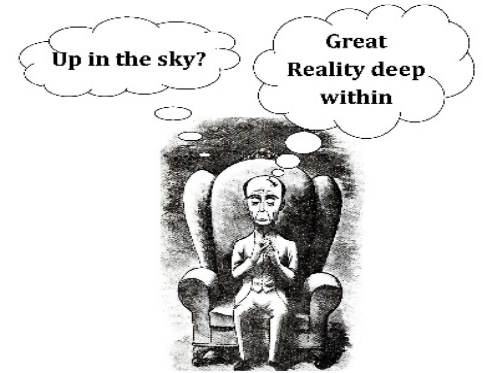


Very few of today's two-million-plus A.A. members claim to possess a satisfying scientific definition of God. However, there exists undeniable evidence that God's power has released countless of its members from alcoholic obsession.

Steps Three and Eleven contain the phrase, "**God, as we understood Him.**" When I was new, I found this insert both challenging and confusing; consequently, I soon found myself delving into books on theology, theosophy, Philosophy, and other mystical readings—but to no avail. I soon realized that I was no further along understanding God than when I started. Months of studying left me without any satisfying logical or scientific definition—what to do? After all, am I not supposed to "**understand God?**" If not, perhaps my sobriety would be in jeopardy! Confusing times!



**The better I understand God,  
the less I know God.**

But then, I came across a *watershed idea* from Bill W's Oxford mentor, Reverend Sam Shoemaker who wrote: "**Step Two is not theological; it is evidential!**" Of course, I could plainly see the evidence of God's work by simply observing numerous members around AA tables with many years sobriety; they all claimed that contact with God, or a "Higher Power," was keeping them sober. It was evidential! I had been barking up the wrong tree! I no longer need search for a logical definition of God, but I still needed to improve my conscious contact with God. Step Eleven convinced me that I could begin to **know** God through prayer and meditation—then there would be no need of a logical or scientific **understanding** of Him.

I have come to believe that I need to contact (**know**) God from my deep innermost self (heart) and not from my ever-inquiring alcoholic mind. I had been searching for God from the wrong place all along! After all, doesn't the Big Book speak of the "*Great Reality deep within?*" (p. 55). So, in conclusion, I restate the cartoon above: "**The better I understand God, the less I know God.**"

Bob S., Richmond, IN

**"Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group's chores, if the areas' telephone rings unanswered, if we do not reply to our mail, then A.A. as we know it would stop. Our communications lines with those who need our help would be broken."— From Tradition Nine [p.175, *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*]**

### Finding Value

Sloppy drunk, and weeping uncontrollably, I sat on my bedroom floor writing my suicide note. I wrote a detailed description of my deep despair and how the world would be better off without me. I was 22 years old and had no idea that the problem was my drinking.

Approximately 35 days and almost 60 meetings later, I experienced the inner glow of my first successful Twelfth Step. Someone even newer than me hugged me and told me that my sharing made her feel like she was in the right place. It was a magical moment when I connected the concept of being sober in A.A. with having something of value to give to someone in need.

After I'd done some more twelve-stepping under my sponsor's watchful eye, someone told me about the bigger picture and a place for me in it. I could help make sure that the hand of A.A. would be there when someone in need reached out for it. I started that journey of "carrying the message" with answering phones at the A.A. Desk.

I learned a lot in those 3-hour shifts. Our Intergroup Office is full of learning materials: books, pamphlets, intergroup newsletters, General Service reports and publications, Conference Reports, Grapevine magazines, Box 459 newsletters, histories of groups and A.A. pioneers in the DC area, guidance on how A.A. works through the Traditions and Concepts, and tapes of A.A. talks. There was a bulletin board full of sober happenings that I could participate in or assist with — conferences, workshops, General Service Assemblies, group celebrations, anniversaries, trips, plays, dances, special speaking events, retreats, banquets, and picnics. There was a steady stream of people I had never met, most of whom were delighted to come lead a meeting I chaired and who often asked me to return the favor. There were small clerical tasks I could do to assist the office in providing its services to the many groups in DC: preparing and distributing the monthly newsletter and other mailings, maintaining the list of 12-Step volunteers and treatment center contacts, and updating the meeting lists.

I also enjoyed the challenge of getting to know more about the meetings I was directing people to. Like any enthusiastic overzealous alcoholic young in sobriety, I made it my mission to visit all the meetings listed in the *Where & When* so I could tell someone with confidence that a particular meeting was just inside the door at the bottom of the steps; or that there was a big parking lot behind the church; or that it was a small, warm, friendly, intimate group; or that it was a large, happy, loud group with a greeter at the door and lots of young people. Often knowing those details helps ensure someone else feels a little less threatened by going to their first meeting.

