

# THE MAICO GAAZETTE

JULY – SEPTEMBER 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: The Origins of AA

### What We Were Like - Alcoholics and God

BY: MORRIS MARKEY DA | SEPTEMBER 1996

*In September 1939, the first national article about Alcoholics Anonymous appeared, published in **Liberty Magazine** and written by a freelance journalist named **Morris Markey**. You will see that this article differs, in some significant ways, from AA history as we know it. But it's a sympathetic account of AA and its publication was a real break for the fledgling society, which had just published the **Big Book** and was struggling to make ends meet. About 800 letters came into AA "headquarters" in response to the article. Bill W. later wrote: "We carefully answered each one, not forgetting to enclose a book order blank. Orders soon began to come in and, helped by still more letters from our little office on Vesey Street, and by traveling AA members, new groups started up."*



For twenty-five or thirty cents we buy a glass of fluid which is pleasant to the taste, and which contains within its small measure a store of warmth and good fellowship and stimulation, of release from momentary cares and anxieties. That would be a drink of whiskey, of course--whiskey, which is one of Nature's most generous gifts to man, and at the same time one of his most elusive problems. **It is a problem because, like many of his greatest benefits, man does not quite know how to control it.**

Many experiments have been made, the most spectacular being the queer nightmare of prohibition, which left such deep scars upon the morals and the manners of our nation. Millions of dollars have been spent by philanthropists and crusaders to spread the doctrine of temperance. In our time, the most responsible of the distillers are urging us to use their wares sensibly, without excess.

**Continued page 2**

## Continued – What We Were Like

BY: MORRIS MARKEY DA | SEPTEMBER 1996 ORIGINAL 1939



But to a certain limited number of our countrymen neither prohibition nor wise admonishments have any meaning, because they are helpless when it comes to obeying them.

**I speak of the true alcoholics and before going any further I had best explain what that term means.**

For a medical definition of the term, I quote an eminent doctor who has spent twenty-five years treating such people in a highly regarded private hospital:

*“We believe. . . that the action of alcohol in chronic alcoholics is a manifestation of an allergy--that the phenomenon of craving is limited to this class and never occurs in the average temperate drinker. These allergic types can never safely use alcohol in any form at all.”*

They are, he goes on, *touched with physical and mental quirks* which prevent them from controlling their own actions. They suffer from what some doctors call a “compulsion neurosis.” They know liquor is bad for them but, periodically, they are driven by a violent and totally uncontrollable desire for a drink. And after that first drink, the deluge.

***Now these people are genuinely sick. The liquor habit with them is not a vice. It is a specific illness of body and mind, and should be treated as such.***

By far the most successful cure is used by the hospital whose head doctor I have quoted. There is nothing secret about it. It has the endorsement of the medical profession. ***It is, fundamentally, a process of dehydration: of removing harmful toxins from all parts of the body faster than nature could accomplish it. Within five or six days--two weeks at the maximum--the patient's body is utterly free from alcoholic poisons. Which means that the physical craving is completely cured, because the body cries out for alcohol only when alcohol is already there.*** The patient has no feeling of revulsion toward whiskey. He simply is not interested in it. *He has recovered.* **But wait.** How permanent is his recovery?

Our doctor says this: “Though the aggregate of full recoveries through physical and psychiatric effort is considerable, **doctors must admit that we have made little impression upon the problem as a whole.** *For there are many types which do not respond to the psychological approach.*

**“I do not believe that true alcoholism is entirely a matter of individual mental control.** I have had many men who had, for example, worked for a period of months on some business deal which was to be settled on a certain date. . . For reasons they could not explain, they took a drink a day or two prior to the date. . . and the important engagement was not even kept. These men were not drinking to escape. They were drinking to overcome a craving beyond their mental

*“There is the type who is unwilling to admit that he cannot take a drink just like the rest of the boys. He does tricks with his drinking--changing his brand, or drinking only after meals, or changing his companions. None of this helps him strengthen his control and be like other people. Then there are types entirely normal in every respect except the effect which alcohol had upon them. . .*

“All these, and many others, have one symptom in common: They cannot start drinking without developing the phenomenon of craving. . . **The only relief we have to suggest is complete abstinence from alcohol.**”

But are these unfortunate people really capable, mentally, of abstaining completely? Their bodies may be cured of craving. Can their minds be cured? Can they be rid of the deadly “compulsion neurosis”?

