members, explained A.A.'s philosophy and methods. The core of this work is now well-known as the Twelve Steps of recovery. The book also included case histories of thirty recovered members. From this point, A.A.'s development was rapid.

Also in 1939, The Cleveland Plain Dealer published a series of articles about A.A.

These articles, accompanied by positive editorials, triggered many pleas for help in Cleveland. The Cleveland group, with only twenty members, sought to help those alcoholics. Alcoholics sober only a few weeks were set to work on brand-new cases. This was a new departure, and the results were fantastic. A few months later, Cleveland's membership had expanded to about 500.

Meanwhile, in New York in 1938, Dr. Bob and Bill had organized a trusteeship

'S to produce about 100 so- (continued on page 2)

(con't) states and provinces of the U.S. and Canada for the budding Fellowship. Friends of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. became board members alongside a contingent of A.A.s. This board was named The Alcoholic Foundation. But all efforts to raise large sums of money failed because Mr. Rocke-

feller concluded that it might spoil the infant society.

Even so, the foundation managed to open a tiny office in New York. This office aimed to handle inquiries and to distribute the A.A. book. To date, these efforts had been mostly financed by the A.A.s themselves.

The book and the new office were quickly put to use. Liberty magazine published an article about A.A. in the fall of 1939, resulting in some 800 urgent calls for help. In 1940, Mr. Rockefeller gave

a dinner for many of his prominent New York friends to publicize A.A.

This brought yet another flood of pleas. Each inquiry received a personal letter and a small pamphlet. Attention was also drawn to the book Alcoholics Anonymous, which soon began circulating. Aided by mail from the office and A.A. travelers from already-established centers, many new groups began. At the year's end, the membership stood at 2,000.

Then, in March 1941, The Saturday Evening Post featured an excellent article by about A.A by Jack Alexander. The response was enormous. By the close of that year, the membership had jumped to 6,000, and the number of groups multiplied in proportion. The Fellowship spread across the U.S. and Canada.

By 1950, 100,000 recovered alcoholics could be found worldwide. Spectacular though this was, the period 1940-1950 was nonetheless one of great uncertainty.

The crucial question was whether all those mercurial alcoholics could live and work together in groups. Could they hold together and function effectively? This was the unsolved problem. The New York head-quarters spent much time corresponding with thousands of groups about their ques-



tions.

By 1946, however, it was possible to draw some conclusions about the kinds of attitude, practice and function that would best suit A.A.'s purpose. Those principles emerged from strenuous group experience. They were summarized by Bill in the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous. By 1950, the earlier chaos had largely disappeared. A successful formula for A.A. unity and functioning had been achieved and put into practice.

Co-Founder Dr. Bob's Major Impact in Ohio

During this hectic ten-year period, Dr. Bob devoted himself to hospital care for alcoholics. He introduced them to A.A. principles. Large numbers of alcoholics flocked to Akron to receive care at St. Thomas Hospital. Dr. Bob became a member of its staff. He and the fellow staff member, the remarkable Sister Ignatia, cared for and brought A.A. to some 5,000

sufferers. After Dr. Bob's death in 1950, Sister Ignatia continued to work at Cleveland's Charity Hospital. She was assisted by the local A.A. groups and 10,000 more sufferers first found A.A. there. This set a fine example of hospitalization wherein A.A. could cooperate with both medicine

and religion.

In this same year of 1950,
A.A. held its first International
Convention at Cleveland.
There, Dr. Bob made his last
appearance and spoke in his
final talk of the need to keep
A.A. simple. He saw the
Twelve Traditions enthusiastically adopted for the permanent use of the A.A. Fellowship throughout the world. Dr.
Bob died on November 16,
1950.

The Creation of the General Service Conference

The following year saw still another significant event. The New York office had greatly expanded its activities. These now consisted of:

- public relations
- advice to new groups
- services to hospitals
- prisons, Loners, and Internationalists
- •cooperation with other agencies in the alcoholism field

The headquarters was also publishing "standard" A.A. books and pamphlets. It supervised their translation into other tongues. Our international magazine, AA Grapevine, had achieved a large circulation. These and many other activities had become indispensable for A.A. as a whole.

And yet, these vital services were still in the hands of an isolated board of trustees. The trustees' only link to the Fellowship had been Bill and Dr. Bob. As the cofounders had foreseen years earlier, it became absolutely

(continued on page 3)

the Fellowship that it served.

Delegates from all were forthwith called in. Thus composed, this body for world service first met in 1951. Despite earlier misgivings, the gathering was a great success. For the first time, the trusteeship became directly accountable to A.A. as a whole. The A.A. General Service Conference was created, and the over-all functioning of A.A. was thereby assured for the future.

In 1955, a second International Convention in St. Louis celebrated the Fellowship's 20th anniversary. The General Service Conference had by then completely proved its worth. Here, on behalf of A.A.'s

necessary to link A.A.'s trustees with old-timers, Bill turned the future care and custody of A.A. over to the Conference and its trustees. At this moment, the Fellowship went on its own - A.A. had come of age.

