

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.

Special Needs

We Belong

In Michigan, a deaf member joins a group and finds the true meaning of sharing.

My home group in Saginaw, Michigan met every weekday at 10 a.m. One day an unfamiliar fellow walked into the room. When Sam, the chairman, asked if this was his first AA meeting, the newcomer moved his forefinger from the corner of his mouth to his right ear. The rest of us wrinkled our eyebrows in confusion. Then he took a pen and notepaper from the table and wrote the word, "Deaf."

Now we were really confounded. Clearly this person could not share in our conversation. Sam then invited the newcomer to a separate room and the two passed notes back and forth while the rest of us continued the meeting. We discussed the obvious question: How can we help a deaf alcoholic? As I remember it, we didn't come up with any good answers.

Sam returned to the meeting and introduced the newcomer. His name was Walter. We all said, "Hi," somewhat oblivious of the fact that he could not hear us. We tried as best we could to make him feel welcome. At the end of the meeting Sam pointed to the "Keep Coming Back" sign on the wall, but I wondered what we would do if he did.

Well, Walter did keep coming back. He sat through meetings and attempted to read lips. He sometimes shared, writing down his comments like he was writing a letter and then asking a member of the group to read it aloud. This was cumbersome.

Some of us thought we could improve Walter's participation. WE started searching for a volunteer sign language interpreter for our meetings. With Walter's help we eventually found one, and he became much more engaged in discussions. We all learned about his

experiences, and he learned about ours. Unfortunately our interpreter moved away to Texas. (We sure missed her. Besides, she made a mean garlic mashed potato.)

Now we felt stuck. But one day, Walter distributed some flyers advertising sign language classes. I had taken a year of college Spanish, and I had lived in Korea for three years, but for some reason I never could master a foreign language. Still, I decided to give sign language a try.

Somehow, practicing almost daily with Walter, after 10 weeks I could fumble my way through basic communication. Six months later, I could clumsily interpret discussion meetings.

Little by little, my sign language improved and Walter and I became closer friends. Privately, I often asked him if he wanted to learn more about A.A's Twelve Steps. I explained them as clearly as I could, using simple gestures instead of fancy words. I explained the Traditions too.

Walter appeared visibly moved when I explained the Preamble. I remember it taking a long time to define in sign language the words "fellowship" and "member." I tried a series of rough synonyms, like family, group and company, but none of them seemed to clarify the meaning of those words. Finally, I pinched my thumbs and index fingers and connected them together like a chain link: That's the sign for "belong."

Walter's eyes opened wide. He made the same sign, then pointed to himself. "Do I belong?" "Yes," I nodded. "But I'm deaf," he replied. I pointed to Tradition Three and to the Preamble, both of which were posted on the wall. "You belong if you say you belong." I gestured. "Everyone you see here has the same problem. We're all alcoholics. Without help, we can't control our drinking. Sometimes we argue and disagree, but basically we help each other stay sober."

Walter clenched his right hand at belt level and pushed it forward into the shape of the letter W. That means "Wow."

Walter tackled AA enthusiastically after that. He cleaned up the meeting room. He made coffee. One time in the club kitchen he even cooked breakfast for a ragged newcomer. He read the Big Book, and thanks to a thoughtful old-timer, got to "see" it on videotape. Walter soon developed friendships with other members, even though none of them knew how to sign. My best friend once spend two uninterrupted hours conversing with Walter using improvised gestures. I was happily amazed. God showered us with divine eloquence.

In the two years since he taught me the basics of sign language, Walter and I have traveled to other AA meetings in Bridgeport, Frankenmuth, Dearborn and Lansing, Michigan. We also went to the big March Roundup in Detroit, and to Founder's Day in Akron, Ohio. No talking – just sign language. I guess we carried the message in silence!

I moved away from Saginaw several years ago, and I lost touch with Walter, but I think of him often, and I still work with deaf alcoholics. Walter and I were just two alcoholics staying sober. He taught me that actions speak louder than words – such as being there to help when a friend needs it, and asking for and accepting help when I need it. These actions, much more than words, make me feel like I belong.

