

District 1 Meeting Minutes for September 15, 2025 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Attendance:

In Person: Brian B, Lorraine J, John B, John O'G, Kenny G, Lauren O, Wil Wyatt, Peggy K.

Via ZOOM: David Y, Martha K, Peggy R.

Brian B opened the meeting with the Serenity Prayer.

Concept: **Brian B** read Concept 12; **Kenny G** read Concept 12 from the Plain Language Big Book (PLBB).

Secretary's Report/Minutes: **Motion** and **second** to approve August 18, 2025, minutes as submitted, all in favor.

Treasurers Report: **Brian B** shared revised report for period 7/22 to 8/18/85 which shows a beginning balance of \$1,944.16; Contributions of \$130; Expenses (bank/website) \$26.80; and an ending balance of \$2,047.36. For current period 8/19 to 9/15/25 there was a beginning balance \$2,047.36; Contributions/Credits = \$0; Expenses (bank/website/Accessibilities/PI/Picnic) = \$734.60; and an ending balance of \$1,312.76.

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

DCM Report: **Brian B** reported that the Area meeting is next weekend, so he has nothing to report on that front. He did present the idea of preparing themed QR Code flyers (ex: newcomers) as a PI tool to New York GSO. All new pamphlets from New York will feature QR codes that take you to a pdf version on the GSO website. He noted anyone preparing this type of handout should probably use the QR codes provided by New York as opposed to creating new ones.

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: Position vacant, no report.

SMIA Liaison Report: **Lorraine J** reported that planning for the Gratitude Dinner is in full swing with Michele H as the Chair.

SMIA approved printing of another 1,500 Where & Whens. Please submit any needed corrections. SMIA has no immediate plans for another workshop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Accessibility Committee: Dave Y **All Accessibilities Committee: Monday, September 8th 2025**

- An ASL interpreter is currently used at this meeting. The group conscience opted to include a professional Spanish interpreter, who is also an alcoholic.
- Josh R, developer of the Meeting Guide app, spoke on "Helping to Find AA Meetings"
 - Josh launched the Meeting Guide app in 2015 and donated the rights to AA World Services in 2018. It is now used by 556 service entities. It updates every 12 hours, works with screen readers, adapts to phone text size and dark/light mode.
 - Different types of meetings can be selected, including handicap accessible, restroom accessible, and ASL interpreters.

- General Services (GS) reviews and looks for gaps by seeing what local orgs use on their websites. Local sites are encouraged to propose new meeting types. Looking for feedback on the good and bad features. GS reviews suggestions and forwards to Code4Recovery to make the changes. (To submit feedback: At the bottom of the app: Select Contact. Under Help & Feedback, Select Make a Suggestion for the App. Feedback goes to General Services Code4Recovery via app's Help & Feedback → Make a Suggestion.)
- Selecting the Online Support site opens a browser to information about the Meeting Guide and for the local web admins, with instructions on how to connect their meeting database to the Meeting Guide.
- Upcoming Meeting Guide feature from National AA Technology Workshop (NAATW): An ONLINE meeting tab at the bottom. It first sorts by time of day then by distance. Users can sort on a meeting type (Ex: ASL).
- AA Online Intergroup list not currently connected to the Meeting Guide.
- "12 Step Meeting" WordPress plugin used by AA websites mirrors the Meeting Guide and is mobile friendly.
- Josh urged local sites to conduct accessibility audits.
- David Y purchased Accessibilities related pamphlets for \$203.38 and distributed them to:
 - Solomons Nursing and Rehab Center, Solomons
 - Asbury, Solomons
 - Calvert Pines Senior Citizens Center, Prince Frederick
 - North Beach Senior Center, North Beach
 - Southern Pines Senior Center, Lusby

The contact at Solomons Nursing and Rehab Center, Deci, asked about bringing a meeting into the center. She will poll the residents during an upcoming group meeting. She says there are some that need AA, but she's not sure if they will be receptive.

Brian B asked if SMIA has an Accessibilities Chair. Lorraine reported that they do not.

