

*The MAICO*

*Apr - Jun 2018*

# **GAA ZETTE**

*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.*

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## **May 2013: A Call for Sponsorship**

### **A member can't say enough about that special one-on-one bond of recovery**

I think we could emphasize the importance of sponsorship more in the program, especially to newcomers, and how vital it is in working our AA program. Although we sometimes refer to our sponsors when we share at meetings, we don't often focus on what sponsorship does for us, both as sponsees and as sponsors.

I wasn't really aware of how much of an impact my sponsor had on my recovery until I had to move away to another town for my job. I was sober for about 18 months and had done the Steps with him, including a Fifth Step. When I arrived in my new town, the first thing that I did was to seek out where the AA meetings were (his suggestion). I was pleased to find out that there was a meeting every night of the week. I soon became a welcomed regular.

Over time, as I shared my story with this new group, an interesting pattern emerged: I found myself quoting my sponsor on many topics and ideas that he had shared with me and how he had impacted my recovery. I was discovering that my experiences with him were a huge part of my recovery. It became clear to me that through him, I had a lot to offer in the rooms, for people were coming to me after meetings to say that they liked what I had to say.

I suppose at that point I could have taken credit for all this perceived knowledge, but I knew that this is not what my sponsor was doing when he shared it with me. He was just passing on what was given to him.

Over time, several members asked me to be their sponsor, and I was then able to experience the rewards offered on the other side of the sponsorship card. When asked, I would simply explain to them what I believed my role was and then try to help them to get the best shot at the AA program I could provide. I found that working the Steps with another alcoholic, whether they stayed sober or not, was vital to my ongoing recovery.

I have since moved back to the town where my sponsor lives today, and my relationship with him continues to grow stronger every day. I've heard it said in the rooms that we cannot have both a friendship relationship and a sponsor relationship at the same time. But in my case, I could not disagree more. This bond we have is one of my most valued possessions today, and I will guard it with my life.

-- Rick N.

Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

## The National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop

The National Alcoholics Anonymous Technology Workshop Steering Committee (NAATW) was formed in 2014 following the first national workshop held in St. Louis, MO hosted with help from St. Louis Intergroup Central Office.

A little more than 60 members of the AA fellowship gathered together to talk about ways IT could be more helpful to the service structure. Our first workshop was filled with demonstrations from various Areas using databases to connect Bridging-the-gap volunteers to service opportunities, presentations on user interfaces, demonstrations and guidance on website designs and more. We didn't exactly know what to expect from the workshop. What we found was direction and built relationships with other AA-technology people from across the country. At the end of the workshop, the 12 Statements of Technology were voted upon to guide AA technology servants.

The Madison Area Intergroup Central Office (MAICO) sent me as a representative to check out the workshop. The first year of the workshop, only one central office was represented and I consider myself fortunate to represent not just MAICO but Wisconsin at the event.

In 2015, we met in St. Louis again to continue looking at technology solutions being used across the country. We began to identify common solutions regarding software platforms, cloud solutions and technology changes that would be scalable to handle growth in the future.

In 2016, we met in Salem-Rally, NC. Demonstrations of the Fellowship New Vision database by our General Service Office (GSO) in NY were presented. There were also presentations on security issues, anonymity, common user interfaces and mobile technology. All this came together and brought about discussions for the need to embrace technology in A.A. Back channel communications during Area events were demonstrated. Files were shared during presentations at the conference giving everyone access during presentations.

The 2017 workshop was held in Sacramento, CA and attended by 90+ members of the fellowship. Areas, Districts, Groups and Central Offices were represented and presentations on solutions filled the time with techy stuff. There were presentations on cloud technology. Also, website audiences brought many ideas and examples to help with IT decisions at various levels of the service structure. Solutions to combining group and meeting information into a common database were presented. This showed a forward looking solution for information that is currently held in silos at various levels.

At each of the workshops, the GSO was represented by Grapevine staff, IT staff, Group Records staff and class-B trustees. Their support as the fellowship worked out IT solutions provided encouragement and reinforced the upside down pyramid.

In the future, there is hope that GSO will recognize the NAATW as a service to A.A. much like your Central Offices. Possibly, leading to changes to the A.A. service manual reflecting the incorporation of technology positions as part of the service structure in the next few years.

