



LIFELINE



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

life-line | \ '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>

Wrestling With a Dragon

Long before he cofounded Alcoholics Anonymous, Robert Smith, class of 1902, fought demons of his own making.



As a matriculating Dartmouth freshman in the fall of 1898, Robert Holbrook Smith almost certainly arrived in Hanover by horse and buggy. Women at the time were wearing floor-length skirts and broad-brimmed hats. Victoria was queen of England. Webster Hall had not yet been built. The airplane hadn't been invented.

Nearly nine decades later, when I stumbled into my first meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Smith and his AA cofounder Bill Wilson secured a prominent place in my daily thoughts.

At least 100 times through the years I

have read "Doctor Bob's Nightmare," the chapter in AA's basic text in which Smith tells his story: a rural Vermont childhood, his drinking years at Dartmouth and beyond, and his storied encounter with Wilson in 1935 that led to their recovery from alcoholism and the establishment of the world's first 12-step program.

Whenever I read that chapter, I visualize Dartmouth Hall, the Green, the Bema, and Hanover's Wheelock and Main streets, and I wonder about Smith's experience as an undergraduate. Was it anything like mine? Was he anxious and so-

cially awkward? Did he drink to take the edge off those feelings or to fashion an identity for himself as a hard-drinking sophisticate? Did he pull crazy stunts or defy authority to get attention? Did crippling hangovers affect his studies?

AA's literature offers few details on this period of his life. So, when Covid grounded me in 2020-21, I decided to do some digging.

Starting with alumni records in Rauner Special Collections Library, I found a few photos but little new information. I talked with the archivist at Smith's high school, St. Johnsbury Academy in Vermont, and consulted Smith's papers at Brown University. Each source pointed to others, and before I was through I had been in touch with Smith's fraternity and two historical museums (one in his boyhood home in St. Johnsbury and another in Akron, Ohio, where Smith and his wife, Anne Ripley, settled and raised their family). I also consulted AA's archives in New York. For good measure I had another look at the 1978 movie, *National Lampoon's Animal House*.

Smith's serious drinking began at Dartmouth—as soon as he was out from

(continued on page 2)

(con't) under parental control and away from small-town Vermont society.

He was well liked by his peers at the College. His transcripts have been lost, but he reportedly earned creditable grades.

Though the toga party didn't start trending until the 1950s, Smith's generation of fraternity brothers partied hard in their own way. Interviewed years later by biographers, friends remembered Smith's primary extracurricular activity as drinking beer and hard cider. He distinguished himself at parties with an ability to pour a whole bottle of beer straight down his throat without visible signs of swallowing. They called it his "patent throat."

Classmate E.B. Watson, who later became a professor at Dartmouth, said Smith was well liked and "unpretentious," adding that while Smith drank excessively as an undergraduate, "he did not become a slave to alcohol until his graduate schooling."

Smith honed other nonessential life skills as well, becoming highly competitive at bridge, poker, other card games, billiards, tennis, and horseshoes. He was probably an undergrad when he got the full-sleeve tattoo that covered his left arm: a dragon rendered in blue with red fire, entwined with a nautical compass. A classmate who saw him years later by a pool in Delray Beach, Florida, observed that the massive tat extended across his chest and onto the other arm. "He had to have been drunk to have it put there," Smith's son later told biographers, "and you didn't do something that complicated in a day."

While there is no record of Smith's major course of study, it is safe to say his high school and College education in-

volved 12 years of Greek and nine of Latin. In 1901 and 1902 he lived in the Kappa Kappa Kappa (now Kappa Pi Kappa) house. In those years Tri-Kap was a literary and debating society. The 1902 *Aegis* indicates Smith was associated with the Hanover Country Club, which opened in 1899 with nine holes. He also sang with the St. Thomas Church choir, as he had with his high school glee club.

The Dartmouth tradition of spur-of-the-moment road trips was already a thing in 1899—a decade before the Ford Model T hit the streets.

Smith and Phil Thompson, class of 1902, took a trip to Montpelier, Vermont, that involved jumping a freight train at White River Junction, Vermont. On a whim, the sophomores had decided they couldn't miss "Dewey Day"—an over-the-top hometown hero's welcome organized for Adm. George Dewey after his victory at the Battle of Manila in the Spanish-American War.

