The Southern Maryland Intergroup Association

Calvert - Charles - St. Mary's



**JULY 2025** Volume 49

## 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.

#### THE ONE THING I **NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STEP 7:** HUMILITY HEALS PAIN

One dictionary defines humility as: "the quality or condition of being humble; modest opinion or estimate of one's own importance, rank, etc." While that is a perfectly good definition of it, the "Literature Reference" above highlights that Bill W. gave us HIS definition of humility in the 12&12 as: "a desire to seek and do God's will."

One of the first and most important things we need to learn about our defects is that we can't be relieved of them without some level of humility. Alcoholics are victims of pride and selfishness. In the past when we felt pain and suffering (generally as a result of said pride & selfishness), we masked it with alcohol. Before coming to A.A., we used self-reliance to deal with it. Today, we can acknowledge the limits of human power in addressing these character defects. We cannot do it on our own. We cannot do it by sheer willpower. We cannot do it by our own intellect and reasoning.

Although Steps 6 & 7 are the shortest Steps in terms of wording in our Big Book and are perhaps the least discussed in meetings these days, they are probably the most potent of all twelve. As we mentioned in Step 6, they ARE the meat & substance of our program of recovery. They embody the miracle of transformation as we turn over our broken, defective personalities for God to transform them into healthy, effective instruments 3. of God's will.

Humility turns obstacles into opportunities for God to act through us. When questioning whether or not I am applying humility to a situation I could ask, "How would a humble person

handle this situation?" When we mix self-centeredness with a situation, a problem results. When we remove it, we only have a situation to deal with, not a problem. The Seventh step is not a one-way street, though. God will remove our defects to the degree that we are willing to practice the spiritual obedience that lay behind them. Step 7 gives us the choice to pray to be free of a defect rather than obsessed with it as we were before taking it. Be patient. Be diligent. Our defects didn't mold us overnight and we can't change our life overnight.

WHAT CAN I SURRENDER IN THIS STEP? THE BELIEF THAT I CAN BECOME LESS OF MY CHARACTER DEFECTS ON MY OWN OR REMOVE THEM MYSELF.

#### MYTHS ABOUT THIS

- Humility isn't necessary for recovery. You can't see your shortcomings without stripping yourself of your ego and pride. This unfiltered look into yourself allows you to develop a humble attitude and correct your moral defects.
- 2. Step 7 means we will not have any defects once God removes them. Self-centered fear will still trigger our defects. The difference is that we now have a choice to follow our lust, for example, or not. We will be given a divine nudge at the onset of our defects to pray to God to change us, and God will, whereas, before Steps 6 & 7 we had no choice over our defects and were obsessed by them.
- We have the ability to remove our defects ourselves. This sort of thing is WAY above our pay grade. We simply don't have the built-in skill sets to become less prideful, angry, greedy, gluttonous, lustful, envious, slothful or fearful on our own.

https://takethe12.org/s7/

#### **GROWING ALONG SPIRITUAL LINES:** PRACTICING THE STEPS

I am coming to believe that grace is not just the "good" things that happen to me, to you and to the world. It's also the painful stuff, the ugly stuff, and the downright cruel and hateful stuff. Today I'm not the tongue chewing, piss in my pants, wet brained drunk that I was on course to be and that's God's grace for sure. But the countless men and women who do fit this description are also receiving grace. The universe is doing it's best to point them in the opposite direction of the way they are heading. They are getting bombarded with moments of clarity where they can see as I did that there is a easier, softer way to walk through this thing called life. It's part of the great mystery why

some of us get it and some of us don't, but it's clear that everyone receives an equal amount of unconditional loving grace.

If not to earn grace, then why do I practice the steps? The simple answer is that I suffer when I don't practice. I fall back to sleep and begin to ignore that small voice inside. The voice that is subtly urging me in the direction of Truth. As it says in the other big book, the trick is to be of the world, but not in the world. Practicing the steps allows me to enjoy the beauty of life but not get caught up in it. Someone once wrote "there's not a shred of evidence that life is meant to be taken seriously".

It always amazes me to remember something I learned in grade school, that each snowflake is unique. There are no two snowflakes alike. If bazillions of snowflakes are all different, it's not too much of stretch for me to believe that I am unique and that I was put here for a definite purpose. By practicing the steps I move closer to finding out who I really am.

https://aaspirit.blogspot.com/2010/09/practicing\_10.html

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

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

## **Fradition 7: Responsibility**

There are so many benefits to this tradition for the alcoholic and for the group and for all AA as a whole. When we first come into AA we were at a bottom — nothing was working for us. Many did not have a could still find the money for the next drink. We surrendered to the fact that we could no longer drink, because of the price it required of us, and that wasn't money.

