

Digital NEW REPORTER

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed, p 77

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 59

NUMBER 5

MAY 2022



Tradition Five

"Each group has but one primary purpose to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."



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WAIA May 2022 - Calls for Service & Support

Update from the Finance Committee:

The Washington Area Intergroup Association (WAIA) needs your support. Contributions this year are 35% below budget, and down 25% from last year. Please help ensure that the office can continue to serve as AA's DC cental office; answering calls 24/7, maintaining a current record of all meetings in the area, and providing other essential services to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. You can make a contribution directly on the WAIA website at https://aa-dc.org/contributeonline, or via Venmo to @WAIA. Checks can be mailed to WAIA, 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW Ste 111, Washington DC 20008

Office Volunteers: The available open slots for answering phones in the office are Saturday 10a-1p, Saturday 1p-4p and Sunday 1p-4p (other slots open up frequently). Call 202-966-9783 and ask for Clo'via or Luella for more information or email help@aa-dc.org

WAIA Chair Openings:

- Rules Chair The Rules Committee maintains and interprets the WAIA bylaws.
- Gala Chair Have a few committee members, need a chair! This group will determine if a Fall or Spring 2023 gala is feasible at this time.
- Accessibility Chair This committee's purpose is to help make AA accessible to every member who desires it
 by raising awareness within the AA community of the challenges faced by those with special needs such as mobility, vision, hearing etc.
- Sponsorship Conference we need a chair to plan content and logistics for the conference as well as volunteers.
- Please attend the WAIA board meeting May 10th if you are interested in learning more or volunteering! You can also email us at help@aa-dc.org.

Where and When and Website Update – now showing new meetings!

The board approved a motion to begin listing new meetings on the website immediately (the previous requirement was 3 months operations first). New meetings will require 2 contacts and WAIA will confirm its status after the full 3 months have lapsed. We also now have printed Where & Whens for In Person meetings only and a link to pdf of the printed version on the home page of the website.

Highlighting the Outreach Committee -Teresa R.

The Outreach Committee seeks to connect the ideas and practices of the various local AA home groups and AA members to benefit the entire local AA community. This year we hope to increase participation by representatives of local groups in the work of the WAIA board. Goals for the coming year include implementation of an email tree for communicating information from the monthly Board meeting such as service opportunities, budget status, and upcoming events, increasing the number of local AA meetings that have designated a WAIA Board member, and increasing the circulation of the *Digital New Reporter*. If you would like to be part of the Outreach Committee, please contact Teresa R at tlkaiser3@aol.com or outreach@aa-dc.org.



VOLUME 59

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MAY 2022

Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Long form Five: Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Reprinted from "Alcoholics Anonymous" Appendices 1, A.A. Tradition.

No matter how different our own personal concerns, we are all bound together by one common **respons**ibility.... to carry the **message** to the suffering alcoholic.

Says the old proverb, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last," Trite, yes. But very true for us of A.A. How well we need to heed the principle that it is better to do one thing supremely well than many things badly.

Because it has now become plain enough that only a recovered alcoholic can do much for a sick alcoholic, a tremendous responsibility has descended upon us all, an obligation so great that it amounts to a sacred trust. For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So, the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not, ever be diverted from its primary purpose.

Temptations to do otherwise will come aplenty. Seeing fine works afoot in the field of alcohol, we shall be sorely tempted to loan out the name and credit of Alcoholics Anonymous to them; as a movement we shall be beset to finance and endorse other causes. Should our present success continue people will commence to **assert** that A.A. is a brand new *way* of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live.

Oh, how very attractive these projects and ideas can be! How flattering to imagine that we might be chosen to demonstrate that olden mystic promise: "The first shall be last and the last shall be first." Fantastic, you say. Yet some of our well-wishers have begun to say such things.

Fortunately, most of us are convinced that these are perilous speculations, alluring ingredients of that new heady wine we are now being offered, each bottle marked "Success"! 1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"? 2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limita-

tions of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan? 3. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?

Reprinted from The Traditions Check List in the Grapevine All reprints with permission of A.A.W.S.



