

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 Six S's

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Unquestionably, I needed A.A. Those wonderfully simple truths from the Big Book, and the emotional support of friends around the tables were for me. However, this was strange ground – not just a matter of getting my life back on the track, but of finding specific rewards and purposes to give it meaning again. I had seen others fail because they chose the wrong subject for research: Would that first drink really throw them? So I decided instead to research the plus factors in being an AA member. “Sure, I need it,” I told myself. Then I asked, “But is that enough? Where is the challenge, and what are the rewards?”

Basically, I have found, the challenge is the discovery of a new and better way of life. For me, AA provides rewards and bonuses I would not have believed possible in my drinking days. My life has been greatly enriched by what I choose to call the Six S's: **sobriety, sanity, serenity, spiritual growth, sharing, and service**. What a contrast to the hideous Four Horsemen of my drinking days: frustration, bewilderment, terror and despair.

Sobriety is the foundation on which all the rest are built. Once this priority is established, the order of the other S's will vary with individual motivation, perception, and progress. A clear head helps me learn to cope with life's problems rather than to aggravate them.

Sanity returns slowly with sobriety, depending largely on how confused one has become. Like the five other S's, sanity may at first seem fleeting and difficult to maintain. Persistent working of the Twelve Steps on a day-to-day basis is essential. It is unrealistic to expect an immediate return to sanity; only with time can we put all things into perspective. Gradually, new patterns of thinking must be established and adhered to. I learned to encourage good thoughts to replace that stinking thinking.

Serenity has been called “a step beyond sanity.” It is the ability to live comfortably with oneself and others in the world as it exists, whether or not that is the world of one’s choice. The Serenity Prayer is an invaluable tool in making possible this high degree of acceptance of things as they are. Attaining the serenity to accept things (and people) I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can (including myself), and the wisdom to know the difference is a large order, requiring God’s help.

Spiritual Growth is a byproduct of the search for serenity by means of prayer and meditation. This lofty concept is the most difficult to communicate to others. However, when the Third Step becomes an essential part of our lives, people will marvel at how we have changed. AA friends will realize, however, that we are using that Higher Power, instead of being our own little gods.

Sharing the bounty of sobriety with those who still suffer is necessary in order to maintain the spiritual quality of sobriety. Even as disturbed beginners, we warmed to the compassionate sharing of experience, strength, and hope by those who welcomed us to the tables of AA. Gradually, we became willing to participate and to try to help others as we had been helped. Each experiences this need to share in his own way; it is akin to his need to be understood. Our early self-hatred and sense of alienation become a common meeting ground in AA. Where else can we meet people with whom we can so readily identify?

Service not only gives us a sense of rejoining the human race, but fills that awful gap left by the absent bottle. Like happiness, service is where we find it – in making coffee, emptying ashtrays, doing Twelfth Step work, meeting with alcoholics in hospitals and institutions, being on committees, or taking part in AA meetings – whatever the challenge. To be able to give freely of self is the ultimate in happiness.

If the concern for these Six S’s seems selfish, perhaps it is. Self-centered, it is not. Here is a chance to be at peace with ourselves again. We cannot accept such rewards without a true sense of humility when we remember how God searches out that one lost sheep. If I had not been so lost, I might never have known the joy of finding a spiritual home in AA.

C. J., Pleasant Hill, CA.

Income Statement -Three Months ending July 31, 2014

Revenues	This year	Last Year
Donations	23,653.54	20,994.65
MAICO Reps Events	504.00	440.94
Individual Donations	2,112.23	839.04
Donations – Answering Service	120.00	130.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	688.40	784.24
Donations – Prudent Reserve	88.00	0.00
Conference Literature	20,052.35	21,522.20
Grapevine Literature	1,156.81	1,091.43
Non-Conference Literature	5,757.49	7,359.45
Non-Conference Merchandise	11,917.49	12,769.12
Faithful Fivers	258.00	251.00
Directories	819.80	1,027.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	10.00	35.00
Investment Income	1.43	50.02
Gift Certificates	20.00	0.00
Inventory Adjustment	502.33	3,012.08

Other Income – copies	126.37	89.93
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	390.34	565.45
Sales Tax Discount	<u>40.00</u>	<u>60.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>68,218.58</u>	<u>71,021.55</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	10,603.15	14,418.95
Inventory Exp.-Grapevine	0.00	446.83
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	3,937.28	5,390.90
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	<u>10,323.19</u>	<u>9,244.82</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>24,863.62</u>	<u>29,501.50</u>
Gross Profit	43,354.96	41,520.05
Expenses		
Auto Expense – mileage	109.39	231.40
Wages Expense	22,323.33	21,802.20
Payroll Tax Expense	1,707.68	1,667.77
Medical Reimbursement	700.00	100.00
Credit Card Processing Costs	697.16	545.39
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	498.61	888.70
Office Expense	271.69	193.67
Newsletter Expense	106.60	109.88
Investment Funds Decrease	46.60	232.75
Telephone/Internet	1,063.09	825.12
Domain Name – Go Daddy Acct	42.74	0.00
Answering Service Expense	3,564.22	3,136.16
Advertising in Phone Book	644.00	552.00
Postage and Shipping Expense	485.98	983.52
Occupancy Expense	5,870.00	5,701.00
Insurance Expense	381.00	379.00
Printing Expense	309.97	378.74
Directory Expense	0.00	1,598.00
Intergrp/C.O. Seminar	0.00	463.40
MAICO Reps Events	251.07	400.00
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.12</u>
Total Expenses	40,440.37	40,711.02
Net Income	<u>\$2,914.59</u>	<u>\$809.03</u>

