



The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

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 | \ 'lɪf- lɪn : 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>

What Does Trudging the Road to Happy Destiny Really Mean?

In the chapter, A Vision for You, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous talks about trudging the road to happy destiny. There have been countless meetings about what that means. So, let's look at the text and break it down. The quote from A Vision for You reads as follows:

“Admit your faults to Him and your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the fellowship of the spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.”

The word trudge means to walk with heavy steps, sometimes with physical diffi-

culty or exhaustion. When we are new to recovery, every step forward takes effort. At times, the act of not drinking or using feels like walking through quicksand. The initial trudge is felt physically, emotionally, and spiritually because getting clean and sober after destroying our lives is hard. Fruitful, yes. Easy, no. Trudging the road to happy destiny also means to walk with purpose. And every sober day- whether we have a day sober or thousands of days – is an intentional walk towards a better and more



fulfilling life. We are walking towards a happy destiny and that journey is worth the discomfort it takes to get there.

Think of a marathon runner or your favorite athlete. They train hard to become champions. They practice discipline, work on having a positive mindset, and work their muscles and bodies to the point of pain at times. Why? Because they are trudging towards a happy destiny which for them means finishing a marathon at the fastest speed they can achieve. Trudging in sobriety is no different. We work just as hard, but our happy destiny leads to wellness, freedom, and joy.

(continued on page 2)

I am on a train. On two outstretched arms I carry a heavy suitcase filled with the stuff of my life -- my attachments and desires, my worries and fears, and my beliefs and attitudes. Since the train and I and my suitcase will arrive at the destination all at the same time, why don't I put it down? Because I can't. I have been carrying this stuff for so long it feels like a part of me.

My arms burn and my legs are wobbly but I can't put the suitcase down. I wouldn't know how to be without it. As the pain of carrying the suitcase ratchets up, I distract myself by looking out the window and dreaming.

I'm awakened from my dream by the pain. I just can't bear to carry the suitcase for one more second. With no other option, I ask for help. The porter comes, but, instead of taking the suitcase from my arms, he opens it and together we look inside. I notice a few old, musty things I had forgotten about. They are

The Train Trip



no longer useful and I wonder why I had been carrying them around for so long. I ask the porter to please remove them for me. He does so gladly.

Now the suitcase is lighter and much easier to carry. I tell the porter I won't be needing his help anymore and continue on my journey. But I was wrong. The suitcase becomes so heavy again that I have to call the porter for help

once more. We look again and I see many more useless things I've been carrying around. The porter quickly removes them. Again I feel comfortable and believe I can manage on my own. Again I dismiss the porter but by now I have become sensitive to the weight of carrying around useless baggage. I call him back again and again until my suitcase is empty.

As the train nears its destination, I ask him to take the empty suitcase from my arms. I know he will when the time is right.

<https://aaspirit.blogspot.com/2010/09/train-trip.html>

(con't) No matter where you are in your recovery journey, remember that even when the walk forward feels difficult, we are walking with intention, determination, and purpose. Hard work always pays off. Every day sober is a success and staying sober gets easier with time. Life will happen and as we trudge the road of happy destiny, we can face its challenges – not with substances that sabotage us – but with the toolbox that a twelve-step program offers.

Walking with the purpose to stay sober under all conditions leads to long-lasting sobriety. In early sobriety, we all marvel at our fellows who have five, ten, fifteen, or more years sober. It's hard to imagine ourselves with so much time. But it's important to remember the question we ask old-timers when they pick up a twenty-

year chip. "How'd you do it?" we ask. The answer is always the same – one day at a time. Simple question, simple answer straight from A Vision for You. They trudged until the days spun into years and the years turned into decades – proving to us all that we can do the same.

It's important to talk about what our happy destiny is, though. Sometimes that happy destiny is knowing we are healthier in body, mind, and spirit. It can mean no longer worrying about being arrested and becoming upstanding members of our community. And it always means that we walk this walk **together**. Within the groups of AA, we never have to face any of our problems alone again.

That said, we will all face life's challenges in sobriety. We will have financial difficulties, family problems, illness, or other

stressors – because that's life. But, as we go through our challenges, we must keep trudging. And the happy destiny becomes getting to the other side of a problem with our sobriety intact. Inevitably, the season of life changes, we come out the other side to find a version of happiness that includes joy, fulfillment, peace, and love.

Trudging the road to happy destiny is the circle of life. The definition of happiness ebbs and flows like the ocean tide rolling in and out. It's something we who are sober GET to do. And, doing so makes our lives richer, adds to the experience we can use to help others, and builds our confidence that we can and do live life on life's terms successfully and happily.

<https://my-breakthrough.com/blog/what-does-trudging-the-road-to-happy-destiny-really-mean/>



Serious poker players know something every recovering alcoholic should know. They realize that in 1,000 poker games, all players will be dealt roughly the same kinds of hands—some awful, some sure winners, but most somewhere in between. The quality of the hands dealt you, then, does not determine your winnings. It is how all the hands—terrible, terrific, and average—are played that makes you successful or unsuccessful.

I have found the same is true for me, a recovering alcoholic. Fate deals AA members roughly the same hands—a few tragedies, some remarkable triumphs, but usually just life somewhere between these extremes. Cursing the hand dealt me is as futile and unproductive as cursing a poker hand. We can do nothing

about either, and the sooner we accept the cards dealt, the sooner we can examine the hand and work our skills at making it win for us. Like successful poker players, it is not what we are dealt which determines the quality of our recovery. It is the way we “play our hands.”

I used to play poker because I enjoyed the sheer act of playing that game. But just playing never totally satisfied me. I wanted to win. I couldn't bend or break the rules to win because my poker partners would bar me from the game. Some might have even shot me. I would have to win the game within the framework of the rules.

