

The MAICO

July-Sept 2017

GAAZETTE

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.

67th A.A. General Service Conference Convenes Supporting Our Future

In the late 1940s, Bill W. came to believe that the survival of A.A. depended on involving groups more directly with the Alcoholic Foundation, which had been formally implemented in 1938 to guide the affairs of A.A. The Foundation, as it was known then, had fifteen trustees (eight nonalcoholic and seven alcoholic), but had little connection to actual A.A. groups except through Bill and Dr. Bob (who was ill at that time with the cancer that would take his life in 1950). In order to close what he called this “gap of remoteness,” Bill proposed that groups elect regional representatives to attend a yearly “General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous” to discuss issues of importance to A.A. with the trustees and the staffs of the A.A. Headquarters office and Grapevine, and then make a “joint annual report to the Groups.”

Predictably, most of the trustees were against such a plan; they feared that a crowd of alcoholics gathering from the hinterlands would interfere with what one trustee wrote to Bill was the “degree of isolation [needed] in dealing with the necessary ‘housekeeping,’ legal, and financial affairs of the A.A. headquarters.” At first reluctant, Dr. Bob gave his blessing to the Conference plan and, with the help of nonalcoholic Class A trustee Bernard Smith, the first General Service Conference was finally held in New York over three days in April 1951, with 37 delegates from the United States and Canada. What Bill called the “politics and uproar” of whether to hold the Conference was ultimately well worth it — albeit at the cost of three trustees who resigned over the issue (one of whom subsequently returned to the Board, ultimately in support of the plan). And so, after four years of trial meetings, the annual General Service Conference became a permanent part of the life of Alcoholics Anonymous in 1955, with the Alcoholic Foundation renamed the General Service Board.

Fast forward to April 23, 2017 — at the Hilton Westchester Hotel in Rye Brook, New York, where 133 voting members constituting the 67th General Service Conference

assembled from all parts of A.A.'s eight service regions across the United States and Canada, serving as "the actual voice and the effective conscience for our whole Society" (Concept II, The A.A. Service Manual/ Twelve Concepts for World Service).

Comprised of 93 delegates, 25 trustees and corporate directors from A.A.W.S. and Grapevine, along with 15 General Service Office, Grapevine and La Viña staff members, the 2017 General Service Conference took up a number of questions of interest to the Fellowship as a whole, launching a week's worth of discussion and debate in pursuit of A.A.'s primary purpose. With the theme "Supporting Our Future," the Conference extended from Sunday, April 23 to Saturday, April 29, 2017.

Of the delegates representing the 93 areas in the U.S. and Canada, the average age was 59, with the oldest delegate being 75 and the youngest 37. The average length of sobriety for delegates was 23 years, with the longest being 51 years and the shortest being 10. And in terms of length of service, the longest was 50 years and the shortest was eight.

Following a warm welcome by Terry Bedient, Class A (nonalcoholic) chairperson of the General Service Board, the official roll call by G.S.O.'s general manager Greg T., and a greeting from Bob M. of South Dakota, delegate chair of the Conference, the Conference Keynote address was given by Bill N., general service trustee. "The theme of this year's Conference is 'Supporting Our Future,'" said Bill, "and for me there is only one way we can support the future of Alcoholics Anonymous: that is by embracing our great Twelve Traditions.

"I say 'embrace,'" Bill continued, "because enforcement has never worked in Alcoholics Anonymous; it is only when newcomers see those who came before them embracing the Traditions that they will want to embrace them, too. And I am speaking of embracing all Twelve Traditions, not picking and choosing which ones are convenient... We don't embrace them out of fear but rather out of love for Alcoholics Anonymous, the only thing that has worked to arrest our alcoholism."

Conference week is long, often arduous, but ultimately rewarding — filled with board and committee reports, presentations and discussions, area service highlights, sharing sessions and committee meetings. The main focus of each Conference though, is on the deliberations of each of the 13 Conference committees, and it is during the committee meetings that the major work of the Conference is done. Once again, this year, after a joint meeting with each corresponding trustees' committee, the Conference committees reviewed material and background information, weighed and discussed various issues, and developed recommendations, many of which resulted in Conference Advisory Actions.

Sunday evening, the Opening Dinner was followed by an open A.A. meeting, chaired by Barry S., Idaho, chairperson of the Conference Agenda Committee; the leader was Jim S., South Carolina. Speakers were Dave H., Northwest Texas; Carole B., A.A. Grapevine director; Rich P., Northeast regional trustee; Jeff W., G.S.O. staff; and Reilly K., Oregon.

At the Delegates Only meeting Tuesday evening, Ben B., Oklahoma, was selected as the delegate chair for the 68th Conference; Joann L., Petaluma, California, will be alternate chair. On Wednesday, trustee elections were held, and, following our Third Legacy A.A. procedure, three incoming trustees were selected — with all three names coming out of the hat following a series of five ballots in which no candidate gained a two-thirds majority. Mark E., of Lebanon, Ohio, was selected as East Central regional trustee; Cathy B. of Morgantown, West

Virginia, was selected as Southeast regional trustee; and Newton P., of Cary, North Carolina, was selected as trustee-at-large/U.S.

