



LIFELINE



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

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

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com>

There is a far too prevalent inclination in our fellowship to be annoyed by the fellow who is weighed down by his problems in life.

Patient listening is not an inherent human virtue. It must be cultivated. Some who feel that there is a reasonable limit to patience with such people, may be justified. But, who will step forward and define the proper limits of patience? Those of us who have achieved some measure of serenity while facing our problems, have more justification perhaps than others.

Many people have a relative peace of mind because of an ability to ignore problems. Remember that all of us came here with one big all engulfing problem that had us whipped. We

acquired that problem because of ducking the realities of life. Literally we jumped out of the frying pan into the fire. The fact that we got back at all is a miracle of spiritual healing by God as we understand Him.

The griddle of life is chock full of problems. It was meant to be so. If you are sailing through your sober life with equanimity, the probability exists that you are so doing because you are not facing up squarely to the full reality of life and the responsibility it entails.

All of us need a deep sense of responsibility. First, we need to take charge of our own lives to the very best of our ability. To the extent that we do, we become less of a charge on others.

Having reached that point we must then move on to our re-

sponsibility toward others. We should have a constant awareness of the time when we were whipped and helpless, and but for willing, eager help from others, we might have perished.

That one in our midst, who in the early years of sobriety is constantly burdened with what to him is the smothering weight of insoluble difficulty, is the one who most needs our help.

Well can I recall the kindly patient ears of a few people that were imposed upon by me. Often there were some bits of wisdom, some of which remains alive and real to me right down to

the present. But, more often there was nothing more than a quiet, kindly listening while the unburdening of a tortured soul went on endlessly.

The person weighted with his



burden in life, may have an exaggerated view of it, but at least he is aware of it. Given the thoughtful hearing and advice which is at least well intended by us, he may one day meet the full impact of life squarely and well. If he does, then he may be helping us tomorrow.

Surely he is closer to the fullness of life's significance, than is the one who achieves a mock serenity, which is really compliancy that comes through brushing off the problems of life.

When you are in that little back room of conscience where self-inventories are taken, look at the truth about your own success in solving problems. It may breed in you a new tolerance and understanding for him who is weighed down.

Responsibility of Sponsors

A glimpse at sponsorship in the first decade of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The greatest responsibility any man or woman assumes as a member of A.A. is the treatment or sponsorship of the new prospect.

Upon how thoroughly and conscientiously this job is done by us depends the future happiness and security of the individual concerned.



It is, therefore, important that we assume this responsibility in its entirety, not only for the benefit of the prospect, but for our own protection as well. Our own safety and security depends upon how unselfishly we give of ourselves to others.

It is our duty to be certain beyond the shadow of a doubt that the prospect once left on his own has such a complete understanding of the principles and practices of this movement that he will know what to do under any and all conditions.

This is accomplished only by painstaking effort on our part to the extent that we must be sure that the prospect has received the proper instructions from a great number of contacts, through the reading of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, and by our showing the way properly to make a contact with others.

All this having been done, it is important that we impress upon the prospect the fact that he must then do this job of himself for his own security.

All these things are vitally necessary and it is the sponsor's responsibility to follow through on this to the point where the prospect is able honestly to recognize the fact that regardless of what the condition or circumstance with which he is confronted a drink is never the solution to his problem.

<https://www.aacle.org/responsibility-of-sponsors/>

AA EVENT PLANNING

Planning a formal, large-scale Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) event requires a well-structured committee. Set the foundation by establishing a theme, securing a budget, and booking a venue at least 12–16 months in advance. Always prioritize AA's core principles of **unity**, **anonymity**, and **self-support** throughout your planning. A successful, long-term timeline for a formal AA event, such as a convention, dinner dance, or speaker rally, should be structured as follows:

12 to 16 Months Prior

Form a Steering Committee: Appoint a General Chairperson who will recruit subcommittee chairs (e.g., Program, Finance, Registration, Hospitality, and Facilities).

Establish a Theme & Format: Pick a focus (e.g., "Unity," "First Things First") and determine the format. Formal events typically feature banquets, open speaker meetings, and dancing.

Set the Date & Budget: Choose dates avoiding conflicts with other regional AA conventions. Create a balanced budget ensuring the event is self-supporting (often using ticket sales and registration fees).

8 to 11 Months Prior

Secure the Venue: Sign a contract for a venue that is fully accessible, has adequate parking, and complies with AA's 7th Tradition (refusing free accommodation to maintain independence).

Book Speakers & Entertainment: Finalize commitments with your main speakers. If hiring a DJ or band for the formal dance/banquet, ensure they understand the sober nature of the event.

Review Facilities: Map out venue layouts, dining areas, audio/visual (A/V) requirements, and accessibility.

3 to 7 Months Prior

Design & Distribute Flyers: Create registration flyers and disseminate them to local Intergroup central offices, neighboring districts, and your Area.

Finalize Catering: Work with the venue or a caterer on menus, ensuring all dietary requirements are accommodated.

1 to 2 Months Prior

Volunteer Onboarding: Host committee meetings to train volunteers on welcoming attendees and maintaining anonymity (e.g., reminding attendees to respect privacy regarding what happens inside the event).

Finalize the Program: Gather speaker bios, print programs, and establish a clear day-of-event schedule.

[https://www.google.com/search?](https://www.google.com/search?q=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&oeq=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYODIBCTExMDA1ajBqNKgCALACAQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.ob&ie=UTF-8)

[q=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&oeq=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYODIBCTExMDA1ajBqNKgCALACAQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.ob&ie=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?q=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&oeq=timeline+procedures+to+plan+an+AA+event&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYODIBCTExMDA1ajBqNKgCALACAQ&sourceid=chrome&source=chrome.ob&ie=UTF-8)

Let's face it, returning to A.A. after relapsing can be extremely uncomfortable, and I should know because I've been a periodic "*slipper*" over the past 20 years. But now, after three lengths of serial sobriety, (5 years, 8 years and now, over 3) and two nearly fatal relapses, there is no doubt in my mind that I need A.A. in order to survive. But, how to make it work this time?

When I returned to A.A. in 2015, I was not only in the throes of physical withdrawal, but I was also beset with toxic levels of self-pity, anger and jealousy that were blocking me from getting any real relief. For instance, when a dear friend took an anniversary cake for double-digit sobriety, I wallowed in self-pity that I had "*lost my time*" instead of being happy for him.

It took numerous calls to my sponsor to decipher my feelings from the fact that I'm nothing more or less than a jealous, self-obsessed alcoholic, which was quite a relief. And, I was worried that there was something seriously wrong with me! LOL Here's where a thorough 4th Step came in. Sorting out who did what to whom and my part in it was essential, but not as a means to browbeat myself for my defects of

character. With Steps 4-7, I did something constructive with those flaws – namely to identify my wrong thinking, be ready to change it and pray like hell to have it removed.