Thompson recalled the escapade in an interview published in a 1980 book, *Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*: "We found a car with an open door and jumped in, not knowing whether the train was going to Montreal or Boston, upriver or down. Fortunately, it went up the Connecticut River, stopping at every little station along the way as it got colder and darker.

"We made it to Montpelier the next day. When we arrived, covered with straw, and somewhat disheveled, Bob decided we needed a few beers, though it was only around breakfast time." After graduation, Smith worked as a traveling industrial salesman, then started medical school at the University of Michigan, where his drunkenness and poor academic results got him kicked out. He barely managed to

complete his studies at Rush Medical College; studied for a time in Rochester, Minnesota, under the Mayo brothers; then married and settled in Akron, where he practiced surgery for many years at City Hospital.

Friends told biographers that Smith chose a surgical specialization because it gave him better control over his schedule and enabled him to drink every day, freed from the risk of round-the-clock calls from patients that are the general practitioner's lot. By all accounts he became what AA members call a "functioning drunk"—a respected professional who drags himself to work, adequately carries out his duties, and then retreats to solitary drinking and oblivion until it's time to get up the next morning and do it all over again. This was Smith's routine for decades, including the Prohibition years between 1920 and 1933.

Smith's College friends heard nothing of him for 34 years after graduation. But in 1936, less than a year after finally gaining sobriety, he communicated with his class secretary. A brief note in the November 1936 *DAM* reads: "Some of you fellows have been wondering about Bob Smith, but you can let up on it now. Bob says that while he has been in Hanover many times, he could never make it at reunion time. He hopes now to be present in June 1937."

Smith didn't make it to that reunion—or any other reunion—but he kept in touch with several classmates from that point on. In 1942, hoping to solicit news, the secretary sent letters to several classmates. Smith responded by sending him a copy of the first edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*—authored largely by AA cofounder Wilson in close consultation with Smith—which includes the chapter in which Smith candidly told his own story.

<https://dartmouthalumnimagazine.com/articles/robert-holbrook-smith-aa>

The admission of a wrong compares in its effects to a strong cauterizing agent. When applied promptly it burns away the infection, but the treatment may be painful. How much mental pain an individual incurs by admitting a wrong depends not so much on the degree of the wrong as on how seriously he is afflicted with vanity and

On the 10th Step

“Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.”

false pride. The more vain the person, the more reluctant he is ever to admit a mistake. The more false pride he has, the more imperative it seems to him to perpetuate the illusion of his own perfection.

Since we all know that vanity and false pride are distortions of the mind, perhaps the reason they are so common is the fact that, although we can spot them immediately in others, we have considerable difficulty in detecting them in ourselves.

Here the value of the personal inventory is self-evident. If it is honest and thorough, it will leave no vanities and false pride unrevealed. It is the means by which we can detect in ourselves the faults we note so readily in others and which we know are

obstacles to the growth of an effective and happy personality.

The first inventory we take as we begin to apply the A.A. program naturally tends to be the most soul-searching and the most revealing. In most cases, it is the first self-reckoning we have undertaken in many years and most of us are likely to unearth a great accumulation of debris.

This inventory provides the guide for basic, and usually drastic, correction. Subsequent inventories serve to show whether the first efforts toward correction have been effective and what additional correction may be needed. By this method of personal checkup, we can determine for ourselves whether we are actually moving

forward or have slipped backward.

Continued personal inventory is also a medium for readjustment to new objectives. As the A.A. moves upward he frequently finds that he is constantly lifting his sights. What satisfied him previously does not do so any longer. When he was learning to crawl he looked ahead to

being able to walk. When he could walk he wanted to run. His expanding personality demands larger fields. If the person he wanted to be yesterday has come into being, he now wishes to be a still better person.

The inventory, obviously, is only part of the treatment. The deficiencies it reveals must be made up. Or, in the thought of the 10th Step: When wrong, promptly admit it. That is putting the inventoried knowledge into action.

Haliburton once wrote, “When a man is wrong and won’t admit it, he always gets angry.” Anger, as we well know, is particularly poisonous to us. How foolish and ironic to fall prey to it through vanity!

<https://bigbooksponsorship.org/articles-alcoholism-addiction-12-step-program-recovery/aa-history/aa-oldtimerson-tenth-step/>

The Importance of Step Ten

My AA life began after my first meeting, but then in a different sense it really didn’t begin till I learned the AA program of action and put it into practice.

