

# • Digital NEW REPORTER

Alcoholics Anonymous, 4th Ed, p 77

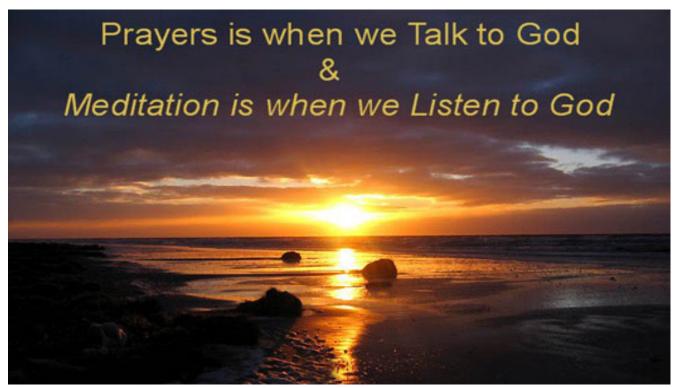
WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

**VOLUME 61** 

NUMBER 11

November 2024







**VOLUME 61** 

**NUMBER 11** 

November, 2024

## **Gratitude Month and 2025 Budget Approval**

Reps please discuss the proposed <u>2025 Budget</u> (https://aa-dc.org/finance) with your group. We will be voting on this at the November 12th board meeting.

**November is Gratitude month** and we ask that you pass the basket to ask for contributions specifically for WAIA. Year to date (10/22/24) we have received \$102,885.00 of the \$165,000 needed to fund our 2024 budget. Please help ensure that the office can continue to serve as AA's DC central office; answering calls 24/7, maintaining a current record of all meetings in the area, and providing other essential services to the still sick and suffering alcoholic. You can make a contribution directly on the WAIA, <a href="https://aa-dc.org/give">https://aa-dc.org/give</a>. Checks can be mailed to WAIA, 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW Ste 111, Washington DC 20008. For more information see the 2024 Gratitude Month Flyer on page 3.

**Call for Service for Committee Chairs**—Please contact Daniel R., Executive Committee Chair, at chair@aa-dc.org if you're interested. Descriptions of responsibilities for the positions can be in the WAIA by-laws at https://aa-dc.org/rules.

- Elections Committee Chair: we need someone to chair the Elections Committee to conduct the December 2024 elections for the 2025 Executive Committee.
- Finance Committee Chair: we need someone to chair the Finance Committee for 2025.

The Plain Language Big Book is open for sale on November 1, 2024 from AA World Services. WAIA will order some on that day but they won't arrive in the office until a week or 10 days later. If you'd like to order a copy or want to know when they arrive, email us at help@aa-dc.org.

#### Calls for Service

### **OFFICE and HELPCHAT Volunteers Needed!**

**Available In Person Shifts:** Tuesday 10-1, Wednesday 4-7 PM, Saturday 1-4 PM. Email help@aa-dc.org for more information or call 202-966-9783; ask for Luella or Clo'via

NIGHTWATCH Volunteers Needed! (1 Year Sobriety Requested)

email Nightwatch@aa-dc.org to volunteer.

Pease share these announcements with your group and encourage people to sign up for the New Reporter to receive local AA news directly!



## **2024 WAIA Gratitude Month Flyer**

Traditionally, November is a special time for A.A. members to show their gratitude and appreciation for the life that has been given to them through the principles and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Gratitude Month contributions should be made after a group's regular collection takes place. This is a separate contribution that goes directly to WAIA to cover operating expenses for the upcoming year that we rely on.

Although many groups have returned to In Person meetings, many are still online and will remain so. As we navigate the close of 2024 and into 2025, we will continue to need the support of individual AAs and groups to meet our expenses for the upcoming year. We hope you see this as an opportunity to help carry the A.A. message to those who still suffer. Can you spare the price of a drink?

This year there are many ways to participate in Gratitude month. Go to <u>aa-dc.org/give</u> or scan this QR code to contribute electronically. You can now set up recurring payments on the website by checking "Make this donation monthly" when contributing as an individual. Join our growing group of "Faithful Fivers" by contributing at least \$5.00 a month to support WAIA.

