

THE MAICO GAAZETTE

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2019

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.

PROMISES: A Thousand Tiny Acts

In the Big Book, "Working with Others, I see all the suggestions and promises come true.

Peter E. – Manhattan, New York – Grapevine Feb. 2000

It was the spring of 1988 and I was six months sober. A friend lent me a tape of a man speaking at an AA meeting. I listened, and then I listened again, and again. I stayed up most of the night replaying the tape, mesmerized by what I was hearing. After a few days I realized why--it was my story down to specific details.

A week later, I was asked if I'd like to meet the man whose voice and story had not only captivated me but who seemed to have lived so much of my life, including what I had been feeling. Anxiously, I went to the Oxford Group's Monday night meeting on Manhattan's West Side.

I was awkward and nearly speechless when we were introduced. Inexplicably he seemed to know how I was feeling. He shook my hand, gave me his number, and said, "Call me." It took two weeks for me to get up the courage. He greeted me on the phone as if we were old friends and said, "Meet me at Oxford and then we'll go for a slice of pizza--whole wheat pizza, I'm on a special diet."

When I first spoke the words, "I'm Peter and I'm an alcoholic," I didn't know I had a drinking problem nor did I know how profoundly my life was about to change. When I met the man who would become my spiritual sponsor and my best friend, I couldn't begin to imagine how his presence in my life would enhance and ultimately transform it. I'm still learning just how much he gave to me and how much the memory of his words and actions altered my thinking and continue to inform my sobriety.

This man with whom I spoke almost every day for eleven years, jogged with at least once a week for nine years, and who knew more about me than anyone else--including me--died suddenly a few months ago. I have never felt such a sense of loss and sadness. Yet I've embraced my grief and

anger and let my tears erupt. After thirty-seven years of running from my feelings, I feel blessed that I can care as deeply for another human being as I do for this remarkable man. He used to say the worst curse the gods could put on anyone is to remove the capacity to love or be loved. He taught me how to love and be loved.

He also forced me to laugh--at myself. He had my unspoken permission to laugh at me. So during moments when I thought I'd have no home, he'd pipe up with, "Meet me in the park this afternoon and I'll help you get the best bench we can find, preferably one with some shade."

When I read the chapter in our Big Book, "Working with Others," I see his presence in all of the suggestions and promises. He was always there when I needed help and advice: from the mundane (like, what kind of shoes I should buy after fifteen years of wearing cowboy boots because I was too hungover to match socks) to the profound (like how to be a loving friend to my closest AA buddy who was diagnosed with AIDS when we were both a year sober). He guided me in saying goodbye to my mother who was dying last year, brain-damaged from alcohol. He spent hours teaching me how to write letters and memos to diffuse rather than ignite, how to respond to situations firmly and yet lovingly, and how to understand the positions of others rather than ram mine across.

All of his advice was rooted in the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Traditions, and the Twelve Concepts. I learned from his example and from the joy and love that emanated from his soul that all the money, power, prestige, and romance would not make me happy; only selfless service would bring me relief from my self-centeredness and allow me to experience the real happiness that I had so desperately tried to find in a bottle.

There were days when I doubted the power of AA. But the truth of his suggestions and the results of the actions he took were undeniable to me even on my most skeptical days.

He always wanted me to grow into the man God wanted me to be. At times I felt he wanted me to evolve beyond him, avoiding the pitfalls he had experienced and the imperfections he had. Occasionally I resisted, preferring instead the temporal and crass. But at moments when I was centered and serene, I felt incredibly blessed and honored that someone would care enough to take the time to try and push me higher. He always tried to bring out the best in me and when the best was unavailable to me, he helped me act as if. It always worked!

With him guiding me to seek a spiritual solution to all of my problems, I remember the process of slowly but surely turning over each aspect of my life and all my perceived problems to God.

After a year or so of our daily relationship, I remember saying I didn't know what I'd do without him. He said not to

take care of me. I know that this is true because he showed me by his faith and life that he was taken care of.

The most powerful moment I experienced with him was at a meeting where there was a homeless person, covered in dirt, blood, scabs, his face encrusted with the effects of the street. As we were walking out, my sponsor connected with the homeless man. He stopped and leaned down, shook his hand, gently touched his head and quietly said, "I will pray for you." Then he kissed him on the forehead. The man smiled. Later when I remarked about it, he reminded me that love is less a feeling than a thousand tiny acts of kindness.

He always remained my disciplined, demanding, and truthful spiritual mentor who invited me to have the life the Promises speak of. And for the majority of the past eleven years, I have had the life he wished for me.