So slowly we put in a basket what little we had and began to acquire a life worth living. It made us responsible for the first time (for many of us)

to become a part of taking care of ourselves. The first part of Tradition 7 makes it clear that responsibility extends to the members of each local group as it passes the basket for contributions to pay the rent and maintain its literature library.

The second part of this tradition adjob or a place to stay, but most dresses the issue of the fellowship not becoming involved with outside issues or conflicts that could arise by accepting "outside contributions." If such contributions were accepted the group and its members might feel obligated to make some kind of concessions to the individual or organization making the donation. Declining these contributions keeps the fellowship independent from outside influences.

Tradition 7 (Long Form): The A.A.

groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source. or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

> https://www.saltlakeaa.org/2012/06/tradition -7-responsibility/

The 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is more than a method for achieving sobriety—it's a way of life that transforms despair into hope, isolation into connection, and self-destruction into purpose. For those of us who have been giv-

## Remembering, Serving and Sharing What Saved Us

en a second chance through this program, it is vital not only to maintain our own recovery but to actively share the message with others who are still sick and suffering.

It's easy, once life gets better, to forget what brought us to A.A. in the first place. As we regain relationships, careers, and self-respect, the urgency that once drove us to meetings can fade. But the program's promise is clear: we are granted a daily reprieve from alcoholism, contingent upon the maintenance of our spiritual condition. That maintenance comes through continued 12-step work—especially Step Twelve, which calls us to carry the message to others.

Spreading the word of A.A. is not just an act of service—it is a responsibility. We were helped by people who came before us, and now it's our turn to be there for the next person walking through the door, broken and desperate. By sharing our experience, strength, and hope, we keep the program alive and ensure it's there for others, just as it was there for us.

The 12 steps gave us our lives back. We must never forget that—and we must never stop reaching out to those still struggling. That is how we stay sober, and how we give this gift away.

The 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous is a proven path to recovery for those suffering from alcoholism. It offers not only freedom from active addiction but a complete transformation of mind, body,

and spirit. For those of us who have found healing through the program, it is vital to remember where we came from, continue practicing the steps, and most importantly, share the message—not only with newcomers in the rooms of A.A. but with the wider public who may still be suffering in silence.

It's common for people in recovery to forget the program that saved them once their lives start improving. As the chaos fades and stability returns, so can complacency. But AA teaches us that sobriety is a daily reprieve, dependent on our spiritual condition. Continued step work, service, and connection with the fellowship are necessary to avoid slipping back into old patterns.

Equally important is carrying the message outward. There are countless individuals—friends, families, coworkers, and strangers—who may not know that a solution exists. Public outreach, done with respect for AA's principles and anonymity, helps break stigma and shines a light for those suffering in darkness. Letting the world know recovery is possible through AA may be the first step in someone else's journey to freedom.

We were saved by a message someone was willing to share. Now it is our turn to ensure that message reaches as far and wide as possible. In doing so, we keep ourselves—and others—sober. AA gave us our lives back. To stay sober, we must never forget that—and we must pass it on through service, sponsorship, and spreading the message wherever it's needed.

https://www.aacle.org/remembering-serving-and-sharing-what-saved-





#### MY CREATOR, I AM NOW WILLING THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ALL OF ME, GOOD AND BAD. I PRAY THAT YOU NOW REMOVE FROM ME EVE-RY SINGLE DEFECT OF CHARACTER WHICH STANDS IN THE WAY OF MY USEFULNESS TO YOU AND MY FELLOWS. GRANT ME STRENGTH, AS I GO OUT FROM HERE, TO DO YOUR BIDDING. AMEN

#### The Promises of AA

As laid out in Chapter 6 of the Big Book poses of recovery: of Alcoholics Anonymous, alcoholics who stay sober and work the Twelve Steps will • see these Promises come true:

Promise 1: We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.

Promise 2: We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.

Promise 3: We will comprehend the word serenity.

Promise 4: We will know peace.

Promise 5: No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

Promise 6: The feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.

Promise 7: We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.

Promise 8: Self-seeking will slip away.

Promise 9: Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change.

Promise 10: Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us.

