

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>

The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius famously said that our lives are what our thoughts make them. In other words, by simply changing the way we think and our focus, we can change our lives. Bearing this in mind, choosing gratitude can have a huge impact on your life.

As practicing alcoholics, chances are, we were focusing on all the misery in our lives—the things that life had inflicted on us, and the things that we had inflicted on ourselves. But now that we are sober, we have to change our thinking patterns if we want to change our drinking patterns.

When I first came into recovery more than 30 years ago, my sponsor told me to buy a notebook and write down 10 things I was grateful for, and then add three things to that list every day. I stopped numbering my list when I got to 5,000 items.

Why did I write a gratitude list? Because I didn't want to be miserable, and if being grateful was the solution, then that's what I would do. And importantly, a grateful heart doesn't drink. I learned very quickly that the struggle stops when gratitude begins.

Now that you're working the program, in the fellowship, the secret word remains "*gratitude*." Definitely go out and get that notebook, and add three items every day.

In addition, consider what master motivator Tony Robbins says about our brains—that they are "*question-answering machines*." In other words, whatever question you pose to your brain, it will think and think until it comes up with an appropriate answer.

Take for example, if we ask, "*Why is my life so horrible?*" Our brains will go to a quick, not always the best answer: "*Because I'm a (fill in the blank)!*" That

could be pretty self-defeating depending on what your "*blank*" is.

That's why it's important to ask yourself better questions.

So here are three that can make a huge difference in your early recovery and

right now?

2. How can I serve today?

Our co-founder Dr. Bob, in his last speech to an AA gathering, reminded us that our philosophy of life as sober people is to be of love and service, "*We all know*

ASK YOURSELF THREE QUESTIONS EVERY DAY



in the day-to-day level of happiness you experience.

1. What's great about my life today?

We tend to live in the past or the future, either reliving past disasters or awaiting more bad things to happen. The program tells us that if we have one foot in the past and one foot in the future, we are making a you-know-what of the present. And besides, the reason we call it the present... is because it's a gift!

So what's great about your life right now?

- You're clean and sober.
- You have a program.
- You have a Higher Power who loves you and wants the best for you.

• You're getting your life back.

Hey, I'm doing all the work for you! So you tell me... what's great about your life

what love means, and we all know what service means," Bob told us.

My sponsor had a quote from a Roman philosopher on the back of his AA business card—"God divided man into men that they might help each other."

(Ignore the gender-specificity of the ancient Romans. What did they know about inclusiveness?) The real issue is this: How can you serve today?

Can you set up chairs in a meeting? Can you visit a sick friend or relative? Can you call a newcomer? By serving others, we remind ourselves what true love means.

3. Where would I be if I wasn't clean and sober?

It's amazing how quickly we take recovery for granted. But ask yourself what your life would be like right now,

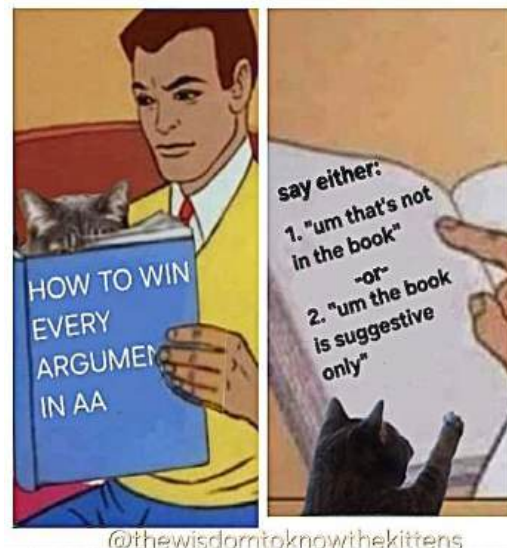
(continued on page 2)

(con't) right at this very minute, if you weren't working your program. Would you be living in a nice place? If it's not that nice, is it possible that the place where you'd be living be even worse? Might it have bars instead of walls? Might you be on the street, in the hospital, or six feet under?

All knowledge is by comparison, so contrast the life that you currently have with the life that you would have had if you had kept on dancing with your disease.

Studies show that by deliberately cultivating gratitude, we can increase our well-being and happiness. And importantly, a

grateful heart doesn't drink or use. So focus on gratitude and watch your life get great. <https://www.aacle.org/gratitude-in-early-recovery/>



Three Legacies of A.A.

Taken together, the Steps, Traditions and Concepts embody what are known as the three legacies of Alcoholics Anonymous: Recovery, Unity and Service. As November is the 11th month, let's take a closer look at Step 11, Tradition 11 and Concept 11.

Step Eleven — *Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.* Perhaps one of the greatest rewards of meditation and prayer is the sense of belonging that comes to us. We no longer live in a completely hostile world. We are no longer lost and frightened and purposeless. The moment we catch even a glimpse of God's will, the moment we begin to see truth, justice, and love as the real and eternal things in life, we are no longer deeply disturbed by all the seeming evidence to the contrary that surrounds us in purely human affairs. We know that God lovingly watches over us. We know that when we turn to Him, all will be well with us, here and hereafter. — Reprinted from **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**© (page 105), with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Tradition Eleven — *Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.* This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship. — Reprinted from **Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions**© (page 186), with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

Protecting anonymity is a major concern for members, who are accessing the Internet in ever-growing numbers. When we use

digital media, we are responsible for our own anonymity and that of others. When we post, text, or blog, we should assume that we are publishing at the public level. When we break our anonymity in these forums, we may inadvertently break the anonymity of others. For more information, see the A.A. pamphlet *Understanding Anonymity*, the October 2010 issue of A.A. Grapevine on **Anonymity on the Internet**, and the A.A. Guidelines on the Internet.

Concept Eleven — *While the Trustees hold final responsibility for A.A.'s world service administration, they should always have the assistance of the best possible standing committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Therefore the composition of these underlying committees and service boards, the personal qualifications of their members, the manner of their induction into service, the systems of their rotation, the way in which they are related to each other, the special rights and duties of our executives, staffs, and consultants, together with a proper basis for the financial compensation of these special workers, will always be matters for serious care and concern.* The longtime success of our General Service Board will rest not only on the capabilities of the Trustees themselves; it will depend quite as much upon the competent leadership and harmonious association of those non-Trustee committee members, corporate service directors, executives and staff members who must actively carry on A.A.'s world services. Their quality and dedication, or their lack of these characteristics, will make or break our structure of service. Our final dependency on them will always be great indeed. — Reprinted from **The A.A. Service Manual combined with Twelve Concepts**, 2021-2023 Edition (page c37), with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.