Our Twelve Traditions [WAIA has received permission to use excerpts from the new AA Grapevine book, *Our Twelve Traditions*]

TRADITION FIVE

Each group has one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. *No matter how different we may be, we are bound by one common goal.*

By being willing to stick close to our primary purpose, by being willing to actually carry the message physically out of our meeting space, we as a group have made our statement – if you attend a meeting at our group, you will hear the message of Alcoholics Anonymous, and if you watch us, you will see the message of Alcoholics Anonymous in action.

By being a member of a group that participates in the Fifth Tradition as an activity as well as an idea, I find myself more aware of what I was taught from the beginning: The Traditions apply to my personal life as well as to my group. Just as the primary purpose of my AA group is to carry the message, as a member of AA, my primary purpose also is to carry the message. I may not always like the little sacrifices of time and effort, but I am never confused as to what saving my life by God was really all about. The Twelfth Step and the Fifth Tradition make it clear that my sobriety is not only for me - it is for you. Thank God I belong to a group that acts the same way.



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HOLY SMOKE, WHAT NOW!

Original Title: Bill W.'s Letter About Hippies in A.A. *Grapevine*, June 2004 Nearly half a century ago, our cofounder expressed a few thoughts about young people and inclusiveness

In 1968, a well-meaning A.A. wrote to Bill, in deep concern about an influx of youthful hippies or flower children to local AA groups, along with their distinctive manner of dress, sexual mores, and other unorthodox behavior, including the use of drugs. The writer feared that this particular invasion might be "a very real threat to our wonderful God-given Program."

Bill's reply was typical of his use of A.A. principles to meet new challenges. Your letter about the hippie problem, so-called, was mighty interesting to me. I doubt that we need to be alarmed about this situation, because there have been precedents out of the past. All sorts of outfits have tried to move in on us, including communists and heroin addicts, prohibitionists and do-gooders of other persuasions.

Nearly all of these people, who happened to have an individual problem with alcohol, not only failed to change A.A., but, in the long run, A.A. changed them. I have a number of them among my closest friends today, and they are among the best A.A.s I know. You also have some people who are not alcoholics, but are addicts of other kinds. A great many A.A.'s have taken pity on these people, and have actually tried to make them full-fledged A.A.'s. Of course, their identification with alcoholics is no good at all, and the groups themselves easily stop this practice in the normal course of A.A. affairs.

Thoughtful A.A.'s, however, encourage these sponsors to bring addicts to open meetings, just as they would any other interested people. In the end, these addicts usually gravitate to other forms of therapy. They are not received on the platform in open meetings unless they have an alcohol problem, and closed meetings are, of course, denied them. We know that we cannot do everything for everybody with an addiction problem.

There has also occurred lately a new development centering upon hippies who have LSD or marijuana troubles not so much stronger stuff. Many of these kids appear to be alcoholics also, and they are flocking into AA, often with excellent results.

Some weeks ago, there was a young people's convention of A.A.'s. Shortly thereafter, four of these kids visited the office. I saw one young gal prancing down the hall, hair flying, in a miniskirt, wearing love beads and the works. I thought, Holy smoke, what now! She told me she was the oldest member of the young people's group in her area-age 22! They had kids as young as 16. I was curious and took the whole party out to lunch. Well, they were absolutely wonderful. They talked (and acted) just about as good a kind of AA as I've seen anywhere. I think all of them said they had had some kind of drug problem, but had kicked that, too. When they first came around, they had insisted on their own ideas of AA, but in the end they found AA plenty good enough as it was. Though they needed their own meetings, they found interest and inspiration in the meetings of much older folks as well.

Perhaps, as younger people come into A.A., we shall have to put up with some unconventional nonsense-with patience and good humor, let's hope. But it should be well worth the attempt. And also, if various hippie addicts want to form their own sort of fellowship along AA lines, by all means let us encourage them. We need deny them only the A.A. name, and assure them that the rest of our program is theirs for the taking and using--any part or all of it.

