

Tradition Seven

As the Long Form of our Seventh Tradition states, "The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries which continue, beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money and authority." - Reprinted from The A.A. Service Manual, 2003-2004 Edition, pages S13-S14, with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.



WAIA July 2023 Announcements

NEW BOARD MEETING TIME:

7:00 PM on the second Tuesday—EFFECTIVE JULY 11, 2023

Calls for Service

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.

Office and HelpChat Volunteers Needed! We are still in need of more volunteers willing to come into the WAIA office. Need office help on Saturday 1-4 PM; Sunday 1-4 PM; Monday 1-4 PM; to answer phones. Email help@aa-dc.org for more information or call 202-966-9783 and ask for Luella or Clo'via.

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 ex-

The Origin of Tradition Seven

In the early days of Alcoholics Anonymous, groups were struggling for money. When a woman left ten thousand dollars to A.A.'s main office, the members engaged in a lively debate over whether or not they should accept it. Many wanted to take the money, but eventually, came to a decision to decline it. The threat of outside interference loomed over them, as money rarely comes without at least a few strings attached. These benefactors would hold too much sway over AA's principles and put the fellowship in jeopardy. Additionally, they feared that accepting all such donations would make the organization wealthy which would compromise the spiritual growth of its members. For if AA became rich, its members would stop donating and would revert back to selfishness and greed—the same defects of character they embodied while drinking.

The 12&12 notes that it was difficult to put this tradition into place. Many addicts and alcoholics have very light wallets when they first get sober (this is one of the consequences of our former lifestyle). Even so, these members did not feel it was right to accept handouts. Although outside donations could do a lot to help the groups, they felt that it would interfere with the organization's spiritual focus. They had seen this in action already:

"Now and then, grateful benefactors had endowed clubhouses, and as a result there was sometimes outside interference in our affairs. We had been presented with a hospital, and almost immediately the donor's son became its principal patient and would-be manager. One A.A. group was given five thousand dollars to do with what it would. The hassle over that chunk of money played havoc for years. Frightened by these complications, some groups refused to have a cent in their treasuries."

While poverty caused disillusionment, handouts caused disruption and chaos with Alcoholics Anonymous groups. Still, it's impossible to deny the logistical necessity for funding. How could the groups help people if they could not afford meeting places? How could they answer the phone if the company denied service?

What Does Tradition Seven Mean?

Ideals aside, A. A. realized that every organization needs funds to operate, and groups needed a way to ensure there was money in the treasury. This led to the Seventh Tradition as it is currently written. The groups could not accept outside contributions, but by being self-supporting, they shouldn't need them. It would be unreasonable to expect all members to donate, which is why AA's pamphlet for newcomers goes out of its way to state that donations are not required. Members with the means are asked to give what they can and A. A. can function thanks to donations from their members—and only their members—to truly remain self-sufficient.

The Purpose of Tradition Seven

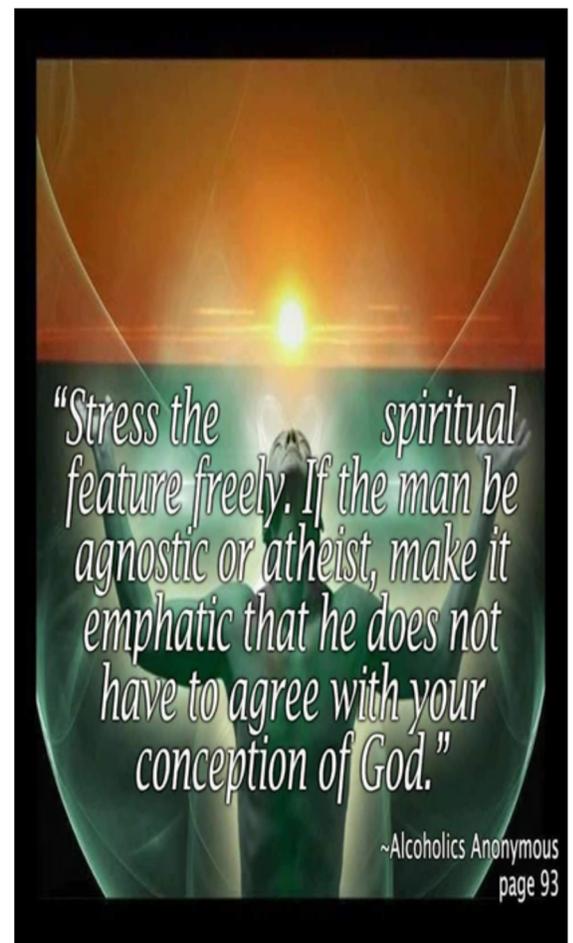
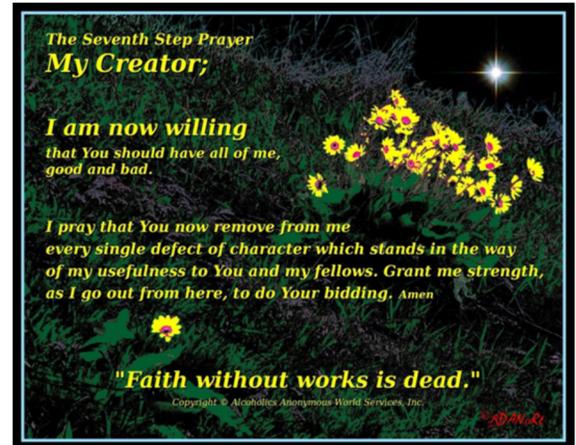
Alcoholics Anonymous' refusal of large gifts and grants is more than simply preventing outside interference within group operations. It instills the principle of independence at the highest level so that it may serve as an example for its members. Further, by relying on internal donations from members, the message of self-reliance also assists with spiritual growth. <https://www.amethystrecovery.org/embracing-seventh-tradition/>