A.A. Continues Its Growth Globally

Had it not been for A.A.'s early friends, Alcoholics Anonymous might never have come into being. A.A. could never have grown and prospered without many people. Those friends of medicine, religion, and world communications were particularly essential. We have deep gratitude for their time and effort to help A.A.

On January 24, 1971, Bill died of pneumonia in Miami Beach, Florida. Seven months earlier, in the same place, he had

delivered his last public words at the 35th Anniversary International Convention. His last words to his fellow A.A.s were: "God bless you and Alcoholics Anonymous forever."

Since then, A.A. has become truly global. This has revealed that A.A.'s way of life can today transcend most barriers of race, creed and language. A World Service Meeting, started in 1969, has been held biennially since 1972. Its locations alternate between New York and overseas places such as England, Mexico, New Zealand, Finland, and more.

Today, an A.A. presence can be found in approximately 180 nations worldwide.

https://www.aa.org/the-start-and-growth-of-aa

HE HISTORY OF FOUNDERS' DAY

Founders' Day has been an important part of the history of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our current celebration has its roots from our humble beginnings. Here are a few events which have helped shape our annual Founders' Day celebration.

1941 Bill W. and Dr. Bob were the featured speakers.

1942 Dr. Bob traced the early history of our movement, introduced early members, followed by a buffet supper served by wives of Akron Group

1945 Dr. Bob and Bill W. spoke at a dinner at the Mayflower Ballroom.

1945 A modest celebration was held at the M. O'Neil Auditorium with the co-founders present.

1947 Dr. Bob and A.A. #3 Bill D. were the speakers.

1948 The Akron Armory was used and talks were given by Dr. Walter

Tunks, Bill W. and Dr. Bob.

1951 Dr. Bob had died. An open house was held at 855 Ardmore. (Dr. Bob's Home) Bill spoke at the Goodyear Theater.

1953 Bill W. attended an open house at St. Thomas Hospital.

1957 The first "Play" was introduced and a Sunday morning breakfast was held at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.

1958 Bill W. his wife Lois W. and Ethel M. were speakers at The University of Akron's Memorial Hall.

1961 This was the start of the memorial for Dr. Bob at 9:00 am.

1965 The "Modern" Era of Founders' Day begins with the first Friday-Sunday Weekend. Founders' Day is an integral part of the legacy our cofounders have left for us. Founders' Day has grown to where 10,000 visitors from around the world come each year. Please come to Akron to see, to feel, and to be part of The Fellowship of the Spirit.

Step Six Timing is Important

Years ago, I heard that Step Six timing is everything

This reminds me of a story of when I was newly sober and almost went out drinking.

I almost ordered a drink at five months sober. This made me rightfully terrified during a visit with my sponsor. We immediately went through the first three steps. But, on my second visit (the next Saturday), I was still in tremendous fear. This provided me with willingness to go to any lengths to find secure sobriety.

Consequently, I felt completely willing, in Step Six, to allow God to remove whatever defects of character might make me drink. If this would have happened months later, I may not have felt that way. I will be eternally grateful that my new sponsor followed the timing suggestions of the Big Book.

Steps Five, Six and Seven are often considered the "same day steps". The Big Book "timetable" certainly connects them in a timely series (e.g.: Step Four, at once, after Step Three), Step Five (at first opportunity after Step Four completion), Step Six and Seven when ready (then, not later; when Step Six is complete).

I am always reminded that Dr. Bob took Earl T. through the "six step program as it was at that time" in three or four hours (p 263).

Step Six gave me the willingness to face my character defects

I have not had to drink since! Now, when sponsoring, I try to also "Strike while the iron is hot!" I got sober in southern California. You are asked to raise your hand, if you have less than thirty days. One of my newcomer friends enthusiastically jerked his hand in the air at the first meeting. The next week, a little less, And then, you guessed it, not at all.

He later informed me that these AAs are too fanatic; he and his friend simply go to the bar, drink a few beers, and discuss sobriety. Poor guy was facing years in prison. I never saw him again, but his story makes the point.

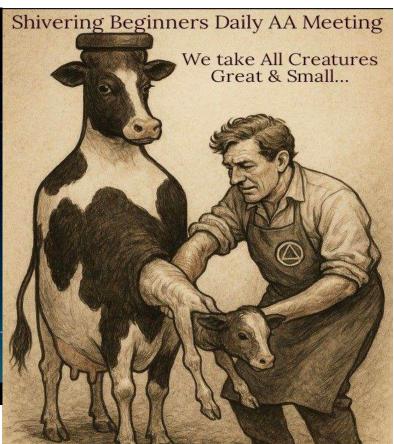
I spent much of my youth in a poolroom atmosphere and other dens of iniquity. Much of such language followed me into AA. Yes, I was willing to face and get rid of it. Plus smoking, bragging, and maybe all the things my sponsor had pointed out to me just a few minutes earlier in Step Five. Of course, this was only a beginning. I was to discover many more defect later.