Most of all, I found that I got considerable satisfaction out of being the calm, reassuring voice for someone who needed the hand of A.A. to be there when they reached out. In the 33 years since I got sober, I've traveled a bit, and I know the warm sense of relief when I call the local A.A. number. Just knowing I've got someone on the phone who understands how it feels to be a drunk reaching bottom and what it takes to get and stay sober in the program ensures that I don't feel alone in a strange place. It connects me with a Higher Power and my community wherever I am. It reminds me that, no matter what, I don't have to do anything alone. The Big Book says "the feeling of having shared in a common peril is one element in the powerful cement which binds us" and I find great joy when I've connected with someone on that basis. Whether it's someone visiting the DC area who needs to make that connection, or it's a crying, frightened drunk seeking an answer, the ability to share with them all we have to offer is a tremendous boost to my spiritual condition.

I've done a variety of service jobs at all levels in the DC area. Everyone needs to try out different things to find what works best for them. For me, working a regular shift on the A.A. Desk is the most rewarding one for my own spiritual, emotional, and mental wellbeing. Let me challenge you to try a couple of shifts on the phones to see what it can do for you. There's always room for more volunteers.

Katherine R. (Rockville, MD)

### Don't Forget Service!

In retrospect, I can see that service was an essential component of my recovery from alcoholism. When I first came to A.A., I was full of fear, self-pity and self-concern. I was all that I could think about. I had so many problems, that it was difficult to concentrate for long on any one thing.

My sponsor soon found many things for me to do. Emptying and washing ash trays; making coffee; setting up chairs; and later, taking people to meetings, going on Twelfth Step calls and sponsorship. All of these activities had two things in common; I was performing a service that helped the alcoholic that still suffered and I was getting out of myself and becoming a useful member of the fellowship.

Service enables us to fulfill our REAL purpose, "to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." (Big Book, p. 77), and we discover, in time, that which Bill and Dr. Bob discovered long ago. "Though they knew they must help other alcoholics if they would remain sober, that motive became secondary. It was transcended by the happiness they found in giving themselves for others." (Big Book, p. 159)

One of the greatest gifts I have received from Alcoholics Anonymous; the joy I find in serving God and my fellow man. TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT!

Taken from "The Intergroup", the Rockford Area Intergroup, Rockford, IL

### -- A.A.'s Legacy of Service, by Bill W. (excerpted from the AA Grapevine, July 1955)

...an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer — ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten-cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service. Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences.

*If you're interested in finding a service activity that will feed your spirit, enrich your program, and make a difference to ensuring the hand of A.A. is*

*always available when someone reaches out in the DC area, contact the Intergroup Office and we will be happy to help you get connected with the right opportunity. There's really so much to choose from and so much need for you to get involved at the Intergroup, District, and Area levels.*

*Call us at (202) 966-9115, email us at [aa-dc.org](mailto:aa-dc.org), or visit us at 4530 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 111, Washington, DC 20008*

***Do you have an experience with service that you've told your sponsor or sponsee, or would like to? Share it with the rest of us! Please send your submission to [NewReporter@aa-dc.org](mailto:NewReporter@aa-dc.org).***

**100 Years Ago This Month**— While awaiting shipment across the English Channel to check the aggressive German advance toward Paris, Bill W. visits Winchester. Bill recounts in an aural recording:

...one of the first places I visited was old Winchester Cathedral. ...I remember wandering in the graveyard and came across a headstone of someone called Thomas T., perhaps an ancestor of my good friend Ebby. And I remember what a smile I got out of the epitaph:

Here lies a Hampshire Grenadier  
 Who caught his death drinking cold small beer.  
 A good soldier is ne'er forgot,  
 Whether he dieth by musket or by pot.

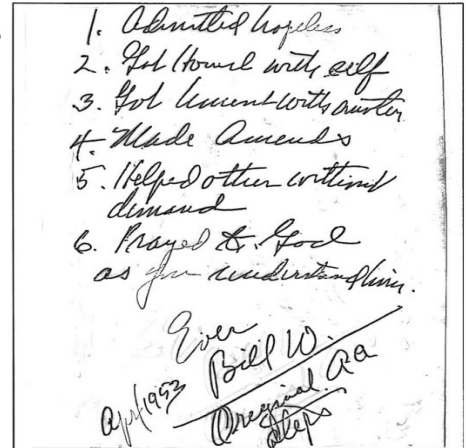
[Cf: *Bill W.: My First 40 years*, pp 49-50, (Hazelden,2000) and *Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 1]

**75 Years Ago This Month**— The July 1943 issue of Cleveland's *Central Bulletin* reports: "On March 5, last, the trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation submitted a questionnaire to all groups, the purpose of which was to help the trustees shape Foundation policies. Past and present policies were reviewed and the groups were asked to voice their approval or disapproval. Suggestions were invited.