As a recovering alcoholic I see my recovery in similar terms. I stay sober because I enjoy my life sober much more than I enjoyed getting drunk, but that alone cannot satisfy me. I want to win—to grow in joy, serenity, and personal freedom. Like poker, that requires following a few rules: attend AA meetings, participate in them, develop relationships with fellow alcoholics, read AA literature, and, most important, work the Steps of the program. Not following these rules may find me sober, but far from the quality of sobriety I seek. More likely, though, not following these rules will find me out of the game, drunk.

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/magazine/1988/may/five-card-draw>

John's Recovery: Step Five

I now had at my fingertips a vivid outline of my alcohol saturated life. It was not pretty. I now view Step 5 as the strongest indicator of how serious I was about getting sober. Some might view this step as a confession, maybe even a plea for salvation. Not me. Along with the first four steps, it completed the foundation upon which to build a durable recovery.

The word foundation gets a lot of metaphorical use and almost always the metaphor implies strength and long term viability. I was confident that was the type of foundation we had built. Yet to be determined was what form of recovery would rise from this base. I fully intended to win the competition with myself which I alluded to in last month's posting on Step 4, and I had a clear vision of what that victory would provide: without equivocation, I would come to the realization that alcohol induced powerlessness and unmanageability would be totally removed from my life. Admission would lead to elimination.

We were trending in a positive direction and moving towards what I can now describe as "self-leadership." Not a prideful leadership nor a leadership with the spotlight on self. A key variable in being an effective leader is to have enough humility to admit you don't know everything – admitting that you need help to get the job done – the polar opposite of the arrogant alcoholic I was trying to defeat.

A sense of faith based on fact was developing. The process was working. The printed word (all AA suggestions aren't loaded up with God), human based sup-

port, and a patient one-day-at-a-time attitude all strengthened my resolve. In the wake of four years of relapse fueled hopelessness, confidence was slowly building.

Thus far honesty had been the order of the day and I thought of it this way. If at this stage of my recovery I cannot share Step 5 honestly, I either have to go back to Step 1 and start over or find some way other than AA to find sobriety. I sure as hell had my fill of start-overs and any alternative to AA was nowhere in sight. Honesty was my best option. Transferring my inventory from thought to paper had required a measurable dose of humility; to share these personal flaws and the related negligences with another person will demand significantly more. I also need unre-served confidence in my sponsor. No problem there, he had earned it.

A fortunate few non-God thinkers like myself figure out a way to function within AA without ceding control over our lives to an unseen, unknown, unmet deity. My personal understanding of a power greater than self was working effectively and my sponsor was waiting patiently for me to set a date to share the content of my Step 4. Since one of the admissions in Step 5 is to God, let me explain how the term "higher power" and the phrase, "God as we understood him", ended up in the 12 steps.

I know this is old stuff to AA history gurus, but it's quite possible that all the 2,050 (as of Sep. 14, 2019) subscribers on AA Agnostics are not as informed about the history of AA as you are. Most people know that Bill Wilson wrote the Big Book. Less known is that Bill regularly solicited feedback from the early AA's in New York and from Dr. Bob and the early AA's in Akron and Cleveland, a collection of derelicts usually referred to as the origi-

nal 100, although that number has been subjected to question. Regardless of the number, try to imagine a roomful of recently dried out alcoholics trying to act as proofreaders, editors, and literary critics. That may have been where the rule against cross talk originated. Some of the feedback was intense, some of it in support of reliance on a deity some of it opposed.

In the book, *Language of the Heart*, Bill shares a heated response because, "In one of the steps I had even suggested that the newcomer get down on his knees." (p. 201) The howling began immediately... "when this document was shown to our New York meeting, the protests were many and loud." (p. 201) Similar protests are noted in *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age: A Brief History of AA*, where Wilson was told, "You've got too much God in these steps, you will scare people away" and then a comment still heard today, "Who wants all their shortcomings removed anyhow." (*AA Comes of Age*, p. 162) Clearly Bill was told by some of the early AA's that AA had no business advocating for theistic principles.

Further frustrating his quest for consensus was a group that was unabashedly Christian who thought the Big Book should be clearly based on Christian dogma, and urge the use of biblical scripture to remove any doubt. (*AA Comes of Age*, p.162) Ultimately Bill was given the power of final judgment on content and that's how we ended up with what I call the "Agnostic Loophole". The agnostic contingent... "finally convinced us that we must make it easier for people like themselves by using such terms as 'a higher power' or God as we understand him." Those expressions as we know so

(continued on page 4)

(con't) well today, have proved lifesavers for many an alcoholic.” (*Language of the Heart*, (p. 201)

My reasoned approach to the first part of Step 5 was simple. If there is a supra-human entity known as God that is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, he, she, or it already knows what I have committed to paper and I have no control over what this theistic authority may conclude. To the best of my understanding any verdict from on high is still pending. What is not pending is my development of a faith based on fact. My involvement with these sober alcoholics in AA has provided impetus to a transformational process that has changed how I think and how I act. I now had a sense of necessity for conforming to some of the fundamental suggestions of AA: those that recommend the use of personal will and those that emphasize the need for personal improvement.

I never questioned the value of doing Step 5, but my sense of necessity didn't coincide with Wilson's. Even though I'll be sharing my inventory which had been compiled by me, I'm designated as the least important participant. Wilson makes that clear when early in the chapter, "Into Action", he says... "we usually find a solitary self-appraisal is insufficient." (Big Book, p. 72) He supports this position in later years when he wrote this in the 12 and 12... "what comes to us alone may be garbled by our own rationalization and wishful thinking." (12 and 12, p. 60) I had

no problem accepting those observations; I had just done an honest inventory, and it was loaded with past prevarications, rationalizations, and denial.

