

The MAICO

Oct - Dec 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.

*****It has been brought to attention of the MAICO Steering Committee that a rumor has been circulating about Diane E. retiring from her position at the MAICO Office. We want to clarify, and assure you, that Diane E. is NOT retiring from her MAICO position as Office Manager. Please share this information with your groups. Thank You, MAICO Steering Committee**

Intergroup/Central Office: Then and Now

Established and supported by local groups to carry out the functions of a centralized office, intergroups have provided thousands of desperate alcoholics with their first contact with Alcoholics Anonymous, either over the phone, in person, or increasingly, online. With 469 intergroups/central offices listed with G.S.O. in the U.S./Canada alone (and nearly 700 worldwide), A.A. is so easily “searchable” these days that we often forget that, at one time, it played a little hard to get. Back in the early days, “A.A. wasn’t that easy to find,” wrote one oldtimer. “A carefully selected group of priests, judges and policemen knew about A.A.; our phone number wasn’t listed, and it could be gotten only by dialing information.” This was a deliberate attempt to ensure that anyone wanting to get sober was sincere enough to make a real effort. But gauging the level of someone else’s desire to quit drinking was an often subjective judgment that the Third Tradition fortunately did away with.

In the very beginning, there was the Central Committee in Cleveland, Ohio, where by October 1939 a group of seven members convened on a regular basis to coordinate efforts regarding hospitalizations and sponsorship, doing crucial work at a time when the slip of just one member or the dissolution of just one group seemed to threaten the very existence of A.A. itself.

What Bill W. called “A.A.’s first organized service center” – the forerunner of today’s intergroup – sprang up in the Chicago suburb of Evanston. Around 1940, an A.A. member named Sylvia used the proceeds of her monthly alimony check to rent an apartment and

establish a phone line. In 1941, after publication of the Jack Alexander article about A.A. in the Saturday Evening Post, Sylvia's apartment began to resemble, according to Bill, "a sort of Chicago Grand Central," with so many phone calls that Sylvia had to enlist the aid of Grace Coultice, a non-alcoholic secretary. Eventually, Sylvia and Grace upgraded to an office in the Loop (only a few blocks from where the current Chicago Area Service Office now has its offices), where they welcomed, Bill wrote, "a stream of applicants for Twelfth Step attention, hospitalization, or other help."

Most early intergroup offices were nowhere near as elaborate as this: they were simply phone lines listed as belonging to A.A. but that were in fact connected to members' homes. But Sylvia's office inspired the opening of numerous early intergroup/central offices all over the Midwest, notably ones in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis, Minnesota.

On the East Coast, New York Inter-Group essentially started when the doors of the 24th Street Clubhouse at 334 ½ West 24th Street opened in June 1940 and began serving the members of Alcoholics Anonymous in the metropolitan area. By 1942, the Club, as it was called, began to serve as more than a meeting place and to function as a de facto central committee for over 10 A.A. groups, with two paid clubhouse secretaries who answered phones and manned the desk 12 to 14 hours a day. These were some of A.A.'s first "special workers," as articulated in Tradition Eight, who were paid to make A.A. Twelfth Step work possible, as opposed to individual A.A. members who, on a voluntary basis, carry the message as part of their own Twelfth Step efforts. Eventually, in 1946, New York Inter-Group was established, moving away from the clubhouse (it was difficult to carry on the work of intergroup in a social atmosphere that included an endless poker game and, at one point, a restaurant) to a space on West 75th St.

By the time of the first General Service Conference in April 1951, at least 16 intergroup/central offices were serving local groups. Since they predated the formation of the general service structure and performed a different A.A. function, they were not a part of the A.A. structure (except in Chicago, where the area service office and area committee are essentially one). At times over the years, there has been an overlapping of services, but, for the most part, intergroups and general service have come to work in harmony.

(Read the full article in Box 4-5-9, News and Notes from the General Service Office of A.A. – Fall 2017)

Grapevine Daily Quote from September 12, 2017

"In our Twelve Traditions we have set our faces against nearly every trend in the outside world."