It's taken years for me to put my life together again, but remembering that A.A. is a one-day-at-a-time venture on a long-haul journey is essential for my recovery. Going to meetings and not picking up a drink or drug is essential. But, not picking up a harmful thought, word or action keeps me away from an emotional state that leads me to relapse – and that's

my hard-won fact.

True, I haven't done it perfectly. But, as Ethel Merman once said, "*Sure I've made mistakes! But, that's why they put erasers on pencils!*" We returnees are also the life-blood of A.A. and we've got a lot to contribute. Our stories provide our fellows with unique insights into staying sober where we went off the rails, and we can return to "the happy road of destiny" if we're willing. I'm happy to report that the program hasn't changed, but my willingness to maintain a spiritual solution to my self-obsession problem has.

<https://www.aacle.org/coming-home-a-returnees-story/>

District 36 Events Committee held its second annual No-Talent talent show was held on July 18 at 7:00pm at the Pax Presbyterian Church Hall at 23421 Kingston Creek Rd in California Maryland, with a dozen performances this year! The idea for the event came from one of our committee member's recollection of a Charles County event called the No-Talent Show, which was held years ago in that area. When brainstorming for event ideas last January, the committee agreed that a no talent show sounded like a good idea.

So... we had one! This year marks the second no talent show that has been put on by the district. Each act had up to ten minutes to perform, although some acts were shorter. Over 75 people were in attendance that Saturday night. There were a lot of musical performances, however, there was an array of genres and styles included. The show also included a few comedy acts, including a musical AA parody song, and a couple of poetry readings too. Original material was included, in many, of both song and poetry performances.

All in all, it was a fun night! Desserts were donated for the event, and coffee was served. A Grapevine table with a subscription raffle, plus a 50/50 raffle, were included in the evening's events. At the end of the night, all the performers came up on stage together, and received a trophy, and everyone took a bow. A big thank you to all who participated in the show, the behind-the-scenes volunteers who set up and cleaned up after the event, and, of course, everyone that attended the show.

Events Committee Chair and Co-Chair for District 36 Mary F and Kim S

CONCEPT 8: A DIVISION OF LABOR

The Twelve Concepts for World Service were written by A.A.'s co-founder Bill W., and were adopted by the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1962. The Concepts are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure as it emerged through A.A.'s early history and experience.

<https://www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie/new-to-aa/the-twelve-concepts/>

Many AAs are familiar with the "upside-down triangle" of our service structure. More than 60,000 AA groups, up at the top part of the triangle, 1 may elect General Service Representatives (GSRs)... who elect the 93 Area Delegates... who attend the Conference to meet with the 21 Trustees of the General Service Board (GSB) — who reside at the narrow bottom of the triangle.

Concept Eight is about what happens between the General Service Board and the AA service corporations at the tip of the triangle.

The Board has no paid workers, and no president or manager. The 21 Trustees, all part-time unpaid volunteers, serve as members of a non-profit holding company that owns our two service corporations and chooses their boards of Directors. One of those companies is the AA Grapevine, Inc., which publishes the Grapevine, La Viña, and collections of stories. The other, AA World Services, Inc., (AAWS), handles everything else: running our office in New York, printing and translating our literature, helping to solve group problems, keeping an archive, handling PR and legal work, and helping AA in other countries. AAWS also handles special tasks for the GSB.

Bill thought of these two companies as providing three services: publishing, the office, and the magazine. He writes in another Concept that we might someday incorporate more services, all reporting to the GSB. For instance, a few years ago we considered forming a third service corporation that would provide shared services to AAWS and Grapevine, such as printing, shipping, and websites.

Back in Concept Two, the groups delegated authority and responsibility to the Conference. And in Concept Six, the Conference delegated to the Trustees. Concept Eight is the next link between the groups and our service companies. It says the 1 Bear in mind that: 1) many AA groups do not participate in General Service, and 2) AA now has many online

groups, which are just starting to find ways to participate in the General Service structure. This is not Conference-approved literature 22 Feb 1 2026 Trustees must delegate to the service corporations. Specifically, it says that the Trustees on the General Service Board, who are part-time volunteers, should focus on policy and finance, and leave day-to-day operations to the "constantly active" corporations and their paid staff. The GSB maintains some control by approving the budgets of those companies, choosing their boards of directors, and putting some GSB members on to those boards. But as in several other Concepts, micromanagement is discouraged. Just like the rest of us, the Trustees must "trust their trusted servants" on the corporate boards.

For example: The General Service Board, after consulting with the Conference, might decide to publish a book, but it's the job of AAWS or the Grapevine to publish and sell it. Similarly, when the GSB heard reports a few years ago of predators in the Fellowship, it used AAWS staff to produce a paper on "vulnerable populations in AA", stating AA's policy and suggesting actions the groups can take. If you want a copy of it, don't call the Board, call the General Service Office (operated by AAWS) at 212-870-3400.

Likewise, when the Conference voted to change our policy on showing an actor's full face in videos, the General Service Board legally approved the policy, but it was put into action by a video team hired by AAWS. And when you want to watch those videos, you'll find them on the aa.org website which is operated by AAWS, not the GSB.

The Board's decisions may be communicated in memos or in meetings, or published in the "Quarterly Report" about the Board's quarterly meetings. Concept 8 is based on a simple idea: The work of setting policy and direction is different than the work of directly managing a company, and should be kept separate. Part-time unpaid Trustees, who may not have busi-

ness backgrounds, can't possibly know the details of a company the way a full-time professional manager would. For these and other reasons, Bill spent 2/3 of his chapter on Concept 8 explaining why the service companies, which operate year-round, need their own boards and expert full-time managers, separate from the part-time GSB. As he does in This is not Conference-approved literature 23 Feb 1 2026 Concept Eleven, Bill predicted that future AA servants will want to merge the service corporations into one, or even have the workers report directly to the GSB. He argues against it.

Bill writes: "our Board as a whole must devote itself almost exclusively to the larger and more serious questions of policy, finance, group relations, public relations and leadership that constantly confront it. Each corporate service entity should possess its own charter, its own working capital, its own executive, its own employees, its own offices and equipment. Except to mediate difficult situations and to see that the service corporations operate within their budgets and within the general framework of A.A. and Headquarters policy, the Board will seldom need to do more, so far as routine service operations are concerned. The General Service Board is in effect a holding company, charged with the custodial oversight of its wholly-owned and separately incorporated subsidiaries, of which each has...a separate management."

