Coping with COVID-19 Crisis
“This is another decision – a full decision with no reservations, no holding back, no ‘ifs’ or ‘buts.’ The more complete and unconditional our decision was in Step number one, the more readily and fully will we make this decision to turn our will and our lives over to God. It is the mental reservations in the admission that we are powerless over alcohol and that our lives have become unmanageable that often proves a stumbling block in step number three. Many would like in turn most of their lives over to the care of God, but certain associations, practices, and relationships – we don’t like to let them go. But we should realize that, when we make up our minds to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, that means without reservation. Therefore, all dishonesty, dishonest practices, illicit relationships, and all the many things in our lives that we know are contrary to the will of God must go. It is here that we understand fully the meaning of the term “unconditional surrender.” And having once and for all fully made this decision of surrender, we will, perhaps for the first time in our lives, experience the true meaning of peace and serenity. We will finally really begin to live. We shall at last understand what Christ meant when he told us that we must die in order to live 00 die to all that is of self in order to live to all that is of God of his will, His providence, His Love.

If we are not willing to take this Step unconditionally, then as we are advised in the A.A. book, we should pray that God will make us willing – praying both for the will to do and the strength to accomplish. This, for a time, may be necessary for most of us. For, after years away from normal living, from God and His will, it is not going to be so easy to change and we may need to pray daily, even hourly, ‘God, make me willing to do Thy will.’

“As we understood him.’ We are above everything else searching for truth. Therefore, we don’t make up a God to fit us, but we search for God according to our honest convictions. We want a God according to our honest convictions. We want a God who ‘can restore us to sanity,’ a ‘Power greater than ourselves,’ not a figment of our imaginations or a product of our own will. If we have no clear cut idea of God, we ask that He give it to us. Isn’t it very plain that the making of God to suit us is a contradiction of the admission we make ‘that we were powerless?’ The safe and sure way is to humbly pray, ‘God that I may see!’”

Father John Doe, author of “The Golden Book of the Spiritual Side,” on the Third Step
WILLINGNESS IS THE KEY

You would think that after years of being mangled by alcoholism anyone would be willing to do almost anything for relief! Why does it take us so long to give up that fight?

Perhaps I could not believe that there was an alternative, one that I could achieve. Page 44 of the Big Book has a statement that really makes sense: "To be doomed to an alcoholic death or to live on a spiritual basis are not always easy alternatives to face." It took some time for me to be convinced that I suffer from a fatal malady, a soul sickness that requires a spiritual answer and daily spiritual maintenance.

For me, it eventually came down to the Third Step and complete surrender to a Power and a Process that I was incapable of understanding. I could clearly see that the spiritual folks were peaceful, grateful, and above all usefully sober. On the other hand I couldn't help but notice that rebellious and closed- minded people were literally dying from this disease. Resistance is futile!

What keeps me willing today is that combination of pain and pleasure. The pain of my beginnings I clearly wish not to repeat. When the routine of going to regular meetings gets irritating, I can easily remember the physical and mental misery. It often occurs to me that I could find the bare minimum of that recovery routine that would keep me sober, but that experiment caused a near-deadly relapse some years ago. Not worth the risk! The pleasure part of the equation is that, as I make progress in recovery, I feel comfortable in my own skin and with all of you. What a great feeling! This helps me develop a quiet mind and an open heart. After all, peace is the end result of a successful spiritual path.

~Anonymous

"We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all - every one? If we still cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing." ~Big Book p. 76
Elton John Says Zoom Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings Have 'Been a Lifesaver' During the Pandemic

On Tuesday's premiere episode of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's new Spotify podcast, Archewell Audio, the 73-year-old pop icon — who celebrated 30 years of sobriety earlier this year — said the video conferencing platform has allowed him to keep up with his Alcoholics Anonymous meetings during the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm a recovering alcoholic so I have an AA meeting from this house every Sunday," John said from his home in England. "I connect with my friends who I've known for over 30 years in the program, and that's great."