- Traditional Gratitude boxes for In Person meetings
- We are introducing a new Contribution Cube which has QR codes for WAIA's contribution page, Venmo, Paypal as well as the phone number for Zelle, which when assembled can be placed in the basket will that make it convenient for those who want to contribute electronically throughout the year.
- The Gratitude Month QR code to WAIA's contribution page which can be shown toward the camera for Online meetings.
- Checks for Group or Individual Contributions can be mailed to: WAIA, 4530 Connecticut Ave NW, Ste 111, Washington DC 20008

From September 2023 to September 2024 your contributions supported the following:

- 3,560 calls answered by office staff and volunteers providing assistance to AA members and to sick and suffering alcoholics.
- Maintaining 652 In Person meetings, 325 Online meetings, and 80 Hybrid meetings. –which includes updates to the Meeting Guide App. (Send any meeting changes to <a href="https://example.com/help@aa-dc.org">help@aa-dc.org</a>).
- 46th Annual Old Timers meeting -November 8, 2024. Oldtimer's Meeting Flyer
- The Live Chat service which received over 499 visitors.
- Big Books, Twelve and Twelves, pamphlets and other literature given to facilities serviced by the H&I Committee
- \$31,441 of Literature and \$11,270 of Chips were purchased for in office pickup or were packaged and shipped

For more information about WAIA, to get involved or to get a Gratitude Box, Contribution Cube or 3x5 card with QR Code mailed to you contact us at <a href="https://example.com/help@aa-dc.org">help@aa-dc.org</a> or call us at 202-966-9115. Luella or Clo'via will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

"I am responsible . . . When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."



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### **Our Tradition of Gratitude**

For many decades now, we in the Fellowship have formally carved out November as a time to express our collective gratitude for our individual sobriety. Interestingly, no one is exactly sure why that month was originally chosen, though its connection with Thanksgiving seems obvious. A.A. co-founder, Bill W. thought, for a while, that his sobriety had begun in November, but later calculations established the date of his new beginnings as December 11.

Misty origins notwithstanding, Gratitude Month has, since the 1940s, been November and our shared thankfulness over the years has taken many forms and will continue to do so as our membership widens. The General Service Board began giving small gratitude dinners in the 1940s. These were precursors to the much larger Gratitude Luncheons that were orchestrated during the 1960s as a Public Information effort of G.S.O.

A.A. Traditions were the undeniable anchor of our new sober life, Bill W. thought when he wrote, "What then could be more appropriate than to set aside Thanksgiving week for discussion of the practical and spiritual values to be discovered in our Traditions?" The Tradition, he wrote in November 1949, "are a distillate of our experience of living and working together. They apply the spirit of the Twelve recovery Steps to our group life and security." (The Language of the Heart, p.96)

The first sealed and approved, official recognition of A.A. "Gratitude Week." to be specifically designated to coincide with Thanksgiving week, dates back to 1956. That year, at the Sixth General Service Conference, delegates approved a motion to that affect, stipulating that "this action be noted in the annual pre-Thanksgiving appeals to the groups for funds to help support A.A.'s worldwide services." Carrying the message, expressing gratitude, as well as wanting to make a gesture of appreciation for the numerous published articles, books, and radio and TV interviews to A.A. that year, were what motivated a number of Gratitude Luncheons. These were held, always in November, during the 1960s at New York City's Roosevelt Hotelwhere, incidentally, members of the media might care to have a drink, were assured, in the invitation by General Service Board chairman (nonalcoholic) Dr. John I. Norris, that "cocktails will be served at 12:15 p.m. in the Library, and the luncheon will end promptly at 2 PM Well-attended functions, these luncheons drew a sizeable, wide-range representation from the media, and served a double purpose: to thank the writers and commentators who attended for their contributions to A.A. in the preceding year and to, in the words of a G.S.O. memo written at the time, "advance A.A's public relations by bringing editors, publishers, writers and broadcasters in personal contact with sources of reliable information on the movement." A typical list of invitees to the 1965 luncheon, who had published articles and books on the Fellowship were from The New York Times, Medical World News, McCall's Magazine, Macmillan Publishing Company, The Christian Science Monitor, and many other news and publishing organizations.