<https://sussexaa.org/in-a-a-november-is-gratitude-month/>

“...God Almighty, Booze Was Never This Good!”

Henry Giffen Parkhurst was born March 13, 1895, in Marion, Iowa. He is considered to be A.A. #2 in the New York contingent of Alcoholics Anonymous and was Bill's first "sponsee." Henry (Hank) was from Teaneck, New Jersey and could be considered to be the fifth member of A.A. New Jersey A.A. can trace its roots to Hank. Hank had once been the Assistant General Sales Manager for Standard Oil of New Jersey and had been fired for his drinking. Bill found him in September of 1935 in Towns Hospital and offered him the solution that he had worked for him, Doctor Bob and Bill Dotson. Hank, who had been treated numerous times previously at Towns and was an avowed atheist, reluctantly accepted the "spiritual" solution. His story, "The Unbeliever" was published in the 1st edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Hank is first mentioned in "The Doctor's Opinion" on page xxix of the Big Book. Dr. Silkworth describes his case in detail:

"He has lost everything worthwhile in life and was only living, one might say, to drink. He frankly admitted and believed that for him there was no hope. Following the elimination of alcohol, there was found to be no permanent brain injury. He accepted the plan outlined in this book. One year later he called to see me, and I experienced a very strange sensation. I knew the man by name, and partly recognized his features, but there all resemblance ended. From a trembling, despairing, nervous wreck, had emerged a man brimming over with self-reliance and contentment. I talked with him for some time, but was notable to bring myself to feel that I had known him before. To me he was a stranger, and so he left me. A long time has passed with no return to alcohol."

Hank is again mentioned in the chapter "A Vision for You" on page 163 as a possi-

bility for the "... A.A. member living in a large community." This refers to Hank's home on N. Fullerton Street in Upper Montclair where he lived in 1939 when the book was first published. Hank has been described as a red-haired, tall, broad-shouldered former athlete with a salesman's drive and enthusiasm. Hank was a hard-driving promoter who was once described as "having an idea a minute." He and his wife Kathleen had two sons, Henry and Robert (Hank Jr., and Bob.) Hank and his wife Kathleen began attending the meetings on Tuesday nights that Bill and Lois held at their Brooklyn home at 182 Clinton Street. These meetings which began in the fall of 1935 would continue until April of 1939. Hank also attended Oxford Group meetings with Bill and another New York recruit named John Fitzhugh Mayo.

One A.A. story has Hank in early recovery one night with Bill and Fitz driving down Park Avenue in Hank's convertible. Hank suddenly stood straight up, grasping the steering wheel in both hands, with the wind beating against him, yelling, "God! God almighty, booze was never this good." Hank had an office at 911 Hill Street in Newark, which later moved to 17 William Street. The office was "the headquarters for a rapidly failing business," according to Bill. The business was Honor Dealers, which Hank had conceived, according to one source, was a way of getting back at Standard Oil; the company that had fired him for his drinking. His business plan was to provide selected gasoline stations with the opportunity to buy gasoline, oil, and automobile parts on a cooperative basis. Bill Wilson was hired to be a salesperson for the company and was later joined by Jimmy Burwell; another pioneer of A.A. Ruth Hock was hired as the secretary of Honor Dealers and would later become the A.A. Foundation's first national secretary. Ruth remembered very little gasoline business being conducted there. A lot of people dropped in to discuss their drinking problems, and on more than one occasion she observed Bill and Hank kneeling in prayer by the side of Hank's desk with one of these visitors, an Oxford Group custom when seeking God's guidance. It was here in the offices of



Honor Dealers that the book Alcoholics Anonymous was to be written.

In 1937, on February 13th the "Alcoholic Squadron" of the New York Oxford Group held a meeting in New Jersey at Hank Parkhurst's Teaneck home on Wyndham Road. It was the first time the group of drunks met in New Jersey to conduct an "alcoholic style" Oxford Group meeting. . The project needed funding, so Hank wrote up a prospectus for "The 100 Men Corporation." They offered 600 shares. Hank bought blank stock certificates, typed in his full name, followed by the title "President." The name of the publishing company was "Works Publishing Co.," but the corporation was not registered until several years later. Hank and Bill were each to keep 200 shares for their work on the book, the balance of the 200 shares would be sold for \$25 per share. This would raise the \$5,000 needed to publish the book. Although Bill was the primary author of the book, Hank is credited for Chapter 10, To Employers. Without Hank and his fundraising, promoting and keeping Bill on task, the book may never have been written. It was published on April 10, 1939.

On April 26, 1939, Bill and Lois were evicted from their home at 182 Clinton Street in Brooklyn. They moved in with Hank and Kathleen Parkhurst, now living in Upper Montclair, New Jersey. On May 14, 1939, the very first meeting of the New Jersey Group of Alcoholics

*(continued on
page 4)*

(con't) Anonymous took place in the home of Hank and Kathleen in Montclair. Meetings that had been formerly held in Brooklyn were held in New Jersey for the next 5 or 6 weeks. In the early summer of 1939, Bill and Hank had a falling out. Hank wanted to leave his wife and marry Ruth Hock, the secretary from Honor Dealers. She refused his proposal and Hank felt that Bill had interfered. In late June, Hank and Kathleen would split up. Hank moved to East Orange, Bill and Lois left to stay at the Bungalow owned by Horace Chrystal in Green Pond, New Jersey. In September, Hank returned to drinking. Bill's first sponsee, the promoter of the Big Book and the founder of A.A. in New Jersey would never again enjoy long-term sobrie-

ty. Hank would nurse resentment against Bill for the rest of his life and cause great division within the fellowship. In March of 1940 Bill and Ruth moved the office of the Alcoholic Foundation to Vesey Street in Manhattan. Not long after, Hank showed up dirty, drunk and in a bad way. He complained that the furniture in the office was still his and Bill offered him \$200 for the furniture provided he signed over his 200 shares of Works Publishing Co. to the Alcoholic Foundation. In desperation, Hank complied. He had periods of sobriety over the next 14 years. His second marriage to Clarence Snyder's wife Dorothy was short lived. Hank's third marriage was to a Houston oil heiress, reportedly the love of his life. She died leaving Hank an inheritance

which he later used to remarry Kathleen and purchase a chicken farm in Pennington, New Jersey. This farm was destroyed by fire in January 1954. The story was reported in the Pennington Post, which also carried Hank's obituary on the very same day. Hank died January 18, 1954, at Mercer Hospital in Pennington, New Jersey. His obituary says only that he died after a lengthy illness.