"We have denied ourselves personal government, professionalism and the right to say who our members shall be. We have abandoned do-goodism, reform and paternalism. We refuse charitable money and prefer to pay our own way. We will cooperate with practically everybody, yet we decline to marry our Society to anyone. We abstain from public controversy and will not quarrel among ourselves about those things that so rip society asunder – religion, politics and reform. We have but one purpose to carry the AA message to the sick alcoholic who wants it."

"We take these attitudes not at all because we claim special virtue or wisdom; we do these things because hard experience has told us that we must – if AA is to survive in the distraught world of today."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1955

"Why Alcoholics Anonymous is Anonymous." The Language of the Heart

Exciting things are happening at your Central Office

MAICO Archives Update – volunteer position

MAICO is in the process of creating an archive of documents related to the history of the Madison Area Intergroup Central Office. As we move forward with digitizing event flyers, meeting minutes, newsletters and more, we hope to provide regular updates of our progress (if not perfection), and might occasionally call for area members' MAICO memories - so stay tuned!

For more information contact maicoarchives@gmail.com. Thank you. Nicole F.

MAICO – Tech Team – volunteer position

Updated Website/AA Meeting Finder

In August, MAICO updated the website with a new meeting finder page. The website is now location sensitive on all types of devices. Meetings are searchable by location, type (open, closed, big book, literature, etc.). The meeting list provided by MAICO is also connected to a Android & iPhone App called “Meeting Guide”. The app is available in the google play store and apple store.

Groups are encouraged to review their listings to ensure the online information is accurate. Changes may be requested by clicking the “Request an update” button at the bottom of the meeting details. An email is directed to MAICO with the requested changes.

Please visit the MAICO website for links to your App store. Thank you. Patrick S.

MAICO – Volunteer Coordinator – volunteer position

Thank you to all those who volunteer for MAICO, serve on the steering committee and serve as MAICO group representatives. With your time and energy we are able to serve our community in amazing ways and carry the message to alcoholics. Your generous gifts of time and attention are appreciated.

We are currently training new volunteers that we plan to add to our Volunteer Master list for the Winter Quarter Schedule. We use an online calendar to coordinate volunteers to cover office shifts Mondays, Tuesdays (6-8 pm) and Saturdays (12-2pm). Once our volunteers are trained by Diane, they can use the online sign up to cover open shifts at the office.

The schedule link is sent out regularly and calls are made to fill in any openings or schedule changes. We have 7 regular volunteers who cover 8 out of the usual 12-14 Office Shifts needed each month. In the Fall Quarter we had a total of 23 out of 39 volunteer shifts covered by regulars. Our online calendar covers three months at a time and is sent out approximately four times a year in October, January, April, and July. Volunteers can sign up for open slots or request a regular shift if desired. Our online calendar sends out reminders 2-3 days in advance. We do also have the option of scheduling offline and reminding volunteers by telephone who choose not to use the website

We are looking for someone to serve the role as Volunteer Coordinator starting Jan. 2018. This commitment **requires at least 3 years of sobriety** and will begin when the other **Steering Committee officers & at large positions** start. Please let your Group MAICO Rep know if you or someone you know is interested in this awesome service opportunity. Yours in Service, Danelle K.

December 12th - Elections for 3 members of the MAICO Steering Committee

The Steering Committee shall consist of seven members whose specific purpose is to watch over and guide the activities of MAICO. Six of the positions shall be elected positions and the seventh shall be held by the current office manager of MAICO. Note: MAICO does not provide directors insurance.

Candidates for the Steering Committee shall be alcoholics who have been sober for at least one year, are willing to give a two year commitment, have had six months experience as a group representative to MAICO and ideally possess some business background or training. We ask the Reps first if anyone would like to run and then we open up candidates to AA members in the MAICO service area.

Living Cyber

At A.A.'s 10th International Convention in San Diego in 1995, a group of people who called themselves the Living Cyber Committee gathered in the hospitality suite. They knew each other, but many of them had never met, since their only encounters had been in early forms of online A.A. groups. Those unable to travel to San Diego were able to "virtually" attend the convention through the suite. Two major email groups, several groups from the major online services, and an Internet Relay Chat channel participated in uniting alcoholics from all over the world with the online members and visitors in the suite.