I knew this was an honest effort. What I could not accept was what Wilson says is the intent of Step 5 and what the result of the step will be. The intent of the step ... "is to get a new relationship with our creator, and to discover the obstacles in our path." (Big Book, p. 72) Also unacceptable is his prediction of the end result. "We begin to feel the nearness of our creator." (Big Book, p.75) And, "We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe." (Big Book, p. 75) The inventory was the right thing to do – the AA way was to do it for the wrong reason designed to achieve the wrong outcome.

My sponsor, Louie C., was a mild mannered retiree who went to mass two or three times a week. As my sponsor he never brought up the topic of religion. He was a retired railroad engineer, the guy who drove the train. For decades he drank a quart of bourbon a day and never had a mishap. About a year after he got sober his train hit a pick-up truck and killed the driver. The guy had ignored the flashing lights and the striped gate. When the first sheriff's deputy arrived on the scene Louie asked for an immediate breathalyzer and arranged for a urine screen and a blood analysis. He knew his reputation as a drunk was still alive among the railroad community.

We both lived in rural Indiana and as I drove the 12 miles of county blacktop to his place; I was a bit apprehensive about how some of my "stuff" would be viewed by this gentle old man. My fourth step was comprised of standard alcoholic screw-ups, a mix of guilt by omission and some guilt by commission. No warrants out for my arrest; no concern about any statute of limitations. Going through the inventory line by line with Louie made it painfully clear that I had not been leading a rationally defensive lifestyle. Louie listened and Louie added value. Throughout the session he did an excellent job of asking questions which demanded more in depth clarification on my part, and he offered meaningful self-disclosure which helped move me forward on the issue of self-forgiveness. It took about two hours. We agreed we had done a good job of identifying "the nature" of several wrongs. Louie had already accepted my version of a higher power, so the first part of the step was considered done. He stated that he was satisfied that I had assumed ownership of my wrongs so part two was done. We both agreed that he was in fact a human being so part three was done.

I drove home quietly grateful that I was in the midst of people who understood the nature of my problem and the pain it created, people who knew there was a solution, knew I could find it, and who were willing to lend me the support needed to stay on course.

<https://aaagnostica.org/2019/11/27/johns-recovery-step-five/>

FIFTH STEP PROMISES *"We pocket our pride and go to it, illuminating every twist of character, every dark cranny of the past. Once we have taken this step, withholding nothing, we are delighted. We can look the world in the eye. We can be alone at perfect peace and ease. Our fears fall from us. We begin to feel the nearness of our Creator. We may have had certain spiritual beliefs, but now we begin to have a spiritual experience. The feeling that the drink problem has disappeared will often come strongly. We feel we are on the Broad Highway, walking hand in hand with the Spirit of the Universe."* Alcoholics Anonymous, pp 75

We are all in the same lifeboat rowing away from the shipwreck of our collective lives. Some of us are navigating, some are rowing, and some are just sitting. Some flounder in an angry sea struggling to hang on the sides of the boat and be pulled along. They can't quite make it inside the boat even though there is plenty of room. Many won't survive the trip, including some of the navigators. In the lifeboat we are all equal, even the hangers on. We play different roles, but one of us is not more or less important than the other.

Whatever natural sense of equality I was born with disappeared in my childhood. I grew up feeling I was either better off or worse off than everyone else on the planet. If I was better off than you, I pitied you. If I was worse off, I was jealous or resentful. My parents, teachers and society taught me a lot about achieving



<https://aaspirit.blogspot.com/2010/09/rowing.html>

but very little about connecting. You couldn't be my equal. I had to compete with you for the cheap silver-plated cup that shows which of us is the better person. I was determined to win at all costs. The inability to accept anyone else has my equal put me in a dark room all alone with a bottle of wine and a bag of dope watching re-runs of Gilligan's Island at eleven in the morning.

When I live purely on self will (ego power) it is impossible for me to be your equal. In AA I learned that the unifying principle of life--the glue that holds everything together--is found in realm of spirit. As I grow spiritually I see more of our similarities and less of our differences. My desire to compete with you falls away. I begin to feel compassion instead of pity, admiration and respect instead of jealousy. It's taken a long while, but on most days I'm usually happy just to row.

A.A. Grapevine, March 1945. Vol. 1 No. 10

Editorial: On the Fifth Step

Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

This is a tough step and takes courage to do. It is, however, a step that can be done if you make sufficient effort.

It is not new. The Catholic church uses it in their confessional and the psychiatrist uses it.

Drinking is caused by inner conflicts and the only way to get rid of these conflicts is to bring them out in the open and destroy them. Wrongs cause conflicts, hence the necessity of this step.

Take the first phrase, "Admitted to God." How do you do this? First learn humility so that you can ask help in a humble manner. If you have difficulty in admitting the actuality of a supreme power, work on the premise that there might be one. Once you get your mind in tune with the infinite it is not difficult to realize that you have no secrets from God.

"Admitted to ourselves." This can only be done when we are honest with ourselves. In this program it is folly to try to kid yourself. Be ruthless in your soul searching and come clean.

Great care should be taken in choosing "another human being." It must be someone you can trust. Your lawyer, your doctor, your priest or minister, another A.A., or a friend; someone who will act as a sounding board and keep your confidence.

Once you take this step you will be astounded at the relief you feel. The burden of despair will be lifted from your back and you will be free.

It is essential for every A.A. to realize the importance of taking this 5th step. By so doing, all enmities, resentments and wrong thinking may be cast out and we can continue to the next step with a clear conscience.

