

The MAICO

Sep/Oct 2016

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.

The Professor and The Paradox

Says he, "We A.A.'s surrender to win; we give away to keep; we suffer to get well, and we die to live."

I am in the public information business. I use that phrase or designation because if I say I am a college professor everybody always has a tendency to run the other way. And when they learn that I am a specialist in English, they have looks of horror for fear they are going to slip up and say "ain't." I often wish I sold shoes or insurance or fixed automobiles or plumbed pipes. I would have more friends.

My story is not a great deal different from others --- except in a few specific details. All the roads of alcoholism lead to the same place and condition. I suppose I have always been shy, sensitive, fearful, envious, and resentful, which in turn leads one to be arrogantly independent, a defiant personality. I believe I got a Ph.D. degree principally because I wanted to either outdo or defy everybody else. I have published a great deal of scholarly research --- I think for the same reason. Such determination, such striving for perfection, is undoubtedly an admirable and practical quality to have, for a while; but when a person mixes such a quality with alcohol, that quality can eventually cut him almost to pieces. At least it did so to me.

I began drinking as a social drinker, in my early twenties. Drinking constituted no problem for me until well after I finished graduate school at the age of thirty. But as the tensions and anxieties of my life began to mount, and the set-backs from perfection began to increase, I finally slipped over the line between moderate drinking and alcoholism. No longer would I drink a few beers or a cocktail or two and let it go at that. No longer did I let months or even weeks go by without liquor. And when drinking, I entered what I now know was the dream-world of alcoholic fantasy. Then for about five years of progressively worse alcoholic drinking, of filling my life and home with more and more wreckage, it looked as if I were going to ride this toboggan of destruction to the bitter end.

Maybe I didn't get as bad as some of the others. I must confess that I never went to teach one of my classes drunk or drinking --- but I've been awfully hung-over. My pattern was to be drunk at night, boil myself out to creep to work in the morning, drunk the next night, boil myself out in the morning, drunk again the next night, boil myself out the next morning. I may not have drunk as much whiskey as some, but there isn't anybody who's drunk any more Sal Hepatica than I have!

Now there are all kinds of drunks: melancholy drunks, weeping drunks, traveling drunks, slap-happy and stupid drunks, and a number of other varieties. I was a self-aggrandizing and occasionally violent drunk.

You wouldn't think a little fellow like me could do much damage, but when I'm drunk I'm pure dynamite. I'm not going into any of the details ---the University can fire me yet!

I came to believe actually that life was not worth living unless I could drink. I was utterly miserable and sometimes desperate, living always with a feeling of impending calamity (I knew something was bound to "break loose"). And to do away with such a fear, I would try a little more drinking, with the inevitable result --- for by this time one drink would set up in me that irresistible urge to take another and another until I was down or hung-over and in trouble. In the hung-over state I would vow never to touch another drop, and then be drunk the next night.

I knew at least that there had to be some changes made. I tried to change the time and place and amount of my drinking. I tried to change my environment, my place of living ---like most of us who at one time or another think that our trouble is geography rather than whiskey. I even entertained the idea of changing wives. I tried to change everything and everybody, *except myself* ---the only thing I *could* change.

I did not know that it was physically impossible for me to drink moderately. I did not know that my body's drinking machinery had worn out, and that the parts could not be replaced. I did not know that just one drink made it impossible for me to control my behavior and conduct and my future drinking. I did not know, in short, that I was powerless over alcohol. My family and my friends sensed or knew these things about me long before I did.

Finally, as with most of us in A.A., the crisis came. I realized I had a drinking problem which had to be solved. My wife and a close friend tried to persuade me to contact the only member of Alcoholics Anonymous we knew of in town. This I refused to do. But I agreed that I would stop drinking altogether, maintaining stoutly and sincerely that I could and would solve this problem "on my own." I would feel much better doing it that way, I insisted. I stayed sober for two entire weeks! The I pitched a "lulu" --- a terrific drunken affair in which I became violently insane. I also landed in the City Jail.

