

# THE MAICO GAAZETTE

APRIL – JUNE 2021

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.

MAICO, in all of its activities, shall abide by the intent and spirit of the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts and where possible the suggested procedures and limitations suggested by the AA Service Manual and other conference approved literature.

[www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org)

## THEME: Faith & Trusting God Through Support in Fellowship

BY: PETER | FINLAND | NOVEMBER 2007

Newly sober and filled with fear, he listened when an older AA asked him:  
“Have you ever prayed?”



My employer fired me when I had been sober only a few days in AA. The reason was not because I had joined AA, but what had happened earlier in the workplace when I was drunk. I had worked three years in the firm part time as I sought my degree. I was ashamed after being fired, but my sponsor supported me and said that I would get a better job if *I stayed sober one day at a time*. The industry in which I had gotten my degree was at that time in bad financial shape. A lot of people with my qualifications were unemployed and new jobs did not seem to appear. But my enthusiasm for AA was enormous, so *I took part in AA meetings four to six times a week* and sent out job applications day after day

After some months, I got an interview with a prominent engineering firm. I received a lot of good advice in AA before I went to the job interview. *I was advised to answer only the questions that were asked, not to speak too much, and, if they asked about drinking behavior, tell them I was sober.* And, guess what—I got a great job with AA help! My sponsor told to me: “Because you are talkative, try keeping your mouth shut and concentrating on doing your job carefully and reliably.” I followed his advice and soon got a reputation as an industrious but silent employee.

Half a year on my new job, my AA-enthusiasm turned into depression. The fears that had been part of my drinking, which I thought had disappeared, started to destroy my balance by day and night. I slept badly and was afraid of losing my good new job.

In my desperation, I phoned an older AA member whose story had impressed me deeply. I told him that my whole sober life was in chaos, that my fears were about to crush me. He listened carefully and asked: “**Have you ever prayed?**” He told me that when I was beset by fears I needed to pray; if I did so, my Higher Power would help me.

I had gotten a good education in religious matters in my childhood, but had abandoned my father’s God during my drinking career, which started at the age of thirteen. In AA, I had been astonished when people spoke about a **God** whom I did not think I needed.

Even so, I started to pray and my fears and depression began to vanish. I slept better and was able to take care my responsibilities at work without sick leave and pills. I got several promotions during the time I worked in that firm before I moved to another good firm. So, at less than one year sober, I learned the importance of using AA’s spiritual tools.

I have now been **sober without interruption over 46 years**. I take part in AA meetings twice a week and continue to work all the Steps as best as I can. I pray and meditate daily and I am grateful to God and the AA Fellowship

# LETTER OF THANKS: Service in Fellowship



Alcoholics  
Anonymous®

Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

[www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

475 Riverside Drive, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10115 / Telephone: (212) 870-3400

## Dear Conference members, Intergroups and Central Offices,

The Board of Directors of A.A. World Services wishes each and every member of our Fellowship and their loved ones the happiest New Year. As we reflect back on the extraordinary events that we all have been experiencing it is with hearts full of gratitude that we say thank you to each and every group and member for all of the spectacular work of carrying the message to the still-suffering alcoholic that has taken place in these difficult times.

For many, this meant pivoting our groups to be online. For some, greeters became temperature screeners, enthusiastically encouraging mask use. In many of our meetings the coffee maker position went away and the online meeting host position appeared. As our many local A.A. offices met unsure financial outlooks, groups across the U.S. and Canada figured out how to make their Seventh Tradition support digital and supported one another as a whole. Service workers across the Fellowship worked from home, often tired and understaffed. As the pandemic pushed surges in binge drinking to new heights, our groups met the challenge head on and introduced a new generation of alcoholics to our program who have been sober for months and have never even experienced an in-person meeting. The best is surely yet to come.

In the early months of 2020, many would not have imagined we could carry our message as fully, as far and as freely as we have online in the last 9-10 months. Some would have actively argued it could not be done. As a society, A.A. has never faced these challenges before. With no historical reference point for us to look to, after 85 years we faced a new pioneering period.

A.A. members everywhere responded, adapted, and met calamity with serenity. We are a resilient lot. We have seen clearly that the message of A.A. and the lifesaving experience of our membership need not be limited by

time, space, or custom. We are held up by 36 spiritual principles in our Steps, Traditions, and Concepts that we can absolutely rely on to guide us through any uncertainty or challenge ahead.

