Concept IV
Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a tradition of “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.
**Concept IV**

*Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a tradition of “Right of Participation,” taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.*

Although they do not vote, these workers may freely participate.

Bill warns against the possibility of new delegates or trustees trying to “weaken, modify or toss out” the “Right of Participation.” He cites arguments by delegates to take away the trustees’, directors’ and staff members’ vote at the Conference. “Certainly,” he says, “our trustees and service workers are not less contentious, experienced and wise than the delegates.”

“It is vital,” he continues, “to preserve the traditional ‘Right of Participation,’ in the face of every tendency to whittle it down.”

Finally, there is a spiritual reason for the “Right of Participation.” All of us desire to belong. In A.A., no members are “second class.” The Right of Participation therefore reinforces Tradition Two, that no member is placed in “ultimate authority” over another. We perform our service tasks better “when we are sure we belong—when our ‘participation’ assures us that we are truly the ‘trusted servants’ described in Tradition Two.”
My Ego Can Whip Your Ego
Let Your Conscience Be Your Guide
Rick R.
(Originally appeared in the Central Bulletin)

I haven’t had too many problems with places or things. My problems have always been with the people in those places and the ones that owned those things. It’s always been THOSE OTHER PEOPLE.

Then I first entered A.A., I learned that one of the symptoms of alcoholism was our inability to form true partnerships with other human beings. I could be your partner as long as you were willing to see it my way.

Most of the people I knew got tired of me and pulled away. I had to explain why they deserted me, so I went about pointing out all of their faults while rationalizing (making a socially acceptable excuse for a socially unacceptable behavior), my own behavior. I never felt good about myself after behaving that way, but I couldn’t face the idea of admitting that I was the problem.

One evening, I was talking to a friend of mine about this topic and he said: “All forms of criticism and character assassination stem from low self-esteem.” I heard another person say “there are two ways to get the tallest building in town, 1. Build the tallest building or 2. Tear all the other buildings down.”

This low self-esteem comment stopped me in my tracks. I knew I had to restrain my tongue if I was ever going to overcome the insecurity inside of me. I was going to have to rely on my own merits if I was ever going to have a healthy self-image.

All people are conditioned to protect themselves and often they overreact and do and say things that cause others to react in kind. This can do damage to any relationship, and sometimes can destroy a friendship.

I am in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous to heal myself so it’s my responsibility to cut off my own escape and take the initiative to deal with my side of the action whether the other person cooperates or not. If I want to have the best possible relationship with every human being I know (12x12, Step 8), it’s up to me and I had to stop judging people by their surface behavior, look deeper and try to understand how they are conditioned to behave the way they do. This gives me the strength to be empathetic and not aggravate the situation.

We all make mistakes and today I don’t let my EGO compound the problem. When I let myself get into a confrontation with another person who has problems like I do, all I am saying is, “I’LL BET MY EGO CAN WHIP YOUR EGO.”

It’s a long and slow process, and it requires constant attention on my part. I try to give everyone amnesty. I apply the golden rule in every situation. I use the St. Francis prayer for inspiration. I refuse to pile on when another person is a little off his/her game.

If I find that person is still willing to cross my boundaries and cause me grief, I can remove myself and detach without condemning the other person as I withdraw. I don’t discuss his faults to others when he’s not present (no gossip). And, most of all, I must be satisfied with delayed gratification.

It may take years before anyone appreciates the changes I have made. And, when they do, it makes it even more gratifying. Today, I am nobody’s adversary. I am nobody’s victim and I am nobody perpetrator. I know that my ego doesn’t like the way I live today, but my conscience gets the final say.
75 Years Ago This Month—MARTY MANN VISITS PITTSBURGH. The May 1944 issue of Cleveland’s Central Bulletin reports the following:

“On April 28, 29 and 30th, Pittsburgh A.A.s had the good fortune of meeting and hearing from Miss Marty Mann, from New York A.A. Miss Mann led three meetings during her visit to Pittsburgh and also announced that she had been appointed executive director of the National Committee for Education on Alcoholism, sponsored by Yale University. In this work she succeeds Dr. Jellinek.

“During an interview carried in both afternoon Pittsburgh papers, Miss Mann expressed a serious concern; that the secret drinking of lonely wives of men in service is multiplying the problems of alcoholism. She said, ‘War wives are lonely, bored and frightened, and many of them are turning to drink. They don’t know what they’re doing—what a hideous future they are risking.’ Alcoholism must be dragged out of the darkness as were tuberculosis, cancer and social diseases, in her opinion. Education and more education is the answer; especially with women, because they won’t face reality because of the social stigma, is her further sound and practical opinion.”