At first I thought just going to meetings and trying to practice the Twelve Steps as written on the clubhouse wall was living AA on a daily basis. Indeed, I had found a new happiness and developed many new wonderful friends.

My phone was just ringing off the hook and I was going to loads of meetings and coffee houses with AA friends afterward. I was a regular social butterfly! I was involved with a religious organization and remained very busy.

Yet I had not actually gone through the Twelve Step process with a sponsor. What’s the hurry—I’m really doing well aren’t I? Well maybe not!

One night I was alone on Hollywood Boulevard after a parade and somehow marched into a bar on Las Palmas Blvd; on my lips were: “Gin & tonic please!” Thank God those words were never spoken!

Rushing home, I prayed that God would bring a sponsor to take me through the steps and in a few weeks he did. Of course, one of the major parts of my post-step life was Step Ten of which I could never had done until I have learned, and lived, the middle steps. This is what I mean (Read page 84):

1.Continue to watch for selfishness, dishonesty, resentment, and fear. Learned in Step

Four

2.When these crop up, we ask God at once to remove them. Learned in Step Six & Seven

3.We discuss them with someone immediately. Learned in Step Five

4.And, make amends quickly if we have harmed anyone. Learned in Steps Eight & Nine

5.Then we resolutely turn our thoughts to someone we can help.

Love and tolerance of others is our code.

So, had I been living in the spirit of Step Ten, I would never have marched into that bar to begin with, and even if I did, I would have asked God at once to put me back on the beam. I have not had to drink since my first AA meeting—a long time ago—but if not for Step Ten, I certainly would have.