The Seventh Step from the Best of the Grapevine 7. *Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings*

How often have we prayed for “things,” or favorable circumstances., or a hundred and one things that were really selfish in nature! Here is where real prayer begins – not ends – in asking God to *change me*. “Lord, I am not much, You aren’t getting much of a prize. It’s mostly broken pieces I’m giving you. But I ask you to mend them. You can take the pride and the lust and the anxiousness and the fear and the resentment. Please do take them, and me with them.” Something like that.

We may say it in the quiet of our own rooms or we may say it kneeling in our church, or we may say it as we pray with another person. There must be an intended finality as we make such a prayer. We can’t do it with tongue in cheek. So far as it is possible, we mean to be done with the offending thing. We find again that “willpower” only goes far enough to secure our intention; the actual praying of such a prayer already implies help from him to whom we pray. Sins get entangled deep within us, as some roots of a tree, and do not easily come loose. We need help, grace, the lift of a kind of divine derrick. The amazing thing is that such a prayer is answered if we truly want it to be. Out own wills are so much a needed part of this that it almost looks as if *we* had done it. But the help from God is still more a needed part of it; we are sure that without him we could not possibly have done it. We learn great truths, long known and often discovered, as we begin a genuine spiritual awakening.

Best of the Grapevine, Vol. II, p. 130.



Interview With an 80-year-old Sober Person: Sydney L.

Twenty-three years from now, when I am 73 years old, I will have 30 years of sobriety, but there is a part of me that wonders if that is a good age to go out and try drinking again. 30 is a nice round number and a decent chunk of sober time, so, who knows, maybe I'll be able to drink like a gentleman in a non-destructive way by then—one glass of dark French wine per day or a gin and tonic on a chilly beach as I watch a purple sunset. Maybe I'll smoke a cigarette, too, while I'm out there. Just one or two to make the brief moments buzz even louder.

Daydreams like this are super-lame for anyone who doesn't call themselves an alcoholic. However, I have enough evidence that unless there's a total rewiring of my brain, I could still massively screw up my life rather quickly if I take that risk.

To further explore this idea of late-in-life relapses, I sought answers from the only 80-year-old alcoholic I know, the poet and writer Sydney L. I first discovered Sydney through [Oldster](#), and we've communicated semi-regularly since then. He has decades of sobriety, so I asked him if he still had the bug.

“Yes, the thought of a drink does occur to me now and then. It always involves some fantasy scene, even a fairly pedestrian one like sitting on our porch after a workout with a frosty beer in hand.”

The rest of the interview follows: —AJD

TSB: Does the idea of drinking still cross your mind? Are you tempted to try it again?

I have been in A.A. for a quarter of a century. (Had I stayed clean after first arriving, it would now be 48 years, but that's another story.) And yes, the thought of a drink does occur to me now and then. It always involves some fantasy scene, even a fairly pedestrian one like sitting on our porch after a workout with a frosty beer—just one, of course—in hand.

After a bender that ended with a shotgun in my mouth, I decided that this was as far down as I wanted to go. From that very moment, there was an evaporation of any physical craving for alcohol or a substitute. A mystery and, yes, a blessing. Some have to white-knuckle it for a long time.

