

Concept III

As a traditional means of creating and maintaining a clearly defined working relation between the groups, the Conference, the A.A. General Service Board and its several service corporations, staffs, committees and executives, and of thus insuring their effective leadership, it is here suggested that we endow each of these elements of world service with a traditional "Right of Decision."



AT ALL LEVELS OF SERVICE

"Our real purpose is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and to the people about us."

Nala

Digital NEW REPO

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed, p 77

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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Concept III

For a background for this Concept, you should be familiar with the Conference Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board, both of which are found in The A.A. Service Manual. For, except for the specific directions in these documents, every trusted servant and every A.A. entity — at all levels of service has the right "to decide . . . how they will interpret and apply their own authority and responsibility to each particular problem or situation as it arises." That is, they can "decide which problems they will dispose of themselves and upon which matters they will report, consult, or ask specific directions." This is "the essence of 'The Right of Decision.'" But this right also means the Fellowship must have trust in its "trusted servants." If the groups instruct their G.S.R.s rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the area conference is hamstrung. If the G.S.R.s instruct the area delegates rather than giving them a "Right of Decision," then the General Service Conference is hamstrung. As Bill points out, "our Conference delegates are primarily the servants of A.A. as they should . . . cast their votes . . . according to the best dictates of their own judgment and conscience at that time."

Similarly, if the General Service Board, acting through its subsidiary boards, "were to attempt to manage" the General Service Office and the A.A. Grapevine "in detail, then . . . the staff members . . . would quickly become demoralized; they would be turned into buck-passers and rubber stamps; their choice would be to rebel and resign, or to submit and rot." Bill warns against using "The Right of Decision" as an excuse for failure to make the proper reports of



actions taken; or for exceeding a clearly defined authority; or for failing to consult the proper people before making an important decision. But he concludes: "Our entire A.A. program rests squarely upon the principle of mutual trust. We trust God, we trust A.A., and we trust each other." WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

Step Two: Coming to Believe in a "Great Reality Deep Within"

Of course, the oft-heard statement inferring that we are made "in the image of God," has nothing to with human biology. Humorously, someone stated, at an AA meeting, that Bill W. had possibly met with God, or at least knew him very well, because he refers to God as a "*Him*" in the Big Book. At this, an irritate lady came after him with angry-raised fists; luckily, she was held back, thus preventing a serious violation of AA unity (Tradition One).

The Big Book mentions the "*Great Reality deep within*" on page 55, which to my thinking, correlates with the following meaning expressed by this prominent spiritual teacher:* "God's image" is our inherent identity in and union with God, an eternal essence that cannot be destroyed. "Likeness" is our personal embodiment of that inner divine image that we have the freedom to develop—or not—throughout our lives.

This thought convinced me that God, rather than some pseudo-physical judgmental far away being, is actually a loving ingredient of my inner self that can be manifested (made alive) through prayer, meditation, and following the Twelve Step directions—an over-self, if you will. Of course, God may be everywhere else, as well, but that sort of philosophy is beyond the capacity of my alcoholic noodle. However, this "deep within-ness" is an experience that provides a "*knowing*" of the heart, rather than an intellectual "*understanding*." All needed is a *willingness to believe* to get results (p.46). I was willing to follow through with the Twelve Step process, and received a miraculous release from the mental obsession—this was many years ago.

It has been said: "We don't have to believe in God to work the Twelve Steps—belief comes from the working of them."

Bob S., Richmond, IN

*Fr. Richard Rohr



• AA HISTORY CORNER •

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75 Years-Ago This Month— The first reported women's prison group meets on March 18, 1944, at Clinton Farms in Clinton, New Jersey. [Cf. aa.org\archives.timeline] Previously, in September 1942, Warden Clinton Duffy of the San Quentin prison pioneers the first AA group's meeting behind prison walls attended by twenty-eight inmates. As of January 1, 2018, there are 1,360 correctional facility groups with over 34,524 inmate AA members. [Cf. Box 4-5-9, p. 2, Aug-Sept 2005 and The Sixty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous: 2018 Final Report]

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50 Years-Ago This Month— The Metropolis Club initiates Friday midnight meetings. On March 2, 1969, the Metropolis Club hosts the traditional Old-Timers Meeting, then called "the roll-call meeting". The *WAIA Reporter* would continue covering this celebration of long-time sobriety up through the first quarter of 1972.