Step Six is only two short paragraphs in the Big Book, but for me it was a vitally important beginning. As soon as they crop up, I need to be willing to face and be rid of my character defects!

https://www.aacle.org/step-six-timing-is-important/

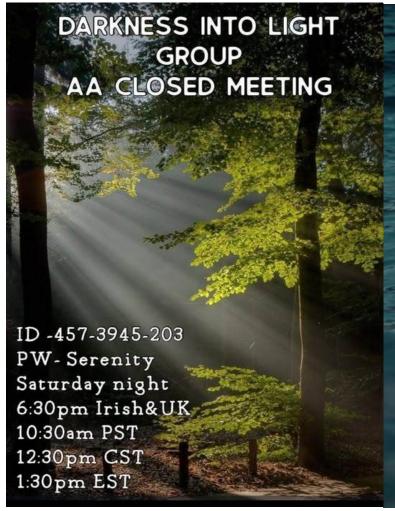


https://www.facebook.com/ groups/aazoomgloballists/



Daily 9.30pm UK or 6.30am NSW VIC QLD or 1.30pm Pacific 3.30pm Central 4.30pm Eastern

Zoom ID 872 3295 0952 Passcode 151





Eastern 8am

With each Step you take in Alcoholics Anonymous, you are digging deeper within yourself and getting at the root causes that have kept you stuck in your addiction. The Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous is an excellent example of that point and is often seen as THE Step that separates the men from the boys (or the women from the girls). It is during this step that you must be completely willing and ready to have the God of your understanding remove the character defects.

As with every other Step in AA, the

es within yourself that you may fear. Overcoming an addiction to alcohol (or any addiction for that matter) isn't easy by any stretch of the imagination. It may seem that once you conquer a mountain, a larger one looms on the horizon and a new set of challenges threatens

to throw you off course. You may be tempted to try and bypass this Step or try to go through the motions and give a halfhearted effort, but with working the Steps must be all in. Half-measures won't help you truly leave your alcohol addiction behind.

Understanding Character Defects The crux of the Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous is addressing our character defects and having the willingness of the God or Higher Power of our understanding to remove them from our lives. When we look at the word character defects we automatically think the worst of ourselves and feel that once again we have to drag ourselves through the proverbial mud and broadcast to the world all of our faults.

If you are approaching the Sixth Step it may seem like you are putting yourself through another round of personal torment and torture for the sake of a recovery that may be uncertain. However, it is important to understand what character defects truly are and what approach that you can take in order to make the process less daunting.

A simple definition of a character defect is a fault of failure to meet a certain Sixth Step will challenge you to go to plac- standard. Taking a look at this description

worked on. By changing the way you view things, it will help build a sense of esteem and character as you continue working your program of recovery. The bottom line reason why you work the Sixth Step is beautifully illustrated in The Twelve Steps and Traditions:

So Step Six – "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character" – is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us

> as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The words "entirely ready" underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn. (p.65) Working Step Six

When you are ready to work the Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous, a helpful goal of this step is to drop the rock. This metaphor is based on the book of the same name which is published by Hazelden Publishing. Our shortcomings can be seen as a rock of considerable weight that is hanging around our neck. If we use the analogy of recovery being akin to trying to swim to shore, that rock can cause us to sink in the water no matter how strong we swim.

The first step in dropping the rock is to figure out exactly what your specific shortcomings are. Fortunately, you can go back to the inventory that (continued on page 6)

The Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous:

Drop the Rock

> of the word, it can easily be seen how the meaning focuses on where a person is flawed and has a specific character trait or metaphor that help you remember the traits that need improvement. Perhaps the biggest thing to remember about character defects is that it does not mean you are a bad person. It should go without saying, but we as human being are not perfect creatures, and each and every one of us has defects or flaws that we must contend with throughout our lifetime.

Perhaps a better way to understand the concept of character defects is through changing how we view and define it. Instead of seeing your faults and failings as defects, you should frame it as shortcomings that must be address and

(con't) you had completed in the Fourth Step and review what you had wrote. When you re-read your step four inventory, you want to look for recurring patterns of attitudes, behaviors and emotions that kept you stuck in addiction and are preventing you from moving forward in recovery. Some common character defects or shortcomings can include fear, dishonesty, greed, lust, jealousy, grandiosity, willfulness and anger.

When you identify these shortcomings, you want to write down each individual character defect into list form. Once you have finished compiling this list, you will want to write next to each shortcoming or defect a corresponding positive trait that will replace the negative ones on the list. Keep in mind there is no set number of shortcomings that need to be included; the list can be as long as needed.

Once this is completed, the next question you want to ask yourself is am I completely ready and willing to let God remove these shortcomings? In reality, your answer is probably no. While these shortcomings are going to keep you stuck in your recovery efforts, they have been such a part of who you are that in some ways you don't want to let them go. Your goal is to try and best as ready as you can and make an honest effort every day in trying to improve yourself.

Step Six of AA is not about removing every defect, and they all won't magically disappear when you work this step. While a few may go away, you will have to realize that the rest of them are considered a "work in progress" and you want to work towards steady improvement of those defects. That mindset drives home the point that recovery is a lifelong process and you must continually look within yourself, be honest about where you fall short and do what you can to be bethttps://sobernation.com/the-sixth-step-of-alcoholics-anonymous/

TRADITION SIX

The sixth of our Twelve Points of AA Tradition is deemed so important that it states at length the relation of the AA movement to money and property.