Promise 11: We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle

Promise 12: We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

#### What do the Promises mean?

The Big Book's Promises mostly describe the change in attitude that will transpire within the alcoholic, "sometimes quickly, and sometimes slowly." They may take time, but they "will always materialize if we work for them." A person working a good program to recover from alcoholism will surely experience an internal shift that produces a new level of peace and wellbeing. Readers of the Big Book will notice the following words emphasized in these Promises, found in chapter 6, that represent the central benefits and primary pur-

- Freedom
- **Happiness**
- Peace
- Serenity
- Benefit to others

Simultaneously, the Big Book promises the departure of these unwelcome byproducts of alcoholism:

- Fear
- Regret
- Feelings of uselessness
- Self-pity
- Selfishness and self-seeking

So the Promises are two-fold: the person who works a good program will gain a spiritual foundation and a whole new outlook on life, and the dread and negativity of alcoholism will be undone.

#### Why the AA Promises are important

There are four sources of guidance for the recovering alcoholic:

- 1. The recovering alcoholic attends AA meetings and is mentored by other members of the fellowship who have practiced the Twelve Steps and applied the AA principles to their own lives.
- 2. The recovering alcoholic is also guided by the program, the Big Book, the Twelve Steps and their instructions.
- 3. The recovering alcoholic establishes a relationship to a Higher Power, whatever its form, and trusts in the guidance of spirit.

4. The final source of wisdom comes from within: the recovering alcoholic must create a hopeful vision of the future, and find the determination to make it true.

The fourth source of guidance, the self, is why the Promises of the Big Book are so important. They precisely describe for the alcoholic the brilliant future that lies ahead for anyone who commits to recovery, and they assure the alcoholic of its outcome.

#### A final note on the AA Promises

The Big Book promises the newcomer a new manner of living and a happier relationship to life. This is, of course, dependent on working the Twelve Steps, which may at first feel intimidating, foreign or uncomfortable. But the only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking. If someone simply shows up, stays sober and tries their best, they are well on their way to fulfilling those Promis-



#### It Happened in July

July 1-3: 1960 - 8700 attend 25th Anniversary of AA in Long Beach, CA

July 2: 1965 – Best of Bill and Pocket-Sized 12 and 12 1st sold. 1965 – 1st La Vigne, Canadian

Grapevine Published. 1993 – 50 years of AA celebrated in Can- former Soviet Unions members attended for the first time ada. 2000 – 20 Millionth Big Book given to Al-Anon in Minneapolis

**July 2-3:** 1955 – Bill W turns "the fellowship over to the fellowship" at 4:00 PM,5000 attend 20th Anniversary at our St Louis Convention

**July 2-4:** 1965 – 10,000 attend 30th Anniversary of AA in Toronto. There we came to own our Responsibility Declaration

**July 4:** 1939 – 1st AA meeting started in Flatbush, NY

**July 3-5:** 1970 – 10,900 attend 35th Anniversary of AA in Miami. Bill W gave his last talk to AA

**July 3-6:** 1980 – 22,500 attend 45th Anniversary of AA in New Orleans First true marathon meeting was held here

**July 4:** 1999 – He who has a fifth on the fourth may not come forth on the fifth...

July 4-6: 1975 – 19,800 attend 40th Anniversary of AA in Denver Worlds largest coffee server serves 1/2 million cups a day July 5: 1985 – AA gives Ruth Hock 5,000,000th Big Book during 50th AA Anniversary in Montreal, Canada. 1990 – AA gives Nell Wing 10,000,000th Big Book during 55th AA Anniversary in Seattle, WA

**July 3-6:** 1980 – Gay AA's have own program at 40th AA Anniversary in New Orleans

**July 5-7:** 1985 – 45,000 attend 50th Anniversary of AA in Montreal. House of Seagrams flew their flags at half mast for 3 days

July 7: 1940 – Bill attends 1st Summer Session at School of Alcohol Studies at Yale University

**July 5-8:** 1990 – 48,000 attend 55th Anniversary of AA in Seattle. 75 countries were represented as the

**July 8:** 1940 – 1st AA Group formed in Dayton, Ohio

**July 10:** 1941 – Texas newspaper publishes anonymous letter from founding member of Texas AA Group

**July 14:** 1939 – Blythewood Sanitarium Dr Harry Tiebout gives Big Book to Marty M. who promptly throws it back at him

**July 14:** 1979 – Dr. Ernest Kurtz publishes NOT-GOD, History of AA

July 16: 1965 – Frank Amos AA Trustee dies

**July 20:** 1941 – First AA group formed in Seattle, Washington July 22: 1877 – Willian Duncan Silkworth born in Brooklyn, NY. 1980 – Marty M. early AA woman and founder of NCADD dies

July 23: 1940 – Philly AA's send 10% of kitty to Alcoholic Foundation, sets precedent. 1943 – New Haven Register CT reports arrival of AA's to study with E. M. Jellinek. 1943 Esther C., passed Jan 15, 2005, sober since July 23, 1943.