25 Years-Ago This Month— The Washington Area's Conference Delegate Mark L. solicits the feedback of groups from our area on a potential floor motion in New York to have Intergroups be made a formal part of the Conference structure. [As it turns out at the Conference, "The Policy and Admissions Committee re-affirmed the Conference's 1991 Advisory Action stating that Intergroups are part of the process and that they can participate in it greater by participating in area assemblies and the Delegate should make a greater effort to communicate and work with the intergroups." Cf. Minutes Washington Area General Service Assembly, Area Committee Meeting, May 9, 1994]

The High Noon Group, having met Monday thru Friday for many years at downtown's Western Presbyterian Church relocates, along with the church, to 2401 Virginia Avenue, NW. Additionally, beginning March 7, 1994 the group forms another High Noon group one block southwest at the United Methodist Church, 20th and G street, NW. [presently the sole meeting location for the group.]

A.A. History Corner, thanks to The WAIA Archives Committee

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The Third Step:: When *Does* the Frog Jump?

Ever been to a meeting and heard the parable of the three frogs in reference to the Third Step? "There are three frogs on a log and one makes a decision to jump, how many frogs are there are there on the log?" The answer is still three because the frog just made a decision, he hasn't done anything yet. I don't think this is a good analogy for the Third Step hecause I believe there are two parts to the Third Step. The first part is making a decision to turn our will and our life over to God and the second part is DOING it.

After the Third Step Prayer in the Big Book, it says, "The wording was, o) What exactly is the ideqa of the Third Step Prayer? When I read the prayer the first time with my sponsor, nothing happened (so I fired my sponsor). Something was missing – I didn't understand what I was doing and in my case the wording had to be my own. I have since had the good fortune to sponsor other men wanting to live a sober life. Some haven't been able to make it and it seems they get stuck somewhere between Steps 3 and 4.

I used to argue a lot about things that didn't appear in the book, "surrender" is one of the words that doesn't appear in the first 164 pages. Not at all, anywhere. However I kept hearing old-timers who had what I wanted talking about surrender as being the most important thing to their sobriety. I was confused – again.

Then I found that there is more than one definition to the word surrender. In court if you are asked to turn over possession of something (including you) you are asked to surrender it. So . . . turning our will and our lives over to the care of God is surrender. The idea of the Third Step Prayer is surrender to me. In studying A. A. history I read that Bill didn't want to use the word surrender because alcoholics wouldn't do it.



(He was right in my case.)

The first lines of the Third Step Prayer are, "God, I offer myself to thee—to build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt." (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 63).

That doesn't sound like I've decided to do it later, does it? As a matter of fact I don't see the word "decision" in that sentence at all. I Agree that it takes a while, but it starts at the Third Step Prayer and then it becomes easy to make your beginning on the rest of the Steps. "Though our decision was vital and crucial step, it could have little permanent effect unless at once followed by a strenuous effort to face, and to be rid of, the things in ourselves which had been blocking us." (Alcoholics Anonymous, page 64).

I think there are a lot of people in A.A. with "dry" frogs and hence the difficulty in proceeding to Step four and doing the 1-2-3 shuffle instead. Kick that frog in the butt, get him off his log and start building a new and better life without alcohol, resentment and fear.

Rick M. Reprinted from the Bracer

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The whiskey king created Suitland, Md.

The following report is taken from the Washington Post's John Kelly. It provides interesting background on a local community.

