

THE MAICO GAAZETTE

JANUARY – MARCH 2020

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.

www.aamadisonwi.org

YOUNG PEOPLE in AA

Area 75 Panel 69 Delegate

Kris K.



Hello fellow trusted servants. My name is Kris and I will always be an alcoholic. Currently serving as your Area 75 Delegate, I was given the opportunity to share a presentation at the East Central Regional Forum in Detroit on July 13. I chose a topic dear to my heart and one I am grateful to share here with you- *“Young People in A.A.”*.

I will start by stating the obvious. Chronologically, I am not a young person. In fact, I am quickly approaching my **65th birthday**. Sobriologically, I am in my late teens. And some days, in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, I can still feel like a *newcomer*, not sure what to expect, where to sit, who to talk to, who’s in charge or what to do next. Although I am not often in that position, I cannot afford to forget that feeling.

When I first came into Alcoholics Anonymous in my *mid-40s*, I had no idea how lucky I was to stumble into a fellowship made up of people very much like myself. The meetings I attended in small town rural southern Wisconsin were comprised of people close to my age; *a few older, a few younger*. Most were married or had been. Most were raising teenagers or had adult children. Most were blue collar workers; working, looking for work, or retired. They seemed to enjoy the area where we lived with its fishing, hunting, camping and outdoor activities. And they were alcoholics-just alcoholics-period. I immediately related to these new friends and I fit right in. My appreciation for that acceptance and connection continues to grow as I recognize that this is not the experience of many who come through our doors. When I first got here, having been a career bartender for over 25 years, I really did not know anyone who didn’t drink. My professional and social circles revolved around drinking establishments and drinking people. When it was suggested that I make new friends and find new places to go, I had no idea how to do that. It was “those people in AA”, who were a lot like me that filled that need.

“I am grateful that I am still teachable and these young people have taught me a lot.”

What would have happened if I had stumbled into a room where they were not like me; when all I could see is how different we were, before I was able to understand how similar we were? What if I couldn’t connect, I couldn’t relate, and I couldn’t stay?

The question in the mind of every newcomer appears on page 152 of our book Alcoholics Anonymous; “I know I must get along without liquor, but, how can I? Have you a sufficient substitute?” And we emphatically answer that question, “Yes, there is a substitute and it is vastly more than that. It is a fellowship in Alcoholics Anonymous.” What I want us to consider today is the core truth of that answer. Not only are we offering a substitute, but is it sufficient?

In our ever-changing world, diversity in our communities and therefore in the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, continues to grow. We in A.A. have come to understand that anyone can be an alcoholic regardless of gender, creed, race, occupation, education, sexual orientation or age. Anyone with a desire to not drink is welcome in our rooms. Continued on page 2.

Today's *young people* are arriving at our doors in increasing numbers and often face struggles in addition to alcoholism such as drug addiction, homelessness, domestic abuse, or numerous other issues. We do not address these individual issues although the hand of A.A. may offer direction to resources that do. We can, however, offer a loving and caring fellowship which can help relieve the sense of isolation, fill the need "to be part of" and keep our young people coming back.

One of our greatest challenges is creating an attractive fellowship that young people can relate to, identify with, and actively participate in. When I first heard about *Young People in A.A.*, I admit I had some preconceived ideas of what they were about. I remember saying, "Do they think they're special? Do they have some sort of *Young Person's* alcoholism?" I had some pretty strong judgment too. I wasn't sure of their purpose in A.A. After attending my first YPAA event about 10 yrs. ago, I openly pointed out that their behaviors resembled what I called "bar behavior". I questioned whether we should be supporting that. I was closed-minded, didn't understand, and didn't ask. Because of various service positions I have held, YPAA Conference Committees kept inviting me to their events and I kept going. And my perception changed.

I am grateful that I am still teachable and these young people have taught me a lot. I came to understand that even though we share the same disease, our recovery can look very different. Through shared experience with others, we all learn how to apply the program of Alcoholic Anonymous not only in a general way but to the world in which we live and in the way we live. And this is their world, their stage of life. The energy and enthusiasm brought to the rooms of A.A. might be attributed to an overconsumption of Monster drinks but I believe it is simply a youthful joy in living. Yes, they may be loud and boisterous, chant slogans, dance or play cards all

night or text and play games on their phones because that is what young people do. Although they may have to work around school schedules, work commitments, or child care requirements, they suit up, show up and share.

Finding a safe and accepting place to be who you are, as you are, is essential to each and every one of us. Let us not forget that these *Young People in AA are our future*. We need them and they have answered the call. They have provided a fellowship that is attractive, accepting, and energized and they deserve our support. The service opportunities created in the planning and hosting of annual YPAA conferences and events provide invaluable training for continued work in home groups, districts, and areas. The enthusiasm is contagious, so contagious that YPAA is an active presence in Europe as well. The World Service Meeting Report for 2018 highlighted YPAA activities in Finland that recently hosted EURYPAA. *Young People in A.A.* are alive, well and active in the US, Canada, and around the world. By example, they carry a vital message all of us need to hear - *Recovery is FUN!!* When asked, "Have you a sufficient substitute?" For *Young People in A.A.* I am grateful the answer is yes.

