

*Just accept -  
Don't expect*

*To err is human  
But I need to admit It*

## WAIA April 2025 Announcements

### WAIA's 80th Gala: Back to the 80s!

#### [Get your tickets today!](#)

We invite all of the community in the AA DMV, friends, and of course newcomers to the **80th WAIA Gala on Saturday April 5, 6:30pm, at the Silver Spring Civic Center!**

*As a reader of the New Reporter, use **promo code REPORTER** to get **10% off** your ticket price! For a limited time only so get your tickets or table today! (Note that the transaction fee is optional).*

If you have questions, email [gala@aa-dc.org](mailto:gala@aa-dc.org)

### Calls for Service

**H&I (Hospitals and Institutions) Co-Chair:** Here Ye Here Ye... Are you a fairly organized person, have about 15 hours a month to devote to leading a Service Committee? Then boy oh boy is it your lucky day, the **Hospitals and Institutions Committee is looking for a Co-Chair** that will step into the Chair position in the very near future. Please contact Eryn C to discuss, 301-651-4942.

**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. Contact [chair@aa-dc.org](mailto:chair@aa-dc.org).

### OFFICE and HELPCHAT Volunteers Needed!

**Available In Person Shifts:** Sunday 10 AM-1PM, Tuesday 1-4 PM, Wednesday 4-7 PM, Saturday 1-4 PM.

**Available Remote Shift:** Thursday 7-10 PM (1 Year Sobriety)

Email [help@aa-dc.org](mailto: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](mailto:Nightwatch@aa-dc.org) to volunteer.

## STEP FOUR: THE OTHER MAN'S INVENTORY

### You Spot it – You Got it

#### A member experiments

"Don't take other people's inventory!" chides an AA sponsor to an AA sponsee, sometimes gently, sometimes fiercely. As champions at figuring out the faults of others, we alcoholics in recovery often have others that we ourselves have, so perhaps when we take someone else's inventory, we are really taking our own. I decided to test out this proposition, with remarkably good results.

As an experiment, I decided to deliberately take the inventory of a fellow member of AA, then put my name on it. I wrote down exactly what bothered me about that person: he wore his religion on his sleeve, he thought he had practically invented AA, he talked endlessly about politics, even in meetings. My anger toward this person was exacerbated by the fact that his politics and religion were virtually the opposite of mine. I typed up a neat list of his defects of character on my computer. Then, I erased his name from the top of the list and typed in my own. I printed the list and carried it in my schedule book for two weeks, reading it daily. Each day, I saw my name above a list of his defects. The first few days, I told myself these were really his defects, not mine. But after four or five days of reading the list, some insights into my own behavior appeared. I saw that I also talked too much about religion and politics around the meetings and sometimes even in the course of my sharing at meetings. I had offended lots of people doing that, but I had always blamed them, saying to myself that they just didn't like me. I had not looked at how my own behavior might be the cause of their rebuffs and scorn. I saw that I also tended to pontificate at meetings, as if I were a very knowing old-timer who really knew how to work the program. By the end of the two-week period, I knew whose defects I had listed: my own.

More important than even the insight into my own character that this exercise provided, was the change in my relationship with that fellow AA member. Before starting the experiment, I could not be in the same room with him without feeling a great deal of rage. I often avoided his presence for that reason. However, I was involved in a new meeting that he had started, so it was actually necessary for me to interact with him on certain days of the week. During the course of the experiment, I suddenly lost my anger. I felt absolutely no emotion whatsoever toward this individual. I accepted him precisely as he was, neither approving nor disapproving. I was too busy concentrating on the list of defects, which I was beginning to own as mine. By the end of the two weeks, he had changed toward me as well, congratulating me on a fine sharing here, asking for my advice on something there, and generally being an all-around good fellow. It was truly miraculous.

Since that experiment was successful, I have tried the technique twice more when I found myself extremely angry with someone. It has worked just as well as the first time. In each case, I discovered some unpleasant truths about myself, was able to accept the other person without judgment, and made changes in my own behavior and attitudes that have greatly improved my growth in the life of the spirit.

-- John B., San Jose, California     <http://www.aagrapevine.org/node/32713>

## Step Four

“Made a searching and fearless inventory of ourselves”

I was approaching 5 years sober and I was getting ready to go back out. In my mind I was twirling an ice cube in an old fashion glass looking for a reason to add Scotch. I was still beset with unresolved anger, aka resentments. Anger towards those that had “done me wrong”. Fear was directing my life. Fear of not getting what I wanted. Even fear of success. Success, a term not in my personal vocabulary at that time. I was burdened by the weight of my “shuilt”. The powerful combination of shame and guilt. Shame and guilt for causing the destruction of my marriage. Deep shame and guilt for choosing alcohol over fatherhood. Shame and guilt at being judged defective, a loser. My emotional sobriety was non-existent.