"To date, replies have been received from 105 groups representing a large majority of our members. Of these, 93 were in complete accord with the present Foundation set-up.

"The trustees are grateful for these expressions of confidence and they would like to thank the other groups who offered constructive counter suggestions."

[Beginning in 1951 the General Service Conference performs this valuable function of reflecting the groups' consensus to the trustees, to A.A. World Services, and to the Grapevine.]



**A.A. History Corner, thanks to the WAIA Archives Committee**

**50 Years Ago This Month—** In the June-July 1968 period, our General Service delegates survey a 466-group sample composed of 11,355 AAs—the first of its kind. Since then the survey follows nearly a triennial schedule.

Over the resulting nearly half-century span, the reported survey results vary with emphasis on some interesting aspects of A.A.'s recovery experience. For the 1968 survey, results are tallied by the respondents' last-drink experience following their first AA meeting:

- No subsequent drink - 41%
- Within first year - 23%
- 2-5 years - 19%
- 5-10 years - 8%
- 10-15 years - 4%
- 15 or more years - 4%

By the 1977 survey, *Box 4-5-9* interprets its results to say "modern statistical techniques make it possible to predict the probability of members' staying sober." For instance:

- a member with less than a year's sobriety has a **35-45%** chance of going through the next year without a drink
- a member with 1-5 years sobriety-**80%**
- a member with more than 5 years sobriety-**90%**

The 1977 survey would gather, for the first-time, A.A. members' responses to the question on addiction to other substances. Survey results indicated, "Twice as many women (28%) as men (14%) indicated multiple addiction when they first came to A.A. This is particularly noticeable in younger members." Interestingly the 1992 General Service Conference advises striking the 1992 membership survey question that asks, "In addition to your alcoholism, were you addicted to drugs?" [Cf: *New Reporter*, April, 2017]

During the mid-1970's A.A. membership is doubling each decade [Cf. *New Reporter*, September 2016, p5] and the percentage of women and youth is advancing over the span of 1968 to 1983 from 22% to 30% and 7% to 20% respectively; and over the span of 1986 to 2014 from 34% to 38% and 21% to 12%. Hence, over the last half of a century the influence of the age and sex of the AA member has stabilized as the influx of new members more closely reflects the general age-sex characteristics

of the Fellowship. Time merges the influx of the young with the tenured AA.

A decade in advance of the first survey in 1968, the first International Conference of Young People in A.A. (ICYPAA) is inaugurated at Niagara Falls, NY, April 27-28, 1958. In 1956 there are 35 "young people" groups in the US and Canada plus one classified "foreign"; and there are 94 women's groups plus 3 "foreign".

By June 1956, A.A. would have pamphlets entitled "Young People and A.A." and "A.A. for the Women". Moreover, by the Spring of 1967 A.A. would produce the comic-format pamphlet "What happened to Joe?" which recounts the story of a young construction worker's experience with A.A. Copyrighted in 2006, comes the companion comic pamphlets, "It happened to Alice" and "Too Young?" WAIA's Spring 2017 *Where and When* lists a total ten Young Peoples' meetings in Maryland and DC.

For the surveys since 1996, the portion of A.A.s with five or more years of sobriety stabilizes in the range of 45% to 50%; A.A.s with a home group, 85% to 86%; and A.A.s of the White race, 85% to 89%. Respondents with a sponsor seemingly trend upward from 77% toward 82% or higher.

In 1968, Dr. Jack Norris explains the purpose of the surveys is (1) to share information about ourselves and about what brought us to A.A. with the still suffering alcoholic and (2) to share accurate and scientific information about A.A. and its effectiveness with professionals in the medical, legal and social-worker communities.

**25 Years Ago This Month—** July 2-4, 1993 Canada celebrates its Golden A.A. anniversary at the Metro Convention Centre in cosmopolitan Toronto, the capital of Ontario and Canada's largest city. Located on the northwest shore of Lake Ontario, "Toronto" is a Huron Native American term for "meeting place," an apt tag for an A.A. site. And so it unfolds back in January 13, 1943 when the first Canadian group holds "its initial meeting in a bleak room above the LittleDenmark Tavern in Toronto." [Cf: *New Reporter*, January 2018, p 6.]

## Character Defect Focus: PRIDE

What is pride? It's always named first in the seven deadly character defects – but what does it have to do with sobriety?

The dictionary tags it “an excessively high opinion of oneself; arrogance.” We are not speaking of legitimate pride, in doing well whatever we ought to be doing. Pride in the alcoholic is a distorted opinion of oneself. Since it is a spiritual quality, it starts and festers within, and therefore a balance must be found without.

