

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.

Gratitude Is Progressive

IT IS COMMON, when we introduce ourselves at a meeting, to say, "Hello, my name is ---- and I'm a grateful, recovering alcoholic." But how often do we just mouth those words? How often do we actually take time to enumerate our many blessings and thank God for them?

In my own recovery program, gratitude was only a statement designed to sound good, not a fact of life. My sponsor picked up on this early in our conversations. After being blocked by my bloated ego in her every attempt to teach me gratitude, she finally took the problem to her Higher Power in prayer and meditation. A few days later, she gave me the best advice I've ever been given on the road to my spiritual recovery: "I want you to start making a list of everything you are grateful for at the close of the day. Write the 'gratitudes' down, and then show it to me at the end of each week."

Oh no! Not another task to add to my busy schedule, I thought. As it was, I was so exhausted at the end of the day that I fell asleep the minute my head hit the pillow. But something inside me urged me to follow through. I believe now it was my Higher Power, prompting me to pursue a path that would lead me even closer to him.

The first few times my sponsor and I went over the list together, I was embarrassed at the mundane nature of the things I had listed. I was grateful for my washer and dryer because the hated task of going to the Laundromat was cut out. I was grateful for my car and my house, my daughter and my new friends.

The material and the easily labeled assets did take precedence. But I was beginning to truly appreciate those things as I never could before my introduction to AA. I didn't take them for granted or overlook them anymore.

As the months passed, I was able to appreciate the more subtle things God blessed me with, such as his vast color scheme outdoors and the warmth and good smell indoors when I returned home from a day's work, tired and hungry. I began to be grateful for my daughter in a loving, warm way, instead of feeling guilty because I had once seen her as just a large responsibility tying me down.

My life took on more joy and meaning and satisfaction as I matured under the program's healing direction. For twenty-nine years, I had lived in a spiritual vacuum and had been mentally, emotionally, and physically sick. But as I matured, the list of "gratitudes" matured. I looked forward to those few minutes at night with my note pad and pen. The simple act of taking the effort to think over the day and look for the good things changed my focus for the day. No matter how bad it had been, I could still find some good to relish and be grateful for.

And this follows the program principles of *action* and *writing*, as in the Fourth Step inventory. The two combined provide our willingness and sincere effort to get well and allow God to step in and do his work to change us.

It has been over a year now since I started my recovery program. During this time, I've been led to instruct other newcomers to write a daily "gratitudes" list. In each case, the results have been astonishing. New insight into the way God arranges circumstances in our lives, a feeling of true humility, a sense of joyful indebtedness to our Higher Power, and an ongoing, beautiful recovery attest to the value of those few minutes spent writing down our "gratitudes."

Another added bonus is that the list becomes a permanent record of the increased maturity and changes in attitude experienced over a period of time. During my own low points, I have flipped through the pages in my notebook and found a new sense of ease. I claim, not spiritual perfection, but growth in this wonderful Fellowship. Try it.

-- S. S.

Greenwich, Ohio

From the February 1984 Grapevine magazine.

MAICO eTech Report



Website & Meeting Guide usage: During August 1,099 in Wisconsin people used the website 2,091 times. New website users provided 24% of the website traffic. In the past month 1,157 people in Wisconsin used the app 16,658 times. This is a slight increase over last year's usage of zero.

On average, the Meeting Guide App is used over **55,000 times each day** and growing..

A solution to the MAICO point-of-sale dropped out of the sky and is being reviewed by the steering committee along with a list of projects including ideas to improve MAICO's digital services.

I'll be attending the National AA Technology Workshop in Round Rock, Texas. While at the conference I'll be meeting with web masters (servants) from other Intergroup offices and Areas from the North American Continent. NAATW has been working with AA members in foreign countries to bring the Meeting Guide App online worldwide.

Groups are encouraged to submit their event flyers to MAICO. Last month the MAICO Service Area Events page was viewed 268 times. Flyers may be emailed in any file format or dropped off during normal office hours.

Groups are also encouraged to check their meeting information on the website. A new form has been added to the "About MAICO" page. The form can be downloaded by clicking on "MAICO New Meeting & Meeting Change Form" and returned to MAICO for requested updates.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service,
Patrick S.

*November is Gratitude Month. Our Chance to Say "Thank You!" to MAICO.
Your Contribution Allows Us To "Carry The Message To The Alcoholic Who Still
Suffers."*

Gratitude Month - Was first officially recognized in 1956. As Bill W. urged in a letter, "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward....if you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best possible repayment for the help given to you."

