

Focus on the step in front of
you, not the whole staircase.

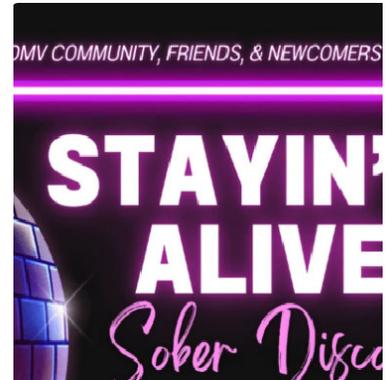
Made A Decision
Then
Allow G. O. D.
(good orderly direction) Guide
You thru the Remaining Steps

WAIA March 2026 Announcements

WAIA's 81st Gala: Stayin' Alive Sober Disco!

This event promises to be an inspiring evening filled with **Food, Fellowship, Raffle, Sobriety Countdown, Speaker Lee M and dancing to the tunes spun by DJ lil'e.**

Get your tickets *HERE*



To volunteer join us at our next Committee Meeting March 3 at 7:00 PM on Zoom
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226361243?
pwd=zklErnZZ3gwDtlRYPwcRaSPobRk31d.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226361243?pwd=zklErnZZ3gwDtlRYPwcRaSPobRk31d.1)

Join us on February 10th for the Monthly WAIA Board Meeting:

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

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. Contact chair@aa-dc.org.

Office, Nightwatch and Helpchat Volunteers Needed!

Available In Person Shifts: Sunday 1-4 PM, Tuesday 4-7pm Saturday 1-4 PM.

Nightwatch Volunteers: (1 Year Sobriety Requested) Sunday 10PM-6AM, Monday 10PM-6AM, Friday 10PM-6AM, **Helpchat** - many shifts. (1 Year Sobriety Requested)

Email help@aa-dc.org for more information or call 202-966-9783 and ask for Luella or Clo'via

Tradition 3 - The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon open their doors and offer fellowship to anyone who fits the eligibility outlined in Tradition 3 and generally leave that determination up to the individual. Basically, those who attend these 12-step meetings either feel a sense of "belonging," or they do not and move on. The reason that Tradition 3 was emphasized by the founders of the 12-step programs was to protect the fellowship from outside influences—to ensure that the meetings would maintain their primary focus and not be diluted by the influx of other issues or influences.

Some old timers today believe that the fellowship has been diluted by the inclusion into its meetings of those who are primarily dealing with issues other than problems with alcohol, such as drug abuse. They feel that the program has gotten away from its spiritual foundations and primary purpose and may become diluted to the point of ineffectiveness.

Here are some observations on this topic from visitors to an online discussion board.

Freedom to Choose

"I believe this tradition is just what it says: 'The only requirement is to have a desire to stop drinking.' Some may not know or believe they have an alcohol use disorder but still wish to live a life free of alcohol. I have no quarrel with this. For those of us who have an alcohol use disorder and do not wish to share a meeting with those who are not, closed meetings are available.

I would certainly hope that anyone who wishes to stop drinking will have the freedom to choose Alcoholics Anonymous as their means of support. Perhaps the word 'membership' is the catch. One does not 'have' to become a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. We still have freedom of choice. We must honor the 'closed meetings' format to protect the spiritual foundation of anonymity.

I would like to close with this. The founding fathers of A.A. learned through trial and error. I am a traditionalist at heart. I want A.A. to be here whenever someone reaches out for help. Just as it was for me. This is why the traditions were founded. I will protect them to the best of my ability."

—Magic

(<https://www.verywellmind.com/a-study-of-tradition-3-69422>)

Step 3 In Action

Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

The Third Step Prayer remains on my refrigerator year after year—not that I haven't long ago memorized it, but it evokes a different meaning with each reading starting with the first sentence: "God, I offer myself to Thee—to build with me and do with me as Thou wilt."

Here I realize that I don't know exactly God's will for me, but I do have a fairly good idea. I am left off the hook here by a sentence on page 85 of the Big Book: "Every day is a day when we must carry the vision of God's will into all our activities." And yes, I do have a general idea (vision) of appropriate action as each new circumstance arises. Of course, this may involve many Eleventh Step prayers throughout each day.

