The Conference recognizes that the Charter and the Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments: that the Trustees are thereby fully empowered to manage and conduct all of the world service affairs of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is further understood that the Conference Charter itself is not a legal document: that it relies instead upon the force of tradition and the power of the A.A. purse for its final effectiveness.
Concept VII— This Concept attempts to clarify the relationship and “balance of powers” between the Conference and the General Service Board. “This . . . may look like a collision of an irresistible force with an immoveable object.” On the one hand, “The board is vested with complete legal power over A.A.’s funds and services; on the other hand the Conference is clothed with such great influence and financial power it could overcome the legal rights of the board.

“This, the practical power of the Conference is, in the final analysis, superior to the legal power of the board. This superior power derives from the traditional influence of the Conference Charter itself; from the fact that the delegates chosen by the groups always constitute more than two-thirds of the Conference members”; and finally from the ability of the delegates to cut off financial support by the groups. “Theoretically, the Conference is an advisory body only; but practically speaking, it has all the ultimate power it may ever need.”

The Conference “recommends” – though its recommendations have the force of directives to the board. The board executes these recommendations. The board does have the legal authority to veto a Conference recommendation – but in actual practice, it never has done so. As Bill tactfully puts it, the trustees “simply refrain from using their legal right to say ‘no’ when it would be much wiser, all things considered, so say ‘yes.”

Although it appears to be contradictory, Concept VII provides for a “Balance of Power” between the General Service Board and the General Service Conference.

More on Concept VII:
In 1950, when the Conference Charter was drawn, there was a question of where the final authority ought to rest. Would the Conference have the last word, or would the Trustees? After considering many options, our present Conference Charter was developed. This structure clearly gives the Conference a final and ultimate authority but which nevertheless legally preserves the right of the Trustees to function freely and adequately, just as any board of directors must. This means that the practical power of the Conference will nearly always be superior to the legal power of the Trustees.

Up to now, experience has shown this balance of powers between the Trustees and the Conference is thoroughly workable. We have taken great pains to reserve final authority to the Conference by practical and traditional means. By legal means we have delegated functional and discretionary authority to the Trustees. We believe this balance can be maintained indefinitely, because the one is protected by tradition and the other by law.

Interestingly, when the Conference forwards a directive to the Trustees, the Trustees have the legal right to say ‘no’ to anything and everything the Conference wants. The Board of Trustees has veto power over any Conference action. This is legally necessary and right in principle, even though the veto will seldom if ever be used.

Concept VII provides three examples in which the Trustees should and could veto Conference action.
1. If the Conference should take an action or issue a directive to the Trustees in clear violation of its own Charter, or that of the General Service Board; or if the Conference were to pass any measure so ill-considered or so reckless as to seriously injure, in the judgment of the Trustees, A.A.’s public relations or A.A. as a whole, it would then be the duty of the Trustees to ask for a Conference reconsideration. If the Conference refused to reconsider, the Trustees could then use their legal right of veto.

2. Traditionally the Trustees never should substantially exceed a Conference-approved budget without consulting the Conference, they should feel entirely free to reduce the Conference budget figure during any fiscal year, even though such an action might curtail or cancel special plans or projects initiated and directed by the Conference itself.

3. If, by reason of unforeseen conditions, any particular plan, project or directive of the Conference should become impractical or unworkable during a fiscal year, the Trustees should without prejudice, be able to use their right of veto and cancellation.

It was our experience as a Panel 51 Delegate and as a Panel 55 Delegate that the influence of Concept VII, that being a respect for the “Balance of Power” between the Conference members and the Trustees, allowed us as Trusted Servants of the Fellowship to see grave issues resolved during our terms, with the spirit of harmonious cooperation our general rule.

Mike & Shirley O. from the Central Office of Salt Lake, UT
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resources

As of June 2019, here are the area meetings with an ASL (American Sign Language) Interpreter:

WASHINGTON DC - There are three meetings in the DC area that indicate they are ASL interpreted: Promises Group (Sunday, noon, Dupont Circle Club), the DC Young People's (1st Monday of the month, 8 pm, Augustana Lutheran Church, and the Triangle Club (6 pm Tuesdays, call ahead or email; club@triangleclub.org) (202) 659-8641) 2030 P St NW, Washington DC 20036.

PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY - Lola H. is willing to interpret at the Monday night College Park Step Meeting, 7:30 PM, University Baptist Church, 3515 Campus Dr., College Park 20740. Please contact Lola at 202-536-9952 to make sure she knows you need her.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - in Montgomery County, the Radicals (Friday 6:15pm, Derwood Alliance Church) has interpreters on occasion as does the Simply Sober group (Friday 7:00 pm, Clarksburg Methodist Church. You can call Jennifer W. at 301-300-2242 if going to ensure that an interpreter is present.

ASL INTERPRETERS
The Accessibility Committee is compiling a list of certified ASL interpreters for additionalerrals. A preliminary list should be available by June 2019. Jenni W. (listed above) is available in Montgomery County (DC also with enough notice) weekends after 2 PM. Laura B. is available in Rockville, Germantown, Gaithersburg, Clarksburg, and Damascus on Thursday or Friday, 5 pm or later; or week-ends all day. WE will update this list as other ASL interpreters are identified. If you are an ASL interpreter and want to be included, please contact the WAIA office at 202-966-9115.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
In addition to the above listed resources, there are many on-line meeting resources and on line groups for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing listed with the national AA service organization at aa-intergroup.org site.

If you are aware of other meetings that provide ASL interpreters or other resources for deaf/hard of hearing AA member, please advise us at: accessibility@aa-dc.org.
Step Seven:
Well, that was easy!

At the time, I didn’t understand why some in my Saturday morning book study group looked at me in amazement. I had recently finished Step Five. We were reading page 76 in the Bog Book, the part about Steps Six and Seven. Yep, that small part – the two small paragraphs. I read it out loud. It says right there, “We have then completed Step Seven,” Wow, that was easy! I knocked out two more steps in just two minutes!

I went on my merry little way through the rest of the Steps. And then, a few months ago, something was brought to my attention. What did you really do to try to get rid of those defects, Kenn? “I said the prayer, like it says in the book.” And how did that work out? Honestly, no too good when I actually thought about it. When I did Step Four, I had a list of just about every asset and defect a person could have. I went back to that list and look at the ones I have marked “for future improvement” or “when I, or HP, gets to removing it.” Guess what? Most of them are still there. Bummer. Turns out that instead of just saying a prayer and expecting HP to take these things away, I actually have to make the effort. “Ain’t that something;?! (I feel that page 76 oversimplified things, so I blamed the book for that – lol)

I’m already trying to be a better person. Maybe these defects aren’t meant to be removed? Not likely. So how do I work on this?

A second Saturday study group was formed. This time, we studied a book called Drop the Rock. You may have heard of it. The book is a tedious read, for me at least. It seems every paragraph is speaking to me in some way, showing me all the things I need to know about myself and my defects. And more importantly, ways to work toward removing them.

From that, I learned this prayer, and it has helped immeasurably: “God give me the courage and the strength to know who I really am, to act accordingly in my life, and to refrain from diverting my time, energy, and interests into my character defects.”

Kenn K., editor
(Reprinted from the June 2016 “Silver Streak” newsletter of the Las Vegas Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous.)
75 Years Ago This Month— The July 1944 *Grapevine* carries Dr. Bob’s essay “On Cultivating Tolerance”:

...Followers of the Alcoholics Anonymous program...often acquire finer characteristics and attitudes...One of these is tolerance. Tolerance expresses itself...[1] in kindness and consideration ...[2] in the understanding of those...less fortunate in educational advantages, and [3] in sympathy toward those [with largely variant] religious ideas ...

Dr. Bob draws the analogy of radiating spokes from a hub. “We all start at the outer circumference and approach our destination by one of many routes.”:

To say that one spoke is much better than all the other spokes is true only in the sense of its being best suited to you as an individual. Human nature is such that without some degree of tolerance, each one of us might be inclined to believe that we have found the best or perhaps the shortest spoke. Without some tolerance we might tend to become a bit smug or superior--which of course is not helpful to the person we are trying to help, and may be quite obnoxious to others. No one of us wishes to do anything which might act as a deterrent to the advancement of another--and a patronizing attitude can readily slow up this process.