It is advisable to repeat this step from time to time because it is human to err and even A.A.s are human.

A.A. Old-timers...On the Fifth Step

A Spiritual Entity — Tradition Five

Five—*Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.*

There are four salient questions that arise out of this Tradition: What is a group? Why is Tradition V necessary? What is an alcoholic? Who still suffers?

What is a group?

As a spiritual entity, the group comprises of two or more alcoholics with a primary purpose (and some may add that all they need are a resentment and a coffee pot). The group has ONE primary purpose. Bill Wilson worded it like this:

‘An AA group, as such, cannot take on all the personal problems of its members, let alone the problems of the whole world. Sobriety—freedom from alcohol—through the teaching and practice of the Twelve Steps, is the sole purpose of an AA group.’ (Problems Other Than Alcohol, February 1958)

While teaching and practicing the Twelve Steps to achieve Sobriety is the primary purpose, AA and its members may still be impactful in other ways, for example, educating the local community about alcoholism, communicating with local health practitioners, and providing a community of mutual support for other alcoholics.

Why is Tradition V necessary?

Other purposes or my own personal agenda will water down the potency of the primary purpose. I find this shows up when I share facts, narratives, or other anecdotes about my life other than to illustrate the application of the program, or

if I share negative emotions to secure temporary relief. Furthermore, sharing about politics, social issues, therapy, religion, yoga, other people, other groups, etc. can negatively impact the efficacy of carrying the group’s message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

What, then, is an alcoholic?

The two conditions are outlined in the first paragraph of We Agnostics:

“In the preceding chapters you have learned something of alcoholism. We hope we have made clear the distinction between the alcoholic and the non-alcoholic. If, when you honestly want to, you find you cannot quit entirely, or if when drinking, you have little control over the amount you take, you are probably alcoholic. If that be the case, you may be suffering from an illness which only a spiritual experience will conquer” (Alcoholics Anonymous, 44).

This suggests that anyone who meets either of these conditions classifies as an alcoholic. The Third Tradition is also worded to encompass anyone who has a desire to stop drinking, though the core presumption is that an alcoholic is anyone who wants to stop drinking but can’t.

Who still suffers?

This can mean alcoholics who have yet to find AA, newcomers who have yet to recover, and longer-sober people who are suffering.

Applying Tradition V to sharing and in my life

If the primary purpose is to carry the message, I have to have the message to carry it, however, as an individual, I am

not responsible for carrying the group’s entire message. I share one part of it. Newcomers can share the message to the extent they have acquired it. Having them share has the added benefit of letting other, perhaps more experienced members know who is in the room, thus allowing them to adjust their shares accordingly. Furthermore, it encourages a sense of participation in the meeting, belonging, being on equal footing with more experienced members, and service. I share from my own personal experience and refrain from speculating on parts of the program I have yet to encounter.

In my personal life, my purpose is broader than the group’s purposes, but it encompasses my contribution to it. This requires me to stay close to my Higher Power and “perform his work well” (Alcoholics Anonymous, 63).

I have a two-fold mission first outlined in Step Twelve: Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, 1) we tried to carry this message to alcoholic [s], and 2) practice these principles in all our affairs. For this to take hold, other purposes including the seven areas of self (pride, self-esteem, etc.) and the seven traps of the ego (sex, money, power, comfort, etc.) must be renounced. Ultimately, I practice Tradition V by practicing Step Twelve as a home group member (service, consistent attendance, fellowship, contribution, decision-making), a sponsor, and by being of service within the service structure. In a nutshell, the primary purpose is about giving.

<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/general-post/a-spiritual-entity-tradition-five/>

It Happened in May



holics Anonymous.

1946 – Searcy W. had his last drink.

(Searcy died September 30, 2003.)

May 11: 1935 – From the Mayflower Hotel, Bill Wilson called Walter Tunks who referred him to Henrietta Seiberling who introduced Bill to Dr. Bob.

1939: First group to officially call itself Alcoholics Anonymous met at Abby G’s house in Cleveland.

May 12: 1935 – Mothers’ Day – Bill Wilson and Dr. Bob Smith met for the first time in Akron, Ohio, at the home of Henrietta Seiberling.

May 14: 1948 – Long Beach, California. Central Office was opened.

1998 – Sybil C., first woman to enter A.A. west of the Mississippi, died. Her sobriety date was March 23, 1941. Her name at the time was Sybil Maxwell, though she later opened her talks by saying, “My name is Sybil Doris Adams Stratton Hart Maxwell Willis C., and I’m an alcoholic.”

May 15: 1961 – Bill Wilson’s mother, Dr. Emily Strobell, died.

May 17: 1942 – The Journal-Herald in Dayton, Ohio, ran a story on A.A. with photos of members in Halloween masks to protect their anonymity.

1942: New Haven, Conn paper has article on AA. Picture shows faces of members sitting in a circle.

May 18: 1950 – Dr. Bob told Bill “I reckon we ought to be buried like other folks” after hearing that local A.A.’s wanted a huge memorial.

May 19: 2000 – Dr. Paul Ohliger died at the age of 83. His story, “Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict,” was retitled “Acceptance Was

the Answer,” in the 4th edition.

May 28: 1974 – The first World Service meeting of AA outside of America was held in London.

May 29: 1980 – “Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers,” AAWS biography of AA co-founder and a history of early Mid-west AA, was published.

May 31: 1938 – Bill and other AA’s began writing the Big Book.

Other May events for which we have no specific Dates:

1919: Bill returns home from service.

1935: Bill works with alcoholics, but none stay sober yet. Lois reminds him that HE is still sober.