This Tradition declares in substance that the accumulation of money, property, and the unwanted personal authority so often generated by material wealth comprise a cluster of serious hazards against which an AA group must ever be on guard.

Tradition Six also enjoins the group never to go into business nor ever to lend the AA name or money credit to any "outside" enterprise, no matter how good. Strongly expressed is the opinion that even clubs should not bear the AA name; that they ought to be separately incorporated and managed by those individual AAs who need or want clubs enough to financially support them.

We would thus divide the spiritual from the material, confine the AA movement to its sole aim, and ensure (however wealthy as individuals we may become) that AA itself shall always remain poor. We dare not risk the distractions of corporate wealth. They have become certainties, absolute verities for us.

Thank God, we AAs have never yet been caught in the kind of religious or political disputes which embroil the world of today. But we ought to face the fact that we have often quarreled violently about money, property, and the administration thereof. Money, in quantity, has always been a baleful influence in group life. Let a wellmeaning donor present an AA group with a sizable sum and we break loose. Nor does trouble abate until that group, as such, somehow disposes of its bankroll. This experience is practically universal. "But," say our friends, "isn't this a confession of weakness? Other organizations do a lot of good with money. Why not AA?"

Of course, we of AA would be the first to say that many a fine enterprise does a lot of good with a lot of money. To these efforts money is usually primary; it is their lifeblood. But money is not the lifeblood of AA. With us, it is very secondary. Even in small quantities, it is scarcely more than a necessary nuisance, something we wish we could do without entirely. Why is that so?

We explain that easily enough; we don't need money. The core of AA procedure is one alcoholic talking to another, whether that be sitting on a curbstone, in a home, or at a meeting. It's the message, not the place; it's the talk, not the alms. That does our work. Just places to meet and talk, that's about all AA needs. Beyond these, a few small offices, a few secretaries at their desks, a few dollars apiece a year, easily met by voluntary contributions. Trivial indeed, our expenses!

Nowadays, the AA group answers its well-wishers saying: "Our expenses are trifling. As good earners, we can easily pay them. As we neither need nor want money, why risk its hazards? We'd rather stay poor. Thanks just the same!

https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/tradition-six



Nearly one hundred people showed up on Saturday, May 10 for District 36's 'NoTalent' Talent Show...and boy, does AA have some talent! The event, held at St Andrew's Episcopal Hall near California, MD, was a huge success! Event committee volunteers put the event together, chaired by Mary F. with District 36.. "We came up with the idea because one of our committee members, Kaki B., recalled a no-talent show held years ago in another area." The District 36 show featured 10 acts, performed by members of AA from as far away as Baltimore. Performances included, comedy acts, including a ventrilo-

quist act, and an AA lyrics parody act, several singing and music acts, as well as a couple of spoken acts. The crowd enthusiastically applauded and cheered the local talent on! One participant graciously allowed us to use his audio equipment for the night.

District 36 plans to hold a fall dance with a western theme (Sadie Hawkins style) and a fall picnic in September.

It Happened in June

June 1: 1949 – Anne Smith, Dr. Bob's wife, died.

June 4: 2002- Caroline Knapp, author of "Drinking: A Love Story" died sober of lung cancer.

June 5: 1940 – Ebby Thatcher took a job at the NY Worlds Fair.

June 6: 1940 – The first AA Group in Richmond, VA, was formed.

1979 – AA gave the two-millionth copy of the Big Book to Joseph Califano, then Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. It was presented by Lois Wilson, Bill's wife, in New York.

June 7: 1939 – Bill and Lois Wilson had an argument, the first of two times Bill almost slipped.

1941 – The first AA Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, was formed.

June 8: 1941 – Three AA's started a group in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

June 10: 1935 – The Dates that is celebrated as Dr. Bob's last drink and the official founding Dates of AA. There is some evidence that the founders, in trying to reconstruct the history, got the Dates wrong and it was actually June 17.

June 11: 1945 – Twenty-five hundred attend AA's 10th Anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio. 1969 – Dr. Bob's granddaughter, Bonna, daughter of Sue Smith

and Ernie Galbraith (The Seven Month Slip in the First Edition) killed herself after first killing her six-year-old child.

1971 – Ernie Galbraith died.

June 13: 1945 – Morgan R. gave a radio appearance for AA with large audience. He was kept under surveillance to make sure he didn't drink.

June 15: 1940 – First AA Group in Baltimore, MD, was formed.

June 16: 1938 – Jim Burwell, "The Vicious Cycle" in Big Book, had his last drink.

June 17: 1942 – New York AA groups sponsored the first annual NY area meeting. Four hundred and twenty-four heard Dr. Silkworth and AA speakers.

June 18: 1940 – One hundred attended the first meeting in the first AA clubhouse at 334-1/2 West 24th St., New York City. **June 19:** 1942 – Columnist Earl Wilson reported that NYC Police Chief Valentine sent six policemen to AA and they sobered up. "There are fewer suicides in my files," he commented.



