

GAA ZETTE

Our meeting in print.

About MAICO

The mission of MAICO (Madison Area Intergroup Central Office) is to help A.A. groups within its service area (South Central Wisconsin) carry the A.A. message. MAICO helps coordinate and facilitate communication and cooperation among individual A.A. groups, area 12-step and other committees, and components of the A.A. service structure. MAICO provides needed services that are beyond the scope and ability of any individual A.A. group, and is at all times responsible to the groups it serves.

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Responsibility Is Our Theme

Marking AA's thirtieth year we shall, in this month of July 1965, hold our International Convention in Toronto. It is most fitting that the chosen keynote for this gala occasion will be "AA's Responsibility." There we shall review the three decades of AA life that are now history. Stirred by gratitude beyond expression, we shall give thanks to God whose grace has made it possible for us to achieve the quality of responsibility, individual and collective, that has brought our Fellowship into its present state of well-being and worldwide reach.

Looking back through the years, we shall be unable to conceive more than a mere fraction of what God has wrought among us. None will be able to imagine the sum of the suffering that was once ours, or the misery borne by those near and dear. Who will really understand the inner nature of our transforming spiritual experiences, those gifts of God, that opened to us a new world of being and doing and living? Indeed our blessings have been quite beyond any human comprehension.

At our international gathering, we shall look into new faces. Many from afar will be heard to speak in other tongues. We shall see that the sun never sets upon AA's Fellowship, that 350,000 of us have now recovered from our malady; that we have everywhere begun to transcend those formidable barriers of race, creed, and nationality. This assurance that so many of us have been able to meet our responsibilities for sobriety and for growth and effectiveness in the troubled world where we live, will surely fill us with the deepest joy and satisfaction. But as a people who have nearly always learned the hard way, we shall certainly not congratulate ourselves. We shall perceive these assets to be God's gifts, which have been in part matched by an increasing willingness on our part to find and do his will for us.

Then we shall remember, too, how the pains of our illness literally drove us to what for most of us was the first responsible act of years --- that of joining AA. Alcoholism had literally lashed us to such a point of collapse that we became willing to do whatever was necessary to get well; it was a matter of life or death.

Thus propelled, we finally did join the AA Fellowship and there had our first glimpse of its quite new world of understanding and loving concern. Soon we took a look at AA's Twelve Steps for recovery but many of us promptly forgot ten of them, as perhaps not needed. We bought only the concept that we were alcoholics; that attendance at meetings and a helping hand to the newcomers would be sufficient to solve the booze problem, and probably all problems. We looked with approval on that dear old cliché which says that "drinking is but a good man's fault." Once off the grog, life should be pleasant as eating cherries. By happily warming our hands at the AA fire, all seemed well.

But by degrees certain dissatisfactions set in, even with our own group; it was not as wonderful as we had first supposed. There was, perhaps, some rock-throwing at a scandal, or a distressing row over who would become the group's next chair. There were people we simply did not like, and the ones we did admire failed to give us the attention we thought we deserved. At home we were also shocked. After the pink cloud had departed from the household, things seemed as bad as ever. The old wounds weren't healing at all. Though impressed with our sobriety, the bank nevertheless asked when were we going to pay up. Our boss likewise demanded in firm tones that we "get with it."

So each of us looked up his sponsor and regaled him with these woes. Our resentments, anxieties, and depressions were definitely caused, we claimed, by our unfortunate circumstances and by the inconsiderate behavior of other people. To our consternation, our sponsors didn't seem impressed either. They had just grinned and said, "Why don't we sit down and take a hard look at all of AA's Twelve Steps? Maybe you have been missing a lot --- in fact, nearly everything."

Then we began to take our own inventories, rather than the other fellow's. Getting into the swing of self-examination, we finally began to discover our real responsibilities toward ourselves and toward those around us. Though a tough assignment, it did by degrees get easier. We began to make restitution to those we had harmed, grudgingly at first, and then more willingly. Little by little, we found that all progress, material or spiritual, consisted of finding out what our responsibilities actually were and proceeding to do something about them. These activities began to pay off. We found that we didn't always have to be driven by our own discomforts as, more willingly; we picked up the burdens of living and growing.

