



***Made direct amends to such people wherever possible,
except when to do so would injure them or others***

Many of us exclaimed, "What an Order! I can't go through with it."

WAIA September 2026 Announcements

We invite groups to elect Intergroup Reps to have us join the September 9th board meeting at 8PM:

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

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

Meeting ID: 834 6059 8434

Passcode: 819862

Dial-In: 301-715-8592, Passcode: 819862

Come help us plan the 2027 WAIA Celebration of Sobriety Event. (formerly the named Gala), September 15, 2026. All Volunteers Welcome

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226361243?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226361243?pwd=zklErnZZ3gwDtlRYPwcRaSPobRk31d.1)

[pwd=zklErnZZ3gwDtlRYPwcRaSPobRk31d.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82226361243?pwd=zklErnZZ3gwDtlRYPwcRaSPobRk31d.1)

Meeting ID: 822 2636 1243

Passcode: 610854

Office, Nightwatch and Helpchat Volunteers Needed!

Available In Person Shifts: Saturday 10AM-1PM, 1-4 PM & Saturday 4-7PM

Remote Phone Shifts: (1 Year Sobriety Requested) Tuesday 7-10PM, Sunday 7-10 PM

Nightwatch Volunteers: (1 Year Sobriety Requested) Sunday 10PM-6AM, Monday 10PM-6AM, Monday 6AM-10AM, Wednesday & Thursday 6AM-10AM, and 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

Please direct all
communications to:

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

To: GSRs, DCMs, Trustees, Non-trustee Directors, Area Officers & Committee Chairs, Delegates, Appointed Committee Members, Intergroups and Central Offices, Group Contacts, GSO and Grapevine Employees

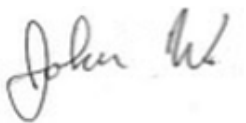
August 26, 2026

Dear A.A. Friends:

We are writing to provide an update regarding the forthcoming publication of the much-anticipated fifth edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous*. At the July 30 meeting of the A.A. World Services Board, the Publishing Committee recommended, and the full board approved, that the fifth edition hardcover be produced with a removable dust jacket and that a list price of \$20 USD be adopted. We are on track with the production process to publish the hardcover of the fifth edition, updated with 26 new stories of recovery, in February 2027.

We share the Fellowship's excitement about the fifth edition of our beloved Big Book—coming more than 25 years after the publication of the fourth edition. More information about the publication of the fifth edition will follow this fall.

Warmly,



John W.
Chair, AAWS Board



Bob W.
General Manager, G.S.O.

Step 9

“Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others. “

I believe that each Step has a gift for me. Throughout my sobriety as I “worked” the Steps and learned how to incorporate the principle of each Step into my life I found I received a gift from each one. The gift I received from each step was unique and especially what I needed most at that time. A spiritual awakening, freedom of some kind, a new awareness, shedding another piece of my armor and letting in a little more light. Maybe you could relate to some of my experiences or maybe yours were completely different. This, I think, is the miracle of the Steps. Same Steps, yet each of us has our own personal experience with them. Amends are not just about saying, “I am sorry”. How many times have I said that! I like Webster’s New World Dictionary definition of amends: “Something given or done to make up for injury, loss etc. that one has caused”.

After I had completed my Fifth Step, I thought I had done the hardest thing I would have to do in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Then I came to Steps 8 & 9. Yikes! I felt like everything was my fault. How could I ever climb this mountain? I reviewed my list with my sponsor. After some deletions and additions and lots of praying for willingness, I was ready to go into action.

The gifts and miracles I had received so far, and the friendships and trust I had formed with my sponsor and others in the fellowship, gave me the courage to press on. The “Big Book” of Alcoholics Anonymous spends more time on step nine than on any other step. Several specific directions and scenarios are depicted. I found it helpful to reread that section before each attempt. I am reminded to be humble but not to grovel, to focus on my own errors and not on those I perceive were made by others. The book reminds me that all people may not be receptive, but

not to be discouraged. Most of all it is stressed that we must not cause any harm in the process of making our amends. The largest amends I felt I owed was to my family. I made direct amends to them when they were willing to listen. I told them of the wrongs I felt I had done to them, asked if there was anything I could do to make it right, and became the best sister and daughter I knew how to be. I understood that I had to let them be who they were and not what I expected them to be. I understood that my mother would never be the “Mommy” I had always resented her for not being. The gift I received from that is a feeling of being a member of my family instead of a visitor. I saw my mother in a different light. I came to understand her as a woman who had also survived much and I was able to honor her. When my mother passed away last year I was truly grateful that I had completed Step 9 with her and that we had several years of a respectful peaceful relationship.

