



# NEWSLETTER

July – September 2022

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

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.

*A Tradition per issue in 2022. July-Sept. # 3*

## Theme: Alcoholism Cunning, Baffling & Powerful

**GRAPEVNE | SEPTEMBER 1999 Disguised in Liquor from the eighteenth century!**

**BY: JOHN G. | WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

*While doing some continuing education in the library of the Colonial Williamsburg Restoration, I ran across two articles that appeared in our local newspaper during the eighteenth century that I thought might be of interest to my fellow members of Alcoholics Anonymous.*

### THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE | APRIL 8, 1737

“Whatever good reputation William Hunt had for being diligent in his business, and [maintaining] his wife and children decently was compromised by these revelations: Hunt would now and then take a Frolick, and get drunk 3 or 4 days together: In one of these Fits he happened to be last week, and continued much disguis’d in Liquor, till Sunday morning, when he stagger’d to a neighbour’s house, who . . . prevail’d on him to lie down and sleep. The people having occasion to go out, lock’d the door, and left him asleep. Some time after he awoke, and finding himself lock’d up had no patience to wait, but rashly *jump’d out the window and broke his leg . . . and this Morning he died in a most lamentable Condition.*”

### THE VIRGINIA GAZETTE, OCTOBER 27, 1738:

“We hear from York [County] of another unfortunate accident: A poor unhappy woman of that place, known by the name of Drunken Frank, who too often disguis’d herself in liquor, about a Fortnight ago, was so far overcome that way, that she lost her life by it: ‘Tis suppos’d she set fire to her cloathes by Accident. . . so miserably burnt, that she died last Thursday, a most melancholy object. We hope this dreadful example may be a Means to deter others too much addicted to excessive Drinking, from pursuing that pernicious practice.”

*It seems that even our colonial ancestors found our disease cunning, baffling, and powerful!*

# DISASTER STRUCK

Grapevine 1996

ANONYMOUS | ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

Last December, five of us started a men's meeting. It was small but we were satisfied with the content and the comfortable atmosphere. The general feeling was that this new meeting was contributing to the quality of our sobriety; it seemed to draw out members who in other meetings remained silent.

**Then, in mid-June, disaster struck. One of our members committed suicide.** He'd had struggles with the program for some time, never putting together more than a few months of sobriety. Since the inception of our men's meeting, however, he'd seemed to be on the track. He'd participated fully in meetings, was working with his sponsor, and was apparently trying to live the Steps. **What could have happened? Why did he do it?**

When news of his death reached us, fear and uncertainty gripped me. I raged at "the disease" that seemed to have won out against quality sobriety, Twelve Steps, Tradition-based meetings, and good fellowship. *Despite my more than seventeen years in AA, I had no similar experience to fall back on. I'd observed others die directly and indirectly as a result of alcohol, but I hadn't seen a person take his life while seeming to be well-established in Alcoholics Anonymous.* What happened to "Rarely have we seen a person fail? . . ." How could I feel secure in the face of this seeming failure of the Alcoholics Anonymous program?

Though one of us was this man's formal sponsor, we all deeply shared the devastation and acute self-examination: what could we have done to prevent this tragedy? **His anguish, his sense of failure, was ours.** From the deceased man, we could trace the chain of sponsorship back, through only six individuals, to Dr. Bob and the early days in Ohio. What had we all missed?

Some days later, I attended the International Convention in San Diego. I looked up a long-timer, a man who has been instrumental in my sobriety. *This man was, in fact, number three in the chain of sponsorship that started with Dr. Bob and eventually helped me. I went to him and told him the story of our group member's suicide and related our discomfort.*

He said, "You can only carry the message of recovery, you can't carry the person." As I reflected later on this familiar statement, I realized that an untimely death does not cancel out my years of sobriety. It does not reflect upon the quality of the man's sponsorship. However, it does send a powerful message that alcohol is, indeed, "cunning, baffling and powerful. Without help it is too much for us."

