Can we prove miracles?
Came to Believe . . .

I am proof that miracles happen.

2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

There is help.
WAIA February 2023 Announcements

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends in Service,

Let me first start by saying thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your WAIA Chairperson. I’m excited for the year that lies ahead. Whether you’re a current or past rep for your group, or have never had anything to do with or even understand the work of WAIA, I invite you to get involved.

For me, the course of my sobriety changed when I began to experience “A.A. as a whole.” Through area-level service, I’ve been able to enjoy the fellowship in new ways beyond just my regular meetings. It began when someone invited me to join the bid committee for ICYPAA (International Conference of Young People in A.A.), and that service culminated with Maryland hosting in 2018. After that, a former WAIA board member invited me to a meeting and I’ve pretty much been coming ever since then.

We always need voting reps from the groups to guide the business of WAIA but participation on committees, attendance at meetings, and activities like planning events are open to everyone. The more people we have active in service, the more WAIA is able to do for our area. Of course, we always need volunteers for answering phones and chat requests as well. If you are looking for a new or different way to be of service, come join us at the next monthly board meeting. There are always calls for service needing to be filled. You can also visit the WAIA website to explore our committees or to read recent minutes to see what’s happening. Reach out if you see something that interests you.

The same way my journey into service started with an invitation and a “yes,” I would like to extend that same welcome to you too. We would love to have you join us. We’ll be saving you a seat.

In Love and Service,

Daniel R.
WAIA February 2023 Announcements

February 2023, Calls for Service

Office and HelpChat Volunteers Needed! We are still in need of more volunteers willing to come into the office to answer phones. We can also always use Help Chat volunteers who can do it from home. Call 202-966-9783 and ask for Clovia or Luella for more information or email help@aa-dc.org. Available open slots: Saturday, 1-4 PM, Sunday 1-4 PM, Tuesday 1-4 PM

Gala Committee: The Gala is scheduled for 4/15/23 at the Silver Spring Civic Center. The committee needs volunteers for set up and clean up. And is also on hunt to confirm a speaker for the main event, DJ and potentially photographer. For info contact Chris L. - 240-418-4343. The theme for the gala is “Under Construction // We are all Miracles”. Join our next committee meeting Feb 6 @ 6:30PM on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86264851268

Office Chair: We are looking for someone to take on the role of office chair. The Office Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee/Board regarding office operations and personnel policies for WAIA staff. Current board member, current and past officers and past executive committee members are eligible to service as chair.

Message from Outreach

WHY SHOULD MY HOMEGROUP HAVE A WAIA REP?

The first several years of my sobriety in AA, I did not understand what the difference was between an Intergroup and a local General Services District. I also didn’t understand service outside my local group. I bet that there are others like me who are reading this right now. Service outside of your local group is important and rewarding whether that service is in WAIA (The Washington Area Intergroup) or WAGSA (The Washington Area General Service Assembly),

In the Washington Area we have well over 600 active AA groups. Only a fraction of groups in our area has a WAIA Board Member (also called a rep.). This is a lost opportunity and results in a lack of information exchange. If you have missed out on an AA activity because word didn’t reach you in time, I bet your group doesn’t have an active WAIA board member.

Let me quote the current AA Service Manual Page 162 to explain why:

Service centers usually have no authority on their own account, they derive it from the participating groups. Intergroup/central offices are essentially A.A. Service entities, “directly responsible to those they serve,” as described in Tradition Nine. Local group representatives reflect the groups’ conscience in the service center operations. In most communities, an intergroup/central office committee or steering committee is set up to handle the administrative activities of the service office. The steering committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and deals with general policies and plans. Periodically, the steering committee reports to group representatives on intergroup/central office problems and accomplishments. It is extremely important to keep a two-way flow of information going between the intergroup/central office and groups.

The WAIA outreach committee has started to reach out to those groups without a designated Board Member (Rep). If you would be interested in either serving on the committee or in reaching out to 5 local groups to explain why having a rep matters, please contact me, Teresa R. @ tlkaiser3@aol.com or outreach@aa-dc.org.
Excerpts from “Came to Believe,” a publication of Alcoholics World Services, Inc

“Spiritual”?

“Do not let any prejudice you may have against spiritual terms deter you from honestly asking yourself what they might mean to you.” – Bill W.

