Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

No one could pay me to go out on a night like this... but...

Yeah... okay... I'll be right over...

The line between "12th stepping" and working at service jobs inside AA is quite clear... although some AAs may do both.
“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” (Tradition Eight - Short Form).

“... We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire (i.e., for pay), but we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never paid for.”

(Tradition Eight - Long Form)

“Throughout the world A.A.’s are twelfth-stepping thousands of new prospects every month. Almost unorganized, and completely nonprofessional, this mighty spiritual current is now flowing from alcoholics who are well to those who are sick. One alcoholic talking to another; that’s all.”

“Could this vast and vital face-to-face effort ever be professionalized or even organized? Most emphatically, it could not. . . Today, no A.A. will tolerate the idea of paid ‘A.A. therapists’ or ‘organizers.’ Nor does any A.A. like to be told just how he must handle that new prospect of his. No, this great life-giving stream can never be dammed up by paid do-gooders or professionals. Alcoholics Anonymous is never going to cut its own lifelines.”

“But what about those who serve us full time in other capacities, i.e., cooks, janitors and caretakers in clubs and paid Central Office secretaries – are they ‘professional A.A.’s’? No, they are professional cooks and professional secretaries, but they are not ‘professional A.A.’s’. Primarily these folks are not Twelfth Step work, they are making Twelfth Step work possible.” [When the suffering alcoholic calls A.A. for help, the telephone is answered by A.A. volunteers, not by paid workers].

“Alcoholics Anonymous will never have a professional therapeutic class. We have gained some understanding of the ancient words ‘Freely you have received, freely give.’ For our purposes, we have discovered that at the point of professionalism money and spirituality do not mix. . . Every time we have tried to professionalize our Twelfth Step, the result has been exactly the same; our single purpose has been defeated.”

In service and gratitude,

Gayle D.
San Francisco

[Quotations have been reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc., from the following sources:
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions (pages 166, 191); Language of the Heart pages 86, 87; Alcohols Anonymous Comes of Age (pages 114, 115)
After twenty-plus years of unsuccessfully “quitting drinking forever,” I was finally taken to my first A.A. meeting. I was coming off a three-day drinking binge, still pretty much in an incoherent daze. Although, I recall very little about that meeting, I do remember becoming very emotional during The Lord’s Prayer, and left with a very strong conviction that A.A. was really going to work for me. From then on, I became a full-speed-ahead meeting attendee, generally going to more than just one meeting a day for months on end.

As I began to share openly at meetings, as well as before and after, those uncomfortable feelings of anger, anxiety and depression slowly diminished. As a matter of fact, I would leave meetings feeling great! This blessed relief would last for hours, often till I got to my next A.A. meeting, then the happy cycle would start all over again. “Ain’t if great Ma, the wind stopped blowin’” (p. 82). But hold the phone! Those obsessive whisky thoughts still nagged on with a persistent vengeance.

This phenomenon is often tagged as an “A.A. honeymoon”—I was having a “relief,” but not a “release.” Someone quipped: “Survival on the A.A. fellowship is untreated alcoholism.” Even after six months being happily sober, I had not yet gone through the Twelve Step process and was unknowingly living a life of “untreated alcoholism.” Eventually, those honeymoon periods grew shorter and shorter. My unpleasant emotions returned and the whisky obsession grew stronger and stronger.

Finally, after a Hollywood parade, my untreated alcoholism allowed me to march into a bar and almost order a drink—thank God, I didn’t, but I could easily see that alternating periods of relief from my emotional problems was not going to keep me sober. Within weeks a new sponsor had me living the A.A. program of action via the Twelve Steps. A few months later I experienced a release, and my obsession for whisky miraculously disappeared.

I have learned that although the A.A. fellowship may provide pleasant periods of relief, it is the Twelve Steps of A.A. in action that provide the necessary release for me to remain happy, joyous and free—and sober!