"A.A. moves at the speed of trust" I was told by the Grapevine executive editor. It seems the fellowship is building faith in technology and the servants involved in providing solutions. This will benefit carrying the message to existing A.A. members, professionals providing services to alcoholics and newcomers to the fellowship.

The next NAATW will be held **September 13-16, 2018 in Round Rock, TX** where I'm told the barbecue is larger than life. Demonstrations and talks about the advances in technology and its benefit to our general service structure are sure to continue as our dust settles down and standards for methods become more focused and clear.

I would like to thank the MAICO steering committee and our Office Manager for their support, trust and dedication in bringing our Intergroup Central Office forward with the use of technology.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service as the technology chairperson for intergroup office.

Yours in service,  
Patrick S., Madison Area Intergroup Technology Chairperson

## 2 Yrs Comparison Income Statement

<b>Revenues</b>	<b><u>Jan – Feb 2018</u></b>	<b><u>Jan -Feb 2017</u></b>
Donations – Groups	7,247.46	7,914.95
Donations – Individuals	105.00	162.52
Donations – Answering Service	125.00	140.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	780.38	892.67
Conference Literature	6,328.91	5,781.02
Non-Conference Literature	2,049.74	1,385.58
Non-Conference Merchandise	3,688.63	2,582.53
Grapevine Literature	256.90	111.30
Faithful Fivers	91.00	99.00
Directories	103.00	187.50
Savings Account Income	0.00	1.65
Other Income	388.12	8.55
Sales Tax Discount	10.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b><u>\$21,174.14</u></b>	<b><u>\$19,267.27</u></b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	4,645.90	4,559.88
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	1,594.48	908.95
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,556.35	2,762.27
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b><u>\$7,796.73</u></b>	<b><u>\$8,231.10</u></b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$13,377.41</b>	<b>\$11,036.17</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Wages Expense	6,825.00	6,686.75
Employee Medical Reimbursement	320.00	320.00
Payroll Tax Expense	522.11	511.54
Credit Card Processing Costs	162.08	128.55
License and Fees Expense	225.00	235.00
Office Expense/Supplies	136.22	552.09
Computer Maintenance Expense	550.00	140.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	650.00	0.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	320.91	310.66
Answering Service Expense	853.16	853.86
Advertising in Phone Book	174.00	166.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.16	-0.22
Postage and Shipping Expense	23.91	7.54
Occupancy Expense	1,590.00	1,552.00
Printing Expense	150.40	0.00
Travel Expense	158.83	0.00
Conference Expense	274.46	0.00
Other Expense	-6.84	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$12,929.08</u></b>	<b><u>\$11,463.77</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>\$448.33</u></b>	<b><u>\$-427.60</u></b>

# Upcoming Events

2018

Some event flyers are on [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 by going to [www.area75.org](http://www.area75.org), be aware that info & flyers go on internet, mindful of anonymity, names on flyers etc.

## Recurring events:

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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. \$10.00 adults, Holiday meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun of month – Open AA Speaker Meetings in Adams**, Adams-Friendship Club, 1093 County M, Adams, Noon  
July speaker: Sunshine from Madison
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun of month – Pocket Full of Sunshine Breakfast**, Howard Johnson, 3841 E. Washington Ave., Madison, 10am  
breakfast buffet \$10.00 all you can eat, 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.
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat of month – Monroe Sister Blandine Group, Open Speaker Meeting**, 6:30pm, St. Victor’s Church, 1760 14<sup>th</sup> St., Monroe, entrance off 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**March 31 – Portage Historic Apt. Building, 207 W. Cook St.**, Speaker at 8pm, Garrett from Lodi, Taco Bar served at 9pm, Bring a dish to pass.

**April 8 – Spring Service Assembly** - Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin St., Madison 53703 at 9:00 AM.

**April 14 – 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual District 9 Mini-Conference - Gratitude is Our Attitude** - 218 Jackson Street, Cuba City, WI Registration 9 AM, Opening Ceremony 10 AM, 11:30 AM Lunch, 12:30 PM AI-Anon Speaker, 4:15 PM AA Speaker, Dinner 5:30 PM. Meat, Potatoes & Vegetable provided. Bring a salad or dessert to pass.

**April 21 – MAICO Representative’s 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring into Action Event** – Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago Street, Madison, WI 54704. 9:00 AM till Noon Event. Pizza lunch at noon. \$5.00 per person if staying for pizza. For more info call Phil S. 608-576-7555 or MAICO 608-222-8989

**May 12 – What a Concept** - The Concepts Come Alive! Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago Street, Madison, WI 54704. Registration 8:15 – 9:00 AM, Program 9:00 – 12:30. Great Lunch to Follow.