Samuel Taylor Suit was born in Bladensburg, Md., in 1832. Like many young men, Suit went west to seek his fortune. Unlike most, he found it. It was in Louisville. There, Suit got into the whiskey business and became one of America's whiskey barons.

"Many were very wealthy," said **Jack Sullivan**, a whiskey historian in Alexandria, Va. "They became prominent and decided they were going to put their money into developing their communities. He's typical in that way. They were very public spirited."

Spirited Suit was. An ad in a Washington newspaper in 1872 listed these copyrighted Suit brands: National Bourbon, Capitol Bourbon, Congress Bourbon, Senate Bourbon, Suit's Private Stock Bourbon, Cabinet Bourbon, Breckinridge Rye and White Wheat. Noted the ad: "Remember that in buying our goods you buy no mixed or flavored article, but pure, straight Whiskies, changed only from the original state by time."

Sullivan suspects that may not have been the case. "The truth is never really upfront with whiskey makers," he said. Many purveyors of the spirit claimed that their product was something other than the eye-watering blend that it was.

It's not entirely clear that Suit even had his own distillery in Maryland, the District or Kentucky, though that state conferred upon him the honorary "Colonel." Suit did have a five-story warehouse in Louisville filled top to bottom with



whiskey from no fewer than 18 distilleries.

A news story from 1872 recounts how Suit and a partner bought up the country's entire stock of "old whiskies," about 3 million gallons. "These purchases embrace nearly all the valuable old whiskies in market, and will probably affect the price of all other grades," the story noted. He was the Nelson Bunker Hunt of whiskey. Not content to stay in Louisville, Suit returned to the East Coast. He had a house on New Jersey Avenue and established a 400-acre country estate just over the District line in Prince George's County. This he dubbed "Suitland." Suit invested in real estate around Washington. He sold building lots in Suitland, touting it as the perfect escape from the city. "Chills and fevers are not known in our region," claimed one ad. Suit served a term in the Maryland legislature and was instrumental in building Suitland Road, constructing a railroad from Washington to Point Lookout in Maryland, and in getting a new bridge erected to carry Pennsylvania Avenue over the Anacostia.

Suit died in 1888. Though his whiskey business made Suit rich and famous, Answer Man found an accomplishment that's even more endearing. In 1873, Suit built a school for black children on his land in Prince George's.

• MAKES ME LAUGH •

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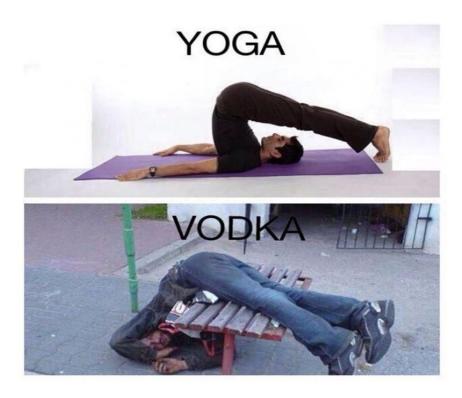
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MARCH 2019



When you're drunk af and start making friends with everyone







• MAKES ME LAUGH •

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A Fun Way to Win Some Free Beer

A Maine couple won 12 cases of beer at the North American Wife Carrying Championship. Jesse Wall and Christine Arsenault, who have been participating in the annual event for several years and have come out on top before, were dubbed the winners at the North American Wife Carrying Championship at the Sunday River resort in Newry, Maine. The pair were one of 35 couples participating in the unusual race Saturday and finished the final round with a time of 58.72 seconds, winning them Arsenault's weight in beer -- 12 cases -and five-times Arsenault's weight in cash. The win also earned Wall and Arsenault the chance to travel to Finland, where the wife-carrying sport originated, to participate in the World Wife Carrying Championships.

A Horse Walks Into A Bar

A horse walks into a bar. The bartender asks the horse if it's an alcoholic, considering all the bar it frequents, to which the horse replies "I don't think I am." POOF! The horse disappears.