*I've partly settled my mind with the notion that had our friend reached out, had he called anyone for help, a Higher Power would have carried him through that difficult day alive: "That God could, and would, if he were sought."*

I have no other answers. Our friend's absence is still heavy on my heart. We mention to one another how we seem to be more seriously committed to the Steps and to the Big Book and to "Twelve and Twelve" study. New people continue to come in. One of our recent recruits has gone back out to drink some more. Others seem to be getting sober. Our group is larger now, and the meetings continue to be satisfying. **Quality sobriety is evident. We share our experience, strength, and hope. We laugh and joke.** We celebrate our anniversaries and our sobriety. **Our friend's premature passing sent us all a powerful, valuable message, but the price was very high.**

**"You can only carry the message of recovery, you can't carry the person."**



**The disease claims another victim**

## Tradition #3 July-September 2022

**The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.**

- # 1 In my mind, do I prejudge some new AA members as losers?
- # 2 Is there some kind of alcoholic whom I privately do not want in my AA group?
- # 3 Do I set myself up as a judge of whether a newcomer is sincere or phony?
- # 4 Do I let language, religion (or lack of it), race, education, age, or other such things interfere with my carrying the message?
- # 5 Am I overimpressed by a celebrity? By a doctor, a clergyman, an ex-convict? Or can I just treat this new member simply and naturally as one more sick human, like the rest of us?
- # 6 When someone turns up at AA needing information or help (even if he can't ask for it aloud), does it really matter to me what he does for a living? Where he lives? What his domestic arrangements are? Whether he had been to AA before? What his other problems are?

### TOTAL ACCEPTANCE

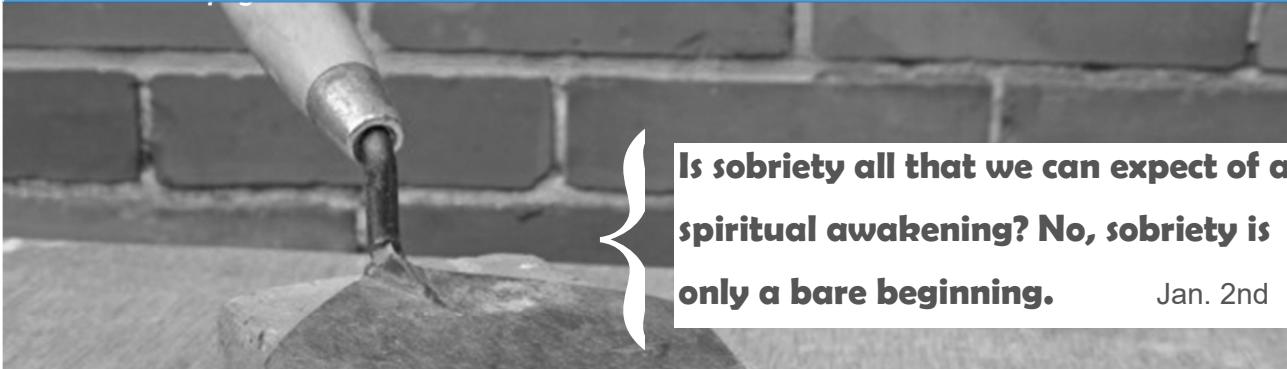
**He cannot picture life without alcohol. Some day he will be unable to imagine life either with alcohol or without it. Then he will know loneliness such as few do. He will be at the jumping-off place. He will wish for the end.**

Only an alcoholic can understand the exact meaning of a statement like this one. The double standard that held me captive as an active alcoholic also filled me with terror and confusion: "If I don't get a drink I'm going to die," competed with "If I continue drinking it's going to kill me." Both compulsive thoughts pushed me ever closer to the bottom. That bottom produced a *total* acceptance of my alcoholism—with no reservations whatsoever—and one that was absolutely essential for my recovery. It was a dilemma unlike anything I had ever faced, but as I found out later on, a necessary one if I was to succeed in this program.

Alcoholics Anonymous | Online Reflections | January 05  
Alcoholics Anonymous Pg. 152

# FIRST, The Foundation

Book of Daily Reflections. Copyright 1990 by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc.  
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{ **Is sobriety all that we can expect of a spiritual awakening? No, sobriety is only a bare beginning.** }      Jan. 2nd

Practicing the A.A. program is like ***building a house***. First, I had to pour a big, thick concrete slab on which to erect the house; that, to me, was the *equivalent of stopping drinking*. But it's pretty uncomfortable living on a concrete slab, unprotected and exposed to the heat, cold, wind and rain. So, I built a room on the slab by starting to practice the program. The first room was rickety because I wasn't used to the work. ***But as time passed, as I practiced the program, I learned to build better rooms.*** The more I practiced, and the more I built, the more comfortable, and happy, was the home I now have to live in.