June 21: 1944 – The first Issue of the AA Grapevine was published.

June 24: 1938 – Two Rockefeller associates told the press about the Big Book "Not to bear any author's name but to be by 'Alcoholics

Anonymous."

June 25:

1939 – The New York Times reviewer wrote that the Big Book is "more soundly based psychologically than any other treatment I have ever come upon."

June 26: 1935 – Bill Dotson. (AA #3) entered Akron's City Hospital for his last detox and his first day of sobriety.

June 28: 1935 – Dr. Bob and Bill Wilson visited Bill Dotson at Akron's City Hospital.

June 30: 1941 – Ruth Hock showed Bill Wilson the Serenity Prayer and it was adopted readily by AA.

2000 – More than 47,000 from 87 countries attended the opening meeting of the 65th AA Anniversary in Minneapolis, MN. Other significant events in June for which we have no specific Dates:

1981 – AA in Switzerland held its 25th Anniversary Convention with Lois Wilson and Nell Wing in attendance.

June 29- July 2: 1995 – 56,000 attend 60th Anniversary of AA in San Diego. What a party!

https://toledoaameetings.com/importantdates-in-alcoholics-anonymous

JUNE 2025

			<u>_</u>				
1	SUN Kevin S., 4 yrs, Never Too Late	Mon 2	TUE 3	4 Matt C., 6 yrs, Grate- ful Alive (Huntingto wn)	THU 5	FRI	SAT 7
8	Vincent S., 2 yrs, Nev- er Too Late	9	10	Noelle, 9 yrs, Cove Point Martha K., 29 yrs, Do Drop In (Virtual)	12	Peggy Mc., 21 yrs, Leonardto wn	14
15	5	Captain Mike H., 2 yrs, North Beach	17	18	19	20	21 David Y., 9 yrs, Saturday Morning Breakfast
22	2	23	24	25	26	27 Joe S., 2 yrs, Location TBD	28

29 30





JULY 2025

	SUN	Mon	TUE		WED		Тни		FRI		SAT
Ċ	cong	rats!	1	2		3		4		5	
6		7 Susan B., 8 yrs, More Will Be Revealed	8 Travis S., 11 yrs, Hol- lywood	9		10	John D., 11 yrs, Almost Normal	11		12	
13	Brandi T., 11 yrs, ODAAT	14	15		Billy B., 11 yrs, There Is A Solution	17	Keith H., 36 yrs, Almost Normal	18	Mary F., 26 yrs and Joe H. 24 yrs, Leonardto wn	19	
20		21	22	23		24		25	Riley F., 2 yrs, Cove Point	26	Linda B., 50 yrs, Waldorf
27		28	29	30		31				ക	al/_







DISTRICT 10 **SPONSORSHIP** WORKSHOP

HAVE A SPONSOR - BE A SPONSOR

SATURDAY, June 14th 2025 at **EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF** BALTIMORE 4301 Raspe Avenue Baltimore, MD 21206 1 pm - 4pm

Panel Presentations ~ Q&A Sessions ~ Door Prizes

AND IT'S ALL FREE!

https://aahispanomaryland.org/ Save the Date 13th Annual **Hispanic States Convention** of Alcoholics Anonymous Maryland - DC - Virginia June 21-22, 2025 For more information or to volunteer

to help, contact Gil M.: Gil9.medina@gmail.com, 240-374-9944

Jaime H: Jaimeherrera193@gmail.com, 443-871-2604



Best Western Plus Hotel & Conference Center 5625 O'Donnell Street Baltimore, MD 21224 410-633-9500 www.bwhotelbaltimore.com

Book a hotel room using the "AA Convention" block by 5/20/25 for \$119 plus tax

SMIA ANNUAL PICNIC

JUNE 22ND NOON TO DUSK

Lettie Dent Park District 5, St. Mary's County 37880 New Market Turner Rd Mechanicsville, MD, 20659

FREE!



Looking for volunteers Attend the Picnic Committee meeting on 5/10/25 after the SMIA business meeting if you are interested in helping

Meats, Rolls, and Drinks will be provided. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share with everyone

For more information, contact the Picnic Committee at smia.picnic@somdaa.org



29th Annual Southeast Woman to Woman Conference "Secrets Women Don't Share"

A Conference for Sober Alcoholic Women with Al-Anon Participation No children allowed in conference rooms



August 22-24, 2025, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

RESERVATIONS

Room rates through July 29, 2025:

- King, \$149 + tax
- Double, \$159 + tax Breakfast is not included.

To make reservations,

- Call (800) 567-3856 and use code SWW
- Register online at https://bit.ly/SEW2W-VB-Hotel

REGISTRATION

Conference registration: \$65 through March 31, 2025 \$70 April 1-July 18 and on-site.