Maintenance of our Madison Area Intergroup Central Office (MAICO) is costly. There are many expenses connected with running this office -- so that MAICO can continue to provide a service to those in need. Even with ongoing donations received from area AA groups, MAICO has difficulty meeting their operational expenses.

This Is Our Appeal - Consider making a special donation to assist MAICO in continuing to provide a service which is so important to our own sobriety and to those still suffering. No matter whether your contribution is large or small, it will be welcomed. And it will give each of us a tangible outlet to show the gratitude welling up in our hearts for the good life we are enjoying.

August 2018 Income Statement

Revenues	<u>August 2018</u>	<u>August 2017</u>
Donations – Groups	3,254.86	3,658.27
Donations – Events	157.67	141.40
Donations – Individual	250.00	350.00
Donations – Answering Service	55.00	15.00
Conference Literature	2,500.55	2,336.15
Non-Conference Literature	953.41	802.11
Non-Conference Merchandise	1,284.66	1,555.46
Grapevine Literature	135.65	50.75
Faithful Fivers	46.00	50.00
Directories	53.00	62.00
Other Income – copies	40.00	42.30
Total Revenues	<u>\$8,730.80</u>	<u>\$9,063.44</u>
Cost of Sales		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	2,422.20	1,718.40
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	606.22	609.50
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,263.64	928.30
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	464.55	0.00
Total Cost of Sales	<u>\$4,756.61</u>	<u>\$3,256.20</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$3,974.19</u>	<u>\$5,807.24</u>
Expenses		
Wages Expense	4,100.60	3,120.00
Employee Medical Reimbursement	160.00	160.00
Payroll Tax Expense	313.69	238.68
Credit Card Processing Fees	80.85	64.46
Office Expense/Supplies	118.73	26.59
Computer Maintenance	250.00	70.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	199.95	211.04
Telephone/Internet Expense	160.73	159.68
Answering Service Expense	424.18	445.34
Advertising in Phone Book	88.00	86.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-.10	11.93
Postage and Shipping Expense	-5.01	19.78
Occupancy Expense	815.00	795.00
Travel Expense	0.00	0.00
Conference Expense	0.00	20.00
Over/Under Cash on Hand	<u>16.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$6,722.62</u>	<u>\$5,428.50</u>
Net Income	<u>\$-2,748.43</u>	<u>\$378.74</u>

Upcoming Events

2018

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 by going to www.area75.org, be aware that info & flyers go on internet, mindful of anonymity, names on flyers etc.

Recurring events:

1st 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 2nd Sunday.

2nd Sun of month – Open AA Speaker Meetings in Adams, Adams-Friendship Club, 1093 County M, Adams, Noon

3rd 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

3rd Tuesday of the Month – New Glarus Sobrietyfest Group, Open Speaker meeting, Shepherd of the Hills Ch., 506 12th Ave., New Glarus,

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.

1st & 3rd Sat of month – Monroe Sister Blandine Group, Open Speaker Meeting, 6:30pm, St. Victor’s Church, 1760 14th St., Monroe, entrance off 20th 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.

5th Tuesday of the Month – New Glarus Sobrietyfest Group, 7pm, Shepherd of the Hills Ch., 506 12th Ave., New Glarus, Potluck

5th Wednesday of the Month – West Point Winners Group, 7pm, Open Speaker Meeting, West Point Town Hall, St. Rd. 188, Rausch Rd.

October 6 – District 31 Fall Workshop – Dekorra Lutheran Church, N3099 Smith Rd., Poynette, WI, just a mile off I90/I94. 8:30 – 3:30. Keynote speaker at 9:00. Potluck Lunch. Main dish & drink provided. Bring dish to pass

October 6 – District 35 d Annual Mini Conference - Members, friends & family of AA are all invited. Zwingli U.C.C., 416 East Lake Ave., Monticello, WI, Breakfast starts at 8:00 AM, 1st panel at 9:00 AM. Potluck lunch.

October 13 – Fall recovery Round Up in Janesville - Salvation Army, 514 Sutherland Ave, Janesville, WI. Hosted by AA District 30 in cooperation with District 8 and Al-Anon District 25. All day event 9:30 AM Registration.

October 27 - 2018 Milwaukee Central Office Fall Fling – Milwaukee Elk’s Lodge #46, 5555 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Hospitality 5:30 pm, Buffet Dinner 6:00 pm, AA Speaker 7:30 pm

November 2 - 4 – 2018 Area 75 Annual Conference of AA – Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Bring the family. \$99 room rate include access for all guest. www.eventbrite.com

November 17 – MAICO Reps 22nd Annual Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop – Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, WI.