"Relieve me of the Bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will."

Before learning about the Twelve Steps I had no idea of what constituted the bondage of self. But then when I did Steps Four and Five with my sponsor he was not fain to point them out. I have come to believe there is an underlying four-part set of grosser handicaps which populate this deadly barrier from truth in drink: Selfishness, dishonesty, resentment and fear.

"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."

I developed a good notion of my "difficulties" when I bring to light the many times I have taken the easy path when I knew, absolutely and for sure, that it was not my vision of God's will. As the famous comedian, Red Skelton, used to say: 'I just dood it!'

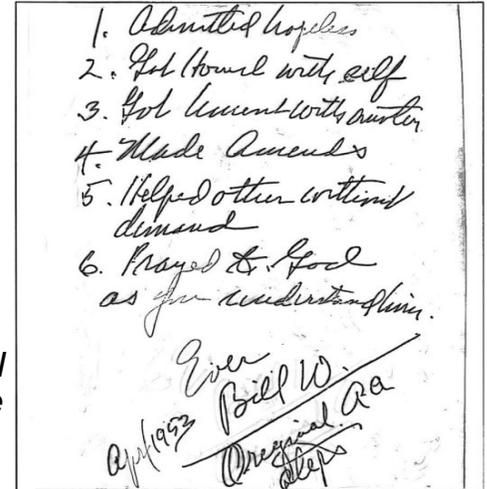
"May I do Thy will always."

I used to think that living the AA program of action was calling my sponsor, going to meetings, conventions, Twelve Stepping, etc. However, I have come to believe that "always" means how I drive a car or a nail, my attitude toward my fellow man, or, as a matter of fact, everything I do, or fail to do—ALWAYS!

- Bob S., Richmond, IN
(<https://www.aacle.org/step-three-action/>)

85 Years-Ago This Spring— In *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age* (pp.191-192), Bill W. recounts new demands placed on the AA Headquarters in the Spring of 1941 as a result of the publication of Jack Alexander's seminal piece printed in the March 1st 1941 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*:

...Jack's extensive investigation and his remarkable capacity for sympathy and rapport with us produced a piece which had immense impact. By mail and telegram a deluge of pleas for help and orders for the book **Alcoholics Anonymous**, first in hundreds and then in thousands, hit Box 658. Ruth and I laughed as we remembered the day less than two years before when the postal clerk had handed us those jeering post cards from the doctors. Pawing at random through the incoming mass of heartbreaking appeals, we found ourselves crying. What on earth could we do with them? We were really swamped.



We saw that we must have help. So we rounded up every AA woman and every AA wife who could use a typewriter. The upper floor of the Twenty-Fourth Street Club was converted into an emergency headquarters. For days Ruth and the volunteers tried to answer the ever increasing tide of mail. They were almost tempted into using form letters. But experience had shown that this would not do at all. A warm personal communication **must** be sent to every prospect and his family. The peak of the flood finally passed, but the regular correspondence traffic through Headquarters remained so great that we saw we would have to have permanent paid help. Volunteers could not handle the situation.

We also realized that these increased demands upon the office could not be met out of book income. So for the first time we asked the AA groups to help. Following the Post piece, Trustees Howard and Bert went on the road, one to Philadelphia and Washington, the other to Akron and Cleveland. They asked that all AA groups contribute to a special fund in the Foundation which would be earmarked "for AA office expenses only." The contributions would be entirely voluntary. As a measuring stick, it was suggested that each group send in one dollar per member per year....

At the end of 1941, when the group secretaries made their reports, we found that the membership had jumped to 8,000, an increase of 6,000 over 1940.....

60 Years-Ago This Month— Ebby T., Bill W's sponsor, dies in Ballston Spa, N.Y. on March 21, 1966 at the age of 69. Ebby had two years of sobriety at the time of his death.

GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY will meet on Sunday, March 20th, at 3:00 pm in St. Anthony's Church, 12th and Monroe, NE. All Secretaries, General Service Representatives and other interested persons are urged to attend.