Bill W. always addressed the gatherings, as did Dr. Norris, and, in addition to a question and answer period at the end of the proceedings, there was always plenty of A.A, literature available for the guests to take along. In 1965, Bill sent an autographed copy of the newly-released A.A. Comes of Age to each guest. Although those who came to the luncheons found them helpful and informative, the board thought they were too expensive a way to say thank you, when a letter from Bill, after an article or TV production was completed, would have been enough. Other voiced the opinion that more cooperation offered on articles or TV spots might have been more helpful. In any event, the luncheons were discontinued in 1968.

In many cases, the WAIA Intergroup Office is the first place our new members contact when seeking help. We pass the Gratitude Box after the regular basket is passed during the month of November in celebration of Gratitude month. 100% of these contributions go directly to the Intergroup Office to provide much-needed services to the alcoholics in our community. WAIA does not hold fundraisers throughout the year, but rather we rely on our member's generous Gratitude Month contributions for a large portion of our operating expenses.

Individuals can donate directly to the office by check to WAIA, 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington DC 20008. Or by credit/debit card, Venmo, Zelle, Apple Pay, PayPal by going to aa-dc.org/give. Thank you in advance for helping to support the essential services provided by your local Central Office.



**VOLUME 61** 

**NUMBER 10** 

October 2024

### PRAYING FOR POTATOES?

One of the things I've always enjoyed about A.A. meetings is our ability to poke fun at ourselves and have others poke fun at us (in a lighthearted way). We laugh at things that others would consider tragic incidents, but we seem to have come to terms with these past negative experiences. What we are really laughing at is how absurd our old way of thinking used to be. Sometimes we need to have things explained to us in simple terms.

The world of A.A. is ripe with metaphors, similes, and allegories that make the learning process much easier. With all of the re-learning we go through to help us in changing our old way of thinking, we are faced with the task of setting new principles, new disciplines, and new priorities for our actions and behaviors in the future.

Starting with the first, and most important priority, we have to be convinced that we are like men who have lost their legs: They never grow new ones. It can't be put any better than that. Then you may hear this said about relapse: It's the first drink that gets you drunk, not the fourth or fifth. Or taking that first drink is like dancing with a gorilla, the dance isn't over till the gorilla says you're done. These are truths we all hear at meetings, but they won't stop anyone from picking up a drink if they're not done yet.

In A.A. we hear a lot about prayer and meditation, and it seems that everyone has their own way of defining what that means to them. Some may be reunited with the religion of their childhood, while others may feel they are agnostics and seem to find a sort of neutral approach in finding a power greater than themselves, and that seems to works for them. Then there are those who consider themselves atheists, and as it says in the Twelve & Twelve: "A one-time Vice President of the American Atheist Society got through with room to spare." However we as individuals frame our own approach to how we incorporate this concept into our lives is equally acceptable, as long as it replaces our own, failed way of thinking.

What we pray for is another, sometimes misunderstood, practice that may be clarified by a few metaphors we hear in meetings. Asking God to cure someone of an illness seems well meaning, but misguided. If God worked his wonders at that level, the hospitals would be full of sinners and the people we pray for would all be healthy. If God did cure sick people, did he not also make them sick, and does he not have the power to make everyone well? I can only pray for the understanding and strength to deal with these things when they are pre-sented as it is suggested in Step 11: "praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out." i.e. God, please show me what to do, and give me the strength to do it. I don't do too well on my own.

In my early days of sobriety, I heard a metaphor that explained this idea, and I never forgot it. A man was driving down a road and as he passed a farmer in a field cultivating his crop. He pulled over and parked, got out of his car, and was impressed by how beautiful the farm looked. He commented to the farmer, "Isn't it wonderful what God can do with a little plot of earth?" The farmer took his hand-kerchief out, wiped his brow, and replied, "You should have seen it when God had it by himself."

Most of the principles I live by today are backed up by stories that illustrate a point that may have been easy to misunderstand when my old way of thinking was involved. The next thing that I find important is that I have to do the things I learn when I ask for guidance, and not just give them lip service. After all, "If you're going to pray for potatoes, you better grab a hoe."

---Rick R.



