Concept XII

General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.

Happy and Sober Holidays!
Concept XII:

This Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter “can be readily amended,” these General Warranties – like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions – be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups” in the world!

Why?

Because “these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess . . . . These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves.”

The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one my one:

Warranty One: “The conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power.” The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual members’ donations, “we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense.” And if we live by Tradition Two – that “out ultimate authority us a loving God” and that “our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern” – then we are safe from perilous power.

Warranty Two: “Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle.” Although many of us as active alco-holics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting “A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant.” Yet in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year’s operating expenses of the G.S.O. and the Grapevine. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between

Warranty Three: “None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others.” This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but “it is so important, we have made it the subject of this Warranty” – a “strong stand against the creation of unqualified authority at any point in our Conference structure.”

Warranty Four: “That all important decisions should be reached by discussion, vote, and wherever possible, by substantial unanimity.” This Warranty is, on the one hand, “a safeguard against any hasty or overbearing authority of a simple majority; and, on the other hand, it takes notice of the rights and the frequent wisdom of minorities, however small. This principle guarantees that all matters of importance, time permitting, will be extensively debated, and that such debates will continue until a really heavy majority can support every critical decision.”

Warranty Five: “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy. Although practically all other societies and governments find it necessary to punish individual members for violations of their beliefs, principles or laws. Alcoholics Anonymous finds this practice unnecessary.
**Concept XII, Continued**

When we fail to follow sound spiritual principles, alcohol cuts us down. No humanly administered system of penalties is needed. This unique condition is an enormous advantage to us all, one on which we can fully rely and one which we should never abandon by resorting to personal attack and punishment. Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger.

For much the same reason, we cannot and should not enter into public controversy, even in self-defense. Our experience has shown that, providentially, A.A. has been made exempt from the need to quarrel with anyone, no matter what the provocation. Nothing could be more damaging to our unity and to the worldwide goodwill which A.A. enjoys, than public contention, no matter how promising the immediate dividends might appear.

Some situations which may require Conference consideration are:

A.A. may come under “sharp public attack or heavy ridicule” – perhaps “With little or no justification in fact. Our best defense in these situations would be no defense whatever – namely, complete silence at the public level. If the criticism of A.A. is partly of wholly justified, it may be well to acknowledge this privately to the critics – with our thanks.

Public violations of A.A. Traditions.

Our own members may try to use the A.A. name for their private purposes. “Aggressive or punitive action, even in this area, must be omitted. Privately, we can inform Tradition-violators that they are out of order. When they persist, we can use such other resources of persuasion as we have. In the wrong, though, we shall have to rely mainly on the pressures of A.A. opinion and public opinion.”

“Another kind of problem is the severe internal disagreement that comes to unwelcome public attention.” As G.S.O. “is not a police operation,” we can only offer A.A.’s experience as a matter of information.

**Warranty Six:** “That though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

The A.A. Traditions accord the individual member and the A.A. group extraordinary liberties. In fact, we A.A.’s probably enjoy more and greater freedoms than any Fellowship in the world. We claim this as no virtue. We know we have to choose conformity to A.A.’s Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or else face dissolution and death.

“Because we set such a high value on our great liberties and cannot conceive that they will need to be limited, we here specially enjoin our General Service Conference to abstain completely from any and all acts of authoritative government which could in any way curtail A.A.’s freedom under God. We expect our conference always to try to act in the spirit of mutual respect and love – one member to another.

“Freedom under God to grow in His likeness and image will ever be the quest of Alcoholics Anonymous. May our General Service Conference be always seen as a chief symbol of this cherished liberty.”
Members with Long-Term Sobriety

Excerpted from Akron Inter Group News, Dec. 1998

For all the good and right reasons, we pay a lot of attention to A.A. newcomers. They are the lifeblood of our fellowship, and tradition says they are the primary reason we have meetings. But what about the members with longer-term sobriety?

We’re taught that the seeds of relapse are found in attitudes, which precede the actual picking up of that first drink.

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While these may be easier to spot with new people, they seem much more difficult to detect in our friends with longer-term sobriety.

Telling a new A.A. member to call us before picking up the first drink is excellent advice. But it almost never works for those who no longer have deep cravings for alcohol, because in a subtle, insidious way, they have entered into a private period (weeks, maybe even months) of irrational thinking about their lives, work, this program, loved ones, hobbies, the government or other drivers!