I am overwhelmingly grateful that he took my hand to guide me through this life that I often wish I didn't have to live. As he taught me, I am praying for the next messenger - a new sponsor.

FUN IN RECOVERY - Enjoy any Sobriety Yet?

January, 1978, D. M., MD, Montreal, Quebec

AA is different now since 1978 with anniversaries, conventions, dances, golf games going on all over the place, and special affairs worldwide. Anyone missing for a while is likely to be happily sober somewhere else. Every meeting seems full of more and more people with diversity.

I was flattered and pleased when the chairman of a young people's convention asked me to speak. What should I say to a young group of men and women for the most part less than one-third my age? The twenty-four-hour book that morning had reminded me the day was my own anniversary. That settled it, I would tell my story. I felt at peace and enjoyed the drive.

Young people were everywhere around coffeepots and snacks. There were many groups, large and small, and lots of laughter. There were silly caps with name buttons attached and the letters "E.A.S.Y." across the front. This stood for the motto of the convention "Enjoying Any Sobriety Yet?" The came from far away as well as from neighboring states and provinces. They seemed to be having a good time and to be very concerned about one another. The atmosphere was comfortable. I sat with some intimate groups as they discussed special problems having to do with such topics as spirituality and honesty. I felt close to them and grateful for their love and acceptance. We older people are likely to forget the pain of growing up. Then my turn came - - -



INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUES	<u>Jan to May 2019</u>	<u>Jan to May 2018</u>
Donations – Groups	16,078.59	15,790.72
Donations – Events	331.00	122.00
Individual Donations	137.39	257.01
Donations – Answering Service	125.00	140.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	620.51	934.38
Conference Literature	13,031.14	14,834.87
Non-Conference Literature	3,928.69	4,919.44
Non-Conference Merchandise	8,096.22	8,275.01
Grapevine Literature	759.44	595.40
Faithful Fivers	107.00	234.00
Directories	429.25	254.00
Savings Account Income	6.55	1.62
Other Income	298.14	457.98
Sales Tax Discount	<u>43.14</u>	<u>40.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>\$43,992.06</u>	<u>\$46,856.43</u>
COST OF SALES		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	7,250.06	10,128.74
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	2,683.26	3,143.76
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	4,693.28	5,930.88
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	335.77	338.98
Total Cost of Sales	<u>14,962.37</u>	<u>19,542.36</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$29,029.69</u>	<u>\$27,314.07</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages Expense	18,927.40	17,725.50
Employee Medical Reimbursement	800.00	800.00
Payroll Tax Expense	1,447.95	1,356.00
Credit Card Processing Costs	403.84	375.26
License and Fees Expense	10.00	245.00
Office Supplies/Expense	696.87	378.39
Computer Maintenance Expense	1,250.00	1,300.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	1,198.91	1,466.82
Telephone/Internet Expense	645.46	803.19
Answering Service Expense	2,548.21	2,581.91
Advertising in Phone Book	440.00	436.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.16	-0.34
Postage and Shipping Expense	114.48	103.62
Occupancy Expense	4,075.00	3,975.00
Insurance Expense	646.00	0.00
Printing Expense	640.60	639.40
Directory Printing Expense	1,202.00	0.00
Travel Expense	261.97	284.74
Conference Expense	65.00	781.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	231.54	175.00
Other Expense	23.16	-63.38
Over/Under Cash on Hand	<u>24.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$35,652.23</u>	<u>\$33,363.11</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$-6,622.54</u>	<u>\$-6,049.04</u>



UPCOMING Events 2019

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** at www.area75.org *Be mindful of anonymity with names, flyers and information on the internet. **Flyers available on the MAICO website with more details for all events.*



RECURRING

1st Sunday of Month – Ripon's Royal Ridge Open Speaker AA Breakfast, Royal Ridges, State Hwy 23 (W. Fond du Lac St.) Ripon. Breakfast 10am, Speaker 11:00 am \$10.00 adults, (Holiday meets 2nd Sunday)

2nd Sunday of Month – Open AA Speaker, Adams, Adams-Friendship Club, 1093 County M, Adams, Noon

3rd Sunday of Month – Pocket Full of Sunshine Breakfast, Howard Johnson, 3841 E. Washington Ave., Madison, 10:00 am breakfast buffet, \$10.00 all you can eat, 11am Speaker

Last Wednesday of Month – Sunlight of the Spirit Group, (SOTS) Open speaker meeting, Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2401 Atwood Ave., 5:30 pm Potluck, bring dish to share, 6:30pm Speaker

Last Saturday of Month – Hosted by Portage Area Recovery Groups, Open Speaker Meeting, 8:00 pm, Historic Apts., 207 W. Cook St., Portage, basement, handicap accessible, Potluck to follow meeting.