One of the things I say to myself when the thought of a drink crops up is—Finish the movie. I have twice proved that it may start on a beach—palm trees swaying, women draped all over me, the steel band softly playing. The ending, however, is too familiar: an undersized blue robe, a pair of paper slippers, and a locked psych ward. (The second time, it could have ended not in that ward but in my blowing my brains out. Thank God even I grasped that that would be too great a blight on the lives of our 13 and 9-year-old daughters.)

But my main strategy for fending off the boozing impulse goes something like this. 1. I acknowledge that I am forevermore powerless over alcohol; 2. Because I'm an alcoholic, the idea of consuming alcohol will present itself occasionally; 3. I recognize the thought of drinking...then I let it pass from my thoughts without any impediment by me.

I've learned that as soon as the debate starts—weighing the pros and cons, wondering if I was “that bad” (I was)—I'll tie myself in emotional knots, and who needs that? I breathe the impulse out.

Taken from; <https://www.thsmallbow.com/top-newsletters/but-what-if-i-want-to-drink-again-someday>

They Kept Coming Back: #13

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 twelfth interview was with Willem V.H. and his sobriety date is March 20, 1966.

Willem V.H. (Brighton)

My parents were brought up as Dutch. Our forefathers arrived in South Africa in 1671, and although they spoke Afrikaans fluently, they still wrote in Dutch. I remember the day when I made a conscious decision to visit a bar on my own and have a drink as I thought life didn't have enough sparkle. This was the beginning of a journey that took seventeen years before I reached rock bottom.

I had my last drink on Wednesday 23rd March 1966. It was the most horrendous experience and one I'll never forget. I was taken into the Alcoholic Unit at St. Patrick's Mental Hospital in Dublin, Ireland. I spent fourteen weeks there. On release I was told to do three things, go back to work the next day, go to at least one meeting of A.A. a week and find a sponsor.

There were only two meetings in Dublin at the time. I returned to England in January 1967 and I went to a meeting in Reading on Fridays. On a good crowded night we had five people of which three were regulars and I was one of them.

I remember that on one occasion the other two were going on holiday and I said 'there's no point in having a meeting if there is only going to be me present.' They told me that the meeting had to take place in case another alcoholic turned up. I said 'What will I do if there is only me?' and they replied that I should read the Big Book for the hour and a half. Once an American visitor arrived and we had a very good meeting.

Subsequently, I moved I moved to Brighton and became the first ever GSR for the Central Southern Intergroup, as it was then known, from 1975-1980. The other two positions I held in the Fellowship were Chairman of the West Sussex Intergroup from January 1994 to April 1997 and Chairman of the South East Region from September 1995 until June 1998.

I always find it difficult to talk about my service within the Fellowship. My gratitude can never fully repay what this wonderful Fellowship has given me. I have enjoyed every second of it so far and whatever A.A. throws at me in the future I am still willing to take on.

I was very blessed by the Promises which gave me an amazing life and all my needs. After six years of sobriety I found my partner. After forty-one years and two months he died. I was supported by my A.A. family. Sobriety gave me longevity as far as relationships go. Firstly, and most importantly, my forty nine years (in ten weeks time at the time of this writing (16th January 2015) as a member of our Fellowship, have given me the ability to be able to have a longstanding relationship with another person.

God Blesss.

Willem van H

In Scotland, Whisky Sector Vows to Kick Carbon Habit:

The Washington Post reports that “A tippler might not know it from the pretty advertisements, which hype the mountain streams and woolly highlands, but making Scotch whisky can be a dirty business -- an energy-intensive, carbon-spewing, peat burning industry, mostly owned by multi-national conglomerates that ship their \$50-plus bottles to swells around the world.

On the picture-perfect western isles of Scotland famous for their whiskies – Islay, Skye, Jura, Arran – the whitewashed distilleries are often the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in their bucolic regions, ahead of diesel ferries and pastures of belching sheep.

But something head-turning is happening.

The owners of the 140 distilleries in Scotland have pledged, voluntarily, to transform the industry And make their operations ‘net zero’ in carbon emissions by 2040, a decade earlier than Britain as a whole and five years earlier that Scotland has promised.

The Scotch Whiskey Association wants consumers to imagine a future when the old-time distilleries turn away from fossil fuels and toward energy generated by wind and wood chips, by ocean tides and 21st-century hydrogen.