1938: Bill begins writing the book Alcoholics Anonymous.

1939 – Clarence Snyder told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to the Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an “A.A.” meeting in Cleveland.

1939: Lois W Home Replacement Fund started at Alcoholic Foundation

1942 – Richmond Walker, author of “Twenty-Four Hours a Day,” had his last drink.

1946 – Long Form of Twelve Traditions was published in the AA Grapevine.

1946 – The AA Grapevine announced: “AA has 6,000 members in 180 groups.”

1947 – Avalon, California (Catalina Island Group) was formed.

1948 – The AA Grapevine reported \$2.00 was sent to the General Service headquarters of AA in New York, asking for a bottle of Alcoholics Anonymous.

1949: The first AA meetings in Scotland were held in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

1950: Nell Wing became Bill W’s secretary.

1951 – Al-Anon was founded by Lois Wilson and Anne B.

May 1: 1939 – Lois and Bill Wilson left their home at 182 Clinton St., Brooklyn.

1940: Rollie H, Cleveland

Indians, first anonymity break on national level.

1941 – First Wisconsin AA meeting was held in a Milwaukee hotel.

May 2: 1941 – First meeting was held in San Bernardino, California.

1941: The first AA group in New Orleans, Louisiana, was formed. (sometimes dated as May 2, 1943) by New Orleans Times

May 3: 1941 – First AA group formed in New Orleans, Louisiana.

May 4: 1940: Sunday Star reported founding of first AA group in Washington, DC.

May 5: 1940 – Washington, DC, Sunday Star reported formation of first AA group in the District of Columbia.

May 6: 1939: Clarence S of Cleveland told Dr. Bob, his sponsor, he would not be back to Oxford Group meetings in Akron and would start an “AA” meeting in Cleveland.

1946: The long form of the “Twelve Traditions” was published in the AA Grapevine.

May 7: 1956 – The first English AA Convention was held in Cheltenham, England.

May 8: 1971 – Bill Wilson was buried in private ceremony, East Dorset, Vermont.

May 10: 1939: Clarence S announced to the Akron Oxford Group members that the Cleveland members were starting a meeting in Cleveland and calling it Alco-

MAY 2025

,SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT



					1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	Tony N., 7 yrs, Monday Night Traditions Tressie F., 41 yrs, Harmony		Gloria D., 33 yrs, Patuxent River	Joyce S., 9 yrs, Almost Normal Malinda, 3 yrs, Daily Reflections Matt B., 4 yrs, Daily Reprieve	Marc T., 12 yrs Cove Point Chelsea B., 12 yrs, Not Quite Right Larry L. 30 yrs and Jen S., 9 yrs, Awakenings	Greg G., 19 yrs, Guy, 41 yrs, Mike C., 36, and Mike S., 17 yrs, North Beach	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Paul F., 1 yr, Never Too Late						Pete R., 32 yrs, Laurel Grove	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
	Parker C., 11 yrs, Harmony	Russell 5 yrs, Blue Top	Joe M., 1 yr, Patuxent River	Jim T., 18 yrs, Patrick D., 11 yrs and Scott A., 4 yrs, Basic Text Justine C., 6 yrs, Doug D., 3 yrs, and Rob M., 2 yrs, Charlotte Hall		Troy T., 19 yrs, Laurel Grove Chuck D., 10 yrs, Saturday Morning 12 & 12 Breakfast	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Louie M., 40 yrs., Dee E., 34 yrs, and Billy F., 3 yrs, Warner Group			Taylor G., 4 yrs and Kat B., 2 yrs, Poplar Hill		Sherry S, 36 yrs, Kingston Creek Mike H., 25 yrs, North Beach	

JUNE 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 David Y., 9 yrs, Saturday Morning Breakfast	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

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: somdlife-line@gmail.com

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



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

Gratitude Dinner committee needed!

2nd Annual Area 29 Corrections Conference Day of Sharing "From Calamity to Serenity"



Held at Severna Park United Methodist Church
Saturday October 11th, 2025 (9am to 4pm)
731 Benfield Road, Severna Park, MD21146 US

Sponsored by Area 29 Corrections committee and Hispanic linguistic District 29

Hot Topic Panel Discussions
Keynote Speaker
More Details Coming Soon

Questions? Contact Scott at corrections@marylandaa.org

SMIA ANNUAL PICNIC

FREE!

JUNE 22ND
NOON TO DUSK



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

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

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

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



Mission: Successful Reintegration of Every Warfighter

Warfighter Advance is a week-long program that uses a variety of means to change the trajectory of Warfighter's (active duty, reserve, or veteran) post-deployment life, as well as public safety personnel/first responders & commercial pilots.

We take open AA meetings into the program each Thursday of the program.

Location:
Lions Camp Merrick
3650 Hamilton Place
Nanjemoy, MD 20662

Dates:
Thursday, March 6th, 2025 at 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 at 8:00 PM
Thursday, May 8th, 2025 To Be Announced

AA members, especially Veterans & First Responders, are encouraged to attend.

Contact Tony N @ 301-904-0572 with questions.

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.



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

A Conference for Sober Alcoholic Women with AA-Axon Participation
No children allowed in conference rooms



August 22-24, 2025, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach-Norfolk
5665 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23462

RESERVATIONS

Room rates through July 26, 2025:

- King, \$149 + tax
- Double, \$159 + tax

Breakfast is not included.