Step 9 is about cleaning house and healing. When I have caused “injury or loss” to someone I have also harmed myself. I have created guilt and fear and alienated myself. So, as I make the amends, I am also healed. The healing I experienced in those relationships spills over into all my relationships. The gifts from working this step are many. Remember that this Step is on the threshold of the “Promises”. If you are new and wondering “what’s in this program for me?”, I suggest you grab a Big Book and go to the end of Step nine and read the “Promises”. Many of them have come true for me. I thank God for the program of Alcoholics Anonymous and the many gifts and miracles I have received from working the Steps.

- Daria S.

(Reprinted from A Desert Lifeline, a publication of the Central Intergroup Office of the Desert, September 2025)

A Second Chance

When I was first advised that I needed to put AA ahead of my children's extracurricular activities and family events, that going to an AA meeting was "more important" than going to my son's soccer game, I thought, No, I can't do that. The kids will be so disappointed if I'm not there. They will think I don't care. I had believed that I was doing a good job of hiding my drinking from my children. I thought they didn't know the extent of my disease. But the truth was I had become an embarrassment to my children. They didn't know if I was going to smell like alcohol, stumble in the stands or cheer too loudly from the sidelines. By the time I truly surrendered to this disease, my children had lost all respect and wanted nothing to do with me. They didn't care if I was at their events.

The amount I drank at my children's activities evolved slowly as my disease tightened its grip. It began with sharing a bottle of wine with other parents in our hotel rooms at out-of-town events. It progressed to making sure that I hung out with the other parents who I knew drank, who wouldn't judge me for ordering a glass of wine at team mealtimes or for bringing my own vodka to my hotel room. But my disease kept progressing and in the end, I found myself hiding my liquor. I would sit in my car on the hill above the high school soccer field, watching soccer games from there alone, so I could drink and wait for my son to drive us home. In all these events there were other parents drinking too, even up on the hilltop. This enabled me to justify my drinking. I told myself that there was nothing wrong with my actions if other parents were doing it too. It didn't occur to me that this behavior was odd, that most people could attend their children's activities without having to bring a flask of alcohol with them.

The bottom came for me three months after I had walked into my first AA meeting. I had not been successful with staying sober for more than a week or two at a time because I was working the program "my way." I wasn't doing the Steps or calling my sponsor. My bottom was ugly. I humiliated myself and my family by my drunken actions at Mardi Gras. I ended up in treatment and came to realize that I could not stay sober without the help of the program. It took a few weeks, but I finally surrendered. I became willing to make AA and sobriety my number one priority, placing it even above my children. I learned that my kids would prefer to have neither of their parents at their extracurricular events as opposed to a drunk parent. I realized that I had not been success-

ful in hiding my drinking from them, that I had hurt them and that they didn't trust me. I had ruined my relationships with them. They cut me out of their lives even as I gained some sobriety. I missed almost all my children's activities for the first nine months of my sobriety because I went from treatment to a half-way house more than 250 miles away. During this time however, I immersed myself in my program. I followed the directions of my sponsor and therapist. I trusted the old-timers who promised me that all I needed to do was "work the Steps and do the next right thing" and that eventually my kids would want me to be a part of their lives again. There were many false starts and a few setbacks to rebuilding the relationships with my children. At times I wasn't sure there was any hope. I wanted to give up, but I saw other families experience healing. I wanted what they had, and I had no choice other than to trust my more experienced peers.

About a year into my sobriety, a pivotal opportunity came when my son, who was a rising senior in high school, asked me to take him on a road trip to look at several colleges. The trip was successful even though we spent many long hours in silence in the car. I honored his desire to not talk about any of our "issues"—neither my drinking nor my sobriety. This trip led to others, and he and I ended up spending many hours driving across the Southeast to look at different campuses and speak to admissions officers. I worked on making living amends to him. Our relationship began to grow. It was a slow and painful process for both of us, but each trip brought us a little closer and offered us the opportunity to begin building a brand-new relationship. It took over a year for any of my children to want to spend time with me—a full year. And that was just for the first child. To fully regain the trust and respect of all four of my children took almost four years.

