

# First Things First

NEWSLETTER FOR WESTERN MARYLAND INTERGROUP OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

[Western Maryland AA website](#)

March 2022

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*There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—that principle is contempt prior to investigation.*

--Herbert Spencer

Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book, page 568

After I'd been dating my husband for a few months, he said, "I'm changing contempt prior to investigation to CPI for easy reference." Now, it's part of our vernacular. He was right. I do have CPI a lot. I won't eat certain foods because I don't like the way they look, or I don't like how I imagine they'll taste. Sometimes I'm not warm and nice to people because I think I can read minds. I know they won't like me. It's a tough way to live. Thinking that I can read minds often ruins my day because my mind tells me that you don't like me, or you think I'm stupid. It never reads good thoughts or happy greetings to me. My alcoholic mind never predicts anything positive. I never think, "Oh, in this meeting with my boss, I'm going to get a raise." I always think I'm going to be called out for doing something wrong; I'm going to get laid off, or I'm going to get fired.

So, what's the solution? It's always the same in AA, a spiritual solution. I have to get connected with a Higher Power, even when, no especially when I don't want to. When I'm connected to a God of my understanding, I find peace. I no longer dislike people. I'm willing to try new things. No, it doesn't last forever. I must start over at the beginning of every new day. But if I try to breathe in God and breathe out me, I have a chance at a life that is happy, joyous, and free.

--Anonymous

## JOKES

### Now That's a Problem

Furniture salesman: "Our new line of sofas will seat five people with no problems."

AA member: "I don't know five people with no problems."

Terry B.

Albany, N.Y.

Page 62, Grapevine, February 2022

### It Only Takes Two

Two alcoholic castaways on a deserted island decided to start an AA meeting:

They begin every meeting with, "Rarely have we seen a person."

Ken D.

Denver, Colo.

Page 61, Grapevine, May 2021

## WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER

If you have suggestions, or you want to write an article for the newsletter, please email Lora B. at

[impidh@gmail.com](mailto:impidh@gmail.com).

## MARCH JUMBLE



Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANNIVERSARY  
GOD  
LOVE  
NEWCOMERS

POWERLESS  
SPONSOR  
STEPS  
TRADITIONS

TRUDGE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Anniversaries

We want to update the anniversary list. If you would like your anniversary in the newsletter, you can enter it on the website. Western Maryland Intergroup address is <http://www.westernmarylandaa.org/>. Or submit them to [impidh@gmail.com](mailto:impidh@gmail.com) for Lora B.

### 12-Step Hotline

Volunteers are needed for the 12-step hotline. You can volunteer to answer the phone or go on 12-step calls. Your phone number is not shared. Call Dan B. for more information at 650-642-1235.

### Announcing AA Grapevine's new Podcast!

Listen to the AA Grapevine Half-Hour Variety show anywhere you listen to podcasts. New episodes are released every Monday. Special features will enhance each episode. You can also find it on our website at [aagrapevine.org/podcast](http://aagrapevine.org/podcast).

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## MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Sick and Tire \$180

**All AA members are Welcome!**

# **CARC III**

## **Conference Agenda Review Committee**

Districts: 3, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15  
18, 19, 28, 30, 33, 34, 39



**Do you want to be involved in new literature for AA, changes to the 12 Steps & 12 Traditions Book or helping A.A. become more inclusive?**

**CARCs give you a chance to hear the items to be considered at the 2022 General Service Conference in April 2022. Then you can have your voice heard by our Area 29 Delegate, Kurt W. and help prepare him for the 2022 Conference**

**How can I hear about the agenda items for 2022? Can I give my feedback on items? So much changed last year. I want be involved this year!**



**What is happening with the plain language Big Book?**



**March 26, 2022, Saturday  
9:30am-1:30pm Hybrid**

**The Church of Holy Apostles and  
St. Stephens  
901 Courtney Rd.  
Arbutus, MD 21227**

**Zoom ID: 861 5787 8559  
Password: 164164**

Contact Kathleen W. with any questions at [secretary@marylandaa.org](mailto:secretary@marylandaa.org)



# Founders' Day Herald

87<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous

June 10, 11, & 12, 2022 | Akron, Ohio | Birthplace of A.A.

## FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

### A.A. 12 Step Panel • 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Discussion of One Step Per Hour  
Chaired by: Woody W.

### A.A. Early Bird Meeting\* • 3:00 p.m.

Sandra S. – Cleveland, OH  
"She Faced a Hostile Universe Alone  
Until A.A. Found Her"  
Chaired by: Jerry C.