To make reservations,

- Call (800) 567-3695 and use code **SNW**
- Register online at <https://bit.ly/SEW29VB-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.SEWWomanToWoman.org
- Complete attached registration form and mail registration form and check payable Southeast Woman to Woman to:

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

CONFERENCE CONTACTS

Chair: Tracy U. (757) 381-4124 sew2w2025@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Natalie S. (757) 348-8459 Natalie.sew2w25@gmail.com
Registration: Rebecca M. (757) 515-3684 sew2w2012@gmail.com



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

A Conference for Sober Alcoholic Women with AA-Axon Participation
No children allowed in conference rooms

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Badge Name: _____

Check: AA Sobriety Date: _____ Axon

Address: _____ City: _____

State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Are you willing to volunteer? Yes No

Any special needs? _____

*** Please select items below ***

Registration Fee (Required, check one)

\$65 (until March 31, 2025) \$70 (April 1-July 18 and on-site)

Scholarship Donation (not required): \$ _____

Souvenirs

Tumbler, \$21

Tote, \$25

T-Shirt, \$25, specify style and size:

Style: Women's Unisex

Size: Small Medium L XL 2XL 3XL (unisex only)

Bundle (1 Tumbler, 1 Tote and 1 T-Shirt), \$66, specify T-Shirt style and size:

T-Shirt Style: Women's or Unisex

Size: Small Medium L XL 2XL 3XL (unisex only)

Events

Barquet, \$15

Beach Tour, \$25

Aquarium Tour, \$35

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____



Show Date: **May 10th** 7pm
St. Andrews Episcopal Church
44078 Saint Andrews Church Road
California, MD 20619



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)

Treatment Center Committee

"The District 36 Treatment Center Committee"

is looking for female fellowship members,

who are willing and have a year

or more of sobriety to bring

in-house A.A. meetings into

the Jude House

Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm.

Please contact this committee at our email:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com

This is a very rewarding experience!

Come join up and try it out!

The Committee Contact:

treatmentcommittee36@gmail.com





THE "WHAT'S THE POINT?"

A.A. MEETING

BIG BOOK
AS BILL SEES IT
GRAPEVINE
TWELVE
&
TWELVE



ALL MEETINGS
ARE
LITERATURE
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.

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

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

"BLUE TOP @ NOON"

Lexington Park United Methodist Church

21760 Great Mills Road

12:00 noon

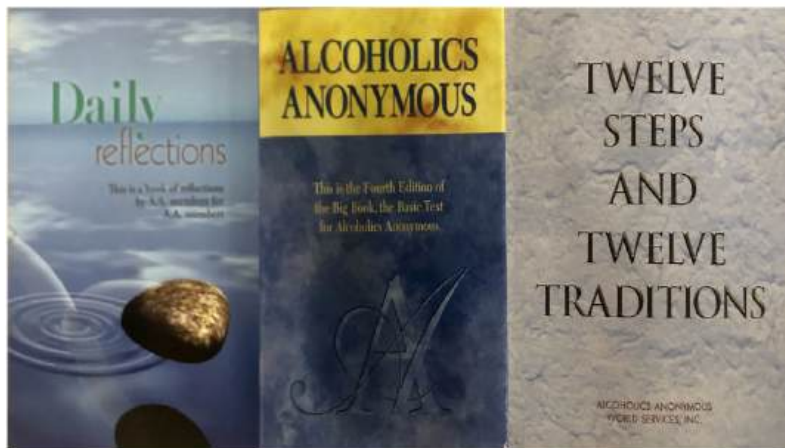
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Tuesday will be the Daily Reflections

Wednesday will be the Big Book

Thursday will be a Step/Tradition meeting

Come check us out and join our group!



CLEAN AIR GROUP

The Clean Air Group

Is in need of support

And home group members

Come on out and check us out

Friday nights 6:30pm.

St. Andrews Episcopal Church

44078 St. Andrews Church Rd.

NOT QUITE RIGHT

The Not Quite Right Group

8:00pm. Friday Nights

Good Samaritan Lutheran Church

20850 Langley Rd. (Middle Building)

Lexington Park, Md.

Is in need of Support

and Home Group Members

SUPPORT YOUR
LOCAL GROUPS?

Service Opportunities!



Area 29 Maryland PI/CPC

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.

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



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 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

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

You Are Invited

GSR ORIENTATION

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

Zoom ID: 845 5904 4220

Password: GSR

New to General Service? Want to learn more about it or get a refresher?

All new General Service Representatives (GSRs) in Area 29—and any member of Alcoholics Anonymous—is welcome to attend our monthly orientation session!

SMIA Meeting Minutes 4/12/25

Opening. Todd M. opened the meeting with The Serenity Prayer

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

New Members: Lynn, Awakenings

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L., Harmony Group/Web/Bookstall; Buddy F., Basic Text/Bookstall; Faye S., We Are Not Saints; Mike S., Sober By The Bay; Janine W., St. Charles Step; Phil T., NTL; Lisa T., Awakenings; Jamie R., North Beach; Roy B., Solomons/D36 Corrections; Nathan H., Waldorf; Emme J., ODAAT; Pat S., Where and When; Melissa W., Phone Chair (remotely); Shaara W., Kingston Creek; and Keith H., Almost Normal/Lifeline.

SMIA Chair Report: Todd M. reported he attended the Area 29 Assembly and, pursuant to the Seventh Tradition, reported the following Budget and Planning items: GSO yearly budget - \$18-20 Million There are 57,222 groups registered to GSO; 18,102 groups contributed to GSO: (32%). A \$315 contribution by each group would be needed to meet the yearly budget amount, if all registered groups contributed. Area 29 There are 929 groups of which 259 (28%) contribute to GSO; Is the 21st largest; Is 28th in contribution amount; 1,000 per year actually contributed – mostly via books and literature sales. Todd M. asked, "What other literature can we rely on?" IGLC for Area 29 • Past Baltimore Hispanic outreach • Linguistics • // aahispanomaryland.org

Vice Chair Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer Report: Bruce O. reported that March was essentially a routine month and reported that the next year's budget will be presented at next month's meeting. He provided the current monthly treasurer report. Current assets: \$13,111.19 and current expenses: \$2,630.92. Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor.