The March 1966 *WAIA Reporter* announces: **NEW GROUP IN POTOMAC MARYLAND AREA –** Beginning Mar. 20th and each Sunday thereafter the Potomac, Md. Group will meet at Our Lady of Mercy Church located at Bradley Blvd, and Kentsdale Road in Potomac, Md. This will serve members of our Fellowship in the Upper Northwest and Montgomery Co. vicinities. Pass the word.

The SOUTHEAST GROUP will have a dance after their regular meeting on the last Saturday of the month.

Looking for an anniversary celebration?! Try the COSMOPOLITAN GROUP'S 21st Anniversary to be held on 15 April – this is an eatin' meetin'. Speakers will be Ed and Ethel N. from Philadelphia.

The table drawing at 4:00 pm on March 19 for the WAIA's 24th Annual Banquet. The banquet scheduled for April 2nd 1966 is to be held in the International Ballroom of the new Washi. Hilton.

35 Years-Ago This Month— MINUTES OF THE WAIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 3/12,1991:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Carl V.: Intergroup now has service available for the hearing impaired. If anyone needs to arrange for a hearing impaired interpreter or signer, contact Central Office. There was a long discussion of the Bylaws which will be addressed in the Rules Committee Report. There was also discussion of the Picnic which will be reported on later in the meeting.

OFFICE MANAGER'S REPORT - The *Where & When* now lists 1,687 meetings.

GSA LIAISON Scotty: The 18th Annual General Service Assembly Mini Conference, *Sponsorship-Gratitude in Action*, will be held on March 23, 1991 from 9:00-3:00 at St. Paul Episcopal Church in NW. The cost is \$10.00 and you will need to pre-register. [In 1995 the Mini-Conference became free with the suggestion of a donation by groups and individuals attending.]

RULES COMMITTEE Carl: In October of 1990 the Board approved the amendment of the Bylaws of WAIA. After the vote was taken and the amendment was approved an issue was raised whether or not the Bylaws that were amended were valid. The Executive Committee has done extensive research to find out the status of the Bylaws. Jack went to visit the Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Corporate Division of the DC Government and his research found that up until 1973 there were 4 filings with the Corporate Division and they had to do with the name change of the organization. In 1973 WAIA was incorporated as a non-profit organization for tax purposes. **NEW BUSINESS -** Mike J. from the Bowie group presented an idea of having volunteers answer phones at home (from 10 pm - 10 am) with a call forwarding service.

Just for Laughs

Paddy had been drinking at his local Dublin pub all day and most of the night. Mick, the bartender, says "You'll not be drinking any more tonight, Paddy." Paddy replies "OK Mick, I'll be on my way then. Paddy spins around on his stool and steps off. He falls flat on his face.

"What the..." he says and pulls himself up by the stool and dusts himself off. He takes a step towards the door and falls flat on his face again. "Damn!" he says. He looks to the doorway and thinks that if he can just get to the door and get some fresh air he'll be fine. He belly crawls to the door and shimmies up the door frame. He sticks his head outside and takes a deep breath of fresh air, feels much better and takes a step out onto the pavement and falls flat on his face.

"Bi Jesus...I'm soused," he says He can see his house just a few doors down, and decides to try for it. He crawls down the street and shimmies up the door frame, opens the door and looks inside. He takes a look up the stairs and says, "No flappin' way".

But he somehow crawls up the stairs to his bedroom door and thinks, "I think I can make it to the bed." He takes a step into the room and falls flat on his face again.

He says "this is hell. I gotta stop drinkin, "but manages to crawl to the bed and fall in.

The next morning, his wife comes into the room carrying a cup of coffee and says, "Get up Paddy. Did you have a bit to drink last night?" Paddy says, " I did Jess. I was totally piss-faced. But how'd you know?"

"Mick called... You left your wheelchair at the pub".



If you don't use fast food napkins as Kleenex in your car, you must be in a whole different tax bracket



Part 2



BILL W.



