



Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from AGRM

Useful news and information for association members

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Best Rates for AGRM's 2018 Annual Convention Start Right Now!

Early-Bird Registration for your 2018 Annual Convention—which will be held June 12–15 in Milwaukee—officially begins today. But we are so excited about this event that we opened registration yesterday, a day early.

Go to www.agrm.org/convention to get all the details about this important gathering. Or if you know you just do not want to miss this big event, you can jump right to the [online registration page](#).

By the way, Milwaukee is home to Harley-Davidson® Motorcycles—and *we'll be giving away one of them at the convention!* Details coming soon.

Tax Reform Issues Coming Down to the Wire

Last night, thanks to efforts from our Faith & Giving Coalition and other groups, Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) introduced the “[Universal Charitable Giving Act of 2017](#).” This is one more attempt to keep the incentive for donors as high as possible in the new tax plan that will be up for a vote very soon. But the bill needs a co-sponsor, TODAY! Some of the members of the Senate Finance Committee are the best candidates. We are thinking: Sen. John Cornyn (TX); Sen. John Thune (SD); Sen. Richard Burr (NC); Sen. Dean Heller (NV); Sen. Tim Scott (SC); and Sen. Bill Cassidy (LA). If one of these gentlemen is your senator, please call his office today and ask him (most likely one of his aides) to co-sponsor Senator Lankford’s “Universal Charitable Giving Act of 2017.” Time is of the essence.

Openings Available for Ripple Effect's Two Area Cohorts

Rescue missions in the northwest and southeast part of the country are now registering for the 2018 Ripple Effect program. While participants do not necessarily need to be located in these regions, the on-site events will be held in Vancouver, Washington (for the northwest) and Birmingham, Alabama (for the southeast). Information and testimonials about this amazingly helpful, nine-month board performance acceleration program can be found online at www.agrm.org/rippleeffect.

If your board would like to learn and adopt proven governance practices that will catapult your mission forward, seriously consider this opportunity that is available at a reasonable cost, thanks in part to a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. To be "penciled in" for one of these remaining slots, email Meetings and Events Manager Lisa Miller at lmiller@agrm.org right away.

Be Sure to Vote!

Have you voted yet? This year, members in the Bluegrass, Great Lakes, and Deep South districts are electing cabinet officers and a board representative, and all AGRM members are electing an at-large board member. The elected officers will serve three-year terms, starting January 1, 2018, and running through December 31, 2020.

Voting members of AGRM received an email on November 7 with instructions for electronic voting. Elections close this Friday, November 17, at 11:59 p.m. (Mountain Time). If you have questions, please contact Executive Assistant Christine Matos at cmatos@agrm.org.

A Few Open Seats Remain on AGRM's Blue Ribbon Panel

As AGRM goes through a critical refocusing and rebranding under the board's guidance, President John Ashmen will be quizzing and bouncing ideas off of a diverse group of about 25 members we're calling the Blue Ribbon Panel. Dick McMillen of Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) and Jack Crowley of Water Street Mission (Lancaster, Pennsylvania) are co-chairing the panel. The first Zoom teleconference for the group will be on Monday, November 27.

Do you have a passion for our association and for branding and marketing? Would you like to be part of this group that rolls up its sleeves and handles some of the tough but necessary questions? Email John at jashmen@agrm.org and ask to be considered for a seat on the panel.

Still Seeking Pics from District Meetings

Did you take any photos at your district meeting this fall? If so, we'd like to see them! Classroom shots, mealtime pics, close-ups, or whatever. Please email copies to AGRM so we can use them in future communications and thanks-yous to sponsors. Send to Director of Communications Brad Lewis at blewis@agrm.org.



membershipstop

Highlights of AGRM member benefits

AGRM Member Benefit: Wholesale Items

When it comes to school supplies, hygiene items, socks, and many more items that are useful to your guests and clients, it's hard to beat the prices and service offered by DollarDays, the largest online wholesale and closeout company dedicated to nonprofit organizations. Through a national partnership with AGRM, your mission will receive free shipping on all orders of any size or volume when you shop www.Mission.DollarDays.com and use promo code AGRM.



mainstreet

Reports from North America's downtowns

Insurance Companies Commit to Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Sixteen major health care providers have announced that they will adopt eight "National Principles of Care" for the treatment of addiction.

