The alarming thing about pride-blindness is the ease with which it is justified. But we need not look far to see that self-justification is a universal destroyer of harmony and love. By it, every form of folly and violence can be made to look right, and even respectable.”  

Grapevine, June 1961.  Reprinted with permission by AA Grapevine permission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The next intergroup meeting will be held on May 9th via Zoom. Doors open at 7:45pm. The intergroup meeting starts at 8pm. The meeting ID is: 823 0552 8441 / Password: 414036
• In observance of Memorial Day, the Intergroup office will be closed on Monday, May 30th. We appreciate our volunteers who will answering the phones during office hours on that day!
• ATTENTION! Help cast the widest net possible to gather shared experiences for our AA Literature. The GSO staff is asking AA members to submit shared experiences/stories for the upcoming publication of the 5th Edition AA Big Book in English, 4th Edition AA big book in Spanish, the pamphlet entitled AA for the Black and African American Alcoholic. See this link for more details.
• Please sign up to volunteer on our 12th Step list and Bridging the Gap list. Please post this link in meeting chats to let members know they can sign-up online to help carry the message. Groups can also print the enclosed 12 Step form to distribute during meetings for members to sign up. For more information about this service opportunity, please see the enclosed flyer.
• The Answering Service is seeking volunteers for the substitute list. Please contact Intergroup if you want to be a part of this vital service.
• The Intergroup office is open from 9:00am – 4:30pm for the purchase of literature and chips. Orders can also be shipped or made available for hallway pick. For your convenience, orders can be placed using our online store. https://baltimoreaa.org/literature-store/

INSTITUTION COMMITTEE

• Sponsors, co-sponsors & speakers needed! The Institution Committee is assigning homegroups for institution commitments to speak in-person or online. Your group can decide what it is most comfortable doing. Please fill out this form if you or your home group would like to carry the message. Intergroup will list the monthly commitments on the website under password protection (as we did before.) Reps can get information from our website or at the monthly Institution business meeting or by calling Intergroup.
INTERGROUP BOOKSTORE

- **NEW ARRIVAL to our Literature Store!** A new Grapevine publication: *Fun in Sobriety: How AA members learn to live sober and enjoy life to its fullest.* This book features 50-plus inspiring stories by members of Alcoholics Anonymous about the many ways they’ve learned to have a good time after putting down the drink. Chapters include travel, outdoor activities, arts & hobbies, social entertainment, fun-filled AA activities and sober events.

- As a reminder, the Intergroup Bookstore is fully stocked and ready for your orders. Order by phone or online. Pick-up at the office or we can ship orders to you.

GROUP ANNIVERSARIES

- If your group is celebrating an anniversary of any length in-person or on Zoom, please let us know by calling 410-663-1922 or send us an email at intergroup@baltimoreaa.org.

MEETINGS ANNOUNCEMENTS/ OTHER GROUP INFO

- **Guides to Progress** (South Bmore, 21230) which meets on Mondays at 8pm needs support.
- **Cover to Cover** (Sparrows Point, 21219) which meets on Tuesdays at 7pm needs support.
- A Digital Newcomer’s Packet is available: Please post this link for a digital newcomer's packet in your meeting chats so newcomers can get quick and easy access to meetings, literature, and online resources.
- For all virtual meetings or meeting changes, please use this form: [https://baltimoreaa.org/new-virtual-meeting-details/](https://baltimoreaa.org/new-virtual-meeting-details/).
- For all in-person meetings or meeting changes, please use this form: [https://baltimoreaa.org/submit-in-person-meeting-update/](https://baltimoreaa.org/submit-in-person-meeting-update/).

SPECIAL EVENTS

- A.A.’s Got Talent! **2022 Sobriety Show Live on June 18th** at Angel Park Amphitheater. [Click here](https://baltimoreaa.org/2022-sobriety-show-live) for flyer and more information.
- Back to Basics is meeting all (4) Fridays in May. [Click here](https://baltimoreaa.org/back-to-basics) for flyer and more information.
- Please call us at 410-663-1922 or email us at intergroup@baltimoreaa.org to let us know about your special events or workshops. To learn about various celebrations, go to [https://baltimoreaa.org/upcoming-events/](https://baltimoreaa.org/upcoming-events/).

MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

- Districts 19 & 33 are hosting a *Young People* Service Workshop on Saturday, May 14th from 10:30am-1:30pm in person at St. John’s Church in Lutherville. [See flyer](https://baltimoreaa.org/young-people-service-workshop) for details.
- District 9 will be hosting a GSR Workshop (Hybrid format) on **Tuesday, May 17th** from 6-7pm. [See Flyer](https://baltimoreaa.org/gsr-workshop) for location and/or login information.
- The **50th Annual Area Maryland State Convention** will be held in-person on June 24th-26th, with Al-Anon participation. The convention will be take place at the Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center. [See Flyer](https://baltimoreaa.org/state-convention) for details. Registration is open both online [http://www.marylandaa.org/stateconvention](http://www.marylandaa.org/stateconvention) or by mail. **Be one of the first 450 members to pre-register and receive a 50th MGS Convention mug!**
- Monthly council & district meeting links and passwords can be found on our website: [https://baltimoreaa.org/other-meetings-events/](https://baltimoreaa.org/other-meetings-events/)

*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.*
Marc M. (Chairperson) called the meeting to order and opened with the Serenity Prayer. This meeting took place on Zoom due to COVID-19 concerns.

**New Group Representatives:** There were 3 new group representatives for the Council to welcome.

**Minutes:** Mike W. (Recording Secretary) presented the minutes from the March 14, 2022, meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes as amended.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jack F. (Treasurer) reported that ordinary income in March was $9,144.13, which included $6,567.73 from AA groups and $2,519.99 from individual members. Ordinary expenses were $15,856.63, yielding net ordinary income of -$6,712.50. Literature revenue was $6,428.86, with literature expenses of $3,185.05, yielding net literature income of $3,243.81. Therefore, net income for March was -$3,468.69. Total assets were $233,883.60. Jack thanked the AA groups and individual members for their support.

**Administrator’s Report:** Jen G. reported that during the past 20 working days, there were 11 new meetings, 22 re-opened meetings, 1 closed/cancelled meeting, and 59 meeting changes. There are now 691 total meetings: 239 virtual, 358 in person, 94 are hybrid. There were 354 calls for help during office hours, 2,189 emails, texts, and correspondence (including 6 shipped literature orders). There were 93 visitors/literature pick-ups at the office. Since the last Intergroup meeting, Jen attended meetings of the Institution Committee, the Advisory and Personnel Committee, Activities Committee “adhoc” Directory Committee, MGS Intergroup liaison committee, and the weekly office managers’ meeting.

The Intergroup Office will be closed on Friday, April 15th for Good Friday. Volunteers will be answering the help line.

We need to update our 12th Step and Bridging the Gap volunteer list. Please pass around a 12th Step sign-up list in your groups or go to our website to sign up.

Please call the Intergroup Office with your meeting changes, openings, or closings so our meeting directory and website is up to date.

**Activities Committee Report:** Paulette R, Chairperson, reported that this year’s Sobriety Show will be held outdoors at the Angel Park Amphitheater in Perry Hall on Saturday, June 18th. Rehearsals are underway. Members will have to bring their own picnic lunches. Intergroup will sell snacks, sodas, and perhaps cakes. There won’t be a speaker because the show is being held in a public space. Volunteers will be needed. Sobriety Show tokens will be available soon.
Answering Service Committee Report: Melody B, Chairperson, reported that in February there were 197 regular calls and 10 Twelfth Step calls. In March there were 120 regular calls and 6 Twelfth Step calls.

Public Information, Cooperation with Professional Community, and Speakers Committees: No report

Literature Committee Report: No report.

Internet/Website Committee Report: Mike C, Chairperson, reported that he’s been working on some IT issues. Nothing major to report.

Institution Committee Report: Mike C, Chairperson, reported that he’s been working on some IT issues. Nothing major to report.

Outreach Committee Report: Melissa B. (Chairperson) reported that the committee had no activity last month.

Chairperson Report: No report

Old Business: The question of whether the Baltimore Intergroup Council should resume meeting in-person was revisited. The consensus of those in attendance was that we should continue meeting by Zoom for the time being.