Then, most surprisingly, we discovered that full acceptance and action upon any clear-cut responsibility almost invariably made for true happiness and peace of mind. Moreover, these durable satisfactions were redoubled when we realized that our now-better quality of willingness made it possible in meditation to find God's will. At last we discovered that we joyfully wanted to live responsibly. (To read the entire article go to Language of the Heart, complete story Pages 328 to 334) (Copied with permission from AA Grapevine)

Income Statement -Three Months ending May 31, 2014

Revenues	This year	Last Year
Donations	13,828.58	16,553.96
MAICO Reps Events	254.00	200.20
Individual Donations	826.97	719.04
Donations – Answering Service	120.00	130.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	688.40	770.99
Donations – Prudent Reserve	88.00	0.00
Conference Literature	15,302.75	16,384.96
Grapevine Literature	920.97	867.69
Non-Conference Literature	4,498.22	5,602.59
Non-Conference Merchandise	8,672.98	9,486.29
Faithful Fivers	184.00	179.00
Directories	616.80	838.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	10.00	35.00
Investment Income	0.07	50.02
Other Income – copies	125.37	86.43
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	303.83	469.02
Sales Tax Discount	<u>30.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>48,470.94</u>	<u>52,413.19</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	7,380.75	10,130.92
Inventory Exp.-Grapevine	0.00	330.00
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	3,022.74	4,139.49
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	<u>8,391.04</u>	<u>7,966.40</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>18,794.53</u>	<u>22,566.81</u>
Gross Profit	27,676.41	29,846.38
Expenses		
Auto Expense – mileage	92.29	231.40
Wages Expense	15,729.60	16,164.60
Payroll Tax Expense	1,203.25	1,236.51
Medical Reimbursement	500.00	0.00
Credit Card Processing Costs	447.62	364.42
Accounting Fees	0.00	50.00
License and Fees Expenses	230.00	0.00
Computer – Software	669.00	466.20
Equipment for office	468.24	0.00
Supplies Expense	487.59	639.04
Office Expense	62.79	63.63
Newsletter Expense	0.00	109.88
Investment Funds Decrease	46.60	0.00
Telephone/Internet Provider	615.45	588.28
Domain Name – Go Daddy Acct	42.74	0.00
Answering Service Expense	2,640.56	2,229.12
Advertising in Phone Book	460.00	368.00
Postage and Shipping Expense	388.07	851.47
Occupancy Expense	4,175.00	4,055.00
Insurance Expense	381.00	379.00
Printing Expense	232.66	84.59
Directory Expense	0.00	1,598.00
MAICO Reps Events	189.46	150.00
Bank Charges	0.00	6.00

Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.12
Total Expenses	29,061.92	29,635.26
Net Income	(\$1,385.51)	\$211.12

Upcoming Events 2014

*Some event flyers are on www.aamadisonwi.org or www.area75.org
Any district or group AA event can be posted on the Area 75 calendar by going to www.area75.org, click "get your event posted here", be aware that info & flyers go on internet, mindful of anonymity, names on flyers etc*

Recurring events:

- 1st Sun of month – Ripon's Royal Ridge Open Speaker AA Breakfast**, Royal Ridges, State Hwy 23 (W. Fond du Lac St.), Ripon. Breakfast 10am, Speaker 11:00am. \$9.00 adults, Holiday meets 2nd Sunday.
- 3rd Sun of month – Pocket Full of Sunshine Breakfast**, Howard Johnson, 3841 E. Washington Ave., Madison, 10am breakfast buffet \$8.99 all you can eat, 12 & under \$5.00, 11am Speaker
- 2nd Fri of month – Finger Food Friday, Appetizer Potluck**, Speaker meeting, 6:30pm appetizer's, 7:00pm Speaker, United Methodist Ch., 1804 New Pinery Rd., Portage.
- Last Wed of month – Sunlight of the Spirit Grp, (SOTS) Open speaker meeting**, Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2401 Atwood Ave., 5:30pm Potluck, bring a dish to share, 6:30pm Speaker, ring doorbell
- Last Sat of month – Hosted by Portage Area Recovery Groups, Open Speaker Meeting**, 8pm, Historic Apts., 207 W. Cook St., Portage, basement, handicap accessible, Potluck to follow meeting.
- 1st & 3rd Sat of month – Monroe Sister Blandine Group, Open Speaker Meeting**, St. Victor's Church, 1760 14th St., Monroe, entrance off 20th Ave (parish library door) Everyone welcome
- 1st Sat of month only – Back to Basics workshop, Raising the bottom for Young People, Teens 14 – 21 years old**, Lussier Community Education Center, 55 S. Gammon Rd., 10:30am – 4pm. All welcome.