We understand more clearly today the importance of prudence and why we keep a reserve. We have new appreciation for group conscience and its ability to be found even over great distances. Our primary purpose served to keep us unified and as a buoy in uncertain times where being of service to others has helped us through the storm. The evidence of these events over the last year make clear that our legacies of Unity, Service, and Recovery remain strong. We as a board are rejuvenated with hope for a new year ahead and all the great opportunity that awaits as the world begins the slow process of recovery from the pandemic.

Covid-19 has brought very hard, and sometimes tragic events to many among us and around us. In taking stock, these circumstances have forced a crack in our rigidity and created light where before there was only a glimmer. If we leave room for that light to grow and adhere steadfastly to our principles, we can confidently face any uncertainty ahead.

As we continue meeting this challenge and those ahead, let us together continue to "grow in understanding and effectiveness," constantly working toward ensuring that any person needing the message of Alcoholics Anonymous can find it, and that together we preserve that message for the generations of alcoholics still to come. Yours in service,

**Beau B., Chairperson**

**A.A.W.S. Board**

# INCOME STATEMENT

	<u>Jan-Feb 2021</u>	<u>Jan-Feb 2020</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Donations – Groups	6,596.20	7,331.87
Donations – Events	0.00	309.74
Donations – Individuals	2,099.01	1,021.17
Donations - Gratitude Month	78.83	853.61
Conference Literature	2,013.01	5,139.90
Non-Conference Literature	1,076.54	1,109.05
Non-Conference Merchandise	1,889.10	3,190.14
Grapevine Literature	131.05	323.71
Faithful Fivers	75.00	25.00
Directories	0.00	100.00
Savings Account Income	0.82	1.65
Other Income	62.05	30.41
Sales Tax Discount	<u>20.00</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b><u>14,041.61</u></b>	<b><u>19,446.25</u></b>
<b>COST OF SALES</b>		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	759.40	2,939.20
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	838.85	237.10
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,460.13	1,095.92
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	0.00	244.84
Inventory Exp – Directories	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b><u>3,058.38</u></b>	<b><u>4,517.06</u></b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b><u>10,983.23</u></b>	<b><u>14,929.19</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Wages Expense	7,150.80	7,100.30
Employee Medical Reimbursement	320.00	320.00
Payroll Tax Expense	547.04	543.17
Credit Card Processing Costs	126.67	162.99
License and Fees Expense	72.16	60.00
Office Supplies/Expense	181.34	159.86
Computer Maintenance Expense	500.00	500.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	360.08	340.00
Answering Service Expense	1,307.22	1,357.31
Advertising in Phone Book	0.00	176.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.19	-0.14
Postage and Shipping Expense	20.13	23.49
Occupancy Expense	1,712.00	1,670.00
Insurance Expense	324.00	0.00
Printing Expense	0.00	180.00
Travel Expense	0.00	156.81
MAICO Reps Events Expense	0.00	155.07
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>12,621.25</u></b>	<b><u>12,904.86</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$-1,638.02</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,024.33</u></b>