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### STEP ELEVEN

Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out. Principle of the Step: Awareness It was suggested in Step Ten that we continue to look at ourselves and our missteps in the maintenance of our spiritual condition, all of this in an effort to become more alert to the causes and conditions that continue to cause our failure on any given day. "After making our review, we ask God's forgiveness and inquire what corrective measures can be taken." (Big Book, pg 86.) This "ask" is done through prayer, and the response to our "inquiry" comes to us in meditation. It's been said that the simple definition of prayer is "talking to God" and meditation is "listening to God." At day's end, we look at where we've been resentful, selfish, dishonest or afraid. We determine if we owe an apology to someone and make sure that it is not just kept to ourselves. We've determined if we were kind and loving toward all, or if we were thinking of ourselves most of the time instead of thinking how we could be helpful to others. We take any discrepancies in our daily spiritual work to God and ask that we be forgiven for them. Then we get quiet, get still and listen for God's direction for us on what our corrective measures should be. Now about meditation: Many members of A.A. believe that God is found in the stillness – in the quiet. It's hard for us to be able to hear God's direction for us if our minds are running 90 miles an hour. Quieting the noise that lives between our ears is part of the work we do to begin to listen (in meditation) for our corrective measures. Meditation has a hard time for many of us. But it's really quite simple. Just get still! We can do that anywhere. It doesn't have to be on a mountain top with our legs crossed and our fingers in the "ohm" position. It doesn't have to be with candles burning, soft music playing and silence all around us. For many, this knowledge comes in the form of a "gut instinct," that deep inside knowing. Many an alcoholic has been led astray by following their heart and head, but have found great release when following their gut. Deep inside we know the direction God wants us to go, and when we listen to that direction, great events will come to pass for us. —from take the 12.org



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Tradition Eleven (Long Form) Bill W. once said, "We had no public relations policy except for a fear of public relations. Our relations with the general public should be characterized by personal anonymity." Good public relations are A.A. lifelines reaching out to the fellow alcoholic who still does not know us. For years to come, our growth is sure to depend upon the strength and number of these lifelines. Conversely, think about this: Should we identify ourselves by our first and last name when we speak at closed meetings of A.A? Does this violate the Eleventh Tradition? Of course not. We are only anonymous at the level of press, radio, and films. The press has not attended any closed meetings I have spoken at, so I am free to use my whole name. The final paragraph on page 37 of the pamphlet "Frequently Asked Questions About A.A." states: "It should also be noted that within A.A., at A.A. meetings and amongst themselves, A.A. members are not anonymous." Step-Tradition Parallel; The Eleventh Step is related to the Eleventh Tradition: by praying only for knowledge of His will for me and the power to carry that out, I become a source of attraction to God and give Him all credit for my wonderful life. The Eleventh Step poses the guestion, "How can we improve our conscious contact?" The Eleventh Tradition answers that question by pointing out that when we do not take credit for the good we do, we become closer to God in our prayer. —from takethe12.org

Concept Eleven (Long Form) The Trustees Cannot Do It Alone The success of our Trustees relies heavily on those they work with to get the job done. Whether it is: • Non-Trustee committee members, • Our corporation's directors (A.A. World Services, Inc. / A.A. Grapevine, Inc.), • Executives or Staff Members at the General Service Office (GSO)... Our Board of Trustees needs a strong dedication and quality of work to fulfill the actions given them by A.A. Groups (via the General Service Conference) in the U.S. and Canada.—from Takethe12.org



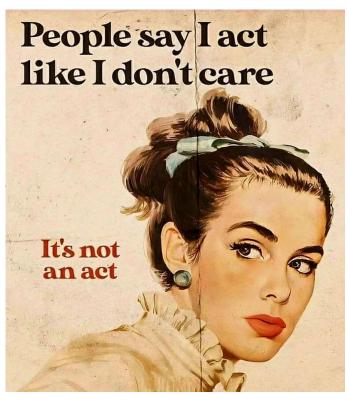
## MAKES ME LAUGH

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

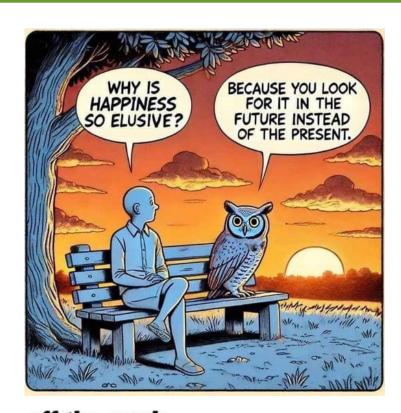
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## MAKES ME LAUGH

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## **BEER MATH**

ONE BEER



Little known fact: Before the crowbar was invented.