The D Word

I don’t ‘donate’ to Alcoholics Anonymous, I “contribute.” Groups, districts, areas and even A.A. as a whole, do not accept “donations.” We are fully self-supporting through our own “contributions.”

Donations imply something given for charity. My sobriety is not a charity. It’s something I get to participate in. I also get to contribute to my household bills. I don’t donate to the electric company or my mortgage. I donate to the Humane Society or to Meals on Wheels.

Do you donate to your household bills where you live? Or do you contribute? Do you donate to the IRS when you do your taxes? Or are you contributing to society?

The entire reason we changed the name of the “Alcoholic Foundation” to the “General Service Office” when we adopted the Seventh Tradition is because words like “foundation” and “donation” can imply a charitable organization.

Just some food for thought. I love Alcoholics Anonymous!

Carrie B.
Bend, Ore

Originally appeared in the *Grapevine*.



District 21 presents
"We Are Not A Glum Lot"



Rockville Metro Club
12319 Washington Ave, Rockville, MD 20852
Saturday 1 July, 2023
Rain or Shine

- Food begins at **11am**
- At **Noon** - Sobriety Count Down followed by speakers:
- Sean C., former WAIA Chair
 - How he entered WAIA & area service and
 - The difference between WAIA & WAGSA (Area 13)
- Stan C., current Alternate Delegate for our Area 13
 - How he entered area service and
 - What area service is about & why we should care
- Question & Answer period followed by a raffle
- Food & Fellowship until 4pm

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Salads & Drinks provided

Please bring a dessert & a newcomer!

For more info contact district21dcm@area13aa.org

Summer Back to Basics



The Alcoholics Anonymous
Beginner's Meetings

Here are the Steps We Took....

In FOUR One Hour Sessions

Monday Evenings in July

@ 7:00 PM

10, 17, 24, 31

368 Main Street Laurel MD 20707

LaurelRecovery.Org

AA Men's 11th Step Retreat

Friday, July 14 – Sunday, July 16, 2023

Loyola Retreat House
9270 Loyola Retreat Road
Newburg (Faulkner), Maryland 20664



Come join the Silver Spring Men's Steps & Traditions Group at its 10th annual **11th Step Retreat** at the **Loyola Retreat House**, located on the banks of the Potomac River. The Retreat offers opportunities to meet and share your experience, strength, and hope with old friends, and establish new friendships that may help sustain your own recovery for years to come.

The total cost for the Retreat is \$250. This includes your room and all meals at the Retreat House. The fee is payable with an initial deposit of \$125 to be paid on or before **Friday, June 16, 2023**. If you prefer, the full payment of \$250 can be made on or before this date as well.

The full retreat fee of \$250 is due from all attendees by **Friday, June 30, 2023**.

Deposits and payments are non-refundable. Anyone who attends for any period of time or for any part of the retreat is required to pay the full cost of \$250 for the weekend. Attendance is limited and available on a first come/first served basis.

Visit www.mens12step.com for more information.