# MAICO: Information & Online Resources 2021

www.aamadisonwi.org or aamaico.org

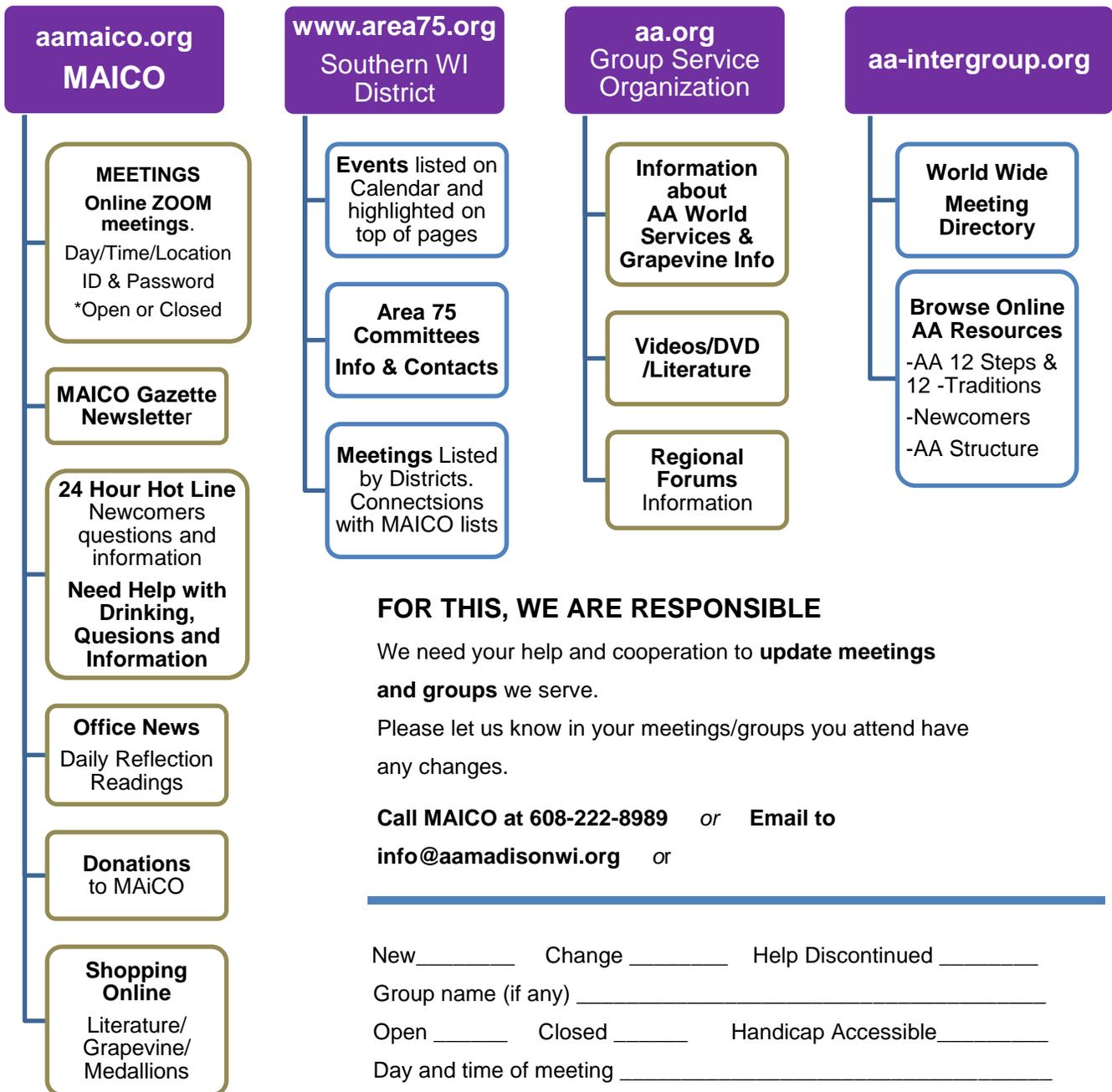
Madison Area Intergroup Central Office

OFFICE IS NOW OPEN TO MAKE PURCHASES

MAICO (Madison Area Intergroup Office) 2000 Engel Street, Suite 104 | Madison, WI 53713

Phone: 608-222-8989 Hot Line 24/7

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 11:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday Noon – 2:00 pm



## FOR THIS, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE

We need your help and cooperation to **update meetings and groups** we serve.

Please let us know in your meetings/groups you attend have any changes.

Call MAICO at 608-222-8989 or Email to [info@aamadisonwi.org](mailto:info@aamadisonwi.org) or

New \_\_\_\_\_ Change \_\_\_\_\_ Help Discontinued \_\_\_\_\_  
 Group name (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Open \_\_\_\_\_ Closed \_\_\_\_\_ Handicap Accessible \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day and time of meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
 Group contact person \_\_\_\_\_