One day-two day-three day Conferences/Workshops/Campouts/Area Assemblies

- Jul 4, Annual 511 Sober 4th of July Picnic & Potluck**, Burrows Park, 25 Burows Rd., Madison, 10am to 7pm, Lunch at 1pm. Family Fun.
- Jul 5 & 6 – Ontario Fellowship Campout**, 2miles north of Ontario on Hwy 131, Fire #29330, Pancake Breakfast Sat & Sun 7am, Auction Sat. morning. Speaker Meeting Saturday Night and Sunday 10am. Dinner Sat. Evening, Meat, scalloped potatoes & beans. Canoeing nearby. Contact: Gene:608-337-4641
- Jul 11 – Campfire Meetings**, 747 Badland Rd., Platteville. Ed & Jeanna M.s, grills ready at 6pm, open meeting at 8pm. Bring something for your grilling. Also a dish to pass if able & a lawn chair. Contact: Home: 608-348-9062 or Cell: 608-778-7437
- Jul 13 – Monona Serenity Group Picnic**, Dream Park, Winnequah Park, 1011 Nichols Rd., Monona
- Jul 11-13 – 17th Annual "Keep It Simple" Washington Island AA Retreat**, AA & Al-Anon Speakers, \$15.00 per-person pre-registration, \$20 that weekend (no charge for children). Large Group site at Campground. Site fee is \$5 per person/per night. Information: wi.retreat@yahoo.com

Jul 19 – Stoughton Groups Mini-Conference, “Service with a Smile”, Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles, Stoughton – Panels

Jul 20 – East Side Alano Picnic, East Side Alano Club, 1017 Northport Dr., Madison

Aug 2 – MAICO 9th Annual Picnic, Traxler Park, 600 N. Main St., Lion’s Pavilion, Janesville, 10am-5pm, Rain or Shine, AA Speaker – Dena G. & Al-Anon Speaker – Jim D. (husband & wife), Food served at 1pm, Please bring salad or dessert to pass. Fishing, boat launch, playground available.

Aug 15 – 17 – Green Lake Roundup, Green Lake, WI.

Aug 17 – Richland Center Group Picnic, Krouskop Park, Retrum Shelter, Richland Center, Group will supply mead. Please bring a dish to pass. Eat at Noon. No pets in park.

Aug 21 – 24 – 56th Annual ICYPAA Conference, International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous, San Antonio, Texas. Grand Hyatt San Antonio. Register online at www.56th.icypaa.org

Aug 30 – Sep 6 – AA & Al-Anon Historical Tour, Bus trip to The Wilson House in Vermont, Stepping Stones in Katonah, NY, AA World Service Headquarters, Dr. Bob’s House, Mayflower Hotel, Dr. Bob’s Gravesite, Akron, Ohio. Approximate cost: \$499.00, meals on own, \$200 deposit due August 1. Bus is 40 passenger with restroom. Contact: Roger H. 608-225-6696 or Diane B. 608-438-7703. Limited scholarships available based on need.

Thank you to all AA groups and individuals that answered our appeal for donations and literature sales. Your response was greatly appreciated.

