

THE MAICO GAAZETTE

JANUARY – MARCH 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

THEME: Life on Life's Terms

BY: RICK M. | EAST SETAUKET, N.Y.

Life doesn't have to be all doom and gloom—sobriety is about happiness, enjoyment, and laughter

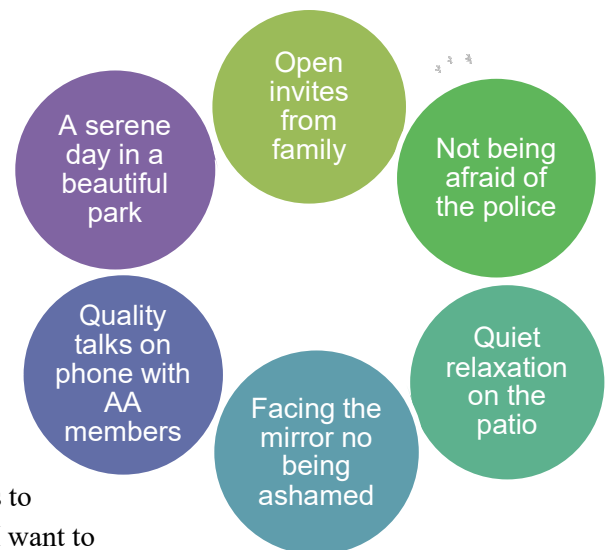
Yeah, *life is sometimes tough, really tough*. Sometimes it requires much help from those I have a respect for, and with whom I have lost my fears. These people help me get through these hard times, as long as I let them know that I am having hard times. My support group, left in the ignorance of my condition, cannot support. It is a lose-lose situation for all, and a dangerous one for the newcomer.

Whenever I hear the expression “**life on life's terms**,” it always refers to *accepting the hardships of life*. Must this be the case? For a moment, I want to consider all the pleasures that come my way almost every day. I am well aware of the consistent upward climb on a trail. more so than the consistent downward grade that accompanies a day of hiking. *My new way of living has given me so many gifts that it is time for me to take these great days, and consider them to also a part of life.*

These are the gifts that the sober life has given me. “**Life on life's terms**” doesn't have to be a listing of *diseases, death, divorce, and job loss*. It can be a list of the good things that will happen to me because I now have a life, thanks to A.A.

This “**life on life's terms**” is really a great thing! It should be said more often and with more smiles and laughter. I must never believe it has no right being on my life list. So much of real life has happened since I quit drinking. I also wonder if our enjoyment of life is greater than what non-alcoholics experience. I think it might be. In my own life, just going out in public and not being afraid of who I might bump into is a freedom that I am aware of.

Non-alcoholics might not recognize this as “freedom.” But I do.



MY BEST DAY SOBER

GRAPEVINE – DECEMBER 2020 – BRIAN G. LUBBOCK, TEXAS

My name is Brian, and I am an alcoholic. In my area of Texas, we usually give the date on which our continuous sobriety began. This, of course, is optional, but I seldom have heard anyone share their strength, hope, and experience in AA who did not at some time during the course of the conversation make reference to how long they have been sober. *I have not had a drink of alcohol since January 1, 1964.* I was thirty-eight, middle-aged and young, at the time, and now I am middle-aged and older.

I tell you this to explain that I have had over 13,000 days of continuous sobriety in AA, and life in general has been good. ***In retrospect, some of my best days sober might not have been the happiest days, and some of my saddest days were not my worst days sober.*** In fact, some of my better days in sobriety may have been those days when I knew that a drink would have temporarily reduced the pain, but I did not drink.

It was a very sad day when my wife received word that she had been diagnosed with "the big C." **But I did not consider taking a drink,** so it was a very good day. It was a very happy day when the doctor announced that surgery had corrected the problem completely. **I did not need to drink** to celebrate, so it was a very good day. It was a very sad day when our baby son was diagnosed as having a seemingly unacceptable birth defect. **I did not need a drink,** so it was a very good day. It was a very happy day when the doctor announced that the problem had been completely corrected. **I did not need a drink** to celebrate, so it was a very good day.