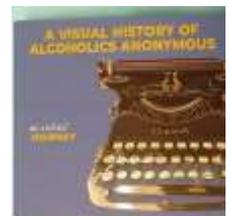
Event	Date	Time	Online/Location
District 12 Open Meeting Hosted by: <i>Hartford Women's Big Book Study</i>	April 3 Sat.	6:30 pm Fellowship 7:00 pm AA & Alanon Speakers <i>Only 100 spots available via phone &amp; video</i>	Online Zoom ID # 895 7757 3640 Passcode: 1212
Spring Service Assembly	April 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am – Noon	
District 29 Round Robin	April 11 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm Fellowship 7:00 Speakers  Bill S. & Jay S.	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church 11709 W. Cleveland Avenue West Allis WI 53227 Zoom info: Meeting ID: 421 598 8453 +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4215988453">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4215988453</a>
Pre-Conference Assembly	Sept. 12	9:00 am-Noon	
Summer Service Assembly	June 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am - Noon	
MAICO 25 <sup>th</sup> Young/Old Timers Workshop	Nov. 6	8:30 am - 1:00 pm	More info to come
AREA 75 CONFERENCE	Nov. 12- Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	LaCross Center *See details online	"Our Great Responsibility"
Recurring Events	Date	Time	Online/Location
Steering Committee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues Monthly	6:00-7:00 pm	Online
Representatives Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues Monthly	7:00-8:00 pm	Online
GSR Group Service Rep District 32	4 <sup>th</sup> Tues Monthly	6:30-7:30 pm	Online

## SHOPPING: Online & Office Orders

<https://store.aamadisonwi.org>



AA Literature (large selection) \* Medallions \* Grapevine monthly booklets \* Set up your account



# DONATIONS

*Thank You for Your Support!*

## Group & District Donations

A Few Simple Rules  
Any Lengths  
Capital Steps  
Clear Cut Directions  
Daily Reflections  
DeForest Progress Grp  
District 11  
District 30  
Dry Docs  
Early Risers  
Family Afterward  
Foxhall Recovery  
Free Thinkers  
Friday Night Fellowship  
Good Fellowship  
Happy Hour in Wi Dells  
Into Action  
It's a God Thing  
Keys to the Kingdom  
Living Sober  
Marshall 449  
Mauston Wed Afternoon  
Mid Morning  
Midvale Slackers  
Milton Everything Recovery  
Milton Young at Heart  
Mineral Pt Grapevine  
Monday Night Beginners  
Monroe Early Birds  
Monroe New Beginnings  
Mt. Horeb Sat Morning  
Prairie Dock Grp  
Richland Center Grp  
Sauk Early Risers  
Sauk Prairie Grp  
Spring Green Read n Lead  
Stoughton Grp  
St. Andy's 7am  
St. Francis Grp  
Sun Night By the Book  
Sunlight of the Spirit  
Sunrisers  
The 1728 Grp  
There is a Solution

Tuesday Night Workshop  
Turning Point  
Wauwaukee Grp  
Windsor Grp  
Woman's Serenity

## Individual Member Donations

Alice G.  
Anne H.  
Anonymous  
Charles B.  
Chris M.  
Craig S.  
Dawn Marie Z.  
Debra K.  
Dennis G.  
Eileen P.  
Greg F.  
Greg M.  
Greg S.  
Jeff T.  
John C.  
Judy F.  
Karen K.  
Larry L.  
Les S.  
Linda H. memory Linda W.  
Lori W.  
Mark J.  
Mark V.  
Mary C.  
Mary S.  
Nancy M.  
Nancy S.  
Patrick S.  
Paul J.  
Phyllis E.  
Richard A.  
Roxanne S.  
Sidney K.  
Stephanie E.  
Sue M.  
Tina P.  
Tom S.

## Corrections Treatment Fund

Early Risers  
Living Sober

## Faithful Fivers

Larry L.  
Mary S.  
Nancy S.

## Gratitude Donations

Beaver Dam Sat 7pm  
Good Fellowship Grp

# READY SET GO: Fellowship Slogans

GRAPEVINE – OCTOBER 2014 – DEE D. GLEN MILLS, PENNSYLVANIA

At four years sober, she's learned to **apply the slogans** that helped save her life to a sport that gives her joy.

Last November I celebrated **four years of sobriety** and ran a half-marathon—all in the same week. I couldn't help but notice that the *AA slogans that helped to get and keep me sober* also helped me train and run the race. They are not just corny slogans; they are my **road map for life**. Here are the ones that helped me most:

## FIRST THINGS FIRST

1

I always wanted to run a half-marathon, so I signed up **for the race**. This was the **first step**. This was no guarantee that I would be successful, but it was a beginning. I started running 30 seconds, then walking 30 seconds. Before I knew it, I could run an entire 30 minutes. This set me on the course to train longer distance runs.

