

# MARGENSER

Fostering Unity and Carrying the A A Message in Area 29 MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE

**“New Power, Peace and Happiness”  
45th Annual Maryland State Convention  
June 18 - 21, 2015  
Clarion Hotel and Hager Hall Conference Center  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
Online Registration Deadline - June 9, 2015**

*Bob C., 2015 State Convention Chairperson*

Once again, it's time for the annual Area 29 Maryland General Service State Convention, which will happen June 18-21 at The Clarion Hotel and Hager Hall Conference Center in Hagerstown, MD.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of this event which was first held in 1971 at the Venice Hotel in Hagerstown. The theme of this year's convention is *New Power, Peace and Happiness*, which comes from page 51 of our Big Book.

The convention is a 4-day event, Thursday through Sunday, and draws members from all over Maryland as well as DC, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Delaware, and even farther.

This year's convention promises Fun, Fellowship, great Speakers, Alcahons, Workshops, two DJ Dances, Ice Cream Socials, Old Timer's Panel and Meditation. The cost for the full weekend is \$27 for mailed pre-registrations postmarked by June 5, and \$29 for registrations mailed after June 5, online registrations made by June 9, or on-site registrations.

From time to time, members ask, "Why do I have to pay for an AA event? I thought AA was free." This is an excellent question, and it applies to all the many AA conferences

and conventions held around the world. A common misconception is that these gatherings are AA meetings, and we shouldn't have registration fees since we have no dues or fees for AA membership.

However, conventions and conferences are special events – not regular meetings. They require months of planning, preparation, and money to make possible. Since large multi-day events require hotels or conference centers, there is a charge for those facilities. Other expenses include travel and lodging for speakers, printing of flyers, schedules and programs, postage, supplies, entertainment and, of course, COFFEE!! A big event requires a substantial amount of money.

Therefore, *the convention is self-supporting through the contributions of the members who attend.* No Seventh Tradition basket monies go into the event. We never pass the basket at a convention. Rather, the cost is paid through registration fees, and a badge is required for all parts of the event. The goal of the convention committee is to break even, so the registration fee is nominal compared to a weekend of entertainment anywhere

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## MARGENSER STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Area 29 MARGENSER newsletter is published to foster unity and facilitate communication among AA members, groups, districts, and intergroups within the Maryland General Service Area. The MARGENSER aims to be instrumental in carrying the AA message. This quarterly newsletter seeks to publish AA-related material, including personal stories of experience, strength, and hope. Material will be reviewed by the MARGENSER committee chairperson or by a member of the committee. Nothing published in the MARGENSER should be thought of as a statement of Area 29 or AA policy. Finally, publication shall not constitute endorsement by the newsletter itself, Area 29, intergroups, districts, local groups, or AA as a whole.

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Here are some special features of this year's state convention that will make the weekend especially enjoyable:

- This year, we are **increasing the AA workshop seating capacity** by 50% (to approximately 160 people) by utilizing part of the hospitality room during the afternoon workshop periods. This change should enable more people to attend, while maintaining the intimate atmosphere that makes a workshop tick.
- Saturday afternoon, the **Old Timers' Panel features three invited old timers** to share the experience, strength and hope that they've been given over the years. This revives a format followed in previous years, and we look forward to hear what these members will share with us.
- On both Friday and Saturday nights,

we are bringing back the **DJ dance** with the same DJ who performed admirably at the Fall Convention last year. We look forward to jamming the dance floor with you in between trips through the ice cream line, since the ice cream social will be running concurrently with the dance at the back of the ballroom.

Finally, here are summaries of the menus, which you can read in their entirety on the flyer (ample vegetarian options are available at all meals):

- **\$20.00 "Build Your Own Pasta" buffet Friday night** – A perennial favorite!
- **\$11.00 Saturday Picnic Lunch** served outside, weather permitting – Pulled Pork BBQ, Home-style Vegetarian Baked Beans, Ratatouille Casserole and Ambrosia Salad, topped off with Brownies or a non-chocolate dessert.
- **\$27.00 Saturday Night Banquet** – Enjoy a Buffet featuring a Carving

Station of Roast Beef, Chicken Cacciatore, Seafood Newburg in Rice Pilaf and Vegetarian Lasagna with Ricotta Cheese, followed by a Warm Chocolate Lava Cake (decadent!).