Concept Eight is the last of the three Concepts about Trustees. It reads: "***The Trustees of the General Service Board act in two primary capacities: (a) With respect to the larger matters of overall policy and finance, they are the principal planners and administrators. They and their primary committees directly manage these affairs. (b) But with respect to our separately incorporated and constantly active services, the relation of the Trustees is mainly that of full stock ownership and of custodial oversight which they exercise through their ability to elect all directors of these entities.***"

<https://www.12concepts.org/Readable12Concepts.pdf>

Became willing- Step 8

Two members of Alcoholics Anonymous share their experiences with Step Eight, the process of listing those they have harmed and becoming willing to make amends. From methodical inventories to confronting deep-seated shame, their stories reveal how this step can bring clarity, humility, and peace. In different ways, both found that willingness—not outcome—is the key to freedom.

Philip V-B: “I have found Step Eight to be a spiritual and moral exercise in clarity, honesty and willingness.

I began by going back through the people on my Fourth Step inventory, and those from a previous Step Eight to whom I had not yet made full amends. Then I looked through all my Facebook friends and my entire phone contact list, noting down any name that brought up awkward feelings. It was an extensive list, but I knew I needed to be painstaking.

I worked through the list one person at a time, heeding the sage advice: don’t begin with your mother. For each person, I used a simple method outlined by my sponsor:

Action—exactly what I did or said, as factually as I could, without moralizing. Instead—what I believed I should have done. Harm—who suffered, and in what way.

As I progressed, I shared each completed one with trusted fellows and then my sponsor. This process turned out to be vital. Sometimes I had imagined a harm where there wasn’t one. At one point, I had every man I’d declined a second date with on my list. It was absurd. It became clear that my emotions, particularly guilt, were not a good guide to whether I had caused harm. More often, I had overlooked harms that were real but subtle: unkindness, coldness, a lack of gratitude. I discovered that harm was not always obvious. It could be physical or financial injury, but it could also be emotional damage, broken trust, neglect or subtle criticism that strained a relationship. Talking it through with fellows helped me see both the overblown and the overlooked.

Working like this also stopped me from being vague (“I was mean”) and pushed me into truth (“I told them their taste in rugs was ghastly.”). I began to see the difference between actions that were legitimate but caused upset, and those that were genuinely wrong and called for amends.

I began making amends as I worked through the list. When names on my list filled me with dread, I prayed for the willingness to become willing. I learned not to minimize harms because of fear or resentment. I also began to think about what the “sane and sound ideal” for each relationship could be. This helped me shift from only looking back to also looking forward, asking God for a vision of how I would act differently in the future.

Lastly, I have found it helpful to take and retake the Steps regularly. Clearing the wreckage of the past halts ego re-growth, lifts isolation, deepens humility and gives me the courage to face those I have harmed. These Steps allow me to look the world and myself in the face without shying away, and they give me the gift of real freedom and connection.”

<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/general-post/became-willing-step-8/>

Jim: “I’m relatively new to A.A.—just one month shy of my third anniversary. I’ve read the first 164 pages of the Big Book at least three times now, and each time, I discover something new, something vital. The first time I worked the Steps with my sponsor, I focused mostly on the first part of Step 8:

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed...” I assumed that Step 9 would take care of the second part: “...and became willing to make amends to them all.” But I’ve come to learn that the real beauty of Step 8 lies in working it completely—not just making a list, but also becoming fully willing in your heart to make amends. There’s a sense of peace that comes when you truly sit with this Step. Not just rushing to fix things or check boxes, but quietly, humbly, asking yourself: Who have I harmed?

With my new attitude and way of living, what would I do differently now? Would I still say, “F*** it,” and put myself first, regardless of the cost to others? Or am I finally ready to live differently? The mindset I’ve come to embrace is this: “If I could, I would.” There are people on my list who may never give me the opportunity to make amends. Some are still hurt. Others may simply not care about my recovery. And some may not trust it yet.

But working Step 8 fully allowed me to find peace with those truths. Even if I never get to make a formal Ninth Step amends, I can still make peace with myself and with God. I sit with it. I pray on it. I reflect deeply on what I did wrong and how I would handle it today.

One example is the mother of my child. I hurt her for years with terrible behavior. At the time I finally got sober, we weren’t even speaking. I wasn’t seeing my son. Our relationship was shattered. I truly believed she would never talk to me again.

When I worked Step 8 around this, I had to accept that I might never be able to make amends. I had to be okay with that. I had to seek peace without expectation. So I prayed for her. I reviewed everything I said and did to her through the lens of my new spiritual outlook. I was appalled. Ashamed. It took time to let go of that shame. But once I completed Step 8, something changed. Not long after, I was given the opportunity to make a Step 9 amends to her. And because I had done the full work of Step 8, I had no expectations. I no longer felt entitled to her forgiveness.

I finally understood her. It was liberating. It opened the door to a new chapter. Today, I’m grateful to say that we’ve built a beautiful relationship as co-parents. She has forgiven me. We’ve found peace. All of that began with a complete Step 8. My new attitude—one of willingness, honesty and trying to finally do the right thing—helped me face my past without running from it or trying to control the outcome. Step 8 taught me that true peace comes not from fixing everything, but from being truly willing to.”

G'day all, my name is Gordy. I'm an Aussie alcoholic to the 'enth degree. Around here, they know me as "11step Gordon." I'd like to share a bit of my recovery journey, thanks to this amazing Fellowship and the generous wisdom of my loving Higher Power—whom I call God.

I believe I was born an alcoholic. From the start, I carried all the traits: deep fears, poor communication skills, and a strong sense of not being good enough. I always felt like I didn't belong. Looking back, I was a lost soul—emotionally overwhelmed and spiritually empty. A helpless, chronic alcoholic in the making.

The day booze entered my life, everything changed. It felt like a miracle cure—the magic potion that would fix me. I had my first drink (unsupervised) in 1962 when I was 14 years and 9 months old. I'd just signed on as a deck boy aboard the old steamship SS Iron Monarch, a World War II iron ore vessel. She traded out of Melbourne, and that's where my drinking career truly began. Two weeks later, we docked in Newcastle. I went ashore with my shipmates. That night, in the front bar of the Seven Seas Hotel in Carrington, I had my first blackout—and woke up in the back seat of a car. Two strangers were with me. One was driving; the other was going through my pockets.

I panicked, lashed out, and got badly beaten. I remember vomiting on the guy who was hitting me—probably because I was so drunk and scared. Then he opened the door while the car was still moving and threw me out. I landed hard on the road, covered in cuts and bruises.

Now, most people would think an experience like that would stop someone from drinking ever again. But for me, that was just the beginning. That night was my initiation into a long, painful alcoholic career that would last 15 more years.

I stayed at sea for 12 years. Most of us in the maritime game knew that alcohol was everywhere. I reckon 60–75% of sailors had a problem with the grog. It was accepted. It was normal. I drank more and more, and things got worse. Much worse.