Registration is transferable by NOT refundable

Register online at www.SEWomantoWoman.org

Complete attached registration form and mail registration form and check payable Southeast Woman to Woman to

> C/O Diane Stabinski P.O. Box 15031 Chesapeake, VA 23328

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Chair: Tracy U. Co-Chair: Natalie S. Registration: Rebecca M. (757) 381-4124 (757) 348-8459

(757) 515-3684

sew2w2020@gmail.com Natalie.sew2w25@gmail.com

2nd Annual Area 29 Corrections Conference Day of Sharing

"From Calamity to Serenity"



Held at Severna Park United Methodist Church Saturday October 11th, 2025 (9am to 4pm)

731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD21146 US

Sponsored by Area 29 Corrections committee and Hispanic linguistic District 29

> Hot Topic Panel Discussions Keynote Speaker More Details Coming Soon

Questions? Contact Scott at corrections@marylandaa.org

12th Step Service Opportunity

District 1 is looking for volunteers to lead meetings at the Avenues treatment center in Prince Frederick. Meetings are held at 7:00 pm each week on Mondays and Thursdays. The District 1 treatment coordinators are looking for people to either take an occasional evening or a dedicated monthly slot, whichever better suits your schedule. For the men's meetings, text David Y at 240-577-3424. For the women's meetings, text Peggy K at 305-582-9309.

The Lifeline is an unofficial newsletter published by Southern Maryland Intergroup Association, Inc. Any opinions expressed are those of the writers. They are not endorsed by SMIA, any group or AA as a whole. Group secretaries and individuals are encouraged to send group news, anniversaries and events. Material may be edited for space and content. Please send all Lifeline correspondence to: somdlifeline@gmail.com

https://2025ic.mylibralounge.com/sites/2025ic/attendee/en/begin-registration/?lib SGU=CD628B65-1A31-4FE8-B529-EC086D6E30AA&Iib CST=CA87D641-F0EA-46C0-91B8-4D8A85E19B3E







Area 29 Maryland PI/CPC

PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMBINED 2025 COMMITTEE

Jable Exhibitions

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

Audio, PSAs, Internet

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

a Resource for Professionals

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



of the month

862 7457 8272 Pw:199887

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



WWW.MARYLANDAA.ORG A29CPCPL@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=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!



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



PayPal QR code >>>

- We follow all of AA's 12 Traditions
- We provide language Access via ASL interpretation
- We rely on contributions from only AA members & AA entities
- Our focus is to make AA accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Contributions accepted via PayPal@ MarylandDeafAccess@gmail.com

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!

HELP WANTED

12 STEPPERS

Duties: Carry the AA Message

Location: St. Mary's County Detention

Qualifications: 1 Year Sobriety

Benefits: Spiritual Fitness & Slip Insurance

How to Apply: Email Roy B. at D36Corrections@gmail.com

Spring 2025 CONTRA Study

March 6, 2025 through June 12, 2025 Thursdays from 9:00 PM to 10:00 PM Eastern Time (US/Canada) Moderated by Past Delegates from

Areas 29 (Maryland), 44 (Northern New Jersey) & 45 (Southern New Jersey)



Zoom Meeting ID: 847 4641 4040 Passcode: 330331 Dial-in number for phone callers: +1 (301) 715-8592

We invite all A.A. members to this virtual study of the CONcepts, TRAditions & The A.A. Service Manual. No Registration Fees!

> Mar 6, 2025 – Registration & Orientation Mar 13, 2025 – Traditions 1, 2 & 3 Mar 20, 2025 – Traditions 4, 5 & 6 Mar 27, 2025 – Traditions 7, 8 & 9 Apr 3, 2025 – Traditions 10, 11 & 12 2025 – Service Manual, pp. I-VIII, 1-6, 89-

Apr 10, 2025 – Service Manual, pp. I-VIII, 1-8, 89-108 Apr 17, 2025 – Svc Man Ch 1 2 3 & pp 109-18,186-89 Apr 24, 2025 – Svc Man, Chapters 4 5 6 & pp 171-75 May 1, 2025 – Svc Man, Chapters 7 8 9 & pp 176-180 May 8, 2025 – Svc Man Ch 10 11 12 & pp 161-5, 170 May 15, 2025 – Service Manual, pp. 119-159 May 22, 2025 – Concepts pp I-VII, C1-C2, Con 1 2 3 May 29, 2025 – Concepts 4, 5 & 6 Jun 5, 2025 – Concepts 7, 8 & 9





Jun 12, 2025 – Concepts 10,11 & 12 CONTRA Study Materials

(provided via email following registration):

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

The A.A. Service Manual combined with The Twelve Concepts for World Service, BM-31, 2024-2026 edition

AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist, July 2018 revision

Spring 2025 Contra Study Service Manual Questions

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

We will cover approximately three chapters of reading material per week, with associated questions.

Only those who have read the assignment and have written answers to the weekly questions will be invited to read their answers to the group. All others are welcome to join the meeting and listen.

Presented by Past Delegates from Areas 29 (Maryland), 44 (Northern New Jersey) & 45 (Southern New Jersey) For more information, contact: 2025contrastudy@gmail.com

A-29 Accessibilities E-Blast

August 2024

MGS Inc. Area 29

MarylandAA.org

How Accessible is your group?

Take your group's accessibilities inventory!

website to determine if a group site and location is truly accessible to all.



Use this OR Code to access the Accessibility Checklist(smf-208) found on the AA.org

Next, update your status!