Look for the colorful flyers at your home group, district or Area functions, or the Maryland General Service website at [www.marylandaa.org](http://www.marylandaa.org). Remember, you can pre-register at [www.mgsconventions.org](http://www.mgsconventions.org) by June 9, and the hotel room reservation deadline is May 18. Please reserve your room by phone at the Clarion Hotel (301-733-5100) or the Rodeway Inn (behind the Clarion, at 301-714-0800) so it will be sure to count toward our room block. If they tell you they are sold out, contact the convention committee right away at [stateconvention@marylandaa.org](mailto:stateconvention@marylandaa.org) and we will make sure you get a room either in the convention hotels or very close by.

See you at the Convention!!! 🎉

## Trudging Along

Ron M., Area 29 Delegate

We all went through it. Some responded some did not. The epiphany came when it became apparent that we were alcoholic. Wow!! What do we do now! Well I can stop any time I want to. No problem! A few drinks once in a while won't be any problem. I can take care of myself. Or maybe, just maybe, I can ask for help. No, that would just show weakness. What would people say? Maybe, just maybe, a nice vacation would be the thing to straighten me out. I certainly don't want to be one of those drunks. On the other hand I have tried to quit before and was never able to stay quit. Maybe I should try that AA stuff. Many have thought "I will die if I drink, and I will die if I don't have a drink." The pit I fell into seemed bottomless. There was one crisis after another.

Finally, people who loved me intervened and forced me into a treatment facility where I was fed a steady diet of AA. This time there was a light on the horizon and something inside of me said this was my last chance. The journey began. After a few weeks I was declared "dry" and sent home. Total immersion

in AA was the parting order. I say dry because I had been without a drink for a few weeks; the alcohol had evaporated from my body, however, true sobriety, and its wonders, was still unknown to me. Major changes in my lifestyle, habits, and thinking were necessary and required before bona fide sobriety could be achieved. In hindsight, crossing the threshold between physical dryness to spiritual sobriety took around 2-3 years. As it says in our literature "pain is the touchstone of spiritual progress" and "the pains of alcoholism had to come before sobriety." For a good long while, I was able to survive on this alone. Time passed. I muddled through thinking there was nothing more to learn or experience.

While reading AA's literature, I stumbled across a writing of Bill's that has changed my life. In that Grapevine article dated January 1958 he addressed the issue of "emotional sobriety" in an article ("LOVE" The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety) that has repeatedly appeared in various publications. It is well documented that Bill W. suffered

from significant emotional problems for years which may have led to his in depth look at his own emotions. Other articles on emotional sobriety can be found in "As Bill Sees It" on pages 244 and 288 as well as in the relatively new publication entitled "Emotional Sobriety", which is an excellent place to start your own journey to emotional sobriety.

Reading, rereading, and pondering this concept has led me to recognize and scrutinize my own emotions and the part they play in my recovery. I have become acutely aware of my own emotional pain and recognize the negative part it was playing in my recovery. I have concluded that emotional pain is much worse and more acute than physical pain. That on a daily basis I must pray for relief from both kinds of pain, especially the emotional pain, which cuts deeper and lasts longer than the physical pain that might come along from time to time. However the emotional pain seems to be lurking behind every thought and action only to jump out at any moment to disrupt my goal for

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serenity.

It is my conclusion that "The Journey" comes in phases and is different and distinct for everyone. We must all face the emotional pain in order to

attain serenity. Quite possibly we should be giving out medallions for successful periods of emotional sobriety or serenity in lieu of months or years of abstinence.

In any event I intend to keep trudging along and leave you with a quote from Robert Frost. "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." 🌲

## Carry This Message

Don B., Area 29 Secretary

Our Twelfth Step promises us that the result of our practice of all 12 Steps of the AA program is a spiritual awakening. It is undisputed among those who actually make the 12 Steps their way of life. They have become able to do, feel, think, see, and believe things which they were incapable of experiencing on their unaided willpower and resources alone. When we practice the AA program, we have a message of depth and weight which can capture the attention and bring hope to millions of people who still suffer from the disease of alcoholism and the spiritual malady of self in its many manifestations. We try to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to others in order to stay sober ourselves and also to fulfill our primary purpose of helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

But what is this message which we have vowed to carry? Perhaps the Foreword to the *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* states it best: "AA's Twelve Steps are a set of principles, spiritual in their nature, which, if practiced as a way of life, can expel the obsession to drink and enable the sufferer to become happily and usefully whole." By practicing spiritual principles, we will experience a spiritual awakening and we will be relieved of our

alcoholism. In other words, an alcoholic who practices all 12 Steps of the AA program one day at a time as a way of life will be restored to sanity, will no longer be enslaved by alcohol, and will enjoy an unprecedented degree of usefulness and, therefore, happiness.