Today I know that nothing is more important to my children than my sobriety. And the best way I can support them is to be a sober parent. I know that no amount of volunteering, cheering or being the "team mom" will matter if I am not sober. I've made amends and worked the Ninth Step with each of them. I strive for balance in my life. I love AA and I make three to five meetings a week. I'm involved with service work and keep myself fit spiritually and physically. I'm so grateful for this second chance with my children. Our relationships still have their challenges, but with the help of the program and my peers I am better prepared for all these milestones. I know that I would have none of this if it weren't for AA.

- Janice D. | Daphne, Alabama
(Reprinted from AA Grapevine, February 2025)

Ninth Tradition Checklist AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.

TWO FLAKED-OUT fellows were shown in a popular William Steig cartoon a few years ago. The caption was something like "One of these days we've got to get organized around here." I remember expressing the same sentiment while drinking. I not only said it, I did it. To me, getting organized meant getting things arranged in a highly systematic manner, in preparation for getting them done. (You don't necessarily pay your bills, but you do make a neat list of creditors.) During self-enforced droughts, I would zealously over-organize everything in sight in round-the-clock spurts--only to blow it all, later, in a flood of ethanol. And so, I welcomed the idea of an "organization"--which I supposed AA was--for getting something done about the trouble I was having with my drinking. I approached AA in Manhattan twenty-six years ago in total darkness as to how it did things. (How often is it approached any other way?) I guess I expected to find a written constitution, bylaws, dues, and paid sergeants of some kind trained to discipline the backsliders. After all, there was a telephone listing, and I had been invited to come to an office. That sounded pretty organized to me.

But the first members I met unwittingly sowed confusion by using familiar terms in an unfamiliar context. Such words as "member, join, meeting, officer, committee," etc. do not mean the same in AA as outside it, but how was I to know that? My confusion grew as I heard and saw AA people behaving differently from each other, saying wildly disparate things, sometimes contradicting each other. Some even drank! I asked about the president of AA, and they said there wasn't any; yet they had a chairman, a secretary, and elections. There was no ritual for joining, they said; yet the secretary usually announced, "If you want to join this group, see me after the meeting." They said there were no musts, but that to do certain jobs one must have been sober at least three months.

They insisted they were alcoholics, not ex-alcoholics; yet most never touched a drop. Obviously, I was seeing only the lowest-grade members of this outfit, I became pretty sure. I kept nosing around to find the generals, so I could get the real score. I never found any top brass. But, despite the vast ignorance of the noncom troops, AA *got things done*. The telephone got answered; meetings were held, with prearranged programs; coffee got served; a book and pamphlets were distributed. So AA must be systematized in *some* way, I had to conclude. But how? Was there a secret hierarchy of authorities who enforced the statutes by *making* members do things? Such were the expectations--shaped, of course, by the experiences of my non-AA lifetime--with which I arrived at the door of the Fellowship. With growing delight, and often chagrin, I have learned how mistaken I was. Now I am convinced that one sure way to destroy AA would be for us to set up a rigid organization patterned after the non-AA societies we all know.

Yet we cannot be a laissez-faire body, willing always to "Let George do it." Instead, each of us is expected, it seems to me, to assume enough personal responsibility on his own for the Fellowship to get its major function (Tradition Five) accomplished. What giant problems our first members faced! They had to find ways to get things done without slipping into either the bedlam of autonomy unlimited or the trap of over organizing and under accomplishing. The dilemma could easily have overwhelmed them, in my opinion. Organizing can itself be addictive, my personal experience indicates. It's easy to get so fascinated with the process of organizing that I can lose all sight of what I am organizing for. I marvel that any of the first ten years' members stayed sober at all. Tradition Nine describes the masterful solution worked out during the first ten years of AA experience. Since so many alcoholics rebel against authority in human form, we just dispense with it altogether. The first seven words of Tradition Nine say that we have no bosses--echoing Tradition Two. But the last fourteen words describe the system and orderliness necessary for our outfit to *get things done*. My personal AA life illustrates both the problem and its solution. Like a tantrum-throwing four-year-old, I figuratively stamped my foot and refused to pay attention to the Twelve Steps. I mistakenly believed them to be rules for staying sober, instead of a simple description of how our first members actually did recover. After enough slips, however, I saw that in AA I had the freedom to try out, on my own, the Steps suggested as a program of recovery. But I had to make myself do them, because no one in AA could force me to.