I married in 1966 and dragged my

poor wife through hell for 11 long years. My drinking led to hospital stays, jail time, street violence, shame, and chaos. I didn't know any different. Drinking gave me a short escape from my misery, so I chased it hard. If you called me an alcoholic back then, I would've punched you in the nose. I truly believed it was normal to go for "a few drinks." But the truth is, I could never have just a few. When I drank, I drank for complete wipeout. Oblivion.

My life was like an aircraft spiraling down at full speed—about to crash into the earth. I was totally addicted, in denial, and on a fast track to destruction. To me, an alcoholic was someone sleeping in a back alley, drinking metho and wrapped in blankets. That wasn't me! I had a wife, four kids, and a house. So, I told myself I couldn't possibly be an alcoholic. But I was dead wrong.

My wife, bless her, kept the door open for me. Time and again, I'd crawl back, suffer through the hangovers, and start again. She was devoted, patient, and incredibly strong.

But finally, my alcoholism caught up with me. Around August 1976, I hit a wall. I was back in the Port Adelaide lock-up—again. I was waking up to the sound of dripping urinals and the noise of semi-trailers passing by. I muttered to myself, "Why the hell am I back in this filthy place?"

Something inside me cracked. Not long after, I had a moment that I believe was arranged by God. I went to pick up my father-in-law from Archway Rehab, and when I rang the doorbell, I was shocked. A mate I hadn't seen in years answered the door—clean-shaven, neat, and sober. The last time I saw him, he



was living under sheets of iron, drinking metho.

He said, "I'm on the wagon. I go to AA." That stuck in my mind.

I kept drinking for a few more months, but the seed was planted. Then, Easter 1977 came, and I had a massive blow-up. More violence. More pain. I lay in bed for days, recovering.

Then I said to my wife, "Maybe I'll check out one of those AA meetings—just to see what it does for my mate." My wife immediately contacted him, and he showed up. "Want to go to a meeting to-night?" he asked.

"No," I said, "but I'll come to the Sunday night one at the Detox Centre." That was the first important commitment I had made in years—and I followed through. I walked into that AA meeting shaking like a leaf. I didn't know what to expect. But the welcome I got was like nothing I'd ever experienced. No one wanted anything from me. They were just glad I was there.

A cheerful lady called Just Judy came up and offered kind words. Her husband, Joey Green, was a Scottish docker. Both of them had voices that could rattle the rafters—but they were full of warmth and sincerity. Judy asked, "Can you pick me up for a meeting tomorrow night?" I had no idea I'd be driving her to meetings for the next 18½ years. Judy became one of the most honest, humble, and inspiring people I ever met in AA. She shared from the heart—no shame, no filters. Her example showed me what real recovery looked like. From that first meeting, I haven't needed to drink— (continued on page 7)

(cont'd) one day at a time. AA gave me everything I needed: faith, hope, friendship, purpose, and above all—a relationship with a loving God. It took me four years to sort out my bankruptcies. I dealt with the law—eight debt warrants, five criminal charges. I made amends. It wasn't easy, but I did it.

Meetings became my medicine. The Fellowship became my family. The love, the laughter, the honesty—it overwhelmed me. I don't understand it, and I don't need to. I just know it works.

I only have to do a few simple things: Don't pick up. Go to meetings. And carry the message whenever I can. Not as

some superstar speaker, but just as a bloke with a story and a heart willing to help. In August 1981, I had a profound spiritual awakening while praying at my dying father-in-law's bedside. I asked God to ease his pain and take his soul. In that moment, I felt something powerful. A divine touch I cannot explain. I knew in my heart that God is real and that He's there for all who reach out to Him.

These days, I no longer think I'm some chessboard king or knight. I'm just a humble pawn—a messenger, a link in this incredible chain of recovery. Today, I know why I'm here: To carry the message

of experience, strength, and hope. That's enough for me. That's what I was looking for all along. Inner peace. Acceptance. Love. And thanks to AA, I've found it.

I want to thank every one of you for saving my life. You revived a broken man. For that, I love you and salute you—in the name of this spiritual Fellowship.

P.S. The Eleventh Step is the key to everything in my life. When I get lost or confused, I return to Step 11. It grounds me. It guides me. It connects me to God. With love, Gordy Sober since April 11, 1977. "The Eleventh Step is the key to living your life spiritually."

<https://aa-intergroup.org/stories/an-aussie-alkies-recovery-story/>

Tradition Eight

Throughout the world AAs are twelfth-stepping with thousands of new prospects a month. Between one and two thousand of these sick on our first presentation; past experience shows that most of the remainder will come back to us later on. Almost entirely unorganized and completely non professional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that's all.

Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. The few efforts to professionalized straight twelfth Step work have always failed quickly. Today, no AA will tolerate the idea of paid "AA therapists" or "organizers." Nor does any AA like to be told just how he must handle that new prospect of his. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own lifelines. To a man, we are sure of that.

But what about those who serve us

full time in other capacities — are cooks, caretakers, and paid intergroup secretaries "AA professionals"?

Because our thinking about these people is still unclear, we often feel and act as though they were such. The impression of professionalism subtly attaches to them, so we frequently hear they are "making money out of AA" or that they are "professionalizing" AA. Seemingly, if they do take our AA dollars they don't quite belong with us AAs anymore. We sometimes go further; we underpay them on the theory they ought to be glad to "cook" for AA cheap.

Now isn't this carrying our fears of professionalism rather far? If these fears ever got too strong, none but a saint or an incompetent could work for Alcoholics Anonymous. Our supply of saints being quite small, we would certainly wind up with less competent workers than we need.

We are beginning to see that our few paid workers are performing only those service tasks that our volunteers cannot consistently handle. Primarily these folks are not doing Twelfth Step work. They are just making more and better

Twelfth Step work possible. Secretaries at their desks are valuable points of contact, information, and public relations. That is what they are paid for, and nothing else. They help carry the good news of AA to the outside world and bring our prospects face to face with us. That's not "AA therapy"; it's just a lot of very necessary but often thankless work.

So, where needed, let's revise our attitude toward those who labor at our special services. Let us treat them as AA associated, and not as hired help; let's recompense them fairly and, above all, let's absolve them from the label of professionalism.

Let us also distinguish clearly between "organizing the AA movement" and setting up, in a reasonably businesslike manner, its few essential services of contact and propagation. Once we do that, all will be well. The million or so fellow alcoholics who are still sick will then continue to get the break we sixty thousand AAs have already had.

Let's give our "service desks" the hand they so well deserve.

<https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/tradition-eight/>



First in a mini-series dealing with the seven deadly character defects.