Usually, only alcoholics are beaten down enough to go outside for help. Most earth people never know the desolation of the defeated alcoholic. They have not been forced to look into themselves fully, because they do not have the same terminal need. Whatever self-love they have may never be altered.

The alcoholic, on the other hand, has been slugged often and forced to face facts. This is one key to A.A. progress – eyes are opened and can begin to see. (We are not the only defeated ones. Some others, non-alcoholics suffer defeat and dig their way upward. But we should remember the Preamble, stick to the primary task and leave those others to people better qualified to attend them.)

Bill W. says in the “Twelve and Twelve” that “pride . . . is the basic breeder of most human difficulties, the chief block to true progress . . . When the satisfaction of our instincts . . . becomes the sole object of our lives, then pride steps in to justify our excesses.” Certainly, pride is inseparable from the emotional storms that racked us; it has been a basic cause of suffering everywhere since time began. To escape it, we must look for the absolute opposite – humility.

In the Grapevine, (June 1961), Bill said that one could attain “humility for today” only by steering a middle course between “the bog of guilt and rebellion” one side and the opposite path strewn with the fool’s gold coins of pride. Bill points out that a “constant inventory . . . is always in order.”

Back to the Tenth Step. It’s wonderful how the steps keep popping up. Once again, we are pushed toward living them, one day at a time. This is a perfect way to diminish pride, first and deadliest of the seven character defects.

Reprinted from the Grapevine, April 1976

## On the 7<sup>th</sup> Step and Humility

If you have successfully completed the first six steps of the **Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous**, you are ready to move on to Step 7. In steps three through six, you made the decision to turn your will and your life over to "God as you understood Him," tackled the task of making a "searching and fearless moral inventory" of yourself, admitted your wrongs, and were "entirely ready" to let God remove your defects. In the 7th Step of **Alcoholics Anonymous**, you will "Humbly ask Him to remove your shortcomings." In order to compete this task successfully, you will need to understand what it means to be truly humble.

### Understanding and Learning Humility

Dictionary.com lists several variances on the definition of the word humble. To get a good grasp on the concept of humility, try picturing circumstances in your life (real or imagined) where humility comes into play and determine how those emotions can influence your **interaction with God** as you understand Him while working through Step 7.

One definition is to be "not proud or arrogant; modest." This example of humility is a lesson learned early in life. Imagine yourself as a kindergartner who just created the most beautiful picture of a bunny any kindergartner had ever seen. (At least that's how you felt when your teacher complimented your drawing and held it up in front of the class.) Immediately, you were filled with the natural response of pride.

At that point, you would have transitioned from natural pride to either modest pride or arrogant pride. The choice was yours whether you were conscious of it or not. Modest pride would have filled you with the good feeling of accomplishing something special; arrogant pride would have filled you with that same feeling with the added sense of feeling superior to your kindergartner peers. So, to be truly humble, you would have stopped at the natural pride before allowing it to make you feel superior. Therein lies the difference between arrogance and humility.

## Modest Humility Necessary

Modest humility is necessary in accomplishing Alcoholics Anonymous Step 7. In order to benefit from this step, you will need to approach God as you understand Him with an attitude of accomplishing something special with modesty instead of arrogance.

To ask Him to help you is to need Him, and to need Him is to be modest in front of Him.

Any sense of arrogance about your shortcomings defeats the purpose of asking God to remove them because to ask Him to help you is to need Him, and to need Him is to be modest in front of Him.

Another definition of the word humble is "having a feeling of insignificance, inferiority, subservience, etc." This is another example of one of life's early lessons. When you were a toddler, your parents, older relatives, babysitters or daycare teachers would likely have impressed upon you with words or actions that your position in relation to them was inferior or subservient. Your job was to listen to and obey those who were older, wiser and more experienced than you. Your position of inferiority or subservience wasn't a character flaw by any means; it was simply indicative of your place in society.

Understanding and placing yourself in this position of inferiority and subservience is necessary when approaching God as you understand Him while you ask Him to remove your shortcomings. To allow yourself to feel somehow equal to Him would defeat the purpose of asking Him to remove anything from your life. If you understand that you need Him to remove your shortcomings, you understand that He is more powerful and superior than you.

A **position of** humility without arrogance and a position of inferiority toward God as you understand Him will allow you to experience His power in removing your shortcomings. This humility is a necessary experience in succeeding at Step 7.

For more information about AA or to find a meeting near you, visit the **AA website**.

From: <http://www.alcoholic.org/research/aa-step-7/>



**Paraprosdokians (Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, frequently humorous.**

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right--only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault; I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, Notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

A photograph of a piece of light-colored paper with handwritten text in black ink. The text reads: "IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE GUTTER, MY MIND WOULD BE HOMELESS!". The handwriting is casual and slightly slanted.