For these reasons, I feel hopeful and not a bit scared by this trend. Of course, I'm no prophet. I may be mistaken, so please keep me posted. This is a highly interesting and perhaps significant development. I certainly do not think it ought to be fought. Instead, it ought to be encouraged in what we already know to be workable channels. In affection

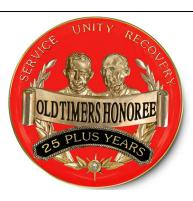
-- Bill W., USA http://www.aagrapevine.org/feature/65085



VOLUME 59

NUMBER 5

MAY 2022



UK Archivist Offer New Reporter They Kept Coming Back

After leading a meeting in England, your intrepid editor was offered the work of John M., archivist, South East Region, UK. He offers a book that consists of interviews with 16 A.A. members in the UK who have reached 50 years of sobriety. This month, we offer the introduction.

Alcoholism an obsession of
the mind that
condemns one to
drink and an
allergy of the
body that
condemns one to
die"

- Dr. Silkworth

"One of the most pleasant experiences in Alcoholics Anonymous is to witness members receiving their 'chits' to celebrate their A.A. birthdays. Yet, never in the thirty-five years of my recovery, have I ever witnessed anyone, still alive, who has achieved recognition for Fifty years of Sobriety other than visiting Americans. I felt that any members in this country who has achieved that remarkable number of years, a day at a time, should have that achievement recognized and for us to record the stories of their journeys on their roads to recovery. Of course, we are aware of the A.A. admonition of 'Principles before Personalities'. Our message is carried in many ways; in A.A. literature, books, CD's, DVD's and tapes but the best messages are passed face to face between member and member. And what better message is there that A.A. works than the achievement of 50 years of sobriety.

So where was I to find these Oldtimers? My first step was to contact all the UK archivists and all the Intergroup and Regional Chairs and ask for information. I, also, wrote to Share Magazine and A.A. News making the same enquiries. From there I had some leads and then, as I interviewed those 50 year-olds, they supplied me with more leads. I had no idea of how many I would find. I thought, perhaps, about six. I was amazed to track down eleven A.A.'s with fifty years, and more, of sobriety and a further five members with forty-nine years of recovery whom I have also included in this book.

The interviews ranged from Fort William down to Bristol. In the three cases I was unsuccessful. One member from Glasgow proved un-contactable. In the course of those interviews, I was able to gain a great deal of valuable information about the early days of A.A. in the UK.

I wish to thank 'Devon' B who submitted his own story from Portugal, Barbara M of Mid Surry, for continuous help and support, John Y of Middleborough who interviewed Terry L



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NUMBER 5

MAY 2022

From the San Jose, California A.A. Intergroup:

Suggested A.A. Group Inventory for the Covid-19 Era:

"Many groups periodically hold a "group inventory meeting" to evaluate how well they are fulfilling their primary purpose to help alcoholics recover through A.A.'s suggested Twelve Steps of recovery. In the COVID-19 era, many groups quickly transitioned to virtual (online) meetings, and may now wish to step back and evaluate how they're doing. With the rapidly changing landscape of our fellowship, groups may need an inventory to reflect our new circumstances.

Here we offer you a set of group inventory questions adapted to the COVID-19 era. (Based in part on questions in "The AA Group" pamphlet.) Here are some suggested questions that your group could ask itself:

- 1. What is the basic purpose of our group?
- 2. How well is our group carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic?
- 3. How well is our group serving members who were present before the pandemic? Who has been "left behind"?
- 4. Have we reached out to help members who are not "tech-savvy" get connected? Is a phone and email contact list available to members?
- 5. Is our group attracting alcoholics from different backgrounds? Are we seeing a good cross-section of our community, including those with accessibility issues? What kind of alcoholics are we not seeing at our meeting?
- 6. Are we getting many visitors from outside our area? How are we welcoming them to our group?
- 7. Do we effectively emphasize and facilitate sponsorship in the virtual environment? How can we do it better?
- 8. Since going virtual, how have our group chores/responsibilities changed? Have we let any important functions go unfulfilled?
- 9. Do we need to modify our group's format to better suit meeting virtually? Why or why not?
- 10. How are we conducting our virtual elections for service positions? Despite being virtual, are we still practicing the spirit of rotation?
- 11. What measures are we taking to ensure safety in our meetings, both against trolls/bombers and with respect to existing members?
- 12. Are we recording our meeting? Why or why not? If so, what precautions are we taking to ensure anonymity?
- 13. Is our group continuing to do its fair share toward participating in our Three Legacies Recovery, Unity, and Service?
- 14. How is our group fulfilling its responsibility to the Seventh Tradition? Are we meeting our expenses and maintaining a prudent reserve? Are we providing both digital and nondigital ways to contribute? Why or why not?