Lorraine J will advise **Bill L** of the request for accessibility audits and asked if this information could be made available prior to the monthly SMIA meetings held on the second Saturday of the month as it might be of interest to that group.

Bridging the Gap: Chair Dave Y – Still no activity related to this position. He hasn't done anything further on developing a business card-sized handout with links to resources for individuals leaving treatment.

Kenny G advised that he has given David's contact info to several clients leaving Avenues.

Events: **Jerry C** not present. Flyers for Chili Cookoff were distributed.

Grapevine Committee: **John B** – October issue features stories about technology in AA. Check the Grapevine website for more information and resources. They are still looking for stories from various sectors and jokes are always welcome. (After all, we are NOT a glum lot!)

Institutions: **David Y/Peggy K** – Men's groups are well covered. Covering the women's meeting has been more of a challenge recently. Attendance by women at many area meetings seems to be low. They are both always looking for folks for a back-up list for last-minute cancellations and months when there is a fifth week.

Public Information Committee: **Kenny G** reported received another pamphlet order. SMIA budget allocation for PI is fully expended and an additional \$89.20 was required to complete this recent order. All locations (Substance Abuse—Health Department and three branch offices, Project Echo, library branches) are being regularly stocked.

Web Committee: Bill L - Total visits 577 since last month, up 28%. WRT anniversaries, all Calvert County areas are improving. Brian reminded the group they should never open emails that appear to come from IONOS (our domain host). These are phishing attempts.

Corrections: No report.

Workshops: Will continue to support SMIA and other regional efforts. Discussed the possibility of an Accessibilities-themed workshop. Some expressed doubt that it would attract much interest. Brian B will check with other localities to see what, if anything, they have done on this topic.

Old Business:

1. Brian B’s term as DCM is over effective October 2025. He will continue as an alternate DCM for one year and will continue to attend meetings, but we need to elect a new DCM at the October meeting.

New Business:

1. Responded to a concern about audio quality for those participating via ZOOM. At this meeting everyone sat around one long table and ZOOM participants reported audio quality was better.

GROUP REPORTS

231 Group – Kenny G – Going well.

Awakenings – Wil W – Averaging 22 attendees. No SMIA rep. Friday Noon now reads from the Plain Language Big Book—not necessarily an entire chapter, one section at a time and then discuss.

Beach Beacon – Needs GSR

Bedouin Group – Lorraine J – Averaging 15-25 attendees. All meetings have moved back “home” to the Phillips House and online meeting listings have been updated.

Beyond Sobriety Group (Women’s Meeting--Online Only) – Carol W – Averaging 5-8 attendees. No SMIA rep.

Cove Point – Brian B – Going well with good attendance.

Daily Reflections – Malinda – Going well. Attendance is up.

Daily Reprieve Group – Jake R – No report.

Do Drop-In Women’s Group (Online Only) – Carol W - Averaging 5-8 attendees, some new. No SMIA rep. Recently provided a Large Print Big Book for a vision-impaired visitor. She was extremely appreciative.

Grapevine – John B. – Averaging 4-8 in-person and up to 3 online attendees. Could use some support.

Grateful Alive Group - Needs GSR.

Happy Destiny – Ken S not present, no report.

Happy Hour – John O'G – Averaging 4-8 attendees. No SMIA rep.

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

Keeping It Green - Needs GSR.

Living Sober– Danielle M – Going well.

Lusby Big Book – Fulton – Going well. Attendance is up.

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

North Beach Group – Needs GSR. Jamie is looking for a replacement.

Prince Frederick Big Book – Allan C - Not present, no report.

Saturday Morning Breakfast – Mary Jo – Lot of new folks. Excellent attendance.

Sober by the Bay – Needs GSR.

Solomons – John O'G – Effective immediately they are not holding meetings downstairs. Enter by the same door and go through the door directly across from that entrance.

Today Group – Lauren O – Averaging 20-25 attendees. No SMIA rep.

We Wuz Wurz Group – Brian B – Going well.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.