### Guaranteed to Roll Your Eyes

An 80 year old man went to the doctor for a checkup and the doctor was amazed at what good shape the guy was in. The doctor asked, "To what do you attribute your good health?"

The old timer said, "I'm a golfer and that's why I'm in such good shape. I'm up well before daylight and out golfing up and down the fairways."

The doctor said, "Well, I'm sure that helps, but there's got to be more to it. How old was your father when he died?"

The old timer said, "Who said my father's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your father is still alive? How old is he?"

The old timer said, "He's 100 years old and, in fact, he golfed with me this morning. That's why he's still alive, he's a golfer."

The doctor said, "Well, that's great, but I'm sure there's more to it. How about your grandfather? How old was he when he died?"

The old timer said, "Who said my grandpa's dead?"

The doctor said, "You mean you're 80 years old and your grandfather's still living! How old is he?"

The old timer said, "He's 118 years old."

The doctor was getting frustrated at this point and said, "I guess he went golfing with you this morning too?"

The old timer said, "No...Grandpa couldn't go this morning because he got married last night."

The doctor said in amazement, "Got married!! Why would a 118-year-old guy want to get married?"

The old timer shot back, "Who said he wanted to?"

### THE BIRTHDAY PLAN

Many AA members across the country are currently sharing their Anniversary Celebration with others, by giving a dollar or two for each year of their sobriety to WAIA. This ensures that the same help that they received will be available to others that are new to the Fellowship.

Start this year and make it an annual event. It is not how much you give that's important. It's thinking of others on your special day, that makes it so special. If you are truly grateful for your sobriety, this is really a wonderful way to express your gratitude by helping others receive the blessings of sobriety. Thanks.

### FAITHFUL FIVERS

Faithful Fivers are AA members who in gratitude pledge to contribute at least five dollars each month toward the support of WAIA in its quest to carry the AA message of hope and recovery to those alcoholics who still suffer in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Faithful Fiver idea came about when we remembered that many of us wasted many times that amount each month during our drinking days. Your contribution (which is tax deductible) will help WAIA get through the money problems we are always facing.

If you are able to join this worthwhile cause, please fill in the form and send it along with your first contribution.

**Cardholder Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_ **MasterCard** \_\_\_\_\_ **Visa** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Expiration Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cvv number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Billing Address (if different than subscription address)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I authorize WAIA to charge my credit card in the amount of \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIA**  
4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 111  
Washington, DC 20008

# WAIA H&I Newsletter: June 2018

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## What We Do

The WAIA Hospitals and Institutions Committee (H&I) serves to coordinate with local area hospitals and institutions to ensure that the hand of AA is always available when needed. Specifically, we:

1. Communicate with hospitals and institutions to assess whether there are any ways that WAIA can help further their mission,
2. Locate AA groups that are able to bring meetings in to requesting hospitals and institutions,
3. Help local AA groups find opportunities for their members to get involved in 12<sup>th</sup> step work with area hospitals and institutions, and
4. Provide groups with literature for hospitals and institutions. We provide soft-cover Big Books and pamphlets. We also have a box of donated literature that AA groups can help themselves to at the WAIA office.

## News

We are happy to speak to groups (upon request) to talk about the committee's mission, service, and opportunities for groups to get involved. Please email us if you'd like a representative from the H&I committee to come talk to your group.

H&I want to extend our sincerest thanks to Dave Balenson. He is stepping down from the role of H&I chair after many years of service. Thank you!

H&I would like to welcome Sean Channer as the new H&I Chair. Thank you for your commitment to service.

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate H&I meetings in the District of Columbia.

## Open Area Meetings: Looking for Groups or Individuals to Be of Service!

We are looking for AA groups that can commit to bringing meetings to these institutions. Where days or times are missing, the institution is open to scheduling at a time that works for the AA group. Interested groups can contact us at: [hni@aa-dc.org](mailto:hni@aa-dc.org).

### District of Columbia

- DC Dept. Corrections Central Detention Facility, SE; days and times flexible, requires background check, drug test, and TB test
- DC Dept. of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) Youth Services Center, NE; Every other Tuesday 6pm
- Greater Southeast Community Hospital, SE; days and times TBD
- Leland House, North Capitol St NW; day and time TBD
- Transitional Recovery Program (Men's Rehab), SE; Saturdays 8pm
- VA Hospital, Substance Abuse Recovery Program, NW; Mondays 11am

### Montgomery County

- Avery Road Treatment Center, Rockville; 3rd Sunday, 8pm (men only)
- Montgomery County Correctional Facility (MCCF) General Population, Clarksburg; 5th Tuesday 7:30pm
- Groups and individuals for the MCCF Men's JAS program, Clarksburg; one or more sessions per month, MWF 7:30pm. Regulars require application and orientation; guests can go with regulars with just application.
- Shady Grove Nursing Home, Rockville; day and time TBD