New Business: Upcoming events to be presented by District 10 (7th Tradition Workshop) and District 9 (Spiritual Breakfast-sold out) were announced.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Mike W., Recording Secretary
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**44 Sources Contributed $6,567.73**

**Other**

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**5 Sources Contributed $2,519.99**

**Total Contributions for March $9,087.72**
What is the 12th-Step List?

When suffering alcoholics call the AA hotline asking for help, the Intergroup Office reaches out to A.A. members on our 12th Step List who are willing to share their experience, strength and hope with newcomers in their zip code or immediate area. Having a phone contact helps newcomers know they are not alone.

What is ‘Bridging the Gap’?

When alcoholics are released from treatment facilities or institutions, they need a Temporary Contact as a link between treatment and recovery. A Temporary Contact will help newcomers make the transition into A.A. where they are introduced to the A.A. program, can meet other A.A. members in their area, and can form a network to help them stay sober.

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<th>QUESTION:</th>
<th>12TH STEP LIST</th>
<th>BRIDGING THE GAP</th>
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<td>What is my responsibility?</td>
<td>Call the newcomer right away. Share your experience, strength &amp; hope. Convey</td>
<td>Call the newcomer right away. Share your experience, strength &amp; hope. Act as</td>
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<td>that help is available in A.A. meetings. Anything else is up to your discretion.</td>
<td>a temporary contact for a week or more. Meet them at a meeting. Introduce them to</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>other A.A.s.</td>
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<td>Does A.A. give out my phone</td>
<td>NEVER. It’s up to you to call the newcomer.</td>
<td>NEVER. Unless you give us permission. It’s up to you to call the newcomer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>number to newcomers?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Should I make arrangements to</td>
<td>It is suggested, but is up to your discretion.</td>
<td>Yes! Get them connected to several meetings and other A.A. members in their first</td>
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<tr>
<td>meet the newcomer at a meeting?</td>
<td></td>
<td>week. Introduce them to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should I give rides?</td>
<td>A.A. does not promise rides. This is up to your discretion. If you pick up a</td>
<td>A.A. does not promise rides. This is up to your discretion. If you pick up a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>newcomer, NEVER go alone.</td>
<td>newcomer, NEVER go alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should I take the newcomer to</td>
<td>It is not A.A.’s responsibility to take active alcoholics to the hospital or</td>
<td>It is not A.A.’s responsibility to take active alcoholics to the hospital or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the hospital or detox if they</td>
<td>detox, although you may choose to do so. We carry the message, not the drunk.</td>
<td>detox, although you may choose to do so. We carry the message, not the drunk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>need it?</td>
<td>NEVER go alone.</td>
<td>NEVER go alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If someone is in very bad condition, you or that person can call 911 for help.</td>
<td>If someone is in very bad condition, you or that person can call 911 for help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hospitals must admit persons going into DTs.</td>
<td>Hospitals must admit persons going into DTs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if they don’t stay</td>
<td>If you stayed sober, then it worked! Turn your attention to helping the next</td>
<td>If you stayed sober, then it worked! Turn your attention to helping the next</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sober?</td>
<td>suffering alcoholic.</td>
<td>suffering alcoholic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REMEMBER: THERE IS NO BAD 12TH-STEP WORK!

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.” Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 89
Are you willing to make a 12th Step phone call and extend the hand of AA to a newcomer? Are you willing to ‘bridge the gap’ as a temporary contact for someone just coming out of treatment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP CODE(S)</th>
<th>AREA(S)</th>
<th>PHONE NUMBER</th>
<th>CAN WE TEXT YOU?</th>
<th>FIRST NAME &amp; LAST INITIAL</th>
<th>GENDER</th>
<th>WILLING TO BRIDGE THE GAP?</th>
<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

THE 12TH STEP LIST IS NOT CARRIED OVER YEAR TO YEAR – PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU WANT TO BE OF SERVICE THIS YEAR. THANK YOU!

Return to: Baltimore Intergroup, 8635 Loch Raven Blvd., Suite 4, Baltimore, MD 21286
Email: intergroup@baltimoreaa.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>REMARKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Return to: Baltimore Intergroup, 8635 Loch Raven Blvd., Suite 4, Baltimore, MD 21286
Phone: 410-663-1922   Email: intergroup@baltimoreaa.org
2022 Sobriety Show

Bake Sale

We Need Volunteers to Bake Desserts!