In closing, I share the words of *Bill W.* from a letter he addresses to his younger friends in A.A. On the occasion of the 12th International Conference of *Young People*, June 15, 1969, Bill writes., "I want every one of you to know that in recent years I have found nothing for greater inspiration than the knowledge that A.A. of tomorrow will be safe, and certainly magnificent, in the keeping of you who are the *younger generation of A.A.* today."

I agree with Bill. We are in good hands.

Thank you for allowing me to share.



24 Hour Hot line # - 608-222-8989

www.aamadisonwi.org

Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday 11am - 8pm

Wednesday to Friday 11am to- 6pm

Saturday Noon - 2pm

2000 Engel St. Suite 104, Madison, WI 53713

Office Manager: Diane E.

Email: info@aamadisonwi.org

Services MAICO provides:

- 24-hour phone service with 12-Step referrals and meeting information.
- Conference-approved literature
- Information about A.A. Fellowship
- Facilitation and support service work for local 12-Step committees (Public Information, Bridging the Gap, Corrections, Treatment, Special Needs, and Professional Community)
- MAICO newsletter
- Directory of area meetings with updates
- Other services requested by individual groups within the service area

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUES

	<u>Jan-Oct 2019</u>	<u>Jan-Oct 2018</u>
Donations – Groups	38,378.76	32,682.31
Donations – Events	795.59	299.67
Individual Donations	3,157.96	2,052.93
Donations – Answering Service	135.00	225.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	690.51	974.38
Conference Literature	23,469.37	29,933.01
Non-Conference Literature	7,473.86	9,269.14
Non-Conference Merchandise	145,370.58	15,845.27
Grapevine Literature	1,746.00	1,760.84
Faithful Fivers	202.00	459.00
Directories	747.25	581.00
Savings Account Income	8.18	1.62
Other Income	398.14	591.16
Sales Tax Discount	<u>83.14</u>	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>92,656.34</u>	<u>94,725.33</u>



COST OF SALES

Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	14,557.68	19,964.86
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	4,313.46	6,142.17
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	10,460.65	11,328.50
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	755.17	1,900.84
Inventory Exp – Directories	-883.18	252.51
Total Cost of Sales	<u>29,203.78</u>	<u>39,588.88</u>
Gross Profit	<u>63,452.56</u>	<u>55,136.45</u>



EXPENSES

Wages Expense	36,986.20	36,356.15
Employee Medical Reimbursement	1,600.00	1,600.00
Payroll Tax Expense	2,829.44	2,781.24
Credit Card Processing Costs	743.26	722.95
License and Fees Expense	59.00	245.00
Office Supplies/Expense	1,732.54	1,656.88
Computer Maintenance Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	1,297.91	2,014.20
Telephone/Internet Expense	1,458.50	1,447.16
Answering Service Expense	4,717.66	4,705.30
Advertising in Phone Book	880.00	876.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.57	-0.64
Postage and Shipping Expense	194.62	188.35
Occupancy Expense	8,230.00	8,030.00
Insurance Expense	671.00	608.00
Printing Expense	930.20	833.40
Directory Printing Expense	1,202.00	0.00
Travel Expense	435.80	532.56
Conference Expense	170.00	1,566.11
MAICO Reps Events Expense	356.54	175.00
Other Expense	23.16	-44.62
Over/Under Cash on Hand	<u>24.00</u>	<u>16.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>67,041.26</u>	<u>66,859.04</u>
NET INCOME	<u>-\$3,588.70</u>	<u>-\$11,722.59</u>



UPCOMING Events 2020



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.

Every Saturday – Turning Point Group, Saturday Night Live AA Speaker Meeting, as of Jan. 4th 7pm (was 8pm), East Side Alano Club, 1017 Northport Drive, Madison, WI. Last Saturday of the Month is an AA and an Al-Anon Speaker

Upcoming in 2020

January 10-12, 2020 – WICYPAA XXVII Conference at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells 1000 Chula Vista Pkwy, Wisconsin Dells. Visit www.wicypaa-xxvii.org to register.