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

Gratitude Month is in November- envelopes will be distributed in Sept/Oct - fOur Chance to Say “Thank You”

A.A.W.S are raising literature prices as of 10/1/14

Upcoming Events 2014-2015

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

- Sep 1** – Foxhall Recovery Group's 19th Annual Eatin' Meetin', Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, Potluck dinner – 5:30pm, AA Open Speaker Meeting 7:00pm. Everyone Welcome. Bring a newcomer and dish to pass. Q's: Rachel 608-219-7023 or Rosy 608-438-6058
- Sep 6** – Last Campfire, Dist. 9, Ed & Jeanna M's, 747 Badland Rd., Platteville, WI. Grills ready at 6pm and an Open meeting starts at 8pm. Bring something for your grilling and a dish to pass if able and lawn chair.
- Sep 7** – 10th Annual AA Picnic in the Park, 600 Bennett Rd., Harris Park, Dodgeville, WI. 12:30pm Speaker: Steve L. (Mineral Pt.) at 1:30pm. Hamburgers, Brats, Hot Dogs, dinnerware, beverages provided, bring a dessert or salad to share. Alanon welcome.
- Sep 13** – Dist. 20 Workshop, We need You for A.A. Service, Service Recruitment Fair, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison. 9am-11:30am Info: Kimmer: 608-576-6865 or kimmerlothe@gmail.com
- Sep 13** – 3rd Annual "Into Action" Group Luau, Token Creek Park, Shelter 2, 2pm – 8pm, Food, Fun, Fellowship, Volleyball, AA Speaker 6pm. Bring a dish if you wish, something to drink & a newcomer
- Sep 20** – Dist. 31 Workshop, Poynette-DeKorra Ch., Hwy CS & Smith Rd., Poynette, WI.
- Oct 18** – AA: Women to Women, A day of sharing, Closed AA meeting, The Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Ave., Milwaukee. Registration: \$10.00 (in advance) Send checks to Women to Women co/o Joy Steinbicer, 3251 S. 54th St., Milwaukee, WI. 53219

Nov 1 – Dist. 30 Fall Recovery Round Up, Moving Forward, Salvation Army, 514 Sutherland Ave., Janesville, WI. 8am to 11pm. Full day of recovery with dance to follow.

Nov 8 – 18th Annual MAICO Reps Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison.

2015 –

Jan 9-11 – WICYPAA XXII, To See a Fellowship Grow up about you, The Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, WI. www.wicypaa.org for info or email Chair: chair@wicypaa.org

Jul 2-5 - Alcoholics Anonymous 80th Birthday in Atlanta, Georgia. Go to www.aa.org, click in International Conference and answers to questions you might have are answered.

Thank You's - Donations received from June 27, 2014 to August 8, 2014

General Fund

A Vision for You Grp
Atwood Women's Grp
Beaver Dam Mon Night 6pm
Berlin Sunday Night Grp
Columbus Grp
District 9
District 11
DeForest Progress Grp
Early Risers Grp
Easy Does It But Do It (EDIBDI)
Fel-O-Ship Grp
Friday Night Lights
Ft. Atkinson Wed. Beginners
Grace Lunch Grp
It's a God Thing Grp
Janesville Early Risers Grp
Keep It Simple Grp
K.I.S.S. Grp
Lancaster Tuesday Night Grp
Living Sober Grp
Midvale Grp
Monona Serenity Grp
Monroe Design for Living Grp
Monroe New Beginnings Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
No Butts Grp
Oregon Eye Opener Grp
Portage 207 Grp
Red Circle Grp
Reedsburg Grp
Rock River Grp
Saturday Women's Serenity
Serenity at Six Grp

Serenity Seekers
Spring Green Read n Lead
Sunrise Serenity
Sunshine Grp
The Promises Grp
There is a Solution Grp
Town & Country Grp
Watertown Thurs Morning Grp
Waunakee Wauna Meeting
What? An Order? Meeting

Faithful Fivers

Anonymous

Individual Donations

Allan Z.
Dale N.
Gary B. – for Tech Workshop
Jon C. – for Tech Workshop
Lonny S. – memorial donation
Scott & Pam J.

MAICO Corrections Treatment Fund

Early Risers Grp
Living Sober
Monona Serenity Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS)

MAICO Picnic

Anonymous – hotdogs, hamburgers & brats
Dist. 30
Kathleen M. – for picnic
Randy W.