I had attempted a fearful, shallow 4th Step. Locked myself away with no one to help and tried to write about things that were deeply painful. Events and actions in my life that I was denying, justifying, running from and yes, drinking over. I met with my sponsor [I at least had a sponsor] to give him my 5th Step. When I was finished, he looked at me and said “are you kidding me?”

To say the least he was less than impressed with my efforts. Then, one of the recovery angels that exist in the rooms told me about a guided 4th Step workshop. A Joe and Charlie style workshop facilitated by members who understood what was needed to be searching, fearless and thorough in this quest for my truth. It was a game changer. That point where I truly began to turn sobriety into recovery. I listed who or what I was angry at and why. I wrote about my fears. I took that necessary hard look at the harms I had done with special attention to harms done in my relationships, my sex conduct. Then things took an unexpected turn. I was directed to identify my part in all this. My part, give me a break. I was the victim here, right? Wrong! It became painfully apparent that I had a part in starting and/or continuing many of these inventoried items. The truth shall set me free- with a footnote that at first it will sting!

The lasting value of this 4th Step experience is that it has provided me with information I would need in going forward. Insight into the character defects I would be working on in Steps 6 and 7.

A list of my harms was right there in plain sight, allowing me to begin the amends process of Steps 8 and 9. It gave me a format to use for the continuing inventory called for in Step 10.

Step 4 became the foundation, the bedrock upon which I could and have built a sober life.

Tom S., Brooklyn Center



## Tradition 4: From the Bottoms Up

### How change really happens

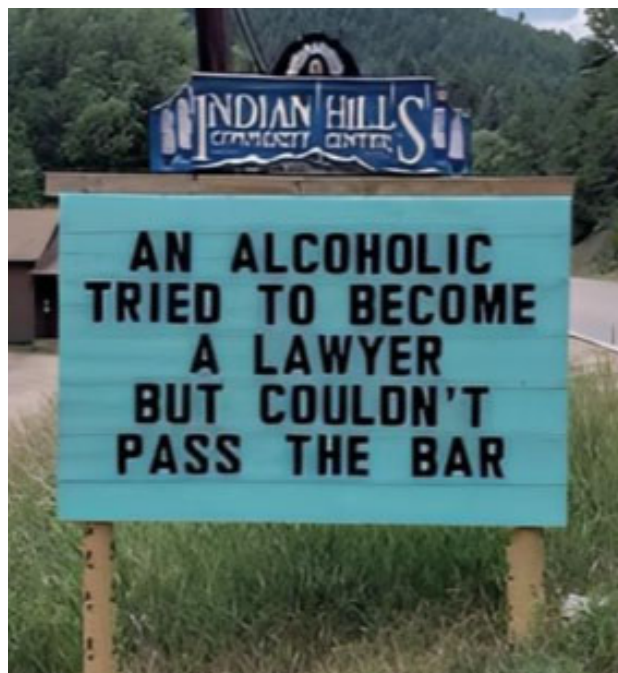
This morning, as I was reading the book Thank You for Sharing--Sixty Years of Letters to the AA Grapevine, I came across letters in a section regarding a story about the Lord's Prayer in AA meetings. As I read from letter to letter, each opinion voicing valid concerns and viewpoints from both sides of the issue, it occurred to me that there may be no better reason for AA members to learn the Traditions and our service structure, and how they allow us to operate, than this topic. It is virtually as old as our Fellowship itself, and returns as regularly as clockwork.

Personally, I have never felt the need to argue about whether or not the Lord's Prayer belongs in meetings, because I know that the Fourth Tradition tells me that "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or meetings a whole"; Therefore, I know it's the group's choice to recite this prayer and not some proclamation that came down from on high.

But change in meetings does not occur from the top down, and a letter to the General Service Office in New York is not a letter to the "powers that be"; Besides, regardless of how much or how well we write, all GSO staff is going to do is reply that they support the group's autonomy and they leave the decision where it belongs, in the hands of the individual members. A.A's service structure is inverted, and any changes in meetings come from the Fellowship and from the groups themselves. In other words, we can write all the letters we want, but if we don't like something that is going on in our A.A. meetings, regularly attending group business meetings is one way to begin changing it. Once in the business meeting, we begin to see how the group functions, how our Traditions work, and how the service structure ticks. Reading the pamphlet "The A.A. Group" will give a better idea about how everything meshes.