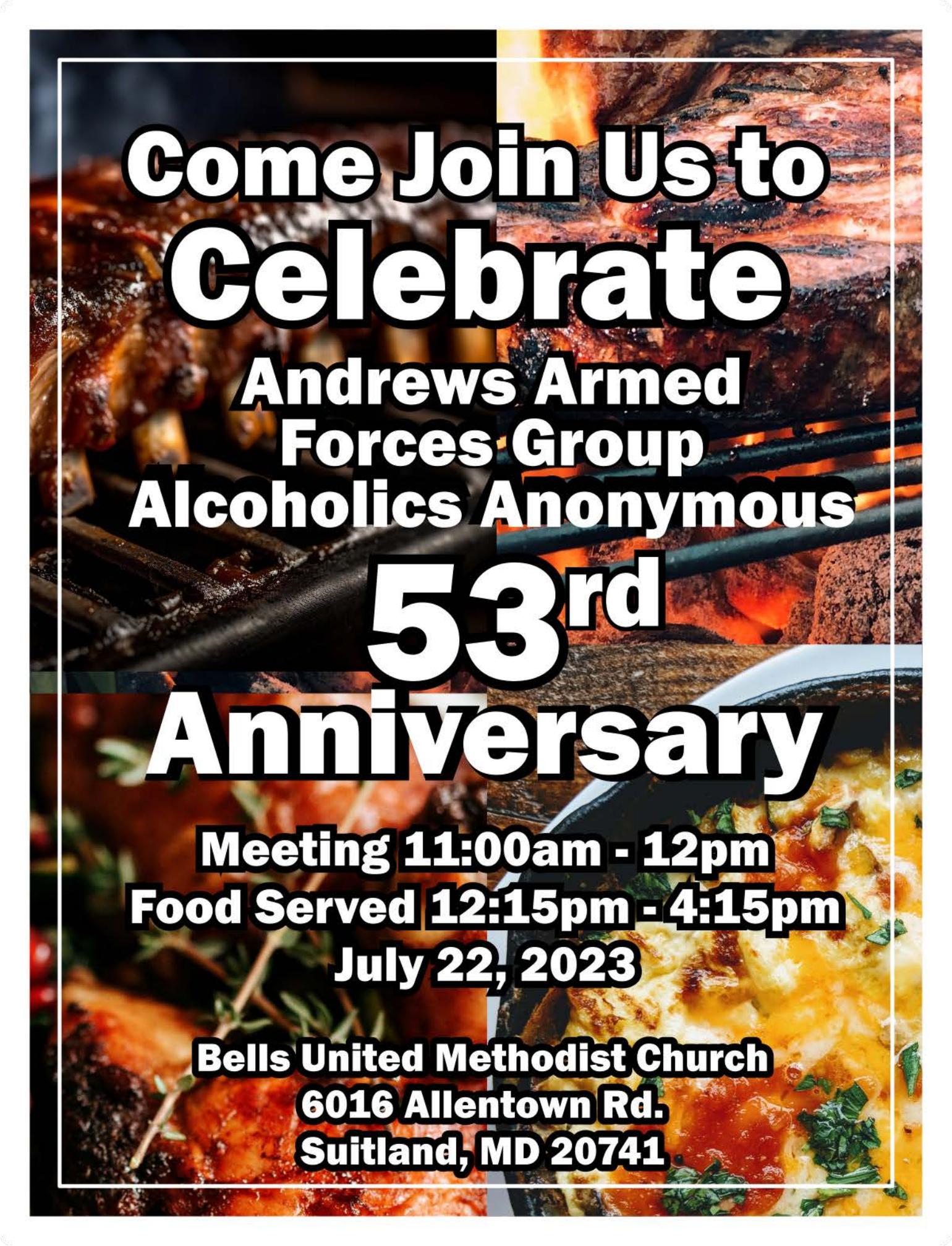
You can reserve your place with a payment using Venmo or Zelle:

Venmo: @mens-retreat

Zelle: Stephen McGarry 301 922 3557

You can also pay by check payable to **Silver Spring AA Mens Retreat**. **Please include your email address or phone number on your check or money order so we can confirm your payment and reservation.** Send your check to:

**Silver Spring AA Mens Retreat
8112 Flower Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912**



**Come Join Us to
Celebrate**

**Andrews Armed
Forces Group
Alcoholics Anonymous**

**53rd
Anniversary**

Meeting 11:00am - 12pm

Food Served 12:15pm - 4:15pm

July 22, 2023

Bells United Methodist Church

6016 Allentown Rd.

Suitland, MD 20741



**SATURDAY MORNING STEPS
AND
SUNDAY MORNING JOY
CELEBRATE THEIR 25th YEAR ANNIVERSARY!
SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023
AT 8:00 A.M.**

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 87971754217
PASSCODE: SMS1640SMJ (that's a zero)
DIAL-IN NUMBER: (301) 715-8592
PHONE PASSCODE: 1386133725**

***"A genuine gratitude for blessings received ... "
(Step 10)***

Area 13 WAGSA No Meeting in July

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

Andrews Armed Forces 53rd Group Anniversary

July 22, 2023 11:00 A –4:15 P

**Bells United Methodist
6016 Allentown Rd
Suitland MD 20741**

Petworth Anniversary

June 28, 2023—7:00 PM

**Zoom ID: 77267203457
PW: PETWORTH (all caps)**

**Dial In: 301-715-8592
77267203457#**

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.