I had a **desire to stop drinking**, so I attended my **first AA meeting**. This, was no guarantee that I *would stay sober, but a beginning*. I went to a meeting every day. Before I knew it, I was picking up my **30-day chip**. *This set me on the course to stay sober by completing 90 meetings in 90 days.*

## GET A SPONSOR

2

Not long after I began running, I realized that I needed help so I enlisted the help of my nephew, a proven marathon runner. I wanted what he had. When I came into AA, I chose a **sponsor who had successfully stayed sober for a number of years**. *I wanted what she had*. I needed to be honest enough to admit what I didn't know and to trust another person to give me guidance.

## LET GO and LET GOD

3

Race day came and I was ready. Still, **fear crept in**. I asked my daughter to pray the Our Father with me on the way to the race. I felt peace and knew that, whatever happened, **God was there with me**.

When I got sober, the feeling that came up the most for me was **fear**. There have been several times in the last four years when the *only thing between a drink and me was praying to my Higher Power*. **If my spiritual condition is in order, I can do anything.**

## EASY DOES IT

4

When running long distances, the experts say to *increase your mileage slowly and stay in the moment to avoid injuries*. When I first got sober, I worried how I would stay sober during vacations, weddings and funerals. **My sponsor advised me to stay in the moment, take it one day at a time, stay away from the first drink and go to a meeting.**

## DON'T DRINK & GO to a MEETING

5

When I was training for the long run, there were times that I thought I had run out of gas and wanted to stop. *I've learned that if I just keep going, I usually get my second wind*. The times that I did stop, **I found out that it was that much more difficult to start again.**

Since I've been sober, there have been times when the thought of a *drink popped into my head*. Instead of acting on it, I went to a *meeting*, where I always heard what I needed to hear.

**People coming back to AA after a relapse remind me that it's easier to stay sober than to get sober.**

## It Works If You Work It

6

During the last quarter of the race, I began to feel the wear and tear on my body, *and I felt that there was no end in sight*. During this part of the race, there were volunteers handing out water, sports drinks and energy gels. All of these supports helped me, but I still had to go and pick them up.

Whenever **life on life's terms** gets me and I become irritable, restless and discontent, I still have to do the Steps that help me to grow and change the way that I look at life. **The tools of the program are always there, but it's up to me to use them.**

# THE BEST FIT:

## A Past Delegate asks: How can AA do a better job helping alcoholics and addicts find the help they need?

GRAPEVINE – JANUARY 2021  
JANE E. | KINGS PARK, NEW

When I was sober eight years, I met J., the person I would later marry. He happened to be a member of *Narcotics Anonymous*. **We both qualified for both programs**, but he went to **NA** and I went to **AA**. When J. came to **AA** with me, *he identified as an alcoholic* and when I went to **NA** with him, *I identified as an addict*. We were both respectful of the Fifth Tradition in each Fellowship. Every Twelve Step Fellowship has the Traditions, so wherever I go, I identify appropriately if I qualify (I'm not an "and a" anywhere.)

After we married, J. regularly attended my home group's Saturday morning AA meeting with me. Afterward, he would often say, **"You guys are killing addicts. You let them hide out in AA. Send them to us. We can help them in NA."**

I was asked to lead a meeting at a treatment facility. I opened the meeting and told my story. There was absolutely no identification in that room with my drinking. **None.**

I didn't get it at first. Then one day J. said, "Did you see Bob? He's out because he's on heroin. You guys should send him to us. We can help him."

I was filled with righteous indignation (Bob was the boyfriend of a sponsee of mine) and I said (with hands on hips), "He is not nodding out. He's tired. He's working two jobs." **Well, guess what? Bob was nodding out, high on heroin.**

Another time, J. left the meeting and said to me, "Don't you sponsor that girl who's chairing the AA meeting? She's ripped. She's flying and I'm not sure on what. Send her to us. We can help her."

Hands back on hips, I told J., **"She is not high. She's very anxious."** **Guess what? My sponsee was high.**

I'm not embarrassed that I missed it. The lifestyle is different. **I led a life so filled with drug addiction for a decade that many (especially me) missed my alcoholism for my first 10 years of drinking.** My drug addiction was so glaring that even I could easily admit to being an addict. I have no street experience though.