If we feel strongly about a topic, we can bring it up in the business meeting. A motion may or may not get passed. But one thing is for sure, we'll see where the power in A.A. rests: on the shoulders of each member who feels strongly about a topic and seeks to change or defend it. We'll also be less likely to be drawn into arguments about it again, too. Safe in the knowledge of how change really happens in AA., we might sit back, listen to the new person's impassioned -pleas, and ask, "So, why don't you attend the business meeting next week if you feel that strongly about it?"

-- Dave R, Manchester, New Hampshire  
<http://www.aagrapevine.org/node/34021>





INVITING THE AA DMU COMMUNITY, FRIENDS, AND NEWCOMERS

WAIAGALA 80TH  
GALA EVENT

BACK  
28'S  
PARTY

Featuring



DJ

LIL'€



SATURDAY  
APRIL 5


SILVER SPRING  
CIVIC BUILDING  
06:30PM  
TICKET: \$50 PP  
DAY COUNT, SPEAKER,  
BUFFET, DANCING!



REGISTER AND INFO AT  
WAIAGALA.COM







*Takoma Park Women's  
Big Book Meeting*

**15th Year  
Anniversary**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

POTLUCK FROM 6 -7 PM  
AA MEETING 7-8 PM  
TWO GREAT SPEAKERS!

TAKOMA PARK  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
310 TULIP AVENUE

Enter by side door on Maple Avenue





# Happy Destiny Retreat

5 pm Friday – 11 am Sunday

May 30 - June 1, 2025

## Camp Round Meadow

14840 Manahan Road, Sabillasville, MD

Service  
Work  
Will Be Part  
of This Retreat!



## \$115 Registration Fee Includes:

- Great Meals & Snacks • Heated Cabins • Al-Anon Participation
- Open AA Meetings • Sober Fellowship • Activities & Workshops

Register and pay online (\$3.00 Service Fee) or use mail-in form

Space is Limited! One person/form please



[happydestinyretreat.org](http://happydestinyretreat.org)

Payment in full preferred OR  
deposit of **\$50 by April 24**  
and **balance due by May 21.**

Mail Registration & Payment to:

**Happy Destiny Retreat  
c/o Mike Krieg**

**13014 Turkey Branch Pkwy  
Rockville, MD 20853**

For more info visit:

[www.happydestinyretreat.org](http://www.happydestinyretreat.org)

email: [happydestinyretreat@gmail.com](mailto:happydestinyretreat@gmail.com)

or call 240.813.9411

Full & Partial Scholarships Available!

☐ I need a scholarship.

No Pets Allowed at the Camp

**Only Registered Participants May Attend**

Name

Address

Phone

Email

T-shirt size: ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ XXXL  
style: ☐ Men ☐ Women

Ride Sharing: ☐ I can offer a ride or ☐ I need a ride

Anonymous scholarship contribution so others may attend

☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$30 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$ other

Dietary Preferences\* (please check all that apply)

☐ Gluten-Free ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Vegan ☐ other

\*While we strive to accommodate a variety of food preferences, if you have allergies, or a specialized diet, you are welcome to bring your own food and store it in the kitchen. Please contact us if you have any questions.



# 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

June 6, 7, & 8, 2025 | Akron, Ohio | Birthplace of A.A.

FOUNDERS' DAY 2025

Please treat each meeting at Founders' Day as your own home group.

## ABSOLUTES

**AS A SAFETY MEASURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON HAS IMPLEMENTED A CLEAR BAG POLICY FOR ALL FOUNDERS' DAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS.** Approved bags include clear plastic, vinyl or PVC bags that do not exceed a size of 12 inches wide by 12 inches high and 6 inches deep. Other approved bags include one-gallon clear plastic freezer bags (Ziploc bag or similar), medical bags and small clutch bags approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap. Prohibited bags include backpacks, binocular cases, camera cases, fanny packs, large-printed bags, mesh bags, purses and tinted plastic bags. Again, this policy applies to ALL Founders' Day meetings and events. **CLEAR BAGS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONSITE. MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT [WWW.FOUNDERSDAY.ORG](http://WWW.FOUNDERSDAY.ORG).**

ALL STATE, LOCAL AND/OR UNIVERSITY OF AKRON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS THAT ARE IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF THE EVENT WILL BE ENFORCED AND UPHOLD ACCORDINGLY.

All pre-registration packets must be picked up by 6:00 p.m. Saturday. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Registration opens 8:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Picture I.D. is required.