### Prince George's County

- IAFF Center of Excellence, Upper Marlboro; Weeknights, 7pm
- St. Thomas Moore Nursing Home, Hyattsville; Weeknights 7pm
- Vesta Mental Health Services, Forestville, Tue-Fri, 11am, 1-2 times per month



# **SATURDAY MORNING STEPS**

**IS CELEBRATING  
ITS 20<sup>TH</sup>-YEAR GROUP ANNIVERSARY!**

**SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018**

Meeting is at 8:00 a.m.  
Breakfast immediately following the meeting

The Festival Center  
1640 Columbia Road, N.W  
Washington, DC 20009

*..... a genuine gratitude for blessings received .....*  
*(Step 11)*

*61st Annual A. A.*  
**SESSIONS BY - THE - SEA**

P.O. Box 23  
Denton, Maryland 21629

May 15, 2018

Dear Friend,

It is with gratitude and pleasure we inform you that all preparations have been completed for our 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Sessions by-the-Sea to be held in Ocean City, Maryland on September 4<sup>th</sup> - September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center.

We have A.A. speaker meetings every night. Alanon meetings are held at 10am on Friday and Saturday. All meetings are held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ballroom. Name badges and seats will be provided to those who are pre-registered only. Please wear the name badges on the frontal lapel area only.

Our seating capacity is 2,200 seats and when this number is reached we cannot issue any more registrations or seats and your request and check will be mailed back to you. If your request is accepted it will serve as your receipt of registration and we will have it on file at "Sessions". **There will be NO walk-up registrations available.**

Seats will be provided for everyone on a first come - first serve basis except for the reserved seats deemed necessary for those who are in need of them. These seats will be determined and identified by "Sessions" ushers one hour prior to meeting start time. Please show respect to these reserved seats and also to the people in need of them.

We will continue to ask for courtesy from everyone to prevent any distractions during our meetings. Please try to be seated and ready for the meeting prior to its start time.

So, if you want what Sessions requires and has to offer, like rest, serenity, A.A. fellowship, respect and a chance to celebrate sobriety, please get your request for registrations in early.

Registrations and name badges must be picked up in our registration room at the convention center by the person listed on the registration request form only. Registration will open at 10:00 am Tuesday. We want to be sure you get what you asked for.

We hope to see you at Sessions in September!

----- Please cut or tear along this line ----- Print legibly -----

**REGISTRATION REQUEST FORM - SESSIONS - 2018**

Name registered to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Registrations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 each = \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

If your request is accepted it will serve as your receipt and we will have it on file at Sessions.

Check number \_\_\_\_\_

Please initial here \_\_\_\_\_ and date \_\_\_\_\_ when picked up.

On the reverse side of this form, please inform us of the need of a reserved seat (disability).

Make check payable to Sessions Registrations - PO Box 23, Denton, Maryland 21629

# THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ICYPAA



YOUR  
IMAGINATION  
WILL BE FIRED

AUG. 30-SEP. 2

@ BMORE HILTON

60THICYPAA.ORG



### WAGSA Area Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

**NO MEETING IN JULY**

(Next meeting August 14)

(New DCM & GSR Orientation, 6:30-7:30 PM)

Silver Spring Presb.  
Church

580 University Blvd East  
Silver Spring MD

*Info:*

*chair@area13aa..org*

### Metropolis Club Picnic

Saturday June 30, 2018

8:00 AM—6:00 PM

Chuck Brown Park  
2901 20th St, NE  
Washington, DC 20018

Speaker Meeting at  
Noon

### Greenbelt Step Club 28th Anniversary

Saturday, June 30, 2018

6:00 PM – Midnight

American Legion Post  
6900 Greenbelt Rd  
Greenbelt MD 20770

Advance sales only  
for dinner by 6/27

Admission for Meeting &  
dance at door \$8.00  
After 7:30 PM

### WAIA Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday

**July 14, 2018**

**The Church in Bethesda  
5033 Wilson Ln  
Bethesda, MD 20814**

aa-dc.org for more info

### Saturday Morning Steps 20th Group Anniversary

Saturday, July 28, 2018

You're Invited!

The Festival Center  
1640 Columbia Rd, NW  
Washington DC 20009

Meeting is at 8:00 AM  
Breakfast immediately  
following the meeting

### CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

Events are updated  
regularly!