<https://www.aacle.org/importance-step-ten/>

Chili Cookoff & Bonfire Meeting

Oct 12th

5:00 PM: Submit Entry

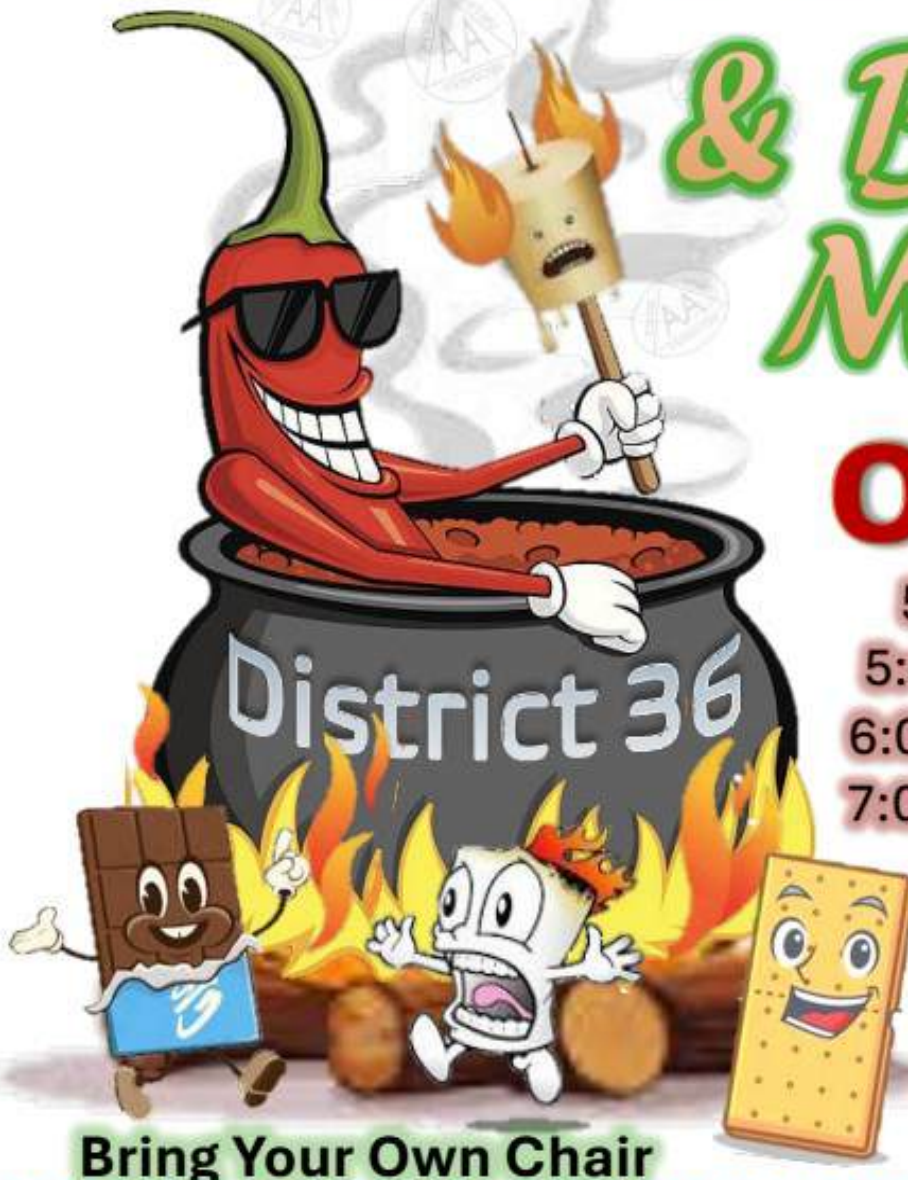
5:45 PM: Entrée Judging

6:00 PM: Chili & Hotdogs

7:00 PM: Bonfire Meeting

8:00 PM: Close Event

**Saint George's
Episcopal Church
19167 Poplar Hill Lane
Valley Lee MD, 20692**



Bring Your Own Chair

Snap / Scan / Send entry to: d36.events4fun@gmail.com

Pre-Registration REQUIRED for Contest Entry !!!

Entrée Name: _____

Cook's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Meat: ___ / Vegetarian: ___ Share Recipe?



STEP TEN PROMISES

“And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned. We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame. We react sanely and normally, and we will find that this has happened automatically.”

“We will see that our new attitude toward liquor has been given to us without any thought or effort on our part. It just comes! That is the miracle of it. We are not fighting it, neither are we avoiding temptation. We feel as though we had been placed in a position of neutrality safe and protected. We have not even sworn off. Instead, the problem has been removed. It does not exist for us. We are neither cocky nor are we afraid. That is our experience. That is how we react so long as we keep in fit spiritual condition.” *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 84-85



“ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HAS NO OPINION ON OUTSIDE ISSUES; HENCE THE AA NAME OUGHT NEVER BE DRAWN INTO PUBLIC CONTROVERSY.”

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well-known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, it is prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever? If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worth of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our AA Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our Tenth Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy – serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions have died even recently in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society, and nation is saying to the other, “You must do as we

say, or else.” Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.

Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that AA must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

As though by some deep and compelling instinct, we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

<https://lppbbsgaa.org/tradition-of-the-week/>

I Don't Work the Program

I DON'T WORK the program. Furthermore, I doubt that I ever will. I am not now, nor have I ever been, crazy about work. At its best, I believe it to be a necessary evil. It takes up a lot of my time that I could put to better use.

Back when we were living in caves, inventing things like the wheel, the spear, and the fishing pole, I don't think anyone ever said, "Let's invent work for the fun of it." What probably happened was more like this. A bunch of my ancestors had spent a day fishing and hunting and having a real blast for themselves. When they got back to the cave, they were dog-tired, so they looked around until they found someone who had been sitting in the shade all day and was well rested.

Then they beat the living daylights out of him until he agreed to clean and stow all of the equipment and cook the harvest of the day's outing. This is how work was invented.

Now, don't get me wrong. I am not lazy. I have worked all of my life (except for the days I was bad snake-bit), and no one ever beat

me. I was paid in real, hard-earned money.

That money has bought me some good things and some bad things, some pleasure and some pain. But I still don't work for the fun of it.

However, there are many things I do for the fun of them. I hunt, fish, and play golf and cards, and there is no work involved in any of these. I do them for the pleasure they bring into my life, and I practice them a lot, and I enjoy them all.

I don't work the AA program, either. I practice at it, and I thoroughly enjoy it. A short time after I came into AA, my sponsor told me that the whole thing — the Twelve Steps, the meetings, the fellowship, and all — was there to make me and my life happier. And he was as right as right can be. AA has changed my life from a nightmare into a beautiful way to live. Going at my program with the same enthusiasm that I have for anything else I really enjoy has added a lot of pleasure. I look forward to opportunities to practice at the program. And it has never been called off because of rain.

Contrary to what I used to be told when I was growing up, practice has never made anything perfect in my life — not my hunting or my fishing or my golf or my program. But without a doubt, one day at a time, they all do get better.