I don't know exactly what happened on this bender, but here are some things that did happen which I was told about subsequently. First, the officers who had come out to my house did not want to take me in --- but I insisted! Also, I insisted that they wait in the living room while I went back to the bedroom and changed into my best and newest suit (with socks and tie to match), so that I would look nice in jail! I don't remember the ride downtown, but when I "came to" in the jail corridor, I didn't like the looks of the little cage they were shoving me into, so I took issue about that with three officers and indulged in some fisticuffs with all three of them at once ---each one of them twice my size and armed with a gun and a blackjack. Now what kind of thinking and acting is that? If that isn't insanity, or absurd grandiosity, or some sort of mental illness, what is it? Because I yelled so loud and made so much noise, I ended up downstairs under the concrete in a place they call "solitary." (That's a find place ---now isn't it?---for a college professor to spend the night!) Two days later I was willing to try A.A., which I had only vaguely heard of a few months before. I called at the home of the man who started the A.A. group in my town, and I went humbly with him to an A.A. meeting the following night.

As I look back, something must have happened to me during those two days. Some forces must have been at work which I do not understand. But on those two days ---between jail and A.A.---something happened to me that had never happened before. I repeat, I don't know what it was. Maybe I had made a "decision" -- just a part of Step Three (I had made lots of promises but never a decision)---though it seems to me that I was at the time too confused and fogged up to make much of one. Maybe it was the guiding hand of God, or (as we Baptists say) the Holy Spirit. I like to think that it was just that, followed by my own attempt to take the Twelve Steps to recovery. Whatever it was, I have been in A.A. and I have been dry ever since. That was more than six years ago.

A.A. does not function in a way which people normally expect it to. For example, instead of using our "will power," as everyone outside A.A. seems to think we do, we give up our wills to a Higher Power, place our lives in hands---invisible hands---stronger than ours. Another example: If twenty or thirty of us real drunks get away from home and meet in a clubroom downtown of Saturday night, the normal expectation is that all thirty of us will surely get roaring drunk, but it doesn't work out that way, does it? Or talking about whiskey and old drinking days (one would normally think) is sure to raise a thirst, but it doesn't work that way either, does it? Our program and procedures seem to be in many ways contrary to

normal opinion. And do, in connection with this idea, let me pass on what I consider the four paradoxes of how A.A. works. (A paradox, you probably already know, is a statement which appears to be false, but which, upon careful examination, in certain instances proves to be true.)

1. We SURRENDER TO WIN. On the fact of it, surrendering certainly does not seem like winning. But it is in A.A. Only after we have come to the end of our rope, hit a stone wall in some aspect of our lives beyond which we can go no further; only when we hit “bottom” in despair and surrender, can we accomplish sobriety, which we could never accomplish before. We must, and we do, surrender in order to win.

2. We GIVE AWAY TO KEEP. That seems absurd and untrue. How can you keep anything if you give it away? But in order to keep whatever it is we get in A.A., we must go about giving it away to others, for no fees or rewards of any kind. When we cannot afford to give away what we have received so freely in A.A., we had better get ready for our next “drunk.” It will happen every time. We’ve got to continue to give it away in order to keep it.

3. We SUFFER TO GET WELL. There is no way to escape the terrible *suffering* of remorse and regret and shame and embarrassment which starts us on the road to getting well from our affliction. There is no new way to shake out a hangover. It’s painful. And for us, necessarily so. I told this to a friend of mine as he sat weaving to and fro on the side of the bed, in terrible shape, about to die for some paraldehyde. I said, “Lost John” – that’s his nickname—“Lost John, you know you’re going to have to do a certain amount of shaking sooner or later.” “Well,” he said, “for God’s sake let’s make it later!” We suffer to get well.

4. We DIE TO LIVE. That is a beautiful paradox straight out of the Biblical idea of being “born again” or “in losing one’s life to find it.” When we work at our Twelve Steps, the old life of guzzling and fuzzy thinking, and all that goes with it, gradually dies, and we acquire a different and a better way of life. As our shortcomings are removed, one life of us dies, and another life of us lives. We in A.A. die to live.

Reprinted with permission from A.A. World Service: Experience, Strength & Hope Book, pg. 151

To Meetings, Groups, MAICO Reps, GSR’s & DCM’s

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there...