A WAIA Banquet speaker, Jack O. of Texas tells the story which Metropolis Club member Al W. takes pleasure in telling many years hence: “There is the story about the room with a door guarded by a man with a bat. Every time you start out the door, you get hit. After a couple of tries, the earth person looks around for another way out, but the alcoholic keeps going back to the same door. As a matter of fact, if the man with the bat isn't there, the alcoholic will wait for him!”

50 Years Ago This Month—On April 2, 1969, the Cosmopolitan Group moves its meeting to the Petworth Methodist facility on Grant Circle. Although its first meetings were in individual homes, the YMCA at 13th and S provided the group space for most years between 1945 and 1969. Starting in 1976, the group meets at 4704 13th St until 1990; then at the St. Gabriel School at 510 Webster Street until the Fall of 1993; then at 6100 Georgia Avenue until the Spring 2014. The group presently meets at the Washington Ethical Society at 7750 16th St, NW, on Monday and Friday. The group’s founder Jim S.’s story is in the Second Edition of the Big Book [A recording of Jim’s talk before the 1955 International A.A. Convention in St. Louis is in the WAIA’s Archives.] The Cosmopolitan Group is one of the first surviving, if not the first, A.A. group established for African-Americans.


25 Years Ago This Month—As a result of the WAIA’s Treasurer’s poor health the WAIA Board of Directors installs an assistant treasurer by well over a two-thirds majority vote.

Thanks to our Archives Committee for providing a look back . . .
KNOWING GOD WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING GOD

(Understand God? You might as well go fly a kite!)

A young boy commented on why he believed his kite was “still up there,” although a thick fog had blocked it from view. He explained: “I can feel the tug.”

Like this little boy, I also could not understand God by calculating. I tried, but what I couldn’t figure out is that I couldn’t figure it out. Yet I maintained an ongoing search for a logical understanding—then I can know! Here is the sequence of a recent exploration:

The Big Bang propelled protons (energy) through space about thirteen billion years ago. They were without mass as they dashed through the milder vibrations of Hicks Field, which vibrates everywhere in space. But when they collide into special areas of extremely high Hicks Field vibrations, these protons developed mass (a very high vibration). This mass somehow caused particles of electrons and neutrons to surround (whirl around) the proton. This caused the birth of atoms. The mass of these atoms clinging together, in different forms, became molecules. We consider molecules as matter. Perhaps this is how energy becomes matter, like my kitchen table, or you! So, this solves the chemistry portion of my quest to understand God! Next:

These molecules combined on our planet, about four billion years ago, producing self-replicating organisms called amoebas. These evolved into higher forms of life such as fish, apes and homo-sapiens. This solves the problem of biology. Well, sort of.

The homo-sapiens started to form cultures about seventy-thousand years ago—from then till now is what we call history.

But understanding all this leaves me in the dark. Did God create this process? Or did it spring out of nothingness? Where is the logical evidence of God? A mystery indeed! If I can’t understand, how can I know? Someone said: “The more I understand God, the less I know God.”

But here’s how: The Big Book tells of a Great Reality deep within (p. 55). Quite often while deep in prayer and/or meditation I begin to feel the tug—like the little boy with the kite I begin to develop faith. Faith can take me places totally denied to logic. The Big Book says if we are even willing to believe (faith), we begin to get results. I asked God to keep me sober from my first meeting on and I haven’t had to drink since. I believe God is above and beyond all human understanding, yet there exists in me a deeper inner knowing that is beyond my understanding. “It works—It really does’” (p. 88).

~~ Bob S.
• “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 don’t have a drinking problem ‘Cept when I can’t get a drink.” – Tom Waits

• “The best research for playing a drunk is being a British actor for 20 years.” – Michael Caine

• Work is the curse of the drinking classes. ~Oscar Wilde

• What's the difference between men and pigs? Pigs don't turn into men when they drink.

• When The Hulk goes off into a vicious rage and destroys everything, he's "Incredible." But when I do it, I'm "an alcoholic."

• I just read an article about the dangers of drinking that scared the crap out of me. That's it. No more reading!

• What do you get when you mix alcohol and literature – Tequila Mockingbird

• A grasshopper walks into a bar and the bartender says, “Hey, we have a drink named after you!” The grasshopper says, “You have a drink named ‘Kevin’?”

• “Why do I drink Champagne for breakfast? Doesn’t everyone?” -- Noel Coward
CELL PHONES SHOULD HAVE OPTIONS TO CHANGE "AIRPLANE MODE" TO "DRUNK MODE."

LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

* Memory was something that you lost with age
* An application was for employment
* A program was a TV show
* A cursor used profanity
  * A keyboard was a piano
  * A web was a spider's home
  * A virus was the flu
  * A CD was a bank account
* A hard drive was a long trip on the road
* A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
* And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy ... you just hoped nobody found out

THAT WAY YOUR DRUNK TEXTS NEVER LEAVE YOUR PHONE.
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.

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Cardholder Name

Email Address

Phone #

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: ____________________________
Come Help Celebrate the 9th Year Anniversary Of the

KID FRIENDLY
Women’s Big Book Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2019,
7:00 pm*

There Will Be Refreshments!!

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Avenue (Corner of Maple and Tulip Avenues)
Entrance on Maple Avenue (main floor, room to left—big room)
7-7:15 potluck, 7:15 to 8:15 speakers 8:15 to 8:30 potluck.

Parking on Maple or Tulip Avenue
77TH WAIA GALA

APRIL 13
6PM - 12AM

SPEAKER MEETING
Sammie G.
FROM RICHMOND
DINNER • DANCING

TICKETS
$40
AA-DC.ORG

A ROARING 20'S AFFAIR
SILVER SPRINGS CIVIC BUILDING

202-966-9115 | GALA@AA-DC.ORG
College Park
A.A. and Al-Anon

64th Anniversary
Saturday, April 13, 2019

University Baptist Church, 3515 Campus Dr.
Food and Fellowship at 6:00 PM.
AA & Al-Anon Speakers Meeting 7:30
50/50 and Recovery Gift Basket Raffle
WOMEN'S MEDITATION RETREAT
MAY 3-4 AND OCTOBER 4-6, 2019

WHAT IS YOUR DEEPEST HEART'S DESIRE?

What will you do with your one wild and precious life?
-Mary Oliver

What fills your heart with joy?
What makes your heart sing?
What is your life's purpose at this time?

Join us in exploring your heart's pure desires, nourishing joy and peace in body, mind and spirit with a group of beautiful sober women on a 350 acre farm - Claymont Court (www.claymont.org) near Harper's Ferry. Learn a variety of ways to meditate, breathe and live more mindfully in the present moment. Remember - “you can’t meditate wrong.”,

Ruth F and Joann M will lead you in guided meditations and thought/heart provoking questions for journaling, Qi Gong, deep relaxation, mindful walking and eating. Small and larger group sharing will waken your heart's needs and desires.

Register today with a $75 (non-refundable) deposit by giving a check to Joann at meetings or using paypal at guitpatrick@gmail.com. Please also let me know the type of room you wish - dorms still at the low price of $295 (for the whole retreat, meals, sheets, towels, everything) or doubles, triples, private and privates with private bath (only a couple and they sell immediately). Contact Joann at joann.malone@gmail.com with questions or to obtain mailing address.

Ruth: www.ruthfishel.com
Joann: www.qicircirles.com
Back To Basics

The Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners' Meetings

"Here are the steps we took..."
in Four One-Hour Sessions

10AM  Saturday May  4th
10AM  Saturday May 11th
10AM  Saturday May 18th
10AM  Saturday May 25th

Laurel Recovery  368 Main Street  Laurel  MD  20707
laurelrecovery.org
**WAGSA**

Area Committee

2nd Monday
April 8, 2019

(New DCM & GSR Orientation, 6:30-7:30 PM)
Silver Spring Presb. Church
580 University Blvd East
Silver Spring MD

Info:
chair@area13aa.org

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**WAIA**

Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 9, 2019
2nd Tuesday, 8:00 PM

The Church in Bethesda
5033 Wilson Ln
Bethesda, MD 20814

For more information go to aa-dc.org

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**77th WAIA Gala**

Saturday, 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

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Tickets: $40.00 apiece

Tickets available online:
https://aa-dc.org/event/waia-gala-2019

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**College Park Group 64th Anniversary**

Saturday, April 13, 2019
6:00 PM—9:00 PM
Food & Fellowship, 6 PM
Speakers, 7:30 PM

University Baptist Church
3515 Campus Dr
College Park, MD

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**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.
AA at CUA
AA & Family Issues
20 Addison Road
Adams Morgan Meditation
Among Women
Anacostia Group
Andrews Armed Forces
67 As Bill Sees It, NW
200 As We Understood Him
360 Aspen Hill 5th Chapter
67 Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri.
Attitude & Action
Attitude Adjusters
Back to Basics
Barnesville
Beginners & Winners
Brandywine
107 Big Book Study
36 Big Book Thumpers
60 Brightwood
Brookland
Broad Highway
1363 BYOL
121 Burtonsville Big Book
Campus Noon
Capitol Heights
Capital Hill
Carmody Hill Group
Cedar Lane Women
Change of Life
Cheltenham
275 Chinatown Big Book
Chinatown Men's
Cleveland Park
Clinton 45 Plus
Clinton Day
Clinton 6:30
Clinton Sunday Night
Coffee & Donuts
Colesville Sunday Nite
College Park
300 Cosmopolitan
Craps Shooters
Creative Arts
Crossroads of Recovery
71 Daily Reflections, NW
60 Darn Good Big Book