January 26, 2020 – Area 75 Assembly, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI. 9am

February 1, 2020 – 29th Annual Pre-Groundhog Day Celebration, Nazarene Outreach Center, 391 S. Main St., Richland Center, WI. Dinner at 6:30pm (meat provided), Please bring a dish to pass. Open Speaker Meeting at 7:30pm –Speakers: Ken & Nancy G. from Madison

February 20-23, 2020 – 56th International Women's Conference, Indianapolis, In. JW Marriot Hotel, 10 S. West St., Indianapolis, In. www.InternationalWomensConference.org

March 8, 2020 – Delegate's Workshop, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI. 9am

April 5, 2020 – Area 75 Assembly, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI. 9am

April 18, 2020 – MAICO Reps Spring Into Action, Trinity Church, Madison

April 25, 2020 – District 9 Mini-Conference, Cuba City

July 2-5, 2020 – 2020 International Convention, Alcoholics Anonymous, Detroit, MI. Information and registration on www.aa.org

November 6-8, 2020 – Area 75 Conference, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI.

THANK YOU'S – DONATIONS



General Fund

A Vision for You
A Way of Life Grp
Beacon Daily Reflections
Belmont Thursday
Blackhawk Good Fellowship
Brodhead Tues Sister Blandine
Cambridge Grp
Cross Plains Unity
DeForest Progress
Dist. 30
Dodgeville Downtown
Early Risers
Evansville Journey to Recovery
Experience, Strength & Hope
First 164 Pages
Fitchburg We Agnostics
Friday Night Lights
Ft. Atkinson Open Beginners
Grace Lunch Grp
Green Lake Men's Grp
Home Group
Into Action
It's a God Thing
Janesville Men in Recovery
Janesville No Name
Janesville Sunday Discussion
Keep It Simple
Lake Wingra Serenity
Living Sober
Lodi Lifeliners
Madison Professionals
Mauston Friday Night Fellowship
Mid Morning Grp
Mineral Pt Grapevine
Monroe Early Birds
Monroe Open Speaker
Monticello 12 & 12
Mt. Olive Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
Oregon Room to Grow
Palmyra Monday Night
Portage 207
Portage 731
Prairie Dock Grp
Reedsburg Tuesday Morning
Richland Center Grp
Rock River Grp
Saturday Night Live
Sat. Morning Eye Opener
Sat. Night New Voices
Sauk City Early Risers
Sauk Prairie

Sober Today
Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Dunstan's Beginners
Sunday Night By the Book
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sunrisers Grp
Sunrise Serenity
Sunshine Grp
Sun Prairie Eye Openers
Sun Prairie Phoenix Grp
The 1728 Grp
Trinity Grapevine
Tuesday Night Workshop
Turning Point Grp
Viroqua Big Book Study
Waupun H.O.W.
West Point Winner's
Working Steps

Gratitude

A Few Simple Rules
Anonymous Grp
Baraboo Letting Go
Baraboo Sat. Morning Eye Opener
Baraboo Thurs Night Letting Go
Belleville Big Book
Beloit Fel-O-Ship
Beloit Happy Hour
Beloit Sat. Morning Miracles
Beloit There is a Solution
Boscobel Thursday
Charles B.
Chix @ 6
Clear Cut Directions
Darlington What's Good About Today
Dells-Delton Grp
Dist. 35
Easy Breathers
Easy Does It But Do It
Evansville Journey to Recovery
Experience, Strength & Hope
Fitchburg 10:10
Fitchburg Traditions
Fitchburg We Agnostics
Foxhall Recovery
Good Fellowship
James P.
Janesville Good Fellowship
Janesville Keys to the Kingdom
Janesville Pinehurst
Jim L.
John E.
It's a God Thing
Living Sober

Marshall Tuesday 449
Monroe Big Book Study
Monroe Design for Living
Monroe Saturday Grapevine
Monticello 12 & 12
Mt. Horeb Wednesday Night
Mt. Olive Tues/Thurs
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
Platteville Monday Night
Portage 207 Grp
Portage 731 Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Precisely How We Recovered
Red Circle Grp
Saturday 9am Step
Saturday Woman's Morning Miracles
Sauk Prairie
Shine at Nine
Sober Today
Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Dunstan's Beginners Grp
St. Francis Grp
Stoughton Grp
Suburban Sobriety
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sun Prairie Eye Openers
Sunrise Serenity
Sunrisers Grp
Sunshine Grp
The 1728 Grp
There is a Solution
Turning Point Grp
Waunakee Meeting
West Point Winner's
What's Good About Today!
WI. Dells Happy Hour
Woman's Saturday Serenity
Woman's Thursday Serenity

Individual Donations

Richard P.
Tom S.

Corrections/Treatment Fund

Early Risers
Living Sober
Sunlight of the Spirit

Faithful Fivers

Mary S.
Mike G.

SHORT TAKES Emotional Sobriety

Looking for Feathers

An old-timer shares about honesty, laughter and paying attention to life's subtle messages.

I attend meetings. I have incredible friends in and out of recovery. I'm happy to live a modest life. I pay attention. I notice what's going on and what's happening around me. I live in the moment. And I make decisions early to head trouble off at the pass.