July 24: 1943 – L.A. press reports formation of all-Mexican AA Group

**July 28-30:** 1950 – 1st AA Convention celebrates 15th anniversary of AA in Cleveland

**July 31:** 1972 – Rollie H dies sober in Washington DC – July 31, 1972

https://toledoaameetings.com/important-dates-in-alcoholics-anonymous/

#### **Step Seven Is a Conclusion**

There was true humility and deep surrender by asking God to take all of me—both the "good" and the "bad." This was an

admission that I could not trust myself to differentiate between the two.

I almost drank after five months of sobriety before going into the 12step process with my sponsor. He to be trusted! I needed a higher myself. What an ego-shattering

wisely pointed out the obvious fact that my mind lied to me. It was not power (God) to see the truth about

revelation! Yet, it was necessary to give up on myself and trust God to take over my recovery.

It is said that, "Self cannot rid self of self with self."

In Step Three, I had asked God to remove the "bondage of self"

with only a scant idea of what that was. But Steps Four and Five provided a better view of my defects of character and shortcomings. (Bill W. stated these words were to be used simultaneously or in the same context—please note Step Seven on page 59 in the Big Book uses the word "shortcomings" rather than "defects

> of character," as in the prayer above).

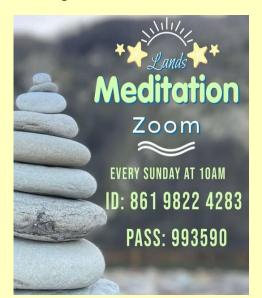
It is important to notice that the Seventh Step prayer ends with the word "Amen." Meaning so be it, this indicates a conclusion. However, there is no "Amen" following the Third Step Prayer, or those in Steps Four, Five and Six! Why?

I think it's because Step Seven concludes a process: In Step

Three we ask to be relieved of the bondage of self, but we don't know what that is until we do Steps Four and Five. By Step seven we know more precisely what we are asking God to remove from us as we go out to do His bidding. The process has been concluded; however, more will be revealed. https://www.aacle.org/step

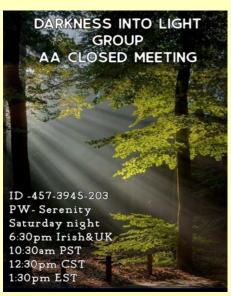
seven-is-a-conclusion

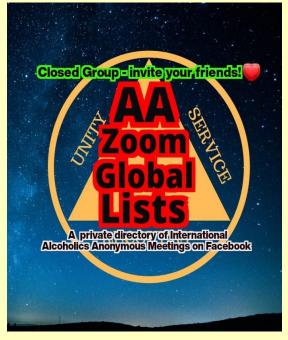
#### https://www.facebook.com/groups/aazoomgloballists/

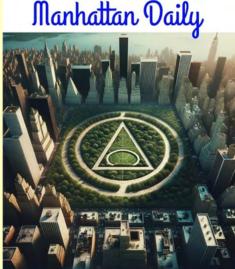










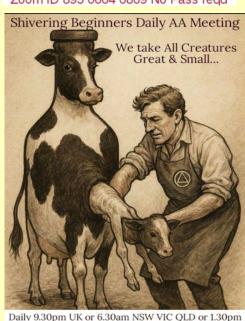


Every Day at 9.15pm EST \* Central 8.15pm \* Pacific 6.15pm \* NSW VIC QLD 11.15am \* NZ 1.15pm

Zoom ID 895 0664 0809 No Pass regd







Pacific 3.30pm Central 4.30pm Eastern

Zoom ID 872 3295 0952 Passcode 151

## JULY 2025

SUN	Mon	TUE		WED		THU		FRI	SAT
Con	grats!	1	2		3		4	5	
6	7 Susan B., 8 yrs, More Will Be Revealed	8 Travis S., 11 yrs, Hollywood	9		10	John D., 11 yrs, Almost Normal	11	1	2
Brandi T., 11 yrs, ODAAT	14	15	16	Billy B., 11 yrs, There Is A Solution Lawrence W., 2 yrs, Blue Top @ Noon	17	Keith H., 36 yrs, Almost Normal	18	Mary F., 26 yrs and Joe H. 24 yrs, Leonardtown Laura B., 40 yrs and Lisa T., 2 yrs, Awakenings	9
20	21	22	23			Brian B., 9 yrs, Poplar Hill	25	Riley F., 2 2 yrs, Cove Point	6 Brad H., 19 yrs, We Wuz Wurz
									Linda B., 50 yrs Waldorf
27 Sherrie T., 11 yrs, Nev- er Too Late	28	29	30	Cindy C., 16 yrs, Awak- enings	31				