I have had the God-given privilege of walking through many dark valleys with friends who could not or would not accept this simple program of



sobriety, but I stayed sober, so these were good days for me. I have shared the joy of walking on many mountaintops as I watched seemingly hopeless alcoholics obtain and maintain continuous sobriety. **These were good days.** There have been deaths of relatives and friends through suicide and murder, accidents, and illness. ***But I stayed sober, so these were not all bad days for me, either.***

My brother's son did not like war, but he willingly went to Vietnam. He was eighteen. During the very first hour of his very first day of action, he was killed. This was not a good day, but before joining AA, I might have become bitter. So in a sense, this was not as bad a day as it could have been, for me.

There have been too many thousands of days and too many seemingly miraculous events in my sober AA life for me to single out one day as the best. So in keeping with one of the last things our beloved co-founder Dr. Bob told his friend and co-founder Bill W., I have adopted the philosophy of ***"Keep it simple."*** ***Therefore, since today marks not only the last day of my life to this date, but also the first day of the rest of my life,*** and since I have come to believe that the best is yet to come,

**I think today has been
my best day sober.**

INCOME STATEMENT

REVENUES

	<u>Jan- Oct 2020</u>	<u>Jan-Oct 2019</u>
Donations – Groups	34,008.71	38,378.76
Donations – Events	309.74	795.59
Individual Donations	21,293.15	3,157.96
Donations – Answering Service	0.00	135.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	1,035.61	690.51
Conference Literature	13,054.12	23,469.37
Non-Conference Literature	4,844.85	7,473.86
Non-Conference Merchandise	9,230.17	15,370.58
Grapevine Literature	712.06	1,746.00
Faithful Fivers	507.36	202.00
Directories	145.00	747.25
Savings Account Income	5.73	8.18
Other Income	77.96	398.14
Sales Tax Discount	80.00	83.14
Uncategorized Income	<u>54.76</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>85,359.22</u>	<u>92,656.34</u>

COST OF SALES

Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	7,517.68	14,557.68
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	2,384.84	4,313.46
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	4,039.39	10,460.65
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	574.59	755.17
Inventory Exp – Directories	0.00	-883.18
Total Cost of Sales	<u>14,516.50</u>	<u>29,203.78</u>
Gross Profit	<u>70,842.72</u>	<u>63,452.56</u>

EXPENSES

Wages Expense	35,996.40	36,986.20
Employee Medical Reimbursement	1,600.00	1,600.00
Payroll Tax Expense	2,753.73	2,829.44
Credit Card Processing Costs	654.38	743.26
License and Fees Expense	134.55	59.00
Office Supplies/Expense	2,192.41	1,732.54
Computer Maintenance Expense	2,500.00	2,500.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	2,430.06	1,297.91
Telephone/Internet Expense	1,853.44	1,458.50
Answering Service Expense	5,014.18	4,717.66
Advertising in Phone Book	178.00	880.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.39	-0.57
Postage and Shipping Expense	112.52	194.62
Occupancy Expense	8,434.00	8,230.00
Insurance Expense	669.00	671.00
Printing Expense	180.00	930.20
Directory Printing Expense	0.00	1,202.00
Travel Expense	156.81	435.80
Conference Expense	0.00	170.00
MAICO Reps Events Expense	240.07	356.54
Other Expense	0.00	23.16
Over Under Cash on Hand	<u>0.00</u>	<u>24.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>65,099.16</u>	<u>67,041.26</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$5,743.56</u>	<u>\$-3,588.70</u>

UPCOMING EVENTS 2021



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 - All Live Gatherings on Hold until further notice

Many Events on Zoom

Go to www.aamadisonwi.org for on-line meetings and events

Also go to www.aa-intergroup.org –

The AA Online Intergroup for meetings and events



UPCOMING EVENTS – 2021

Jan 7 – Feb 11 – The A.A. Service Manual, A Study of the First 12 Chapters – Virtual –

Thursdays – 6:00pm-7:30pm Central Time – Flyer and information on MAICO Website

February 18 – 21, 2021 – 57th Virtual International Women's Conference, The Westin Charlotte, Charlotte, NC For updates & online registration: www.InternationalWomensConference.org

November 6, 2021 - 25th MAICO Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop, Trinity Church, Madison, WI.