Committee Reports:

Bookstall Report: Bill L. reported that in March: o there were 14 orders for \$532.70; o \$104 in budget items; o \$422.95 in cash total. The Bookstall is low on several items. Bill L. will meet with the Treasurer to ascertain credit status before ordering. In addition, he asks that members order online rather than in person. The printer isn't working. Lorraine J. stated that she has one that can be used until a new one is purchased. Motion to buy a new laser printer and, in the meantime, use Lorraine J.'s. Seconded. All in favor.

Gratitude Dinner: This committee needs a chairperson.

Institutions: Roy B. reported: Calvert – Orientations for the Detention Center are going well. There are two new coordinators: Peggy K. and David D. Charles - Things are going well. St. Mary's – Need new coordinator(s). Volunteers are needed to speak at these meetings.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H. reported that all is going well.

SMIA Picnic: Buddy F. reported that the date and location has been confirmed on June 22 at Lettie Dent Park (aka 5th District Park) in Mechanicsville. The rental of the picnic area is \$220 for the entire day.

Serenity Breakfast: Pat S. reported there are still tickets available (over 40).

Public Information: Buddy F. reported the supply of the current Where & When is getting low, they're printed in lots of 2,000 which should last 6 months, and a committee of three is working on the update.

Telephone: Sheri R. and Melissa W. reported that from 3/8 to 4/12 there were 22 calls for a total of 31 minutes. They originated from Calvert (2), Charles (5), and St. Mary's (5), No Choice (10), with 8 minutes the longest in duration.

Website: Bill L. reported the following activity from 3/8 to 4/8/25: Total visits – 3,027 (up 13%) Most frequently visited pages: Home Page – 4,145 Where & When Calendar – 428 4 Where & When Search – 428 • On-Line Meetings – 239 Anniversary Calendar – 231 Updates and changes: A search form for Old Group Numbers was added to the Where & When Search page. The Service Opportu-

nities button has been added to all right column menus. The SMIA Publishing Guidelines have been revised and updated. o Meeting Change Information: Sunday Morning Sobriety was moved to Tilghman Lake. A new group with two meetings per week was added: AA 4 PM which meets at the Great Escape Recovery Lounge on Tuesday and Thursday at 4:00 PM. o Meeting Status: Currently there are 134 meetings in our service area. 125 meetings are in person, 6 are hybrid, and 8 are online only. SPAM & Phishing: The site has experienced an uptick in SPAM and Phishing attempts, which is common among bad actors who pick a domain to attack for a period and then gradually stop unless someone responds to the attack. If you receive an e-mail that appears to have come from our host, IONOS, do not click on any content of the e-mail. Delete it. Most legitimate e-mail correspondence from our host goes to me. Document Posts & Updates: Lifeline posted - 03/31/25 Finance Page updated – 03/25/25 SMIA Minutes posted – 03/09/25 Please use new group numbers to access information on-line.

OLD BUSINESS: Lisa T., the SMIA secretary, resigned. Shaara W. is willing to serve in that position. The Bylaws require 2-years sobriety to serve as Secretary. Motion to waive the 2-year sobriety requirement in the Bylaws. Seconded. All in favor, including Paul S., Parliamentarian, as there is no secretary present for the vote. A motion was made to appoint Shaara W. to be Secretary for a term of 2 years. Seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Emme J., reported on a visit to GSO and stated the offices are smaller than expected. Offices are on 2 floors; they are giving up the 2nd floor. On the subject of raffling a hotel room at the next Roundup, Lisa T. stated her meeting, Awakenings, said they didn't like the idea. Buddy F. spoke with past delegate Don B, at the area assembly last month who advised against that proposal. Pat S. brought up NERESA.

Motion to adjourn. Seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge and the Lord's Prayer.

May 2025

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc

Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions:

\$517.59

www.somdintergroup.org/contribute

SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Statement of Financial Position April 25, 2025 - April 24, 2025		Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity May 1, 2024 - Apr 30, 2025		
Assets		Year to Date Income		BUDGET Shortfall
Primary Business Checking	\$ 2,852.32	Contributions	\$ 7,012.21	22%
Primary Business Savings	\$ -	Bookstall Sales	\$ 4,374.12	-25%
Prudent Reserve	\$ 4,301.61	Gratitude Dinner	\$ 884.06	12%
PayPal	\$ 1,875.53	Serenity Breakfast	\$ 1,385.00	-39%
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$ 100.00	Total 2024 Income	13,655.39	6%
Total Assets	9,129.46			
This Month's Expenses		Year to Date Expenses		BUDGET Left to Use
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (1,338.29)	Bookstall Purchases	\$ (4,412.90)	-10%
Liability Insurance	\$ -	Liability Insurance	\$ (273.00)	0%
Lifeline Printing	\$ (171.99)	Lifeline Printing	\$ (1,176.98)	-23%
Misc	\$ -	Misc	\$ -	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (56.41)	Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (547.91)	-69%
Post Office Box	\$ -	Post Office Box	\$ (120.00)	0%
Rent	\$ (150.00)	Rent	\$ (1,800.00)	0%
Webmaster	\$ (867.00)	Webmaster	\$ (1,878.50)	39%
Website	\$ (120.75)	Website	\$ (982.68)	-16%
Where & When	\$ -	Where & When	\$ (1,977.69)	45%
Picnic	\$ (220.00)	Picnic	\$ (1,425.40)	-43%
Travel	\$ -	Travel	\$ (131.32)	84%
Workshops	\$ -	Workshops	\$ -	100%
SMIA Archives	\$ -	SMIA Archives	\$ -	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ -	Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ (229.99)	-28%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ -	Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (144.00)	-44%
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	0%
Total Expenses	\$ (2,924.44)	Total 2024 Expenses	\$(15,100.37)	15%