Sloth has long played a false role as a minor defect, more to be smiled at than feared, a back-row fault the alcoholic could ignore. The word itself usually expresses indolence, scarcely a serious item. So it is necessary to find out just what sloth means. It must be a lot worse than sitting in the shade to watch the dancers. Since sloth is spiritual, it might be well to see what some authority on spiritual matters believes. One of the bet is St. T Thomas, whose writing is full of pertinent ideas for an alcoholic. He says that sloth is “melancholy in the face of spiritual good.” (The AA who is sober, but always seems to have some dismal complaint?) The real evil of sloth, then, would be a stub-

born refusal of joy, a grim holding on to guilt, depression, and melancholy, which can lead to despair – loss of hope. One of my sponsors said the chief factor that can cause a recovered alcoholic to drink is a loss of hope, from any cause.

For the alcoholic, sloth means being aware of the AA path of recovery, yet refusing to follow it, because the whole sobriety package seems too hard to accept. There are a lot of Gloomy Gus and Melancholy Minnie types who revel in their miseries and bog down completely, often tainting the lives of all close to them. They spurn help or friendship, and if they are “slippers,” as is often the case, they keep mumbling, “It’s no use. I can’t forgive myself. I can’t stop drinking.” They guzzle themselves right into the grave, or into some mental hospital where their last state is worse than the first. (This is not meant to slight clinical depression, a genuine illness requiring all the skill that dedicated psychiatrists can and do give their patients.)

When we consider that sloth can take an alcoholic right to the gates of doom, it ceases to look minor. It takes its place among the most rightly feared of the seven deadly character defects that can trap the alcoholic.

<https://silkworth.net/alcoholics-anonymous/sloth/>

Our home group had 3 meetings a week and we decided we needed a women’s meeting too. It is said that all you need to have a meeting is two drunks, a coffee pot and a resentment. There wasn’t another women’s meeting nearby so we set it up. In Southern Maryland Intergroup all you need to establish is a need for a meeting and a lack of conflict with an existing meeting. Go to the Southern Maryland Intergroup site (somidintergroup.org), click on New Meeting Request and go from there. We established our women’s meeting just that easily. Of course that overlooks setting the day and time which required a lot of discussion. However, we already had a location. And we needed a format. We decided to be a literature meeting that focuses on the Grapevine books of collected articles.

So things were going swimmingly. We



had between 5 and 14 women attending every week. They seemed to enjoy the readings and the discussions got downright colorful. Growing pains were few because we already had a location that was being used for AA meetings.

One of our founding members (we’ll call her Nancy) had an anniversary – her 11th. Two weeks ahead of time I ordered a ‘Sobriety Sisters’ chip online. I ordered a cake with flowers and “Congratulations Nancy 11” on it (yellow cake with chocolate frosting) three days ahead of time.

Sent out the word. All was cool for our first member anniversary celebration.

July 23 arrived. Nancy had to put down her favorite dog in the morning and go to her father’s 80th birthday party that evening. I picked up the cake, left it on the counter in my kitchen. My dog got it. The Sobriety Sisters chip arrived the next day. We looked in the chip box for an 11 year chip and there wasn’t one so we used one 10 year and one 1 year chip. Her sponsor forgot her special chip in a different pair of pants. All of this is to say it’s a good thing we’re working decent programs. For an anniversary to stumble at every step of the way wasn’t just random fate – it was a dumpster fire! We laughed harder with each mishap. We laughed, celebrating sisterhood as only a group of drunks can. Now Nancy has 2 chips to rub together and a story for next year. *Shaara K., Bedouin*

Our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work — Tradition 8

Eight—*Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage nonalcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.*

During the Covid lockdowns, here in Israel, there was a huge influx of newcomers. Suddenly, people who had never attended a live A.A. meeting showed up on zoom. They were urged to find a sponsor by getting phone numbers on the chat. Many did and worked the steps with someone with whom they'd never shaken hands or drunk a cup of coffee.

Newcomer Nick, a retiree, had a therapist who sent him to A.A. When advised to work the steps he hired a "Coach." He paid this man, who was a member in good standing of another 12-step fellowship (a fellowship which utilized both the steps and traditions of A.A.), to guide him. I was livid! Nick didn't know better, but the "Coach?" Boy, did I want to give him a piece of my mind.

So, what did I do? Nothing. It was not my job to correct Nick or the coach. Oh, it rankled! I wanted to make a citizen's arrest and throw the wise guy in jail – and to rescue the hapless newcomer. It was like watching a tourist being charged for tap water!

Nick stayed sober and has now attended many a Tradition Eight meeting. He never brought up the subject – and neither have I.

I apply this tradition to my family life. My kids were always expected to do chores. No one paid me for cooking and cleaning; I didn't pay them for cleaning their rooms and taking out the trash. If I needed a plumber, I'd hire one – because none of my children was a plumber. Recently, however, my daughter married a plumber. When he installed a new shower for me, I gladly paid him; it was a professional skill and he is a professional. However, when he tightened a leaky faucet (which only took a minute) he insisted that there was no charge because any idiot (other than me) could do this.

A.A. Israel has a wonderful translator who could charge us, and we'd be happy to pay him, but despite our offers he chooses to volunteer this skill, and that's fine. We can pay him; we don't have to. We do pay our lawyer, our web designer and our accountant, some are A.A. members, some not.

I will do things for free that you couldn't pay me to do; sponsoring is one of them. Babysitting six grandchildren at once is another. The reasons are similar. Sponsees and grandchildren know that I love them and am giving them my all. They also know not to mess with me when I set boundaries. 'Do your step-work and call me back,' and 'brush your teeth and get your pajamas on,' are both suggestions – but if you keep suffering or go to bed in your sneakers, well, it's not my problem. I answer neither to the former nor the parents of the latter; after all, my paycheck comes from a Higher Authority.

<https://alcoholics-anonymous.eu/general-post/our-usual-a-a-twelfth-step-work-tradition-8/>



It Happened in August

August 1: 1946 – Washington Times-Herald (DC)

reports on AA clubhouse, to protect members anonymity, withholds address

August 3: 1954 – Brinkley S. gets sober at Towns Hosp after 50th detox

1989 – Liberty Bell Group founded in Lake Elsinore, CA – August 3, 1989

August 8: 1879 – Dr Bob S. is born in St Johnsbury, Vermont

August 9: 1890 – After Annual Picnic for 400, LA groups announce 1000 members

in 11 groups

August 11: 1938 – Akron & NY members begin writing stories for Big Book

August 15: 1890 – E. M. Jellinek is born, author of The Disease Concept of Alcoholism and the Jellinek Curve

August 16: 1939 – Dr Bob and Sister Ignatia admit 1st alcoholic to St Thomas Hospital, Akron, Ohio

August 18: 1988 – 1st Canadian National AA Convention in Halifax, Nova Scotia

August 19: 1941 – 1st AA Meeting in Colorado is held in Denver

August 25: 1943 – AA group donates Big Book to public library in Quincy, MA

August 26: 1941 – Bill writes Dr Bob to tell him Works Publishing has been incorporated

August 28: 1954 – 24 Hours a Day is published by Richmond Walker

Other significant events in August for which we have no specific dates:

1934: Rowland H and Cebra persuade court to parole Ebby T. to them.