All proceeds from baked goods sold at the show will benefit the services provided by Baltimore Intergroup

Baked Goods can be dropped off the day of the event or at the Intergroup office prior to June 18th

For more info call: 410-663-1922
Sobriety Show 2022
At
Angel Park
Music & Fun!
Free Fellowship Event!
Bring a picnic & lawn chair!
Snacks for sale!
June 18th 2-6pm
Angel Park: 9650 Honeygo Blvd, Perry Hall 21128
Sobriety Show tokens to support the show still $1
Bake a cake for our Bake Sale!
For more info call Intergroup: 410-663-1922
*Young People* Service Workshop

Saturday, May 14th

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

*All who are “young at heart” or have room to grow are welcome to participate!*

Young People Service Workshop
Hosted by Districts 19 and 33

Curious about all the acronyms you hear?
Unsure of ways to grow and develop in your recovery?
Maybe you have questions like these folks?

Come learn about the answers to questions like these and the many service opportunities beyond the homegroup in AA that support our recovery!

Meet some of the trusted servants in Area 29 who can tell you more about it!

In person
St. John's United Methodist Church
216 W Seminary Ave
Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093

*There’s Service outside of my homegroup that matters??*
*Why is that triangle upside down? What does all that stuff in it mean?*
*No rules? No leader? Weird flex, but ok...*
*GSR? Who? What? Does my group, like, have one of those?*
*I know about Run DMC...but what even is a DCM?*
DISTRICT 9 IS HOSTING A

G.S.R. WORKSHOP

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
6:00PM - 7:00PM
St. Paul's Church of Christ
17 Bond St., Westminster, MD 21157

or zoom.us
Meeting ID: 813 6366 2040
Passcode: 863221

This Workshop is open to All AA Fellowship.
The District 9 Business Meeting will follow at 7:00pm.

For more information:
workshop@d9mdaa.org

Speaker
Brigitte F
Chairperson
Area 29, Panel 72

"Your groups link to A.A. as a whole"
When you're a general service representative (G.S.R.)
- What is a G.S.R.?
- Duties of the G.S.R.?

And much more!
June 24th – 26th, 2022
With Al-Anon Participation – Hosted by Maryland General Service, Inc.
Clarion Inn Frederick Event Center
5400 Holiday Drive, Frederick, MD 21703

**AA Speakers**
- Deshu G. – Clarksburg, MD
- Marie E. – Murrells Inlet, SC
- Lukas M. – Towson, MD
- Melissa Z. – Chester, VA
- Gary K. – Sulphur Springs, TX
- Joe G. – Wylie, TX

**Al-Anon Speaker**
- Beverly B. – Lewisville, TX

**Open AA and Al-Anon Meetings**
at intervals each day

**Evening Activities**
- Ice Cream Socials ($5 each night)
- Recovery Puppet Show

**Friday, June 24th**
- 8:00 am  Registration Opens
- 8:15 am  Prayer and Meditation
- 10:30 am  AA Workshop
- 12:00 pm  Lunch
- 1:00 pm  AA Speaker Meeting
- 2:30 pm  AA Workshop
- 4:00 pm  AA Speaker Meeting
- 6:30 pm  Dinner
- 8:00 pm  AA Speaker Meeting
- 9:30 pm  Ice Cream Social
- 10:00 pm  AA History Presentation

**Saturday, June 25th**
- 8:00 am  Registration Opens
- 8:15 am  Prayer and Meditation
- 9:00 am  AA Speaker Meeting
- 10:30 am  Al-Anon Speaker Meeting
- 12:00 pm  Lunch
- 1:00 pm  Old Timers Panel
- 2:30 pm  AA Workshop
- 4:00 pm  AA & Al-Anon Workshop
- 6:00 pm  Banquet
- 7:30 pm  Delegate Report and Sobriety Countdown
- 8:00 pm  AA Speaker Meeting
- 9:30 pm  Ice Cream Social
- 10:00 pm  Recovery Show

**Sunday June 26th**
- 9:15 am  Prayer and Meditation
- 10:00 am  AA Speaker Meeting

---

**Pre-Registration Gift!**
Limit 450
See back!

Convention Room Rate: $109/night + Tax.
Mention “MD State Convention” for this reduced rate and a FREE breakfast.

For hotel reservations, call 301-694-7500, or reserve online at:
www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/ZM83G3
Hotel reservations must be made by June 10, 2022

Note: The hotel does NOT have an elevator. If you require ground floor accommodations, notify the hotel when making reservations.
Pre-Registration Gift ● 50th MGS Convention Mug ● First 450 pre-registrations!