Often negotiating through seemingly impossible parliamentary and procedural ins and outs to arrive at the group conscience, the Conference worked its way through agenda items, slowly and carefully articulating a path forward for the Fellowship on matters of considerable interest, spanning questions of how and when to best utilize technology to help carry the A.A. message, questions of inclusion and acceptance within the Fellowship, and questions of how best to continue supporting the Fellowship, engaging all our Traditions. A selection of Conference Advisory Actions appears on the following pages in condensed form, along with a sampling of additional considerations taken up by different Conference committees.

With discussion and voting on committee agendas and floor actions finally complete, the 2017 General Service Conference then officially closed with the Serenity Prayer, led by Laura H. (English), Richard B. (French) and Gilberto V. (Spanish). And finally, at the closing brunch on Saturday morning, rotating trustees gave their farewell talks: Bill F., East Central regional trustee; Bill N., general service trustee; Chet P., Southeast regional trustee; and Bob W., trustee-at-large/U.S. Unfortunately, Terry Bedient, rotating Class A trustee and chairperson of the General Service Board, who has served the Fellowship as a trustee since 2008, was unable to attend the closing brunch due to illness. He was held in the thoughts of all present with a grateful moment of silence.

While the efforts of the General Service Conference continue year-round, the annual meeting held each spring is the culmination of activity throughout the Fellowship, a time when the collective conscience of A.A. in the U.S./ Canada emerges to highlight a pathway forward that will help groups and members carry the A.A. message today and in the years to come. And so as the 67th Conference began to recede, those returning members of the 68th began to turn their attention toward the theme of the 2018 Conference: “A.A. — A Solution for All Generations.”

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MAICO Volunteer Coordinator Report – June 2017

Items that Danelle is working on:

Sending out Sign Up genius link Monthly to Volunteers

Creating a new volunteer sign up for MAICO extras – such as packing & unpacking for conferences, folding newsletter, pricing literature – idea is to form sign up as a task list that individuals sign up for and then contact the MAICO office for direction.

Create Volunteers needed flyers for Reps to hand out at monthly Reps meeting.

New Fall Sign Up coming out July 1st for months of Aug, Sept and Oct.

We have two new volunteers trained and covering shifts.

Thank you for all you do to help carry the message. Danelle

Income Statement

Revenues	<u>May</u>	<u>Jan to May 2017</u>
Donations – Groups	2,381.88	18,267.79
Donations – Events	0.00	250.00
Individual Donations	32.40	1,559.82
Donations – Answering Service	0.00	160.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	0.00	1,067.67
Conference Literature	1,957.60	13,886.99
Non-Conference Literature	738.28	4,694.27
Non-Conference Merchandise	1,173.69	8,133.28
Grapevine Literature	0.00	373.29
Faithful Fivers	50.00	234.00
Directories	122.00	415.95
Savings Account Income	0.00	3.27
Other Income	34.00	389.89
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	<u>24.79</u>	<u>146.83</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$6,514.64</u>	<u>\$49,583.05</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	0.00	8,695.40
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	392.86	3,549.60
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,291.92	7,107.96
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	0.00	0.00
Inventory Exp.-Directories	<u>1,142.00</u>	<u>1,142.00</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>\$2,826.78</u>	<u>\$20,494.96</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$3,687.86</u>	<u>\$29,088.09</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	3,180.58	17,150.67
Employee Medical Reimbursement	160.00	800.00
Payroll Tax Expense	243.30	1,312.02
Credit Card Processing Costs	72.44	277.89
Mobile Credit Card Unit Fees	15.00	75.00
License and Fees Expense	0.00	235.00
Office Supplies	218.34	614.33
Office Expense	18.15	171.92
Computer Maintenance Expense	70.00	350.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	99.00	864.66
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	160.03	790.09
Answering Service Expense	416.48	2,602.47
Advertising in Phone Book	86.00	424.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.08	-0.44
Postage and Shipping Expense	59.67	222.26
Occupancy Expense	776.00	3,880.00
Insurance Expense	608.00	615.00
Printing Expense	0.00	127.69
Travel Expense	43.92	130.86
Conference Expense	0.00	0.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	0.00	210.00
Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$6,226.83</u>	<u>\$30,853.42</u>
Net Income	<u>-\$2,538.97</u>	<u>-\$1,765.33</u>

Upcoming Events

2017

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, be aware that info & flyers go on internet, mindful of anonymity, names on flyers etc.

Recurring events:

1st Sat Every Month – The Women’s Unity Breakfast, Plymouth Church, 2401 Atwood Ave, Madison, 8:00 – 10:00am, Bring breakfast item to share

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.