This is the point in time when any philosophy students in the audience begin to giggle, as they are familiar with the philosophical proposition of *cogito ergo sum*, or roughly, I think, therefore I am.

But to explain that concept beforehand would be to put Decartes before the horse.

"Oh, you hate your job? Why didn't you say so? There's a support group for that. It's called EVERYBODY, and they meet at the bar." -Drew Carey

"I distrust camels, and anyone else who can go a week without a drink." – Joe E Ellis

"I drink too much. The last time I gave a urine sample it had an olive in it." – Rodney Dangerfield

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DONATION FORMS

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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.

	MasterCard Vi	
Phone #	MasterCard Vis	sa
Credit Card #		
Expiration Date		
Cvv number		
Billing Address (if differe	ent than subscription address)	

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

WAIA

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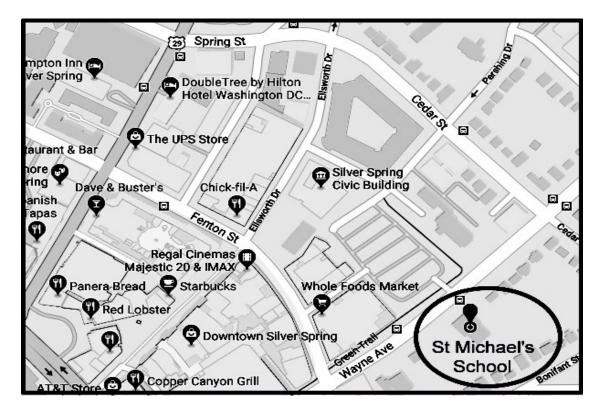
Just Before Noon WE ARE MOVING!

Effective Friday, February 22, 2019



Saint Michael's School 824 Wayne Avenue Silver Spring, MD 20910

Just ¼ mile from our old location! Same Time: 11:30 am Monday thru Friday



9th Annual Southern Maryland Round-Up **Rocket into the 4th Dimension**

March 15-17, 2019

at the

Holiday Inn Solomons Conference Center & Marina

Get your tickets EARLY!

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> SOLD OUT LAST YEAR



Save the Date!!

AA Women's Gratitude Retreat

May 17-19, 2019



Loyola Retreat House – Faulkner Maryland

2019 Retreat Leader:

Fr. Thomas C. Weston, S.J. (Oakland, CA)



Fr. Thomas C. Weston, S.J., has been involved in AA 12-Step Programs since 1976. A former Director of the Jesuit Volunteers Corps and a teacher at Loyola High School in Los Angeles, he has degrees and experience in counseling, education and theology. He counsels, conducts workshops and seminars, and preaches retreats internationally and often.

Register on Loyola's website, http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com/registration-3/private-registration/

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• CALENDAR • DIGITAL REPORTER

WAGSA Area Committee	77th WAIA Gala	9th Annual Southern Maryland Roundup
2 nd Monday March 11, 2019 New DCM & GSR Orien- tation, 6:30-7:30 PM) Silver Spring Presb. Church 580 University Blvd East Silver Spring MD Info: chair@area13aaorg	April 13, 2019 6:00 PM—11:30 PM A ROARING 20's AFFAIR! Silver Spring Civic Center 1 Veterans Place Silver Spring MD 20910 Tickets: \$40,00 apiece Tickets available online https://aa-dc.org/ event/waia-gala-2019	March 15-17, 2019 Holiday Inn Solomons 155 Holiday Dr Solomons, MD 20688 Meet us in the 4TH DIMENSION! www.southernmarylandrout dup.org
WAIA Aonthly Meeting of the Board of Directors	JUST BEFORE NOON MOVED	CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR
March 12, 2019	JUST BEFORE NOON	Events are updated regularly!
2nd Tuesday, 8:00 PM	moved effective 2/22/19	If you would like to
The Church in Bethesda 5033 Wilson Ln Bethesda, MD 20814	Monday—Friday 11:30 AM	submit an event, send ar email to events@aa- dc.org. A pdf flyer may be attached
	Saint Michael's School, 824 Wayne Avenue	