November 12 – 14 – Area 75 Annual Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous, “Our Great Responsibility”

LaCrosse Center, LaCrosse, WI. Hosted by District 1

THANK YOU'S – DONATIONS



Group Donations

A Few Simple Rules Grp
A Way of Life Grp
Any Lengths Grp
Beloit Happy Hour Grp
Belmont Thursday Grp
Cross Plains Unity
Darlington Grp
DeForest Grp
District 8
Dodgeville Downtown Grp
Dry Docs Grp
Early Risers
Fel-O-Ship Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Free Thinkers
Ft. Atkinson Tuesday Night Big Book
Happy Hour Grp in WI. Dells
Into Action
It's A God Thing Grp
Key's to the Kingdom Grp
Lake Wingra Serenity Grp
Living Sober Grp
Mauston Friday Night Fellowship
Mauston Wednesday Afternoon
Mineral Pt Grapevine Grp
Monticello 12 & 12
New Glarus Sobrietyfest Grp
Poynette Dekorra Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Rock River Grp
Sauk City Early Risers
Sauk Prairie AA
Spring Green Read n Lead
St. Francis Thursday Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit
Sunrise Serenity
Sunshine Grp
There is a Solution Grp
Tuesday Night Workshop
Turning Point Grp
Watertown One Day at a Time Grp
Watertown Wed. Night Moravian
Waunakee Wauna Meeting
Waupun H.O.W.
White River Study Grp
Working Step Grp

Individual Donations

Andie C.
Andrew D.
Andrew K.

Anne Marie P.
Anonymous Donations
Bill R.

Bob L.
Charles B.
Cheryl V.
Chris M.
Christine P.
Colleen H.
Craig C.
Craig S.
Dale W.
Dana A.
Dave J.
Dave M.
Dawn Marie Z.
Dennis G.
Doug C.
Duane B.
Eileen P.
Fazel H.
George C.
Greg F.
Janine W.
Jeff F.
Jeff T.
Joe N.
John B.
John M.
Joseph G.
Karen D.
Karen K.
Kerry O'N
Larry L.
Larry P.
Leah B.
Linda G.
Linda H.
Lisa H.
Liz H.
Lori W.
Maggie O'L
Marcy J.
Mary A.
Mary C.
Mary S.
Nancy S.
Nichole F.
Pam & Scott J.
Patrick S.
Paul A.
Paul J.

Paul M.
Peggy E.
Phinn M.
Rachel P.
Raymond L.
Red C.
Richard H.
Richard P.
Ryan W.
Sally K.
Shelley H.
Sheila M.
Steve A.
Sue M.
Tim C.
Tisa K.
Warren H.
William D.

Corrections Treatment Fund

Early Risers
Living Sober Grp

Faithful Fivers

Larry L.
Nancy S.

Gratitude Donations

Cassie R.
Darci B.
Dodgeville Downtown Grp
Geraldine C.
Greg S.
Henry
James L.
Jillene K.
Judy Z.
Mark C.
Matthew A.
Mike G.
Patrick S.
Rick & Ardith F.
Ryan S.
Steve T.
Tina B.

THE HARD DAYS

GRAPEVINE – AUGUST 1970 – E.M.K.
SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA



After sobriety, we may still have problems to work through. But somehow, we are given the power to cope.

THE DAY after my first AA anniversary, I left Los Angeles headed for New York on a two-week vacation. My husband and son would be at the airport.