Crows simply drank at home.

A COUPLE OF BEERS



A FEW BEERS

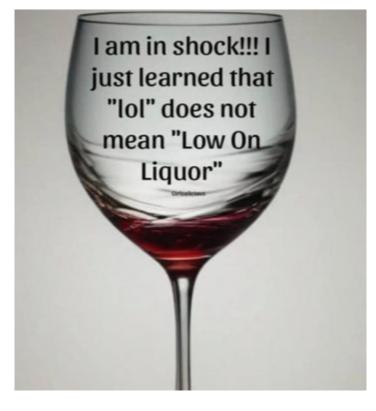




The average person walks 913 miles per year, and drinks 556 glasses (27.8 gallons) of wine per year.



Which is 33 miles to the gallon; which is pretty good.



PRESEN

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TO BENEFIT HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

# FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 2024 DOORS OPEN AT 7 PM MEETING STARTS AT 8 PM

NORTH CHEVY CHASE CHRISTIAN CHURCH 8814 KENSINGTON PKWY CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

ZOOM ID & PASSCODE: CHECK WAIA EVENT PAGE FOR UPDATE

CALL ERYN C FOR SERVICE 301-651-4942

**FREE ENTRY** 



38TH ANNUAL



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17TH, 2024

ZOOM PORTAL OPENS AT 8:30AM - MEETING STARTS AT 9:00AM

ID 835 6563 8123 PASSCODE 6970MC

HAVE YOUR COFFEE & FAVORITE BREAKFAST IN THE LUXURY OF YOUR OWN HOME



## DONATE TODAY





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(WAGSA) WASHINGTON AREA GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY P.O. BOX 5673, FRIENDSHIP STATION WASHINGTON, DC 20016

# **AA 12 Traditions** Workshop

- Hosted by District 20
- All are Welcome!

November 19, 2024 | Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Location: Del Ray AA Club

7611 Clarendon Rd, Bethesda, MD 20814

(Behind the Bethesda Presbyterian Church)

**Hybrid Format:** Attend in-person or via Zoom!



Eat while you learn!



Is there a difference between an individual's and a group's primary purpose?

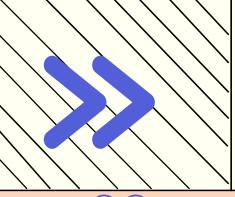
Pizza

Cookies



We are not a glum lot! Join us for an evening full of learning, laughter and smiles!

Activities include: Fellowship, digging into the 12 Traditions Illustrated, Traditions Trivia and Q&A galore!



Bring a sponsor, newcomer, partner, sponsees!

**Zoom ID#** 859 4969 1848 **Password:** 1AmAGSR

Questions? Email: district20dcm@area13aa.org

# Living Sober by the Book

# 25th Anniversary

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

7:30 PM meeting (Zoom opens at 7:15)

Zoom code - 85260920665 PW - 662163 The 40th Annual Terrapin Thanksgiving Gratitude Meeting & Breakfast is on for Thursday, 11/28 in the usual Kensington location, with the babysitting room available. Address:

Christ Church Kensington 4001 Franklin St Kensington, MD 20895 (Entrance on Everrett St)

## Schedule:

7:45am Set-up

8:30am Food drop-off

9:00am Breakfast

10:30am Meeting

11:45am Clean-up

Questions? Want to help with service? Please text Maura at 301-580-6454.