It is, however, very easy to confuse the ends with the means. The 12 Steps are the mere vehicle which rockets us into the fourth dimension of existence, the Realm of Spirit. Their ultimate objective is to show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered, to invite others to join us as we trudge the Road of Happy Destiny. The practice of these Steps is not an end in itself. The 12 Steps are the means by which we achieve our primary spiritual aim, which is to be of maximum usefulness to God and the people about us. Steps, sponsorship, spirituality, service, literature, slogans, meetings, home groups, and fellowship are all part of the AA way of life. We have been granted the gift of sobriety, and the transmission of that gift to others is the unifying force which animates millions of recovered alcoholics around the world. During the process of living the 12 Steps, our reliance upon a Higher Power, God *as we understand Him*, becomes evident to all.

WE are the message of AA It is our changed lives, our reunited families, which is the true testimony, the true power of attraction of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is when we practice AA's 12 Steps and 12 Traditions as our way of life that we become the message! We instill the message by the way we handle seeming success or failure, the ups and downs of daily living, the triumphs and trials and temptations of life and the sorrows and suffering and inevitability of death, that spiritual principles will solve all our problems. Thus it is not we as individuals, but AA as a whole, and our collective Higher Power, which is exalted. We do not will ourselves sober; God grants us the courage to change the things we can. We let go of self-will and let God do the rest. Thus, He rightfully gets the credit for doing what we cannot do for ourselves.

When we focus on the problem, the problem grows. When we focus on doing the next right thing, seeking a solution, as well as rely on our collective Spirit, our primary purpose, and our three Legacies (Recovery, Unity, and Service), we help AA to grow, in an ever-widening circle of peace on earth and good will to men. So join us on the Broad Highway. And bring someone else along – we'll all be better for it. 🌲

## A New Concept of Service

By Mike M. - Magothy 12 & 12

"At the moment we are trying to put our lives in order. But this is not an end in itself. Our real purpose," as stated in the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, "is to fit ourselves to be of maximum service to God and the people about us." When I initially encountered AA -- and for several years thereafter -- I had a definite desire to stop drinking and put my life in order.

Being of service, though, was not on the agenda.

I recall being greeted warmly at meetings by AA members. They all seemed to be glad I was there for some reason. That made me feel welcome, but because I couldn't imagine why anyone would be welcoming to someone like me, I thought there must be a catch -- some angle I

wasn't seeing yet.

As I didn't have a car, my sponsor would take me to meetings. I offered him what little money I had for the extra mileage, but he would never take it. One day he told me that I was helping him more than he was helping me. I had no idea what he meant or how there could be

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any truth to that. I had always expected something in return for giving something of myself. Usually, my self-centered expectation was that people would think of me as a wonderful person and go tell their friends or families.

Today, my understanding and experience of what it means to be of service is very different than before. I have also come to realize that opportunities to be of service are usually instances for which I am grateful. Before AA, I could never conceive of or imagine the idea that, by helping others, without any self-centered expectations attached, I was actually helping myself.

When others share their "experience, strength and hope," I typically find it both therapeutic and essential to my own recovery. While I don't share very often in meet-

ings, my hope is that when I do, the story of my experience might help someone in a similar way that listening to others' helps me. I believe there is a multitude of ways to be of service: greeting people at a meeting; driving others to a meeting; setting up or cleaning up after a meeting. These are all ways I've had the opportunity to be of service. They're not exactly newsworthy actions, but thankfully, in AA we don't tend to seek personal attention or self-promotion through acts of service or otherwise.

I used to view the concept of helping someone else -- without the thought of praise or personal gain -- as a burdensome task to either put off or put behind me as soon as possible. I thought I had more important things to do or more important places to be. Of course, service is not limited to only helping other alcoholics; I owe a lifetime of amends to some non-

alcoholics as well. However, though I've been told that I'm not "unique" in AA, I've also been told that I'm uniquely qualified to help another alcoholic.