**June 2 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wisconsin/UP Michigan Corrections Conference** - Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa Street, Madison, WI 53704. Contact Nancy G 608-843-2265, [negusner@gmail.com](mailto:negusner@gmail.com); Ken G. 608-843-2264, [kwgusner@gmail.com](mailto:kwgusner@gmail.com); Jessica S. 608-228-8276, [corrections@area75.org](mailto:corrections@area75.org)

**June 8, 9 & 10 – 83<sup>rd</sup> Founder’s Day Herald** – Akron, OH. Birthplace of AA. [www.akronaa.org](http://www.akronaa.org) See flyer on MAICO website.

**November 2 – 4 – Area 75 Annual Conference**, The Great Fact for Us, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Hosted by District 20

**Thank You's - Donations received Dec 16, 2017 to Mar 16, 2018**

**General Fund**

Anonymous  
207 Grp  
511 Step Grp  
A Vision for You  
A Way of Life  
Atwood Women's  
Baraboo Eye Opener  
Beaver Dam Fri Night Study  
Bring Your Own Big Book  
Children of Chaos  
Columbus Grp  
DeForest Progress  
District 35  
Dodgeville Dntowners  
Early Risers  
Easy Does It But Do It  
Family Afterward  
Foxhall Recovery  
Friday Night Fellowship  
Grace Lunch Grp  
Happy Hour in WI. Dells  
Into Action  
It's a God Thing Grp  
Janesville Unity Grp  
Keep It Simple  
K.I.S.S. Sunday AM  
Living Sober Grp  
Marshall 449  
Mauston Mon Night  
Mid Morning Grp  
Mon Wed Fri Morning  
Monroe Design for Living  
Monroe Early Birds  
Monroe Sat Morning Grapevine  
Monroe Sat. Sister Blandine  
Monticello 12 & 12  
New Glarus Sobrietyfest  
New Voices  
Orfordville Grp  
Poynette-DeKorra  
Prairie Dock

Red Circle  
Rio Into Action Grp  
Sat. Morning Ontimers  
Serenity at 6pm  
Sisters in Service  
Sober Today  
Spring Green Read N Lead  
Stoughton Grp  
Suburban Sobriety  
Sunlight of the Spirit  
Sun Prairie Eye Opener  
Sunrise Serenity  
Sunshine Grp  
The Phoenix Grp  
The Promises Grp  
Thurs. Sister Blandine Big Book  
Tuesday Night Workshop  
Viroqua Big Book  
Wauwaukee Wauna Meeting  
Waupun H.O.W.  
Wautoma Tuesday  
West Point Winners  
Woman Saturday Serenity  
Working Step Grp

**Corrections/Treatment Fund**

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

**Individuals**

Anonymous  
John D. for Earl German  
Tom S.

**Gratitude Month**

A Vision for You  
Baraboo Beginner's  
Baraboo Thurs. Letting Go  
Beaver Dam Sat Night  
Beaver Dam Sun Serenity  
Big Book Thumpers  
Boscobel Thursday  
Dodgeville Dntowners  
Exit 164  
Experience, Strength & Hope  
Eye Opener  
Fel-O-Ship  
Good Fellowship  
Happy Hour  
Janesville Early Risers  
Janesville TNT  
Janesville WOW  
Liberty House  
Lost in the Woods Womens  
Mon Night Madness  
New Voices  
Platteville Monday Night  
Poynette-DeKorra  
Rock River Grp  
Slackers Grp  
Sisters in Service  
Stoughton Grps  
The 1728 Group  
There is a Solution  
Turning Point Grp  
Watertown Mon 10am  
Watertown ODAT  
Watertown Women's Serenity

**Answering Service**

Early Risers  
Easy Does It But Do It

**Faithful Fiver**

Larry L.  
Mary S.

# Maybe I Can Help You?

## What to say when a newcomer asks for your advice? One woman discovers that sobriety has given her the ability to find just the right healing words

Last night I attended an AA meeting I hadn't been to in a couple years, mainly because of scheduling rather than anything about the meeting. My sponsor, who is active in that meeting, is on a long weekend vacation and wasn't in attendance.