DR. BOB

Milestones in AA History ~ 1935-1971

Saturday, March 14

Fellowship: 6 PM • Event begins: 7 PM

*Presented by Frederick's own
"Busdriver" Mike*

**Trinity United
Methodist Church**

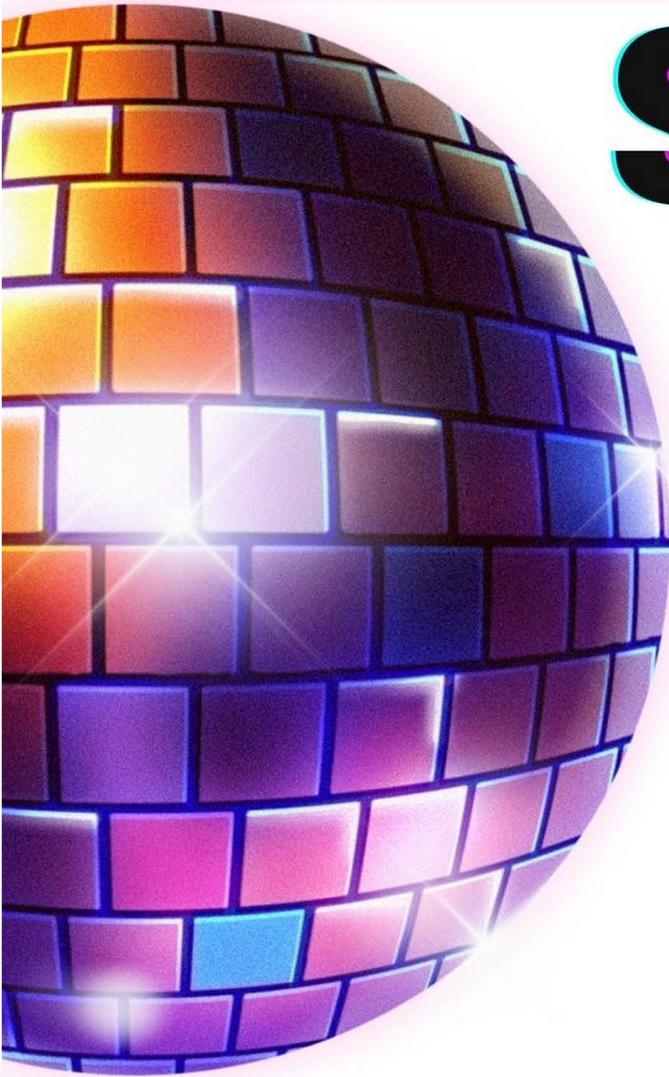
705 W. Patrick St., Frederick



Popcorn & Drinks provided! Bring a snack to share!

For more information: workshops@westcentralaa.org

INVITING THE AA DMV COMMUNITY, FRIENDS, & NEWCOMERS



STAYIN' ALIVE

Sober Disco

SATURDAY, 21 MARCH 2026
SILVER SPRING CIVIC CENTER

DOORS 6:00 PM
TICKET: \$60 PP

WAIA 81st
Gala Event



DAY COUNT • SPEAKER • RAFFLE • BUFFET • DANCING

REGISTER AND INFO AT WAIAGALA.COM

SOUTHERN MARYLAND'S 15TH ANNUAL ROUNDUP

with Al-Anon Participation

March 20-22, 2026

DoubleTree by Hilton
Annapolis, Maryland



Registration Opens
September 1, 2025
To register and for lodging information, visit
www.southernmarylandroundup.org Email
Questions to
info@southernmarylandroundup.org



SPEAKERS

Ginny Q. Ocala, FL
Clif G. Oklahoma City, OK
Amy D. Louisville, KY
Ralph W. Los Angeles, CA
Lori G. Oklahoma City, OK

PRICING

Early-Bird Registration through January 31, 2026: \$50
Saturday Buffet Dinner (WILL SELL OUT QUICKLY): \$40
Registration Beginning February 1, 2026: \$60

“WE HAD TO FEARLESSLY FACE THE PROPOSITION THAT EITHER GOD IS
EVERYTHING OR ELSE HE IS NOTHING.”

~ BB, PG. 53

2026 Mini Conference



Sunday, April 12
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Kennedy High School

Cafeteria - Main Level

1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, 20902

REGISTER HERE:



Share your group's conscience to prepare the Delegate for the annual General Service Conference.

