

• Digital NEW REPORTER

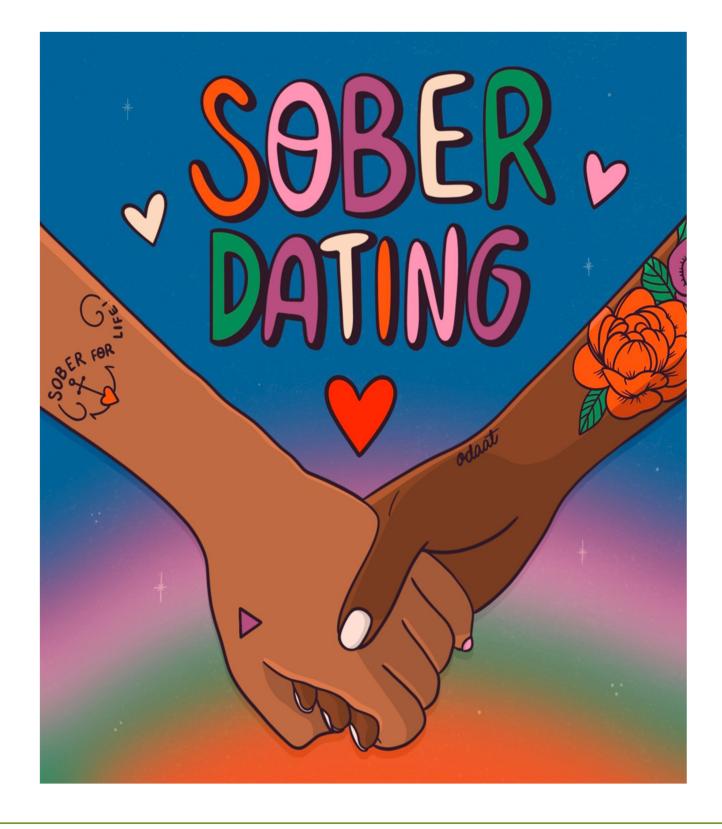


WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 59

NUMBER 10 •

OCTOBER 2022



WAIA October 2022 Announcements

Update from the Finance Committee: Please share this print out/script with all your groups!

The Washington Area Intergroup Association (WAIA) needs our support. Revenue so far this year is \$7K less than expenses. Please help ensure that the office can continue to serve as AA's DC headquarters; 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 <u>aa-dc.org</u>, or via Venmo @WAIADC. Checks can be mailed to WAIA, 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW Ste 111, Washington DC 20008.

The <u>2023 Budget</u> is being discussed at the October board meeting.

Calls for Service

Open Position: WAIA is still looking for a Volunteer to serve as the **Hispanic Liaison Representative**. Contact chair@aa-dc.org if you are interested.

Office Volunteers: The available open slots for answering phones in the office are Wednesday 1p-4p, Thursday 1p-4p, Saturday 4p-7p and Sunday 10a-1p (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

Nightwatch Volunteers: Help WAIAanswer the phones after hours! Slots open up frequently and we are in need of substitute volunteers for all shifts. Every day of the week either 10pm-6am or 6am-10am.

H&I (Hospitals and Institutions): We have several requests for groups to bring meetings in.

- Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Montgomery County would like 2 weekly meetings, 1 weekday evening and 1 weekend day meeting, they are flexible on the specific day and time as long as it is consistent.
- Avery Road in Montgomery County needs 2 women on a rotating 4 weekly basis on Friday evenings.
- The Dorm a young person's meeting that needs a chair to be brought in weekly on Monday's at 7PM
- Please contact Eryn at HNI@aa-dc.org or 301-651-4942 if you are interested or have any questions

Highlights from the 2022 Technology Committee Activities

This year the Tech committee has been working with Outreach to improve WAIA's communication with groups in the region. We worked with the office staff to bring all groups reps onto a shared distribution list. We have been working with the Meeting Guide app to be sure all meetings are searchable by in-person, hybrid and online status. Please let us know if there is anything that would be more helpful on the website with meetings, contributions or information – or better yet, join our next Technology Committee meeting on October 3rd at 6pm with your ideas!

https://us02web.zoom.us/i/86782798679?pwd=YTU5bilTMHJwemZobWR5b0l4RVJMQT09



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They Kept Coming Back: # 5 Ian Mac Grangemouth & Jersey

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. The fourth interview was with Ian Mac, whose sobriety date is June 17, 1963.