I tried to be bossy in AA, and I got drunk. I learned to empty ashtrays for the group, and I began staying sober. A few years back, we floundering fathers of a certain Greenwich Village group found ourselves about to be replaced. To make life easier for our successors than it had been for us, we wrote out what each steering-committee member (trusted servant) had done, exactly how, when, and where. (This was before the General Service Office published its excellent pamphlet "The AA Group.") We bound these information sheets in a notebook for our new secretary-treasurer. About three months later, we learned that the group was behind in "gifts" to our landlord (a church) and had not paid its intergroup pledges nor several GSO bills for literature. Swift to find a scapegoat, we turned on Ernie, the new secretary-treasurer, and demanded, "Why didn't you pay those things?" Indignantly, he told us, "Because I didn't know I was supposed to, and I don't know where to pay them, anyhow."

In my most tolerant bleeding-deacon voice, I chirped, "But Ernie, exactly what is to be paid, and when, and to whom, is all spelled out for you in that book." "What book?" he asked. "That black notebook we gave you." "Oh, that!" Ernie replied with disgust. "I've never opened it," he announced proudly. "Nobody in AA is going to tell *me* what to do!" Several chronic beginners tipsily applauded.

Ninth Tradition Checklist continued

That nutty contretemps puts the AA organization problem into a beautiful nutshell, it seems to me. How, on the one hand, do we avoid offending each other with government--which inevitably means giving some members authority over others--and still, on the other hand, escape chaos? As the late Bernard Smith so eloquently put it at our 1970 International Convention in Miami Beach, the answer is in the way our Ninth Tradition insures AA against anarchy while at the same time insulating us against any form of AA government. Ernie, working with the other new officers of the group, later came upon that answer himself. My fellow founders and I had had our feelings hurt when somebody had first suggested there might be a better arrangement than our paternalistic one, and the new officers took over. We finally realized, though, that the AA custom of rotation in office can be a healing experience for those who can take it and understand the spirit behind it. Rotation is not spelled out in any Step or Tradition. (Neither are many other good AA ideas, such as the 24-hour plan, going to meetings, significance of the first drink, etc.) But it mercifully helps solve the seniority problem we older members can inflict on newer ones, and I think it is within the spirit of Traditions Two and Nine, if not in their wording. It is explained well on page 22 of "The AA Group."

The genius embodied in the Tradition Nine phrase "responsible to those they serve" escaped my detection for a long time, because it sounded too noble and elegant to be more than a truism. When I worked on some AA committees, however, it came to life for me, and I now consider it an astonishing and challenging notion. What if those of us who professionally serve others outside AA--whether we are doctors, taxi drivers, professors, or Playboy bunnies--had to report, not to some boss or professional association with punishment powers, but instead to our *clients*? In effect, that *is* the case with AA officers and committees, isn't it? Once, an AA committee I belonged to heard of a member who was representing himself as an AA official and collecting money thereby. We instantly launched into a discussion of what to do to him. Think about that. . . . It took us an hour or so to realize that we had only the right to pray for him, not the authority to punish him. It was an exciting realization, and I continue to stand in awe of this principle: No matter how much you or I may misbehave, no matter how bad a member one of us may be, there is no one in AA with formal authority to fine us, censure us, or kick us out of the Fellowship. That seems to me a clear implication of both Traditions Nine and Three (requirement for membership). I've learned, too, that I can misuse this Tradition as I have several others, to excuse my own failings. When I foul up, I can shrug my shoulders and say, "After all, we're not supposed to be well organized." But that's just a cop-out, I fear; Number Nine does *not* say we ought to be inefficient, lazy, dishonest, or irresponsible.

Of course, the lack of authority in AA can exasperate high-pressure types. I think of one of our most popular AA pamphlets, "What Happened to Joe." The actual writing and production of it took less than four months. But before that, discussions of it had lasted *fourteen years*! Interminably, committees worried about whether to do it at all, then about how to do it, what it should say and not say, and on and on.

The process would have been much more efficient if some boss had made the decisions and given the orders. But that is not the AA way. To be responsible to those they serve, AA servants work carefully, coolly, prayerfully. An AA pamphlet *should* be based on such preparation, it seems to me, if it is to represent responsibly the entire Fellowship, as all those published by AA World Services, Inc., do.

If AA were organized the way other outfits are, we could move faster, but would the result be more beneficial to *all* of us, both present members and those yet to come? For our simple stated purpose, our exasperatingly patient committees and boards are ideal, in my opinion. If we took on additional functions--such as managing buildings, providing shelter or medical services, running cafés--an entirely different kind of organizational system would, of course, be needed. Many AA operators of clubhouses and rest farms have unhappily found that out. If we tried to organize in the conventional, orthodox ways, we could well become totally *disorganized*. If we had to thresh out complete agreement on such issues as rules and authority and power and money, we'd split apart. Instead, we let each man hold his own ideas, discipline himself, and march to his own drumbeat. And in our joint determination to do this, we stay truly united after all. It has been said that, if we want personal recovery, we owe this to AA's future: "to place our *common* welfare first; to keep our Fellowship united. For on AA unity depend our lives and the lives of those to come."

