

The MAICO

Jan – Mar 2018

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.

The Best Little Coffeemaker in A.A.

February 1988

“A.A. doesn’t work for me,” he said. “It doesn’t work for me, either,” I replied. My new friend was not in the best of shape. He was just leaving the hospital. I was helping him fill out some forms, since that’s part of my job. There was an element of life that was missing from his eyes. He was thin, as if he had starved for a long time. Whatever they had put him in the hospital for, he looked like a man who was starving to death. Not just from lack of food, but from spiritual starvation.

Worst of all, he looked like someone who had seen or heard nothing humorous for years.

But he raided his head and stared at me. I could tell he was surprised by my answer. So I grinned, because he was looking directly at me. It was the first time he had done that. Then I told him the story of “When I Was Coffeemaker.”

“I was railroaded,” I told him. “Forced into it against my will. By the way, how many AA meetings have you been to?”

He shrugged, “I dunno. Maybe a dozen. But it doesn’t work for me.”

“Me neither,” I repeated.

I was coerced forcibly into the job of AA coffeemaker (I explained to him). Now, this was one of your big meetings – usually about eighty people or more. I was nominated and voted into the office by acclamation—no one chose to run against me. A great honor! Well, I decided to show them how tough I can be, I accepted. But I’ll tell you, a week later I got even with the guy who nominated me. I talked him into being my sponsor!

Now you might think it’s easy making coffee. It ain’t. It’s hard. Especially when you’re doing it for eighty, ninety, maybe a hundred alcoholics, the same ones every week, and they don’t show any appreciation. Let me tell you, it’s no picnic.

This meeting started every Friday at 6:30pm, which was about two hours after I got off work, on the other side of town. That meant I had to drive all the way over there and do the job without even going home first. Not only that – I had to stop on the way over to buy fresh coffee cake at a bakery. This was not one of your stale cookies meetings – it had class. None of that nondairy creamer, either. I used to buy real cream. And the coffee? Of course it had to be the best in A.A. I wanted to show these people I could take anything they could dish out.

I found a produce store that sold gourmet coffee and bought five or six pounds at a time. I tell you, people started begging me for the secret.

Now that wasn't all, my friend. Not only did I have to make two big urns of coffee and hot water for tea, I also had to set up these huge tables for the entire room, line up all the chairs, set out the free literature, and get the stuff ready for the secretary. Not only that, I had to get all this done before anybody else showed up. After all, I didn't want anyone saying I had help, did I? Oh, and then after the meeting I had to put all the tables and chairs back where they came from and wash the coffee urns. It was hard trying to stop people from helping with clean-up, so I finally had to accept that.

Well, to make the story short, I resented this job every week for six solid months. It never occurred to me that there might be something wrong with my thinking. But I was determined to show them. I turned up every week, cold sober. Of course I knew that when the time drew near for my term of office to end, I had them where I wanted them. Because by that time, I had the job down pat, you see. On Valentine's Day I brought heart-shaped cookies. On St. Patrick's Day I got green cookies shaped like shamrocks. I knew where to get the best deal on freshly baked coffee cake, and once a month I brought in a huge birthday cake. I knew exactly how to set up all the chair and tables in the least possible time to seat the greatest number of people in the smallest possible space. And no one else knew these secrets, because I was doing the whole job alone. In other words, this meeting had become entirely dependent on one person – me, the coffeemaker. Well, I figured I had the perfect revenge. All I had to do was wait until my very last week as coffeemaker. Then I stood up and announced that my job was finished. They hastily elected some poor newcomer to take my place, and I handed over the keys. But I knew I wouldn't be back next week. There wouldn't be anyone to train this poor sucker – he'd just have to figure it out himself. He'd probably quit when he discovered how much work was involved. There was no way they'd ever find a replacement for me. And with no one there to set up the chairs and make coffee, I figured this meeting would last about a month before it went out of business entirely.

However, there was one thing I hadn't quite figured on – that I would actually miss that stupid job. I was true to my resolution and stayed away from that meeting (I kept expecting to hear reports that it had folded for good). But now I suddenly found that I missed having something important to do on Friday evening.