Bill C., Houston, Tex.



It Happened in October!

October 1:

1941 – Local news reports 1st AA Group in New Haven, CT
1957 – Alcoholics Anonymous book A. A. Comes of Age is published

October 2:

1944 – National Committee for Education on Alcoholism formed by Marty Mann – later to become “National council on Alcoholism.”

October 3: 1945 – AA Grapevine adopted as national publication of AA

October 5-7: 1972: 2nd World Service meeting held in New York.

October 6: 1941 – 900 dine at Cleveland dinner for Bill D, AA #3

October 5: 1988 – Lois W, Bills wife and a co-founder of Al-Anon, dies at age 97

October 8: 1988 – Memorial Service for Lois Wilson at Stepping Stones, NY

October 9-11: 1969: 1st World Service meeting held in New York with

delegates from 14 countries.

October 10: 1943 – 6 of 1st 9 AA's attend clubhouse anniv. in Toledo

1970 – Lois reads “Bills Last Message” annual dinner in NY

1988 – Lois is buried next to Bill in Manchester, Vermont

October 13: 1939 – Bill W. gets his drivers license

October 14: 1939: Journal of American Medical Association gives Big Book unfavorable review.

October 15: 1904 – Marty M, early AA woman, is born in Chicago

October 17: 1935 – Ebby T, Bills sponsor, moves in with Bill and Lois

October 20: 1928: Bill wrote promise to Lois in family Bible to quit drinking. By Thanksgiving added second promise.

October 21: 1939 – Cleveland Plain Dealer begins series on AA by Eldrick B. Davis

October 22: 1963 – E M Jellinek, alcoholism educator and AA friend dies
1949 – Florence R, AA's 1st sober woman, begins drinking again, commits suicide

October 24: 1942 – L.A. Times reports AA groups in 14 California cities

1943: Wilson's start 1st major A.A. tour, returned Jan 19, 1944.

1973 – Trustee's Archives Committee of AA has its 1st meeting

Other significant events in October for which we have no specific Dates:

1936 – Bill C. a Canadian alcoholic staying at Bill's house, committed suicide using a gas stove.

1939: 1st central committee formed in Cleveland; 1st example A.A. rotation.

1942 – 1st issue of Cleveland Central Bulletin is published

1951 – Lasker Award presented to AA in San Francisco

1954 – The “Alcoholic Foundation” renamed the “General Service Board of A.A.”

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

WHAT WORKS FOR YOU?

- 1) Not drinking or taking drugs and going to meetings.
- 2) Praying to the God of my understanding so far, and forgiving myself and everyone I meet. ~Doug M.



RECOVERY COACH BARNEY FIFE

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

ARE YOU KEEPING
SECRETS?
NIP THAT IN THE BUD.

ARE YOU ISOLATING?
NIP IT IN THE BUD.

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



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.

OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 John B., 5 yrs, 231	5 REV, 16 yrs, Early Bird Keith H., 4 yrs, Help- ing Others
6 Glen G., 2 yrs, Never Too Late	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Roy B., 4 yrs, Solo- mons	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Chris P., 4 yrs, Solo- mons Group	21 Jason H., 1 yr, Har- mony	22 Brian G., 1 yr, Happy Destiny	23 Eileen M., 34 yrs, Awakenings Andy H., 6 yrs, There Is A Solution	24 Mark B., 40 yrs, Pro- gress Not Perfection	25	26 Juan P., 1 yr, Laurel Grove
27	28 Will F., 2 yrs, Harmony	29	30	31 Dan S., 16 yrs and Joan- ie B., 2 yrs, Poplar Hill		

NOVEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Frank R., 2 yrs, Helping Others
3	4	5	6 George B., 5 yrs, Patux- ent River	7	8	9 Dennis G., 30 yrs, We Was Wurz Robert M., 26 yrs, King- ston Creek
10	11 Bill L., 14 yrs, Harmony	12 Charlie A., 38 yrs, Grapevine	13	14	15	16 John B., 14 yrs, North Beach
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Steve E., 2 yrs, Poplar Hill	29	30



DISTRICT 28 SPONSORSHIP FORUM

HAVE A SPONSOR – BE A SPONSOR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH AT
HARFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

2504 Creswell Road

Bel Air, MD 21015

9:00 am – noon

*Doors open at 8:30 am
for fellowship and continental breakfast
Panels start at 9:00 am*

Continental Breakfast ~ Panel Presentations ~ Q&A Sessions ~ Door Prizes

AND IT'S ALL FREE!