2025 Name badges & ribbons must be worn ON CAMPUS and for admittance to all meetings.

### NO EXCEPTIONS!

All rooms, buildings, and stadium at The University of Akron are non-smoking.

NO VAPOR/E CIGARETTES permitted in ANY building.

Handicapped parking will be strictly enforced.

University police will ticket and tow all unauthorized vehicles parking in handicap spaces.

Violators will incur a fine of \$250

No animals or campfires allowed in R.V. area.

NO ANIMALS ON CAMPUS, POLICE WILL ENFORCE.

NO hover boards, skateboards, or roller blades permitted on campus.

No motorcycles allowed on the grass.

No beach balls at any meeting.

The Sunday morning motorcade to Dr. Bob's grave site is a conference event and as such, you must be registered to participate.

Credit cards will now be accepted for both onsite registration and in the literature room.

## SPECIAL NEEDS

All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

Wheelchairs are not available on campus. You may bring your own.

Please contact the Founders' Day Committee with any special needs by May 15, 2025.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

No incoming calls accepted at dorms.

No entry to RV sites until 8:00 a.m. on Friday morning. A permit is required prior to set-up.

No camping tents allowed.

**FOR THE SATURDAY NIGHT BIG MEETING, WE WILL ALL BE UNITED TOGETHER ON THE WEST SIDE ONLY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON INFOCISION STADIUM. STADIUM WEATHER CONTINGENCY**

**PLAN - SEE WEB SITE. NO BEACH BALLS!**

**THIS IS AN OPEN AIR STADIUM SO PREPARE ACCORDINGLY.**

**NO REFUNDS FOR BASIC REGISTRATION.  
\$35.00 FEE FOR ALL PACKAGE PLAN CANCELLATIONS!**



# Founders' Day Registration Form | online at [www.foundersday.org](http://www.foundersday.org)

Everyone must be registered, including children. All registrations must be postmarked by May 15, . **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Name (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* If you provide an e-mail address, you will get confirmation via e-mail only!

☐ Check for special needs - handicapped.  
Handicapped parking will be strictly enforced.

☐ Hearing Impaired- ASL Interpreter Requested

All beds are at a fixed height of 42 inches. The University of Akron **CANNOT** adjust bed height.

**\*INDIVIDUAL FORMS  
REQUIRED FOR EACH  
PACKAGE PLAN\***

Onsite registration closes at 6:00 pm Saturday, **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

**Basic Registration** \$35 x QTY = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

(Basic Registration will be \$45 on site conference weekend)

**INCLUDES ADMISSION TO ALL MEETINGS.**

**MUST** have a picture I.D. for pickup.

**Package Plan A** \$300 = \$ ONE ONLY

Sex: M ☐ F ☐

**BASIC REGISTRATION INCLUDED.**

Includes admission to all meetings, meals, room, and bus tour.

Report directly to designated dormitory to pick up weekend package and room key.

You must have a picture I.D. to pick up your reservation package.

All rooms and buildings at the university are non-smoking.

**Package Plan B** \$225 = \$ ONE ONLY

Sex: M ☐ F ☐

**BASIC REGISTRATION INCLUDED.**

**PLAN B DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS.**

Includes all items in Package Plan A *except* meals.

Rooming with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## MEALS

## QTY

## TOTAL

SATURDAY

Breakfast

\$22 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch

\$27 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner

\$40 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY

Breakfast

\$22 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS — ☐ Diabetic ☐ Vegan ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten-Free

## MOTORHOME SITE FEES

## QTY

## TOTAL

**NO TENT CAMPING!**

RV Site Tag

\$40 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(no hook-ups available)

per site/whole weekend

Each RV must have a **Site Tag** to set up.

**ABSOLUTELY NO PETS OR FIRES!**

**REGISTRATION TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENTS MUST BE IN U.S. DOLLARS ONLY.  
MAKE CHECKS / MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO:

**Akron Intergroup**  
PO Box 12  
Akron, OH 44309-0012

REFUNDS requested in writing only by mail or email  
and postmarked / received prior to May 15, 2025.  
[treasurerfd@akronaa.org](mailto:treasurerfd@akronaa.org)

PAYMENT METHODS FOR MAIL IN REGISTRATION:

☐ CHECK ☐ MONEY ORDER

All Credit Card payments must be made online at [www.foundersday.org](http://www.foundersday.org).  
Click on the Founders' Day link and follow the instructions.