## AUGUST 2025

Sun	Moi	N Tu	E WE	D THU	FRI	SAT
CO	NG.			NS I		2
3 Kevin M., 30 yrs, Keeping It Green	4	5	6	<sup>7</sup> Aaron S yrs, Gra Alive (Hunting	teful	9
10 Beth H., 22 yrs, Living Sober	11	12	13	14	15	16
Willie S., 40 yrs, Bobby U., 34 yrs, and Bill B., 15 yrs, Solomon's						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Suzie L., 4 yrs, Ray C., 4 yrs, and James C., 5 yrs, Never Too Late						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Brian yr, Po Hill		Clair T., 52 yrs, Kinsgston Creek

31



#### Spotlight on Service: Help Carry the Message — **Chair the Gratitude Dinner!**

In Alcoholics Anonymous, we learn that one of the best ways to stay sober is by helping others. Whether it's pouring coffee at a meeting, chairing a home group, or simply picking up the phone when another alcoholic calls, these acts of service connect us to something bigger than ourselves — and help keep us sober one day at a time.

One of the most joyful and impactful service opportunities in our Tri-County area is coordinating SMIA's Annual Gratitude Dinner — a treasured celebration of recovery, fellowship, and giving back. SMIA is currently looking for a dedicated member to chair this year's event, and we hope you'll consider stepping up.

If you've ever attended a Gratitude Dinner (or its springtime cousin, the Serenity Breakfast), you know how special it is. Great food, compelling speakers, raffles, door prizes, and — most importantly — a room full of gratitude, laughter, and hope.

These events don't organize themselves. Behind every successful Gratitude Dinner or Serenity Breakfast is a committed chairperson who rallies the troops, tracks the details, and ensures it all comes together.

If that sounds overwhelming, don't worry — you won't do it alone. Here is a general guide that tells what's involved to help you make an informed decision.

#### What Does the Chairperson Do?

The chair's role is to oversee the big picture — ensuring the major moving parts are covered, recruiting volunteers, and keeping things on track. Here are the core tasks:

- **Secure a venue** (centrally located, capacity for 160–200)
- **Recruit cooks and kitchen staff** (3–4 cooks, 4–6 kitchen helpers, 2–3 dishwashers)
- Organize committees for things like:
- Ticket sales/Promotion
- Menu Planning/Supply Purchasing
- Table setup/Decorations
- Beverage Station (coffee, tea, sodas)
- Speaker/Entertainment/Program
- Cleanup/Restroom Maintenance
- o Door prizes/Silent Auction
- 50/50 Raffle

Oversee the event schedule — from doors opening at 5:30 PM to the sobriety countdown and speaker, all the way through door prizes and clean-up

You'll work with the Intergroup and fellow trusted servants who've been through it before and can help guide you.

#### What's in it for You?

Besides helping carry the message and raising funds to help carry the message in the Tri-County area, coordinating this event is a powerful form of 12th Step work. It's an opportunity to connect, give back, and stretch your service muscles.

The Gratitude Dinner isn't just a meal. It's a celebration of recovery. It's a chance to show the newcomer what sober fun looks like. It's a night to remember why we're grateful — and to give thanks to the Fellowship that saved our lives.

If you feel a nudge in your heart right now — follow it. If you're not ready to chair but still want to be involved, there are plenty of ways to help. We're also looking for trusted servants to lead or join committees. Many hands make light work. If you're willing to serve in any capacity, please reach out.

To learn more, volunteer, or throw your hat in the ring, contact SMIA Vice-Chair Lorraine J at 410-474-1058 or via email at smia.vicechair@somdaa.org. Say yes to service. Say yes to staying sober. Say yes to the Gratitude Dinner.