**AS BILLSEES IT | PG. 8**

## DO I HAVE A CHOICE?

JAN. 8<sup>TH</sup>

The fact is that most alcoholics, for reasons yet obscure, have lost the power of choice in drink. Our so-called will power becomes practically nonexistent.

My powerlessness over alcohol does not cease when I quit drinking. In sobriety I still have no choice — **I can't drink**.

The choice I **do have** is to pick up and use the “kit of spiritual tools” When I do that my Higher Power relieves me of my lack of choice—and keeps **me sober one more day**. If I could choose *not* to pick up a drink today, where then would be my need for A.A. or a Higher Power?

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS | PG. 24-25

# DONATIONS

Continued on page 6

## GROUP DONATIONS

1728 Grp  
Any Lengths Grp  
Berlin Friday Night Grp  
Capital Steps  
Caring & Sharing  
Crossroads Grp  
DeForest Progress Grp  
Dist. 35  
Early Risers Grp  
Easy Breathers Grp  
Family Afterwards Grp  
Feet to the Fire Grp  
Foxhall Recovery Grp  
Free Thinkers  
Ft. Atkinson Tuesday Night Big Book  
Half Measures Grp  
In the Middle Grp  
Into Action Grp  
It's A God Thing Grp  
Janesville Early Risers  
Lake Mills Our Group  
Living Sober Grp  
Mauston Friday Night Fellowship  
Middleton Young at Heart Grp  
Milton Parkview Grp  
Milton Young at Heart Grp

## GROUP DONATIONS

Monroe Early Birds Grp  
Monroe New Beginnings Grp  
New Glarus Sobrietyfest Grp  
Orfordville Grp  
Prairie Dock Grp  
Renegade Women's Meeting  
Richland Center Grp  
Rio Into Action Grp  
Rock River Grp  
Room to Grow Grp  
Saturday Morning Miracle Grp  
Saturday Morning On Timers Grp  
Sauk Prairie Early Risers  
Sauk Prairie Group  
Serenity Seekers  
Spiritual Program of Action  
Spring Green Read n Lead  
St Andy's 7am Grp  
St. Dunstan's Beginners Grp  
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp  
Sun Prairie Phoenix Grp  
Sunriser's Grp  
Sunrise Serenity Grp  
The Home Grp  
The Way Out Grp  
Thursday Off the Shelf (Tots)  
Women's Literature Grp  
Woman's Thursday Serenity

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

Abby E. – Reps Event  
Amelia L.  
Anonymous Donations  
Ben B.  
Bill R.  
Chris M.  
Christopher W.  
Dave R.  
Dennis G.  
Greg F.  
Greg S.  
Jacob P.  
Jeff T.  
Jeffrey M. – Reps Event  
Jere H.  
Joe Darcy – Reps Event  
Laurie M.  
Les S.  
Louise B.  
Lucas B.  
Mary C.  
Mary S.  
Matt K.  
Patrick M.  
Russell W.  
Shelley H.  
Shobhit J.  
Sue M.  
Tom S.

# DONATIONS

Continued from pg. 5

## GRATITUDE MONTH DONATIONS

### GROUP & INDIVIDUALS

Traditions Grp

Tuesday Morning Closed AA

Tuesday Night Workshop

What's Good about Today

White River Study Grp

Windsor Grp

Woman's Grp

## CORRECTIONS TREATMENT FUND

Early Risers Grp

Living Sober Grp

Sunlight of the Spirit Grp



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**“Gratitude is a form of perspective.”**