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!**



<https://www.vancouver2025.com/convention>

**Language of the Heart
Lenguaje del corazón
Le langage du cœur**

Step 10 AA: Daily Inventory Questions

- Was I dishonest or resentful?
- Do my actions warrant an apology?
- Am I worried about yesterday or tomorrow?
- Do I allow myself to become obsessive?
- Am I hungry, angry, lonely, or tired?
- Do I suffer from problems physically, mentally, or spiritually?
- What can I do to be better tomorrow?
- What am I grateful for today?

<https://alcoholrehabhelp.org/treatment/alcoholics-anonymous/step-10/>

**AREA 29
CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE
DAY OF SHARING**

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

LUNCH~DOOR PRIZES~FELLOWSHIP THIS IS A FREE EVENT!

Saturday, October 12

**United Methodist Church
731 Benfield Road
Severna Park, MD**

8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration, Coffee, Doughnuts, Fellowship
9:00 - 11:15 AM Panel Discussions
11:15 - 1:00 PM Lunch & Fellowship (lunch is provided)
3:15 - 5:00 PM Former Persons in Custody Panel

Questions? Contact Scott B. corrections@marylandaa.org

Correccionales Día de Compartir

sábado 12 de octubre de 2024

**Iglesia Metodista Unida
731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD**

**Alcoholicos Anonimos
9am - 5pm**

Algunos aspectos destacados:

8-9 AM Inscripción, Café, Donas

9-11:45 AM Paneles de discusión

11:45-1 PM Almuerzo proporcionado

3:45-5 PM Panel de ex personas bajo custodia



Almuerzo y Compañerismo

¡ESTE ES UN EVENTO GRATUITO!

contactar a

Scott at Corrections@MarylandAA.org

Fall 2024 CONTRA Study

September 10, 2024 through December 17, 2024

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

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 4641 4040

Passcode: 330331

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

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

Sep 10, 2024 - Registration & Orientation

Sep 17, 2024 - Traditions 1, 2 & 3

Sep 24, 2024 - Traditions 4, 5 & 6

Oct 1, 2024 - Traditions 7, 8 & 9

Oct 8, 2024 - Traditions 10, 11 & 12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dec 3, 2024 - Concepts 4, 5 & 6

Dec 10, 2024 - Concepts 7, 8 & 9

Dec 17, 2024 - Concepts 10, 11 & 12

CONTRA Study Materials

(provided via email following registration):

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

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

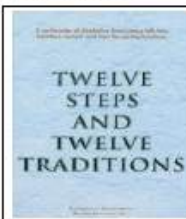
AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist, July 2018 revision

Fall 2024 Contra Study Service Manual Questions

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

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

Presented by Trusted Servants from
Areas 13 (DC), 29 (Maryland) & 45 (Southern New Jersey)
For more information, contact:
2024contrastudy@gmail.com



District 10 presents

District 10 Unity Picnic

Burgers, Hot Dogs and Buns provided.

Bring a drink, bring a chair, bring a dish to share.

Speaker Meeting at 2pm

**10.20.24
SUNDAY
12-5 PM**

**Double Rock Park-
Rich Pavillion
8211 Glen Road, Parkville, MD 21274**

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/85217774704>
pwd=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

A sponsor and his sponsee are deserted on an island. They come upon a bottle. They rub it and a genie appears and says they each get one wish – whatever they want.

The sponsor says, "I wish I were back with my home-group." POOF! He disappears.

The sponsee paces frantically around, indecisive, anxious, and nervous. Panic sets in...

Should I ask for money? A woman? A nice boat?

Finally in exasperation, he cries out, "I wish my sponsor was here!" POOF!



"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

CLEAN AIR GROUP

The Clean Air Group

Is in need of support

And home group members

Come on out and check us out

Friday nights 6:30pm.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

44078 St. Andrews Church Rd.

**SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GROUPS?**

SERVICE IS THE SECRET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 12TH STEP WORK

District 35 Treatment Committee

Is asking for people to carry the message into Treatment Facilities

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

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

CONTACT:

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



THE "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.