What follows are excerpts from his 13-page interview: I left school in 1946 and I started working in 1947. I was fourteen years old. There was no money. No money for anything and there was very little drink around at that time, just after the War. You had to be 'in the know' to get whisky, and I was tiny so I could never get served in any bars although my mates could get in. I remember getting drunk when I was fourteen. The first year after the War, the lights were all back on – the street gaslights – I remember that but I can't remember getting drunk again for a while after that first time. I went into the army to do my National Service. The same thing again – shortage of money. I think that kept me sober then.

Then, in 1956, I went down to Jersey with a boy from Falkirk who asked me, "Do you fancy a job down in Jersey?" and I said, "O.K." I never even thought about it and we went down there with nothing. We hitch-hiked down to Southampton, got on boat and, when we landed in Jersey, we had three quid between us. I got a job in a hotel and I was fine down there and I was getting regular wages. I always went down to Jersey but when I went down to Jersey, I was getting drunk five times a week because, at that time, you could get drunk for a pound. A large Gin Tonic was two and six pence. I couldn't afford that in Scotland. When I came back to Scotland I was drinking in the morning by then. This one morning I had this bad hangover and my boss looked at me and said to me, "Oh, I've got a cure for you." And he handed me a bottle of beer. 'The hair of the dog'. I had never done that before. So that's what happened after that. Whenever I had a hangover, I took a drink. If I had the money!

I would always be moving about and I couldn't see what was wrong. I was still in my twenties at this time and this went on until I was thirty ... I kept getting into this position where I would get drunk and spoil a relationship. Spoil everything and I would be left with nothing. But I always had this pride. I couldn't be a beggar. I would rather go without. I used to go around starving.

I was working in one of the wood yards in Grangemouth, stacking wood from the boats and one day I got off because of rain and I went to the pub and I got drunk. I left and got a bottle of port. They were knocking down old houses so I went into one of them and drank the whole bottle. At five o'clock, I got on a bus. When I got off the bus, there was a girl called Mary standing there who lived locally and she had to take me to my mother's house as I could hardly walk. She just said to my mother "Here he is" and left. I fell asleep and woke up about eight o'clock. It was June and the sun was still shining. I went back to the pub and on the way, I saw Bessie, my ex, and she looked at me with complete disgust. I went into the pub – only going for a couple of pints of beer – but I couldn't keep them down. So I came out of the pub and walked up the road and, I don't know how it happened, because Alcoholics Anonymous was something that was never mentioned, but I went into this telephone box and for the life of me I don't know, I still don't know why I went into that telephone box and rang up. I asked the telephone operator to put me through to A.A.

The number I received was for Jack L. "How are you?" he asked, and I said, "Oh, I'm fine, I'm alright," instead of telling him I was a mess. He said, "Are you in trouble?" and I said, "Well, I'm drinking too much." He said, Well here's my number. Keep the number and ring me." I was on my way to work next morning and I had to stop. I couldn't walk any further and I started crying. I went home to my mother's and said, "I cannae do it." I said to my mother, "I've got in touch with A.A." and she said, "Oh, No. You're not as bad as all that!"

After getting sober a short time, "I was down in Earl's Court in London and I ran across a drinking pal and I went into a pub with him and he asked me what I was drinking and I said I would have a Coca Cola and he said, "Come on, what are you drinking?" and I said was going to A.A. and he roared out "Alcoholics Anonymous!!!" and the whole pub heard it. I thought, 'Oh God, what have I done?' because of that I never told anybody.