2nd Sun of month – Open AA Speaker Meetings in Adams, Adams-Friendship Club, 1093 County M, Adams, Noon
July speaker: Sunshine from Madison

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.

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

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.

Last Sat of month– Hosted by Dodgeville Downtown Group, Dodgeville Serenity Club, 401 N. Union St., Dodgeville. 7pm Speaker, Please bring a snack or dessert if you would like.

1st & 3rd Sat of month – Monroe Sister Blandine Group, Open Speaker Meeting, 6:30pm, St. Victor’s Church, 1760 14th St., Monroe, entrance off 20th Ave (parish library door) Everyone welcome

Every Saturday – New Voices Open Speaker Meeting, 7pm, 402 W. Delavan Dr., Janesville, Hosted (Chair & Speaker) each month by groups in Area 75 & nearby Illinois groups.

July 20-23 – 21st Annual Keep it Simple – Washington Island Retreat – For more information see flyer on MAICO website or Keepitsimpleretreat.myfreesites.net.

July 23 – Foxhall Recovery Grp Picnic, Building Sobriety, Token Creek Park, 6200 US-51, Shelter 1, 11am to 3pm, Bring a newcomer and a dish to pass! Costumes encouraged.

July 29 – Dodgeville Downtowner’s Grp Corn Brat Fest, American Legion Hall, 324 N. Douglas St., Dodgeville Eat at 6pm, Speaker at 7pm, Nancy S. From Madison, Corn, Brats, Hamburgers provided, bring a dish to pass, \$5.00 donation appreciated.

August 5 – MAICO 12th Annual Picnic – Soldier Memorial Park (Shelter 1), Mineral Point, WI 12:00pm Lunch, 1:00pm Speakers – AA, Al-anon and possibly Alateen. Main dish provided. Bring a dish to pass if you wish.

August 18 – 20 – 37th Green Lake Roundup, Green Lake Conference Center, www.glcc.org ,

August 20 – Richland Center Group Picnic, Krouskop Park, The Retrum Shelter, Eat at Noon, Group supplies meat, Please bring a dish to pass. Speaker: Libby K. – Sorry, but RC Parks Dept allows no pets!

September 4 – Foxhall Eatin Meetin, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison

September 16 – Dist. 20 Mini-Conference, Simple Kit of Spiritual Tools, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison. 9:00am-2:45pm. Lunch provided, Bring a side dish or dessert to share. \$5 suggested donation. AA & Al-Anon Speakers, Five Panels (four AA, one Al-Anon)

September 23 – Dist. 31 Mini-Conference, Poynette-DeKorra Ch., Hwy CS, Poynette

September 24 – Area 75 Pre-Conference Assembly, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison, 9am

October 7 – Dist. 35 Mini-Conference, Zwingli United Church of Christ, 416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello

October 27 – 29 – Area 75 Annual Conference, WE, hosted by Dist. 31, Heidel House Resort & Spa, Green Lake

Thank You's - Donations received May 19 to June 9, 2017

General Fund

511 Friday Speaker Meeting
511 Saturday Step Grp
DeForest Progress Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Individual Donations
Keep It Simple Grp
Mauston Wed Afternoon Grp
Midvale Grp
Mifflin Street Noon
Monticello 12 and 12 Grp

Our Group Wednesday
Platteville Wednesday Noon
Prairie Dock Grp
Richland Center Grp
Rio Into Action Grp
Rock River Grp
Shine at Nine Grp
Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Andy's 7am Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sunrise Serenity Grp

Tuesday Night Sobriety Fest
Windsor Grp

Corrections/Treatment Fund

Sunlight of the Spirit Grp

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.
Mary S.

Editorial by Bill W: The Shape of Things to Come – June 1944

In the book Alcoholics Anonymous there is a chapter called "A Vision for You." Wandering through it recently, my eye caught by this startling paragraph written a short five years ago. "Someday we hope that every alcoholic who journeys will find a Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous at his destination. To some extent this is already true. Some of us are salesmen and go about. Little clusters of twos and threes and fives of us have sprung up in other communities through contact with our two large centers...." Rubbing my eyes I looked again. A lump came into my throat. "Only five years," I thought. "Then but two large centers – little clusters of twos and threes – travelers who hoped one day to find us at every destination."

Could it be only yesterday that this was just a hope – those little clusters of twos and threes, those little beacons so anxiously watched as they flickered, but never went out.

And today, there are hundreds of centers shedding their warm illumination upon the lives of thousands, lighting the dark shoals where the stranded and hopeless lie breaking up – those fingers of light already stretching to our beachheads in other lands.

Now comes another lighted lamp – this little newspaper called the Grapevine. May its ray of hope and experience ever fall upon the current of our AA life and one day illumine every dark corner of this alcoholic world.

The aspirations of its editors, contributors, and readers could well be voiced in the last words of "A Vision for You": "Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to him and 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. May God bless you and keep you – until then."

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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_____