Doors open at 8:30 AM.

Light refreshments will be provided

2026 Mini Conferencia



Domingo, Abril 12
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Kennedy High School
Cafetería - Nivel Principal
1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring, 20902

INSCRIBIR AQUÍ



Comparte la conciencia de tu grupo para
preparar al Delegado para la Conferencia
General de Servicio.

Las puertas abren a las 8:30 a.m.
Se ofrecerán refrigerios ligeros.

Gratitude Breakfast

Sunday,
April 12
8:30-11:30

Elks Lodge
289 Willowdale Dr., Frederick



Speaker: Dave N.
from Annapolis

Buffet Breakfast • 50/50
Fellowship • Sobriety Countdown
Book Raffle

Tickets available online at
<https://bit.ly/3NGYiVT>,
scan this QR code:
or in person from an Intergroup Rep



information:
activities@westcentralaa.org



WAGSA Area Committee Meeting

In Person—March 9, 2026

Orientation for GSRs + DCMs 6:00 PM—7:00 PM
WAGSA Area Committee Meeting - 7:00 PM—9:00 PM

To join the video meeting, click this new link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82414991286>, Meeting ID: 824 1499 1286 There is no password needed

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

Area 13 2026 Mini Conference

WAIA Monthly Board Meeting

WAIA monthly Board meeting—2nd Tuesday of the month (except August)

March 10, 2026—8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Meeting ID: 834 6059 8434
Passcode: 819862
Dial-In: 301-715-8592, Passcode: 819862

Sunday April 12, 2026

9:00 AM—1:00 PM.

Kennedy High School Cafeteria—Main Level.
1901 Randolph Rd
Silver Spring MD



60 14 Promises
252 180 Degree Club
103 Anacostia Group
400 Andrew's Armed Forces
60 Aspen Hill Phoenix
37 Attitude & Action
20 Brightwood
251 Burtonsville Big Book
1080 B.Y.O.L.
40 Conscious Contact
401 Darnestown Men
106 Darnstown Men Online
1770 Downtown Silver Spring
115 DCC 9:30 Club Live
146 Dunrobbin Group
120 Free Spirits
700 Fireside Spirituality
594 Georgetown Group
150 Good News Beginners
125 Goose Hung High
900 Haven at Last
125 Informed Group
382 Into Action
154 Irreverent Women
303 Lawyers Group
25 Let Go Let God
6 Men In Recovery
232 Messengers
900 Midtown
1358 Monday Men
77 Montg. County Women online
8 Navy Yard Big Book
121 New Beginnings NW
200 New Unity Gay Group
44 NW Metro Group
311 Norbeck Women Friday
30 Old Fashion Group
50 P Street
89 Poolesville Pot Luck
57 Potomac Men
333 Potomac Women
421 Progress Not Perfection
254 Quince Orchard
705 Radicals
500 Rarely Have We Seen a Per-
Son Fail
125 Redgate
160 Riderwood Bills

85 Singleness of Purpose
500 Six & Seven Step Live
288 Sober Living
700 St. Camillus Group
300 Sunshine G'burg
373 The Capacity to be Honest
99 T.G.I. 5:30 Online
92 The Last Stop
10 The Way Group
400 Triangle Clb Late Night
180 Twelve Point Bucks
228 Village Idiots
150 We Are All Beginners
329 We Care
262 Westmoreland Women
136 Westside Women
46 Women Living sober
989 Yacht Club

100 Birthday
412 Faithful Fivers
6122 Individuals
Memorial

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

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



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>. o 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.

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
2/5/2026	Humble Doug	Sunshine Group	45 years
3/6/2026	Carleton H.	Welcome Group	34 years
3/6/2026	Dorothy E.	Welcome Group	34 years
3/6/2026	Ricky M.	Welcome Group	33 years
3/17/2026	Brown Bag Dave	Hill Lunch	42 years
3/22/2026	Glorianne S.	All for One Agnostics	28 yeras

THINGS WE CANNOT CHANGE

Anniversaries should be called into WAIA (202) 966-9115 as early as possible, by the 20th of the preceding month.

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



New Reporter

MARCH 2026