One of the things that kept me going through the years was a wee card, it was only two pages and it was called 'The Danger Signals'. Then there was the wee Red Book. I didn't have a Big Book of my own. . . .

When I wake up every morning, I never fail to thank my Higher Power for the wonderful gift He and A.A. has given me.



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Step 10: "Continue to take personal inventory, and when you are wrong, admit to it."

In this blog post, we will focus attention on understanding Step 10 in A.A. This step can be seen as a kind of maintenance step, where you continually work to reinforce what you have achieved in prior steps.

<u>Step 8</u> asked us to create an actual list of the people we had caused injury to while in our substance use; Step 9 takes that to the next level by having us actively make amends for them.

Now with Step 10, we are reminded to continue reviewing our actions, thoughts, and behaviors to identify when we fall short, and to immediately admit it. Step 10 provides us an opportunity to keep watch over ourselves, allowing us to quickly nip any backsliding in the bud.

Working Step 10 in Alcoholics Anonymous

Step 10 is a call to *action*. It isn't enough to simply be aware that we have wronged someone along our recovery journey. Instead, Step 10 asks us to not only recognize the misstep, but to take it to heart. To do so, we not only admit that we made a mistake in our actions or behaviors, but that we also strive to do better.

As we have learned in the earlier steps, the A.A. 12 Step Program is about growing in humility. Being willing to humbly admit when we are wrong is a brand new skillset for many of us in recovery. From a place of humility, we are able to take the next action, which is to apologize and correct the misstep. No one is expected to be perfect! Step 10 just allows us to "clean house" on a regular basis so the "clutter" doesn't collect and begin to bog us down again.

Working Step 10 can be compared to getting in shape. You can't build muscle without making the effort to work out regularly. In recovery, we can't achieve the hoped for <u>spiritual awakening</u> without practicing humility and taking inventory regularly.

Working Step 10 can be simplified by implementing a daily practice of reviewing the day. This can be accomplished through meditation, prayer, or journaling. By noting the things we should have handled differently, we then actively repair any damage done.

Repair, Restore, and Rebuild your Life through the 12 Step Program

The <u>Alcoholics Anonymous</u> 12 Step Program is a progression of actions that involve making promises and commitments. Each step progresses along a continuum, with one building upon the other. Success in recovery is dependent on a willingness to be honest, transparent, and humble. This is actually harder than it sounds. Our prideful egos present a stubborn barrier that we must push through if we are going to keep the promises we made along the way.

During the course of our journey, we are blessed with the opportunity to repair, restore, and rebuild our lives in recovery. We work on achieving a healthier lifestyle in sobriety by participating in this ongoing transformation. The 12 Step Program isn't magical! It involves hard work and resolve to progress through these sometimes very painful steps. But the payoff is invaluable.



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No Drink Dating? What a concept!

Rachel Wolfe of the Wall Street Journal reports "More people in the dating game are starting their search with alcohol off the table."

Instead, those daters say they prefer to meet potential partners for coffee, a favorite hobby or a stroll. The pandemic upped daters' desire for genuine connection, and drinking gets in the way of that connection, some say—in addition to being expensive and less healthy than other activities.

More than a third of people on the dating app Hinge say they are more open to going on a sober date now versus a year ago, according to a June survey. The preference is particularly pronounced among younger users, with 31% of 18- to 24-year-olds on the app saying they don't consume drinks on an average date.

On Tinder, mentions of 'sober' increased 26% from 2020 to 2021 in member bios. It's already up an additional 22% this year, according to the company. Mentions of the word 'beach' (10%) and 'picnic' (23%) are also up from the beginning of the year, suggesting that people are meeting up for more than just drinks, Tinder spokesman Sheldon Bachman says.

Sober dating is part of the larger sober-curious movement, in which people who wouldn't necessarily label themselves alcoholics are trying the curb or eliminate drinking for health or other reasons.