(From https://aasanjose.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Group-Inventory-for-the-Covid-19-Era.pdf)



MAKES ME LAUGH

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The longest password ever



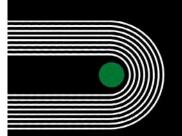
A RECENT STUDY
HAS FOUND THAT WOMEN
WHO CARRY A LITTLE
EXTRA WEIGHT LIVE
LONGER THAN THE MEN
WHO MENTION IT.

We laugh -- but her I. D. is safe.

During a recent password audit by a company, it was found that an employee was using the following password:

"MickeyMinniePlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofySacramento"
When asked why she had such a long password, she rolled her eyes and said: "Hello! It has to be at least 8 characters and include at least one capital."

AMERICASBESTPICS.COM



A CALL FOR STORIES: THE BLACK AA EXPERIENCE



UPDATE THE PAMPHLET "A.A. FOR THE BLACK & AFRICAN AMERICAN ALCOHOLIC."

At the recommendation of the 2021 General Service Conference, The Trustee Literature Committee created a Working Group to revitalize the pamphlet "A.A. for the Black & African American Alcoholic." The updated pamphlet will include fresh stories and a new title that is respectful, inclusive and reflects the perspective of Black A.A. members sharing their experience, strength, and hope.

TIPS

- The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font.
 Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.
- Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information. The anonymity of all
 authors will be observed whether or not their story is selected for publication. The deadline for
 submissions is August 31, 2022.
- Email: pamphletstories@aa.org
- Subject Line: A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic
- Postal Mail: Atten. Literature Assignment, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station,
 New York, NY 10163

Experience, Strength and Hope

Steps, Traditions, Concepts

Sponsorship

Black Mental Health

Safety & Racism using AA principles

Diverse Black Diaspora Backgrounds

(nationality, residence)

Atheist/Agnostics

BIPOC group xperience

Male, Female

Trans

Non-Binary

Gay, Lesbian

Military

Diverse Abilities

ypAA/Seniors

STORY SOLICITATION The General Service Office (G.S.O.)

Fifth Edition of the Book Alcoholics Anonymous —Big Book

Deadline for submissions: October 31, 2022

5BBStory@aa.org

The Preface to the Second Edition of the Big Book explains that revisions to the personal history section of the book were made in order "to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more Alcoholics." In that spirit, the 2021 General Service Conference recommended that "a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect the current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action: "The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor's Opinion', 'Dr. Bob's Nightmare", and the Appendices remain as is."

In response to the 2021 General Service Conference Advisory Action requesting the development of a Fifth edition of the book Alcoholics Anonymous, the trustees' Literature Committee is seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience of members in the Fellowship.

The trustees' Literature Committee is searching for recovery stories of our members for possible inclusion in the Fifth Edition which are from a broad cross-section of our local communities, all stories are of value. As Bill writes on page 29 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous: "Our hope is that many alcoholic men and women, desperately in need, will see these pages, and we believe that it is only by fully disclosing ourselves and our problems that they will persuaded to say, 'Yes, I am one of them too; I must have this thing.'"

It is the Literature Committee's shared hope that any new stories from our current membership will help future alcoholics to identify and find recovery in the pages of a Fifth edition.

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 3500 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages. Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of the submission. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not. Stories will be accepted in English, French or Spanish. Further information on where to submit your story will be provided to the Fellowship through Box 4-5-9, the A.A. website and more. If you have any questions, please write to 5BBStory@aa.org.

Thank you to all who are participating in this process!

FOUNDERS' DAY 2022



Back live and in-person!

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

Featured Speakers

Sandra S. – Cleveland, OH

Christina G. – Brecksville, OH

Michael D. – Sioux Fall, SD

Bob C. - Cleveland, OH

Chris H. - Parma, OH

Joe L. – Edmond, OK

Dick D. – Hamilton, Canada

Jay A. – Scarborough, Canada

Kenny D. – Seattle, WA

Mike & Diane A. – Nashville, TN

Featured Events

Twelve Step Panel

Actors Guild Play

Spanish Meetings

Historic Site Tours

Twelve Traditions

History of Our Big Book

Dance! Dance! Dance!