1939: Dr. Bob wrote & may have signed article for Faith magazine.

1941 – 1st meeting in Orange County, California held in Anaheim

1981 – Sales of the Big Book passes 3,000,000

Service Opportunities!

SMIA needs a Treasurer

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Residence in Calvert, Charles or St Mary's county - Calvert county preferred.**
- **Minimum of 2 years of continuous sobriety. This is a 2-year term.**

Duties & Responsibilities:

The Treasurer maintains Southern Maryland Intergroup Association's (SMIA) corporate financial records, tax returns, detailed accounting of receipts and disbursements; and provides summaries and reports to the Intergroup at least quarterly. The Treasurer works with the Finance Committee to prepare the annual budget and present it to the Member Assembly for a vote. The Treasurer receives contributions and maintains SMIA's funds in an account in the name of SMIA. With approval of the Board, the Treasurer oversees and maintains any financial professional services.

Eligibility & Preferred Qualifications:

- A sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous
- Organizational skills for good record-keeping; accounting or bookkeeping experience
- Computer skills appropriate for the duties of the position, especially working with spreadsheets
- Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- A sound understanding and appreciation of applying the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous, along with a willingness to consult with others who have experience gained through applying these guiding principles successfully to problems.

This is an excellent opportunity to be of service at the District level.

Please join us at the next SMIA meeting, *Saturday August 8 at 10am*

Immaculate Conception Church,

28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Or via Zoom @

<https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?>

[pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09](#)

AUGUST 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Brad H., 20 yrs, We Wuz Wurz
2 Jeanette W., 6 yrs, ODAAT	3 Tim P., 1 yr, Monday Nite Traditions	4	5 Cindy C., 17 yrs, Awak- enings	6	7	8
9 Beth H., 23 yrs, Living Sober Willie S., 41 yrs, Bobby U., 35 yrs, and Bill B., 16 yrs, Solo- mon's Group	10	11 Betty C., 5 yrs, Blue Top Billy G., 4 yrs, Hollywood Barbara W., 31 yrs, Emotional Sobriety	12	13	14	15 Michael O., 35 yrs, Saturday AM Break- fast
16 James C., 7 yrs and Ray C., 5 yrs, Nev- er Too Late Amber W., 3 yrs and Kristin T., 1 yr, ODAAT	17	18	19	20 Suzie L., 21 yrs, What's The Point	21	22
23 Emmy J, 23 yrs, and Taylor T, 8 yrs, ODAAT	24	25	26	27 Brian O., 2 yrs, Poplar Hill Paul B., 37 yrs, Basic Text	28	29 Mark A., 11 yrs, Dry Dock Club, Tarpon Springs, FL
30 Mike M., 11 yrs and Cur- tis B., 5 yrs, KISS	31					

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Dana S., 1 yr, Emo- tional So- briety	2	3 Tony S., 43 yrs, Almost Normal	4 Michelle M., 4 yrs, Not Quite Right	5
6	7	8 Bob W., 8 yrs, Holly- wood	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Pete D., 8 yrs, Pop- lar Hill	25	26
27	28 Linda M., 26 yrs, Monday Nite Tradi- tions	29	30			



Sunlight of the Spirit

EVENT SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY:

8pm: Victor V • Springdale, AR

SATURDAY:

8:30am: Open Meeting

10am: Terra W. • Camp Hill, PA

11:30am: Roundtable Forum

12:30-2pm: Lunch Break on your own

2pm: Lori G • Oklahoma City, OK (Al-Anon)

4pm: Jan M • Columbus, OH

5-7:30pm: Dinner Break on your own

7:45pm: Sobriety Countdown

8pm: Cliff G • Oklahoma City, OK

9:30 pm: Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY:

9:30am: Gary M • Columbus, OH

2026

**August
7-9**

Wyndham Garden York
2000 Loucks Road
York, PA, 17408

For More Info
and
Registration



Scan With Your Camera

See what else
is planned at

➔ **SunlightYork.org**

REGISTER

FOR THE
2026 VAC CONVENTION

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Richmond - Midlothian
1021 Koger Center Blvd,
Richmond, VA 23235
Friday, August 14 through
Sunday, August 16, 2026

Hosted by VAC District 29 and
surrounding Richmond Districts

\$20 until 12/31, \$25 1/1-8/13

\$35 registration at the door

Rooms \$135 a night until 7/15/26



Registration &
Scholarships



Hotel
Booking

2026VACconvention@gmail.com



AA BIG BOOK Comes Alive!

THE
SIMPLE
PROGRAM
THAT WORKS



REAL PEOPLE
REAL EXPERIENCE
REAL HOPE

ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS

UNDERSTAND IT.
APPLY IT.
LIVE IT.



CLARITY



DIRECTION



FREEDOM

- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ THE 12 STEPS
- ✓ THE 12 TRADITIONS
- ✓ TOOLS FOR LIVING
- ✓ SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES THAT WORK

ONE DAY
AT A TIME

THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE.
BRINGING THE BIG BOOK TO LIFE.



hosted by:
District 36

presented by:

Scott F. & Chris B.
(Philly, PA) (New Jersey)

**Continental
Breakfast &
Lunch Provided**

Aug 15th | 9am - 4pm

Mt. Zion Church
Mechanicsville, MD

POC: Michele H. 240-298-8072

**69th ANNUAL A.A.
SESSIONS By - The - Sea**

Tuesday thru Sunday
August 18-23, 2026
CONVENTION HALL - OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

We are pleased to announce an outstanding program.

TUESDAY EVENING Irene M North Myrtle Beach SC 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY EVENING Gerald B Frankford DE 8:30 P.M.
WEDNESDAY EVENING Dennis McL. Little River SC 8:30 P.M.	SATURDAY MORNING (AFG) Jill F Seven Valleys PA 10:00 A.M.
THURSDAY EVENING Christina G. Brecksville OH 8:30 P.M.	SATURDAY EVENING Ethel N Philadelphia PA 8:00 P.M.
FRIDAY MORNING (AFG) Susan H Eldersburg MD 10:00 A.M.	SUNDAY MORNING John E Bellevue NE 10:00 A.M.

THERE WILL BE NO SMOKING IN THE CONVENTION HALL

~ Interpreter for the hearing impaired ~

~Good Fellowship
~Golf Tournament
~A.A. Literature

~Good Speakers
~Good Beach
~Fishing Trip

Registration is online only. Registration Badges must be picked up at the Convention Center and the name badge must be worn visibly to attend any event at the Convention Center. There will be no other Registrations or Name badges available at Sessions.