Tolerance...often promotes an open-mindedness which is vastly important--in fact a prerequisite to the successful termination of any line of search, whether it be scientific or spiritual.

50 Years Ago This Month— The *WAIA Reporter* covers the United States Senate hearings on the “Hughes Bill”—passed December 1970 as the “Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation Act.” The legislation establishes the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to monitor its distributed financial support provided to both public (60%) and private (40%) treatment facilities. At the time there are estimated to be five million alcoholics in the United States according to Bill W.’s testimony.

Former Area 13 Delegate, Ernie R. serves as Bill W.’s appointments secretary—such an illustrious AA figure amidst an A.A. membership just beyond the twelve hundred in the District of Columbia could be very taxing on AA’s nearly seventy-four year old co-founder. Bill’s health begins to wane too, as emphysema grips him. Only a year and a half later, practically to the day, Bill would pass on to the Big Meeting in the Sky.

Bill W July 24, 1969

WAIA Archives

The August 1969 *WAIA Reporter* reports:

Bill W,...was the second witness in the second session and appeared as a private individual in the true traditions of A.A. and asked the media to observe this. He explained the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous and gave in graphic detail the unique value and success of the A.A. program with “one alcoholic being able to communicate with another.” He explained the source of A.A. dedication, pointing out that this was a matter of life and death. He too thanked the media for their help and pointed out that this development with the first Committee of the Congress finally attempting to aid in the program to do something about alcoholism reminded him of Neal Armstrong, the astronaut’s remark about “a great leap forward.”
25 Years Ago This Month— “Anonymity and the Public Perception of Alcoholics Anonymous” emerges as the topic during the A.A. General Service Trustees’ July Sharing Session. Richard B., of the AA General Service Office staff, opens expressing (1) the hope our focus on anonymity would continue, as anonymity is still of greatest importance to the future of Alcoholics Anonymous; (2) the hope we would not become overly concerned or worry about the public perception of A.A., but rather (3) the hope we would try to help the public understand the difference between anonymity and secrecy. We might even want to talk about anonymity from the historical standpoint as well as its spiritual significance. It causes a tremendous pull within us to see our Fellowship being discussed in the context of controversy—much like opening the door to a family argument.

Richard R., A.A. World Services director, wonders if many of us might be unaware of how A.A. is received from outside, because we in the Fellowship place a high value on our traditions that encourage A.A. to remain separate, distinct and apart in a world in which organizations pay professionals to create a “correct” image. Yes, we have our public information work, but we are not out there aggressively seeking to shape and form a public perception. We are more inclined to focus on our internal workings and our shared understanding of how we help one another. [Cf. Box 4-5-9, April-May 1995 and The Forty-Fifth Meeting of the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous: 1995 Final Report p. 32]
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
ANSWERING THE PHONE AT THE WAIA OFFICE
THE FUN SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

- **WHERE**
  4530 Connecticut Avenue NW – about half a mile up from Van Ness Metro station

- **WHEN**
  Three hour shifts, between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. weekdays or weekends

- **HOW**
  You will be trained by the WAIA staff – doesn’t take long

- **WHO**
  Meet other fun alcoholics who are there to pick up literature, answer phones, hang out while helping out

FREE PARKING!
NEARBY TAKEOUT RESTAURANTS THAT DELIVER
GREAT AMBIENCE FULL OF A.A. HISTORY

Call Luella or Clo’via at (202) 966-9115 today!
or Email: aa-dc@aa-dc.org
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.

H&I Opportunities for Service

Email: hni@aa-dc.org
Call/Text: (240)370-6165

- **Veterans (VA) Hospital**
  The VA Hospital on Irving St in NW DC seeks volunteers to bring meetings. They are scheduled for 8pm on Monday nights.

- **Clarksburg County Correctional Facility**
  Women's JAS at Clarksburg Jail is seeking female volunteers to bring in a meeting once a month on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evenings.

- **Clarksburg County Correctional (MCCF)**
  seeks volunteers for the Youth Offenders Unit on Wednesdays 7-8 pm or 7:30-8:30 pm and Thursday evenings 6-7 pm.