In other words, a dangerous form of alcoholic insanity has emerged. With nothing in its path to prevent it, drinking is the natural, instinctive reaction. Fortunately, we have ways to prevent this from happening. The bond of trust we establish between each other in A.A. is a powerful ally. If we confront those fellow members closest to us suspected of having difficulties, and if we do this with compassion and a willingness to listen and help in a true 12th Step Spirit, the outcome may be lifesaving. Following is a checklist of relapse symptoms we can watch for – and help a troubled friend explore in a sort of short-form 4th and 5th Step process.

1. Exhaustion – Allowing oneself to become overly tired usually associated with work addiction as an excuse for not facing personal frustrations.
2. Dishonesty – Begins with pattern of little lies; escalating to self-delusion and making excuses for not doing what’s called for.
3. Impatience – I want what I want NOW. Others aren’t doing what I think they should or living the way I know is right.
4. Argumentative – No point is too small or insignificant not to be debated to the point of anger and submission.
5. Depression – All unreasonable, accountable despair should be exposed and discussed, not repressed: what is the “exact nature” of those feelings?
6. Frustration – Controlled anger/resentment when things don’t go according to our plans. Lack of acceptance. See #3.
7. Self-pity – Feeling victimized, put-upon, used, and unappreciated: convinced we are being singled out for bad luck.
8. Cockiness – Got it made. Know all there is to know. Can go anywhere, including frequent visits just to hang out at bars, carry out’s, boozy parties.
Members with Long-Term Sobriety, continued

9. Complacency – Like #8, no longer sees value of daily program, meetings, contact with other alcoholics, (especially sponsor!), feels healthy, on top of the world, things are going well. Heck! – may even be cured!

10. Expecting too much of others – Why can’t they read my mind? I’ve changed, what’s holding them up? If they just do what I know is best for them? Leads to feeling misunderstood, unappreciated. (See #6.)

11. Letting up on disciplines – Allowing established habits of recovery – meditations, prayer, spiritual reading, A.A. contact, daily inventory, meetings – to slip out of our routines; allowing recovery to get boring and no longer stimulating for growth. Why bother?

12. Using mood-altering chemicals – May have a valid medical reason, but misused to help avoid the real problems of impending alcoholic relapse.

13. Wanting too much – Setting unrealistic goals: not providing for short-term successes; placing too much value on material success, not enough on value of spiritual growth.

14. Forgetting gratitude – Because of several listed above, may lose sight of the abundant blessings in our everyday lives. Too focused on #13.

15. “It can’t happen to me.” -- Feeling immune; forgetting what we know about the disease of alcoholism and its progressive nature.

16. Omnipotence – A combination of several attitudes listed above; leads to ignoring danger signs, disregarding warnings and advice from fellow members. In other words, as stated on page 85 of the Big Book . . .

“It is easy to let up on the spiritual program of action and rest on our laurels. We are headed for trouble if we do, for alcohol is a subtle foe. We are not cured of alcoholism.”
On the First Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: the gift of desperation and a life of unmanageability.

On the Second Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: a belief that there was something much bigger than me, and the hope of being set free.

On the Third Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: That the Bigger than me could set me free if I could and would agree wholeheartedly.

On the Fourth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: courage and a writing pen and spoke about notes and the loss of friends, family and morality, and this would give me new eyes to see what was my part in a stock taking bottom line accountability.

On the Fifth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: a chance to speak of my worst and my best and get it off my chest with another caring being who could introduce me to God for the very first time.

On the Sixth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: the strength to let go of all things that were spiritually blocking me.

On the Seventh Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: a sense of time that was no longer mine, and said to overcome I have to let go and learn about trust, and if I was to grow this was a must.

On the Eighth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: a list of all those who had felt my sting and be willing to patch the scratch, fill the gouge and cross the fiery bridge with humility and an olive branch.

On the Ninth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: seven league boots to travel to ends of all creation and a hat to hold when asking for the forgiveness of gold, and to make whole what once was broken, to give back what was stolen, recant the vicious lie whatever the cost, an do no further damage to another man’s heart.

On the Tenth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me the mirror of accountability, the task was to examine all my actions for it was journey with many distractions and when off course set it right immediately no matter how big the bite, and God would see to the rest, and it was after all for my very best if done each and every night.

On the Eleventh Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me a personal conversation with God to speak the words of gratitude for the rescue from a hopeless state, and listen for thoughtful instruction for course corrections to my spiritual compass and examine every mistake.

On the Twelfth Step to a life worth living my Higher Power gave to me: the spirit of the universe now alive and growing in me. With the agreement that if I stay the narrow way, I would find my greatest joy in work or at play, for when I am in the service to my fellow beings, I am but in the service of my God. When sharing the living gift of recovery we fill the measure of our creation and find joy therein. For love and tolerance is our code and service to our fellow beings we have found to be the lightest load.