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• CONTRIBUTIONS •

JANUARY 01- FEBRUARY 20, 2019

			JANOART OT-		.1 20, 2017			
WASHIN	GTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCI	ATION	VOLUME 56 •	NUMBI	ER 3 •	MARCH 2019		
		60	Darnestown Men Deanwood Women Rap	12 730	Informed C	Group 1, Germantown		
	AA at CUA	00	DC Young People	/00	Investmen	-		
	AA & Family Issues		DCC Beginners		Irreverent Women			
	Addison Road		DCC Noon		Jaywalkers			
	Adams Morgan Meditation	17	DCC Women Fri.		Just Before Noon			
	Among Women	17	Del Ray Acceptance		Just For Today			
	Anacostia Group		Divine Intervention		Kensington Big Book			
	Andrews Armed Forces		Dunn Drinking		Kensington YP Step Study			
94	As Bill Sees It, NW		Dunrobbin		Kid Friendly Big Book			
200	As We Understood Him		8AM Men's Big Book		Kingman Park			
. –	Aspen Hill 5th Chapter		Early Times	114	14 Language of the Heart Landover Discussion			
67	Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri.		Epiphanies					
	Attitude & Action		Ex Libris	24				
	Attitude Adjusters	40	Faith Fellowship		Last Chance			
	Back to Basics	40	Faith Group		Laurel Rec			
	Barnesville		Fireside Spirituality	040		orld Big Book		
	Beginners & Winners		Foggy Bottom		Leisure World Noon			
	Brandywine		Forestville Primary Purpose		Let Go Let God			
107	5 ,	180	14 Promises		Let It Happen			
36	Big Book Thumpers	100	Free Spirits		Life Is Good			
	Brightwood	413	Friday Night Fun Too		Little House			
	Brookland	410	Friday Night Big Book		Living Sober by the Book			
	Broad Highway		Friendly Bunch		-	er Unity Place		
	BYOL		Friendship		May Day			
121	Burtonsville Big Book		Gaithersburg Beginners		Men of Du	pont		
	Campus Noon		Gateway		Men In Red			
	Capitol Heights	319	Gateway/Wednesday		Men's BS S	-		
	Capital Hill	•••	Gay 18 New Castle		Messenge			
	Carmody Hill Group		Gay Group		Mideast			
	Cedar Lane Women		Georgetown		Midtown			
	Change of Life		Get It Off Your Chest		Mitchellvill	e		
	Cheltenham	300	Glenarden	258	Mo.Co. Wo	-		
275	Chinatown Big Book		Glen Echo	200				
	Chinatown Men's	19	Goldsboro		Montrose (
	Cleveland Park		Good News Beginners	120		o the Solution		
	Clinton 45 Plus		Good Sheperd		Mt. Rainer			
	Clinton Day		Grace		Nativity			
	Clinton 6:30	1520	Greenbelt Step		Neelsville	Beginners		
	Clinton Sunday Night		Growing Group		Never Too	-		
	Coffee & Donuts		Happy, Joyous & Free	90	Never Wal			
	Colesville Sunday Nite		Help Wanted		New Aven			
200	College Park		High Noon		New Begin			
300	Cosmopolitan		High on the Hill	375	New Begin	-		
	Crapshooters		High Sobriety		New Begi	-		
	Creative Arts	300	Hill Lunch	113	New Hope			
71	Crossroads of Recovery		How It Works G'burg		New Way			
71			Hyattsville Discussion		No Hard Te	-		
60	Darn Good Big Book		Hyattsville Hope		Norbeck W			

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CONTRIBUTIONS

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- Norbeck Women Wed Norbeck Step N.E. New Hope NE Sunrise Nuts & Bolts NW Metro 184 Oasis Women's BB Old Fashion Old Town Bowie BB Olney Farm
- 160 Olney Stag Rap
 Olney Women's group
 On the Circle
 On the Move
 One Day at a Time
 One Day at a Time R'ville
 One Day at a Time