The Living Cyber suite was a great success, and the committee realized that, with the rapidly expanding Internet, alcoholics around the world would need an online version of a brick-and-mortar intergroup/central office. They formed the Online Intergroup of Alcoholics Anonymous (OIAA), which was registered in New Jersey in 1996. According to OIAA chair Vicki E, online intergroup provides "a centralized location where groups can come online and people can find the groups they need." Crucial to OIAA's function is a rigorous vetting policy. "Our policy and admission committee is very strict in vetting our groups before we register them – we need to make sure they are true A.A. groups, operating within our Twelve Traditions."

At any given time, OIAA may have more than 100 groups listed. They represent all types of meetings – email, chat, telephone, audio, video – for all different groups, including general discussion meetings (both open and closed); men's and women's meetings; meetings for those who for one reason or another can't leave home; meetings for those who are Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing; and meetings for atheists/agnostics, military and LGBTQ members. "All types of people come to online meetings," Vicki says. When she was training as a nurse and had to travel 50 miles to work, she was unable to get to her regular meetings and so went online. Now she mixes brick-and-mortar meetings with cyber meetings, depending on her schedule.

With meetings in 13 different languages besides English, OIAA is essentially an intergroup/central office for the online world. It functions along the lines of a regular intergroup, depending on Seventh Tradition contributions from its listed groups for expense, with the usual number of committee liaising with general service structures in the countries OIAA reaches. And, of course, the Twelfth Step function is central to OIAA's mission. OIAA's Twelfth Step Help Committee (known informally as "the Steppers") responds directly by email –24 hours a day, in numerous languages – to anyone who clicks on the "Get Help" button on the OIAA site or the meeting sites it links with. According to Vicki, the Steppers answer some 300 to 500 emails a month from all over the world.

This Twelfth Step work, like any other, is crucial. "You are sometimes dealing with alcoholics who are feeling hopeless and you want to connect with them, get them help," says Vicki. "Even though you are on the Internet, you are working side by side with them." And, occasionally, there is that validating moment when the virtual world meets the physical one.

"I was at the San Antonio International Convention (in 2010), in our hospitality suite, when we had a man come in from Peru," Vicki relates. "Where he lived, he said, there were only three A.A. members, all 50 miles apart, and they could only meet once every three months, traveling by boat. Aside from that, his lifeline was online meetings. So, people do stay sober, all over the world, against the odds. And that is what OIAA is there to help them with."

Reprinted with permission from AAWS, Box 4-5-9, Fall 2017

Income Statement

Revenues	<u>August</u>	<u>Jan to Aug 2017</u>
Donations – Groups	3,658.27	28,414.27
Donations – Events	141.40	466.40
Individual Donations	350.00	2,940.17
Donations – Answering Service	15.00	190.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	0.00	1,067.67
Conference Literature	2,233.05	18,898.88
Non-Conference Literature	802.11	6,534.95
Non-Conference Merchandise	1,549.01	12,585.71
Grapevine Literature	50.75	592.58
Faithful Fivers	50.00	369.00
Directories	57.00	662.95
Savings Account Income	0.00	4.90
Other Income	45.49	440.38
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	<u>27.11</u>	<u>231.60</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$8,979.19</u>	<u>\$73,399.46</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	1,760.40	11,557.30
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	943.72	5,181.43
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,005.53	10,195.43
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	0.00	0.00
Inventory Exp.-Directories	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,142.00</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>\$3,709.65</u>	<u>\$28,076.16</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$5,269.54</u>	<u>\$45,323.30</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	3,120.00	27,305.23
Employee Medical Reimbursement	160.00	1,280.00
Payroll Tax Expense	238.68	2,088.85
Credit Card Processing Costs	49.46	407.69
Mobile Credit Card Unit Fees	15.00	120.00
License and Fees Expense	0.00	235.00
Office Supplies	0.00	833.76
Office Expense	18.15	340.33
Computer Maintenance Expense	70.00	560.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	0.00	1,075.70
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	159.68	1,269.47
Answering Service Expense	411.38	3,911.35
Advertising in Phone Book	86.00	682.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.07	-0.59
Postage and Shipping Expense	35.26	392.18
Occupancy Expense	795.00	6,246.00
Insurance Expense	0.00	615.00
Printing Expense	0.00	261.69
Travel Expense	18.00	598.94
Conference Expense	20.00	204.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	0.00	260.00
Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$5,196.54</u>	<u>\$48,686.60</u>
Net Income	<u>\$73.00</u>	<u>-\$3,363.30</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.