Despite Hank's difficulties, A.A. owes Henry G. Parkhurst its thanks and gratitude. Without him, the Big Book and A.A.'s early history might be remarkably different from what we have today. A.A. in New Jersey and its history are the direct result of Hank Parkhurst's involvement in A.A. during its "flying blind" period.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/569123304646183/posts/781289886762856/>

It is said that every alcoholic has his own rock bottom, his own gutter. I had watched my career, my profession and my health vanish without appreciable effort or anything except the increasing tempo of my drinking. But one day, twenty-one years ago, I was ordered out of my home and family! My own mother had finally decided that I was useless and hopeless. That was my particular gutter. Not until then had I been willing to face up to how far I had gone down in life.

It was this that brought me to A.A. No one led me there, I came to it myself. I came in desperation, without any hope of anything really happening. The best I expected was that I might possibly manage with its help to keep off another drunk until I had smoothed things out at home. I was very sick, in the jitters and doped with drugs;

mentally sick, confused, and unable to divorce my thoughts from drink; spiritually sick, for I no longer had any hope in anyone or anything, and no longer any faith in anyone, anything or any God. Most of what I heard that night went in and came straight out again. I received a confused idea that all I had to do was to stay dry for one day, and that I should have to pray, what? Me? And that if I only came back to the next meeting all would be well.



No, it was what I saw that struck home to me. What happened that night to me was a rekindling of a spark of Hope. I heard men describe their drinking lives; I saw them! They were flesh and blood before me. They had had the jitters too. They too had taken those early morning walks to the market pubs, like me; they understood, as I hadn't been able to make anyone else understand, that men like me didn't go out to get drunk—it just

happened! They had been doing all the strange things that I was still doing; they had been thinking in the same crazy way that I was still thinking... and yet they had found a way to recover after all. There was hope for me! What they could do, perhaps I could do as well.

I walked home alone after that meeting, my mind racing and still confused. Now that I again was myself, I hardly dared to keep on

hoping. For these others... yes, they had recovered. But for me, how could it happen? I never had that kind of luck! Yet, that tiny voice that there is hope kept whispering "They did it... they could do it... why shouldn't you... if you really try with them?"

That faint hope did keep me dry for the next few days to the next meeting. That same small little hope set me off on the way to recovery and happiness. That same hope can do as much for anyone else.

<https://www.aacle.org/there-is-hope/>

It Happened in November



November 1: 1947 – 1st AA Group in

Anchorage, Alaska; 1963 – Reverend Sam Shoemaker dies.

November 9: 1966 – President Johnson appoints Marty M to the 1st National Advisory Committee on Alcoholism.

November 10: 1940 – 1st AA group formed in Minneapolis; 2001 – 1st of 400,000 4th Edition Big Books arrives in the mail.

November 11: 1934 – Bill W's final drunk begins on Veterans Day and lasts about a month.

November 12: 1940 – 1st AA meeting is held in Boston.

November 13: 1939 – Bill wants to go back to work, NY drunks want him to stay on as head of the movement November 13, 1939

November 14: 1940 – Alcoholic Foundation publishes 1st AA Bulletin.

November 15: 1949 – Bill W suggests that groups devote Thanksgiving week to discussions of the 12 Traditions.

November 16: 1950 – Dr Bob S dies in Akron, Ohio.

November 18: 1946 – 1st Dublin Ireland group met.

November 21: 1939 – AA's in San Francisco hold 1st California AA meeting in the Clift Hotel; 1952 – Willard Richardson, past Treasurer/Chairman of Alcoholic Foundation, dies.

November 26: 1895 – William Griffith W. born, East Dorset, VT; 1939 – Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups.

November 28: 1934 – Ebby T. carries message to Bill; 1936 – Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become 'AA #3 in NY', with Bill W and Hank P.; 1937 – Bill and Dr. Bob compare notes in Akron. Count forty cases staying sober. Meeting of the Akron Group to consider Bill's ideas for how to expand the movement ... a book, AA hospitals, paid missionaries. Passed by a majority of 2.

1939 – Akron group withdrawals from association with Oxford Group. Meetings moved from T Henry & Clarence Williams to Dr Bob and other members homes. 1939 – Hank P writes Bill advocating autonomy for all AA groups. 1943 – Bill guest speaker San Quentin Penitentiary.

Other significant events in November for which we have no specific dates: 1936 – Fitz M leaves Towns Hospital to become AA #3 in NY with Bill W and Hank P.

1941 – "First Mass AA Meeting" in Oklahoma City, 8 present, 1 was drunk.

1945 – Bill's article called 'Those Goof Balls' published in Grapevine.

1986 – The Big Book is published in paperback.

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

District 1 Needs a DCM - Could It Be You?

Hey, District 1 — we've got spot for someone ready to serve! At our October meeting we will be electing a District Committee Member (DCM). If nobody steps up, the chair stays empty...and our district loses a vital connection to the wider AA world and our collective voice does not get carried forward. SO, what's a DCM, anyway? Think of it like being the chief connector—the link between Calvert County groups and the wider A.A. world. No superhero cape required — just a few years of sobriety, some energy, and a willingness to carry the message. Here's what a DCM really does:

- ⇒ ***Holds monthly district meetings with GSRs to keep communication flowing.***
- ⇒ ***Carries the group conscience of our district to the area committee.***
- ⇒ ***Keeps GSRs and the groups they represent in the loop about Conference activities and AA news.***
- ⇒ ***Assists the Area 29 Delegate by gathering and passing along group information.***
- ⇒ ***Encourage participation by of area groups (especially those without a GSR).***
- ⇒ ***Host workshops/sharing sessions on service, traditions, and carrying the message.***
- ⇒ ***Introduce folks to service tools like Box 4-5-9 and the Service Manual.***

It's a two-year gig, but don't worry — you won't be alone. Plenty of support, guidance, and fellowship come with the role. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Prince Frederick. Participation via Zoom is an option. If you've been wondering how to take your sobriety on tour beyond your home group, this could be your ticket. Step up in October and give District 1 the voice it deserves! Want to know more? Find out here: <https://www.aa.org/your-dcm-district-committee-member>. Want to know what the Area Delegate does? That's a subject for another day.