50th Annual Area 29 Maryland State Convention

Registration and Meal Selection
Register online at http://www.marylandaa.org/state-convention

Online registration payment by credit card is $32, including a $2 convenience fee. Registration payment by check is $30. Make check payable to MGS State Convention.

Mail with this form to: MGS State Convention, P.O. Box 1710, Frederick, MD 21702

First Name: ______________________  Last Name: ______________________
Address: ________________________________  Email: ________________________________
City: ________________________________  State: __________________ Zip: ____________

Accessibility accommodations? Please list: ________________________

--- Must Specify Banquet Option Below ---

Registration Options:

AA Registrants $30/person
Al-Anon Registrants $30/person
Registrations and All Meals $159/person

# of Registrants  Subtotal
X ___  = $ __________
X ___  = $ __________
X ___  = $ __________

--- Meal Options ---

If your registration includes ALL meals, select from Banquet Options 1-4 below (no additional fee)

**Friday Lunch – Deli Buffet**
Seasonal Greens with Two Dressings, Potato Salad, Pasta Salad, Selection of: Roast Beef, Salami, Ham, Smoked Turkey, American, Swiss, and Provolone Cheeses, Assorted Deli Breads and Rolls, Gourmet Cookies and Brownies.

**Friday Dinner – Italian Extravaganza Buffet**
Caesar salad, garlic bread sticks, tomato mozzarella with pesto, vegetable salad. Penne pasta primavera with Alfredo or Bolognese sauces, Chicken Parmesan. Zucchini & tomatoes. Chef’s choice of dessert.

**Saturday Lunch – American Buffet**
Old Fashioned Grilled Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken Breast, Texas Chili, Assorted Cheeses, Fixings and Condiments, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Gourmet Cookies and Brownies.

**Saturday Banquet – Seating limited to 200 – order early**
Plated meals served with warm rolls & butter, garden salad. Cheesecake with chocolate sauce and berry coulis.

**Option 1:** Grilled chicken breast with lemon caper sauce, whipped potatoes, seasonal vegetables.

**Option 2:** Jerk salmon with pineapple salsa, cilantro rice, seasonal vegetables.

**Option 3:** Dijon mustard roasted pork loin medallion with mushroom cream sauce, roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables.

**Option 4:** Vegan, gluten-free quinoa pilaf stuffed pepper, saffron rice, grilled vegetables.

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE**

= $ __________________
Both In-person or on Zoom

DATES: FRIDAYs – May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

At: Saint John’s Lutheran Church
8808 Harford Road
Parkville, Maryland 21234

Zoom Meeting ID: 82170577648
Password: 06101935

Join us as we take the 12 Steps in 4 one-hour sessions.

Bring your Big Book and Highlighter!

Sponsored by Free At Last Group.
Fifth Edition of the Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous*

**Deadline: October 31, 2022** The Preface to the Second Edition of the Big Book explains that revisions to the personal history section of the book were made in order “to represent the current membership of Alcoholics Anonymous more accurately, and thereby to reach more alcoholics.”

In that spirit, the 2021 General Service Conference recommended that: “a Fifth Edition of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, be developed, including an update of stories to better reflect the current membership, keeping in mind the 1995 Advisory Action: “The first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Preface, the Forewords, 'The Doctor’s Opinion', 'Dr. Bob’s Nightmare', and the Appendices remain as is.”

In response to this Advisory Action, the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking a wide range of A.A. recovery experience of members in the Fellowship.

Recognizing that all stories are of value, the Literature Committee is searching for recovery stories that are from a broad cross-section of our local communities. As Bill writes on page 29 of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*: “Our hope is that many alcoholic men and women, desperately in need, will see these pages, and we believe that it is only by fully disclosing ourselves and our problems that they will be persuaded to say, ‘Yes, I am one of them too; I must have this thing.’”

It is the Literature Committee’s shared hope that any new stories from our current membership will help future alcoholics to identify and find recovery in the pages of a Fifth Edition.

**Further information** on where to submit your story will be provided to the Fellowship through Box 4-5-9, the A.A. website and more. If you have any questions, please write to 5BBStory@aa.org.

*A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic* pamphlet

**Deadline: October 31, 2022** The trustees’ Literature Committee has opened a call for stories in response to the 2021 General Service Conference Advisory Action regarding the pamphlet “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic,” stating that the pamphlet be updated to include current stories of recovery and a new title that is respectful and inclusive.