**Among physicians the general opinion seems to be that chronic alcoholics are doomed.**

**But wait!**

### **The classification of alcoholic's is most difficult:**

There are, of course, the psychopaths who are emotionally unstable. They are over-remorseful and make many resolutions--but never a decision.

**Continued page 3**

## Continued – What We Were Like

BY: MORRIS MARKEY DA | SEPTEMBER 1996 ORIGINAL 1939



Within the last four years, evidence has appeared which has *startled hard-boiled medical men* by proving that the compulsion neurosis can be entirely eliminated. Perhaps you are one of those cynical people who will turn away when I say that the root of this new discovery is religion. But be patient for a moment.

About three years ago [editor's note: it was closer to five] a man appeared at the hospital in New York of which our doctor is head physician. **It was his third "cure."** Since his first visit he had lost his job, his friends, his health, and his self-respect. He was now living on the earnings of his wife.

He had tried every method he could find to cure his disease: had read all the great philosophers and psychologists. He had tried religion but he simply could not accept it. It would not seem real and personal to him.

He went through the cure as usual, and came out of it in very low spirits. *He was lying in bed, emptied of vitality and thought, when suddenly, a strange and totally unexpected thrill went through his body and mind. He called out for the doctor. When the doctor came in, the man looked up at him and grinned.*

"Well, doc," he said, "*my troubles are all over. I've got religion.*"

"Why, you're the last man. . ."

"Sure. I know all that. But I've got it. And I know I'm cured of this drinking business for good."

He talked with great intensity for a while and then said, "**Listen, doc. I've got to see some other patient--one that is about to be dismissed.**"

The doctor demurred. It all sounded a trifle fanatical. But finally he consented. **And thus was born the movement which is now flourishing with almost sensational success as "Alcoholics Anonymous."**

**HERE IS HOW IT WORKS**

*When he has convinced the man that he is a true alcoholic and must never drink again, he continues:*

**"You had better admit that this thing is beyond your own control.** You've tried to solve it by yourself, and you have failed. **All right. Why not put the whole thing into the hands of Somebody Else?"**

Even though the man might be an atheist or agnostic, he will almost always admit that there is some sort of force operating in the world--some cosmic power weaving a design. And his new friend will say:

**"I don't care what you call this Somebody Else. We call it God. But whatever you want to call it, you had better put yourself into its hands.** Just admit you're licked, and say, 'Here I am, Somebody Else. Take care of this thing for me.'"

*The new subject will generally consent to attend one of the weekly meetings of the movement.*

*He will find twenty-five or thirty ex-drunks gathered in somebody's home for a pleasant evening. There are no sermons. The talk is gay or serious as the mood strikes. The new candidate cannot avoid saying to himself, "These birds are ex-drunks. And look at them! They must have something. It sounds kind of screwy, but whatever it is I wish to heaven I could get it too."*

One or another of the members keeps working on him from day to day. And presently the miracle--But let me give you an example: I sat down in a quiet room with Mr. B., a stockily built man of fifty with a rather stern, intelligent face.

**Continued page 4**

## Continued – What We Were Like

BY: MORRIS MARKEY DA | SEPTEMBER 1996 ORIGINAL 1939



“I’ll tell you what happened a year ago,” he said.

**“I was completely washed up. Financially I was all right. But I was a drunken bum. My family was crazy with my incessant sprees.**

“I took the cure in New York.” “When I came out of it, the doctor suggested I go to these meetings the boys were holding. I just laughed. My father was an atheist and had taught me to be one. But the doctor kept saying it wouldn’t do me any harm, and I went.