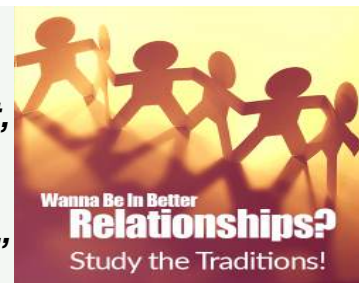
NOVEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Nikki T., 4 yrs, ODAAT	3	4 Guy A., 19 yrs, Lex Park Big Book	5 George B., 6 yrs, Patuxent River	6	7 John K., 15 yrs, Cove Point	8 Dennis G., 31 yrs, We Wuz Wurz
9 Jeanette C., 4 yrs, Never Too Late	10 Bill L., 15 yrs, Harmony	11 Charlie A., 39 yrs, Grapevine	12	13 Pat S., 41 yrs, Charlotte Hall	14	15
16 Patrick F., 1 yr and Geoff P., 1 yr, Never Too Late Brendan M., 5 yrs, KISS	17 John B., 15 yrs, North Beach	18 Robbin E., 6 yrs, Lexington Park Big Book	19 Hugh C., 15 yrs, Blue Top at Noon	20	21	22 Cindy B., 40 yrs, Early Bird
23	24 Casey M., 34 yrs, Private Family Celebration	25 Peggy K., 28 yrs and Kathy I., 8 yrs, Emotional Sobriety	26	27 Dan S., 17 yrs, and Steve E., 3 yrs, Poplar Hill Seth H., 10 yrs, Basic Text	28	29 JD, 5 yrs, Saturday 12 & 12 Robert M., 27 yrs and Shaara W., 1 yr, Kingston Creek Rick K., 3 yrs, Laurel Grove
30	 					

DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Robert R., 2 yrs, Patuxent River	4	5	6 Ken S., 14 yrs, We Wuz Wurz
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Steve H., 35 yrs, King- ston Creek
28	29	30	31			

“Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. We think A.A. ought to avoid sensational advertising. Our names and pictures as A.A. members ought not be broadcast, filmed, or publicly printed. Our public relations should be guided by the principle of attraction rather than promotion. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.”

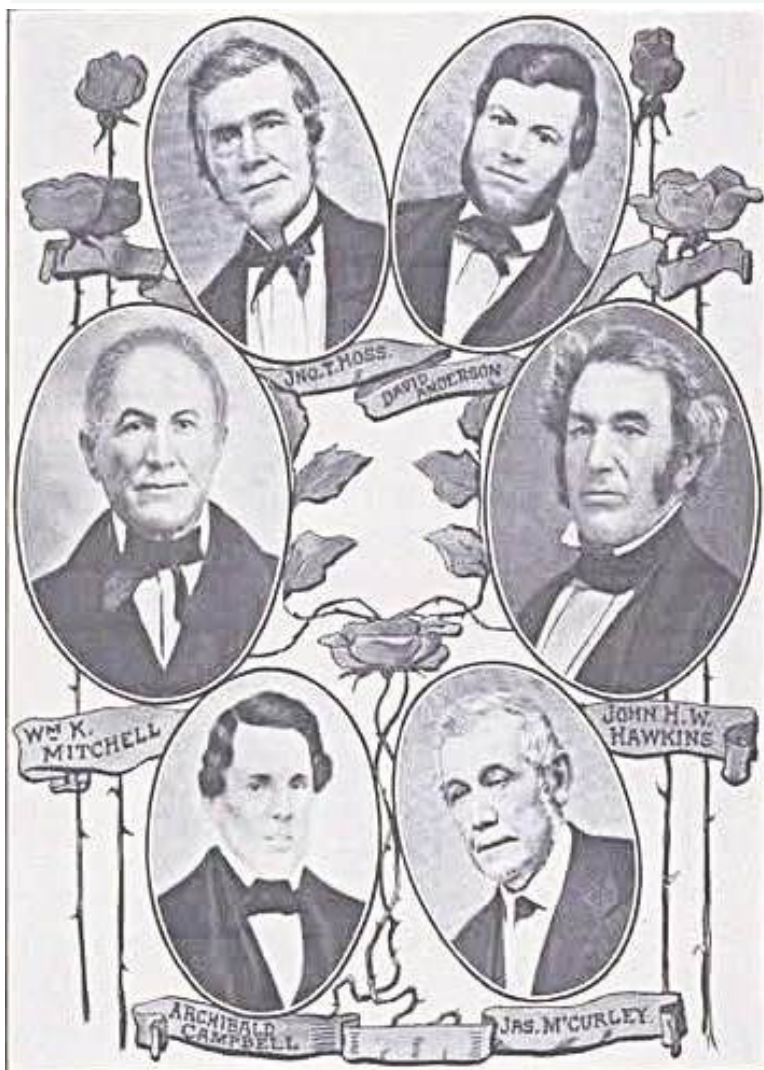


Attraction Rather Than Promotion

Bill W. once said, “We had no public relations policy except for a fear of public relations. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity. There is never need to praise ourselves. We feel it better to let our friends recommend us.” Good public relations are A.A. lifelines reaching out to the fellow alcoholic who still does not know us. For years to come, our growth is sure to depend upon the strength and number of these lifelines. Conversely, think about this. Should we identify ourselves by our first and

last name when we speak at closed meetings of A.A? Does this violate the eleventh tradition? Of course not. We are only anonymous at the level of press, radio, and films. The press has not attended any closed meetings I have spoken at, so I am free to use my whole name. The final paragraph on page 37 of the pamphlet “Frequently Asked Questions About A.A.” states: “It should also be noted that within A.A., at A.A. meetings and amongst themselves, A.A. members are not anonymous.” **Step-Tradition Parallel:** The eleventh step is related to the eleventh tradition: by praying only for knowledge of his will for me and the power to carry that out, I become a source of attraction to God and give Him all credit for my wonderful life. The eleventh step poses the question, “How can we improve our conscious contact?” The eleventh tradition answers that question by pointing out that when we do not take credit for the good we do, we become closer to God in our prayer.