**NEW!**

**Introducing the *guidebook* app for Founders' Day 2025!**

This app will serve as a companion to the printed program, offering a variety of useful features, including:

- Real-time notifications for inclement weather or other unexpected updates.
- Digital access to the event schedule and campus maps.
- Details about historical sites, donation opportunities, and on-campus dining options.

For more information, visit the Founders' Day website: <https://foundersday.org/>



Save  
the  
Date!

# 2025 AA International Convention

July 3-6, 2025



Language of the Heart  
Lenguaje del corazón  
Le langage du cœur



Scan here!





# WANT TO HAVE FUN AT DCC???

The Dupont Circle Club hosts Game Day the last Sunday of every month from 1:30pm - 4pm



### Area 13 WAGSA Special Assembly

**Monday, April 14th, 2025**

**6:00 PM —7:00 PM**

Orientation for GSRs + DCMs

**7:00 PM —9:00 PM**

Special Assembly

**In Person**

5656a 3rd St NE  
Washington, DC 20011

For more info: [area13aa.org](http://area13aa.org) or email: [chair@area13aa.org](mailto: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](mailto:events@aa-dc.org).

## WAIA Board Meeting

**Tuesday, April 8th, 2025—8:00 PM - 9:00 PM**

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

97 11th Step Practice  
 100 Anacostia Group  
 686 Andrew's Armed Forces  
 80 As Bill Sees IT NW  
 454 Attitude & Action  
 349 Broad Highway  
 320 Burtonsville Big Book  
 315 B.Y.O.L. (nonsmokers)  
 60 Change of Life  
 124 Cedar Lane Women's  
 575 Corona Vagabond  
 182 Cosmopolitan Group  
 48 Daily Reflections SW  
 25 Daily Reflections UP  
 73 Darne Good Big Book  
 501 Darnestown Men's  
 218 Darnestown Men's Online  
 62 Deanwood Step Group  
 151 District 20  
 180 Epiphanies  
 20 Foggy Bottom Young Peeps  
 180 Free Spirits  
 128 Glen Echo Group  
 262 Greenbelt Step Club  
 300 Georgetown Group  
 312 Good News Beginners  
 100 Greenbelt Step Club  
 146 Grupo Washintoniano  
 50 Hope Fellowship  
 154 How It Works Germantown  
 120 Hyattsville Hope Online  
 53 Improving Consc. Contact  
 135 Informed Group  
 481 Just 4-2 Day  
 200 Language of the Heart  
 10 Let Go Let God  
 145 Liberty Group  
 130 Menace 2 Serenity  
 113 Mideast Group  
 120 Midtown  
 175 Monday Winners  
 275 Mont. Co. Women Online  
 228 More Peace of Mind  
 93 Mt. Rainer  
 20 New Beginnings NW  
 66 New Hope 123  
 242 New Unity Gay  
 105 Northeast New Hope  
 100 N.W. Metro

201 Norbeck Women Friday  
 25 Oasis Women Big Book  
 50 Old Fashion Group  
 20 On Awakening  
 48 Out to Lunch  
 1352 P Street  
 14 Pointer Ridge Group  
 100 Potomac High Noon  
 490 Potomac Women  
 443 Progress Not Perfection  
 168 Quince Orchard  
 59 Redgate  
 144 Riderwood Bills  
 254 Rosedale Sobriety  
 65 Saturday Afternoon-UP  
 144 Serenity House  
 180 Serious Business  
 276 Silver Spring Beginners BB  
 48 Simply Sober  
 240 Six & Seven Step Online  
 250 Sober Living  
 3069 Spiritual Awakening  
 91 Starting Over  
 70 Sunday Men's Step  
 270 Sunday Morning Breakfast  
 144 Sunday Morning Brunch  
 555 Sunshine G'burg  
 180 Takoma Pk Necessity  
 5 The Way Group  
 247 Thursday Small Group  
 170 Twelve Point Bucks  
 91 Village Idiots  
 300 We Are All Beginners  
 600 We Care  
 256 Westmoreland Women  
 142 West Side Women  
 317 What's Happening Now  
 100 Birthday  
 687 Faithful Fivers  
 6364 Individuals  
 Memorial

You can make a contribution directly to WAIA for your Group or as an individual:

<https://aa-dc.org/give>.



Checks can be mailed to:

WAIA  
 4530 Connecticut Ave, NW  
 Suite 111  
 Washington DC 20008.

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 per year, \$28.00 for two years**

**\$12.00 Group Rate per year**

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](mailto: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](mailto:newreporter@aa-dc.org)**





Day

## 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.



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

## VOLUNTEER

Guess who it really Helps?

Call 202-966-9783

# APRIL 2025