

District 1 Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2025 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Attendance:

In Person: Brian B, Lorraine J, Allan C, Jake R, Jamie R, John B, John O'G, Mary Jo G.

Via ZOOM: Carol W, Danielle B, David Y, Fulton P, Martha K, Malinda

Daniel S opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Concept: **Mary Jo G** read Concept 11

Secretary's Report/Minutes: **Motion** and **second** to approve July 21, 2025, minutes as submitted, all in favor.

Treasurers Report: Brian reported beginning balance \$1,944.16; Contributions/Credits = \$130; Expenses (bank/website fees) = \$26.80; Ending balance = \$2,047.36. Peggy was unable to identify the group that provided the contribution--the group number could not be traced.

Motion and **second** to approve Treasurer's Report as submitted, all in favor.

DCM Report: Brian B shared highlights of recent Area 29 activities: process for handling feedback received on the Plain Language Big Book is being established; 5th edition of the Big Book is still in the works—need to pare the stories down from 2600 to 48; AI (Artificial Intelligence) tools should not be used when sensitive/confidential information is involved; an indigenous peoples pamphlet is being developed along with a 12 concepts video.

The Delegate report from the General Service Conference and full transcripts of area meetings are always available at: <https://www.marylandaa.org/>.

Alternate DCM Report: Daniel S not present, no report.

SMIA Liaison Report: SMIA Chair reported on an emerging issue—some churches are requiring groups to purchase liability insurance. Our local Intergroup Association is researching this to identify possible solutions. It is possible to purchase policies that cover only the actual meeting time.

Michele H stepped up to chair the Gratitude Dinner, Rob D and Norm from North Beach plan to join the effort. Sara S from Calvert will be getting 50 tickets. It would be good for other Calvert members to pitch in.

Plans for the next printing of the Where & When are underway, please submit any needed corrections.

SMIA is planning for either a Big Book or Step workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility Committee: Dave Y attended his first All Accessibilities Committee (AAC) meeting on August 11. They discussed ways to accommodate neurodivergent populations. There were two presenters, one AA member and **Zosia Zaks, Ph.D.**—[Zaks Autism Consulting](#), that discussed

issues related to autism. The link above can be used to contact Ms. Zaks. Those interested in attending AAC meetings can find out more by emailing aacsec2020@gmail.com or on the AAC website at <http://accessaa.org>. AAC meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting ID **811 7204 2624**

PW AAC2024

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US

Neurodivergent is an umbrella for various conditions including sensory processing issues, ADHD and other learning disabilities. Area 29 has broadened the scope of their accessibility efforts to address challenges related to aging, education, cognitive conditions and more.

Relevant to Accessibilities and Bridging the Gap, it was noted that several individuals and groups are exploring the possibility of using QR codes to provide access to AA literature. All Conference approved pamphlets can be downloaded for free at <https://www.aa.org/resources/literature> and QR codes can be easily created to take them to specific pamphlets on this site. Brenda W created QR Code posters for use with their district's Public Information efforts. She is waiting for guidance from New York on this. Brian will submit a suggestion to New York to develop these for general use.

Discussed the possibility of a workshop on the topic of accessibility. Also considered asking SMIA to have Brandy T, Area 29 Accessibilities Chair, provide a brief presentation on the topic at the upcoming SMIA workshop.

Bridging the Gap: Chair Dave Y – There continues to be no activity related to this position. He asked about developing a business card-sized handout with links to resources to give to individuals leaving treatment. Brian noted that District 1 did this previously and it was well received and asked David to submit a budget request at the September meeting. David will work with Kenny G to develop a plan.

Events: Jerry C not present. Jake reported that he let Jerry know that his property is available on Saturday, October 25th for a District 1 Chili Cookoff and bonfire.

Grapevine Committee: John B – September issue features stores of gratitude. John encouraged group to check out the Grapevine website for more information and resources.

Institutions: David Y/Peggy K – Both men's and women's groups are well covered but they are still developing a list of back-up speakers to fill in for last-minute cancellations and months when there is a fifth week.

Public Information Committee: Kenny G – not present. Lorraine reported she just placed another pamphlet order (which will be covered under our SMIA PI budget) and that Kenny continues to do an awesome job of carrying the message.

Web Committee: Bill L - Total visits 450 since last month, down 53%. They are still not receiving much information about north county anniversaries. Brian reminded the group they should never open emails that appear to come from IONOS (our domain host). These are phishing attempts.

Corrections: Orientations were held in August.

Workshops: Will continue to support SMIA and other regional efforts.

Old Business:

1. Still need someone to step up as District 1 Alt DCM. DCM job responsibilities include participation in monthly virtual Area 29 meetings, DCM meetings and CARC (Conference Agenda Review Committee) activities. Group was asked to help get the word out to the groups about this need. Lorraine will make sure it appears in the Lifeline.

New Business:

1. Continue Hybrid/Virtual Option for District meetings – Brian noted that he is committed to learning more about the ZOOM platform and recommended, based on the participation so far, that the ZOOM option continue. Discussed whether District 1 should purchase an annual license. David is willing to share the one he uses for the Poplar Hill meeting. Brian and David will discuss and come up with a plan.

GROUP REPORTS

231 Group – Kenny G – Not present—no report.

Awakenings – Wil W – Not present—no report.

Beach Beacon – Needs GSR

Bedouin Group – Lorraine J. All meetings are moving back to the Phillips House. Please help get the word out.

Beyond Sobriety Group (Women's Meeting--Online Only) – Danielle B. Meeting is going well with several new attendees.

Cove Point – Noelle – Not present, no report.

Daily Reflections – Needs GSR.

Daily Reprieve Group – Jake R – Averaging 12-15 attendees. No SMIA rep.

Do Drop-In Women's Group (Online Only) – Carol W. Averaging 7-8 attendees.

Grapevine – John B. – Meeting is doing well.

Grateful Alive Group - Needs GSR.

Happy Destiny – Ken S not present, no report.

Happy Hour – John O'G – Meeting is doing well.

Harmony Group – Shawn H - Not present, no report.

Keeping It Green - Needs GSR.

Living Sober– Danielle M - Not present, no report.

Lusby Big Book – Fulton – Averaging 12-15 attendees.

Monday Night Men's Meeting – Ken S-not present, no report.

North Beach Group – Jaime R – Could use support for the Tuesday and Thursday morning meetings. Annual group picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 27. Bring a covered dish. There are flyers circulating in the area.

Prince Frederick Big Book – Allan C. Averaging 4-6 attendees. Could use support.

Saturday Morning Breakfast – Mary Jo – Excellent attendance—two new home group members. Group just celebrated their 14th anniversary.

Sober by the Bay – Needs GSR.

Solomons – John O'G – Meeting is doing well.

Today Group – Lauren O – Not present, no report.

We Wuz Wurz Group – Brian B – Meeting is doing well.

Closing Prayer