Two women who also have her as their sponsor were at that meeting, much to my pleasant surprise. I like them both. On the surface, they couldn't be more different from me. They're both young, been in and out of the rooms a few times, and have been addicted to drugs I never even heard of. One is sober/clean three months, the other five months. I'm the middle-aged housewife with the fulltime job, house, and car, who drank too much wine at home alone. I haven't relapsed after three years and don't plan on having that experience.

My conversations with them (one before the meeting and the other after the meeting) went like this:

**Women:** Where's [Sponsor]?

**Me:** She's at [fun holiday location]. I imagine she'll be back by Monday.

**Women:** Oh...I was hoping to see her. There's something I need to ask her.

**Me:** [trying to stay out of whatever it is] OK.

**Women:** Maybe you can help me.

My first thought: my sponsor always knows what to say. She just opens her mouth and words of wisdom come spilling out. I open my mouth and spew garbage! Why didn't I stay home and watch Netflix instead? I never know what to say! Dear God, why are you doing this to me? I'm not her sponsor! I wanna go home! I want my mommy!

**Me:** [appearing *much* calmer than I feel] Sure, what's up?

Both women tell me the pain and agony in their heart. I fight back my tears while holding each of them. I've seen my sponsor do that, so I do it, too. We relate on a very elementary level because we did what we did to avoid feeling those powerful emotions. I shared my hurts and assured both women that it's OK to feel those emotions again. We don't need the alcohol or drugs to hide the pain. God will heal them (and me) on his schedule and not necessarily as quickly as we would like. Each thanks me for listening and giving sound advice. All I did was open my mouth and words came out. Apparently healing words each needs to hear to stay sober for another 24 hours.

Yes, I trust God—just not all the time and not entirely. I always feel that anxiety when someone wants my thoughts on a problem. I'm so afraid of saying the wrong thing I have often chosen to say nothing. That's definitely one of my character defects. I'm learning, though, and each time gets a little easier. I also need to remember not to get cocky. Sometimes my mind wanders into the "I'm Miss AA and full of spirituality" territory. Gotta watch that tendency, too.

Trying to stay humble and sober one day at a time.

-- Annie E.

Cleveland, Ohio

Published January 2018.

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### Grapevine Quote

“Win or Lose”

Escondido, CA, August 2001

“My sponsor...gave me some good advice. “Take the words *success* and *failure* out of your vocabulary. Replace them with *honesty* and *effort*.”

# By the Book

New to sponsorship, she turned to the Big Book to help her help newcomers



One day during my morning meditation, I became aware that I was not fulfilling my purpose in AA. I wasn't carrying the message of recovery through sponsoring others. I knew I needed to get into action. But there was a slight problem. I had not been asked to sponsor anyone for 22 out of the 26 years I had been sober.

I didn't know how that could be changed. I felt God was responsible to put something together and I trusted him.

Within an hour, while at a meeting, I was approached by a woman who asked me to sponsor her. That day marked the beginning of a new phase. My life opened up as I did Twelfth Step work with others.

In just one week, six people asked me to sponsor them. Within a month, six more asked me as well! I had my work cut out for me.

As I went through the Big Book with these newcomers, I found the use of the Preface and forewords a wonderful introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous. The pages give newcomers a rich history of how AA grew and introduces them to the importance of the Traditions. The chapter, "The Doctor's Opinion" gives a full explanation of alcoholism from Dr. Silkworth. And we would proceed through the book from there.

It amazes me why I never thought to use the Big Book to bring people through the Steps before. Sponsees are not following my suggestions—they are following Bill's suggestions. The legacy Bill W. left behind is a real treasure. One-on-one reading and sharing about the book with new members is a highlight to my days.

-- Anonymous  
Fresno, California

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## DAILY REFLECTIONS

September 28

### LOVE WITHOUT STRINGS

*Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.*

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, p. 89

Sponsorship held two surprises for me. First, that my sponsees cared about me. What I had thought was gratitude was more like love. They want me to be happy, to grow and remain sober. Knowing how they felt kept me from drinking more than once. Second, I discovered that I was able to love someone else responsibly, with respectful and genuine concern for that person's growth. Before that time, I had thought that my ability to care sincerely about another's well-being had atrophied from lack of use. To learn that I can love, without greed or anxiety, has been one of the deepest gifts the program has given me. Gratitude for that gift has kept me sober many times.

**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 [info@aamadisonwi.org](mailto: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\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_