A few months ago, a friend of mine in the program asked me if I would take a meeting into a prison with him and a few other AA members on Christmas Day. Before he could finish asking the question, I had already said yes. It might have been easy for me to justify the reasons why I couldn't, as AA has allowed me to be a part of the lives of my family, including my young daughter. The fact that I said yes without a thought, however, is proof enough for me that service really does work.

As a fundamental part of AA, it's something that I must do. What is strange, in light of my past, is that it's something I want to do. ☺

## Why International Conventions?

Arnold R., Area 29 Past Delegate, Panel 46

One of the extraordinary experiences of my sober alcoholic life is the overwhelming, larger-than-life impact of an AA International Convention.

From the moment I begin the registration process, something unexplainable begins to happen. It is as though

dividends are set aside in my personal sobriety account to be paid--with interest--at the convention and long after.

After the last International Convention, a member of my home group was trying to explain to a newcomer the marvelous and exhilarat-

ing time she had. "First of all," she explained, "you have to picture 50,000 people, all of whom would be dead if it weren't for each other! Then you have that many people from all over the country and all over the world hugging

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## MARYLAND GENERAL SERVICE AREA 29 2015 CALENDAR

May 30, 2015  
10 am – 2 pm

MGS Finance Committee Workshop  
7th Tradition Day of Sharing

All Saint's Episcopal Church  
106 W Church Street  
Frederick, MD

June 13, 2015  
12 noon – 6 pm

District 41 Picnic  
Speaker from 4 – 5 pm

Old Nat'l Pike District Park  
12406 Old National Pike  
New Market, MD

June 18-21, 2015

45th Annual Area 29 State Convention

Clarion Hotel & Hager Hall  
901 Dual Highway  
Hagerstown, MD

July 2 – 5, 2015

2015 International Convention

Georgia World Congress Center  
Atlanta, GA

July 18, 2015  
8:30 am registration  
9:00 am meeting start

Area Committee Meeting

Baltimore, MD  
Location TBA  
Hosted by District 4

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and kissing each other the whole time!"

At AA's 75th anniversary celebration at the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio, members from ninety-six lands were present. Since then, one day at a time, we have been preparing for the next international celebration.

Previous experiences at other Internationals have convinced me that this one will be another powerful example of living sober - happy, joyous and free. Seeing the festive crowds, I am sure to be reminded that "In spite of the great increase in the size and the span of this Fellowship, at its core it remains simple and personal. Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength, and hope." (Alcoholics Anonymous. p. xxii)

The International Convention truly enables attendees to witness the success and growth of AA around the world. Not only does this event affect members in attendance and provide the opportunity for a rededication to AA's primary purpose, it also provides a chance for the public to see us first hand, letting the world know that AA is alive, flourishing and available as a community resource, locally and internationally.

Now, five years later, we are planning to attend the AA's 80th anniversary celebration in Atlanta, July 2-5, 2015. The newcomers who were asking questions five years ago will probably have additional inquiries now, such as: "What business do you do there?" and "What goes on at the meetings?" First, no business takes place at the International Convention. Second, the meetings are similar to that of typical home group meetings: one alcoholic sharing his or her experience, strength, and hope with another. It's the same thing, really, that goes on at all the other state and regional conferences and round-ups of AA (over 200 of them

annually in the U.S. and Canada).

But somehow, the size and diversity of this crowd, with people from every corner of the globe, heightens the emotional impact of the experience. You see, for the four days of an International Convention, the member's world is turned upside down. Normally, in our home communities, we are anonymous as we go about our work or play. But since AA's International Conventions are held on July Fourth weekends, the regular residents of the Convention city are almost all away. Suddenly, everyone is "one of us!" The only "civilians" left are the bus and taxi drivers, the waitresses and the bellhops. After their initial shock, they too join in the celebration.

Each Convention has made its own memorable contributions to our Fellowship. The first one in Cleveland celebrated the 15th Anniversary of Alcoholics Anonymous. Since Dr. Bob died in November 1950, it was the only Convention in which both of our co-founders appeared. The General Service Conference received its start, on a five-year probationary period, at this Convention.

"The first three days of July 1955, Alcoholics Anonymous held a Convention in St. Louis," Bill W. writes in *AA Comes of Age*. "There our Fellowship declared itself to have come to the age of full responsibility, and there it received from its founders and old-timers permanent keeping of its three great Legacies."