### Actors Guild Play • 5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

"Love and Tolerance"

### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 7:00 p.m.

Christina G. – Brecksville, OH  
"Watch Well, Your Beginnings -  
The Results Will Reveal Themselves"  
Chaired by: Mary K.

### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 9:00 p.m.

Michael D. – Sioux Falls, SD  
"We Work On Broken Souls in A.A., God  
Can Fix A Broken Soul"  
Chaired by: Scott T.

### Junta en Español • 9:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Open Discussion  
Chaired by: The Painesville Group

### A.A. Alkathon • 11:30 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

## SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

### Bus Tours of Historic A.A. Sites

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
2 buses continuously – Bierce Circle

### A.A. Archives

Located in Akron Intergroup Office  
(Stop on bus tour)

### The 12 Traditions • 9:00 a.m.

Debbie D. – Concord, CA  
"Practicing Them In All My Affairs"  
Chaired by: Aaron K.

### A.A. Old Timers' Panel\* • 10:30 a.m.

Topic: "Acceptance Is The Key"  
Bob C. – Cleveland, OH  
Chris H. – Parma, OH  
Joe L. – Edmond, OK  
Chaired by: Aaron K.

### Reunión en Español • 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

El Coordinador: Raymundo L. and  
Alegría de Vivir Group

### A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting\* • 12:00 p.m.

Speakers - Mike & Diane A.  
"Family Disease, Family Miracles"  
E.J. Thomas Hall  
Chaired by: Tracy C.

### Actors Guild Play • 12:00 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.

"Love and Tolerance"

### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 2:00 p.m.

Dick D. – Hamilton, Ontario, CA  
"Ain't It Great To Be Sober"  
Chaired by: Woody W.

### The History of Our Big Book • 4:00 p.m.

Presented by: Gail L. – The Villages, FL  
Chaired by: Jerry C.

### A.A. Speaker Meeting\* • 8:00 p.m.

Jay A. – Scarborough, Ontario, CA  
"Optimistic"  
UA Infocision Stadium\*\*  
Chaired by: Matt H.

**\*\*Stadium Weather Contingency Plan  
for Saturday Night - See Web Site**

### DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
Saturday Night

## SUNDAY ACTIVITIES

### MOTORCADE TO DR. BOB'S GRAVE\*

7:30 a.m.  
Motorcycle procession and graveside  
memorial tribute to Dr. Bob & Anne S.  
Speaker: Dolly A  
Chaired by: Mary K.

### A.A. Spiritual Panel Meeting • 9:00 a.m.

Topic: "When All Other Measures Fail,  
Working With Another Alcoholic Just Might  
Save The Day"  
Rose L. – Cleveland, OH  
Laura D. – Cleveland, OH  
Melissa P. – Cleveland, OH  
Chaired by: Juanita W.

### A.A. Closing Speaker Meeting\* 10:30 a.m.

Kenny D. – Seattle, WA  
"His Story, The Spiritual Awakening"  
Chaired by: Michael B.

## AL-ANON

### FRIDAY ACTIVITIES

#### Al-Anon Panel • 1:00 p.m.

Topic: "Double Winners/Doubly Blessed"  
Maura D. – N. Attleboro, MA  
Cary C. – Akron, OH  
Patty M. – Concord, NC  
Olin Hall  
Chaired by: Marie E.

## AL-ANON

### SATURDAY ACTIVITIES

#### Alateen Panel • 10:30 a.m.

"Alateens Share Their Experience, Strength and Hope"  
Olin Hall  
Chaired by: Sara M.

#### A.A. & Al-Anon Speaker Meeting\* • 12:00 p.m.

Speakers - Mike & Diane A.  
"Family Disease, Family Miracles"  
E.J. Thomas Hall  
Chaired by: Tracy C.

## REGISTRATION

### UA STUDENT UNION

#### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### Registrations must be picked up by

6:00 p.m. Saturday - **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Package Plans must be picked up at designated  
dormitories. Check confirmation letter or e-mail.

#### Coffee & Fellowship Room

Student Union

#### A.A. Literature Sales

Friday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!

\* A.S.L. INTERPRETER

**NO BASIC REGISTRATION REFUND.  
\$30.00 FEE FOR ALL PACKAGE PLAN CANCELLATIONS!**

**FOUNDERS' DAY IS A SERVICE OF THE AKRON AREA INTERGROUP COUNCIL OF A.A.**

**Name badges & ribbons must be worn for admittance to all meetings — NO EXCEPTIONS!**