Bob S.
75 Years-Ago This Month or so—With four years of sobriety, Clarence S. of Cleveland A.A. emerges as a 38-year-old dynamic leader and innovator in the incipient Fellowship. With his penchant for getting into the War effort, the urgency for resolving some disparities in A.A. policies vis-à-vis the New York A.A.s’ approach begins to mount.

At the preceding October celebration commemorating Dr. Bob’s Service, Clarence learns that Dr. Bob and Bill W. are getting royalties from the sale of the Big Book. Well, back in 1940, Clarence’s home group had booted him out under allegations that he was getting paid for articles which were appearing then in Cleveland’s Plain Dealer [Cf. Dr. Bob, p. 209]. In Cleveland and Akron, the Oxford Group’s Four Absolutes—Honesty, Purity, Unselfishness, Love—are pronounced. Hence, pecuniary personal gain in carrying the message is a taboo.

Rumors swirl that Dr. Bob and Bill W. are operating a racket and receiving sixty-four thousand (in current prices, around one million) dollars annually from A.A.

50 Years-Ago This Month—The Foggy Bottom Group is founded. Congrats Foggy Bottom.

The August-September issue of Box 4-5-9 publishes:

A.A. Butterflies Have No Home

"New members desire to take part in the business meetings of all local groups but yet claim no group," a Midwest A.A. writes, "Our group regulars are unified in our policy, but the visitors would like to change it. Should A.A.’s have a ‘home group’?"

A.A. butterflies who flit from group to group, but never can settle into a home group are a source of A.A. confusion. They are discussed in the pamphlet "The A.A. Group."

We asked members through this bulletin "Is a home group important to you?" Scads of replies, overwhelmingly endorsing the idea of a home group, were received. One said: "You bet your life it is! Forming the habit and sticking to a home group insures me at least one meeting a week. I know the members of my home group in depth. More important, they know me in depth. And, they give me an opportunity to serve."

Another said: "When any crisis arises in my life, a lifeline for my sobriety is supplied by these understanding and loving friends."

And another: "I visit around and it is always an adventure. I always learn something new or refine some particular phase of the program."

"The best part of affiliation is the regular attendance at meetings and the rewards of serving as officer, and really being part of the group."
25 Years-Ago This Summer— Ten Americans from several cities including Boston, New York, Seattle and Washington, DC experience warm welcomes as they share their experience, strength and hope with their fellow A.A.’s in Lithuania. Accompanied by fifteen Lithuanians the American A.A.’s cover approximately 2,500 miles speaking to doctors, psychiatrists and other staff at various hospitals and clinics (narcological institutes). The cities are very old and the pace of life is still unrushed; $15 exceeds a month’s salary; and many of the things we consider necessities, such as toilet tissue, are non-existent.

While in the capital of Vilnius, the Americans attend a meeting of the Ausra Group (a name that, loosely translated, means “dawning of a new day”). Romas 0., the member with the longest sobriety and his country’s flag bearer at A.A.’s 1990 International Convention in Seattle, celebrates his third anniversary while there. Romas is the author on a June 1989 Grapevine article describing his experience the previous winter when he is advised to contact A.A. As a result of a letter he writes to America, he receives an answer from Washington, DC including a couple of booklets about the program and activities of A.A.; and in that summer of 1989, a group of AA members from the USA visits Vilnius which results in the founding of the first group in Lithuania—with 3 members. By August the group grows to fifteen members—with four women.

This sequence of events juxtaposing Vilnius, Lithuania and Washington, DC evokes the precious memory of our beloved past-delegate Emie R—who departs us for the Big Meeting in the Sky last October. In 1991, the Big Book is translated into Lithuanian, and Emie, of Lithuanian descent and past-delegate (1967-68), is credited with transporting the first copy to Vilnius. For years now there are reports of Emie and of Lithuania’s first A.A., Romas, being seen together at events such as A.A.’s International Convention. In an April 2016 issue of the New Reporter, Emie describes an experience in June 1991 as Lithuania emerges into the sphere of Alcoholics Anonymous from behind the crumbling Iron Curtain.

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Love for Our Fellows . . .