According to a *Forbes* [report](#), Gary Mendell of Shatterproof helped convene the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Task Force in April. The group of 16 covers over 248 million patient lives, and has provided letters of commitment and signed a memorandum of understanding to advance the following eight "National Principles of Care":

1. Universal screening for substance use disorders across medical care settings.
2. Personalized diagnosis, assessment, and treatment planning.
3. Rapid access to appropriate Substance Use Disorder care.
4. Engagement in continuing long-term outpatient care with monitoring and adjustments to treatment.
5. Concurrent, coordinated care for physical and mental illness.
6. Access to fully trained and accredited behavioral health professionals.
7. Access to Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications.
8. Access to non-medical recovery support services.

As Mendell explained, these eight principles aren't new and instead essentially emerged from *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health* from 2016 that included recommendations resulting from an extensive review of the scientific literature.

More Cities Provide Legal Defense for Immigrants

Eleven cities and counties are joining the list of jurisdictions providing legal defense for undocumented immigrants at risk of deportation.

The Vera Institute of Justice has launched the Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Cities Network this past week. According to a [report](#) from NPR, the cities and counties making up the network will provide legal counsel for immigrants facing deportation proceedings.

Vera says it selected the jurisdictions for committing to invest public money toward defending immigrants against deportation. The nonprofit says it will use a fund it administers to match the public money. The cities and counties making up the SAFE Cities Network are: Atlanta; Austin; Baltimore; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Dane County, Wisconsin; Oakland; Prince George's County, Maryland; Sacramento; San Antonio; and Santa Ana, California.

Access to Narcan Helps Address Opioid Crisis

Walgreens recently announced that all its pharmacies would stock Narcan, an inhalant form of the drug naloxone. Most states don't require a doctor's prescription to buy Narcan, so this improves the chances that the life-saving drug may be available when it is crucially necessary.

According to a [report](#) in *Healthline*, dispensing pharmacists are required to provide instructions to individuals who purchase Narcan, including how to recognize an overdose, steps for administering the drug, and calling 911. Early market reports indicate that a typical purchaser of Narcan is someone who cares for someone with a risky high-dose opioid prescription.

According to a study done in Massachusetts, naloxone is 93 percent effective in reversing an opioid overdose. However, one in 10 of those who are saved from death in this manner suffer a drug-related death within a year. Nevertheless, communities with access to Narcan have fewer overdose deaths than those with limited access to the drug.



Tobacco Smoking Rate Stays Steady

One in five adults in the United States still uses tobacco on a regular basis, and 15 percent of the population smokes cigarettes. The smoking rate has stayed steady in recent years despite public health efforts to reduce tobacco use, notes a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

According to an [article](#) in the *Daily Mail*, as e-cigarettes and other alternative tobacco products become more popular, the vast majority—87.4 percent—of tobacco users still used some form of smokable tobacco.

It has been more than 50 years since the U.S. Surgeon General first officially recognized smoking as a direct cause of disease and death, yet the CDC estimates that more than 480,000 people die of causes related to the habit each year. The vast majority of tobacco users report using a combustible product such as cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. Just 3.5 percent say they use e-cigarettes, and 3.4 percent use cigars, cigarillos, or filtered little cigars. Smokeless tobacco—such as chewing tobacco and snuff—was reported by 2.3 percent of adults. Just 1.2 percent used pipes, water pipes, or hookahs.

Veterans Suffering from Opioid Addiction

Opioid drug abuse has killed more Americans than the Iraq, Afghanistan, and Vietnam wars combined, and U.S. veterans and advocates used Veteran's Day to focus on how to help victims of the crisis.

In a [report](#) by Fox News, veterans are twice as likely as non-veterans to die from accidental overdoses of the highly addictive painkillers, a rate that reflects high levels of chronic pain among vets, particularly those who served in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Government and health-care officials have been struggling to stem the epidemic of overdoses, which killed more than 64,000 Americans in the 12 months ending last January alone, a 21 percent increase over the previous year, according to the Centers for Disease Control. About 65,000 Americans died in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Veterans Administration (VA) system has stepped up its efforts to address the crisis, having treated some 68,000 veterans for opioid addiction since March. The department's Louis Stokes VA Center in Cleveland has also begun testing alternative treatments, including acupuncture and yoga, to reduce use of and dependency on drugs.