I remind myself to look for **feathers** rather than wait for two-by-fours to hit me. The feathers are those subtle messages that could easily pass me by. The feathers are those voices of intuition, conscience and "God shots." The two-by-fours are what happens when I ignore the feathers or decide to exercise my will rather than God's will. It's painful. Paying attention to feathers saves me from embarrassment and damaged relationships. It allows me to avoid the need to make amends over stupid or thoughtless actions.

*Grapevine - September, 2019 – Kim B.
Eugene, Oregon*



Clearer than Ever

Discovering faith, not sight, would lead him out of the dark.

An old saying states that one should "walk by faith, not by sight." Until recently, I never really understood what that phrase meant. In fact, for many years I had done just the opposite, walking primarily by sight and, at times, in reckless disregard of any kind of faith.

With all the value that I had placed over the years in what my eyes saw as truth, it turned out that faith granted me a new way to see.

*Grapevine- January 2020 – Sean C.
Altadena, California*

Washed Up

Finding the line between perfect truth and rigorous honesty.

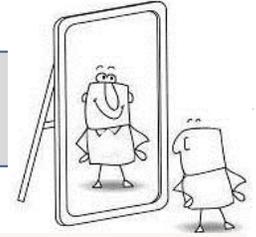
When I was a newcomer, the members of AA impressed upon me how important it was that I get honest if I wanted to stay sober. But it also scared me because I knew I was no saint. And if my sobriety was contingent on never again lying, cheating, fudging the truth, leaving out facets, bending facts, slanting statistics, or hiding motives--even if only from myself--I was in big trouble. I didn't think I could live up to that.

Luckily, people in AA pointed out that I was mistaking "perfect honesty" for "rigorous honesty."

Perfect honesty required perfection. Rigorous honesty required that I diligently apply the principles of admission, amends, and willingness to live my life differently. To be rigorously honest was something I could do with the help of the people in AA and my Higher Power.

Grapevine – January 1998 – Pat D. – San Diego, California

DAILY Reflections of Old Timers



After 30 years, a long-timer recalls turmoil and joy

LAST year I celebrated my **30th AA** birthday. I started drinking heavily in my mid-teens, started trying to get sober in my early twenties, and I took **my last drink when I was 27**. At that point I could not go for more than a few hours without drinking, and I could not drink for more than a few days without getting put into an institution. I could no longer make it to work, to family events, or even to the bathroom. I was a physical and emotional wreck, I was an obvious danger to myself and others, and right up until the end I still didn't think I was that bad. I wasn't shooting drugs, for example, nor was I homeless. I had an apartment and a car, which I continued to drive in spite of losing my license to a DWI. But at the lowest point in my life, I became willing to do anything to not live like that anymore. As I've since seen, no matter where you are on the "sick" continuum, as long as you understand "*pitiful and incomprehensible demoralization*" you can get off the impending train wreck of your life and get sober.

When I started going to meetings some of the **old-timers** didn't think too much of the us **newcomers**, with the funny way we talked, and the faded peace signs. I heard one **old-timer** say he wouldn't sponsor any of those blankety-blank hippies. I heard another tell **a newcomer** straight-out to cut his hair, take a bath, get a job, and join the human race. And some of the **newcomers** were heard to say they didn't think too much old drunks either. Some of those **old-timers** wore suits, shaved, got haircuts, and talked about what they'd heard in church. *What could they possibly know about my life?*

But then those **old-timers** had something, all right. Most of them had a look that would cut you right through to the bone. They knew every little thing you were thinking and feeling, and no matter what you'd done, they'd done something worse. They talked about a spiritual life that anyone--not just drunks--would envy, which they said they got by working the Steps, going to meetings and helping others. I've never forgotten that, and just how comforting it was to hear them say that we **newcomers**, *even the sickest of us, could have what they had*, if we did what they did, and if we did it a day at a time.

I now find myself being called an old-timer. I do not feel like an old-timer or feel like those old-timers looked. On occasion I think about drinking and still have drinking dreams; and quieter, periods of turmoil. I now have times when only a good meeting will help! ***I am human. I am still a newcomer inside.***

I look at the **newcomers** and more than anything ***I am reminded of myself.***

Grapevine July, 2009– Minnesota

The only one he's got – A drunk realizes the most important thing is his story.

I was told I had to tell my story at an open speaker meeting when I was **new in AA**. **The old-timer** said, "**Only you can tell it.**" I just turned **60 years old**. Most people never thought I would live this long, myself included.

After high school I enrolled in college, then quit. A draft notice put me into the Army and sent to Vietnam. I blamed everything and everyone at the **age of 20**. My drinking increased for **12 years**. **April 24, 1983 at 33 years old** I took my last drink. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired.

The old-timer was right; we are the only ones who can tell our stories.

Grapevine November, 2010 – Rich B. Davenport, Iowa

**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)			