A.A. is a philosophy: “A religion, properly, is of divine origin; governs the person in his relationship with his Higher Power; and promises its rewards and punishments after death. A philosophy is of human origin; governs the person in his relationship with his fellow man; and promises its rewards and punishments during life. A.A., I submit, is a philosophy. If we alcoholics follow the philosophy of A.A., we can regain and understanding of our several religions.

Maryland

Spiritual Experiences

“It is certain that all recipients of spiritual experiences declare their reality. The best evidence if that reality is in the subsequent fruits. Those who receive these gifts of grace are very much changed people, almost invariably for the better.”

Bill W

A Presence

I am a radio officer on a tanker, and the final revelation of my condition and its cure came while I was sitting alone in my stateroom with my favorite bottle. I asked for God’s help out loud, although only my own ears could hear. Suddenly, there was a Presence in the room, bringing a peculiar warmth, a changed, softer shade of light, and an immense feeling of relief. Though I was sober enough, I said to myself, ‘You’re drunk again,’ and I sent to bed.

In the morning, however, -- in broad daylight – the presence was still there. I realized that I had asked and had received. From that time on, I have had no alcohol. Whenever I get the urge, I think of that which happened to me, and it keeps me straight.

A.A. Internationals
Introduction to the pamphlet:

The “God” Word
Agnostic and Atheist Members in A.A.

A.A. is not a religious organization. Alcoholics Anonymous has only one requirement for membership, and that is the desire to stop drinking. There is room in A.A. people of all shades of belief and non-belief.

Many members believe in some sort of god, and we have members who come from and practice all sorts of religions, but many are also atheist of agnostic. It’s important to remember that A.A. is not a religious organization we have a simple idea that there is a power greater than us as individuals.

What we all have in common is that the program helps us find an inner strength that we were previously unaware of – where we differ is in how we identify the source. Some people have thought of the word “God” as standing for “good orderly direction,” or even “group of drunks” but many of us believe that that there is something bigger than ourselves that is helping us today.

This power may lie within some person’s religious beliefs, or it can be completely separate from any religion. For example, one member looks at the sea and accepts that it is a power greater than him. We could ask ourselves, “Do I believe that somehow there is a power greater than myself?”

As A.A. co-founder Bill W. wrote in 1965:

_We have atheists and agnostics. We have people of nearly every race, culture and religion. In A.A. we are supposed to be bound together in the kinship of a common suffering. Consequently, the full individual liberty to practice any creed or principle or therapy whatever should be a first consideration for us all. Let us not, therefore, pressure anyone with our individual or even our collective views. Let us instead accord each other the respect and love that is due to every human being as he tries to make his way toward the light. Let us always try to be inclusive rather than exclusive; let us remember that each alcoholic among us is a member of A.A., so long as he or she declares._

Whatever you do, please don’t let someone else’s religious beliefs prevent you from finding the solution that is available to you through Alcoholics Anonymous.
Drowning

Before my commitment to a state alcoholic center, I had had a dry stint in Alcoholics Anonymous. I know now that I had gone to A.A. to save my marriage, job, and liver, though no one could have convinced me at the time that I hadn’t sought A.A. with all the proper motives. In seven months, my liver got well, and I got drunk for six weeks, winding up at the center.

On my eighth night there, I knew that I was dying. I was so weak that I could hardly breathe; my breath came out in little gasps, quite far apart. If a drink had been put within an inch of my hand, I wouldn’t have had the strength to take it. For the first time in my life, I was backed into a corner that I could not fight, cheat or steal, or buy my way out of. I was trapped. For the first time in my life, I uttered a sincere prayer: “God, please help me.” I didn't bargain with Him, nor did I suggest how or when he should help.

Immediately, I became calm and relaxed. There was no flash of lightning or clap of thunder, not even a still, small voice. I was scared. I didn’t know what had happened. But I went to sleep and slept all night. But the most wonderful thing was that, for the first time in my life, that dark, mysterious cloud of fear was gone. My first thought was to write to my wife about this experience, and I did. Imagine being able to write a letter after the condition I had been in the night before!

I am sure that some would classify this experience as an example of “letting go and letting God.” Not this self-willed character! I had held on to the thin strand of my will until it just snapped, and then I was caught up by the “everlasting arms.” I had to be rendered helpless, just like a drowning man who fights his rescuer.

I returned to A.A., but I was reluctant for a long time to tell of my experience. I was afraid that no one would believe me and that they would laugh. Later, I learned that others had had similar experiences.

A spiritual experience, I think, is what God does for a man when the man is completely helpless to do it for himself.

Raleigh, North Carolina
They Kept Coming Back: #9 Harvey L. Glasgow & East Kilbride

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 ninth interview was with Harvey L, whose sobriety date was April 9, 1965.

“Hang up your religion with your coat in the cloakroom.”

9th April 1965 was my last drink. I had been working for the Glasgow Corporation Building and Trade and had a wee office on a building site and, when the lorry drivers came in with material, they had to see me with their lines after they had unloaded, and I signed them. Anyway, we always got paid early on a Friday morning and the Friday by eleven o’clock I was in the nearest pub and I was into there until two o’clock getting drunk. I staggered out of there and into my little office and hid there until it was time to go home. My wife, who was working part time in the evening, said to me, “Please be in at five o’clock as the boys will be in and I’ll be on my way to work,”—I had two sons and they would have been eleven and five at the time – I said, ‘Oh sure I’ll be back” but at five o’clock I was in my usual bar at Govan Cross and I met a brother of mine and his workmates and I drank off of them. I didn’t put my hand in my pocket. That was the kind of guy I had become, cadge drinks off people. Anyway, they left and I had no raincoat on, I had a bonnet, and I carried an old jacket and I hit a sort of rough diamond, sort of a common workman, a scarf for a tie, nonet, an old jacket and a bright rosy face. He sat down beside me and said ‘Have you got a problem with your drink, son?’ and I must have mumbled ‘Aye’ and he said ‘There is a meeting AA going on upstairs. Would you like to come up to that or maybe I think you should go home as I don’t think you’d take anything in. You’re so drunk.’ I said, ‘I’ll come upstairs.’ So he took me upstairs to my first meeting. I don’t remember much about it. I do remember looking around the room and I saw the slogan ‘There but for the Grace of God go I’ and I thought, ‘Oh oh, I’ve landed in some mission house or some religious sect.’

Next thing I knew I had pushed open the door of the Pearce Institute which was the community center in Govan. I literally fell in the door and a man came forward and helped me to a seat and called me Mr. Littlejohn. He was church officer for Govan Parish Church, which the Pearce Institute was linked to. He said ‘I can’t help you but I will go and get someone who can,’ and he went upstairs and he came back down with this man who was a sort of rough diamond, sort of a common workman, a scarf for a tie, nonet, an old jacket and a bright rosy face. He sat down beside me and said ‘Have you got a problem with your drink, son?’ and I must have mumbled ‘Aye’ and he said ‘There is a meeting AA going on upstairs. Would you like to come up to that or maybe I think you should go home as I don’t think you’d take anything in. You’re so drunk.’ I said, ‘I’ll come upstairs.’ So he took me upstairs to my first meeting. I don’t remember much about it. I do remember looking around the room and I saw the slogan ‘There but for the Grace of God go I’ and I thought, ‘Oh oh, I’ve landed in some mission house or some religious sect.’

After the meeting and a nice cup of tea and sandwiches I began sober up a bit. So, this man came forward and announced his name was Hughie, known as Govan Hughie and he asked my name and where I lived and said ‘I’ll come along and see you tomorrow at ten o’clock.’ He said ‘Would you manage home now?’ and I said ‘Oh yes, I’ll manage home.’ So I staggered home and into the house. It was in a tenement building and we stayed in the bottom flat and my wife was standing there with the phone in her hand. I said, ‘I’ve been to Alcoholics Anonymous’ and she said ‘Don’t care where the hang you’ve been. I’ve been phoning around the hospitals and I was about the phone the mortuary and I was hoping you were in one of them because it’s the end of the road for you and me. I’m going to get out tomorrow to get a place for myself and the boys and you can do what the hang you like.” I said “There is a man coming to see me tomorrow morning from AA” and she said “Well you can see him yourself!”

When I started going to A.A. and started coming home at a regular time in the evenings from my work my wife used to throw her arms around me and give me a hug and all the time I knew she was smelling my breath to see if I really meant what I said. When she found out that I really meant what I said, she gave me 100% backing and we built up a new way of life in A.A.
ALCOHOL CURES

I FINALLY QUIT DRINKING FOR GOOD
NOW I DRINK FOR EVIL

Bob and Steve noticed no one else was wearing a collar. Suddenly, they realized they were in a stray bar.

I THINK

MY ALCOHOL IS TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING

Me: it’s not about how many times you fall, it’s about how many times you get back up

Cop: that’s not how field sobriety tests work
WANNA BE OF SERVICE?
We need your talent and skills...for this year's
WAIA GALA

DISC JOCKY (DJ)
MASTER OF CEREMONY
SET-UP SUPPORT
TICKET SALES
PHOTOGRAPHER

15 APRIL 2023 | 8PM | SILVER SPRING CIVIC CENTER
TICKETS GO ON SALE: MARCH 15
CONTACT: DEVON W. 202.403.7399
GALA CHAIR
The Neelsville Group’s 46th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday February 16, 2023—7:30 to 9:30 EST
Open Speaker Meeting
Eryn C.
Kelly N.

Potluck: 7:30 to 8:30
Speaker Meeting: 8:30 to 9:30

Neelsville Presbyterian Church
20701 Frederick Rd (Route 355N)
Germantown, MD 20876
59TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S CONFERENCE
DALLAS, TEXAS

FEBRUARY 16-19, 2023
RENAISSANCE HOTEL ADDISON/DALLAS
InternationalWomensConference.org

TO JOIN THE VOLUNTEERS OR PROVIDE SILENT AUCTION OR SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS, CONTACT:

VOLUNTEERS
✉ VOLUNTEERS59IWC@DALLAS@GMAIL.COM

FUNDRAISING
✉ FUNDRAISING59IWC@DALLAS@GMAIL.COM

GET OUR NEWSLETTER

CHAIR, TERRI O: CHAIR59IWC@DALLAS@GMAIL.COM
34th International Men’s Conference 2023
Washington DC
“Keeping the Legacy ALIVE 2023 and BEYOND”
www.IAAMC-DC23.org

When: April 21-23, 2023
Where: The Doubletree by Hilton Crystal City
300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington VA, 22202
https://book.passkey.com/go/AAMensConference

For Room Reservations: Call (703) 416-4100. Use Promo Code: IAA and mention IAA to receive conference rate of $149.00 (plus tax per night) visit our webpage: www.IAAMC-DC23.org

for more information contact:
Chair Lee M. (202) 441-0111 Chair.IAAMCDC23@gmail.com
Co-chair Willie S. (301) 257-3320 CoChair.IAAMCDC23@gmail.com
Treasurer Stan C. (301) 598-5953 Treasurer.IAAMCDC23@gmail.com

Conference Registration Options

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<th>Price</th>
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Donate to the 34th IAAMC 2023 ________

Total ________

please visit our website for details and updates @ www.IAAMC-DC23.org

Mail Registration to: IAAMC-DC23, PO Box 12226, Silver Spring, MD 20906-1548
Make check or money order payable to: IAAMC-DC23 or register online using our webpage: www.IAAMC-DC23.org

Name: ____________________________ Phone: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City, State, Zip: ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Home Group: ____________________________
Meal Preference: ____________________________ Amount Enclosed: ____________________________

Badges Required for ALL Sessions
Congress Heights AA Group Meeting

THURSDAYS (7PM-8PM)

"One Day at a Time"
Keep coming back!

Resurrection Baptist Church
3501 Martin Luther King Jr., Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20032

Questions Contact: TJ (202) 793-9317
Come One – Come All…. We Have Got to Love Each Other – No Matter What

THE DOCTOR’S OPINION
(Big Book) Seminar
Presenter: Terry R.

*** IN-PERSON MTG ONLY ***

Group: “AS WE UNDERSTOOD HIM”

Church of the Assumption
3401 Martin L. King, Ave, SE WDC
Saturday, March 11, 2023
1:30 – 4:00pm

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

Please Stop By – Your Picture May be on the Wall in our Massive Photo Galaxy

For further info: Jeretha G. 571/699-7424: Carmello D. 202/658-1140:
Tyrone R. 202/793-9317: Virginia W.