Last Saturday of Month – Hosted by Dodgeville Downtown Group, Dodgeville Serenity Club, 401 N. Union St., Dodgeville. 7:00 pm Speaker, Please bring a snack or dessert if you would like

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

Every Saturday – New Voices Open Speaker Meeting, 7:00 pm, 402 W. Delavan Dr., Janesville, Hosted (Chair & Speaker) each month by groups in Area 75 & nearby Illinois groups

JULY 2019

July 12 to July 14 – East Central Regional Forum, A Unique Opportunity for AA members to share their experience, strength & hop, Sheraton Detroit Metro, Romulus, MI. www.aa.org click on Regional Forums Information

AUGUST 2019

August 6 – The Area 75 \$8.06 Challenge, In 2018 General Service Office provided services to 1,418,177 AA members at a cost of \$11,426,835. That's \$8.06 per AA member for the whole year. If every member contributed \$8.06 once, it would support all of the services GSO provides for all groups, for one year! Send your donation to General Service Office, P.O. Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-0459

August 10 – MAICO Reps & District 30 Summer Picnic, East Pavilion of Palmer Park, 2501 Palmer Dr., Janesville. Open event with speakers and cookout. Begins at 9am with food at Noon.

August 16 to 18th – Annual Green Lake Round-Up, Green Lake Conf. Center W2511 State Rd. 23, Green Lake, WI

AA & AI-Anon meetings – Open & Closed, Bring the whole family! Information: GreenLakeRoundupWI@gmail.com

Registration: \$10.00 per person. Accommodations are separate from event registration.

August 18 – Richland Center Group Picnic, Krouskop Park, The Retrum Shelter, Eat at Noon, Speaker: Sherman D. from Dodgeville. Group will supply meat, please bring a dish to pass.

SEPTEMBER 2019

Sept. 5 – 8, 23rd National A.A. Archives Workshop, Detroit, MI. www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com

Sept. 7 – District 20 Workshop, Bring Your Sponsor/Sponsee to Work “Shop” Day, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, 8:15am-9 registration, 9am Panels, 11:15am Main Speaker

Sept. 8 Area 75 Pre Conference Assembly, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Madison Senior Center, 330 Mifflin St., Madison, WI

October 2019

October 12 – District 30 Roundup, Salvation Army, Janesville

October 18 – 20 Area 75 & East Regional Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport, 6401 S. 13th St. Milwaukee, WI. AA & Al-Anon speakers & Panels, Area Assembly

THANK YOU'S Donations April – June 14, 2019

General Fund

1728 Group
Blackhawk Good Fellowship
Cambridge Group
Children of Chaos
DeForest Progress Group
District 9
District 11
District 35
Early Risers
Easy Breathers
Easy Does It But Do It
Exit 164 Group
Experience, Strength & Hope
Family Afterward
Foxhall Recovery
Friday Night Lights
Grace Lunch Group
Into Action
Keep It Simple Group
Keep It Simple Sisters Group
Lake Mills Our Group Wednesday
Living Sober
Mauston Wednesday Afternoon
Monroe Sat. Sister Blandine
Mt. Horeb Wednesday Night
Platteville Wednesday Noon
Poynette DeKorra Group
Prairie Dock Group
Red Circle
Rio Into Action
Rock River Group
Sauk Prairie Group
Serenity Seekers
Sister Blandine Thursday Night Big Book
Sober Today

Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Andy's 7am
Steps to Success
Sunday Morning Westsiders
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sun Prairie Phoenix Group
Sunrise Serenity
The Home Group
There is a Solution
Turning Point Group
Tuesday Night Sobriety Fest
Tuesday Night Workshop
Waunakee Wauna Meeting
Wautoma Thursday AM Big Book
Wautoma Thursday Night Grapevine
Windsor Group
Women's Reflection Group
Women's Serenity Thursday
Working Step Group



Corrections/Treatment Fund

Early Risers
Living Sober
Sunlight of the Spirit

Individuals

Anonymous
Memorial for Betty L.
Tom S.

Answering Service

Early Risers

Faithful Fiver

Larry L., Mary S, Susan K.