From: https://newlifehouse.com/12-step-poem-alcoholics-anonymous/
Eric is sitting at the bar staring morosely into his beer. Tom walks in and sits down. After trying to start a conversation several times and getting only distracted grunts he asks Eric what the problem is.

"Well," said Eric, "I ran afoul of one of those trick questions women ask. Now I'm in deep trouble at home."

"What kind of question?" asked Tom.

"My wife asked me if I would still love her if when she was old, fat and ugly."

"That's easy," said Tom. "You just say 'Of course I will'".

"Yeah," said Eric, "That's what I did, except I said, 'Of course I DO...""

Two fellows stopped into an English pub for a drink. They called the proprietor over and asked him to settle an argument.

"Are there two pints in a quart or four?" asked one.

"There be two pints in a quart," confirmed the proprietor.

They moved back along the bar and soon the barmaid asked for their order.

"Two pints please, miss, and the bartender offered to buy them for us."

The barmaid doubted that her boss would be so generous, so one of the fellows called out to the proprietor at the other end of the bar, "You did say two pints, didn't you?"

"That's right," he called back, "two pints."
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.

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.

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I authorize WAIA to charge my credit card in the amount of $________
Signature: ______________________________________________________

WAIA
4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 111
Washington, DC 20008
Avery Road Treatment Center
14703 Avery Road, Rockville, MD 20853 is seeking coverage for meeting Sundays at 8pm

Washington Hospital Center
Washington Hospital Center at 110 Irving St NW, Washington, DC 20010 seeks volunteers to facilitate the start of 2 AA meetings open to the General Public and their IOP Program. The Hospital has requested a weekday and weekend (Sunday preferred) with start time TBD.

Shady Grove Adventist Hospital
Shady Grove Adventist Hospital at 9901 Medical Center Dr, Rockville, MD 20850 has tentatively approved 2 AA meetings that are open to the General Public and their IOP Program! Day and time tentatively time slotted for Sundays at 11:30am and Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Please contact Michael W. at Wesch1969@gmail.com for Sundays and Irene B. at gridirongrades@gmail.com for Wednesdays if you are interested in a service commitment for these meetings. Start date TBD. To be located in Chapel next to the Cafeteria or the Conference Room where the NA Fellowship currently meets on Saturday nights at 7:30 pm.

Washington Adventist Hospital
Effective 8/25/19, all patients in the detox and psychiatric units have been relocated to Shady Grove Hospital at 9901 Medical Center Dr, Rockville, MD 20850 until further notice. Washington Adventist Hospital has relocated to 11890 Healing Way, Silver Spring, MD 20904 effective 8/25/19.
Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous

Holiday parties without liquid spirits may still seem a dreary prospect to new A.A.s. But many of us have enjoyed the happiest holidays of our lives sober — an idea we would never have dreamed of, wanted, or believed possible when drinking. Here are some tips for having an all-round ball without a drop of alcohol.

1. Line up extra A.A. activities for the holiday season. Arrange to take newcomers to meetings, answer the phones at a clubhouse or central office, speak, help with dishes, or visit the alcoholic ward at a hospital.

2. Be host to A.A. friends, especially newcomers. If you don't have a place where you can throw a formal party, take one person to a diner and spring for the coffee.

3. Keep your A.A. telephone list with you all the time. If a drinking urge or panic comes — postpone everything else until you've called an A.A.

4. Find out about the special holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations given by groups in your area, and go. If you're timid, take someone newer than you are.

5. Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about. Remember how clever you were at excuses when drinking? Now put the talent to good use. No office party is as important as saving your life.

6. If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an A.A. with you, keep some candy handy.

7. Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.

8. Worship in your own way.

9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.

10. Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember — "one day at a time."

11. Enjoy the true beauty of holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts — but this year, you can give love.

12. "Having had a . . ." No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.
DISTRICT 2 PRESENTS:
2ND ANNUAL

SOBER THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Cookie Decorating | Speaker Meeting | Fellowship

Dec. 7th • 1 pm to 3 pm
Westside Club
1341 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20007

Questions? Contact district02dcm@area13aa.org
Silver Spring Group

HOLIDAY PARTY

Fellowship • Food • Speaker • Music • Dancing

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Sligo Middle School (1401 Dennis Ave, Silver Spring, MD)

doors open 6:00pm • dinner 6:30pm • speaker 8:00pm • music 9:00pm

$15 suggested donation • newcomers welcome!

Dinner, sides, and beverages will be provided, but please consider bringing a dessert.
We will need help setting up and cleaning up.
Sign-up sheets for service positions will be circulated.
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAPEVINE:

Writing Workshop

Come out for a fun filled afternoon of fellowship, writing and learning about the A.A. Grapevine, our meeting in print. This workshop will provide guidelines and topics to submit your own article.