"If it hadn't been for Zoom, I don't know what we would've done, I really don't, without Zoom," he continued. "It's been a lifesaver." John — who also mentioned during the podcast that he's had to be extra cautious during the pandemic because he's "semi-diabetic" — commemorated the three-decade milestone of his sobriety on Instagram July 29.

"Reflecting on the most magical day having celebrated my 30th Sobriety Birthday," he wrote alongside photos of a table filled with cards from friends and family, a "30" cake and a 30-year recovery chip. "So many lovely cards, flowers and chips from my sons, David, friends in the Program, staff at the office and in our homes."

"I'm truly a blessed man," he added. "If I hadn't finally taken the big step of asking for help 30 years ago, I'd be dead."

I started attending A.A. meetings at age 44 while I was in a treatment center. Until that time, I was self-reliant to a fault. I was at the top of my career and had all the trappings of success. I recoiled at the thought or mention of surrender and stayed that way until I was 10 years sober. That’s when John became my sponsor.

John knelt with me while holding my hand and had me read aloud the Third Step Prayer from the Big Book. That moment was the beginning of a meaningful relationship with my sponsor and with a Higher Power, though I did not realize it at the time.

In A.A., all of our literature refers to God of my understanding that I imagine is kind, benevolent and caring. I had never known a God of my understanding that I imagine is kind, benevolent and caring. I had never known a God of that description, especially as a child. My life then could not have been described as safe and secure, caring and kind, or filled with unconditional love and joy. I found all that when I got to A.A.

Today, my ego still wants to be in charge, so I ask for God’s will not mine to be done every time I say or recite the Serenity Prayer. Now at 40 years sober, I still ask daily for the willingness, strength and courage to continue to seek God’s will for me. As it says in our book Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, “It is when we try to make our will conform with God’s that we begin to use it rightly.” I thank God for A.A. for the wonderful life I live today.

Hal F.
McAllen, TX
Taken from the Grapevine
History of Alcoholics Anonymous in Britain

Editor’s note: Yours truly was invited to lead a Zoom meeting in the U.K. in January. As a part of qualifying, I mentioned this newsletter and our continuing need for new material. One of the participants, John M., who has 42 years of sobriety, has provided the following as his contribution:

1946 and ON
It is hard to imagine how alcoholics survived in Great Britain before 1947.
A.A. simply didn’t exist. A.A. in America had its beginnings in 1935 when Bill Wilson talked Dr. Bob Smith into sobriety and the movement had been growing steadily there since then. The BIG BOOK had been published in 1939 outlining A.A.’s program of recovery from alcoholism.
WORLD WAR II had proved a major obstacle.

So, in 1947, The Fellowship was barely known in this country although a meeting had been established in November, 1946, in Dublin, Ireland by Conor F., an Irishman who got sober in Philadelphia and returned to Dublin on holiday and was determined to start a meeting in Dublin before he went back to America. Everywhere Conor went trying to find a meeting place, he was met with stone walls and open hostility. He was told, in no uncertain terms, by one old lady, that he was ‘wasting his time’ and that there were “no alcoholics” in the Southern Ireland but he “would probably find a lot up in the North”.
In spite of strong opposition Conor F. managed, finally, to start a meeting in November 1946 at The Country Shop in Dublin run by the Irish Countrywomens’ Association.

The Association took a chance in renting one of their rooms to this sinister sounding organization and A.A. began in Ireland. This was the first European meeting of A.A. At that time, A.A. ‘Ireland’ covered both North and South. The Dublin meeting continued to meet at The Country Shop until the Shop closed in 1978.