#### 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 PO Box 15031 Chesapeake, VA 23328

#### CONFERENCE CONTACTS

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

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

#### (757) 515-3684

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> 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







PUBLIC INFORMATION AND COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY COMBINED 2025 COMMITTEE

#### Table Exhibitions

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

Audio, PSAs, Internet

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

#### a Resource for Professionals

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



of the month

862 7457 8272 Pw: 199887

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



WWW.MARYLANDAA.ORG A29CPCPI@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!

http://mdacAA.org 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

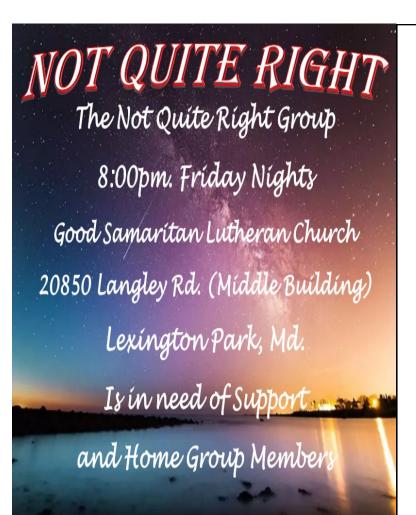
First Monday of Every Month 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

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!



#### A-29 Accessibilities E-Blast

August 2024 MGS Inc. Area 29

#### c. 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 QR 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</u> 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?

- 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)

#### **HELP WANTED**

12 STEPPERS

**Duties:** Carry the AA Message

**Location:** St. Mary's County Detention

Center

Qualifications: 1 Year Sobriety

Benefits: Spiritual Fitness & Slip Insurance

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

# 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 GROUP!

COME OUT AND CHECK US OUT AT OUR IMPROVED NEW LOCATION THE CALLAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH 20960 POINT LOOKOUT RD. THURSDAY EVENING 8:00PM.

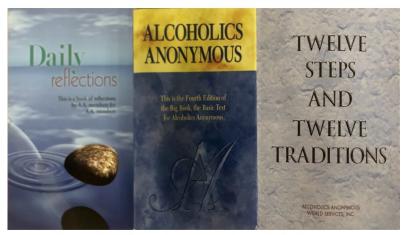


WE NOW HAVE AIR CONDITIONING.!!!



## BLUE TOP @ N

Lexinaton 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





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!

## The living Sober Group Come one come all

To the living Sober Group's

**New location** 

**The Callaway Baptist Church** 

20960 Point Lookout Rd.

**Callaway Md** 

Sunday 4:00pm.

#### SOUTHERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION **MEETING MINUTES 6/14/25**

with The Serenity Prayer.

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

**New Members:** Keith, Waldorf Group (remotely).

**Groups & Committees Represented:** Bill L., Harmony Group/Web; Buddy F., Basic Text/Book Stall; Jamie R., North Beach; Francis, KISS; Faye S., We Are Not Saints; Phil T., NTL; Roy B., Solomons/D36 Corrections; Nathan H., Waldorf; Alan C., Prince Frederick Big Book; Emme J., ODAAT; Pat S., Charlotte Hall; Paula S., Bedouin; and Keith H., Almost Normal/Lifeline.

SMIA Chair Report: Todd M. reported he attended the Area 29 Delegate "Report Back" of the 75th General Service Conference by Terry P. The theme was "Working together increasing trust." The Area committees met the prior Monday and Tuesday. There were 145 proposed agenda items with 132 considered. He found the composition of the delegates interesting: average age – 58; oldest – 79; youngest – 29; longest length of sobriety - 47 years; shortest length of sobriety - 7 years; longest service - 47 years; and shortest service 5 years. GSO Financial Results: contributions - \$11.25M (up 3.8% from 2023); operating expenses - \$18.68M (up 6.9%); self-support covered 60% of costs (\$6.48 per individual served). AAWS Publishing: literature sales -\$14.44M (under budget by \$2.37M); gross profit - \$7.64M (52.9% margin). Prudent Reserve: ending balance -\$11.991M (6.56 months of expenses). Budget Projections: GSO revenue -\$20.52M (up from \$19.72M); expected contributions - \$11M (down from \$11.25M); projected operating expenses - \$19.50M. Report of the General Service Board: key achievements publication of Plain Language Big Book, with 16,000 copies sold in the first hour: Grapevine celebrated 80 years of member stories and connection. They discussed strategic planning, forming an ad hoc committee to strengthen communication and leadership; and conducting a 3-day retreat to build trust and leadership skills. There are communica-

**Opening:** Todd M. opened the meeting tion improvements – a workshop was held to review communication volume and impact; and a cross-functional group was created to improve stakeholder dialogue. There was more covered and those details are available. Vice Chair Report. Lorraine J. reported she attended Founders Day for the first time and recommends everyone make a point of attending it. Nothing else to report.

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

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. reported that it is the beginning of the fiscal year so cash contributions and expenditures are low. The printer discussed at the May meeting has been purchased and reimbursed. Because it is the beginning of the fiscal year there is only 90 days of operating revenue available. Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor.