And for that, I am Responsible

We had a newcomer recently show up at a meeting that is in our directory and no one was there or showed up. There was no sign to let someone know that there would not be a meeting. So in that Spirit:

A.A. groups and meetings are dynamic forces that are constantly changing. The meeting list is not guaranteed to be completely accurate. It’s only as accurate as you choose to make it. The meeting information listed on our website is as current as you help us make it. We are able to update the website within a couple days of getting the information from you, whether is a meeting/group that folded or the details have changed.

If you are aware of any meeting(s) listed in the directory or on our website in South Central/South West Wisconsin that are no longer meeting or whose meeting specifics have changed, please contact the MAICO Office at 608-222-8989 or email aamadisonwi@gmail.com so the appropriate changes can be made.

**Imagine how you would feel if you, as a newcomer to the program,
went to your first A.A. meeting and found no one there.**

Updates are important to all of us so please, be responsible and notify the MAICO office about meeting changes.

Income Statement – January to July 2016 & 2015 Comparison

Revenues	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Donations – Groups	24,888.45	22,275.92
MAICO Reps Events	962.17	0.00
Individual Donations	739.69	3,226.93
Donations – Answering Service	157.50	30.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	562.85	1,446.80
Conference Literature	16,175.31	19,058.59
Non-Conference Literature	6,677.58	6,726.55
Non-Conference Merchandise	11,767.77	10,933.84
Grapevine Literature	1,253.90	953.36
Faithful Fivers	269.00	361.00
Directories	628.02	970.64
Savings Account Income	4.91	3.05
Other Income – copies	342.40	94.39
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	269.73	382.43
Sales Tax Discount	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>64,699.28</u>	<u>66,513.50</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	10,688.13	11,776.85
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	4,388.58	5,508.94
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	7,089.14	6,742.29
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	150.76	489.65
Inventory Exp.-Directories	182.62	467.82
Total Cost of Sales	<u>22,499.23</u>	<u>24,985.55</u>
Gross Profit	<u>42,200.05</u>	<u>41,527.95</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	25,216.86	23,623.18
Payroll Tax Expense	1,971.08	2,000.33
Medical Reimbursement	1,120.00	760.00
Credit Card Processing Costs	379.11	360.37
Mobile Credit Card Unit Fees	105.00	105.00
License and Fees Expense – Bulk Mail fee	255.00	230.00
Office Supplies Expense	723.30	1,041.57
Office Expense	815.53	1,143.91
Bank Charges	24.00	0.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	1,089.24	1,061.73
Answering Service Expense	3,459.33	3,603.57
Advertising in Phone Book	560.00	572.00
Postage and Shipping Expense	418.73	581.80
Occupancy Expense	6,092.00	6,046.00
Insurance Expense	636.00	529.00
Printing Expense	230.49	286.64
Travel Expense	308.58	142.83
Conference Expense	40.00	0.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	200.00	260.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.30	-.055
Other Expense	43.93	0.00
Total Expenses	<u>43,687.88</u>	<u>42,347.38</u>
Net Income	<u>-1,487.83</u>	<u>-819.43</u>

Upcoming Events 2016

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 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.

Last Sat of month– Hosted by Dodgeville Downtown Group, Anniversary Potluck, Dodgeville Serenity Club, 401 N. Union St., Dodgeville. 6pm Potluck, 7pm Speaker, Please bring a salad or dessert if you would like, \$5.00 donation appreciated if possible.

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

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

Refreshments, sales, snacks. Come visit Your Central Office. **Buy a BB and get a Pocket BB Free.**

September 10 – 12th Annual AA Picnic in the Park, Hosted by Dodgeville Downtowners Grp, Harris Park, 600 Bennett Rd., Dodgeville. 12:30pm, Speaker: Jim R. (Barneveld) at 1:30pm, Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs, dinnerware and beverages provided. Bring a dessert or salad to share. Al-anon Welcome.