Ensure that your meetings' accessibility status is correctly listed in your local Intergroup directories. The intergroup directories are where <u>The Meeting Guide app pulls</u> 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?

- 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.
- 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 <u>Accessibilities@marylandAA.org</u> 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)



"The District 36 Treatment Center Committee" is looking for female fellowship members,

who are willing and have a year or more of sobriety to bring in-house A.A. meetings into the Jude House

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm.

Please contact this committee at our email:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com

This is a very rewarding experience!

Come join up and try it out!
The Committee Contact:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com



THE "WHAT'S THE POINT!" A.A. MEETING

BIG BOOK AS BILL SEES IT **GRAPEVINE TWELVE TWELVE**



ALL MEETINGS ARE LITERATURE

COME OUT AND CHECK US OUT

GOOD SAMARITAN LUTHERAN CHURCH 20850 LANGLEY RD. LEXINGTON PARK THURSDAY EVENINGS 8:00 PM.

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

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

The Clean Air Group

Is in need of support And home group members Come on out and check us out Friday nights 6:30pm.

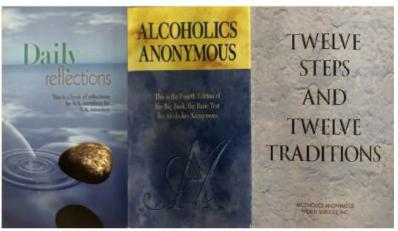
St. Andrews Episcopal Church 44078 St. Andrews Church Rd.

"BLUE TOP @ NO

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 groups





8:00pm. Friday Nights

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church

20850 Langley Rd. (Middle Building)

Lexington Park, Md.

Is in need of Support

and Home Group Member



SMIA MEETING MINUTES 5/10/25

Opening: Todd M. reported the secretary is not present and that the meeting is being recorded and opened the meeting with The Serenity Prayer.

Board Members Present: Todd M., Chair; Lorraine J., Vice-Chair; Bruce O., Treasurer; Paul S., Parliamentarian and Shaara W., Secretary (remotely).

New Members: Beth, 12 Steps Home Group.

Groups & Committees Represented: Bill L., Harmony Group/ Web; Buddy F., Basic Text/Book Stall; Faye S., We Are Not Saints; Mike S., Sober By The Bay; Janine W., St. Charles Step; Phil T., NTL; Jamie R., North Beach; Roy B., Solomons/D36 Corrections; Nathan H., Waldorf; Emme J., ODAAT; Pat S.; Lynne, Awakenings and Keith H., Almost Normal/Lifeline.

SMIA Chair Report: Todd M. sat in on a meeting with other intergroup chairs, one current and one former. The main goal here is to distribute information and implement cost effective measures; specifically with conference information. There are three things that operate as a draw for these intergroup meetings: topic of money; picnics and workshops. Area Assembly is 5/17 in Severna Park. Anyone who'd like to attend the doors open at 8:45.

Vice Chair Report: Lorraine J. reported she has 6 work days left and thanked everyone for their help during this time of transition for her.

Secretary Report: The April Minutes are posted on the website. Motion to accept the Minutes as posted. Seconded. All in favor.

Treasurer Report: Monthly contributions were \$746.27; with \$193 in Bookstall expenses; \$129.00 Lifeline printing; \$56.40 service; \$150 rent; \$123 for the website; and \$1977 for the Where & When; for total monthly expenses of \$2,630. 2 The Treasury Report is below: Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

Bookstall Report: Bill L. reported that in May there were: \$154.43 in online purchases; \$837.49 in total purchases; with 5 online orders and 2 walk ins. Please print orders in advance if possible. Prices are going up for replacing stock. There's a discrepancy in price for replacement stock but the form's been updated and reflects it.

Gratitude Dinner: This committee needs a chairperson.

Institutions: Calvert – Nothing to report. Charles - Things are going splendidly. St. Mary's - Several books have been included in the detention center library. Volunteers are needed to speak at these meetings.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H. reported the Lifeline is only half printed due to printer error and that if someone wants to see the whole thing, refer them to the SMIA website. Call for submissions on the 7th Step. It was asked whether links to online meetings should be posted on the Lifeline. Motion to include a small section of sources in the Lifeline. Second. All approve. The effort to archive groups' history is ongoing. Please submit group history (formation, location, dates, etc.) for this project using the form on the website.

SMIA Picnic: Buddy F. reported that the date and location has been confirmed on June 22 at Lettie Dent Park (aka 5th District Park) in Mechanicsville. The picnic will start at noon. The park has volleyball, horseshoes, tennis, a playground and basketball. Meat, buns, drinks, etc., will be supplied by SMIA. It is suggested that people bring a covered dish to share.

Public Information: Nothing to report.

Telephone: Melissa W. reported that from 4/12 to 5/10 there were 32 calls for a total of 56 minutes. They originated from Calvert (4), Charles (10), and St. Mary's (6), No Choice (13).