DECEMBER 14, 2019 | 1PM TO 3:30 PM
HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL
1500 FOREST GLEN RD
SILVER SPRING, MD

SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

PARKING: 8 DOLLARS IN THE GARAGE OR FREE TO PARK ON THE STREET

10 MINUTE WALK FROM THE FOREST GLEN METRO

WRITING SUPPLIES AVAILABLE; LAPTOPS & TABLETS ENCOURAGED

QUESTIONS? EMAIL GRAPEVINE@AREA13AA.ORG

http://area13aa.org
CAMEL GROUP

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION & DINNER

Monday, December 16, 2019

St Mary’s Episcopal Church
2609 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA

Dinner begins at 6:30

Special Guest Speaker Sammie G. of Richmond, Va. at 8pm
Close by 9:00pm

No RSVP required. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

THE MEETING WILL HAVE A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER

Location: intersection of N. Glebe Road (Rt 120) and Old Dominion (Rt 309). The church parking lot is located directly across Glebe Road from the church. From Glebe Road, turn on 26th Street (away from the church) and you will find the entrance to the lot on your right. Permits are not required. If it is full, there is street parking in the surrounding neighborhoods, but please review posted signs.
ROCKVILLE METRO CLUB
Holiday Party
Fri Dec 20th 2019
Recovery ~ Food ~ Fellowship
7:30 meeting ~ 9:00 dinner ~ 10:15 gifts

RockvilleMetroClub.org
12319 Washington Ave
Rockville MD 20852
301-881-0400
Info call Hotrod 202-674-0300
The Church in Bethesda
5033 Wilson Ln
Bethesda, MD 20814
For more information
email: aa-dc@aa-dc.org

Silver Spring Group Holiday Party

Sat, December 7, 2019
6:00 PM—9:30 PM
Sligo Middle School
1401 Dennis Ave
Silver Spring MD
$15.00 suggested donation
• Fellowship, Food, Speaker, Music, Dancing
• Newcomers Welcome

Grapevine Writing Workshop

Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019
1:00PM—3:00 PM PM
Holy Cross Hospital
1500 Forest Glen Rd
Silver Spring, MD
This workshop will provide guidelines & topics to submit your own article.
https://area13aa.org

WAIA
Monthly Board Meeting

December 9, 2019
8:00 PM
The Church in Bethesda
5033 Wilson Ln
Bethesda, MD 20814
For more information
email: aa-dc@aa-dc.org

Rockville Metro Club Holiday Party

Friday, December 20, 2019
Recovery—Food—Fellowship
7:30 PM—Meeting
9:00 PM - Dinner
10:15 PM Gifts
Rockville Metro Club
12319 Washington Ave
Rockville MD 20852
$5.00 in Advance, $6.00 at the door

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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1027 Sunshine, G’burg

Sursum Corda
Survivor Group
540 Takoma Park Necessity
1200 Tenley Circle
12 The Away Group
423 There is a Solution
60 TGIF
60 Thurs. Morn. Reset
Triangle Club-Sat. 7:15PM
Triangle club-Tues. 7:15PM
Trusted Servants
100 Tue. Nite Men’s Big Book
21 Unity Noon
216 Unlovely Creatures
50 Upper Marlboro Big Book
Upper Marlboro Step
237 Upton
   Victory Lights
   Village Idiots
   Vision for You
   Wash. Serenity Retreat
1320 We Care
366 Wednesday Nite Winners
   Welcome Group
158 Westmoreland Women
279 Westside Beginners
219 Westside Men
186 Westside Women
300 What’s Happening Now
240 White Oak Steps & Traditions
782 Yacht Club
   Yeas & Nays

Birthday
60 Faithful Fivers
3673 Individuals
1500 Memorial
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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
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.

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>December 7</td>
<td>Dave B.</td>
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<td>December 14</td>
<td>Marbury W.</td>
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<td>December 29</td>
<td>Lauren S.</td>
<td>New Hope</td>
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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!

RESTAURANT LIFE — Monday, 2:00 PM, Triangle Club, 2030 P Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

HOPE IN SOBRIETY—Saturday, 2:00 PM, Beacon Center, 2nd Fl, 6120 Quackensbo St, NW, Washington, DC

GREENWAY—Tuesday, 6:00 PM, 324 A St SE, Washington, DC 20019

SOLO POR HOY —(Spanish) Saturday 11:00 AM, Kolmac Outpatient Recover 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

MEETING MOVED

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