<https://take12.org/t11/>



WHO KNEW?

On April 5, 1840 a group of six drinking club friends (William Mitchell, John Hoss, David Anderson, John Hawkins, James McCurley and Archibald Campbell) formed a total abstinence society. Pledging “not to drink any spirituous or malt liquors, wine or cider” they named themselves the “Washington Temperance Society” also known as the “Washingtonian Total Abstinence Society” (in honor of George Washington). They eventually became known simply as “Washingtonians.” They required a pledge of total abstinence and attendance at weekly meetings where members would tell their stories of drunkenness and recovery. As a body, they recognized no religion or creed and were politically neutral. Each member was supposed to help alcoholics who were still drinking and seek out new prospects (“hard cases”). The weekly meetings were held at Chase’s tavern on Liberty St in Baltimore, MD until the owner’s wife objected to the increasing loss of their best customers. They had a 25-cent initiation fee (\$7 today) and monthly member’s dues of 12 1/2 cents (\$3.50 today).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3178475942431844/permalink/4055508594728570/>

SMIA

Gratitude Dinner



**November
08, 2025**

Info / Tickets

Calvert
Rob D.
240-619-6557

Charles
Sheri R.
301-848-3467

St. Mary's
Michele H.
240-298-8072

Tickets - \$25

- ❖ Tantalizing Entrees
- ❖ Succulent Sides
- ❖ Decadent Desserts
- ❖ Beverages (hot & cold)

**Doors Open
5:30 pm**

Immaculate
Conception Church
28297 Old Village
Road
Mechanicsville, MD

- ❖ Dinner
- ❖ Fellowship
- ❖ Speaker(s)
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ 50/50 Raffle !!!
- ❖ Basket Raffles !!!
- ❖ Door Prizes !!!

Hosted by:
Southern Maryland Intergroup Association (SMIA)
Event POC: Michele H. 240-298-8072

District 36  **presents**

YEE HAW!!

WESTERN SADIE HAWKINS FALL DANCE

(Western attire optional—but encouraged!)

Saturday, November 22 | 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Sobriety Countdown to Kick Off!

Speaker Meeting at 7:00 PM
Featuring Guest Speaker: Phil T.

**Then kick up your boots for a
dance to follow!**



DJ Dream spinning a variety of tunes

50/50 Raffle

Desserts welcome!

Refreshments provided



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH
21370 Newtowne Neck Rd, Leonardtown, MD 20650



2025

Christmas Alco-Thon



**Open
24
hours**

Non-Stop Meetings !
(beginning at the top of every hour)

6 pm - Dec 24th
Christmas Eve
through

6 pm - Dec 25th
Christmas Day



**Food
Welcome**

Come Out and
Join Us for a
Meeting this
Holiday Season !!!

Hollywood Rescue Squad
43256 Rescue Lane
Hollywood, MD 20636
Contact Mary F.
piscebaby82mf@gmail.com

2025

New Year's Alco-Thon



**24
hours**

Non-Stop Meetings !
(beginning at the top of every hour)

6 pm - Dec 31st 2025
New Year's Eve
through

6 pm - Jan 01st 2026
New Year's Day



**Food
welcome**



FUN



FELLOWSHIP

!!! UPDATED LOCATION !!!
Leonardtown Knights of Columbus
41605 Fenwick Street
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Contact Mary F.
piscebaby82mf@gmail.com



AA Women's Group

Bedouin Women – Language of the Heart

Thursdays – Starting November 6, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Phillips House
37 Duke Street Prince Frederick



Watermark.com - 242783271



Scan for more info!

Southern States Alcoholics Anonymous Service Assembly

13 Areas are included in the Southern States!! Come and represent yours!

What: SSAASA 8, hosted by Area 71

When: December 5-7, 2025

Where: Hyatt Regency Dulles 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon, VA 20171

Go to: www.SSAASA.com to register, reserve your room, and then plan to have FUN!!

Who is SSAASA for? SSAASA is for anyone interested in or involved in A.A. service (GSRs, DCMs, District & Area Committee Members, Intergroup/Central Office representatives). All A.A. members are welcome to attend to learn more about our Third Legacy – Service!

What happens at an SSAASA event? A program is set up by the host committee where there are general sharing sessions, panels on specific topics, and workshops or roundtables where A.A. members holding the same jobs can share their experience with each other and learn more about each service opportunity.

Is there a cost? Yes, and it's only \$35.00! The SSAASA event is self-supporting through your registration fee. Home groups, districts, and areas can honor the 7th tradition by supporting your trusted servants so that they may attend.

Come experience Virginia hospitality and get to know some of your neighboring AA members - we'll be happy to have you!

Still have questions? Please email Chair@ssaasa.com

11th Annual National A.A. Technology Workshop

November 7-9, 2025

Registration is Now Open
for our **Hybrid Workshop!**

Join us in person at
The Hilton at the
Cincinnati/Northern
Kentucky International
Airport (CVG)