Please contact us if you are interested or can help us! Thank you for your service!

**A.A. members urgently needed for Corrections Correspondence Service – especially men!**

The General Service Office has an urgent need for A.A. men to write to inmates through the Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS).

Currently there are 200 male inmates waiting for an outside A.A. member to write to them. (Female A.A. members in prison can get linked right away, thanks to all the female volunteers who have signed up.) We need your help to alleviate this problem.

CCS is not a traditional pen pal service or automatic sponsorship service. This service offers the opportunity for A.A. members on the inside and the outside to share experience, strength and hope with each other via postal correspondence. G.S.O. only makes the initial connection, which is a random match between inmates with a drinking problem and outside members of the same gender who live in another region or province away from the correctional facility. The CCS program does not assign sponsors, but a sponsorship relationship may develop after the initial contact is made.

For more information and forms to participate:

In Spanish: https://www.aa.org/pages/es_ES/corrections-correspondence-service

Mail Call means everything for those incarcerated. One on one sharing – one A.A. member to another – helps both the insider as well as the outsider. Those who participate express that carrying the A.A. message and sharing experience, strength and hope is everything. Please distribute CCS forms and send to corrections@aa.org
District 2's First annual

GRAPEVINE WORKSHOP

Learn how to write a story for the Grapevine and how to submit your work for a chance to be featured

Sat July 20th, 1 PM - 2:30 PM
Saint Thomas Apostle Church
2665 Woodley Rd NW, Washington DC

Paper, pens, and snacks will be available but feel to bring your laptop or writing utensils

For questions contact
district02dcn@area13aa.org
Open Discussion Meeting
Saturday, July 27
Laurel Recovery
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Four Speakers Sharing Experience with Sponsorship as both a Sponsor and Sponsee
WAGSA
Area Committee

2nd Monday
NO MEETING IN JULY

Silver Spring Presb. Church
580 University Blvd East
Silver Spring MD

Info: chair@area13aa.org

WAIA
Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 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

Back to Basics

Sundays for 4 weeks
July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2019
7:00 PM
Westside Club
1341 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Washington, DC

315-263-8503
westsidebacktobasics@gmail.com

Sponsorship Conference

Saturday, September 14 2019
8:00—6:00 PM
Seekers Church
276 Carroll St, NW
Washington, DC 20012
Aa-dc.org/2019SponsorshipConference

Grapevine Workshop

Sponsored by District 2
Saturday, July 20, 2019
1:00 PM—2:30 PM
St. Thomas Apostle Church
2665 Woodley Rd, NW
Washington, DC

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.
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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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Jabaar A.</td>
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<td>Donald T.</td>
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<td>Chuck S.</td>
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<td>Sonja S.</td>
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**THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE**

Robert Friedson, May 19, 2019, Del Ray Sunrise Sobriety

**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!

**SOLO POR HOY** — (Spanish) Saturday 11:00 AM, Kolmac Outpatient Recovery Clinic, 8561 Fenton St, Silver Spring, MD

**STEPS 1,2,3 “By the Book”** — Wednesday 7:30 PM, Capitol Memorial SDA Church, 3150 Chesapeake St, NW, Washington, DC 20008

**NIH NOON** — Friday, Noon, NIH Campus, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bldg 31, Suite 4A52, Bethesda, MD (Visitor Center Entrance, ID required)

**SERENITY RIDGE** — Wednesday, 7:00PM, Difference Makers Church, 11210 Bethesda Church RD, Damascus, MD

**ROCK CREEK YOUNG PEOPLE** — Tuesday 7:00PM, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, 9601 Cedar Ln, Bethesda, MD 20814

**LAFAYETTE SQUARE** (Restarting) Tuesday, Noon, St. John’s Parish House, 1525 H St, NW Washington, DC

**NEW STOMPING GROUNDS** — Sunday, 6:00 PM, Greater Tried Stone Baptist Church, 1363 Otis PL, NW, Washington, DC 20010

**MEETING MOVED**

**MONDAY NIGHT WOMEN’S BIG BOOK** — Monday, 6:00 PM, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church, 1830 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC