Step 3

“Relieve me of the Bondage of Self”

God, I offer myself to Thee To build with me & to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy love & Thy way of life.
WAIA March 2023 Announcements

March 2023, Calls for Service

1. **WAIA Office Committee Chair**: The Office Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee/Board regarding office operations and personnel policies for WAIA staff. Current board members, current and past officers and past executive committee members are eligible to serve as chair.

2. **Office and HelpChat Volunteers Needed!** We are still in need of more volunteers willing to come into the WAIA office. The shifts we need are Thursdays 1-4 PM and Sundays 1-4 PM. Email help@aa-dc.org for more information or call 202-966-9783 and ask for Luella or Clo’via.

3. 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.

Gala Highlight

We are very excited to be celebrating the 78th annual WAIA Gala this year! The theme is “Under Construction...Miracles do Happen” and will take place April 15th, 6:30-11PM at the Silver Spring Civic Center.

Please join us for a night of fellowship with members and friends!

- Theme: Under Construction...We are Miracles
- Attire: Sunday Best or whatever makes you comfortable
- Dinner: Peruvian Flare; Vegetarian and Vegan options will be available
- Tickets: Advanced Tickets purchase only
- Suggested Parking Information: Town Square Garage (801 Ellsworth Drive — Garage 61) or Wayne-Ellsworth Garage (921 Wayne Ave — Garage 60)

Buy your tickets [HERE!](#)
Inactive Meetings List – Please let the WAIA office know if any of these meetings are actively meeting. Call 202-966-9783 or help@aa-dc.org. Ask for Clo’via or Luella. The meetings will be deleted from the website at the end of March. They can be re-activated at any time.

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The Bondage of Self

From the *Grapevine*, January, 1994
By: Vivian J. | Portland, Oregon

When I came into AA some years ago, I was told: This is a selfish program. In order to stay sober, it was suggested, it would be a good idea for me to keep the focus on myself and my own recovery. Down the road, as I got better physically and emotionally, I could become involved in service and Twelfth Step work. This was an exhilarating and freeing bit of advice, because all my life my caring and concentration had been for others--a codependent you would call me today.

From that time on, I became, for all intents and purposes, and with your permission, an obsessively self-centered, self-serving, self-focused sober alcoholic. Some might describe me as "an extreme example of self-will run riot."

Oh, I did a bit of service here and there when asked, because I was told to never say no to AA, but it was drudgery cleaning those ashtrays and setting up chairs. Besides, I preferred to let others do the work so there was more time for me to tell you my "911 problems" before and after meetings.

This inflated sense of self persisted for about five years, I was locked inside a potential heaven turned to hell, and couldn't figure out why. It's been said that ninety percent of our psychological life is spent in unawareness. I was up to one hundred percent.

One dreary day at a meeting, I was wailing to someone about how lousy I was feeling, and he told me what had helped him in achieving serenity--my elusive goal. He went on to explain that he had learned to put himself aside, to rise above his own problems so that others could survive and rediscover life. The simple act of reaching out to another drunk, he said, made him naturally high.

In desperation, I grabbed on to his sage advice and my life was never the same again. To realize that part of my recovery from a "seemingly hopeless state of mind and body" is being helpful to others started me on an upward spiral of spiritual growth. To drop out of human involvement as I had done, from an over-concern for maintaining my own sobriety, was not the answer.

My change of heart began simply. I began asking questions of others before and after meetings, and they responded. Through this process I became more tolerant of others' shortcomings and opinions. I tried to take a sincere interest in others and listen to them as they had been listening to me and, slowly, self-seeking began to slip away. The Third Step prayer in the Big Book says, "Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will." Buddha said. "Make of yourself a light. "The writer Ann Herbert says, "Practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty." I say, "Dear Higher Power, for today let it all begin with me."
They Kept Coming Back: # 10 Charles K, Stourbridge, Birmingham @ Ludlow

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 tenth interview was with Charles K., whose sobriety date was August 8, 1965.

My father was a doctor. He didn’t twig that I was in trouble with alcohol. I went to a minor public school and then to Cambridge University. I was a compulsive bout drinker and I didn’t think I was an alcoholic because I didn’t drink every day. Once I had a drink I would go into blackout. I could only drink about a third of what a social drinker would drink. When I was in blackout I did some very scary things. On one occasion, all the lads were climbing out of college. I was so pissed I didn’t realize that there was a rope to hold on to and I just rolled off the roof into the Master’s garden! On another occasion I came out of a blackout in an hotel on the Isle of Man. I had climbed up the outside of the hotel and was just getting over the fifth floor balcony when I regained consciousness, with the fire engines coming a crowd gathering to see if I would fall. I was a climber but was taking a big risk. I was pretty wild.

When I drank it was like turning a switch. Once I had one drink I was away. I finished drinking when I was 29. I had read an article in the County Express in Stourbridge on alcohol and alcoholics and it had a picture of a guy slumped over a bottle. It listed twelve questions which were to decide whether you were an alcoholic. I lied in the answers to these questions. However, the words Alcoholics Anonymous had registered in my brain.

I was going with a friend to Ireland. We had been drinking for two days and two nights before this and were going to catch the mid-day plane. We had been drinking all night at the Highfield Club in Birmingham. I just went to the phone and said, “Get me Alcoholics Anonymous” and gave my phone number. Joe G. who was on telephone duty, rang me back. He was on a skid at the time. I then ran out the front door and spewed in the gutter and I said to my friend, “Peter, you’ll have to take me home.” As we were driving along the Bristol Road, I couldn’t feel my arms or my legs. It was if I was numb all over. I said, “Peter, you’ll have to take me to the hospital.” So he took me to the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham. I fell through the front door.

They produced an oxygen tent and put me on a stomach pump. I was having hallucinations. Red things were coming out of the ceiling and the nurse said, “This looks like a case for A.A. to me” I said, “It’s alright love, I have already called them.”

My wife had left at this stage and taken the child with her so I was on my own. Harry and Stan from Stourbridge came and knocked on the door. I was in bits. They stood at the end of my bed and told me what had happened to them. Stan said, “Young man, I’ve had more down my chin than you’ve had down your throat. We’re taking you to a meeting.” I said, “Where’s the meeting” and he said “Barnsley Hall” and I thought, “Bloody Hell, Barnsley Hall was the local Looney Bin down in Bromsgrove” but I went and I remember Lambert Bill, who kept the Lambert Hotel on the Hagley Road, saying, “Charlie, just remember. When alcoholics are drinking, they are three steps behind but, when they’re sober, they are three steps in front.”

When I walked through the door I knew I belonged. Quite emotional. Amazing really. It was a real conversion experience. I haven’t been the same since. The meeting in Stourbridge was the Toc H. There were some wonderful characters there, Irish Mick and others. Ther were just amazing. From that time I never drank again. I started to read literature that Stan and Harry had left me. Reading the Twelve Steps when I came to Step Three, I had this amazing white light experience. It was as though I was sitting in a bowl of electricity. There was this white light all over me. I felt as if I had turned over inside. I wasn’t the same person.

As I see it, the Church teaches about the Crucifixion in an outward way but I see it as an inward way: as death in reverse. It is an initiatory experience which is explained outwardly but is an inward journey. If you tried to speak about that, beforehand, to people they wouldn’t understand a word you were saying. At that time – 1965 in the Midlands, there were no more than six meetings. The meetings at that time were very informal. We sat around a table and would share our stories with the newcomer. We didn’t use the Big Book. It was simply, ‘Don’t take a drink and keep coming back,’ but it worked. The meetings were very unstructured. Noone was doing the 12 Steps. Eventually I went through the steps on my own. The point is that I recognized that I had my spiritual awakening at Step Three and not at Step Twelve. It was Step Three that turned me on spiritually but I did go through the other Steps.
God, I offer myself to Thee – To build with me and to do with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life.”

What is the Third Step Prayer?

When people start their recovery process in a 12-step fellowship program, they find a sponsor and work through the 12 steps. When they get to the third step, they are to decide to allow God to direct their life. The Third Step reads as follows:

Step 3: “Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.”

The Third Step is a big step for a lot of people, but once complete, you are well on the road to recovery. At the commencement of the Third Step, you are to recite a prayer. That is the Third Step Prayer. You often do this the first time with a sponsor. The third Step prayer is something that you will often recite through the course of recovery, and some even recite it every morning. Recovery prayers are essential because it gets the struggling addict used to talking and relying on God. As we look over the Third Step Prayer, we can see a lot of valuable information in it.

God, I offer myself to Thee – The first part of the Third Step prayer is a declaration that you are giving God control. This declaration reminds us that we are no longer running the show. It says in the big book of Alcoholics Anonymous, page 84 “And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone – even alcohol,” We have to be reminded that we have offered our self to God, and he is now in the driver’s seat.

To build with me and to do with me as Thou Wilt. The second line in the Third Step Prayer is the realization that our life is no longer our business. We are allowing God to build our life in his vision, and we are merely spectators. We are allowing God to do his will in our lives, and we are acknowledging that he knows best.

Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. When we get into the next line of the prayer, we are acknowledging that we have been in bondage to ourselves. Our life has been plagued with self will run riot. We often made decisions only thinking about our self and not thinking of others. We are now going to stop this way of thinking and release the bondage of self that has run our lives. The definition of bondage is the state of being bound by or subjected to some external power or control. We will not release that power and control to God. We are beginning to transition from our will to God’s will.

Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy Power, Thy Love, and Thy Way of Life. The final line in the prayer is of the utmost importance. We now know that only God can relieve our difficulties, and we are giving Him the power to do so. We know that as God removes our difficulties, we will see that he is in charge. In recovery, any struggle that we go through and overcome will be one more way that we can help others. These tribulations in our life will no longer be in vain. We will use them to reach the next struggling addict. We will do everything with a guiding force of God’s Love and God’s Power in God’s will.

From: the JC Recovery Center.com
The Actual Doctor’s Opinion!

Charles B. Towns Hospital
Established 1801
292-293 Central Park West
At 5th Street
New York

July 27, 1938

To Whom It May Concern —

I have specialized in the treatment of alcoholism for many years.

About four years ago I attended a patient by the name of William G. Wilson. Though he had been a competent business man of good earning capacity he was an alcoholic of a type I had come to regard as hopeless.

In the course of his third treatment he acquired certain ideas concerning a possible means of recovery. As part of his rehabilitation he commenced to present his new conceptions to other alcoholics impressing upon them that they must do likewise with still others. This has become the basis of rapidly growing fellowship of these men and their families. This man and about one hundred others appear to have recovered.

I personally know thirty of these cases who were of types upon which other methods had failed completely.

These facts appear to be of extreme medical importance. Because of the extraordinary possibilities of rapid growth inherent in this group these events may mark a new epoch in the annals of alcoholism. These men may well have a solution for thousands of these situations.

You may rely absolutely on anything they say about themselves.

Very truly yours,

W. D. Silsworth, M. D.
Let go and let God carry you away on His grace believing in His goodness praying often, “O God, I surrender myself, my will and my life to You take care of everything, help me to see and know what I can do to become the best version of myself and to let go and let You do for me what I cannot do. Amen.”

God wants us all to become miracle workers by cooperating with Him to recover and help others to recover from alcoholism and to heal and cure illnesses and diseases. We do this through the Twelve Steps that opens us up to allow Gods Holy Spirit to dwell within us; as this takes place His Spirit which is the highest of all powers removes the lesser power spirits of John Barleycorn and the crazy stranger.

As we live in close conscious contact with God, clean and sober; being spiritually awakened and reborn, we will be taken on a remarkable, wonderful and interesting journey. All we have do is work the first Nine Steps to get and enjoy a right cleaned up relationship with God and live fully a life guided by the last Three Steps. By these we stay guided and protected by God from the workers of evil who will come around when least expected to see if there’s any weakness by which they can penetrate the bullet proof A.A. spiritual armor placed upon us by God and the Twelve Steps.

From the Cleveland Area Intergroup website.
Checking your balance on a Sunday morning

B&B LIQUORS
Party Store/Beer & Wine
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS
THANKS ALOT BILL W.!!

NEVER BUY A DOG
WHEN YOU’RE DRUNK

THE KEY TO GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE IS
TO EITHER LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS OR LEARN TO DRINK.
St. Patrick’s Day

Dance

at Rockville Metro Club

12319 Washington Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852 (301) 881-0400

Saturday 18 March, 2023

6:00 pm-Pizza & Dancing Contests
With Prizes

- Best St Pat’s Outfit
- Outfit with Most Green
- Best Dancer
- Youngest Dancer
- And Much, Much More!

Give Aways at the Door For the First Arrivals

$5 Donation Recommended

8:30 pm - Regular Acceptance

AA Meeting

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

For more information contact RMCinc.help@gmail.com
78th Annual WAIA Gala

Saturday, April 15
6:30 PM - 11:00 PM
Silver Spring Civic Center
1 Veterans Plaza
Silver Spring, MD
Doors Open @ 6:00 PM

Tickets: $45
Purchase tickets here

Dinner & Dancing

Speaker: Mario O.

M i a c l e s  D o  H a p p e n !

For additional information, visit: www.aa-dc.org
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

<table>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| General registration and banquet  
(Circle your meat choice: Salmon, chicken or sliced pork tenderloin, vegetarian) | $120.00 | _______ | _______ |
| Registration Only | $50.00 | _______ | _______ |
| Tour of Washington, DC by Motor Coach | $39.00 | _______ | _______ |
| Ball Cap | $17.00 | _______ | _______ |
| Tee-shirt (sizes Large to 5X): State size: _______ (sizes run small) | $23.00 | _______ | _______ |

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
Area 13 WAGSA Committee Meeting

March 13, 2023—6:00 PM  2nd Monday of the month except July
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83565638123
Passcode: 6970mc

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

WAIA Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

March 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)s

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
January 01, 2023—February 23, 2023

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 60 ● NUMBER 3 ● MARCH 2023

60 14 Promises
100 Anacostia Group
300 Aspen Hill 5th Chapter
600 B.Y.O.L (103154)
203 Burtonsville Big Book
160 Capitol Heights Group
185 Capitol Hill Reminders
25 Clinton Day
95 Coffee & Donuts
1002 Cosmopolitan
412 Darnestown Men
88 Deanwood Step
100 Deanwood Women Rap
300 Epiphany
100 Gaithersburg Beginners
82 Grupo Virtual Wash.
74 High Sobriety
32 Informed Group
812 Into Action
198 Kid Friendly Big Book
42 Lit Hoppers
100 Lit Womxn
300 Messengers
3098 Midtown
52 Mideast
1150 Monday Men’s
300 New Unity Gay
69 No Hard Terms
150 Oasis Women’s BB
100 Old Fashion
2770 Olney Farm Group
120 Olney Women
10 Open Arms
84 Out to Lunch
328 P Street
85 Pillars in the Park
50 Potomac Eye Opener
628 Progress Not Perfection
45 Quince Orchard
25 Rockville Metro Club
96 Sat. Morn. Fire Barrel
180 Sat. Night Happy Hour
287 Serenity Speakers
404 Serious Business
700 Silver Spring Group
368 Six & Seventh Step
157 Sober Sat. Matinee
300 St. Francis Group

25 Sun. Morn. Reflections
217 Takoma Park Necessity
240 Twelve Point Bucks
161 Uptown
330 Village Idiots
240 We Care
276 Westside Club

Birthday
60 Faithful Fivers
5341 Individuals
Memorial
If you would like to receive 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**  
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A free digital copy of the New Reporter is posted every month to our website at:  
[https://aa-dc.org/new-reporter](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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Humble Doug</td>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Wayne S.</td>
<td>On Awakening</td>
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<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Linda J.W.</td>
<td>Progress not Perfection</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Ricky M.</td>
<td>Progress not Perfection</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td>Carlton H.</td>
<td>Progress not Perfection</td>
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<td>David P.</td>
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<td>Daniel R.</td>
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<td>Mar 22</td>
<td>Glorianne S.</td>
<td>Silver Spring</td>
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**THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE**

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