Committee Reports: Bookstall Re**port:** Buddy F. reported there were 11 purchases during the month, 3 covered by SMIA expense accounts. District 36 purchased \$100 and District 1 purchased \$117. A total of \$532 was collected.

Gratitude Dinner: This committee needs a chairperson, location for the event and an event planner.

**Institutions:** Calvert – All good. Charles – Everything is running normally. If anyone wants to take meetings in to RCA, please let Todd M. know. St. Mary's – Detention center meetings are ongoing with good participation. One new volunteer and 3 new applicants. Still seeking volunteers as the detention population is generally incarcerated more than 28 days and could use new shares. Volunteers are needed to speak at these meetings.

**Lifeline/Archives:** Keith H. reported everything is good.

SMIA Picnic: Buddy F. reported that the picnic is 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 or dessert to share. There will be a musician there who does recovery parodies of current songs.

**Public Information:** Calvert – Things are on fire. Project Echo will take a literature rack which Lorraine J. is trying to procure. Charles – District representative has been involved in providing cards with a QR code that, when scanned, will make literature normally on racks available for viewing on a smart phone. It is unknown if the literature needs to be purchased or is able to just be viewed. St. Mary's – Nothing to report.

**Serenity Breakfast:** Pat S. reported that she had a team of new volunteers helping and that the event was fun but challenging. It ended up financially in the hole somewhat but the deficiency caused by the silent auction was absorbed personally by Pat. It was reported there was a shortage of eggs and the waffles weren't as successful as they could have been due to the power source. It was remarked that the speaker was awesome. Pat S. has a turnover file for next year's chair.

**Telephone:** Melissa W. reported that there were 33 total calls that lasted one hour and 55 minutes. They originated from Calvert (6), Charles (9), and St. Mary's (2), No Choice (14). The outgoing message needs to indicate that the caller select which 5 county they want to speak with/attend a meeting in. However, there are numerous calls from out of the area.

Website: Bill L. reported the following activity from 5/10/25 through 6/14/25: Total Visitors (initial visit) 3,002– up 8% 5 Most Frequently visited pages Home Page – 3,535 Where and When Calendar- 463 Where and When Search -347 Announcements – 267 On-Line Meetings - 266 o Site Updates and Changes There were no significant site updates or changes. Meeting Change Information The Living Sober Group and What's The Point Group in St. Mary's County moved to Callaway Baptist Church. (continued on page 15)

The Not Quite Right Group in St. Mary's County moved to the main building at Good Samaritan Lutheran Church. The Bedouin Step Meeting and Bedouin Big Book Meeting in Calvert County temporarily moved to the Harriet E. Brown Community Center. The Bedouin Group Daily Reflections meeting moved to the Dowel House. Presumably, they'll move back to the Phillips House in approximately 2 months, when the HVAC work is completed. Meeting Status Currently there are 134 meetings in our service area; 125 meetings are in person, 6 meetings are hybrid, 8 meetings are on-line only. Document Posts and Updates Where and When PDF updated - 06/11/25. The online Where & When will not be updated to reflect the Bedouin Group's change in circumstance. Lifeline posted - 06/02/25 Finance Page updated - 05/30/25 SMIA Minutes posted - 05/24/25 2025/2026 Budget and 2025 Budget Analysis post-

ed - 05/12/2025 Phishing attempts-You may receive e-mails that appear to come from IONOS, our domain host. These are phishing attempts. Do not open them, do not forward them, do not click on any content in them. Delete them. Typically, a genuine request from IONOS will only be sent to me.

Where & When: No report.

Workshops: Buddy F. reported that he would like to organize a workshop tentatively titled "Big Book Study" in late September or early October that will go for 6 6 to 8 hours. He has 2 speakers from Philadelphia lined up. Motion to set up a Fall workshop for Big Book Study. Seconded. All in favor. Todd M. reported that District 35 is holding a workshop on October 4, 2025, "The Heartbeat of AA: The Home Group." It was noted the Big Book Study should not conflict with this.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.** 

**NEW BUSINESS:** Bruce O. asked for the financials from the Serenity Break-

**Gratitude Dinner:** There are questions as to what exactly the chair is responsible for – budget, food, etc. Lorraine J. will submit a job description for posting in the July Lifeline. A discussion followed regarding turnover files for events and keeping a list of chairs.