“I sat around listening to the jabber. It didn’t register with me at all. I went home. But the next week I found myself drawn to the meeting. And again they worked on me while I shook my head. I said, ‘It seems O.K. with you, boys, but I don’t even know your language. Count me out.’

*“Somebody said the Lord’s Prayer, and the meeting broke up. I walked to the subway station. As I was about to go down the stairs--bang!” He snapped his fingers hard. “It happened! I don’t like that word miracle, but that’s all I can call it. The lights in the street seemed to flare up. My feet seemed to leave the pavement. A shiver went over me, and I burst out crying.*

“I went back to the house where we had met, and rang the bell, and Bill let me in. We talked until two o’clock in the morning. *I haven’t touched a drop since, and I’ve set four other fellows on the same road.*”

The doctor, a nonreligious man himself, was utterly astonished at the results that began to appear among his patients. Then he put his psychiatry and psychology knowledge to work.

These men were experiencing a psychic change. Their so-called “compulsion neurosis” was being altered--transferred from liquor to something else. Their psychological necessity to drink was being changed to a psychological necessity to rescue their fellow victims from the plight that made themselves so miserable.

It is not a new idea. **It is a powerful and effective working out of an old idea.** We all know that the alcoholic has an urge to share his troubles. Psychoanalysts use this urge. They say to the alcoholic, in basic terms: “*You can’t lick this yourself. Give me the problem--transfer the whole thing to me and let me take the whole responsibility.*” But the psychoanalyst, being of human clay, is not often a big enough man for that job. The patient simply cannot generate enough confidence in him. But the patient can have enough confidence in God--once he has gone through the mystical experience of recognizing God. And upon that principle the Alcoholic Foundation rests.

The medical profession, in general, accepts the principle as sound.

“**Alcoholics Anonymous**” have consolidated their activities in an organization called the **Alcoholic Foundation**. It is a nonprofit-making enterprise. Nobody connected with it is paid a penny. It is not a crusading movement. It condemns neither liquor nor the liquor industry. Its whole concern is with the rescue of allergic alcoholics, the small proportion of the population who must be cured or perish. It preaches no particular religion and has no dogma, no rules. ***Every man conceives God according to his own lights.***

Groups have grown up in other cities. The affairs of the Foundation are managed by three members of the movement and four prominent business and professional men, not alcoholics, who volunteered their services.

**The Foundation has lately published a book, called *Alcoholics Anonymous*.** And if alcoholism is a problem in your family or among your friends, I heartily recommend that you get hold of a copy. It may very well help you to guide a sick man--an allergic alcoholic--on the way to

# INCOME STATEMENT

<b>INCOME</b>	<b><u>Jan-May 2021</u></b>	<b><u>Jan-May 2020</u></b>
Donations – Groups	15,488.30	17,054.24
Donations – Events	0.00	309.74
Individual Donations	5,455.80	12,181.08
Donations – Answering Service	125.00	0.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	78.83	1,035.61
Conference Literature	7,232.11	8,164.05
Non-Conference Literature	2,451.50	2,030.22
Non-Conference Merchandise	5,195.76	4,748.94
Grapevine Literature	385.30	472.71
Faithful Fivers	215.00	122.36
Directories	0.00	128.00
Savings Account Income	1.63	1.65
Other Income	73.45	70.41
Sales Tax Discount	40.00	40.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>36,742.68</u></b>	<b><u>46,359.01</u></b>
 <b>COST OF GOODS SOLD</b>		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	4,151.21	5,452.50
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	1,544.96	901.32
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	3,703.28	1,728.48
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	0.00	244.84
<b>Total Cost of Goods Sold</b>	<b><u>9,399.45</u></b>	<b><u>8,327.14</u></b>
 <b>Gross Profit</b>	<b><u>27,343.23</u></b>	<b><u>38,031.87</u></b>
 <b>EXPENSES</b>		
Wages Expense	17,776.00	17,755.80
Employee Medical Reimbursement	800.00	800.00
Payroll Tax Expense	1,359.86	1,358.32
Credit Card Processing Costs	323.51	336.51
License and Fees Expense	135.21	115.22
Office Supplies/Expense	285.69	1,079.04
Computer Maintenance Expense	1,550.00	1,250.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	40.00	1,475.09
Telephone/Internet Expense	900.10	867.01
Answering Service Expense	2,652.31	2,730.49
Advertising in Phone Book	0.00	178.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.27	-0.20
Postage and Shipping Expense	-8.38	98.49
Occupancy Expense	4,280.00	4,175.00
Insurance Expense	997.00	669.00
Printing Expense	531.00	180.00
Travel Expense	0.00	156.81
MAICO Reps Events Expense	0.00	240.07
 <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>31,622.03</u></b>	<b><u>33,464.65</u></b>
 <b>NET INCOME</b>	<b><u>-\$4,278.80</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,567.22</u></b>