1947. Start of Alcoholics Anonymous in Great Britain

So far as we know from documents the first contact between England and America was on March 29th 1946, when a letter from an American lady, living in London, Dorothy H-E, wrote to A.A.’s New York office expressing interest but stating that she ‘was (quote) “not an alcoholic but showed potential’ and wanted to help A.A. The New York office responded the day after receiving that letter asking her to contact a Chris L-B in Hove, Sussex who had been in touch with the New York office seeking information and help. Dorothy made contact with Chris L-B and this is believed to be the first 12th Step in Britain. (To be continued)
**That Imaginary Line**

Al-Anon member finds Tradition Three by attending meetings.

I was invited to my first A.A. meeting by an alcoholic friend. I was a ‘visitor’ from Al-Anon. At that meeting, I heard two speakers tell their stories and found myself relating to both of them—right up to the point where they started getting DUIs and losing jobs.

Those things had not happened to me, but I could see that with my ‘addictive personality’ I could easily go there if I kept drinking the way I was drinking. I resolved then and there to quit drinking while I still could—before I became alcoholic. I had grown up in an alcoholic home and did not want my daughter to go through what I went through.

So, I continued to go to open A.A. meetings on a regular basis with my friend, as well as to my regular Al-Anon meetings. In those first few months, I found myself relating more and more to the stories I heard in A.A. I still didn’t believe I had crossed an imaginary line into active alcoholism. Then one day I found myself in an A.A. meeting I had never attended before.

Instead of asking if anyone was new to A.A., the chairperson asked if anyone was new to that meeting. Not thinking, I raised my hand along with several others and then was appalled as they went around the room and everyone introduced themselves as alcoholic. I panicked, thinking I was in a closed meeting, if I said I was a visitor, they might ask me to leave; if I said I was an alcoholic, my friend would have me in a treatment program before the day was out!

Feeling very defensive, I recalled A.A.'s Tradition Three and, if challenged, I was going to remind everyone that I had every right to be there, because I had a desire not to drink! I was prepared before they got to me but was skipped over. However, the squirrel cage in my head had started going crazy.

Over the next few days, my thoughts were focused on the big question—was I already an alcoholic? I finally spoke to my Al-Anon sponsor and her sister (who was in A.A.) and they made several suggestions on how I could come to a decision about it. The bottom line was just not drink until I figured it out.

As I attended more meetings with an ever-open mind, I finally came to believe that I was indeed an alcoholic and that A.A. was exactly where I belonged. I picked up my white chip at five and a half months sober, and a six-month chip two weeks later. It has been more than 28 years since then, and I’m forever grateful that I was permitted to attend A.A. when I only had the desire to stop drinking, even though I did not believe I belonged.

Rosemary P.
Waynesboro, VA
*Taken from the Grapevine*

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**Sharing from Behind Walls**

A Wonderful Program

“Hello, my name is Ryan, and I’m from Bend, Oregon. The reason for this letter is to let you know that I am finally breaking through the stigma of A.A. here in jail. Up until this point, I have had a hard time attracting anyone here to the program and the promises it puts forth. I am excited to say that my meetings are starting to take root, and more inmates are wondering, ‘What are these guys doing?’ and coming over to the table. As you know, with Covid-19 restrictions it has been difficult with only video visits. I would say we have had two outside meetings total every month for the last nine months I have been here. I am grateful that others have been able to be of service and make it in. Someone even sent in a “Today A.A. is so different for me. I am putting in the work; I do the Steps. I help others and that is what helps me the most.”

A.A. Newsletter, Winter 2021
I've got PMS, OCD, and ADD.
I want to cry and look pretty while I kill everyone. But I can't focus on that right now, I'm cleaning.

Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers? He will stop at nothing to avoid them.

Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens? All they said was “Bach, Bach, Bach. . .”

C, E-flat and G walk into a bar. The bartender shows them the door and says, “Sorry, we don’t’ serve minors.”

What did the DNA say to the other DNA? “Do these genes make me look fat?”

A woman who is 3 months pregnant falls into a deep coma. 6 months later, she awakes and asks the doctor about her baby.

Doctor: You had twins, a boy and a girl, and they are both fine. Luckily, your brother named them for you.