I also realized something I hadn't really thought about: I had somehow stayed sober for the last six months. Maybe this had something to do with the fact that I was forced to think about someone besides myself for a while. Maybe I had approached that coffeemaker job with as warped and twisted mental outlook as I had ever been able to manage when I was drinking. But I had shown up, and I had done it, and I was getting better. Not only that, I was even beginning to make friends, and people were speaking to me and remembering my name. Maybe "it" was working in spite of myself.

Well, it wasn't long before I found myself another AA service job, as secretary of a different meeting. Ever since then, I've had at least one job where I have to show up on a regular basis and think about somebody besides myself.

You see, that's why I said that AA doesn't work for me. Because it's the other way around. *I work for AA*. If I don't work, I don't get better. There's no recovery without service.

What's that? You want to know what happened to that meeting after I deserted it? Oh, I went back a few weeks later just to see how far downhill it had gone. Let me tell you, it was awful. This guy who replaced me as coffeemaker didn't have the least idea of the right way to set up the tables and chairs. So they got set up any which way. Needless to say, the quality of coffee left a lot to be desired. Worst of all, the new coffeemaker was getting there much later than I ever did. Which meant he didn't have a chance to do it all by himself – other people were helping. It was almost like he was cheating, I was scandalized.

But somehow, the meeting managed to continue without me. That was a couple years ago, and now I'm General Service Rep for that same group. We've gone through several other coffeemakers by now, and I'm damned if every one of them doesn't take that job as seriously as I did. But then, this sobriety stuff is serious business, isn't it? Say, what are you laughing at, anyhow?

Bart B., San Francisco, Ca.

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

Final eTech Report for 2017

As the year winds down and holiday excitement grows, this eTech report summarizes activities in your Central Office this year. The MAICO website had a 21% increase in usage. Meeting schedules viewed 71,232 times. 35% are new views.

In September, MAICO started uploading meeting schedules to a server for access through the Meeting Guide app. Apple and Android user may download this free, location sensitive app from their app stores. Since September the app has been used 1,973 times and growing.

Please check out the app for your mobile device. It's full of cool features such as sending meeting information via text, adding meetings to your calendar and driving/walking directions to meetings.

One project that has wavered in support for the past year is the a new Point-of-Sale system with inventory control functions. The initial cost of hardware and software plus ongoing maintenance/service costs will be reviewed by the new steering committee in early 2018. In keeping with our policy of prudence, the cost vs. benefits will be carefully weighed before any action is taken.

The new steering committee will be helping prioritize projects for the upcoming year and updates will be given at the monthly MAICO Rep's meeting held the second Tuesday each Month at 7pm,

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

Yours in Service, Danelle K.

Income Statement

Revenues	<u>November 2017</u>	<u>Jan to Nov 2017</u>
Donations – Groups	3,605.65	38,870.61
Donations – Events	335.00	801.40
Individual Donations	1,243.92	4,193.39
Donations – Answering Service	0.00	205.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	811.58	1,879.25
Conference Literature	2,707.43	26,485.28
Non-Conference Literature	569.97	10,160.73
Non-Conference Merchandise	1,086.17	18,338.41
Grapevine Literature	27.10	1,290.77
Faithful Fivers	45.00	504.00
Directories	69.00	1,021.95
Savings Account Income	0.00	6.55
Other Income	133.50	575.38
Shipping Charges Reimbursed	<u>55.93</u>	<u>375.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$10,690.25</u>	<u>\$104,707.72</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	2,241.30	17,299.04
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	475.61	6,675.52
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	945.35	14,235.67
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	414.65	414.65
Inventory Exp.-Directories	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,142.00</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>\$4,076.91</u>	<u>\$39,766.88</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$6,613.34</u>	<u>\$64,940.84</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	3,295.50	38,732.23
Employee Medical Reimbursement	160.00	1,760.00
Payroll Tax Expense	252.11	2,963.02
Credit Card Processing Costs	95.81	598.32
Mobile Credit Card Unit Fees	15.00	165.00
License and Fees Expense	0.00	235.00
Office Supplies	257.89	1,454.81
Office Expense	18.15	436.76
Computer Maintenance Expense	250.00	950.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	0.00	1,075.70
Bank Charges	0.00	0.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	160.07	1,749.29
Answering Service Expense	410.92	5,211.84
Advertising in Phone Book	86.00	940.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.06	-0.78
Postage and Shipping Expense	53.93	582.02
Occupancy Expense	795.00	8,631.00
Insurance Expense	320.00	935.00
Printing Expense	0.00	261.69
Travel Expense	0.00	1,214.24
Conference Expense	0.00	579.40
MAICO Reps Events Expense	175.00	435.00
Other Expense	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>6,345.32</u>	<u>\$68,909.54</u>
Net Income	<u>\$268.02</u>	<u>-\$3,368.70</u>

Upcoming Events

2018

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

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.