The 1960 International Convention in Long Beach marked the 25th Anniversary of our Fellowship. About 9,000 AAs and family members attended, which included many of the nonalcoholic friends of AA-Sister Ignatia, Reverend Sam Shoemaker and Milton Maxwell.

"I Am Responsible" was the theme of the 1965 International in Toronto, the first Convention held outside of the United States. More than 10,000 people

from 34 countries gathered at this International. In his concluding talk, Bill W. reminded his listeners that the program had reached less than ten percent of those needing help. Bill W. briefly addressed members at his last International in 1970 in Miami. Again, powerful themes and dedications were matched by beautiful surroundings, but the overriding issue in the minds of most people was Bill's declining health. He died the following January.

The 1975 International in Denver witnessed nearly 20,000 attendees. Here the Native American AA participation was strong. AA members from nineteen countries around the world carried their national flags.

In 1980, the New Orleans International was marked by the introduction of Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers. Attendance soared to more than 22,000.

Five years later, attendance nearly doubled to 44,500 at the 50th Anniversary of AA at the 1985 Convention in Montreal. Here Lois Wilson made a brief appearance at 94 years of age, and Ruth Hock, who typed the original manuscript of the Big Book, was presented with the five-millionth copy.

In 1990, the International returned to the West Coast, when 45,000 attendees converged on Seattle. The flag ceremony, with many Eastern European banners appearing for the first time, was a particularly moving and memorable event.

The 1995 opening ceremony in San Diego had 87 flags represented from around the world, truly reflecting the Convention theme. "AA Everywhere-Anywhere" to the delight of the 56,000 people in attendance.

The 2000 International Convention in Minneapolis was spectacular from the imaginative "Walk-the-Walk" to the over 250 meetings and workshops with nearly 750 speakers, to the engrossing

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Big Meetings. The streets were lined in Blue to show all 47,000 participants how to take "The Steps" to arrive at the stadium to witness 86 flags, representing AA meetings and members worldwide.

The 2005 International Convention was a wonderful experience for the approximately 43,800 attendees. For the first time, members from around the world who were unable to make it to Toronto had a limited opportunity to view an encrypted, anonymity-protected, delayed internet broadcast of the opening Flag Ceremony. 52,500 attendees (the largest attendance to date) celebrated the 75th Anniversary at the 2010 International Convention in San Antonio. Resonating throughout the event was the convention theme, "A Vision for You".

Many AAs will travel to Atlanta with old friends, sponsors or home group members, and will have those

"road meetings" that form such an important part of our Fellowship. Not surprising, those AA "coincidences" may occur - someone you lost track of will show up sober. The distance member who Twelfth-stepped you will suddenly appear, or someone on your Step Eight list will provide you with the opportunity to make amends. New and lifelong friendships will be made - perhaps in the wee hours of the morning, as we fellowship over ice cream and coffee. Opportunities for on-the-spot Twelfth Step work will arise. We have all heard the stories of alcoholics who got sober during an International Convention.

The theme for this 14th International in 2015 is "80 Years - Happy, Joyous and Free." In the closing of Chapter Eleven in our Big Book, it reads: "Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to Him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find

and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the road of Happy Destiny."

In so many ways, at each International Convention, we are given a rare glimpse of the breadth of AA. Each conventioneer returns home with exchanged name badges and lapel pins, autographs, photographs, quotes and anecdotes, signatures and souvenirs; but these are not all. There is within all of us a spiritual bolstering, a memory that is not of the mind but of the heart and soul.

This is the interest paid on being present at the worldwide gathering, and it belies the old saying that you get out of AA no more than you put into it. Somehow, inexplicably, everyone receives more than he or she gives. There is a mysterious compounding of all our sobriety accounts which makes the total greater than the sum of its individual parts. ▲

## A Journey to Gratitude

*Ed E., District 30 DCM*

I'm Ed E., and I am an alcoholic. My home group, Back to Basics, meets Thursdays, 7 p.m., at Grove Presbyterian Church, East Bel Air Ave., Aberdeen, MD—in District 30 of Area 29/Maryland General Service.

This group gets me back to basics with others so that I don't have to get back to them alone. The first half of our meetings features topic discussions; in the second half, we have a speaker.