Sharing an experience, rather than a bottle, allows daters to show more vulnerability, she says, and provides insight into the type of partners they would be.

"You're seeing them doing something that either they're doing for the first time and that takes a lot of courage, or they're showcasing something they love to do," she says.

Michelle Wax, a Boston dating coach who provides relationship counseling for an \$899 to \$1600 monthly fee, says she has long urged clients to limit alcohol intake on dates. "You can really fool yourself into thinking a date was fun when you really you were just drunk," she says.

Another perk: Going on a hike or a bike ride is cheaper than dinner and drinks, especially at a time of surging inflation.

Jabob Chapa, a 27-year-old medical device sales representative, points to cost-consciousness as one of the many reasons he's been opting for alcohol-free dates. I can go to a restaurant and spend \$100 easily, versus if we get out in nature, you're getting a workout and you're not spending money," he says.

Mr. Chapa, who lives in Austin, Texas, has been on a log of coffee and hiking first dates but has also gone on dates to church and to his jujitsu gym. Both play a big role in his day-to-day life.

"I want to see how she responds to something new and different instead of just going out and getting drunk," says. "Is she adventurous? Is she social? Is she willing to get out of her comfort zone?"

https://www.wsj.com/articles/dating-sober-alcohol-increasing-gen-z-11658252900

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Tradition Ten – An Essay by Bill W. September 1948September 1948

To most of us, Alcoholics Anonymous has become as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar. We like to believe that it will soon be as well-known and just as enduring as that historic landmark. We enjoy this pleasant conviction because nothing has yet occurred to disturb it; we reason that we must hang together or die. Hence we take for granted our continued unity as a movement.

But should we? Though God has bestowed upon us great favors, and though we are bound by stronger ties of love and necessity than most societies, it is prudent to suppose that automatically these great gifts and attributes shall be ours forever? If we are worthy, we shall probably continue to enjoy them. So the real question is, how shall we always be worth of our present blessings?

Seen from this point of view, our AA Traditions are those attitudes and practices by which we may deserve, as a movement, a long life and a useful one. To this end, none could be more vital than our Tenth Tradition, for it deals with the subject of controversy – serious controversy.

On the other side of the world, millions have died even recently in religious dissension. Other millions have died in political controversy. The end is not yet. Nearly everybody in the world has turned reformer. Each group, society, and nation is saying to the other, "You must do as we say, or else." Political controversy and reform by compulsion have reached an all-time high. And eternal, seemingly, are the flames of religious dissension.

Being like other men and women, how can we expect to remain forever immune from these perils? Probably we shall not. At length, we must meet them all. We cannot flee from them, nor ought we try. If these challenges do come, we shall, I am sure, go out to meet them gladly and unafraid. That will be the acid test of our worth.

Our best defense? This surely lies in the formation of a Tradition respecting serious controversy so powerful that neither the weakness of persons nor the strain and strife of our troubled times can harm Alcoholics Anonymous. We know that AA must continue to live, or else many of us and many of our fellow alcoholics throughout the world will surely resume the hopeless journey to oblivion. That must never be.

As though by some deep and compelling instinct, we have thus far avoided serious controversies. Save minor and healthy growing pains, we are at peace among ourselves. And because we have thus far adhered to our sole aim, the whole world regards us favorably.

May God grant us the wisdom and fortitude ever to sustain an unbreakable unity.

Wilson, William. The Language of the Heart. New York: AA Grapevine, Inc., 1988. Print. Reprinted.