# DONATIONS

*Thank You for Your Support!*

## Group Donations

1728 Grp  
A Few Simple Rules  
A Way of Life Grp (A.W.O.L.)  
Beaver Dam Sunday Serenity  
Capital Steps  
Come & Get It  
Darlington Uptown Grp  
DeForest Progress Grp  
District 20  
District 30  
District 31  
District 35  
Early Risers  
Family Afterward  
Foxhall Recovery  
Good Fellowship  
Grapevine Grp  
Hwy. 21 Open Discussion  
Into Action  
It's a God Thing  
Keep It Simple  
Living Sober  
Madison Saturday Night Live  
Madison WICYPAA  
Mauston Friday Night Fellowship  
Mauston Wednesday Afternoon  
Midvale High Nooners  
Mineral Point Trinity Grapevine  
Monroe Early Birds  
Monroe New Beginnings  
Monticello 12 & 12  
New Glarus Sobriety Fest  
Portage 207 Grp  
Portage 731 Grp  
Prairie Dock Grp  
Room to Grow  
Saturday Morning Miracles  
Sauk Early Risers  
Sauk Prairie Grp  
Sisters in Service  
St. Andy's 7am  
St. Dunstan's Beginners  
Steps to Success  
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTs)  
Sun Prairie Eye Opener  
Sunrise Serenity  
Thank God I'm Sober  
The Way Out Grp  
Tuesday Night Workshop  
Watertown Wed Night Moravian  
White River Study Grp

## Individual Donations

Alice S. J.  
Amelia L.  
Anne D.  
  
Anonymous-memory of Patricia J.  
Anonymous  
Bob F.  
Bob W.  
Cheryl V.  
Chris B.  
Chris M.  
Connie D.  
Dale W.  
Dennis G.  
Dona C.  
Duane B.  
Eileen P.  
Fazel H.  
Frederick J.  
Greg F.  
Greg U.  
Jacob T.  
Jeffery T.  
Jessica S.  
Jon C.  
Karen K.  
Kevin P.  
Larry L.  
Les S.  
Lin W.  
Lori W.  
Margaret C.  
Margaret M.  
Mary A.  
Mary C.  
Mary S.  
Patrick S.  
Richard A.  
Rhonda P. for Chris W.  
Stephanie E.  
Sue M.  
Tina P.  
Tom L.  
Tom S.  
Warren H.

## Corrections

### Treatment Fund

Early Risers  
Living Sober

### Faithful Fivers

Larry L.  
Mary S.

### Answering Service

Early Risers

An anonymous individual sent a donation for a big book that was given to him in treatment. He is 5 years sober.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

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** at [www.area75.org](http://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.*

## MANY EVENTS ON ZOOM

[www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org) – ONLINE MEETINGS & EVENTS

[www.aa-intergroup.org](http://www.aa-intergroup.org) –AA ONLINE INTERGROUP - MEETINGS & EVENTS