Eight months earlier, when I'd left New York "for all time, no one saw me off as I boarded a train for a new life in the West. I was saying goodbye to a broken home, and a broken marriage. ***I had faith in my Higher Power***, and I had the strength that four months of AA had given me.

When I came jauntily down the passageway, they looked ill-at-ease, miserable creatures. ***My exhilaration left me.***

Some communication was made during my stay, but the words were as if a stranger. It was clearly evident to me that my ***one year of sobriety wasn't erasing ten years of pain***. My husband had no plans for patching up our marriage, and my son had even less interest in reentering college.

On the morning to return to Los Angeles, the drive was in cold silence. I refused to talk to either my son or my husband. During the flight, I was practically motionless. One message rang in my ears: "Nobody wants a drunk." I had left behind, my two daughters in Los Angeles, with little contact and my mother in a residence for the elderly. ***The mistake I had made was expecting my family to jump with glee because I was sober.*** I had pushed aside the years of drinking with much damage.

During my yearly checkup the following month, the doctor discovered I had a hernia and suggested I have it taken care of at once. On my way to the hospital, I poured out my woes to the cab driver. ***"I'm having an operation," I said, "and I don't even have one person to give me a lift to the hospital!"*** He said, ***"Listen, lady. I had a double hernia. And I drove myself to the hospital and back!"***

My two daughters tiptoed into the room the night of my surgery, but I was heavily sedated and couldn't appreciate their visit. There were no other visitors, cards or phone calls. The one cheery note: a good report from the doctor, saying that the operation had gone well. I could have phoned many AA members and said, "Look, I've just had an operation and I'm lonely. Please, may I talk with you for a few minutes?" But no. ***My false and foolish pride held me back.***

Only through honest, struggling, and prayer did I begin to meet my Creator. No wonder I wrote this sentence one morning in my diary: "Thank you, God, for the hard days." When I glanced at the page weeks later, I was amazed. It was as though someone else had written the words.

Three steps pulled me through—

Step One: We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.

After I acknowledged that I was an alcoholic and that alcohol had complete control over my life.

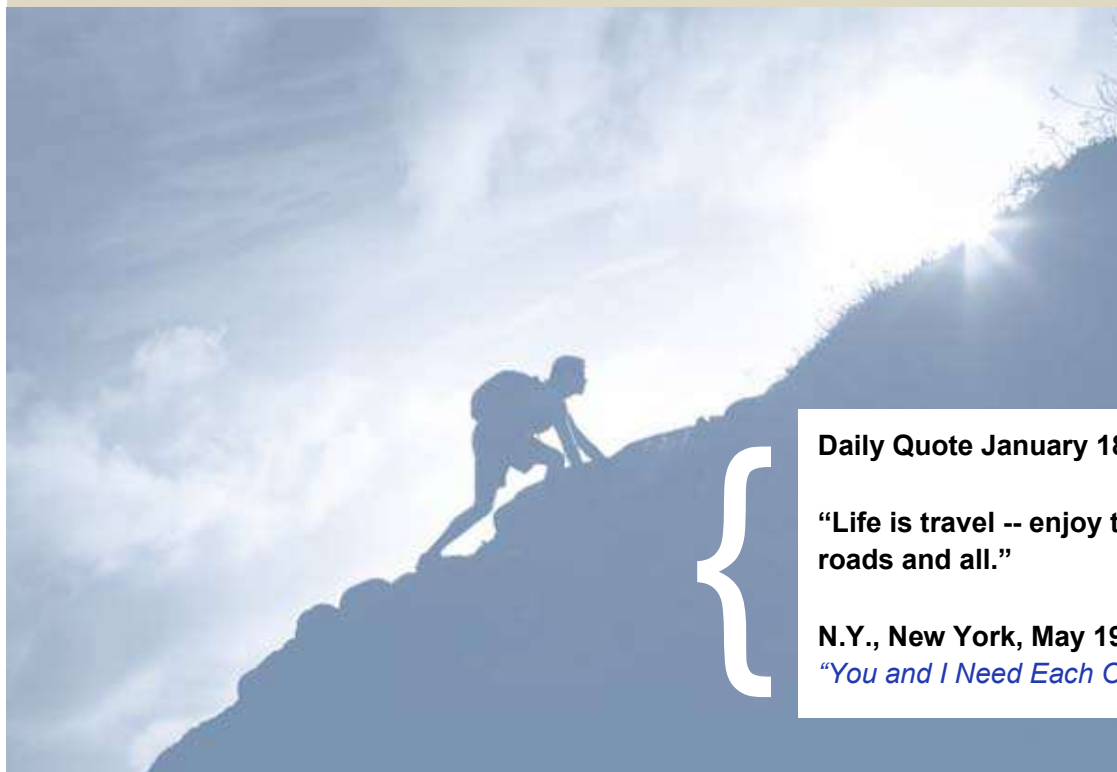
Step Three: Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over the care of God as we understood Him.