FROM THE AUGUST 1997 GRAPEVINE | DECEMBER 2008

# INCOME STATEMENT

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Jan-May 2022</b>	<b>Jan-May 2021</b>
Donations – Groups	18,341.56	15,488.30
Donations – Events	682.50	0.00
Individual Donations	8,601.71	5,455.80
Donations – Answering Service	125.00	125.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	282.25	78.83
Conference Literature	11,025.11	7,232.11
Non-Conference Literature	3,545.11	2,422.60
Non-Conference Merchandise	3,638.59	5,183.81
Grapevine Literature	921.36	382.30
Faithful Fivers	75.00	215.00
Directories	-27.45	0.00
Savings Account Income	1.09	1.63
Other Income – copies,	115.36	41.91
Sales Tax Discount	50.00	40.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>47,377.19</b>	<b>36,701.83</b>
<b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	5,079.53	4,151.21
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	2,199.91	1,544.96
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	2,933.08	3,703.28
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	915.00	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b><u>11,127.52</u></b>	<b><u>9,399.45</u></b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>36,249.67</b>	<b>27,302.38</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Wages Expense	18,312.00	17,776.00
Employee Medical Reimbursement	800.00	800.00
Payroll Tax Expense	1,400.86	1,359.86
Credit Card Processing Costs	476.44	323.51
License and Fees Expense	160.68	135.21
Office Supplies/Expense	615.31	285.69
Computer Maintenance Expense	1,750.00	1,550.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	1,101.07	40.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	949.80	900.10
Answering Service Expense	2,601.73	2,652.31
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.18	-0.27
Postage and Shipping Expense	23.67	-1.49
Occupancy Expense	4,410.00	4,280.00
Insurance Expense	328.00	997.00
Printing Expense	0.00	531.00
Travel Expense	452.06	0.00
Conference Expense	383.36	0.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	175.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>33,939.80</b>	<b>31,628.92</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,309.87</b>	<b>\$-4,326.54</b>

# At Wit's End – With Humor

GRAPEVINE | SEPTEMBER 2021 | YOUNG & SOBER!

## LINE 'EM UP!

My wife and I were leaving to receive our second COVID-19 vaccination.

I mentioned that I was a little worried because I could never stop at two shots before.



GRAPEVINE | AT WITS END  
MARTY Z. | PALM BAY, FLA.

## SORRY BUDDY

A drunk guy approaches a woman in a singles bar. “Hi there, how about a date?” he says to her.

“Don’t waste your time,” she replies. “I’d never go out with a perfect stranger.”

“It seems we’re both in luck,” he exclaims. “I’m far from perfect.”

GRAPEVINE | AT WITS END  
MIKE T. | HAMPTON, VA.

## SPONSOR WISDOM

**Newcomer:** “Do alcoholics run in your family?”

**Sponsor:** “No, they just stumble around and break stuff.”

GRAPEVINE | AT WITS END  
DUSTY B. | HANCOCK, MAINE

## TILL DEATH DO US PART

Drunk: “My wife says I’m crazy, but I think she’s wrong.”

Bartender: “How come?”

Drunk: “She’s the one who married me.”

GRAPEVINE | AT WITS END  
J.D. | BIG LAKE, MINN



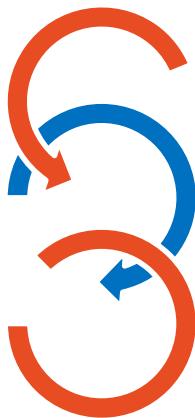
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# NOT YET

AA GRAPEVINE | LEANNE L. YAKIMA | WASHINGTON | MAY, 2017



**Not a broken marriage --  
NOT YET**

**No click of handcuffs --  
NOT YET**

**No lost job --  
NOT YET**

None of that usual alcoholic stuff had happened to her—not the broken marriage, lost job, estranged children, or click of handcuffs on her wrists. **Not yet**, anyway.

It's unclear at what point it happened, but it happened. *Alcohol was calling the shots in my life. It dictated where I went, who I saw, whether I was present or absent, logical or senseless. It ruled the day from how I felt when I woke up to when and where I went to sleep.*

For many years, drinking was fun. It cheered me up when I was sad, relaxed me when I was tense, gave me peaceful sleep when I was tired. I saw a bottle of whiskey as the faithful friend who stayed by my side to celebrate my successes, mourn my losses and calm me when I couldn't sleep. *But at some point, unknown to me or the people around me, that trusted bottle turned into a foe.* It ruined joyous occasions. It conjured the ugliest of emotions—jealousy, envy, contempt. It tricked me into doing things I would never have considered and prevented me from following God's will for my life. It repulsed the people who love me. **It turned my self-confidence into a pitiful heap of self-doubt, disgust and, in the end, hatred.**

I made promises I couldn't keep. I disappointed the ones who love me most. I turned my back on **God** by refusing a helping hand. I kept digging and couldn't seem to reach the bottom of the hole my life had become.