## EVENTS JUNE – NOVEMBER 2021

18 <sup>th</sup> Lake Wingra Open AA meeting Kayak or Canoe meeting	June 1 <sup>st</sup> – Aug. 31, 2021	6pm-6:15pm, arrival at Wingra Canoe & Sailing Center, 826 Knickerbocker (off Monroe St.), 6:30pm Meeting begins “somewhere” on Lake Wingra	For more Information contact Carrie B. 608-235-1028 or <a href="mailto:cborman58@gmail.com">cborman58@gmail.com</a>
Richland Center Group Picnic	Aug. 15, 2021	Krouskop Park – The Retrum Shelter	Group will supply meat, please bring a dish to pass. <b>Eat at Noon.</b> Speaker: Moriah Z. from Gays Mills. Sorry, RC Parks Dept allows no pets
41 <sup>st</sup> Green Lake Roundup, Green Lake Conference Center	August 13, 14 & 15	Day	W2511 State Rd. 23, Green Lake, WI. <a href="http://www.glcc.org">www.glcc.org</a> Event Registration: \$10.00 per person. Info: <a href="mailto:greenlakeroundupwi@gmail.com">greenlakeroundupwi@gmail.com</a> Event sponsored by Monday Night Action Grp, Menomonee Falls, WI
MAICO Reps & District 2 Picnic	August 21, 2021	9 am to 5 pm	Riverside Park, Berlin, WI AA Speaker Bruce M., AI-Anon Speaker Laurie T. Bring a dish to pass please
24 <sup>th</sup> National A.A. Archives Workshop	September 30-Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021	9:00 am - Noon	San Antonio, Texas
November 6, 2021	25 <sup>th</sup> MAICO Youngtimers/ Oldtimers Workshop		Details to follow
AREA 75 CONFERENCE of Alcoholics Anonymous	Nov. 12 - 14th	*See details online “Our Great Responsibility”	LaCrosse Center – 300 Harborview Plaza LaCrosse WI Hosted by District 1

# MAICO INFORMATION TIDBITS



## 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

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

## 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.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

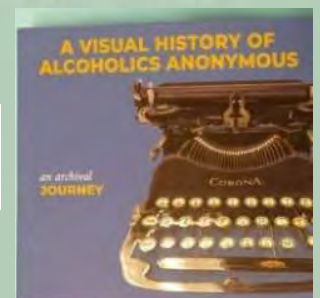
Contact's phone number \_\_\_\_\_

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

## OFFICE IS NOW OPEN TO MAKE PURCHASES

Online & Office Orders <https://store.aamadisonwi.org>

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





## COMPARISON

“You’ve come a long way baby!”

T.H. Rochester, N.Y. Grapevine



During my first month in AA, I got a job and began working again I found an apartment and started paying my bills. *I was headed for Coud Nine* and really feeling good for the first time in years. **Suddenly, the roof fell in.** My divorce lawyer informed me that I appear in court, and my boss read me the riot act.

It seemed a million years and *a thousand Serenity Prayers* went by before I finished work that day. I couldn’t wait to run down and see my sponsor to tell him how *AA wasn’t working for me.* Ken (my sponsor) was standing behind the counter in his little repair shop as I strode in, expecting my heart to break at any minute. His usual big smile got even bigger when he saw the mood I was in. I told him all my troubles and wound up my sad story by saying, **“I’m in awful shape!”**

He laughed and said, “You know a month ago, when you were standing on that very same spot, your eyes were bloodshot, your face was swollen, you had the shakes, and you stunk!.

And now look at you. *You’re all cleaned up and look like a million bucks, and you’ve got the guts to tell me you’re in awful shape in comparison to what?*

**That happened over three years ago. Because of guys like Ken and you and because of God as I understand Him, I haven’t had that first drink, and life is great in comparison.**

## QUOTES OF LIFE ON LIFE’S TERMS

**“Life is travel -- enjoy the journey, bumpy roads and all.”**

N.Y., New York, May 1977  
“*You and I Need Each Other,*”  
AA Grapevine

**Live Easy but Think First**

**When he wonders why his life is so much better now, all he has to do is look up at his meeting wall.**

By: Scott W. | Kearney, Nebraska  
March 15 AA Grapevine

**“Those who have one eye on yesterday and the other on tomorrow are likely to be cockeyed today.”**

CC, North Hollywood, Calif.  
August 1982 AA Grapevine