Website: Bill L. reported the following activity from 4/8–5/10: Total Visitors (initial visit) 2786 – down 7% 5 Most Frequently visited pages Home Page - 3873 Where and When Calendar-451 Where and When Search - 223 Announcements - 210 4 On-Line Meetings - 200 Site Updates and Changes There were no significant site updates or changes Meeting Change Information The Tuesday Grapevine meeting moved to Bldg. 2 on the same St. John Vianney campus Meeting Status Currently there are 134 meetings in our service area; 125 meetings are inperson, 6 meetings are hybrid, 8 meetings are on-line only. Document Posts and Updates: Lifeline posted – 05/01/25 Finance Page updated – 04/29/25 Where and When PDF updated – 05/01/25 o SMIA Minutes posted – 04/22/25 WHERE & WHEN. Supply good for a few months.

WORKSHOPS: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: There was a discussion re the printer. It was decided to get a black & white laser printer from Staples. Motion to buy a new B&W laser printer. Seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Motion to pass the Budget as submitted. Seconded. All in favor. Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor.

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

Monthly Contributions:

\$538.52

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc
Monthly Statement of Financial Position
April 25, 2025 - April 24, 2026

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity April 25, 2025 - April 24, 2026

Assets		
Primary Business Checking	\$	2,921.89
Primary Business Savings	\$	125
Prudent Reserve	\$	4,453.00
PayPal	\$ \$ \$	1,829.40
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$	100.00
Total Assets		9,304.29
This Month's Expenses		
Bookstall Purchases	\$	(154.53)
Liability Insurance	\$	
Lifeline Printing	\$	(115.02
Misc	\$	(52.37
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$	(56.41
Post Office Box	\$	-
Rent	\$	(150.00)
Webmaster	\$	125
Website	\$	(55.35)
Where & When	\$	141
Picnic	\$	(220.00
Travel	\$	
Workshops	\$	179
SMIA Archives	* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	-
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$	-
Bank Charges and Fees	\$	-
Other - Tax Filings	\$	167
Total Expenses	Ś	(803.68)

Matterson Service Control Control			BUDGET
Year to Date Income			Shortfall
Contributions	\$	538.52	94%
Bookstall Sales	\$ \$ \$	156.00	96%
Gratitude Dinner	\$	(26)	100%
Serenity Breakfast	\$	-	100%
Total 2025 Income	87	694.52	95%
			BUDGET
Year to Date Expenses			Left to Use
Bookstall Purchases	\$	(154.53)	96%
Liability Insurance	\$		100%
Lifeline Printing	\$	(115.02)	88%
Misc	\$	(52.37)	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$	(56.41)	83%
Post Office Box	\$		100%
Rent	\$	(150.00)	92%
Webmaster	\$		100%
Website	\$	(55.35)	93%
Where & When	\$	-	100%
Picnic	\$	(220.00)	78%
Travel	\$	20 CO	100%
Workshops	\$	(73)	100%
SMIA Archives	\$	-	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$	-	100%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	-	100%
Other - Tax Filings	\$	96	0%
Total 2025 Expenses	\$	(803.68)	95%

Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of 3.20 Months Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining Months \$(11,576.38) Shortfall For our 2024-2025 planned expenses, we currently have a

		C&T	PI/CPC
Remaining Service Committee Budgets	Calvert	\$ -	\$ -
Budget Year 2024 (01May2025 - 30Apr2026)	Charles	\$ -	\$ -
As of 11MAR2025	St.Mary's	\$ -	\$ -

Please include your current group number when submitting correspondence or contributions to the SMIA. You can find your current group number at https://somdintergroup.org/wwsearch.html#gnlf. If your group does not have a current group number, contact the Area 29 Registrar at registrar@marylandaa.org.

THANK YOU FOR Basic Text YOUR **CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Waldorf Group Beginners at Noon **Cove Point Inspiration Group**

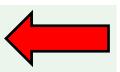
WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

1)All contributions can be made online: www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

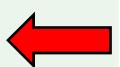
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

PLEASE NOTE THAT GSO AND MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE OF-FICE 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

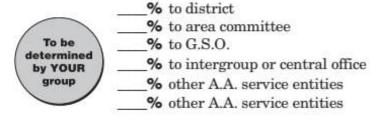
District 36 (St. Mary's) P.O. Box 1334 California, MD 20619

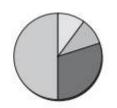
ATTENTION GROUP TREASURERS:

*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.)





10% to district

OR

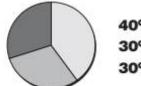
10% to area committee

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: Shaara W. 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 CALVERT COUNTY

Please join us at our next District Meeting the first Thursday of the month @ 7pm **Peace Lutheran Church** 401 Smallwood Drive

Waldorf, MD

Or via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 85795899259

Password: D35!2025

Mailing address:

PO Box 1981, La Plata, MD 20646

SERVICE KEEPS US SOBER

DISTRICT 36

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

PO Box 1334, California, MD 20619

www.district36mdaa.org

NEW BOOKSTALL HOURS:

First and Third Thursday of the month 6:00pm - 6:45pm

Second Saturday of the month 9am - 10am



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Alternate DCM

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





DISTRICT NOTES

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

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, July 12 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