Step Eleven: Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

They have always had a strong hold on me. Prayer (even when I was feeling mean and resentful) was in my heart

After storming my way through the miserable days to recovery, I thanked God for being beside me, for giving me the strength not to order that bottle in moments of desperation. I learned that when a night is dark and lonely and pain is near, but hope is far away, if I name the blessings I have been given--and they include my second chance at life--then the morning comes very quickly

QUOTES Getting through hard times



Daily Quote January 18 2014

"Life is travel -- enjoy the journey, bumpy roads and all."

N.Y., New York, May 1977

"You and I Need Each Other," AA Grapevine

Quote April 15, 2017

"Every day will bring me **challenges**, but now I have the spiritual tools to cope with **life on life's terms**. I am no longer the prisoner of my past, my wants, my sorrows, my addictions."

October 2002

"On My Knees into the World Wide Web of Recovery," Spiritual Awakenings II

Grapevine Daily Quote February 25

"Let us always love the best in others -- and never fear their worst."

AA Co-Founder, Bill W., January 1962,

"This Matter of Fear," The Language of the Heart

Grapevine Daily Quote May 22

"The program tells me that in order to recover I must be *willing* to develop a manner of living that demands rigorous honesty. So when I retire at night, I ask myself: Is there something that I should discuss with another person at once? What do I not want to share? Do I feel any guilt? Am I worried about something? Fearful? What was my thought-life like today?"

"These questions spur me to talk to someone. ***The more I share, the more I live in integrity; and the more I live in integrity, the more at peace I am with myself, and the more useful I can be to God and my fellows.***"

Enumclaw, Washington, May 2003,

"As Real as I Can Be," Step By Step

Madison Area Intergroup Central Office, Inc.
2000 Engel St., Suite 104
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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)

ANNOUNCING:

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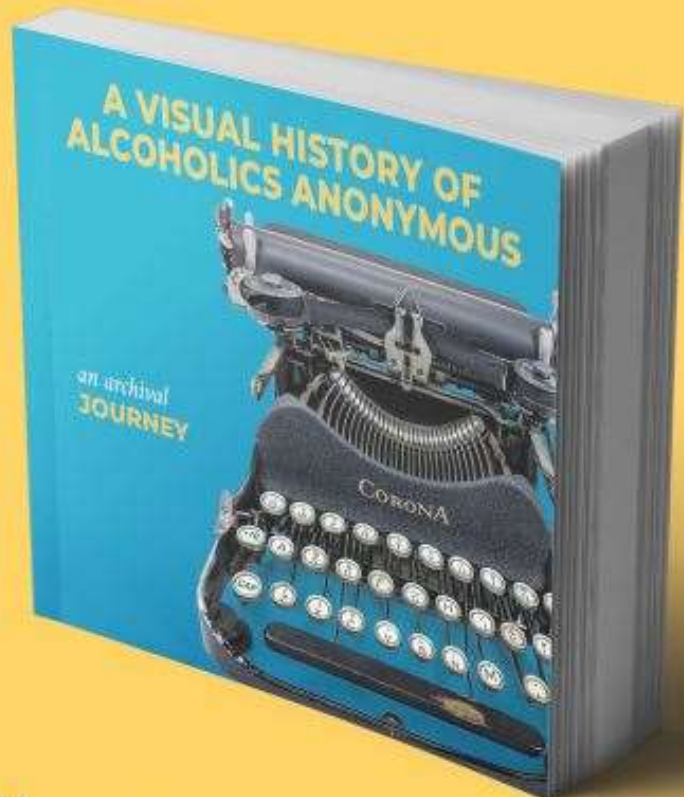
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\$11