For the Good of the Order: Linda B. is celebrating 50 years on July 26th at Waldorf. Also, District 1 is hosting its summer picnic on July 26 at an address to be provided. Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

SESSIONS BY THE SEA REGISTRATION HOTEL INFORMATION



#### **AREA 29 MARYLAND**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION & COOPERATING WITH PROFESSIONALS** 

Joint PI/CPC meets monthly 3rd Sunday

> Aug 17th @ 3pm EST

Alex W.

**CPC Updates from** 

Delegate - Area 09 the 75th General pw 199887 Service Conference

July 20th @ 3pm EST we welcome

Sarah C. & Bob T Area 43

**Presentation to Professionals** 

> ID 862 7457 8272

A29cpcpi@gmail.com

**OCEAN CITY MARYLAND SEPTEMBER 2-7, 2025 REGISTRATION WILL OPEN MAY 9TH!** 

District 36 Grapevine Committee Workshop

Learn How To Tell «Your «Story In Writing ! [or any sobriety topic]

**Patuxent Presbyterian Church** (downstairs)

23421 Kingston Creek Rd. California, MD 20619

POC: Rick K. GRAPEVINE materials available for purchase during event





#### July 2025

#### Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc **Treasury Report**

		Mont	thly Contributions:					
			\$783.00					
		,	ntergroup.org/contribute					
	er		57, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622					
	Siv	IIA, PU BOX 70	7, Charlotte Hall, MD 20022					
Southern Maryland Intergroup a			Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity					
May 25, 2025 - June 24,		·	April 25, 2025 - April 2					
						В	UDGET	
Assets			Year to Date Income			Si	hortfall	
Primary Business Checking	\$	2,618.05	Contributions	\$1,3	321.52		85%	
Primary Business Savings	\$		Bookstall Sales	\$ 3	312.00		91%	
Prudent Reserve	\$	4,453.00	Gratitude Dinner	\$			100%	
PayPal	\$	2,065.82	Serenity Breakfast	\$			100%	
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$	100.00	Total 2025 Income	1,6	533.52		89%	
Total Assets		9,236.87						
						В	UDGET	
This Month's Expenses		I	Year to Date Expenses			Let	ft to Use	
Bookstall Purchases	\$		Bookstall Purchases	\$ (1	154.53)		96%	
Liability Insurance			Liability Insurance	\$			100%	
Lifeline Printing	\$ \$	(115.02)	Lifeline Printing		230.04)		76%	
Misc	\$	(52.37)	Misc	\$ (1	104.74)		0%	
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$	(56.41)	Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (1	112.82)		65%	
Post Office Box	\$	(120.00)	Post Office Box	\$ (1	120.00)		0%	
Rent	\$	(150.00)	Rent	\$ (3	300.00)		83%	
Webmaster	\$		Webmaster	\$			1009	
Website	\$	(58.53)	Website	\$ (1	113.88)		879	
Where & When	\$		Where & When	\$			100%	
Picnic	\$		Picnic	\$ (2	220.00)		78%	
Travel	\$	-	Travel	\$			100%	
Workshops	\$	-	Workshops	\$			100%	
SMIA Archives	\$		SMIA Archives	\$			1009	
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$	(120.00)	Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (1	120.00)		33%	
Bank Charges and Fees	\$	(16.00)	Bank Charges and Fees	\$	(16.00)		849	
Other - Tax Filings	\$		Other - Tax Filings	\$			09	
Total Expenses	\$	(688.33)	Total 2025 Expenses	\$ (1,4	192.01)		929	
	Total		ovings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining 24-2025 planned expenses, we currently have a	\$(10,1	3.16 10 159.46)	Мо	onths onths ortfall	
				COT		Di f	cae	
Secretary Committee Budgets				C&T	75.00		CPC	
Remaining Service Committee Budgets			Calvert		375.00	\$	183.00	
Budget Year 2024 (01May2025 - 30Apr20	(26)		Charles	\$ 3	375.00	s	250.00	

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR **CONTRIBUTIONS:**

As of 11MAR2025

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.

**ODATT CHARLOTTE HALL** MONDAY NITE LEX PK STEPSISTERS

St.Mary's

WE ARE NOT SAINTS **POPLAR HILL WALDORF** 

275.00

250.00

#### 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

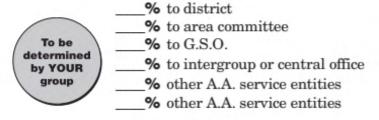
District 36 (St. Mary's) P.O. Box 1334 California, MD 20619

#### **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.)



#### OR 10% to district

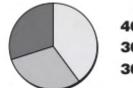
10% to area committee

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: Todd M. 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

HALE

**MEASURES** 

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, August 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