Woman: Oh no, not my brother! He’s an idiot! What did he name the girl?

Doctor: Denise.

Woman: Well, that isn’t so bad, and what did he call the boy?
ASPEN HILL PHOENIX MONDAY MEETING - ANNOUNCEMENT

The Aspen Hill Phoenix Group, Monday Meeting announces a New-Old Format is making a comeback.

Our purpose is to increase our knowledge of the Three Legacies of AA and to pass that knowledge on to the next generation of Sober Alcoholics. Those who will take our fellowship into its second century.

On the first Monday of every month the group will sponsor a Panel Discussion Meeting.

This meeting is for New Members of AA and those with many years of Sobriety. For those unfamiliar with this format, three members of AA will share their knowledge and experience on a topic, and then will take questions from the audience on that topic. Our first Panel Discussion will take place on Monday March 7, at 8:30 PM. Bring your Sponsees and your network!

We hope to see you there as we Trudge the Road of Happy Destiny.

**Meeting Information**

- Monday, 8:30 pm
- In Person
- Open
- Panel Discussion

Christ Church
13501 Georgia Ave
Silver Spring, MD 20906
WE WILL KNOW A NEW FREEDOM
2022 Southern Maryland Round-Up

Solomons Inn Resort & Marina

Call 410-326-6311 and ask for Front Desk to make reservations. Be sure to use reservation #R6D.

Located on South of Washington, DC:
105 Holiday Drive, Solomons, MD 20688

For information about the area, visit www.solomonsmaryland.com

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. Information on website.

Scholarships will be awarded to individuals who demonstrate a commitment to community service. For more information, please visit www.solomonsmaryland.com

Please note that all registrations are final and non-refundable. After March 1st, all registrations will be processed through the website for registration availability.

Mail to: PO. Box 434, Dunkirk, MD 20754

Register by mail by March 1st. Make check or money order payable to:

Southern Maryland Round-Up

Register online by March 1st. Visit the registration site to register.

Deadline: March 1st

Tickets for buffet dinner sold separately. Menu on website.

Tickets for buffet dinner offer a special discount. Early registration fee is $38 per person includes all workshops, speakers, and afternoon workshops.

For conference information, please visit www.solomonsmaryland.com

For scholarship availability, please visit www.solomonsmaryland.com

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE. Information on website.

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6th Annual Area 29
Maryland State Convention
June 24th – 26th, 2022
With Al-Anon Participation – Hosted by Maryland General Service, Inc.
Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center
5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick, MD 21703

**AA Speakers**
Deshu G. – Clarksburg, MD
Marie E. – Murrells Inlet, SC
Lukas M. – Towson, MD
Melissa Z. – Chester, VA
Gary K. – Sulphur Springs, TX
Joe G. – Wylie, TX

**Al-Anon Speaker**
Beverly B. – Lewisville, TX

**Open AA and Al-Anon Meetings**
at intervals each day

**Evening Activities**
Ice Cream Socials ($5 each night)
Recovery Puppet Show

**Friday, June 24th**
8:00 am Registration Opens
8:15 am Prayer and Meditation
10:30 am AA Workshop
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm AA Speaker Meeting
2:30 pm AA Workshop
4:00 pm AA Speaker Meeting
6:30 pm Dinner
8:00 pm AA Speaker Meeting
9:30 pm Ice Cream Social
10:00 pm AA History Presentation

**Saturday, June 25th**
8:00 am Registration Opens
8:15 am Prayer and Meditation
9:00 am AA Speaker Meeting
10:30 am Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Old Timers Panel
2:30 pm AA Workshop
4:00 pm AA & Al-Anon Workshop
6:00 pm Banquet
7:30 pm Delegate Report and Sobriety Countdown
8:00 pm AA Speaker Meeting
9:30 pm Ice Cream Social
10:00 pm Recovery Show

**Sunday, June 26th**
9:15 am Prayer and Meditation
10:00 am AA Speaker Meeting

**Pre-Registration Gift!**
*Limit 450*
See back!

Convention Room Rate: $109/night + Tax.
Mention “MD State Convention” for this reduced rate and a FREE breakfast.