Or register to attend
online via Zoom



<https://naatw.org/2025-naatw-workshop/>

2025 Theme

Adapt | Connect | Protect:
Building the A.A. Technology Toolbox



Scan Here
for 2025
Event Page



2025 FINAL
CONFERENCE
REPORT
REVIEW

Working Together, Increasing Trust

THE 75TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Sundays @ 7 pm EDT

STARTING 9/21/25 AND CONTINUING WEEKLY
WITH GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE CONFERENCE

812 3740 8344

PW FCRR

Dial in 301-715-8592

MORE INFORMATION:
aa.fcrr@gmail.com or
finalconferencereportreview@gmail.com



Spanish
Interpretation
provided

Fall 2025 CONTRA Study

September 11, 2025 through December 18, 2025

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

Moderated by Past Delegates from

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 847 4641 4040

Passcode: 330331

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

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

Sep 11, 2025 – Registration & Orientation

Sep 18, 2025 – Traditions 1, 2 & 3

Sep 25, 2025 – Traditions 4, 5 & 6

Oct 2, 2025 – Traditions 7, 8 & 9

Oct 9, 2025 – Traditions 10, 11 & 12

Oct 16, 2025 – Service Manual, pp. I-VIII, 1-6, 89-108

Oct 23, 2025 – Svc Man Ch 1 2 3 & pp 109-18, 166-69

Oct 30, 2025 – Svc Man, Chapters 4 5 6 & pp 171-75

Nov 6, 2025 – Svc Man, Chapters 7 8 9 & pp 176-180

Nov 13, 2025 – Svc Man Ch 10 11 12 & pp 161-5, 170

Nov 20, 2025 – Service Manual, pp. 119-159

Nov 27, 2025 – Concepts pp I-VII, C1-C2, Con 1, 2, 3

Dec 4, 2025 – Concepts 4, 5 & 6

Dec 11, 2025 – Concepts 7, 8 & 9

Dec 18, 2025 – Concepts 10, 11 & 12

CONTRA Study Materials

(provided via email following registration):

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

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

AA Grapevine Traditions Checklist, July 2018 revision

Fall 2025 Contra Study Service Manual Questions

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

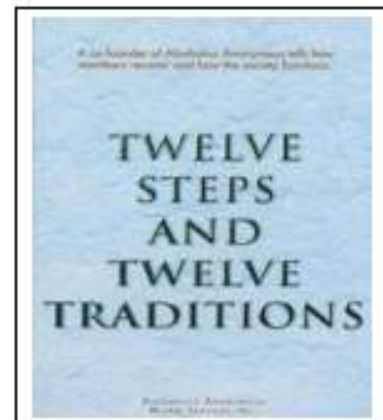
We will cover approximately three chapters of reading material per week, with associated questions. Only those who have read the assignment and have written answers to the weekly questions will be invited to read their answers to the group. All others are welcome to join the meeting and listen.

Presented by Past Delegates from

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

For more information, contact:

2025contrastudy@gmail.com



Service Opportunities!

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!**

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.



**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

AREA 29 MARYLAND
PUBLIC INFORMATION &
COOPERATING WITH PROFESSIONALS



**Joint PI/CPC
meets
monthly
3rd Sunday**

**Oct 19th
@ 3pm EST
Rotation and
Professionals
Newsletter
Update**

**Sept 21st
@ 3pm EST
Jacque T.
Area 15 CPC
re AA and the
Workplace**

**ID
862 7457
8272
pw 199887**

a29cpcpi@gmail.com

"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.

Support Our Local Groups!

THE WHAT'S THE POINT GROUP!!

COME OUT AND CHECK US OUT AT OUR

IMPROVED NEW LOCATION

THE CALLAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

20960 POINT LOOKOUT RD.

THURSDAY EVENING 8:00PM.

WE NOW HAVE

AIR CONDITIONING.!!!



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

SOUTHERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES 10/11/25

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 Member (s): None

Groups & Committees Represented:

Bill L – Web/Bookstall; Emme J – O.D.A.A.T; Roy B – Solomon's Group; Chris B – Traditions; Faye S – We Are Not Saints, Michelle H, Gratitude Dinner Chair.

SMIA Chair Report: Chair Report Maryland General Service Elections are Oct 18th. On that day elections will be held for officers for Panel 76--Delegate, Alternate Delegate, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. An invitation has been extended to all AA members in our Area to attend and participate. Voting members are Group GSR's, DCM's, Area Committee Chairs, current Officers, as well as their Alternates if any other voters are not present. But even those without a vote are invited to come and observe our Third Legacy in action. The Election Assembly will be held at Severna Park United Methodist Church, 731 Benfield Rd, Severna Park, MD beginning at 9:00 am (online access available via Marylandaa.org website. Go to calendar events and click on the Oct 18th Area Assembly event link.) Chairperson Area 29 is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Area Business Meeting

Time: October 18, 2025, 9:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89990240795?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89990240795?pwd=dzd4Ym84anNlNnA4Z2Z0MW1WUEJYZz09https://marylandaa.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=981cd9a14e49728398ac9e3b5&id=c27aebc202&e=d78ae2eafd)

[pwd=dzd4Ym84anNlNnA4Z2Z0MW1WUEJYZz09https://marylandaa.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?](https://marylandaa.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=981cd9a14e49728398ac9e3b5&id=c27aebc202&e=d78ae2eafd)

[u=981cd9a14e49728398ac9e3b5&id=c27aebc202&e=d78ae2eafd\)](https://marylandaa.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=981cd9a14e49728398ac9e3b5&id=c27aebc202&e=d78ae2eafd)

Meeting ID: 899 9024 0795

Passcode: 519577

Vice-Chair Report: Lorraine advised she was filling in as secretary for this meeting.

Secretary Report: Motion and second to accept September 2025, minutes as posted online and in the Lifeline, all in favor.

Treasurer Report: Contributions have been low for the past six months. There is

currently a 3-month reserve. That may drop down to a 2-month reserve if contributions don't pick up. Todd was invited to attend District 36 meeting to provide information on the supports provided by SMIA. Lorraine expressed interest in attending as well. Lorraine provided a short list of the supports that SMIA provides and encouraged those in attendance to share this information with their Districts and groups.

Motion and second to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Corrections and Treatment: Calvert – Lorraine reported these efforts are going well, but Detention Center staff are not as helpful or cooperative as they could be.

Charles – RCA has meetings 5 days a week. District is always looking for volunteers. **St. Mary's** – Roy B. reported good attendance at the Wednesdays 7 pm jail meetings (between 12-15 inmates). Due to a growing waiting list for AA meetings, the warden requested a second weekly meeting for males. Notable activities include: Distributing Grapevine magazines. When inmates finish reading them they put them on the library cart. Inmates are taking/keeping Big Books and participate in Big Book study meetings that are offered. Volunteers encourage males to have their own Big Book reading groups in between meetings. Brandi T coordinates the Women's meetings. She relayed, through Roy B, that 2 new volunteer applications were approved and they are waiting on 3 more. They are actively seeking new volunteers. Meeting attendance is up an the waiting list for the women's side is growing.