Ninth Tradition Checklist

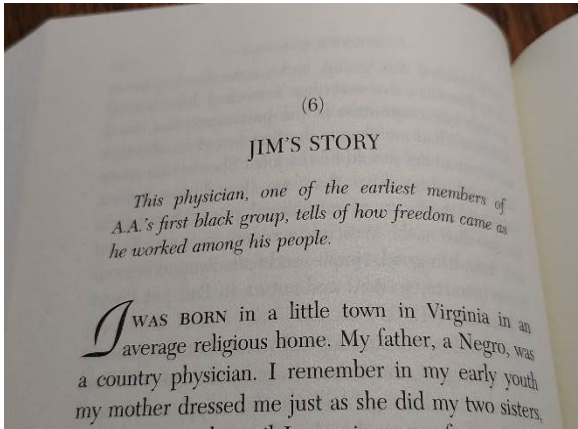
1. Do I still try to boss things in AA?
 2. Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
 3. Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program--even if no one makes me do so--with a sense of personal responsibility?
 4. Do I try to exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
 5. Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
 6. Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and by-laws?
 7. Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully--and profit thereby--when the time comes?
- What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

- B. L. | Manhattan, New York
(Reprinted from AA Grapevine, February 1971)

Washingtonians of the Big Book. Part 4: "Jim's Story"

This is part 4 of a four-part series on Washingtonians whose stories have appeared in the book Alcoholics Anonymous, presented in order of sobriety date.

Of the four Washingtonians whose stories have appeared in the Big Book, Jim S. has the most visible legacy: the group he founded, the Cosmopolitan Group, has been meeting continuously since 1945.



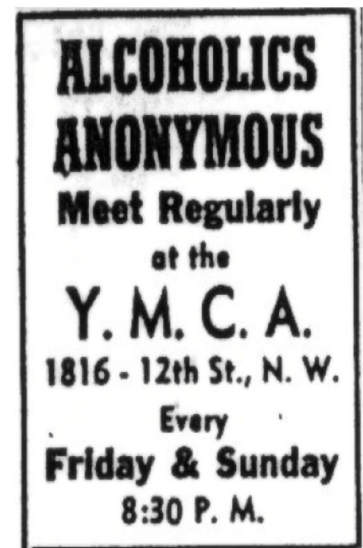
Jim's father moved to Warrenton, Virginia as part of the Great Migration of Black Americans from the rural South to northern cities. Jim graduated from Howard Medical School and by the 1940s Jim and his wife Vi (pronounced "vee"; her full name was Viola) lived on 9th Street NW, above what is now a liquor store. The corner of 8th and L, where Jim stabbed Vi with a pen knife, is now part of the Convention Center. Jim eventually lost his medical practice, and in 1942 was working for the Civil Service Commission, and he traveled the country looking for work wherever he could.

1947 ad box for the Cosmopolitan Group. Courtesy of the AFRO American Newspaper Archives/Afro Charities

What "Jim's Story" doesn't mention is that in early 1945 Vi and their friend Ella Gant had conspired to introduce Jim to local A.A. member Charlie G., but they had to wait for Jim to come back—whenever that would be and in whatever shape he might be in. Jim got sober almost immediately after meeting Charlie, and soon he was hosting other Black alcoholics in his home for Twelfth Step calls and detox. In April 1945, with the assistance of Charlie and other White A.A. members, Jim secured public meeting space in the 12th Street YMCA (a Black-only facility). While the group was initially referred to as the "Washington Colored Group" or the "Washington Negro Group," it was more correctly an inter-racial group because everyone had always been welcome. It changed its name to the Cosmopolitan Group in early 1946.

Some Big Book readers wonder if Jim was gay based on the statement that his "point of view on the opposite sex wasn't entirely like that of most of the boys I knew." But aside from this sentence, there is no indication that he was, even from interviews of people who knew him including his wife Vi. When Jim spoke at the 1955 International A.A. Convention, he described this portion of his story that his mother had raised him to be so prudish that he couldn't be casual about sexual activity.