# • CALENDAR • DIGITAL REPORTER

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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## **Area 13 WAGSA**

Monday, November 11th, 2024

6:00 PM —9:00 PM

## In Person

5656a 3rd St NE Washington, DC 20011

For more info: area13aa.org or email: chair@area13aa.org

# 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 Board Meeting**

November 12th, 2024—8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Intergroup Reps please discuss the proposed <u>2025 Budget</u> (https://aa-dc.org/finance) with your group. We will be voting on the 2025 at this meeting.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83460598434? pwd=VVBEK2FNSzcxS3VXZDFVOXhMa1oxZz09

Meeting ID: 834 6059 8434

Passcode: 819862



# CONTRIBUTIONS

January 01, 2024 - October 21, 2024

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8000	8AM Men'sBig Book
1249	9:30 Club Online
180	180 Degree Club
120	14 Promises
1490	AA @ CUA
66	Anacostia Group
1131	Andrew Armed Forces
401	Any Lengths
232	As Bill Sees It NW
179	Aspen Hill 5th Chapter
165	Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri
187	Attitude & Action
604	Back to Basics
135	Beginners R Winners-Live
400	Bethesda Youth
10	Brightwood
660	Broad Highway
1547	Burtonsville Big Book
550	B.Y.O.L.
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2003	Darnestown Men's
320	Darnestown Men's Online
375	DCC 9:30 Club
225	DC Men's Adhoc
489	DCC Noon Group
238	Deanwood Step Group
145	Deanwood Women Rap
250	District 2
360	Downtown Sil Spring
52	
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5	Ex-Libris
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440	Free Spirits				
500	Georgetown Group				
121	Glen Echo Group				
200	Goldsboro Group				
220	Good News Beginners				
338	Grapevine Women				
1356	Greenbelt Step Club				
153	Growing Group				
878	<b>Grupo Virtual Wasingtoniano</b>				
904	Haven At Last				
207	Heliotrope Men's Stag				
120	High Sobriety				
234	How It Works, G'town				
44	Hyattsville Hope Live				
124	ii, and include a timine				
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101	Kensington Big Book				
172	Kid Friendly TP Women				
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	Men in Recovery				
	Merry Miracles				
	Messengers				
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100	Montgomery Cty Women				
720	Montrose Gay				
732	More Peace of Mind				
400 84	Moving Into Solution Mt. Rainier Group				
269	Nativity				
207 90	Never Walk Alone				
84	New Beginners SW				
100	New Unity Gay				
360	N.E. Sunrise				
453	Norbeck Women Fri				
200	Norbeck Women-Wedn				
125	N.W. Metro				
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435 Oasis Women Big Book

20 Old Fashion Group

MBER	11 •	November, 2024
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120	•	Happy Hour
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210	-	
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90	-	•
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714		en Step Live
		en Step Online
570	Sober Livi	ing Group
312		oas Women
1650	St. Franci	s Group
1386	Sun Morn	Breakfast Club
321	Sun. Morr	n Break'f Outdoors
200	Sunday N	Norn Joy
56	Sunrise So	obriety
700	Sunrise Zo	oom
1827	<b>Sunshine</b>	Group G'burg
540	Takoma I	Pk Necessity
195	-	hanksgiving B'fas
131	T.G.I.F.	
166		eep Coming Back
610		Night Men's BS
15	The Way	Group



## CONTRIBUTIONS

January 101, 2024 - October 21, 2024

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- 251 Triangle Club
- 550 Twelve Point Bucks
- 286 Uptown Group
- 400 Victory Lights
- 159 Village Idiots
- 28 Virtually Sober
- 543 We Are All Beginners
- 300 We Care
- 100 Welcome Group
- 25 West Side Beginners
- 190 Wenes. Night Winners
- 543 Westmoreland Women
- 453 Westside Women
- 448 Westside Club
- 407 What's Happening Now
- 125 Women's AA Meeting
- 215 Women's Grapevine
- 216 Women's Happier Hour
- 240 Women Living Sober
- 1200 Yacht Club

292 Birthday

1373 Faithful Fivers

25598 Individuals

100 Memorial



## SUBSCRIBE

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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





## CELEBRATING

WASHINGTON AREA INTERGROUP ASSOCIATION

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### Day

October 24	Mark B.	Progress not Perfection	40 years (correction)
November 1	Linda D.	Simplicity	36 years
November 9	Joseph S.	14 Promises	32 years
November 23	Michael S.	14 Promises	33 years
November 29	Dennis M.	Red Door	30 years

## THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Bill Fronck, September 9, 2024, Mt. Rainier, 41 years sober

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** 

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

Guess who it really Helps?

Call 202-966-9783



# **NOVEMBER 2024**