Oh, there were still so many “**not yets**.” I hadn't lost my marriage, my husband and children still loved me. My friends still believed in me. I hadn't lost my house or my career. I'd never been arrested or seen the inside of a jail cell. **Not yet, not yet.** I had a comfortable home. I didn't hang out in bars or drive drunk. **Not yet, not yet.**

The “**not yets**” hung before me. Not even alcohol could take me that low. Or could it?

How the “**not yets**” finally lured me in is something I still don't understand. **Alcohol – cunning, baffling and powerful.** My friend-turned-foe had finally mastered me. I fell obediently under its command. I drank without thinking, without concern for the effects or the eventual consequences. I didn't think twice about getting in the car and navigating my way through Seattle in heavy freeway traffic. *How could I lose my way? Where in the hell am I? What right does that car have to stop so quickly in front of me?*

The “**not yets**” had arrived. **I was handcuffed and locked in the backseat of a police car.** I confessed to unsympathetic ears that I was an alcoholic. *I stood barefoot and afraid in a holding cell waiting for my 27-year-old daughter to pick me up. Confessions followed to my 93-year-old Mom, my siblings, my boss, my friends, my in-laws.*

I've finally hit the bottom. My life has reached a dead end and I have to find a new route. My goal is to move on from the shame and disgust my alcoholism has created and to find a new, healthier lifestyle. **I know I have an inner strength and a strong faith in God and I plan to use faith and strength, along with the program of recovery I am learning in Alcoholics Anonymous,** to help me overcome my obsession with alcohol.

Alcoholism levels our pride. It brings us face-to-face to ourselves and challenges us to admit our weaknesses. *Whether it was nature or nurture, genes or circumstances, alcoholism snared me. For a long time, I couldn't wrench myself free. When I finally did, I found myself to be weak and wounded, in need of guidance and healing.*

**I can't remember the path that led me here. Nor do I know exactly how I will find myself back, but I trust that with God's help, I will.**



**Madison Area Intergroup  
Office** [www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org)

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

[www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org)  
Meetings online &  
in person & Events

[www.aa-intergroup.org](http://www.aa-intergroup.org)  
AA Online Intergroup  
Meetings & Events

Event flyers are on The MAICO  
website [www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org)  
or [www.area75.org](http://www.area75.org)

Any district or group AA event can  
be posted on the Area 75 calendar at  
[www.area75.org](http://www.area75.org)

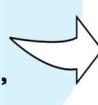
Be mindful of anonymity with names,  
flyers and information on the internet.

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**FOR THIS, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE**  
We need your help and cooperation to  
update meetings and groups we serve.

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

Fill out this form and mail to:  
MAICO, 2000 Engel St., Suite 104,  
Madison, WI 53713



# CONTACT INFO & WEBSITES

## UPCOMING EVENTS JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022

EVENT	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Unity and Service Conference	Friday July 8 - 10, 2022	Virtual Event	
2024 Area 75 Fall Conference Planning Comm Meeting	Saturday July 16, 2022	10:00 am –12:00 pm	Historic Apartments 207 E. Cook St. Portage, WI
Green Lake Round-Up	Friday August 19 – 21 2022	3:00 pm – 12:00 pm \$15.00	Green Lake Conference Center W. 2511 State Rd., Green Lake
MAICO Rep's Picnic Warner Park	Saturday August 20, 2022	8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Warner Park 2930 N. Sherman Ave., Madison, WI
District 31 Picnic	Sunday August 28, 2022	12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Chandler Park Chandler Park Dr. Pardeeville, WI
Area 75 Assembly	Sunday Sept. 11, 2022	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	
Area 75 Conference and Assembly	Friday November 4 - 6		Chula Vista Resort 1000 Chula Vista Wisconsin Dells, WI

Provide as much of the following information as is possible.

New  Change  Help  Discontinued

Group name (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Open  Closed  Handicap Accessible

Day/Time \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

Location (any specifics) \_\_\_\_\_

Group contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Also let us know of any changes in your group's contact person(s)

# MAICO ANNUAL PICNIC

WARNER PARK

North Sherman Avenue and Northport Drive   Madison, WI



**Saturday  
August 20th**

More details coming soon  
to an AA Meeting Near  
You and online!

[www.area75.org](http://www.area75.org)