Jim died in 1962 and is buried in the Warrenton Cemetery. To visit his grave, go in the main entrance on Chestnut Street, and drive straight back to the final clump of tall trees before the road ends at a metal garage. Go directly to your right when facing the garage and the grave is against the wooden fence, in a clump of four cedar trees, with Vi and his mother and father, all of whom played strong roles in his story.





"The old-timers are at it again...arguing over who's got the most serenity."

So you're telling me when a baby crawls across the floor For its bottle it's cute.... but when I do it , I need an intervention



MOM, I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE DUMB STUFF I DID WHEN I WAS A KID. IF IT HELPS, YOU ONLY KNOW ABOUT HALF OF IT...

CELEBRATE THE LONG WEEKEND!

LABOR DAY Picnic

FELLOWSHIP, FUN & FOOD!



LOCATION:

WOODLEY PARK

900 Nelson St,
Rockville, MD 20850



DATE:

MONDAY

SEPT 7TH, 2026



TIME:

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

★ **GAMES!** ★

★ CORNHOLE

★ SPIN THE WHEEL



**GUESS THE
AMOUNT OF CHIPS!**

— \$2 PER ENTRY —

PRIZES!!



FELLOWSHIP

GOOD TIMES
GREAT PEOPLE



FUN

GAMES, LAUGHS
& MEMORIES



FOOD

DELICIOUS FOOD
& REFRESHMENTS



ART TABLE

EXPRESS YOURSELF
GET CREATIVE
HAVE FUN!



★ **TICKETS** ★

★ \$10 FOR MEMBERS

★ \$15 FOR NON-MEMBERS

★ \$5 DONATE A TICKET!

SCAN HERE
FOR MORE INFO!



★ **EVERYONE WELCOME!** ★

Bring Your Family, Bring a Friend!
LET'S MAKE IT A DAY TO REMEMBER!

PLAY. WIN. SUPPORT. ★ Happy Labor Day!

42 years celebrating
recovery together...

180° CLUB

42ND ANNIVERSARY

Picnic & Raffle

Join us for a day of fellowship, laughter,
food, and celebration.

Everyone is welcome!



**SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**



12:00 NOON – 5:00 PM



**DAVID C. DRISKELL
COMMUNITY PARK**

3911 Hamilton Street
Hyattsville, MD 20781



CASH RAFFLE

DONATION: \$5.00

1

1ST PRIZE

\$200

2

2ND PRIZE

\$100

3

3RD PRIZE

\$50

You do not have to be present to win!



50/50 RAFFLE

DONATION: \$1.00

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Help make this day a success!



SETUP



FOOD SERVICE



CLEANUP

*Your help makes
this day possible!*



FISH PLATES

\$7.00 PER PLATE

(2 pieces of fish)



You are welcome to
contribute to a dish,
cookout supplies, or cash.

Thank you!

CELEBRATE *Recovery.*

CELEBRATE *Community.*

CELEBRATE *Together.* ♥

Questions? Contact:



ODYSSEY G.
202-236-6342



SHIRLEY P.
301-806-3642

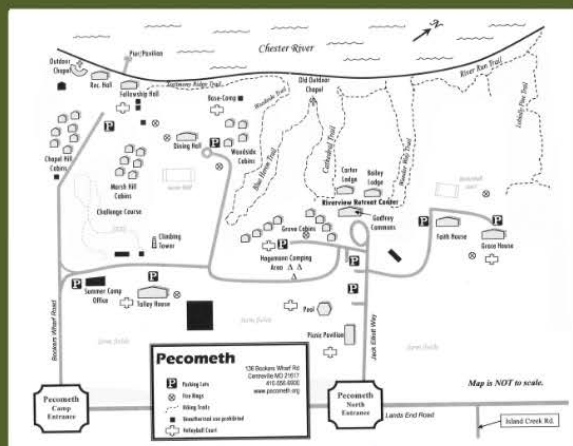


CHEKESHA F.
202-251-8518



F U N B U N C H FALL CAMPOUT

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE



**401 JACK ELLIOT WAY,
CENTREVILLE, MD 21617**
**SEPTEMBER 18 – 20
2026**

For more information visit:
funbunchfallcampout.com

Accommodations include
**Tent Sites, Dorm-Style
Bunks & Hotel Rooms**

Activities include: Kayaking,
Fishing, Crafts, Campfires,
Sports, Games & Fellowship



**Want to be
of service?
Reach out to
the hosts!**



Happy Destiny Retreat
Presents The Annual

Fall Bonfire and Potluck

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Rain Date: Sunday, October 18, 2025

If weather is bad, check website for info.