The committee is seeking stories of recovery from all African-American, Canadian and Caribbean A.A. members from the English-, French- and Spanish-speaking Black communities in the A.A. structure in the United States and Canada. Stories of recovery may also include:

- Experience, strength and hope
- Steps, Traditions, Concepts
- Sponsorship
- A.A. service
- Safety and racism
- Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity

The suggested format for typed manuscripts is 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font. Handwritten manuscripts should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.

**Submit Via Email** Email: pamphletstories@aa.org Subject line: “A.A. for the Black and African-American Alcoholic”

Fourth Edition of the Big Book *Alcohólicos Anónimos*

**Deadline: December 15, 2022** In keeping with the recommendation of the 2021 General Service Conference that “A Fourth Edition of the Spanish-language Big Book, *Alcohólicos Anónimos*, be developed, including updated stories that better reflect the current membership, and that a progress report be presented to the 2022 General Service Conference,” the trustees’ Literature Committee is seeking stories of recovery from members of the Hispanic community in the A.A. structure in the United States and Canada.

The committee is seeking stories of recovery from a wide representation of the Hispanic community. Stories of recovery may also include:

- Ethnic, cultural, gender and LGBTQ diversity
- Diversity of social status
- Experiences of sobriety during the pandemic
- Newcomer and oldtimer experiences
- Military
- Black mental health and diverse abilities
- Diversity of social status
- BIPOC A.A. Meetings
- Atheist/agnostics
- Accessibility experiences
- Spiritual experiences
- A.A. meetings on virtual platforms
- Sobriety and mental health

Suggested format for typed manuscripts is 3,500 words, double-spaced, in 12-point type. Handwritten stories should be approximately 5-6 pages.

**Submit Via Email** Email: 4LGHistorias@aa.org Subject line: “Fourth Edition Spanish”

Please include your full name, postal and email addresses, and phone number on the first page of your manuscript. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether or not their story is selected for publication. Stories written in Spanish, English or French will be accepted. We suggest you keep a copy of your manuscript for your files. The respective designations *Pamphlet* or *Fourth Edition* should be written on the envelope and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

**To Submit Via Postal Mail** Send to: Attn. Literature Assignment
General Service Office, Box 459
Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163

Thank you for your participation in the process!
THE FIFTH TRADITION

Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Long form Five Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose - that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Reprinted from "Alcoholics Anonymous" Appendices 1. A.A. Tradition.

No matter how different our own personal concerns, we are all bound together by one common responsibility... to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic.

Says the old proverb, "Shoemaker, stick to thy last," Trite, yes. But very true for us of A.A. How well we need to heed the principle that it is better to do one thing supremely well than many things badly.

Because it has now become plain enough that only a recovered alcoholic can do much for a sick alcoholic, a tremendous responsibility has descended upon us all, an obligation so great that it amounts to a sacred trust. For to our kind, those who suffer alcoholism, recovery is a matter of life or death. So the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous cannot, it dare not, ever be diverted from its primary purpose.

Temptations to do otherwise will come plenty. Seeing fine works afoot in the field of alcohol, we shall be sorely tempted to loan out the name and credit of Alcoholics Anonymous to them; as a movement we shall be beset to finance and endorse other causes. Should our present success continue people will commence to assert that AA is a brand new way of life, maybe a new religion, capable of saving the world. We shall be told it is our bounden duty to show modern society how it ought to live.

Oh, how very attractive these projects and ideas can be! How flattering to imagine that we might be chosen to demonstrate that olden mystic promise: "The first shall be last and the last shall be first." Fantastic, you say. Yet some of our well-wishers have begun to say such things.

Fortunately, most of us are convinced that these are perilous speculations, alluring ingredients of that new heady wine we are now being offered, each bottle marked "Success!"

Of this subtle vintage may we never drink too deeply. May we never forget that we live by the grace of God on borrowed time; that anonymity is better than acclaim; that for us as a movement poverty is better than wealth.

And may we reflect with ever deepening conviction, that we shall never be at our best except when we hew only to the primary spiritual aim of AA. That of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers alcoholism.

reprinted from "Language of the Heart" pp 82-83

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose? Reprinted from The Traditions Check List in the Grapevine

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