MAKES ME LAUGH

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It Makes Me Laugh: Funny Teacher Messages to Students:







Tardy Policy

1st Tardy – Warning

2nd Tardy – Warning

3rd Tardy – School ASD

4th Tardy – School ASD

5th Tardy – ISS one day

6th Tardy – OSS one day

7th Tardy – Loss of privileges

8th Tardy-90 Minutes of Nickelback

Back To Basics

The Alcoholics Anonymous Beginners' Meetings

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

10 AM Saturday October 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

Laurel Recovery
368 Main Street Laurel MD 20707
laurelrecovery.org

WAIA 4th ANNUAL SPONSORSHIP CONFERENCE

AA Sponsorship Conference 2022



Saturday, October 15, 2022

9 am to 5 pm

No Registration Is Required

B-CC High School Auditorium

4301 East-West Hwy. Bethesda, MD 20814

Costs for the conference will be covered by WAIA-the Washington Area Intergroup Association.



Fall Bonfire

Saturday, October 15, 2022

Rain Date October 22, 2021, Check Website to confirm.

Suggested Donation is \$10 per Adult

- Live music
- Cake walk
- 50/50 raffle
- Fun for the whole family
- · Coffee, tea, and water provided

4:00 pm – Dinner, Music, Fellowship & Festivities

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

For More Info or Service Opportunities: Email: happydestinyretreat@gmail.com Call or Text: Karuna K. 404-353-5005

Website: happydestinyretreat.org

*We will follow Howard County Health Department protocols.

WHAT TO BRING

- A Potluck Dish to Share Last Name Starts With:
 - A-K Main Dish
 - L-S Side Dish or Salad
 - T-Z Dessert
- Chair/Blanket/Flashlight
- Warm Clothes/Jacket for After Dark
- A Newcomer
- Mask (Optional)*

NO PETS PERMITTED

Located at Greenbank Farm 7158 Brooks Rd, Highland, MD

From the Montgomery County area, head EAST on 108 toward Howard County. After you cross the Patuxent River into Howard County go about a mile. Take a LEFT onto BROOKS RD, then turn into the FIRST DRIVEWAY on the LEFT.







Share a weekend of fellowship, 12 step study and a sense of belonging

Cost for the weekend is \$175 for Lodge accommodations or \$150 for Dorm accommodations. Deposit of \$50 due at time of registration to reserve your spot. Lodge spaces are first come first serve. All meals, excluding Friday, are included in the cost for the weekend. Balances are due in full by September 18, 2022.

Register by scanning QR Code below.

Scholarships are available. Please contact Rachel W. for registration information

Venmo, Cash and Checks accepted. Please make checks payable to Women's Weekend. Contact Gen Z. for questions regarding payment at email below.





RACHEL W. (301) 801-4292 📞

@WWTREASURY V

WWTREASURY@GMAIL.COM 🖄



ROCKVILLE METRO CLUB PRESENTS



Sat October 29" 2022

6±00pm - 8±00pm



COSTUMES ENCOURAGED

\$5 non-members \$4 members 50/50 Raffle 301-881-0400

301-881-0400 RMCinc.help@gmail.com RockvilleMetroClub.org





Rockville Metro Club 12319 Washington Ave Rockville MD 20852



Tradition 5 Demands Each Group Has But One Primary Purpose To Carry Its Message To The Alcoholic Who Still Suffers





CALENDAR DIGITAL REPORTER

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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Area 13 WAGSA **District Committee Meeting**

October 10, 2022

6:00 pm - Orientation for new GSRs and DCMs (OPTIONAL)

7:00 pm - Area Meeting Begins

For more information, please visit: area13aa.org or email: chair@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