Spiritual Panel Meeting

Al-Anon / Alateen

Alkathon

REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1, 2022

Visit https://foundersday.org



50th 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

10:00 pm AA History Presentation

Pre-Registration Gift! Limit 450 See back!

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 Meditation10:00 am AA Speaker Meeting

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.



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Area 13 WAGSA **District Committee Meeting**

Monday May 9, 2022

6:00 PM—9:00 PM

Questions? Email: chair@area13aa.org

or

visit www.area13aa.org

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

https://aa-dc.org/events

WAIA **Monthly Board of Directors Meeting**

May 10, 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 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



CONTRIBUTIONS

January 01, 2022— April 21, 2022

	WASHINGTON	AREA INTERC	GROUP AS:	SOCIATION
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VOLUME 59

256 Norbeck Women-Wedn 91 Oasis Women's BB

NUMBER 5

MAY 2022

Page 13

ASHIN	GTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSO
416	930 Club Online
50	Anacostia Group
330	Andrews Armed Forces
400	As We Understood Him
200	Aspen Hill 5th Chapter
17	Aspen Hill Phoenix—Mon
30	Aspen Hill Phoenix-Fri
793	Attitude & Action
242	Beginners Are Winners
1260	B.Y.O.L (103154)
520	
404	20
50	
66	Chinatown BB
48	
25	······································
1079	
	Darne Good Big Book
	Darnestown Men
748	
171	
	Epiphanies
	Ex-Libris
	Eye Opener—Potomac
250	337
91	
53	
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10	Hyattsville Hope

67 Informed Group

25 Leisure World Noon 15 Let Go Let God

60 Misery is Optional 120 Mo.Co. Women 289 More Peace of Mind

283 Moving Into Solution, Women

1200 Into Action

39 Lit Hoppers 45 Lit Womxn

470 Messengers 432 Mideast

240 N.E. Sunrise

120 N.W. Metro

100 Navy Yard BB

408 New Avenue

138 New Hope 123 190 No Hard Terms

71	Odsis Wolliell 2 pp
84	Olney Women
208	•
	P Street
360	Palisades Mon. Nite
120	
	Pillars in the Park
198	
	Potomac Men
304	•
125	3 1 1
174	
170	
120	Room with a View
575	
	Rosedale Sobriety
144	Sat. Afternoon 2PM/UP
	Saturday Morn Steps
120	, , ,
163	Serious Business
675	Silver Spring Beginners BB
	Silver Spring Group
	Simplicity
	Six & Seventh Step
	Sober Sat. Matinee
	Sobriety Sisters
436	Southern Sobriety
1500	
92	Spiritual Hilltop
150	St. Francis Group
	Starting Over
	Sunday in the Park
	Sunday Men's Step
	Sun. Morn. Breakfast Out
	Sun. Morning Joy
3510	Sunrise Sobriety Zoom Grp
268	
	Takoma Park Necessity
5	
73	Uptown

34 Village Idiots

360 We Are All Beginners

156 Women's Grapevine

344 Westmoreland Women

75 What's Happening Now

52 West Side Women

Birthday 120 Faithful Fivers 8101 Individuals 150 Memorial

Digital New Reporter



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to WAIA and

Mail to: WAIA

4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 111 Washington, DC 20008

\$15.00 Year \$28.00 Two Years \$12.00 Group Rate

A free digital copy of the New Reporter is posted every month to our website at: https://aa-dc.org/new-reporter

To receive an email with the link each month, email newreporter@aa-dc.org



Have a story about your recovery in AA? Tell us your stories about how you're saying sober in these difficult times.

Why not share it with all of us? If you'd like to contribute to the *New Reporter*, please send in your material to:

newreporter@aa-dc.org





CELEBRATING

Day	
April 6 Stan C. Cosmopolitan 26	
April 6 Bob Z. Cosmopolitan 43	
April 24 Barbara R. Mt. Rainier 16	
April 24 Luke W. Mt. Rainier 25	
May 3 Helen L. St. Francis 4	

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Art Gault, April 22, 2022, 180 Degree Groups + many others, 41 Years sober

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.

VOLUNTEER

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

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



MAY 2022