I always enjoy hearing someone say at a meeting, “If someone hasn’t told you today that they love you . . . I love you all.” I also appreciate when someone says, “I don’t have to like you to love you.” These are always good reminders for me of the principle, love for our fellows. For me, love for my fellows is harder in practice than in principle, like the rest of the program.

A.A. members often say how much the Fellowship means to them, like having found your true family. I definitely know how they feel. But occasionally I get angry or annoyed with my fellows in A.A. Out in the wide world it is even easier for me to forget the principle of love for my fellows.

Have you ever felt road rage on your way to a meeting? Or come home from a meeting and had a fight with others in your home? Then you agree with me that it is very difficult at times to practice this principle!

For me, working on my anger management skills helps me practice love for my fellows. Anger management is part of my program because a quick temper is one of my character defects. I went to a few seminars on the topic after many years of conflicts with employers, family, neighbors, the police, and strangers. I learned strategies for recognizing when I am losing my cool and how to keep myself in check.

Whenever I feel my buttons getting pushed for whatever reason, I try to help my Higher Power remove this character defect by taking a deep breath and counting to ten, or something similar. Defusing my own temper allows me to have more of an open mind to the person I am facing at the moment.

I try to give myself a minute to reflect that this person is my friend, my fellow in A.A., or someone who could become my friend. What if they are having a bad day, or are someone who deserves the benefit of the doubt, as is suggested in the “Sick Man’s Prayer?”

And, after all, doesn’t the Eighth Step remind me that I myself have angered, annoyed, even seriously hurt other people? In other words, when I feel myself doing the opposite of loving my fellows, I try to slow down and remember what the program teaches me. By working on my character defects, by worrying about my side of the street and what I can control, I am in a better position to be more receptive and open to others.

In that state of mind I even find myself sometimes sympathizing with the person who just a minute ago was aggravating me. I am not sure if you can call that love for your fellows, but tolerance leads to understanding, and “to understand all is to forgive all.”

Love is one of the Four Absolutes for a reason. It is the tie that binds us A.A.’s together in Fellowship. If I want to truly practice the program, then I need to respect the importance of love for my fellows and be willing to act in a way that is consistent with that principle.

Besides controlling my temper, that might mean biting my tongue in a meeting and swallowing that profound thought that would prove how wise I am; ignoring a petty insult that the other person probably thought was funny; and, above all, remembering the example of loving A.A.’s like great Donny B from my home group.

Maybe one day you’ll even hear me say at a meeting, “If someone hasn’t told you today that they love you . . . well I do!” (I’m not there yet, but I am also working on my willingness.)

Tim P., (originally appeared in the Akron Intergroup News)
Thanks to London’s Daily Mail Website, we have the following pics of things people do after too much drinking:

All this man wanted was to go to bed - too bad the door got in his way.

Can’t find the closet, use the fridge

How about pasta after a night out? Use the toaster, that’s the ticket!

Self Explanatory
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.

WAIA
4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 111
Washington, DC 20008
Online Contributions to WAIA Now Available
See Instructions Below—www.aa-dc.org

Washington Area Intergroup Association
The online resource for Alcoholics Anonymous in the nation's capital.

CONTRIBUTE TO WAIA
1
PURCHASE CHIPS & LITERATURE

GROUP 7TH TRADITION CONTRIBUTION

The form below is for a group to contribute to WAIA. If you are making a contribution as an individual please use this form:
Individual Contribution Form

AA Group Contribution

This form is for group treasurers to transmit their group's contribution to WAIA by credit/debit card.

Please review the 60/30/10 Form regarding a suggested disbursement of your donation between the Intergroup (WAIA, 60%), the General Service Office (GSO 30%) and your Area Committee (WAGSA 10%). If using these guidelines, the amount you contribute here should only be what your group wishes to give to WAIA.

[Form fields for amount, group name, and payment method]

Contributions made on WAIA’s website go to WAIA only & not to GSO or WAGSA
**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 12th 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.

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate H&I meetings in the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County.