October 7 – Dist. 35 Mini-Conference, Humbly Asked... Zwingli United Church of Christ, 416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello, Seventh Step panels. Breakfast, lunch, please bring a dish to pass if you can. Raffle, donation are welcome and appreciated. www.greencountyaa.org

October 7 – 10th Annual AA Conference at the VA with Al-Anon Participation, Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI. “We Keep Coming Back”, 7:30am – 5pm.

October 7 – Dist. 25 Intergroup, Harvest of Recovery, Lakeside Park Pavilion, 71 Promen Dr., Fond du Lac

Noon to 9pm, Potluck Dinner, Bring a dish to pass. Panels & Al-anon & AA Speakers.

October 14 – Dist. 11 Fall 2017 Breakfast & AA Open Speaker Meeting, St. Joseph’s Catholic Ch., 1660 Endl Blvd., Ft. Atkinson, WI. 8:30am – Noon. \$5 suggested donation.

October 21 – Milwaukee Central Office: Fall Fling Dinner, Alioto’s Italian Supper Club, 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee. 5:30pm to 9:30pm. Tickets: \$25.00

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

November 4 – MAICO Reps Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison – Chili Cook Off – **Bring your best Chili in a crock pot.** First, Second & Third prize gift certificates awarded.

November 17 – 19 – East Central Regional Forum, Wyndham Springfield City Centre, Springfield, IL.

Thank You's - Donations received June 16 to September 22, 2017

General Fund

1st 164 Monday Night Grp
511 Step Grp
A Vision for You Grp
Anonymous Grp
Beloit Happy Hour Grp
Berlin Friday Night Grp
Boscobel Thursday Grp
Cambridge Grp
Capital Steps Grp
Children of Chaos Grp
Clear Cut Directions
Daily Reflections
DeForest Progress Grp
District 31
Dodgeville Downtowners
Early Risers Grp
EDIBDI Grp
Family Afterward Grp
Fel-O-Ship Grp
Friday Night Lights
Ft. Atkinson Open Beginners
Grp
Good Morning Promises Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
High Noon Big Book Grp
Individual AA Members
Into Action Grp
It's A God Thing Grp
K.I.S.S. - Keep It Simple
Sisters
Living Sober Grp
Lodi Lifeliners Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Mid Morning Grp
Monroe Design for Living
Grp
Monroe Sat.Sister Blandine
Grp

Mt. Horeb Sat RUS Group
Mt. Olive Grp
Not a Glum Lot Group
Out to Lunch Grp
Platteville Monday Night Grp
Portage 207 Grp
Poynette-DeKorra Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Precisely How We
Recovered
Richland Center Grp
Rock River Grp
Sauk Prairie Grp
Serenity at 6 Women's Grp
Sharing Solutions Grp
Shine at Nine Grp
Sister Blandine Tuesday Grp
Sister Blandine Thursday Big
Book
Sober Today Grp
Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Andy's 7am Grp
Steps to Success Grp
Suburban Sobriety Grp
Sunday Morning Westsiders
Group
Sunday Recovery with the
Book
Sunday Serenity Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sunriser's Grp
Sunrise Serenity Grp
Sunshine Grp
The Phoenix Grp
Town and Country Grp
Traditions Grps
Tues Night Sobriety Fest Grp
Tuesday Night Workshop
Grp

Viroqua Big Book Study
Meeting
Watertown Sat. Morning
Women's
Waupun Tues & Fri Grps
Wautoma Thurs AM Big
Book
Wautoma Thurs PM
Grapevine
Working Step Group

**Corrections/Treatment
Fund**

Early Risers Grp
EDIBDI Grp
It's A God Thing Grp
Living Sober Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp

Picnic & Misc Donations

Individuals
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp

Prudent Reserve

Marshall 449 Grp

Answering Service

EDIBDI Grp
Marshall 449 Grp

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.
Mary S.

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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_____