October 11, 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



60 High Sobriety

CONTRIBUTIONS

January 01, 2022— September 22, 2022

		1		<u> </u>	
/ASHING	GTON AREA INTERGROUP AS	SOCIATION	VOLUME 59 •	NUMBE	R 9 • SEPTEMBER 2022
120	14 Promises	30	Hope Group	304	Progress Not Perfection
132	12 Point Buck	10	Hyattsville Hope	413	Promises Promies
864	930 Club Online	103	Informed Group	305	Prospect group
200	Anacostia Group	1300	Into Action	240	Quince Orchard
330	Andrews Armed Forces	616	Just Before Noon	345	Read & Speak
678	As Bill Sees It NW	202	Kid Friendly Big Book	290	Riderwood Bills
400	As We Understood Him		Language of the Heart	267	R'ville Steps & Traditions
400	Aspen Hill 5th Chapter	25	Leisure World Noon	204	Room with a View
17	Aspen Hill Phoenix—Mon	25	Let Go Let God	575	Rose Park Group
30	Aspen Hill Phoenix-Fri	250	Life Is Good	100	Rosedale Sobriety
2193	Attitude & Action	72	Lit Hoppers	144	Sat. Afternoon 2PM/UP
249	Beginners Are Winners		Lit Womxn	240	Saturday Morn Steps
100	Bethesda Youth	180	Merry Miracles	300	Sat. Night Happy Hour
250	Birds of A Feather	620	Messengers	480	Sat. Night Special
1260	B.Y.O.L (103154)	689	Mideast	120	Serenity House
520	Back to Basics (CB)	6193	Midtown	588	Serenity Speakers
540	Broad Hwy Big Book	100	Mircles	163	Serious Business
1354	Burtonsville Big Book	60	Misery is Optional	675	Silver Spring Beginners BB
50	Campus Noon	170	Mo.Co. Women	600	Silver Spring Group
938	Capitol Hill Group	289	More Peace of Mind	180	Simplicity
87	Capital Hill Remainders	283	Moving Into Solution, Women	454	Six & Seventh Ste
66	Chinatown BB	38	Mt. Ranier	71	Soapstone
97	Cigar Smokers	240	N.E. Sunrise	350	Sober Sat. Matinee
77 75	Clinton Day	120	N.W. Metro	428	Sobriety Sisters
160	•	120	Never Walk Alone	616	Southern Sobriety
100		100	Navy Yard BB	4500	Spiritual Awakening
1079	•	408	New Avenue	92	Spiritual Hilltop
500	Daily Reflections Aspen Hill	63	New Beginners SW	180	St. Bartholomew
50	Daily Reflections UP	158	New Hope 123	900	St. Francis Group
236	-	178	New Stomping Ground	1200	Starting Over
983	Darnestown Men	290	No Hard Terms	240	Sunday in the Park
524	DCC 930 Club	400	Norbeck Women-Fri	26	Sunday Men's Step
748	Del Ray Club	256	Norbeck Women-Wedn	720	Sunday Morn Breakfast
	District 2	175	Oasis Women's BB	336	Sun. Morn. Breakfast Out
171	Divine Intervention	30	Old Fashion	240	Sun. Morning Joy
	Dunrobbin Group	184	Olney Women	3510	Sunrise Sobriety Zoom
	Epiphanies -	292	On Awakening	418	Sunshine, G'burg
	Ex-Libris	3425	P Street	360	Takoma Park Necessity
	Eye Opener-Potomac	360	Palisades Mon. Nite	1650	Tenley Circle Men's
883		120	Petworth	10	The Away Group
250		196	Pillars in the Park	402	There Is A Solution
	Gateway/Wedne.	198	Poolesville Potluck	100	Triangle Club
91	Georgetown Happy Hour	90	Poolesville Beginnings	283	Uptown
53	Glam Lot Women	261	Potomac EyeOpener	240	Victory Lights
100		320	Potomac Group	34	Village Idiots
120	Grace Rd Big Book	250	Potomac Men BB	360	We Are All Beginners
300	_	925	Potomac Oaks	262	Westside Beginners
	•	1020	Potomas Woman	140	Most Cide Moneon

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148 West Side Women

344 Westmoreland Women

1038 Potomac Women

1445 Primary Purpose Gay



CONTRIBUTIONS

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265 What's Happening Now156 Women's Grapevine

992 Birthday

270 Faithful Fivers

29,288 Individuals

250 Memorial



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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

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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Day

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

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 Fel-

lowship and its friends.

VOLUNTEER

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

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



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