************** *************** *************** ***************
Area 13 WAGSA
District Committee Meeting

February 13, 2023—6:00 PM  2nd Monday of the month except July

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89430611434

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

WAIA
Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

February 14, 2023—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)

Neelsville’s 46th Anniversary

Thursday February 16, 2023
Open Speaker Meeting
Eryn C. & Kelly N.
Potluck: 7:30 to 8:30
Speaker Meeting: 8:30 to 9:30

Neelsville Presbyterian Church
20701 Frederick Rd (Route 355N)
Germantown, MD 20876

CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR

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.
CONTRIBUTIONS

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 60 • NUMBER 2 • FEBRUARY 2023

January 01, 2022—December 31, 2022

14 Promises
180 Degree Club
930 Club Online
Anacostia Group
Andrews Armed Forces
As Bill Sees It NW
As We Understood Him
Aspen Hill 5th Chapter
Aspen Hill Phoenix—Mon
Aspen Hill Phoenix—Fri
Attitude & Action
Back to Basics (CB)
Beginners Are Winners
Bethesda Youth
Birds of A Feather
B.Y.O.L (103154)
Broad Hwy Big Book
Burtonsville Big Book
Campus Noon
Capitol Hill Group
Capital Hill Remainers
Chairman’s Choice
Cheltenham Group
Chinatown BB
Cigar Smokers
Clinton Day
Coffee & Donuts
College Park Group
Corona Vagabond Group
Cosmopolitan
Daily Reflections Aspen Hill
Daily Reflections Bowie
Daily Reflections FirePit
Darne Good Big Book
Darnestown Men
DCC 930 Club
DCC Fri Women
Del Ray Club
District 2
Divine Intervention
Downtown Silver Spring
Dunrobin Group
Double Dippers
Epiphanies
Ex-Libris
Fireside Spirituality
Foggy Bottom
Fourth Dimension
Free Spirit
Friday Night Big Book
Gateway/Wed.
Georgetown Group
Georgetown Happy Hour
Glen Lot Women
Glen Echo Group
Gloxsboro Group
Greenbelt Step Club
Grupo Virtual Wash.
Happy, Joyous, & Free
Haven At Last
High Sobriety
Hope Group
How It Works, Germantown
Hyatts Cove
Informed Group
Into Action
Just Before Noon
Just For Today
Kid Friendly Big Book
Language of the Heart
Laurel Recovery
Leisure World Noon
Levity Group
Life Is Good
Lifesavers Big Book
Lit Hoppers
Lit Womxn
MayDay
Midtown
Miracles
Misery is Optional
Mitchvellville
Monday Winners
Mo.Co. Women
Montg. Co. Women Online
Montrose Gay
More Peace of Mind
Moving Into Solution,Women
Mt. Rainer
Navy Yard BB

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588 Serenity Speakers
163 Serious Business
120 Sheepherders
675 Silver Spring Beginners BB
750 Silver Spring Group
180 Simplicity
887 Six & Seventh Step
301 Six & Seven Step Online
71 Soapstone
387 Sober Sat. Matinee
428 Sobriety Sisters
616 Southern Sobriety
5550 Spiritual Awakening
92 Spiritual Hilltop
180 St. Bartholomew
1350 St. Francis Group
14 St. Mary’s Gay
1200 Starting Over
478 Sunday in the Park
26 Sunday Men’s Step
720 Sunday Morn Breakfast
475 Sun. Morn. Breakfast Out
440 Sun. Morning Joy
5510 Sunrise Sobriety Zoom
984 Sunshine, G’burg
360 Takoma Park Necessity
1650 Tenley Circle Men’s
136 T.G.I.F.
20 The Way Group
519 There Is A Solution
420 Thurs. Night Men’s
100 Triangle Club
228 Twelve Point Bucks
410 Uptown
740 Victory Lights
65 Village Idiots
93 Virtually Sober
1143 We Are All Beginners
481 We Care
60 Wednesday Nite Winners
262 Westside Beginners
86 Westside Sun. Spirituality
198 West Side Women
344 Westmoreland Women
370 What’s Happening Now
616 Women’s Grapevine
1244 Yacht Club

1112 Birthday
360 Faithful Fivers
47,226 Individuals
400 Memorial
If you would like to receive to the **hard copy** of New Reporter, make check payable 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**

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**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**
Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Washington Area Intergroup Association or A.A. as a whole.
FEBRUARY 2023