60 Darnestown Men
60 Deanwood Women Rap
60 DC Young People
60 DCC Beginners
60 DCC Noon
17 DCC Women Fri.
17 Del Ray Acceptance
17 Divine Intervention
17 Dunn Drinking
17 Dunrobbin
17 8AM Men's Big Book
17 Early Times
237 Epiphanies
237 Ex Libris
40 Faith Fellowship
90 Faith Group
265 Fireside Spirituality
265 Foggy Bottom
265 Forestville Primary Purpose
180 14 Promises
180 Free Spirits
413 Friday Night Fun Too
413 Friday Night Big Book
180 Friendly Bunch
180 Friendship
180 Gaithersburg Beginners
180 Gateway
319 Gateway/Wednesday
319 Gay 18 New Castle
319 Gay Group
319 Georgetown
319 Get It Off Your Chest
300 Glenarden
300 Glen Echo
300 Goldsboro
300 Good News Beginners
300 Good Shepard
300 Grace
1520 Greenbelt Step
1520 Growing Group
1520 Happy, Joyous & Free
1520 Help Wanted
1520 High Noon
1520 High on the Hill
1520 High Sobriety
300 Hill Lunch
472 How It Works Gburg
132 Hyattsville Discussion
132 Hyattsville Hope

12 Informed Group
730 Into Action, Germantown
180 Investment
250 Irreverent Women
250 Jaywalkers
250 Just Before Noon
250 Just For Today
250 Kensington Big Book
250 Kensington YP Step Study
254 Keys to Kingdom
254 Kid Friendly Big Book
254 Kingman Park
414 Language of the Heart
24 Lanham-Seabrook
111 Last Chance
1548 Laurel Recovery
1548 Leisure World Big Book
1548 Leisure World Noon
1548 Let Go Let God
1548 Let It Happen
1548 Life Is Good
1548 Little House
1548 Living Sober by the Book
1548 Living Sober Unity Place
1548 May Day
1548 Men of Dupont
1548 Men In Recovery
1548 Men's BS Session
185 Messengers
185 Mideast
185 Midtown
185 Mitchellsville
258 Mo.Co. Women
200 More Peace of Mind
200 Montrose Gay
120 Moving into the Solution
120 Mt. Rainer
120 Nativity
120 Neesville Beginners
120 Never Too Late
90 Never Walk Alone
90 New Avenue
90 New Beginnings NW
375 New Beginnings SE
375 New Beginners
113 New Hope
113 New Way Recovery
113 No Hard Terms
Norbeck Women Fri
Norbeck Women Wed
300 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
410 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)
125 One Day at a Time

(Lanham)
180 Group
270 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
90 Prospect
116 Queer Women
Quince Orchard
1206 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
Saturday Night Special
Scaggsville
Second Chance
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
S转
430 Six & Seventh Step
Sober & Alive
Sobriety Sisters
Southern Sobriety
Spiritual Awakening
30 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
423 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
259 Wednesday Nite Winners
Welcome Group
Westmoreland Women
193 Westside Beginners
86 Westside Women
300 What’s Happening Now
120 White Oak Steps &Traditions
Yacht Club
Yea & Nays

JANUARY 01—MARCH 20, 2019
VOLUME 56 • NUMBER 3 • MARCH 2019
WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION
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To receive an email with the link each month, send a request to  
newreporter@aa-dc.org

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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
THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE
Bernadette “Kel” Kelly, March 4, 2019
New Avenue, 22 years sober.

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.

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

(Exceptions are: Quotations from ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, TWELVE STEPS and TWELVE TRADITIONS and other A.A. books and pamphlets are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.) Art and other articles are reprinted with permission of the A.A. GRAPEVINE, Inc. and are subject to the GRAPEVINE copyright.
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!

**CONSCIOUS CONTACT**—Monday, 6:30 PM, Foundry United Methodist Church, 1500 16th St, NW, Washington, DC 20036

**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

**MEETINGS THAT HAVE MOVED**

**ROCK BOTTOM**—Sunday, 7:00 PM, Laurel Recovery, 368 Main St. Laurel, MD 20707

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