A VISUAL HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:

An Archival Journey

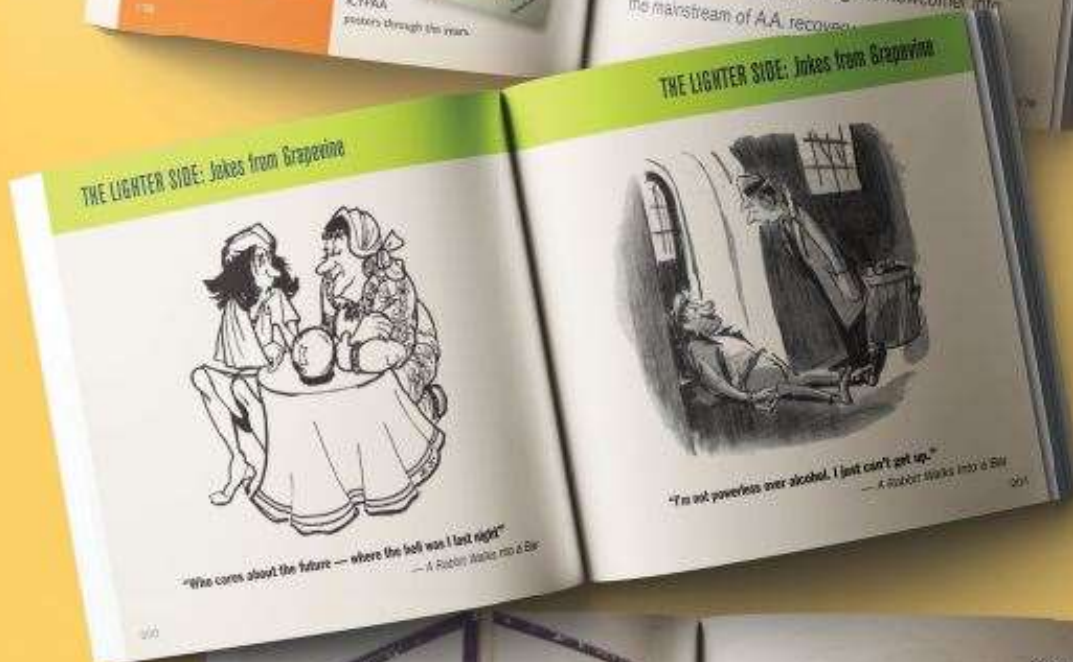
Lavishly illustrated, this lively tour through A.A.'s history is told in hundreds of iconic images never before published in one volume. Illuminating descriptions walk us through powerful moments in our shared history — from the people, places and things integral to A.A.'s early growth, and forward to today's vibrant, international Fellowship. Includes a special focus on Detroit in A.A.'s history and updated coverage of recent innovations in A.A. group life. 4.75" x 3.75", 416 pages.



Release date: **February 14, 2021**

Special pre-order discount: **Save \$1 on every copy!**

**Originally developed as the souvenir book for the
2020 International Convention in Detroit.**



ORDER FORM

A.A.W.S. encourages ordering of literature and other items via your local groups, intergroups and central offices.

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~~\$12~~

\$11

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Offer ends January 31, 2021

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