**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.

**District of Columbia**
- DC Dept. Corrections Central Detention Facility, SE; days and times flexible, requires background check, drug test, and TB test
- 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
You're invited

SATURDAY MORNING STEPS

Celebrates its 19th year anniversary!

From 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 30, 2017

LOT 6
ROCK CREEK PARK
(Beach Drive, NW)
Washington, DC

MEETING IS AT 2:00 P.M.

Fellowship

Food

Fun
What’s The Point?!?!

“Twelve Steps to Emotional Sobriety ~ Living Life in the Mainstream”

Speaker: Wayne B. -- St. Petersburg, Florida

August 4, 5, & 6, 2017

Wesley United Methodist Church -- Fellowship Hall
5312 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC

Come join us for a weekend Big Book ~ 12 Steps journey ... “To Freedom!”

Friday:
- Registration: 6:00pm to 7:00pm
- Sessions I & II: 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Saturday:
- Registration: 9:00am to 10:00am
- Sessions III — VI: 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday:
- Fellowship: 12:00nn to 1:00pm
- Sessions VII & VIII: 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Pre-Registration: $30.00 — At the Door: $35.00

For more information, contact Kerry O. at: 202-695-2238
or email: dcfriendsofbillw@gmail.com

Fill out, detach, and mail your registration to Friends of Bill W., P.O. Box 5843, Washington, DC 20016
Please make your Check or Money Order made payable to: Friends of Bill W.
Or, if you prefer, you may register online at: www.dcbillw.eventbrite.com

Sessions I - IV | Steps 1 - 3:
Alcoholism: The Invisible Disease
We Uncover The Problem

Sessions V & VI | Steps 4 - 9:
To Live Life in the Mainstream
We Discover and Discard The Results of The Problem

Sessions VII & VIII | Steps 10 - 12:
W/ The Source & The Solution
We Recover from The Problem

Fill out, detach, and mail your registration to Friends of Bill W., P.O. Box 5843, Washington, DC 20016
Please make your Check or Money Order made payable to: Friends of Bill W.
Or, if you prefer, you may register online at: www.dcbillw.eventbrite.com

Name ______________________________

Address _____________________________

Address _____________________________

Guest Name __________________________

Name Tag ___________________________

City ______________ State _____ Zip _____

Phone ____________ Email ____________

Amount Enclosed $_________________

Please check applicable box: ☐ AA ☐ Al Anon ☐ Friend of AA

“Life’s in Session ... Are you IN or out?”™
H.O.W. Women’s Retreat
October 13-15, 2017
A Non-Denominational Spiritual Retreat for Women in A.A.

Washington Retreat House
4000 Harewood Rd., NE Washington, DC 20017
(Next door to the Pope John Paul 2 Cultural Center)

Retreat Theme: Experiencing Our Spirituality in Everyday Life

Retreat Leader: Maureen Schneider

Schedule:
Registration begins Friday at 5:00PM
Retreat begins Friday with dinner at 6:30 PM
Retreat closes after lunch on Sunday at 1:00PM

Activities Include:
General Sessions with the Retreat Leader, Maureen Schneider
Saturday Evening Speakers Meeting, Ice Cream Social and Raffle
Small Group Discussions
11th Step Prayer and Meditation Meetings
Time for Fellowship
All Meals
Complimentary On-Site Parking

Costs:
Full Weekend - $215.00 (Includes all activities and private room with shared bathroom for 2 nights)
Saturday Only - $115.00 (Includes all activities, excluding overnight accommodations)
Email – Howretreat@gmail.com
Or call, Deborah at 301 570 3525 or 301 906 0919
39th Annual Fundraiser

The Old Timer’s Gratitude Meeting

Don’t drink and don’t die!

Speakers with over 20 years of sobriety!

Date: Friday November 10, 2017
Time: 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Hosted by Hospitals & Institutions Committee of WAIA

Place: Oakdale Church
3425 Emory Church Rd. Olney, MD 20832

Coffee & Refreshments: 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Meeting Time: 8:00 - 9:30 pm
Raffles will be held mid-meeting.
Prizes include: 50/50 split, turkey, Big Book and a subscription to the New Reporter.
Literature donations accepted at the door.