January 12-14 – We are not Saints Convention - Holiday Inn Chicago, North Shore, 5300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, Il. www.wearenotsaints.com

January 19-21 - WICYPAA – Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous – Radisson Hotel, 200 Second Street South, 200 Harborview Plaza, LaCrosse, WI. www.wicypaa.org

January 26-28 – The Usual Suspects” Men’s Retreat - Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford, Il. \$165.00 per person includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Contacts: Joe H. 815-728-1281 or George H. 262-521-2419

January 27 – The 3rd Annual Winter Sponsorship Workshop - Trinity United Methodist Church, 3032 Park St., Montello, WI. Doors Open at 8:30am. AA speakers, Winnebagoland literature, pot luck lunch, bring a dish to pass.

January 28 – Sunday Night by-the Book Group 2 year Anniversary Celebration – Immanuel Lutheran Ch, 1021 Spaight St., Madison. Potluck 4:30pm, Main dish provided, 5:30pm Speaker Meeting. Bring a dish to pass, a newcomer, your Big Book to take notes.

February 9-11 – Heart to Heart Women’s Retreat – Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford, Il. \$165.00 per person includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Contacts: Debbi H. 815-728-1281 or Jane S. 815-338-5183

March 24 – Cabin Fever 2018, Hosted by Clear Cut Directions & Precisely How We Recovered, East Side Alano Club, 1017 Northport Dr., Madison, WI. Work the 12 Steps in 1 day. Pulled pork dinner will be served – bring a salad or dessert to share. \$5.00 suggested donation. Bring your Big Book, a highlighter and another alcoholic. Starts at 9am ends 3:45pm.

Thank You's - Donations received September 29 to December 15, 2017

General Fund

A Chance to Live
A Way of Life
Beaver Dam Sun. Serenity
Berlin Friday Night
Berlin Sunday Night
Brodhead Sister Blandine
Cassville Pioneer
Daily Reflections
DeForest Progress
District 31
Early Risers
Easy Breathers
Easy Does It But Do It
Family Afterward
Foxhall Recovery
Friday Night Lights
Ft. Atkinson Open Beginners
Go After Your Sobriety Grp
Good Fellowship Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Happy Hour Grp in WI. Dells
Into Action Grp
It's a God Thing
Lancaster Grp
Life on Life's Terms
Living Sober
Mid Morning Grp
Mineral Pt. Grapevine
Mon Wed Fri Morning

Monroe Design for Living
Monroe New Beginnings
Monroe Open Speaker
Morning After Grp
Mt. Olive Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
Oregon Room to Grow
Orfordville Grp
Our Group Wednesday
Phoenix Grp
Platteville Wed Noon
Portage Unity
Prairie Dock
Professionals Grp
Red Circle
Redgranite Monday Night
Rock River
Sat. Morning OnTimer's
Sauk Prairie Grp
Slip Nots
Sober Today
Spring Green Read N Lead
St. Andy's 7am Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sunrise Serenity
Sunrisers Grp
There is a Solution
Thursday Floaters
Tuesday Night Workshop
Turning Point
Watertown One Day at a Time

Wautoma Sunday Big Book
Westfield 12 & 12
Whitewater Thurs Nite
Windsor Grp
Wingra Lake Grp
Working Step
Young at Heart Thurs Night

Corrections/Treatment Fund

Early Risers
Easy Does It But Do It
It's a God Thing
Living Sober
Sunlight of the Spirit

Individuals

Anonymous
Dave S.
Elizabeth D.
James P.

Answering Service

Easy Does It But Do It

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.
Mary S.