GO TO <https://www.sessionsbythesea.com/> FOR REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

DISTRICT 1

SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday 8/22/26
12-4pm

1140 HILENDALE WAY
PRINCE FREDERICK MD 20678

PLEASE BRING SWIMSUIT, TOWEL,
SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE.
MEATS AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

QUESTIONS- CALL OR TEXT JERRY C
240-882-5291



Join Us for the Prom You'll Remember

The WCI Activities Committee's

ADULT PROM

DJ & Dancing | Coffee & Desserts
50/50 Raffle | Photo Booth

Submit your promproposal to
activities@westcentralaa.org to be
entered to win Prom King or Queen!

Saturday, August 29, 2026 | 6-9 p.m.
Elks Lodge - 289 Willowdale Drive
Cost: \$15 - WCI Website or Intergroup Reps



DISTRICT 36

BARBECUE

Cook-Off & Fall Picnic

BRING YOUR BEST RIBS!

Think you have the best ribs? Let's find out!

COMPETITORS

★ **MAKE THEM AT HOME** ★

Prepare your best ribs at home using your favorite recipe.

★ **BRING THEM TO THE FALL PICNIC FOR JUDGING!**

Bring your cooked ribs to the picnic ready for judging. Ribs will be judged on taste, tenderness & overall appeal!

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST RECIPE!!

JUDGES NEEDED!

★ **WE ARE LOOKING FOR JUDGES** ★

 to help us decide who has the best ribs!

JUDGES CANNOT BE COMPETITORS IN THE CONTEST.

Side Dishes & Desserts Welcome

SUNDAY SEP 13
12:00 - 4:00

 Lettie Dent (5th District) Park
37840 New Market-Turner Rd
Mechanicsville, MD 20659

TO SIGN UP TO COMPETE OR TO BE A JUDGE,
SEE **KIM S** OR **MARY F**

★ **QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO?** ★
SEE **KIM S** OR **MARY F**
Call or Text:
Mary F 240-237-2954
Kim S 301-481-7098

GREAT FOOD! GREAT FUN!

GOOD PEOPLE! GREAT TIMES!

Does your group, intergroup, or district need accessibility help?

Do you need:

- Large-print, audio, or Braille literature?
- ASL or foreign language interpretation?
- Help finding meeting spaces that can accommodate wheelchair users or service animals?
- Tools for bringing meetings to senior centers and assisted living facilities?
- Ideas for supporting alcoholics in remote areas?



The Area 29 Accessibilities Committee is here for you!

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at noon ET

Zoom ID: 871 6531 6649
Passcode: A29Access

SOUTHERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES 7/11/26

OPENING: The Serenity Prayer

Board Members Present: Todd M – Chair/
Acting Treasurer; Keith T, Parliamentarian;
Shaara W, Secretary.

New Member(s)/Visitor(s) Introduction: Brandi T, ODAAT; Nancy, Turn it Over.

Groups & Committees Represented: Buddy F – Archives Chair/Bookstall; Bill L – Web (remotely); Keith H – Lifeline; Brandi T - St. Mary's County Corrections; Faye S, We Are Not Saints; and Cindy C, Awakenings.

SMIA Chair Report: Area 29 Committee Meeting July 18 in Hagerstown, it will be hybrid, at St. John's Episcopal Church. He has the contact information. Letters of authorization have been signed and he has an appointment with the Post Office and Bank.

Vice-Chair Report: No report.

Secretary Report (corrections/additions):
Motion to accept the June 2026 Minutes as posted on the Web and in the Lifeline. Second. All in favor.

Treasurer Report (corrections/additions):
This position is still vacant. Todd M, Chair, is still working with the former Treasurer. The Church changed its mailing address so our last 2 checks for rent were never cashed. That has been fixed but there will be an additional \$300 in rent expense on the financial report next month. The Serenity Breakfast Audit is completed as is the proposed Budget for 2026-27. Motion to accept the Budget for 2026-27. Second. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corrections/Treatment/Public information/PCP: Calvert: No report. Charles: Everything is going well. St. Mary's: Brandi T reported things are going well. The men have 7 volunteers with another approved; she said Roy is looking for volunteers to carry a second men's meeting. She said the jail has requested that no outside

publications be brought in without approval.

Telephone: Still need a chair for this. Faye S. has been taking the calls since June 1 and will do it until the position is filled. Total Calls Since June 13, 16; Calvert 4; Charles 5; St. Mary's 3; Not specified 4. Another article was and will be published in the Lifeline about the vacancy of this position. Minimum of 2 years sobriety.

Where & When: Printed and distributed.

Lifeline: Keith H reported that things are going good. He welcomes any suggestions, feedback, etc., by the 27th of the month. Flyer submissions should be in portrait and .pdf.

Events Temporary Events Committee: No report. See Old Business. Serenity Breakfast: No report. Picnic: Buddy reported attendance wasn't what it could have been but met budget. Gratitude Dinner: Scheduled for November. No discussion. Workshops: District 36 is having a speakers meeting/Big Book Study on August 15 at Mt. Zion Church.

Bookstall: No. Orders 3. Total Collected \$62.30 Total inventory ordered \$657.00

Web Report: 6/13/26 – 7/11/26 Site Analytics
Main Site Total Visitors (initial visit)

Bookstall Site 2753– down 5% 2880– up 53%
5 Most Frequently visited pages Home Page – 2570 Where and When Calendar- 418 Announcements - 323 Anniversary Page - 298 On-Line Meetings - 277

Top 10 Visitor locations – Maryland, Virginia, California, DC, Ohio, Florida, West Virginia, Delaware, Illinois, Ohio Site Updates and Changes No significant changes.

3 Meeting Change Information Emotional Sobriety added notes to specify exactly where the meeting was held. Do Drop In changed their meeting format from a Big Book Meeting to several literature options. We Are Not Saints changed their format to an Open Discussion Meeting. Another new group entry was submitted for Keeping It Real. This is the fifth submission for this group, and each time the sender does not include the on-line meeting information, therefore we do not list it. Meeting Status Currently there are 135 meetings in our service area; 127 meetings are in-person, 6

meetings are hybrid, 7 meetings are on-line only, and one meeting is suspended.

Document Posts and Updates: Lifeline posted – 7/2/26 Financial page updated – 6/30/26 June Minutes posted – 6/21/26

Anniversary Submissions since last meeting St. Mary's County - 14 Calvert County - 1 Charles County - 0 Out of area - 1

Phishing Attempts: Still receiving a few, but largely reduced in volume. Notes It is important to note that the SMIA is not responsible for the accuracy of on-line or physical meeting information. This is the responsibility of the groups or districts that provide the information. As a reminder, if your meetings are located in a separate building or obscure location at the primary address, please send us notes regarding the specific location.

OLD BUSINESS: Temporary Committee – John reported they need participants – will meet via Zoom. Currently working on a "drafty" draft report on their progress. Keith H has distributed a couple of resources on event planning to the Board including one from GSO.