For hotel reservations, call 301-694-7500, or reserve online at:
www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/ZM83G3
Hotel reservations must be made by June 10, 2022

Note: The hotel does NOT have an elevator. If you require ground floor accommodations, notify the hotel when making reservations.
Pre-Registration Gift ● 50th MGS Convention Mug ● First 450 pre-registrations!

50th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Registration and Meal Selection
Register online at http://www.marylandaa.org/state-convention
Online registration payment by credit card is $32, including a $2 convenience fee.
Registration payment by check is $30. Make check payable to MGS State Convention.
Mail with this form to: MGS State Convention, P.O. Box 1710, Frederick, MD 21702

First Name: ___________________________ Last Name: ___________________________
Address: ______________________________ Email: ________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ___________

Accessibility accommodations? Please list: ___________________________

Please contact me regarding Service Opportunities at the Convention: ☐ Yes Phone #: __________________

Registration Options:

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<th>Option</th>
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<td>Registrations and All Meals</td>
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-- Must Specify Banquet Option Below --

Meal Options – If your registration includes ALL meals, select from Banquet Options 1-4 below (no additional fee)

**Friday Lunch – Deli Buffet**
Seasonal Greens with Two Dressings, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Selection of: Roast Beef, Salami, Ham, Smoked Turkey, American, Swiss, and Provolone Cheeses, Assorted Deli Breads and Rolls, Gourmet Cookies and Brownies.

**Friday Dinner – Italian Extravaganza Buffet**
Caesar salad, garlic bread sticks, tomato mozzarella with pesto, vegetable salad. Penne pasta primavera with Alfredo or Bolognese sauces, Chicken Parmesan. Zucchini & tomatoes. Chef’s choice of dessert.

**Saturday Lunch – American Buffet**
Old Fashioned Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken Breast, Texas Chili, Assorted Cheeses, Fixings and Condiments, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Gourmet Cookies and Brownies.

**Saturday Banquet – Seating limited to 200 – order early**
Plated meals served with warm rolls & butter, garden salad. Cheesecake with chocolate sauce and berry coulis.

**Option 1:** Grilled chicken breast with lemon caper sauce, whipped potatoes, seasonal vegetables.
X____ = $ _______

**Option 2:** Jerk salmon with pineapple salsa, cilantro rice, seasonal vegetables.
X____ = $ _______

**Option 3:** Dijon mustard roasted pork loin medallion with mushroom cream sauce, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables.
X____ = $ _______

**Option 4:** Vegan, gluten-free quinoa pilaf stuffed pepper, saffron rice, grilled vegetables.
X____ = $ _______

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE = $ _______
FOUNDERS’ DAY 2022

Back live and in-person!

Join us in the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous: Akron Ohio, June 10-12, 2022

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REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2022
Visit https://foundersday.org
March 14, 2022 - 7:00 pm 2nd Monday of the month except July

Go to area13aa.org for Zoom Meeting information.

WAIA
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

March 8, 2022—8:00 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month except August

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460598434?
pwd=VVBEK2FNSzcxS3VXZDFVOXhMa1oxZz09

Meeting ID: 834 6059 8434
Passcode: 819862
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,83460598434# US (Washington DC)s

Check the Events Page on WAIA’s website for Holiday Event updates:

https://aa-dc.org/events

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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<td>Sun. Morn. Breakfast Out</td>
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<td>What’s Happening Now</td>
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Volunteer

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

March 3 Carlton H. Progress not Perfection 30 Years
March 3 Ricky M. Progress not Perfection 29 Years
March 3 Linda J.W. Progress not Perfection 13 Years
March 17 David P. (Brown Bag Dave) Clinton Day 38 Years
March 22 Glorianne S. 24 Years

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

Volunteer

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MARCH 2022