Thank you to all the Groups/Individuals that gave an extra donation in November for Gratitude Month

Groups:

Anonymous Groups
A Vision for You Grp
Baraboo Eye Opener
Baraboo Friday Night
Baraboo Sunday Morning
Baraboo Thursday Night
Belleville Grp
Brodhead Sister Blandine
Clear Cut Directions
DeForest Progress Grp
Dell-Delton Grp
Easy Breathers
Edgerton Grp
Family Afterward Grp
Friends of Bill Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Green Lake Tues. Morning
High Noon

Into Action Grp
Janesville Sun Night Open
Discussion
Keep Calm Tuesdays
Living Sober Grp
Lodi Lifeliners
Marshall 449 Grp
Men in Recovery
Mid Morning Grp
Mon Wed No Name
Monroe Design for Living
Monroe Early Birds
Monroe New Beginnings
Monticello Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
Oregon Mon Fri Night
Oregon Room to Grow
Platteville Wed. Noon Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Precisely How We Recovered

Red Circle Grp
Reedsburg Tues Morning BB
Richland Center Grp
Sat. Morning On-Timers Grp.
Sauk Prairie Grp
Serenity Seekers Grp
Stoughton Grps
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sunrise Serenity Grp
Sunriser's Grp
The First 164 Pages Grp
Thursday Nite Home Grp
Traditions Grp
Turning Point Grp
West Point Winners
Woman's Reflection Grp

Individuals:

Greg F.

The Big Book Tells It Like It Is

If you really don't know how we recover, you can look it up

In the January 1970 Grapevine, D.P. of Ogden, Utah, posed the question of how members handled meetings *before* the Big Book. Co-founder Bill W. wrote much on that subject, especially in *A.A. Comes of Age*. However, D.P.'s question brought another question to my mind: How do we handle meetings *after* the Big Book? Drunkalogs still seem to be the main topic at many meetings. Speakers often start out, "The Big Book says I should tell you what I used to be like, what happened, and what I'm trying to be like now." Then follows forty-five to fifty minutes of a drunkalog, usually ended by a few minutes of "Now I'm in A.A., everything is wonderful. I don't know how it works, but it works."

This is nonsensical. The fifth chapter of the Big Book tells "How It Works." Even the original foreword says, "To show other alcoholics precisely how we have recovered is the main purpose of this book." Chapter 5 also says: "Our stories disclose in a general way (*not* in a detailed, blow-by-blow description) what we used to be like, what happened, and what we are like now." The stories in the Big Book helped me identify with the early members and assured me that they knew exactly how I felt. So it was (and is) up to me to do the things they suggested to start (and continue) my own recovery. Please do not misunderstand; I don't always *do* these things, just because I know them. I know a lot about how good golf should be played, too; but I'm still a hacker, because I don't practice enough. However, my life doesn't depend upon paying golf properly.

As I study the B.B., I see that the right place for my drunkalog is explained in Chapter 7, "Working With Others." There is where we attempt to establish communication ---"the language of the heart" --- with a sick alcoholic. There is where our drinking experience can be shared, one drunk talking to another.

I believe that, if we've been around long enough for a reasonable base of physical sobriety and a measure of spiritual growth, our talks at meetings can disclose what we used to be like in our early months or years of A.A., what happened to awaken us to the spiritual power of the program, and how we have applied the program to specific problems in our recent life. I've learned more than I need to know about getting drunk, hiding bottles, and all the sordid details a drunk experiences. I need to learn more and more about how the recovery program is applied *now* to today's continuing problems of living.

Meetings are important to continued progress. I had a few months as a Loner on Eniwetok, many years ago. My Big Book and letters from those beautiful gals at GSO and the Grapevine made it easier for me to stay with the program, but the sharing at meetings was sorely missed.

I often wonder about the seemingly large number of speakers who brag that they have never read the Big Book. Just how much of the program can they possibly talk about? At our meetings, we usually hear a reading of the Preamble, the Twelve Steps (from Chapter 5), the Twelve Traditions, and often a couple pages from Chapter 3. Yet if that's *all* we hear, how can we possibly *know* the program? It seems to me that a reading of excerpts from the Big Book and the short form of the Twelve Traditions will no more provide recovery than reading a cookbook will prevent starvation. Action must follow, or nothing will materialize from either one.

The expression "Tell it like it is" may have become trite, but unless we in A.A. really tell it like it is in the A.A. program, instead of just talking about the lousy drunks we used to be, we may send some newcomers away before they really have a chance to find out what the program has to offer.

How responsible are we?

C.D., El Monte, Calif.

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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 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_____			