(G'burg)

- 100 One Day at a Time (Lanham)
 - 180 Group
 - 90 Open Arms Out Of the Woods P Street
 - 420 Palisades Mon. Nite Petworth Phoenix Group/DC Potomac Eye Openers
 - 360 Potomac High Noon Potomac Oaks Potomac Women Potomac Speakers Primary Purpose Gay Progress Not Perfection Promises Promises Prospect
 - 116 Queer Women Quince Orchard Radicals Read & Speak Riderwood Bills Room with a View Rosedale Sobriety
 - 212 Sat.Afternoon/2PM/UP Sat Morn Fire Barrel Saturday Morning Steps Saturday Night Happy

Hour

Serendipity Serenity Serenity House 124 Serious Business Sheepherders 522 Silence is Golden Silver Spring Beginners BB 2400 Silver Spring Silver Spring Women Simplicity Simply Sober

Saturday Night Special

Scaggsville

Second Chance

- Singleness of Purpose 430 Six & Seventh Step Sober & Alive Sobriety Sisters Southern Sobriety Spiritual Awakening St, Barnabas Womens wrop St. Camillus
 - St. Mary's Gay
- 34 Starting Over (SS)
- 43 Starting Over Gaithersburg Step Sisters Steps To Sobriety Sunday Men's Step
- 331 Sunday Morning Breakfast Sunday Morning Joy
- 1080 Sunrise Sobriety Sunshine, G'burg Sunrise Sobriety Sursum Corda Survivor Group Takoma Park Necessity Tenley Circle Men The Away Group There is a Solution TGIF
- 60 Thurs. Morn. Reset Triangle Club-Sat. 7:15PM Triangle club-Tues. 7:15PM Trusted Servants Upper Marlboro Big Book Upper Marlboro Step Uptown Victory Lights Village Idiots

Vision for You Wash. Serenity Retreat We Care

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- 259 Wednesday Nite Winners Welcome Group Westmoreland Women Westside Beginners
- 86 Westside Women
- 300 What's Happening Now
- 120 White Oak Steps & Traditions Yacht Club Yeas & Nays

Birthday

- 60 Faithful Fivers
- 1395 Individuals
- 500 Memorial





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Mail to: WAIA 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 111 Washington, DC 20008 \$15.00 Year \$28.00 Two Years \$12.00 Group Rate

A free digital copy of the New Reporter is posted every month to our website at: **www.aa-dc.org/NewReporter**

To receive an email with the link each month, send a request to **newreporter@aa-dc.org**



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



• CELEBRATING •

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGR	OUP ASSOCIATION	VOLUME 56	•	NUMBER 3	•	MARCH 2019
Day	Years					
February 28	Vicky G.	Singleness of	Purp	oose		30
March 1	Ricky M.	Welcome Gro	oup			26
March 1	Carleton H.	Welcome Gro	oup			27
March 1	Allan M.	Singleness of	Purp	oose		28
March 13	Nell R.	Little House				41
March 17	Dave P.	Clinton Day				35

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.

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.

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

VOLUNTEER

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 •

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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!

THE 12th STEP GROUP—Wednesday, 6:15 PM, St Stephen Martyr Church Rectory, 2436 Pennsylvania, NW, 20037 (Ring bell at Rectory gate)

FAITH FELLOWSHIP—Saturday, Noon, St. Thomas Moore Church, 4265 4th St, SE, Washington, DC 20032

UNLOVELY CREATURES—Monday, 7:00 PM, Hope Lutheran Church, 4201 Guilford Dr, College Park, MD 20740

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

MEETINGS THAT HAVE MOVED

JUST BEFORE NOON – Monday—Friday, 11:30 AM, Saint Michael's School, 824 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910



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