MAICO is offering discounts on total merchandise purchased. \$100 - \$249 – 5%, \$250 - \$499 – 10%, \$500 + - 15%

Thank You’s - Donations received from April 25 to June 20, 2014

General Fund

511 Step Grp
Belleville Big Book Grp
Belmont Thursday Grp
Beloit Mon. Night Thumpers Big Book Grp
Berlin Friday Night Grp
Brodhead Sister Blandine Grp
Caring & Sharing Grp
Clear Cut Directions Grp
DeForest Progress Grp
Dist. 35
Duck Creek New Beginners Grp
Early Risers Grp
Easy Breathers Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Friday Night Lights Grp
Ft. Atkinson Wed. Beginners Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Into Action Grp
Janesville Tues Night Men’s Grp
Living Sober Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Mauston Fellowship Grp
Midvale Grp
Monona Serenity Grp

Monroe Early Birds Grp
Monroe New Beginnings Grp
Monroe Sat. Morning Grapevine Grp
Morning After Grp
Mt Horeb Sat Morning Grp
Nakoosa Trail Campus Grp
On-Timers Grp
Orfordville Promises Grp
Out to Lunch Grp
Platteville Monday Night Grp
Portage Sunshine Grp
Portage Unity Grp
Precisely How We Recovered Grp
Richland Center Grp
Rock River Grp
Rome Sunday Night Grp
Sauk Prairie Grp
Sober Today Grp
St. Andy’s 7am Grp
Stoughton Grps
Suburban Sobriety Grp
Sullivan Big Book Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Grp
Sun Prairie Women’s Tues Grp
Sunrise Serenity Grp

The Phoenix Grp
Thursday Floaters Grp
Tuesday Night Workshop Grp
Westfield 12 & 12 Grp
Women's Serenity Grp

Faithful Fivers

Anonymous

Individual Donations

Alice G.
Anonymous
Janine W.
Janis R.
Kris. W.
Mike P.

Richard P.

MAICO Corrections Treatment Fund

Foxhall Recovery Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Grp

MAICO Picnic

Dist. 30
Janesville Men's Grp

Answering Service

Early Risers Grp

A Twig in the Yard

July 2001

Bill M. sent us the following note along with a letter from his son, who is serving time in Kernersville, N.C.

“This is a story of GRATITUDE—gratitude in an unlikely setting. My son is halfway through a long prison sentence, the beginning of which marked a deep bottom in his life and the beginning of his recovery from alcoholism. He now serves as a peer counselor in a state-run program that struggles to make sobriety available in the prison environment. His growth and his Twelfth Step work constantly amaze me. A recent letter was so striking that I asked his permission to share it with you and your readers. It began with the news that he had finally been able to see a dentist – no small feat when it requires that he be transported a hundred miles to a prison facility that had such resources.”

Dear Dad,

Yesterday at 4:00am I was awakened in order to be taken to the dentist. It was the first time in a near that I'd been outside for a ride, so I was really excited. Of course, I had to be handcuffed to a waist chain, then shackled before I could get in the van. The van was brand-new: the smell was delicious and the seat was so comfortable. I must have looked like a dog out for a drive, staring eagerly from side to side. It was amazing to be moving – and in such comfort.

When we got to the facility, they took off my chains and let me walk around the prison yard. I got to touch a tree for the first time in over three years! It was an oak tree, and the bark felt so good beneath my hand. I looked up through the branches and leaves to the sun shining through. The ground was littered with small twigs and real acorns that crunched beneath my feet. The trunk, which must have been seven or eight feet around, was covered with moss and lichens. I have never seen a more beautiful sight.

As if that were not enough, a calico cat suddenly rubbed up against my leg and gave me permission to pet him while he drank from a water dish. I was dumbstruck with all the sensation. The feel of bark and cat fur, the sight of open space and green leaves – all this for a man who'd had none of them for years – were for me what climbing Mt. Everest must be to a free man. Then it ended. We left after my visit to the dentist, yet I will always carry that day with me as a symbol of God's grace and as a reminder to have gratitude for the small, mundane things of everyday life.

A twig in the yard – what joy!! I'm so glad to have you to share it with. I don't think anyone else would understand. - Your son.