I got sober in Massachusetts when I was 19. I was in a lot of trouble. I had been through Pocasset De-tox, on Cape Cod, where I started to attend meetings. When I heard AA's talk about their alcoholism—I thought more about myself, about the family I was raised in. My dad was an alcoholic.

The oldest of five, I thought I was

responsible for my siblings and my mother, all of whom suffered the ravages of my father's alcoholism and violence. My dad committed suicide when I was 15. Alcoholism conquered him and took him away. After that, two of my brothers committed suicide and I thought this would also be my destiny.

I had my first drink, Boon's Farm Apple Wine, when I was 15, about the time my dad died. Other neighborhood kids talked about the thrill of alcohol, and I couldn't wait to try it. When I did, I loved it instantly and chased the feeling for a long time afterward.

At age 19, I attended my first AA meeting while a resident of Pocasset De-tox. I found it hard to connect with "those" people—they seemed really old—but the main problem is that I was living in my own head and couldn't

get out. I was totally focused on myself and my family.

From Pocasset, I went to a half-way house where I had a little bit more freedom, got a sponsor and joined a home group in Hyannis. My sponsor and I brought AA meetings to Bridgewater Institution, in Bridgewater, MA which was not exactly a place you want to call home. My sponsor warned me, "Ed, if you keep sucking on the jug, you will end up just like these people." My inner voice said: Not me!

I stayed sober for 8 months.

My marriage failed.

I ended up at Bridgewater, as an inmate. To my great disappointment, nobody said they cared about me. Nobody said they loved me—but they did give me a clean uniform and locked me in an iron room.

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While in Bridgewater, I met with a psychiatrist who told me that a kid raised in an alcoholic home like mine would naturally pick up the emotions and attitudes of alcoholics. He told me that anybody who “abuses alcohol like you have can never become a social drinker.”

“Anything you know won’t work,” he said, then walked out of the room.

At an AA meeting in prison, a speaker said he put his sobriety first, that staying sober was the most important thing in the world—including being married. I could not wrap my head around that idea.

Somewhere inside me, in early sobriety, I knew I had not given AA one-hundred percent. I let everybody else in AA do the work for me. Nothing in me had changed.

After Bridgewater, I heard about an AA meeting in a bank and wanted to find out how a bunch of drunks get into a bank on a Saturday night. In the parking lot stood a man I’d met when I was 19: Bobby. After the meeting, I asked Bobby if we could talk. “Sure,” he said.

I did not know that Bobby was four-and-a-half years sober. He was involved in AA service. He took me with him as he performed his service work. Bobby told me three things: He wasn’t going to chase me, he didn’t have all the answers, and that I must go to any lengths to get and stay sober. “Would I be willing to do anything?” he asked.

“Anything,” I said.

After a while, I overcame my withdrawn self and got involved in the group. I did as my sponsor said but

was still pretty arrogant.

Bobby was our group’s General Service Rep (GSR), something I’d never heard of, but soon learned. Together, we went to Area meetings where I saw people with nametags who said friendly things like Hi!

Slowly, I began to realize that AA was not all about me. It was about carrying the message of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Today, I watch for the new person who comes in the door of Alcoholics Anonymous. I try to give them the warm welcome I got when I first came to AA.

AA gives me a sense of responsibility and I’m grateful for that. I’d never experienced gratitude in my alcoholic home or in my drinking life. I’m very grateful to pass along what was freely given to me. 

## THE MARGENSER IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

The MARGENSER Committee welcomes submissions. We are here to serve you. Submissions should be no more than 750 words and about service or recovery. Please include your first name, last initial and home group. Email all correspondence to [Margenser@marylandAA.org](mailto:Margenser@marylandAA.org) or mail to Maryland General Services, PO Box 13457, Baltimore, MD 21203. The submission deadline for the next issue is July 20, 2015.

## REACHING OUT TO THE “DARK DISTRICTS”

Many of our neighbors do not actively participate in Area 29, nor are their voices heard within AA as a whole. We encourage you to reach out to those districts without active GSRs or DCMs, sharing your experience of service beyond the home group and carrying the message one-on-one. Area 29 welcomes your ideas on how we can best do this and offers our support.

## SEND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO...

In accordance with the 7th Tradition and abiding by the group conscience of your home group, you may send contributions in support of Area 29 to:

Maryland General Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 13457  
Baltimore, MD 21203

# MARGENSER

P.O. Box 13457  
Baltimore, MD 21203



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