If you would like to  
submit an event, send an  
email to [events@aa-dc.org](mailto:events@aa-dc.org). A pdf flyer may  
be attached



600	AA at CUA		Darne Good Big Book		High on the Hill
	AA & Family Issues		Darnestown Men		High Sobriety
10	Addison Road	80	Day By Day	496	Hill Lunch
30	A Vision for You		Deanwood Women Rap	695	How It Works G'burg
	Adams Morgan Meditation		DC Young People		Hyattsville Discussion
180	Among Women		Del Ray	157	Hyattsville Hope
192	Anacostia Group		DCC Beginners	66	Informed Group
366	Andrews Armed Forces	300	DCC	1200	Into Action, Germantown
61	As Bill Sees It, NW		DCC Noon	180	Investment
176	As We Understood Him		DCC Tues. Big Book		Irreverent Women
1447	Aspen Hill 5th Chapter		DCC Women	250	Jaywalkers
20	Aspen Hill Phoenix	57	Del Ray Acceptance	1800	Just Before Noon
500	Attitude & Action	150	Divine Intervention	12	Just For Today
108	Attitude Adjusters	780	Dunn Drinking		Kensington Big Book
360	Back to Basics		Dupont Circle Big Book		Kensington YP Step Study
120	Barnesville		Dunrobbin		Kid Friendly Big Book
232	Beginners & Winners		8AM Men's Big Book		Kingman Park
	Bethel Group		Early Times		Kitchen Table
56	Big Book Thumpers	365	Epiphanies	300	Language of the Heart
150	Brightwood		Ex Libris	110	Landover Discussion
162	Brookland		Faith Group		Lanham-Seabrook
50	Brandywine		Fireside Spirituality	100	Language of the Heart
900	BYOL	231	Foggy Bottom	1266	Laurel Recovery
592	Burtonsville Big Book		Forestville Primary Purpose		Leisure World Big Book
66	Campus Noon	60	14 Promises	360	Leisure World Noon
100	Capitol Heights		Free Spirits	33	Let Go Let God
1392	Capital Hill		Friday Night Fun Too	20	Let It Happen
180	Carmody Hill Group	141	Friday Night Big Book		Liberty
500	Cedar Lane Women		Friendly Bunch		Life Is Good
	Change of Life		Friendship	39	Little Falls
49	Cheltenham	325	Gaithersburg Beginners	200	Little House
	Chinatown Men's	249	Gateway	60	Living Sober by the Book
90	Cleveland Park	52	Gateway/Wednesday	12	Living Sober Unity Place
60	Clinton 45 Plus		Gay 18 New Castle	60	May Day
	Clinton Day	300	Gay Group		Men in Recovery
	Clinton 6:30		Georgetown		Men of Dupont
100	Clinton Sunday Night		Get It Off Your Chest	450	Men's BS Session
160	Coffee & Donuts	240	Glenarden	519	Messengers
388	Colesville Sunday Nite		Glen Echo	174	Midwest
	College Park	140	Goldsboro		Midtown
600	Cosmopolitan		Good News Beginners		Miracles
431	Crapshooters		Good Sheperd	216	Mitchellville
26	Creative Arts		Grace	150	Monday Winners
300	Crossroads of Recovery	1283	Grace Road	350	Mo.Co. Women
54	Daily Reflections, SW	144	Greenbelt Step		More Peace of Mind
	Daily Reflections, NW		Growing Group		Montrose Gay
	Daily Reflections, Bowie		Happy, Joyous & Free		Moving into the Solution
			Help Wanted		Mt. Rainer
			High Noon	93	Nativity