**Suggested Donation is
\$10 per Adult**

WHAT'S GOING ON

- DJ'd Music
- Caramel Apple Station
- Cake Walk
- 50/50 Raffle
- Fun for the Whole Family

Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, and Water
Provided

**2:00 pm - Potluck Food, Music,
Fellowship & Festivities**

6:00 pm - Bonfire begins

7:00 pm - AA Meeting

WHAT TO BRING

- A Potluck Dish to Share, or a Cake for the Cake Walk
- Chair/Blanket/Flashlight
- Warm Clothes/Jacket for After Dark
- A Newcomer

NO PETS PERMITTED

Located at:

**6501 Griffith Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882**

For More Info and Service Opportunities:

Email: happydestinyretreat@gmail.org

Call or Text: (240) 813-9411

Website: www.happydestinyretreat.org





28th Annual Women's Weekend

October 16-18 2026

Speaker: Yvonne S. from Los Angeles, CA

Camp Wabanna
101 Likes Road,
Edgewater, MD 21037

\$185 for the Farmhouse
\$230 for Lodge Accommodations
Scholarships available



Questions?
Andrea K: 202-870-6168
Chrissy M: 240-751-2943

Registration Opening Soon!

*38th Annual
Northeast Woman to Woman Conference 2026*



October 23-25, 2026

Hilton Wilmington/Christiana (Accommodations and Meetings/Workshops)

100 Continental Drive, Newark, DE 19713-4301

RESERVATIONS: 302-454-1500 CODE: 94W

Single /Double rooms \$179.46 (Includes Fees)

Delaware Park Casino (Saturday Banquet/ Sunday Breakfast Buffet)

777 Delaware Park Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19804

CHAIR
LEA W.
2026new2wde@gmail.com

CO-CHAIR
LAVERNE S.

REGISTRATION CHAIR
DESIREE H.
register2026w2w@gmail.com

FINAL DATE FOR ONLINE AND MAIL-IN REGISTRATION IS 9/22/2026

REGISTRATION IS TRANSFERABLE BUT NOT REFUNDABLE!

REGISTER ONLINE SCAN QR CODE

Or:

CLIP and Mail Registration with the form below with your payment (MONEY ORDER ONLY) payable
to: NEW2W Conference 2026

Mailing address: NEW2W Conf, P.O. BOX 215, Magnolia, DE 19962



CUT HERE

NAME: _____ BADGE NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
CONTACT PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ SOBER DATE: _____
REGISTRATION FEE: \$70____ AFTER 9/03/2026: \$75____ VOLUNTEER YES NO DONATION: \$_____

MEALS

Saturday Night Banquet: \$90 _____ CHICKEN _____ SALMON _____ VEGETARIAN _____

Sunday Morning Buffet: \$45 _____

Saturday Night Banquet/Sunday Morning Buffet Combo \$130

CHICKEN _____ SALMON _____ VEGETARIAN _____

SOUVENIRS

(ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS)

Short Sleeve T-Shirt: **\$20** S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ **\$22** 2X ___ 3X ___ 4X ___ Tumbler: **\$22** _____
Long Sleeve T-Shirt: **\$25** S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ **\$28** 2X ___ 3X ___ 4X ___ Tote Bag: **\$22** _____
Hoodie – Zipper: **\$35** S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ **\$40** 2X ___ 3X ___ 4X _____



TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

TRANSPORTATION

☐

Saturday Night Banquet

☐

Sunday AM Breakfast

Washington Area General Service Assembly
(WAGSA) - Area 13

40th annual

GRATITUDE BREAKFAST

Sunday, November 8, 2026 ~ 8:30–11:30 AM

College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

3501 University Blvd East, Hyattsville, MD 20783

\$60 per person

Tickets will not be sold at the door.

November is Gratitude Month, a time to express collective gratitude for individual sobriety and contribute to AA's self-sufficiency. This tradition encourages Area 13 members to reflect on the blessings of recovery and to make special contributions that go directly to the General Service Office (GSO). By purchasing a ticket, all money after cost goes to the GSO.

If purchasing for a large group, note that tables are sold 10 at a time through your General Service Representative (GSR) until Nov. 1 or until sold out.

Purchase tickets:

<https://tinyurl.com/40thGB-Ticket>



Express your gratitude by contributing:

<https://tinyurl.com/40thGB-Contribute>



For questions or to volunteer visit area13aa.org or email gratitudebreakfast@area13aa.org

Requests for ASL must be received by October 9.