WAIA Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

July 11, 2023—7:00 PM 2nd Tuesday of the month except August

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460598434?
pwd=VVBEK2FNSzcxS3VXZDFVOXhMa1oxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460598434?pwd=VVBEK2FNSzcxS3VXZDFVOXhMa1oxZz09)

Meeting ID: 834 6059 8434

Passcode: 819862

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,83460598434# US (Washington DC)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 120 14 Promises | 100 Lit Womxn | 900 St. Francis Group |
| 225 9:30 Club Online | 50 Mayday | 130 Sunday in the Park |
| 100 Anacostia Group | 211 Men's Adhoc Group | 200 Sunday Morning Joy |
| 300 Andrew's Armed Forces | 300 Messengers | 50 Sun. Morn. Reflections |
| 163 As Bill Sees It NW | 3098 Midtown | 900 Sunrise Zoom |
| 600 Aspen Hill 5th Chapter | 172 Mideast | 519 Sunshine Group G'burg |
| 84 Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri | 1150 Monday Men's | 217 Takoma Park Necessity |
| 1100 B.Y.O.L (103154) | 398 More Peace of Mind | 230 Tenley Circle Men |
| 600 Back to Basics (CB) | 50 Neareast Group | 10 There Is A Solution |
| 45 Beginners are Winners | 135 Never Walk Alone | 216 Trusted Servants |
| 300 Bethesda Youth | 77 New Hope 123 | 480 Twelve Point Bucks |
| 1422 Brightwood Group | 300 New Unity Gay | 195 Uptown |
| 645 Burtonsville Big Book | 69 No Hard Terms | 180 Victory Lights |
| 160 Capitol Heights Group | 180 NW Metro | 330 Village Idiots |
| 1035 Capitol Hill Group | 238 Oasis Women's BB | 75 Virtually Sober |
| 185 Capitol Hill Remainers | 100 Old Fashion | 173 We Are All Beginners |
| 70 Chinatown Men | 2770 Olney Farm Group | 1260 We Are Not Saints |
| 50 Clinton Day | 240 Olney Women | 240 We Care |
| 95 Coffee & Donuts | 19 On Awakening | 720 Westmoreland Women |
| 1886 Cosmopolitan | 10 Open Arms | 276 Westside Club |
| 75 Daily Reflections, NW | 84 Out to Lunch | 180 West Side Men |
| 112 Darn Good Big Book | 726 P Street | 244 Women's Grapevine |
| 1021 Darnestown Men | 120 Petworth Group | |
| 409 DCC 930 Club | 185 Pillars in the Park | Birthday |
| 50 DCC Friday Women | 50 Potomac Eye Opener | 180 Faithful Fivers |
| 88 Deanwood Step | 190 Potomac Oaks | 11504 Individuals |
| 100 Deanwood Women Rap | 100 Potomac Speakers | 100 Memorial |
| 3000 Downtown Noon | 400 Potomac Women | |
| 180 Downtown Sil Spring | 628 Progress Not Perfection | |
| 768 Dun Drinkin | 150 Prospect Group | |
| 130 Dupont Circle Club | 154 Quince Orchard | |
| 880 Epiphanies | 2141 Radicals | |
| 800 Fireside Spirituality | 50 Read & Speak | |
| 350 Foggy Bottom | 300 Riderwood bills | |
| 100 Gaithersburg Beginners | 75 Rockville Metro Club | |
| 452 Gateway Wedn. | 94 Sat. Afternoon UP | |
| 362 Grupo Virtual Wash. | 96 Sat. Morn. Fire Barrel | |
| 150 Happy Joyous & Free | 240 Sat. Morning Steps | |
| 75 High Sobriety | 180 Sat. Night Happy Hour | |
| 84 Informed Group | 125 Serenity House | |
| 800 International AA Men's Conf | 287 Serenity Speakers | |
| 3271 Into Action | 404 Serious Business | |
| 198 Kid Friendly Big Book | 700 Silver Spring Group | |
| 13 Landover Discussion | 627 Six & Seventh Step | |
| 250 Lawyers | 321 Six & Seventh Step Online | |
| 175 Leisure World Noon | 157 Sober Sat. Matinee | |
| 62 Lifesaver Big book | 275 Southern Sobriety | |
| 42 Lit Hoppers | 1500 Spiritual Awakening | |
| | 52 Spiritual Hilltop | |

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**



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



Day			Years
June 23	Gwen J.	NW Metro	31 years
June 23	Reggie B.	Cosmopolitan	32 years
July 4	Phyllis C.	Cosmopolitan	31 years
July 11	Chuck S.	Darnestown Men	45 years
July 18	Luella T.	Hyattsville Hope	45 years
July 19	Ron A.	Sunrise Zoom	10 years
July 27	Von B.	Cosmopolitan	33 years
July 28	Jeanine J.	Cosmopolitan	9 years
July 30	Clo'via C.	Nativity	15 years

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

The **NEW REPORTER** is a monthly publication of the WAIA 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.

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.

JULY 2023