PI/CPC: Calvert – Lorraine J. reported that Kenny G continues to do an amazing job. **Charles** – Brenda reported that it is going well. **St. Mary's** – No report.

Telephone: Melissa W emailed a report to Todd. There were 22 calls. Calvert – 4 calls, Charles – 7 calls, St. Mary's – 2 calls, 9 callers did not specify a county.

Where and Whens: Buddy F reported that the last of the Where and Whens were distributed at today's meeting. Group voted at September meeting to place an order for 1,500. Buddy will follow up with

Pat.

Lifeline/Archives: Keith H was not present but relayed his report through Todd. All is going well they are always looking for local stories. These can be submitted via the SMIA website.

EVENTS

Serenity Breakfast: Need a chair.

Picnic: Nothing to report at this time.

Gratitude Dinner: Michelle provided a detailed written report which included a detailed timeline along with these highlights:

- Only 10 tickets remaining
- Menu has been finalized. Main Dishes will be served, sides will be self-serve
- Groups have committed to donating 8 pies so far. Additional donations are encouraged and welcomed.
- Drinks will be Coffee, Sweet and Unsweet Tea and Water
- 4 Themed baskets for door prizes: 1) Coffee; 2) Sweets; 3) Game Night; 4) Sour Dough Bread Kit, along with a 50/50 raffle (Seth will sell these tickets).
- Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; 6:25 to 7:45 p.m. Grace/Dinner; 8:00 to 8:45 p.m. speaker; 9:00 p.m. sobriety countdown (with Big Books for oldest and newest members—SMIA will provide these). She wants to discourage folks from clearing the tables because that often serves as a queue for people to start leaving. They can use a lot of help with kitchen clean up (pots & pans) and mopping floors.

Workshops: There is nothing firm to report on the 12-step workshop at this time.

Bookstall Report: Buddy F reported a \$575.18 literature purchase—all often-requested items. He processed 14 orders for a total of \$276.00. District budgets are as follows: Calvert - C&T \$375; PI/CPC \$0; Charles – C&T \$375; PI/PCP \$250; St. Mary's – C&T \$99; PI/PCP \$231

Web/Technology: Bill L reported that for the period 9/13/25-10/11/25 Main site total visitors was down 9% (initial visit) was down 9%; Bookstall site was down 7%. Most frequently visited pages: Home page – 4206; Where & When Calendar – 430; Announcements – 324; Where & When search 249, and On-Line Meetings – 238.

(continued on page 15)

(con't) **Site Updates and Changes** - No significant site changes. **Meeting Change Information** - AA 4PM changed their format to Open Discussion. A new meeting will be added on November 13, "The Bedouin Women's Group" which will meet on Thursday's at 7:00 PM at the Phillips' House in Prince Frederick. The information will be added to the SMIA digital platforms and the Meeting Guide App about a week prior to the first meeting. **Meeting Status** - Currently there are 135 meetings in our service area; 126 meetings are in-person, 6 meetings are hybrid, 8 meetings are on-line only. **Document Posts and Updates** - Lifeline posted – 10/2/25; Finance Page updated – 10/2/25; SMIA Minutes posted – 9/27/25; Where & When PDF updated – 9/19/25.

Phishing attempts - You may receive e-mails that appear to come from IONOS, our domain host. These are phishing attempts. Do not open them, do not forward them, do not click on any content in them. Delete them. Typically, a genuine request from IONOS will only be sent to Bill L, SMIA webmaster. **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.

Old Business: Reminder that elections will be held in March for the Chair and Secretary positions. Optimally the Chair position rotates through the three counties so the next chair should be from Charles County. The Secretary position does

not require rotation. Nomination form on the SMIA website.

New Business: Buddy F floated the idea of hosting a "Bookstall Bingo" event as a fundraiser. Immaculate Conception is available. A box of books was donated by a recently deceased person with long-term sobriety. These books could be offered as prizes. Each districts might be willing to donate a Grapevine subscription.

For the Good of the Order: District 36 Chili Cook Off was rescheduled for October 25th. It was noted that this will conflict with Calvert's Chili Cookoff. Roy B will be celebrating 5 years at the Solomon's Group tomorrow, October 12th.

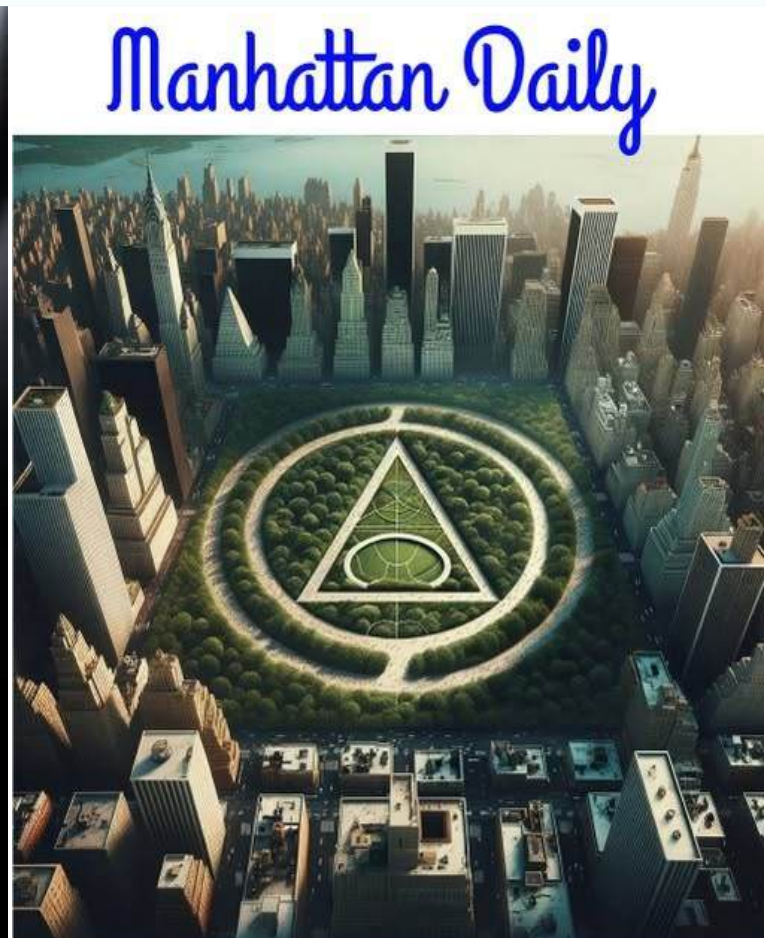
Meeting adjourned with the Responsibility Pledge.