SHORT TAKES From the Grapevine

A New Fresh Beginning

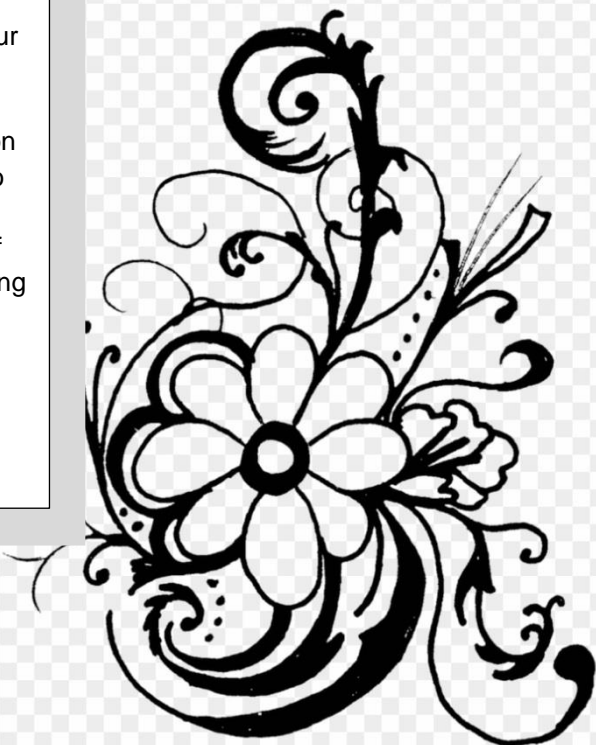
I held onto a copy of the Big Book and realized it was written for me.

After nearly two decades of drinking, my life was at its lowest point. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired and didn't want to live that way one more day.

That's when I saw a public service announcement that directed me to our sponsorship.

My current sponsor strongly recommended I use a pristine Fourth Edition with no notes when going through the Steps with her. She wanted me to ***start with a fresh, open, teachable mind***, and I complied. But my practice of studying and reading just two pages every day and adding of my Big Book remains to this day. This book is my sobriety and sponsoring tool that keeps getting sharpened as I continue learning more and passing it on to others.

***December 2018 -- Nancy K.
Galt, California***



The Only Requirement

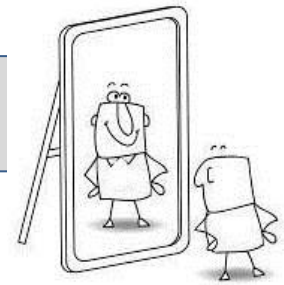
I really did want what my new friends seemed to have. I wanted the laughter I heard in the meetings, the love and the good feelings. Above all, I wanted the newfound hope that was beginning to stir deep within me as I heard stories about how change was possible through the Twelve Steps of the AA program.

***March, 1998 – George B.,
Alexandria, Virginia***

The Whole Garden

Recently at a meeting I heard the old remark, "God never promised me a rose garden." Now, this remark has always rubbed me the wrong way, so I decided to look at it more closely. My life has not really changed all that drastically, but what has changed is how I view things. I now see the whole garden instead of just the roses.

August 1986201 – S. M., Seoul, Korea



Balance In Our Lives

“We” not “Me”

AA has Three Legacies:

Recovery - Steps: me, others and the grace of God for “We”.

Unity - Traditions: Us and God for the whole keeping more of God’s grace for “We”.

Service - Concepts which are about rights that are deferred for the betterment of all of “We”.

We try to practice: **Steps | Traditions | Concepts** in all our affairs encompassing home, work, and meetings. This balanced life gives us the gift of **Serenity**.

Getting sober is one thing, and can be obtained for periods of time. Getting sober and being **happy** can be obtained by Love and Service. 12 Steps, 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts. Trusting God, clean house and work with others offers a balance.

Learning to live life from a different perspective enriches our Sobriety. Focusing on the “We” and not the “Me” so life can be seen and lived as *We* offers us balance.

Steve T., Long Live Our Dreams, June, 2019

Serenity Chair

I have experienced growing pains in sobriety, but, gratefully, God has given me the willingness to persevere. The opposite of fear is faith, and since both cannot live in me at the same time, I practice faith and try to stay in the moment, because that is where I find my High Power.

I keep reminders around my desk at work, like a small picture of a **chair** on the beach with the first line of the Serenity Prayer, which reminds me to pray and ask for help.

This morning, my reading said that the best way out of a situation is through it. In my meditation, I asked God, “What is it that you are showing me at work? What is it that you want me to do?” After sitting quietly, the word that came to me was “humble.” I know this had to be from my Higher Power helping me keep **Balance in Sobriety**.

Grapevine, March 2018 – Elaine L.

South Amboy, New Jersey

**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 update our information. Call MAICO at 608-222-8989, email to info@aamadisonwi.org 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_____

Handicap 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)