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

A-29 Accessibilities E-Blast

August 2024

MGS Inc. Area 29

MarylandAA.org

How Accessible is your group?

Take your group's accessibilities inventory!



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

Next, update your status!



Ensure that your meetings' accessibility status is correctly listed in your local Intergroup directories. The intergroup directories are where The Meeting Guide app pulls its information from. Use this QR code to locate your local intergroups contact information. Correct listings ensure that those with disabilities can accurately choose what meetings will

work for their needs. Note that any wheelchair accessible meeting will also be walker accessible.

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

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

Help the Area 29 Accessibilities Committee!

Let us know where to focus our attention in Area 29. Take the Group Accessibility Survey! [Groups Accessibilities Survey – MGS | Maryland General Service \(marylandaa.org\)](https://www.marylandaa.org/groups-accessibilities-survey)

SMIA Meeting Minutes 9/14/24

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): Mike – Sober by the Bay

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L.–Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall, Keith H.- SMIA Lifeline Chair, Nathan H. – Waldorf Group, Robert W. – Sunday, Morning Sobriety, Francis R. – KISS Group, Jamie R. – North Beach, Norma H. – 12 Steps Home, Todd M. – St. Charles Step, Group, Pat S. – Workshop Chair, Andy X. – Keeping it Green, Emme J. – O.D.A.A.T., Roy B.-Solomon's Group, Pat P. – North Beach

SMIA Chair Report:

Buddy F. gave the monthly Chair report.

Vice-Chair Report: no report.

Secretary Report: Kristi P. read the SMIA August 2024 meeting minutes. Minutes accepted.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. shared the September 2024 Treasurer's Report. Total monthly contributions were \$988.84.

Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, all in favor. The Treasurer's Report is available online at <https://somdintergroup.org/finance.html>.

Committee Reports

Bookstall Report: Bill L. - there were

1351 visits to the On-Line Bookstall since the August meeting. There were 13 orders, all of which are processing. Order totals were \$438.05. Literature purchases from World Services totaled \$575.92

Web Report: Bill L. – 8/10/24 -9/14/24. Total visitors (initial visits) 3,850, down 7%. Most frequently visited pages: Home Page, Where and When Calendar, Announcements, Anniversary Calendar, On-line Meetings and Announcements. No site updates and changes.

Meeting Changes/Status: The Southern Maryland Big Book Meeting was terminated. The meeting time for Sober By The Bay was changed to 5:00 PM. Beach Beacon On-Line changed their Zoom link and host information. Currently there are 128 meetings in our service area; 121 meetings are in-person, 6 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: Lifeline posted – 9/1/24,

Finance Page updated – 9/1/24, Where and When updated 9/14/24, Minutes posted – 8/13/24

Gratitude Dinner: Scheduled for November 16 th . Need a chair.

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert – Lorraine reported that everything is going well. Charles – no report. St. Mary's – Buddy F. reported the jail is still closed. Roy B. received a letter from the Warden that the renovations are continuing.

Monday night meetings at 6:30 p.m. meeting at Compass. Wednesday meetings at Anchor for men and women at 7:30 pm.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H. reported he increased # of Lifeline copies to 25 per month. Submissions are welcome.

Picnic: Buddy F. – need a chair.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G. is still doing a great job. Charles – no report. Buddy F. relinquished chair position. Need a chair.

Telephone: No report.

Serenity Breakfast: No date established. We have a possible date of May 3 rd and volunteer to chair.

Where and When: Pat P. – 3 boxes remaining.

Workshops: Pat. S to follow up with Charles S. to be a speaker on the History of AA workshop in February 2025.

Old Business: None

New Business: Buddy purchased new chairs for SMIA/AA meetings at Immaculate Conception. Motion was made to not have Secretary read minutes at SMIA meetings, seconded and passed. Meeting minutes can be reviewed online. Emme reported that all zoom meetings require a passcode or waiting room.

For the Good of the Order: Upcoming event information can be found at SMIA Announcements and Events

(somdintergroup.org). Pat. S. reported that the Chili Cookoff and Bonfire will be held on 10/16 at Trinity Episcopal.