Total of Checking, Savings and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of **3.19** Months
 Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining **0** Months
 For our 2024-2025 planned expenses, we currently have a **\$ 4,727.85** Excess

		C&T	PI/CPC
Remaining Service Committee Budgets	Calvert	\$ 375.00	\$ 140.00
Budget Year 2024 (01May2024 - 30Apr2025)	Charles	\$ 60.00	\$ 250.00
As of 11MAR2025	St.Mary's	\$ 191.50	\$ 134.50

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

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS:**

Leonardtwn Big Book
 Waldorf Group
 Solomons Saturday Night
 Cove Point

We Was Wurz
 Monday Night Men's
 Happy Destiny
 Ladies Recover Too

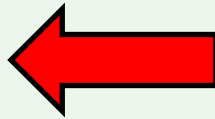
WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

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

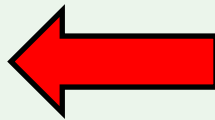
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

PLEASE NOTE THAT GSO AND MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE ADDRESSES HAVE CHANGED

**General Service Office
Post Office Box 2407
James A Farley Station
New York, NY 10116-2407**



**Maryland General Service
PO BOX 1834
Frederick, MD 21702**



**Southern Maryland Intergroup (SMIA)
P.O. Box 767
Charlotte Hall, MD 20622**

**District 1 Trust Fund (Calvert)
P.O. Box 234
Barstow, MD 20610**

**District 35 (Charles)
P.O. Box 1981
La Plata, MD 20646**

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

ATTENTION GROUP TREASURERS:

****Remember to include the 6-digit GSO Group Number on all correspondence to Maryland General Service.***

Samples of Group Contributions to A.A. Service Entities*

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

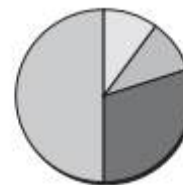
Your Group Service # _____

(Be sure to write group name and service # on all contributions.)



- ____ % to district
- ____ % to area committee
- ____ % to G.S.O.
- ____ % to intergroup or central office
- ____ % other A.A. service entities
- ____ % other A.A. service entities

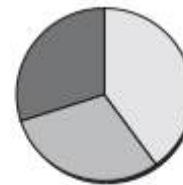
OR



- 10%** to district
- 10%** to area committee
- 30%** to G.S.O.
- 50%** to intergroup or central office

OR

If you have no intergroup/central office.



- 40%** to district
- 30%** to area
- 30%** to G.S.O.

SMIA SERVICE TEAM:

Chair: Buddy F.
Vice Chair: Lorraine J.
Secretary: Kristi P.
Treasurer: Bruce O.
Parliamentarian: Paul S.
Web/Bookstall: Bill L.
Lifeline/Archives: Keith H.
Telephone: Sheri R.
Where & When: Pat P.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL LIFELINE MATERIALS IS THE 27th OF EACH MONTH.

DISTRICT 35 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

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

Alternate DCM

Accessibility Chair

District Meeting:

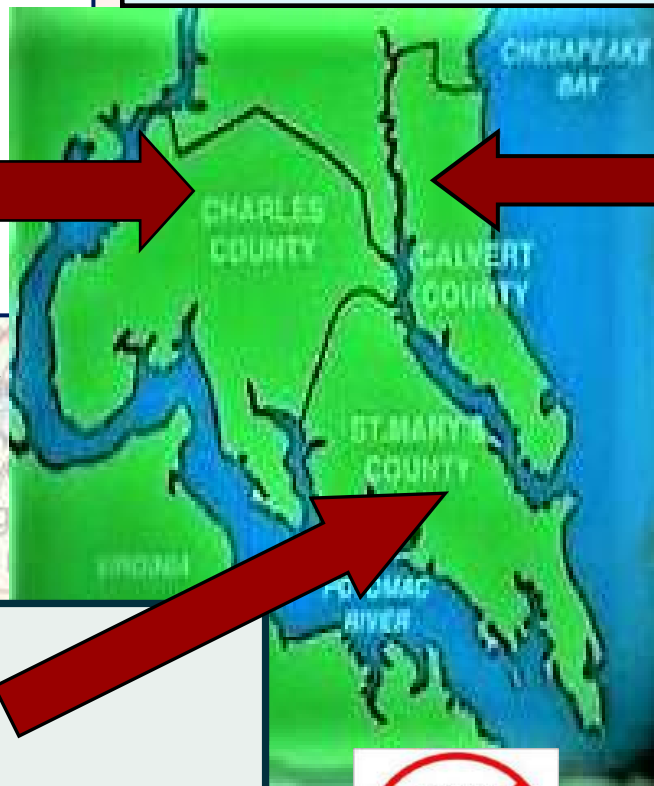
7 PM, 3rd Monday

St. Paul's Episc. Church

Prince Frederick, MD
District 1 Trust Fund

PO Box 234

Barstow, MD 20610
www.calvertaa.org



SERVICE KEEPS US SOBER

DISTRICT 36

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

PO Box 1334, California, MD 20619

www.district36mdaa.org



DISTRICT NOTES

The next SMIA Meeting will be held on

Saturday, June 14 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)

Please send any updates for the Where & When to:

smia.whereandwhen@somdaa.org

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