NEW BUSINESS: Keith H reported the package he uses to publish the LifeLine is no longer supported by Microsoft (Publisher). He is looking at Canva, which is free for 501(c)(3)s. Need proof to get it before August if possible. Todd has an appointment at the bank on July 24 to look at the lockbox or at least get the EIN.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Chairs in the meeting room are missing, Buddy is in touch with the Church to get reimbursement from the school. Keith H is celebrating 37 years July 16 at Almost Normal.

Motion to Adjourn. Second. All in favor.

CLOSING – Responsibility Pledge

**A "shortcoming"
is like a flat tire.
A "character
defect" is like
driving on it.**

www.sobersadvertising.com

August 2026

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc

Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions: \$434.00 www.somdintergroup.org/contribute SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622				
Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Monthly Statement of Financial Position June 25, 2026 -July 24, 2026		Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity April 25, 2026 - April 24, 2027		
Assets		Year to Date Income		BUDGET Shortfall
Primary Business Checking	\$ 3,573.67	Contributions	\$ 514.00	96%
Prudent Reserve	\$ 3,700.00	Bookstall Sales	\$ 408.70	88%
PayPal	\$ 513.99	Gratitude Dinner	\$ -	100%
Bookstall Cash on hand	\$ 100.00	Serenity Breakfast	\$ (194.00)	139%
Total Assets	7,887.66	Total 2026 Income	728.70	96%
This Month's Expenses		Year to Date Expenses		BUDGET Left to Use
Bookstall Purchases	\$ (788.82)	Bookstall Purchases	\$ (1,577.64)	80%
Liability Insurance	\$ -	Liability Insurance	\$ -	100%
Lifeline Printing	\$ (152.77)	Lifeline Printing	\$ (424.62)	82%
Misc	\$ -	Misc	\$ -	0%
Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (61.38)	Phone Answering Service/1-800#	\$ (183.96)	84%
Post Office Box	\$ -	Post Office Box	\$ (126.00)	-5%
Rent	\$ (150.00)	Rent	\$ (450.00)	83%
Webmaster	\$ -	Webmaster	\$ -	100%
Website	\$ (139.35)	Website	\$ (198.03)	93%
Where & When	\$ -	Where & When	\$ -	100%
Picnic	\$ -	Picnic	\$ -	100%
Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ -	Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)	\$ -	100%
Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (16.00)	Bank Charges and Fees	\$ (48.00)	84%
Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	Other - Tax Filings	\$ -	0%
Total Expenses	\$ (1,308.32)	Total 2026-2027 Expenses	\$ (3,008.25)	83%
Total of Checking and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of		2.82	Months	
Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining		9	Months	
For our 2025-2026 planned expenses, we currently have a		\$ (8,962.34)	Shortfall	
Remaining Service Committee Budgets		C&T	PI/CPC	
Budget Year 2026 (01May2026 - 30Apr2027)	Calvert	\$ -	\$ -	
As of 08MAY2026	Charles	\$ -	\$ -	
	St.Mary's	\$ -	\$ -	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:

WALDORF
ST CHARLES STEP
NOT A GLUM LOT
BEGINNERS @ NOON
INSPIRATION

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/wwwsearch.html#gnlf>. If your group does not have a current group number, contact the Area 29 Registrar at registrar@marylandaa.org.

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR CONTRIBUTIONS?

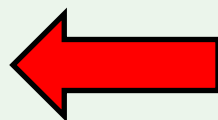
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

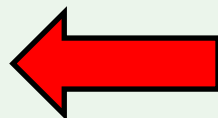
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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 234
Crownsville, MD 21032**



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

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

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

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

ATTENTION GROUP TREASURERS:

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

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

Distribution Plan of _____
(YOUR GROUP NAME)

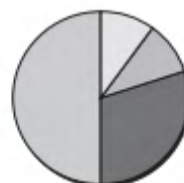
Your Group Service # _____

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



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

OR



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

OR

If you have no intergroup/central office.



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

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

SMIA SERVICE TEAM:

Chair: Todd M.

Vice Chair: Emme J.

Secretary: Shaara W.

Treasurer: VACANT

Parliamentarian: Keith T.

Web: Bill L.

Bookstall: Buddy F.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H.

Telephone: Faye S.

Where & When: Pat P.

DISTRICT 35 CHARLES 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

Accessibilities Chair

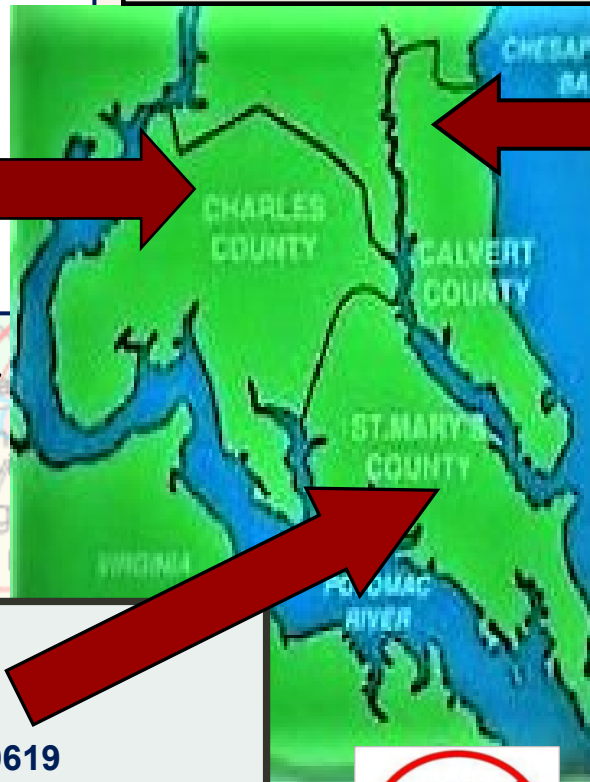
Men's Institutions Chair

Bridging the Gap Chair

District Meeting:
7 PM, 3rd Monday
St. Paul's Episc. Church
25 Church St.
Prince Frederick, MD
20678

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.marylandaa.org/
organizer/district-36-6](http://www.marylandaa.org/organizer/district-36-6)



**Check out our
NEW WEBSITE!**

**Please send any updates for
the Where & When to:**
**[smia.whereandwhen@
somdaa.org](mailto:smia.whereandwhen@somdaa.org)**

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

DISTRICT NOTES

**The next SMIA Meeting will be held on
Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 AM**

**Join us in person @
Immaculate Conception Church,
28297 Old Village Road, Mechanicsville, MD 20659**

**Or via Zoom @
[https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?](https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09)
[pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09](https://zoom.us/j/99982597908?pwd=QzVLcUZrVHdacFlrYUNZN21tdkluQT09)**