Fast forward to this year. I was asked to lead a meeting at a treatment facility. There were six women there. I opened the meeting and told my story. Every single woman there shared some variation of the line, "I don't like to drink. My problem is (fill in the blank—heroin, crack, crystal meth, etc.) and I cannot stop." **There was absolutely no identification in that room with my drinking. None.**

We had 15 minutes left to the meeting so I asked them if they would prefer an NA meeting. Their eyes lit up. I encouraged them to seek NA and that NA was strong. I talked about going to the organization they identified with. And yes, I told the story about how I learned that we're killing addicts by **letting addicts hide out in AA**. My talk was loving, and I saw hope in the women's eyes.

One woman said, "No one has ever told us this before. The other AA ladies who come to speak tell us to just come to talk about AA."

When the meeting was over, I got into my car and called a friend who happened to be a *past chair of the Conference Committee of Treatment & Accessibilities*. We talked for an hour, one alcoholic to another. **We talked about directing people to the Fellowship where they fit**, about how the treatment professionals often just send everyone to AA. We talked about what "I am responsible" means. We talked about the Traditions, especially the Fifth, and how often the only side of AA some see is the meeting brought into a treatment facility. And if we're not carrying our message to the still suffering alcoholic, what are we doing?

**I've experienced two main approaches to the AA and NA situation: denial of the fact that we cannot help everyone...or telling addicts, "You don't belong here." I support the idea of bringing those people to whichever Fellowship can help them, not sending them there.**

But I wonder how we can get AA members to understand that *we are not all things to all people*. How can we be better when we speak in treatment facilities? We may be the only face of AA people see. How do we deal with the perception that AA doesn't work, because it doesn't work for addicts who do not identify as alcoholics? **How can we do this thing better?**



GRAPEVINE – OCTOBER 2020  
ANONYMOUS – KINGSTON, N.H.

## A FRINGE PLAYER

All his life, he hung back a bit, observing from the sidelines. **But the AA Fellowship would not let him stand alone.**

During my early AA experience, I was what some would call a “**fringe player.**” I have a tendency to stay on the sidelines and be an observer, rather than a participant. The thoughts swirling around within me at the time included: “**What if they don’t like me?**” and “*I need to have an exit strategy, so I don’t get too close to anybody*” (in reference to reaching out to someone in the program). Sometimes it was: “*That seems like too much work*” or “*I don’t know if I’m ready for that*”.

In the over 42 years since I first crawled through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous, I have come to know and believe that the **initial contact I had with members of the fellowship was vital to my continued sobriety.** They helped me when I couldn’t help myself, by just being there and spending time with me when my being alone was being in bad company.

I was never a big reader, and even to this day still read many of the same passages of the same books (**Big Book, 12x12, the twenty-four-hour book**) over and over again without much variation. So, for me, the *oral tradition carried by AA members was vitally important to my continued sobriety.* Much of this tradition was contained in the seemingly cryptic slogans I found hanging on banners around various meetings, to which the old-timers often referred. They include “**Easy Does It,**” “**First Things First**” and the equally confusing “**Think, Think, Think.**” I needed to ask what each of these slogans meant. It is not a race against time, especially to get back everything that was lost or that you never had and thought you needed to have. “First Things First” to me refers to setting priorities and keeping **the “booze problem” Number One.** “**Live and Let Live**” speaks to allowing others their space to be who they are. “Think, Think, Think” is about pausing before taking an impulsive action that might lead to a drink.

And like many things in the early days of my sobriety, the human element was the crucial piece to my sobriety, the **connection to AA and to my God.** There is absolutely no doubt that without the people that showed an interest in me, my continued sobriety would have been very tenuous. *There was Jack D., the man who spent a whole day with me after I called the AA hotline asking for some help.* By taking this time with me, he affirmed to me that maybe my life was worth something. This is what we need to do to help people—spend time with them. He continued to “harass” me and bring me to meetings over the ensuing days and weeks to ensure a seed was planted. It worked. A seed was planted. I didn’t sober up right away, it took several months more of experimentation to prove it to myself, but I eventually became convinced beyond a flicker of doubt that I couldn’t count on my own resources to stop and that the Fellowship of AA might provide an impetus to my recovery from alcoholism.

Texting, calls and virtual meetings are OK, but from my experience, nothing can match the one-on-one kitchen table type contact that the early AA’ers had. **And for a fringe player like me, that’s a good thing.**