Anonymous

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May 2014

Income Statement – January to May 2015 & 2016 Comparison

Revenues	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Donations – Groups	17,844.48	14,739.99
MAICO Reps Events	962.17	0.00
Individual Donations	180.24	1,033.45
Donations – Answering Service	140.00	15.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	512.85	1,446.80
Conference Literature	12,367.27	14,575.59
Non-Conference Literature	5,433.90	5,168.09
Non-Conference Merchandise	9,232.02	8,191.30
Grapevine Literature	1,128.25	692.66
Faithful Fivers	181.00	285.00
Directories	524.02	728.64
Savings Account Income	3.28	1.50
Other Income – copies	128.32	79.39
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	234.25	300.17
Sales Tax Discount	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>48,872.05</u>	<u>47,287.58</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	7,965.45	9,135.66
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	3,021.46	4,421.53
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	6,194.06	4,441.33
Total Cost of Sales	<u>17,180.97</u>	<u>17,998.52</u>
Gross Profit	<u>31,691.09</u>	<u>29,289.06</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	18,087.57	16,918.03
Payroll Tax Expense	1,425.69	1,294.23
Medical Reimbursement	800.00	500.00
Credit Card Processing Costs	268.39	269.11
Mobile Credit Card Unit Fees	75.00	75.000
License and Fees Expense – Bulk Mail fee	255.00	230.00
Office Supplies Expense	426.14	782.29
Office Expense	739.57	1,068.74
Bank Charges	12.00	12.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	778.02	751.25
Answering Service Expense	2,592.81	2,720.61
Advertising in Phone Book	400.00	412.00
Postage and Shipping Expense	351.78	451.15
Occupancy Expense	4,430.00	4,300.00
Insurance Expense	636.00	4.00
Printing Expense	230.49	214.24
Travel Expense	301.42	142.83
Conference Expense	40.00	0.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	200.00	260.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-.09	-0.27
Other Expense	43.93	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>32,093.55</u>	<u>30,393.16</u>
Net Income	<u>-402.47</u>	<u>-1,104.10</u>

Upcoming Events

Some event flyers are on www.aamadisonwi.org or www.area75.org ²⁰¹⁶

Any district or group AA event can be posted on the Area 75 calendar by going to www.area75.org, 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, enter Ohio St. side of church.

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

2016

July 4 – Fourth of July Freedom from Alcohol/Drugs Picnic, Hosted by Nakoosa Trail Group, Sycamore Park, 830 Jane Lane. 11am-8pm, 2pm Speaker Bob F., 6pm Gratitude Meeting, Pot Luck soda/water and meat will be provided. AA & NA participation. Contact Bob F. 608-513-4464

July 10 – "Living in the Solution" Sunday Night Monroe No Butts Group 6th Annual Summer Picnic, Recreation Park (South Shelter), 11am to 4pm, Mystery Speaker at 1:00pm, Bring a newcomer and a dish to pass, burgers, brats & refreshments provided. Shelter is south of 16th St and 22nd Ave. If it is hot, swimming pool is 100 yards away. Contact Ann B. 608-214-1531 or Steve K. 608-482-0413.

July 10 – Adams Potluck & Speaker at Noon, Adams Friendship Clubhouse, 1093 County M, Adams. BBQ, Hotdogs, soda, coffee and water provided. Please bring dish to pass, lawn chairs. Speaker: Kathy G.

July 21 – 24 – 20th Annual Keep It Simple Washington Island Retreat, Washington Island Campground, 745 Eastside Rd., Washington Island, WI. Pre-registration fee \$15 per person, \$20 that weekend (no charge for children). Website: www.KeepItSimpleRetreat.myfreesites.net or email WashingtonIslandRetreat@gmail.com

July 29 – Westwood Candlelight Grp, Friday Night, Cookout and Movie Night, Westwood Christian Ch., 5210 Odana Rd, Madison. 6:00pm. Bring a dish to pass. Movie "A Walk among the Tombstones" after dinner, followed by 8:30pm Candlelight Meeting. Weather permitting, fire in fire pit, smores & doughboys.

July 30 – Jungle Safari Foxhall Annual Picnic, 11am to 3pm, Token Creek Shelter 1, 6200 Hwy 51, DeForest, 53532. Bring a newcomer and a dish to share. Costumes encouraged!!

August 6 – MAICO Picnic hosted by MAICO Reps, Patrick Lake, Grand Marsh, WI. **Save the Date.**

10am to 5pm, Main dish provided: 1pm, Please bring a side dish or dessert. Contact: Doreen 608-444-2520

August 19 – 21 – 36th Annual Green Lake Round-Up, Green Lake Conference Center, W2511 State Road 23, Green Lake, WI. 54941 Event Registration: \$10.00 per person.

August 20 – Monroe New Beginnings Meeting hosting Campfire/Weenie Roast Speaker Meeting, 6PM – Food, 7PM – Speaker – Scotty W. (Madison). Where: Kevin P.'s N6404 River Rd., Monticello. Please bring a dish to pass and a chair. Hot Dogs, Brats, Condiments, buns and water will be provided.

August 21 – Richland Center Group Picnic, Krouskop Park, The Retrum Shelter, Group will supply meat. Please bring a dish to pass. Speaker: Zack O. from Madison

September 9 & 10th – MAICO Appreciation Open House, Friday 6pm to 8pm, Sat 10am to 2pm. Refreshments, sales, snacks.

Service Opportunities in MAICO Service Area

If you would like district information posted in the next newsletter, please send the information electronically to aamadisonwi@gmail.com by August 15th for the Sept/Oct issue.

District 20 -

The **Treatment committee** is looking for groups to sponsor AA meetings that are held in treatment facilities. Currently we carry the message into Hope Haven, Tellurian Detox, Chris Farley House. The current need is for groups to sponsor meetings in Hope Haven starting this September. Groups would be responsible for one (1) meeting per month. The Meeting format is provided by the treatment committee and group sponsors would select either a topic for Monday 5:30pm meetings or speaker to lead the Saturday 10am meetings. Please contact the treatment chairperson, Patrick S. at 608-438-4030

Dist. 20 Archives Chair – Needed – Contact Sunshine Dist. 20 DCM for information.

If interested in getting involved in Service in your District, attend your next District meeting. Districts in MAICO Service Area:

District 2 – Green Lake & Marquette Cty's, part of Waushara Cty – Call or email DCM for Dates & Times

District 8 – Rock Cty (1 of 2)- 1st Friday of the Month, 6:45PM, Fel-O-Ship, 412 Pleasant St., Beloit

District 9 - – Crawford, Grant, Iowa & Lafayette Cty's – No District meeting at this time, no DCM.

District 11 – Jefferson Cty - Last Wednesday of the Month, 5:30PM, Moravian Church, 301 College St. Lake Mills

District 18 – Adams County – Call DCM for Dates & Times. Mike D. @ 608-584-4814

District 19 – Richland & Sauk Ctys - Last Wed of the Month, 6:00PM, in Room 14, Baraboo Civic Center. 124 2nd St., Baraboo

District 20 – Dane Cty - Last Tuesday of the Month, 6:30PM, St. Stephens Ch., 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona

District 23 – Dodge Cty – 2nd Wed **Quarterly**, 7:00pm, Health & Human Services Bldg, 142 E. Center St., Juneau –

District 30 – Rock Cty (1 of 2) - 1st Friday of the Month, 6:30PM, (Unity Group), 734 Railroad St., Janesville

District 31 – Columbia Cty - 3rd Sunday of the Month, 6:30PM, Pardeeville Village Library, 119 N. Main St., Pardeeville (So. Entrance, lower level)

District 35 – Green Cty – 2nd Friday of the Month, 8:00PM, Zwingli United Church of Christ, 416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello, (backroom – Rm A-1) after 7pm, 12 & 12 meeting.

District 37 – Juneau Cty

DCM: No District meeting at this time, no DCM

Thank You's - Donations received April 29 to June 27, 2016

General Fund

207 Grp
A Vision for You Grp
A Way of Life Grp
Barney's Grp
Beaver Dam Friday Big Book Grp
Berlin Friday Night Grp
Cassville Pioneers Grp
Early Risers Grp
East Side Grp
DeForest Progress Grp
District 30
Early Risers Grp
Fel-O-Ship Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Into Action Grp
Janesville The Home Grp
KISS- Keep It Simple Sisters Grp
Lake Mills Our Group Wednesday
Language of the Heart Grp
Living Sober Grp
Midvale Grp
Mid Morning Grp
Monroe No Butts Grp
Montello The Turning Point Grp
Oregon Room to Grow Grp
Pardeeville Village Grp
Poynette-DeKorra Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Professionals Grp
Rio Into Action Grp
Rome Sunday Night Grp
Serenity at Six Grp
Sister Blandine Grp
Sober Today Middleton Grp
Sober Today Waunakee Grp
St. Andy's 7am Grp
Sullivan Grp
Sunrise Serenity Grp
Tuesday Night Workshop Grp
West Point Winners Grp
Westfield 12 & 12 Grp
Windsor Grp
Wisconsin Dells Happy Hour Grp

Faithful Fivers

Anonymous
Mary S.

Individual Donations

Anonymous
Tom B.
Tom S.

MAICO Corrections Treatment Fund

Anonymous Grp
Living Sober Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
SOTS Grp

Review the Day

When we retire at night, we constructively review our day. Were we resentful, selfish, dishonest, or afraid? Do we owe an apology? Have we kept something to ourselves which should be discussed with another person at once? Were we kind and loving toward all? What could we have done better? Were we thinking of ourselves most of the time? Or were we thinking of what we could do for others, of what we could pack into the stream of life?

We must be carefully not to drift into worry, remorse, or morbid reflection, for that would diminish our usefulness to ourselves and to others. After making our review, we ask God's forgiveness and inquire what corrective measures should be taken.

Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 86

Madison Area Intergroup Central Office, Inc.
2000 Engel St., Suite 104
Madison, WI. 53713

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For This, We are Responsible

We need your help and cooperation if we are to keep up to date about meetings and groups in the area we serve. Please let us know of any changes to the meetings you attend or to your group so we can pass the information along to our readers. Call MAICO at 608-222-8989, email to aamadisonwi@gmail.com or fill out the form and mail to MAICO, 2000 Engel St., Suite 104, Madison, WI. 53713

Provide as much of the following information as is possible			
New___	Change___	Help___	Discontinued___
Group name (if any)_____		Open___	Closed___
Smoking___	Non-smoking___	Signed___	Accessible___
Day and time of meeting _____			
Location_____			
Type of meeting_____			
Group contact person_____			
Contact's phone number_____			
Also, let us know of any changes in your group's contact person(s):			
Name_____			
Position _____			
Phone number_____			
Group name (if any)_____			
Day and time of meeting_____			
Location_____			