WAGSA , Area 13 Committee Meeting

Monday September 14, 2026 , 6:00 PM—9:00 PM.

Orientation for GSRs & DCMs—6:00 PM –7:00 PM

WAGSA Committee Meeting—7:00—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

WAIA Monthly Borad Meeting

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

September 8, 2026—8:00 PM - 9:00 PM

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

140 14 Promises	315 Just Let Go	300 Room with A View
252 180 Degree Club	50 Landover Discussion	100 Round Hill Ladies
755 930 Club Online	303 Lawyers Group	73 Sat Afternoon ABSI
145 Anacostia Group	100 Leisure World Big Book	248 Saturday Morn Steps
400 Andrew's Armed Forces	120 Leisure World Noon	12 Second Chance
300 Any Lengths	26 Let Go Let God	186 Serenity House
336 As Bill Sees It NW	213 Lifesaver Big Book	363 Serious Business
192 Aspen Hill Phoenix Fri	50 Make It Happen	1260 Silver Spring Group
637 Attitude & Action	31 Men In Recovery	385 Singleness of Purpose
5 Bridge Group	695 Messengers	1394 Six & Seven Step Live
21 Brightwood	180 Mideast Group	260 Six & Seven Online
32 Brightwood Zoom	1410 Midtown	506 Sober Living
1248 Burtonsville Big Book	2573 Monday Men	100 Southern Sobriety
1080 B.Y.O.L.	77 Montg. County Women online	5000 Spiritual Awakening
671 Capacity to be Honest	644 More Peace of Mind	155 St. Barnabas Group
647 Capitol Hill Group	252 Mt. Rainier	770 St. Camillus Group
172 Capitol Hill Women	261 Moving Into Solution	1056 Sunday Morn Breakfast
120 Change of Life	8 Navy Yard Big Book	350 Sunday Morn. Brunch
24 Chinatown Big Book	36 Near East	248 Sunday Morn Joy
25 Cigar Smokers	55 Never Give Up	96 Sunday Men's Step
200 Clinton 6:30	121 New Beginnings NW	725 Sunshine G'burg
50 Clinton Sun Night	200 New Unity Gay Group	148 Takoma Park Women
243 Coffee & Donuts	311 Norbeck Women Fri	78 Tenleytown Keep Coming
402 College Park Group	147 NW Metro Group	192 Terrapin Gratitude
40 Conscious Contact	311 Norbeck Women Friday	480 The Capacity to be Honest
616 Cosmopolitan	200 Nuts & Bolts	317 T.G.I. 5:30 Online
50 Daily Reflections UP	269 Oasis Women	92 The Last Stop
1742 Darnestown Men	190 Old Fashion Group	11 The Way Group
106 Darnestown Men Online	3100 Olney Farm Group	400 Triangle Club Late Night
251 Deanwood Step	500 Olney New Times	280 Twelve Point Bucks
60 Deanwood Women Rap	48 On Awakening	86 Uptown
1770 Downtown Silver Spring	75 One Hour Back	360 Victory Lights
115 DCC 9:30 Club Live	1657 Open Arms	228 Village Idiots
880 Double Dippers	200 On the Circle	350 We Are All Beginners
146 Dunrobbin Group	2050 P Street	539 We Care
1120 Epiphanies	239 Pillars in the Park	177 Wed. Night Winners
420 Free Spirits	72 Potomac High Noon	583 Westmoreland Women
700 Fireside Spirituality	89 Poolesville Pot Luck	454 Westside Women
594 Georgetown Group	57 Potomac Men	120 What's Happening Now
258 Glenarden Group	333 Potomac Women	283 Women's Happier Hour
121 Glen Echo Group	421 Progress Not Perfection	46 Women Living sober
150 Good News Beginners	584 Quince Orchard	989 Yacht Club
480 Goose Hung High	1061 Radicals	
165 Greenbelt Step Club	500 Rarely Have We Seen a Per- Son Fail	
900 Haven at Last	269 Redgate	
229 Informed Group	109 Redland	
382 Into Action	200 Riderwood Bills	
154 Irreverent Women		

Contribute to WAIA:



245 Birthday
8099 Faithful Fiver
20807 Individual
55 Memorial

Contribute to WAIA:



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

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

July 6
July 11

Don T.
Chuck S.

AA Jump Start Group
Darnestown Men

31 years
48 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.

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

SEPTEMBER 2026