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



October 2024

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc

Treasury Report

This Month's Contributions:

\$250.00

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of This Month's Financial Position August 25, 2024 - September 24, 2024

Assets	
Primary Business Checking	\$ 5,841.03
Primary Business Savings	\$ 1,848.29
Prudent Reserve	\$ 4,453.00
PayPal	\$ 487.68
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$ 100.00
Total Assets	12,730.00
This Month's Expenses	
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (575.92)
Liability Insurance	\$ -
Lifeline Printing	\$ (104.00)
Misc	\$ -
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (57.41)
Post Office Box	\$ -
Rent	\$ (150.00)
Webmaster	\$ -
Website	\$ (48.23)
Where & When	\$ -
Picnic	\$ -
Travel	\$ -
Workshops	\$ -
SMIA Archives	\$ -
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (98.00)
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (16.00)
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ (1,049.56)

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

		BUDGET Shortfall
Year to Date Income		
Contributions	\$ 2,194.87	76%
Bookstall	\$ 1,547.00	56%
Gratitude Dinner	\$ -	100%
Serenity Breakfast	\$ 1,385.00	-39%
Total 2024 Income	5,126.87	65%
		BUDGET Left to Use
Year to Date Expenses		
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (2,210.94)	45%
Liability Insurance	\$ (273.00)	0%
Lifeline Printing	\$ (302.45)	68%
Misc	\$ -	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (143.35)	56%
Post Office Box	\$ (120.00)	0%
Rent	\$ (750.00)	58%
Webmaster	\$ -	100%
Website	\$ (303.67)	64%
Where & When	\$ -	100%
Picnic	\$ (1,205.40)	-21%
Travel	\$ (131.32)	84%
Workshops	\$ -	100%
SMIA Archives	\$ -	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (216.99)	-21%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (96.00)	4%
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	0%
Total 2024 Expenses	\$ (5,753.12)	68%

Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of 5.51 Months
 Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining 7.00 Months
 For our planned expenses, we currently have a **\$ (2,685.75)** Shortfall

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
DONATIONS:**

MT. HARMONY GROUP

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

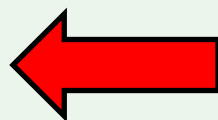
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

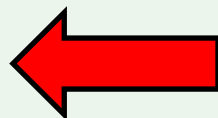
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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)

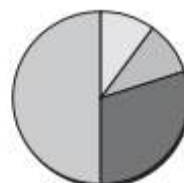
Your Group Service # _____

(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

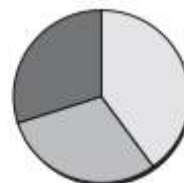
OR



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.

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.

**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

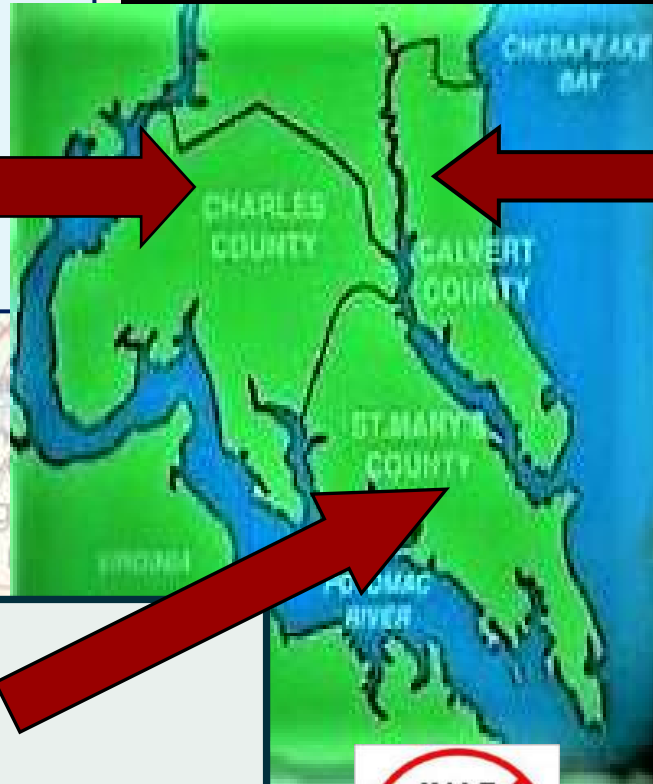
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

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**



DISTRICT 36

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

PO Box 1334, California, MD 20619

www.district36mdaa.org



DISTRICT NOTES

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

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

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

The next SMIA Meeting will be held on

Saturday, November 9 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)**