Mental Health Crisis Largely Invisible in Schools

Millions of American students suffer from mental health problems, and only a fraction are receiving necessary treatment, warns a brief from the American Institutes for Research.

According to an [article](#) in *The 74*, the prevalence of mental health problems appears to be growing. More than 60 percent of college students reported feeling overwhelming anxiety over the previous year in 2016, up from 50 percent just five years prior. More alarming still, hospitalizations for mood disorders among children ages 17 and under leaped by 68 percent between 1997 and 2011.

Building largely on government data, the study observes that up to 20 percent of Americans under the age of 18 suffer from mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders. The most common disorders include ADHD, depression, conduct problems, autism, substance abuse, and Tourette's syndrome. Yet estimates show that almost half of all children with those emotional or psychological conditions don't receive either medication or psychological services, and only 7.4 percent of adolescents report visiting with a mental health professional over the course of a year.



ACTS Workshop

The Association of Christian Thrift Stores (ACTS) will hold their Annual Workshop January 14–17, 2018 in Durham, NC. Participants will be staying at the Hilton Durham near Duke University. You can register online and get the hotel reservation information at actswebsite.com.

Cost of the Workshop and membership is \$315.00 per person. The room rates for 2 double beds is \$99.00 per night.

The Workshop cost includes eight training sessions, six meals, a tour of the Durham Rescue Mission's Thrift Store Operations, and a dessert reception with our vendors. We hope to see you there if you have a thrift store or are considering opening a store to help fund your ministry.

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The following job positions are currently open at AGRM member missions. Please visit www.agrm.org/careers to view full descriptions and to apply. Click [here](#) for instructions on using AGRM's Recruiting Center to post open positions for your mission.

Care Support Specialist: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Case Manager @ Rebuilding Lives Center for men: Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Case Manager, Men's Shelter: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Chief Financial Officer: Jericho Road Ministries, Inc., Brooksville, FL

Cook: Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

Development Associate: The Path of Citrus County, Beverly Hills, FL

Development Director: Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc., Pensacola, FL

Development Director: Home of Grace, Vancleave, MS

Development Officer: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Director of Development: Rockford Rescue Mission Ministries, Inc., Rockford, IL

Director of Development & Community Relations: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Director of Major Gifts: Waterfront Rescue Mission, Inc., Pensacola, FL

Director, Lighthouse for Women & Children: Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

Domestic Violence Advocate: Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

Executive Director: Outreach Gospel Mission, Brookings, OR

Faith Community Nurse - Guest Services: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Family Support Worker (Evenings 3 positions) : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Family Support Worker (Overnights) : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Guest Services Assistant - Women's Shelter: Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

Health and Wellness Center Manager: San Francisco City Impact, San Francisco, CA

Major Donor Representative: Union Rescue Mission, Los Angeles, CA

Major Gifts Officer: Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

Men's Center Support Worker (Split Shift): Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

Overnight Supervisor: Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Receiving Clerk \(Elkhorn Outreach Center\)](#) : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

[Resident Advisors](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Residential Coordinator_Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Salesforce Data Analyst](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Sous Chef](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Transportation Specialist](#): Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA

[Volunteer Coordinator \(Kitchen\)](#) : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

[Volunteer Coordinator \(Street Ministry\)](#) : Open Door Mission, Omaha, NE

[Women's New Life Recovery Program Case Manager](#): Good News Rescue Mission, Redding, CA

[Women's Recovery Counselor](#): Union Gospel Mission, Spokane, WA



Today's Mission

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them(Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

Do you know God has a mission for you today?

We are His handiwork or workmanship—which means we are saved only through His power. This also means we are being changed to become more like Jesus through His power, as well (Romans 8:29).

So what kind of people do you think God is molding?

He is making Kingdom builders. He is making us into people who bring glory to His name. He is making us into gospel missionaries everywhere we go. And also people who long for His presence.

We have God-ordained works waiting for us to walk in today.

Notice the balance between two words: work and walk.

We're not being called to work, or perform, this mission out of our own power; we're called to walk in

them.

In today's verse, we learn that God works in us that He might work through us.

Through these words of Paul, God is making a promise to us. That if we watch, listen to Holy Spirit, and follow His leading, God will accomplish His mission through us.

Do you desire to be used by God to build His Kingdom? Then today is your day—just like every day is. There are works prepared for you to walk in.

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To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

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