September 24 – District 31 Fall Workshop, "Balanced Recovery" Unity-Service-Recovery, DeKorra Lutheran Ch., N3099 Smith Rd., Poynette. Keynote Speaker and three panels. Breakfast: 8:30am, Event: 9am – 3:00pm. Food will be provided, but if you are a good cook, please bring a dish to pass.

October 1 – Traditions in Relationships, Hosted by Tuesday Night Workshop with Dist. 20 support. Using the Traditions in Relationships checklist. Learn how the 12 Traditions work to unify and support intimate, work and family relationships. Bashford United Methodist Ch., 326 North St., Madison. 9am – 12pm. Coffee & light breakfast fare will be provided. After, join us for a taco lunch from 12pm – 1pm. Vegetarian & Vegan options will be available. A dessert to pass welcome.

October 1 – 1st Annual Dist. 35 Mini – Conference, (formerly known as the New Glarus Mini-Conference), Zwingli U.C.C., 416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello.

October 2 – Area 75 Archives 11th and Final Movie Day, My Name is Bill W., begins at 12:45pm, room opens at Noon, Holy Assumption, Downstairs, enter at School door on parking lot, 7109 W. Orchard St., West Allis, WI

October 8 – The 9th Annual AA Conference at the VA with Al-Anon Participation, Hosted by Dist. 16/Area 75 Zablocki V.A. Medical Center, 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI. Morning AA Speaker: Sean Mc, Main AA Speaker: Ken G., Al-Anon Speaker: Hilary S. Registration: \$5.

October 15 – Dist. 30 Mini-Conference, Salvation Army, 514 Sutherland Ave., Janesville.

October 21 – 23 – Area 75 Fall Conference, "A New Freedom, Recover, Refresh, Renew". Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., Manitowoc, WI. Hosted by District 3.

November 5 - 20th Annual Youngtimers/Oldtimers Chili Cook-Off, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison. Bring your best Chili, Top 3 winners receive MAICO Gift Certificate.

Thank You's - Donations received June 30 to August 12, 2016

Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTs) Grp

General Fund

- 1728 Grp
- 511 Step Grp
- A Chance to Live Young People's Grp
- Berlin Sunday Night Grp
- Easy Does It But Do It (EDIBDI) Grp
- Family Afterward Grp
- Foxhall Recovery Grp
- Friday Night Lights Grp
- Friday Night Women's Grp
- Grace Lunch Grp
- Happy Hour Grps In WI Dells
- Into Action Grp
- It's A God Thing Grp
- Janesville Keys to the Kingdom Grp
- Lake Mills Our Group Wednesday
- Living Sober Grp
- Lodi Lifeliners Grp
- Mauston Fri Night Fellowship Grp
- Mid Morning Grp
- Midvale Wed. High Noon Grp
- Monroe Early Birds Grp
- Montello Buffalo Gals Grp
- Mt. Olive Grp
- Platteville Monday Night Grp
- Platteville Wednesday Noon Grp
- Poynette – DeKorra Grp
- Prairie Dock Grp
- Red Circle Grp
- Rock River Grp
- Senior Meeting
- Sober Today Grp
- St. Stephens Wednesday Night Grp
- Stoughton Grps
- Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTs) Grp
- Sun Prairie Wed Night Schooners Grp
- The Phoenix Grp
- Westfield 12 & 12 Grp

Faithful Fivers

- Anonymous
- Mary S.

Individual Donations

- Buzz
- Dave S.
- Richard P.

MAICO Corrections Treatment Fund

- Living Sober Grp
- Prairie Dock Grp

Faithful Fivers....

“Faithful Fivers” are A.A. members who, in gratitude, contribute each month (\$5.00 minimum suggested) toward support of the Intergroup Central Office. These gifts are tax deductible.

The Faithful Fivers idea came about from remembering that many of us wasted many times that dollar amount in far less than a month during our drinking careers.

**Please make check payable to:
M.A.I.C.O.**

**And mail to:
2000 Engel St., Suite 104,
Madison, WI. 53713**

Name

Address

City State Zip

I would like to donate:

____ Monthly ____ Quarterly

____ Semi-Annually ____ Yearly

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

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Madison, WI
Permit No. 1562

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_____