Directions
From Rockville:
Take Norbeck Rd. (Rt. 28) east
Turn left on Georgia Ave. (MD 97)
Turn right on Emory Church Rd.

From PG County:
Take the Beltway (Rt. 495) west to Georgia Ave. (MD 97) north
Drive approx 6 miles
Turn right on Emory Church Rd.

There will be a shuttle from the Glenmont Metro Station to the Church
For more information or assistance with transportation to this event call Bob G. 301-980-0742
The 31st Annual Area 13 - Washington Area General Service Assembly (WAGSA)

Gratitude Breakfast

8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Marriott Inn & Conference Center
University of Maryland University College
Hyattsville, Maryland

$30.00 per ticket. Tables of 10 are available.

Tickets are available from your group’s General Service Representative (GSR).

For more information, or any questions email:
gratitudebreakfast@area13aa.org
No Board Meeting in August

(Finance Committee Budget Meeting at 7:00 PM on August 8, 2017. All AA members welcome)

The Church in Bethesda
5033 Wilson Ln
Bethesda, MD 20814

Saturday Morning Steps 19th Anniversary

Sunday, July 30, 2017

You’re Invited

8:00 AM—6:00 PM
Meeting at 2:00 PM

Lot 6
Rock Creek Park
(Beach Drive, NW)
Washington, DC

Food, Fellowship, Fun

39th Annual Old Timers Gratitude Meeting

Friday, Nov. 10, 2017

7:00 PM—9:30 PM

Hosted by the Hospitals & Institution Committee

Oakdale Church
3425 Emory Church RD
Olney, MD 20832

12 sSteps to Emotional Sobriety

August 4, 5, & 6, 2017

Wesley United Methodist Church,
5312 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC

Pre-registration $30.00
At the door, $35.00

dcfriends.of.bill@gmail.com

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. A pdf flyer may be attached
CONTRIBUTIONS

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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<td>128 Sobriety Sisters</td>
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<td>1440</td>
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<td>15 The Away Group</td>
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<td>There is a Solution</td>
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<td>30 Triangle Club-Sun 11AM</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>Thursday Mom Reset</td>
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<td>59 Triangle Club-Sat. 7:15PM</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>TGIF</td>
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<td>268 Silver Spring Beginners BB</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>496 We Care</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>We Agnostics (SE)</td>
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<td>150 Wednesday Nite Winners</td>
<td>378</td>
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<td>699</td>
<td>Westmoreland Women</td>
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<td>White Oak Steps &amp;Traditions</td>
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<td>430 Birthday</td>
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<td>Faithful Fivers</td>
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<td>1616 Individuals</td>
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<td>Memorial</td>
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THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Anniversaries should be called into WAIA (202) 966-9783 as early as possible, by the 1st of the preceding month at the latest.

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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 or call us at 202-966-9115 to let us know!

**SOULS A-RISING**—Monday, 8:00 PM, 2300 Cathedral Ave, NW, Washington DC 20008.

**GATEWAY WEDNESDAY**—Wednesday, 8:30 PM, Montgomery Medstar, 1801 Prince Philip Dr, Olney, MD 20832

**52 PICKUP**—Monday, 7:00 PM, Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20005

**ONE DAY AT A TIME**, Friday, 7:00 PM, Mt. Calvary Church, 5120 Whitfield Chapel Rd, Lanham, MD 20706

**6 PM RUSH HOUR**, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6:00 PM, Bells United Methodist Church, 6016 Allentown Rd, Camp Springs, MD

**CANCELLED MEETINGS**

**Yea’s & Nay’s**, Tuesday, 7:45 AM, U.S. Capitol. On hiatus,

**Men’s Promises**, Friday, 7:30 PM, First Baptist Church, 1328 16th St, NW, Washington, DC

**7-Ups**, Wednesday, 7:30 PM, 5910 Goldsboro Rd, Bethesda, MD