300	Neelsville Beginners	280	Queer Women		TGIF
222	Never Too Late	66	Quince Orchard		Triangle Club-Sat. 7:15PM
180	Never Walk Alone	480	Radicals	1920	Triangle club-Tues. 7:15PM
672	New Avenue		Read & Speak		Trusted Servants
60	New Beginnings	90	Riderwood Bills	270	Unity Place/Sat. 2PM
47	New Beginnings NW		Room with a View	50	Upper Marlboro Big Book
925	New Beginnings SE		Rosedale Sobriety		Upper Marlboro Step
180	New Beginners	35	Sat Morn Fire Barrel	157	Uptown
44	New Hope	900	Saturday Morning Steps	67	Victory Lights
700	New Way Recovery		Saturday Night Happy Hour	63	Village Idiots
	No Hard Terms		Saturday Night Special		Wash. Serenity Retreat
	Norbeck Women Fri	60	Scaggsville		We Care
340	Norbeck Women Wed		Second Chance		Wednesday Nite Winners
	Norbeck Step	480	Serenity		Welcome Group
180	N.E. New Hope	218	Serenity House	214	Westside Beginners
	NE Sunrise		Serious Business	162	Westmoreland Women
180	Nuts & Bolts		Sheepherders		
	NW Metro	292	Silence is Golden	180	What's Happening Now
87	Oasis Women's BB	517	Silver Spring Beginners BB	120	White Oak Steps & Traditions
10	Old Fashion	1888	Silver Spring		Wilson Room
	Old Town Bowie BB		Silver Spring Women		Women Do Recover
	Olney Farm	180	Simplicity	570	Yacht Club
300	Olney Stag Rap	170	Simply Sober	600	Yeas & Nays
	Olney Women's group	1065	Six & Seventh Step		
20	On the Circle	300	Sober & Alive		
120	On the Move	87	Sobriety Sisters		
60	One Day at a Time		Southern Sobriety		
	One Day at a Time R'ville	1970	Spiritual Awakening		
	One Day at a Time	42	St, Barnabas Womens wrop		
(G'burg)			St. Camillus		
146	One Day at a Time		St. Mary's Gay		
(Lanham)		110	Starting Over (SS)		
180	Group		Starting Over Gaithersburg	295	Birthday
270	Open Arms		Step Sisters	70	Faithful Fivers
120	Out Of the Woods		Steps To Sobriety	1195	Individuals
	P Street	260	Sunday Men's Step		Memorial
127	Petworth	341	Sunday Morning Breakfast		
180	Phoenix Group/DC	900	Sunday Morning Joy		
	Poolesville New Begin-		Sunday Night Colesville		
nings		720	Sunrise Sobriety		
360	Potomac Eye Openers	1624	Sunshine, G'burg		
360	Potomac High Noon		Sunrise Sobriety		
	Potomac Oaks	100	Sursum Corda		
	Potomac Women		Survivor Group		
1000	Potomac Speakers	298	Takoma Park Necessity		
1080	Primary Purpose Gay	1069	Tenley Circle Men		
722	Progress Not Perfection	9	The Away Group		
293	Promises Promises	393	There is a Solution		
			Thursday Nite Men		

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## **Have a story about your recovery in AA?**

Why not share it with all of us? If you'd like to contribute to the *New Reporter*, please send in your material to:

**[newreporter@aa-dc.org](mailto:newreporter@aa-dc.org)**



Day			Years
July 3	Joann M.	Just Before Noon	33
July 6	Jabaar A.	Brightwood	10
July 6	Don T.	Class Act	23
July 7	Lynette D.	Saturday Morning Steps	21
July 7	Sonja S.	Serenity House	26
July 11	Chuck S.	Darnestown Men	40
July 19	Ron A.	Sunrise Sobriety	5
July 21	Luella T.	Hyattsville Hope	40
July 22	Frank A.	New Hope	29
July 30	Clo'via C.	Nativity	10

### THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

*Anniversaries should be called into WAIA (202) 966-9783 as early as*

The **NEW REPORTER** is a monthly publication of the W.A.I.A., Inc., 4530 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20008. Printed Subscriptions are \$15.00 per year and Digital Subscriptions are **FREE**. Articles and event information are encouraged from members of the Fellowship and its friends.

### VOLUNTEER

**Guess who it really  
Helps?  
Call 202-966-9783**

*Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Washington Area Intergroup Association or A.A. as a whole.*

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**New meetings are not listed in the Where & When or on the website until they have been in existence for 6 months. If you'd like to let the A.A. community know about a new meeting, we will gladly list it here.**

If you have a new meeting starting up, or changes to an existing meeting, please email us at [aa-dc@aa-dc.org](mailto:aa-dc@aa-dc.org) or call us at 202-966-9115 to let us know!

**ROLLING IN RECOVERY II**— Friday, 6:00 PM, United Pentecostal Assembly Church, 211 Upshur St, NW, Washington DC 20011

**ROLLIN IN RECOVERY**—Saturday, 3:00PM, 2430 Elvans Rd Apt 101, SE Washington, DC 20020

**FIRE BARREL 2**—Sunday, 1:30 PM, Recreation Center, 1430 L St, SE, Washington DC

**NAVY YARD NOONERS**— Monday, 12:00 noon, Waterfront Church, Children's Entrance, 1000 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

**CIGAR SMOKERS**— Tuesday, 8:30 PM, Cortez Cigars, 971 Thayer Ave, Silver Spring MD 20910

**WE ARE ALL BEGINNERS**— Tuesday, 12:00 Noon, Presbyterian Church, 1030 River Rd, Potomac MD 20854

**THERE IS A SOLUTION YOUNG PEOPLE'S**— Thursday, 7:30 PM, UMD Memorial Chapel Lane, College Park, MD 20742

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FROM METROPOLIS CLUB**

The Metropolis Club located at 938 Rhode Island Ave, N.E., Washington, DC has the following meeting space available during the week for other AA Groups to rent (NOTE: One hour time slots available). Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings (7:00pm - 8:00pm ) (7:30pm to 8:30pm) or (8:00pm - 9:00pm). If interested, please call Denise at (301) 335-2512 to discuss options.

## JULY 2018