Check
this out!

<https://share.google/xld7TYdMEF78PGZID>

BILL W.



Manhattan Daily

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

Zoom ID 895 0664 0809 No Pass reqd

November 2025

Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc

Treasury Report

Monthly Contributions: \$660.48 www.somdintergroup.org/contribute SMIA, PO Box 767, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622			
Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Monthly Statement of Financial Position September 25, 2025 - October 24, 2026		Southern Maryland Intergroup Association Inc Yearly Statement of Activity April 25, 2025 - April 24, 2026	
Assets Primary Business Checking\$ 3,084.52 Prudent Reserve\$ 4,301.00 PayPal\$ 823.66 Bookstall Cash on hand\$ 100.00 Total Assets8,309.18		Year to Date Income Contributions\$3,640.5360% Bookstall Sales\$ 1,027.9571% Gratitude Dinner\$ -100% Serenity Breakfast\$ -100% Total 2025 Income4,668.4868%	
This Month's Expenses Bookstall Purchases\$ - Liability Insurance\$ 414.00 Lifeline Printing\$ (140.95) Misc\$ - Phone Answering Service/1-800#\$ (61.63) Post Office Box\$ - Rent\$ (150.00) Webmaster\$ (1,026.00) Website\$ (139.67) Where & When\$ - Picnic\$ - Travel\$ - Workshops\$ - SMIA Archives\$ - Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)\$ (14.00) Bank Charges and Fees\$ (16.00) Other - Tax Filings\$ - Total Expenses\$ (1,134.25)		Year to Date Expenses Bookstall Purchases\$ (742.58)81% Liability Insurance\$ (351.00)-29% Lifeline Printing\$ (735.45)23% Misc\$ (104.74)0% Phone Answering Service/1-800#\$ (358.15)-10% Post Office Box\$ (120.00)0% Rent\$ (900.00)50% Webmaster\$ (1,026.00)67% Website\$ (510.84)40% Where & When\$ -100% Picnic\$ (773.22)23% Travel\$ -100% Workshops\$ -100% SMIA Archives\$ -100% Office sup (coffee, postage & faxing)\$ (148.00)18% Bank Charges and Fees\$ (80.00)20% Other - Tax Filings\$ -0% Total 2025 Expenses\$ (5,849.98)67%	
		Total of Checking and PayPal Allows us a financial Runway of	2.63 Months
		Number of Months of Fiscal Year Remaining	6 Months
		For our 2024-2025 planned expenses, we currently have a	\$ (4,997.82) Shortfall
		C&T	PI/CPC
Remaining Service Committee Budgets	Calvert	\$ 375.00	\$ -
Budget Year 2024 (01May2025 - 30Apr2026)	Charles	\$ 375.00	\$ 250.00
As of 12JUL2025	St.Mary's	\$ 99.00	\$ 231.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS:

Sunday Night Begin Harmony Happy Destiny
Inspiration Monday Night Men's St Charles Step
Ladies Recover Too We Was Wurz Sobriety First

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?

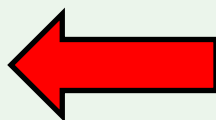
1) All contributions can be made online:

www.somdintergroup.org/donate.php

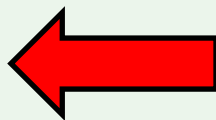
2) Or they can be mailed to the appropriate office location:

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 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)

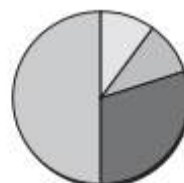
Your Group Service # _____

(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

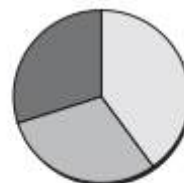
OR



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: Todd M.
Vice Chair: Lorraine J.
Secretary: Shaara W.
Treasurer: Bruce O.
Parliamentarian: Paul S.
Web: Bill L.
Bookstall: Buddy F.
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 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

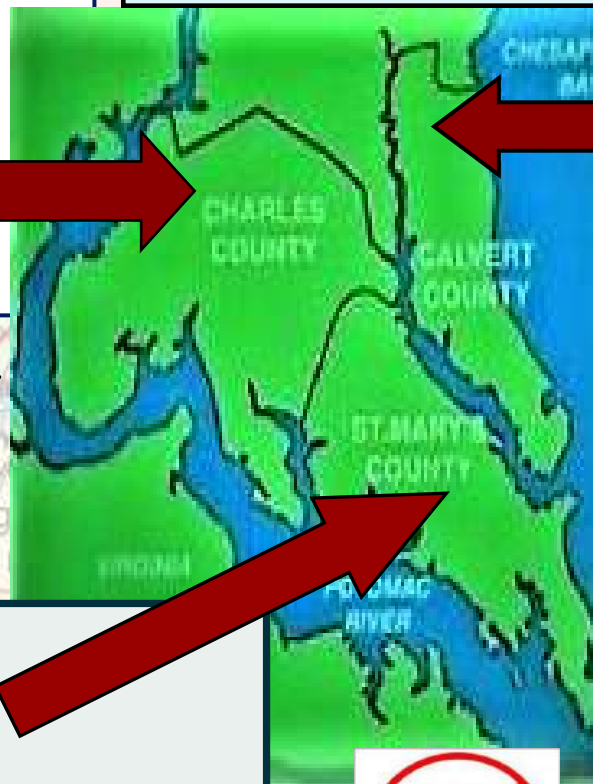
Men's Institutions Chair

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.district36mdaa.org



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

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

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

DISTRICT NOTES

The next SMIA Meeting will be held on

Saturday, December 13 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)