**Flyers available on the MAICO website with more details for all events.

Thank You's - Donations received June 29 to September 14, 2018

General Fund

1728 Grp
511 Step Grp
A Vision for You Grp
A Way of Life Grp
Baraboo Sat Morning
Eye
Opener Grp
Beaver Dam Fri. Big
Book
Beaver Dam Sun.
Serenity
Blackhawk Good
Fellowship
Brodhead Sister
Blandine
Clear Cut Directions Grp
DeForest Progress Grp
Early Risers Grp
E.D.I.B.D.I. Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Ft. Atkinson MWF
Morning Grp
Ft. Atkinson Open
Beginners
Good Fellowship Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Into Action Grp
Keep It Simple Grp
Living Sober Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Mid Morning Grp
Monroe Design for Living
Monroe No Butts Grp

Monroe Open Speaker
Mt. Horeb Sat. Morning
Grp
Mt. Olive Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest
Grp
Orfordville Promises Grp
Our Group Wednesday
Grp
Platteville Monday Night
Grp
Portage Sunshine Grp
Poynette-DeKorra Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Precisely How We
Recovered
Rock River Grp
Room to Grow Grp
Serenity Seekers Grp
Spring Green Read n
Lead
Sober Today Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sunriser's Grp
Sunrise Serenity Grp
St. Andy's 7am Grp
The Phoenix Grp
There is a Solution Grp
Thursday Floaters Grp
Turning Point Grp
Viroqua Big Book Study
Waupun H.O.W. Grp
Working Steps Grp

**Corrections/Treatment
Fund**

Early Risers
E.D.I.B.D.I. Grp
Living Sober Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Room to Grow Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp

Individuals

Anonymous
Cascade Joe
Richard P.

Answering Service

E.D.I.B.D.I. Grp
Marshall 449 Grp
Room to Grow Grp

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.
Mary S.
Susan K.

Prudent Reserve

Room to Grow Grp

Picnic Donations

Anonymous

Gratitude Month (2017)

Sat. Morning Women's

MY FRIEND

I have recently made a friend of Someone I wish everyone could know. This Friend is never too busy to listen to me, my problems, my joys, and my sorrows. He gives me the courage to face life squarely and helps me conquer my fears. The counsel I get is always good, for this Friend is wise, patient, and tolerant. Sometimes, I do not heed His advice, and then I must ask for and be willing to accept additional advice very humbly and sincerely.

Regardless of the mistakes I make, my Friend is always there, available to me at any time, day or night. I can talk, and He does not interrupt, no matter how I ramble on. Sometimes, while talking to Him, I receive a solution to my problem. Other times, just by putting my problem into words, I see how petty and unimportant it is. I feel as if my Friend is holding my hand and gently guiding me if I will listen. I feel that when I do not listen, my Friend is hurt, but never angry.

My Friend is with me at work or at home, my constant companion wherever I go. He is my Higher Power as I understand it. He is the God I know.

Colorado Springs, Colorado

From Pg. 79 of *Came to Believe*

Short Takes from The Grapevine

From the April 1990 magazine.

"I go to AA for a check-up from the neck up."

-- Anonymous

New York, New York

From the June 1982 magazine.

Heard at a meeting: "Before AA, I used people and loved things. Since AA, I love people and use things."

-- G. J.

Florissant, Missouri

From the October 1981 magazine.

The nice thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.

-- P. B.

From the October 1981 magazine.

If you throw mud, you're sure to lose ground.

-- Silver Dollar

From the September 1977 magazine.

There are three good times to go to a meeting: when you feel good and want to go, when you don't feel good and don't want to go--and any other time!

-- H. L.

From the July 1979 magazine.

I have to remember that it's the first drink that does me in. If a train ran over me, it would be the engine that killed me, not the caboose.

-- E. L.

Dear Grapevine

A Halloween to remember

One day I was detoxing off liquor and desperately trying not to drink. It was getting near Halloween and my 6-year-old boy asked if we could put up some decorations. So, I looked around in my messy closet, but all I could find was one old, ripped-up cardboard pumpkin. As my son stood there looking at it, I started to cry.

I got my phone and called one of the numbers on my AA list, because that's what the people at the meetings told me to do. A very nice lady at the other end of the phone patiently listened as I sobbed in all my self-pity. When I was done talking, she said, "Why don't you be grateful that you're sober today and you even *knew* Halloween was coming up? You could have hung up a Santa Claus!"

I started to laugh. She was so right. I have carried this piece of wonderful advice with me for years: To be thankful for what I do have.

Today, I still don't have many Halloween decorations, but since I've been in AA I can sure tell you that I have a whole lot to be grateful for.

Fran I.
Spring Hill, Florida

From the October 2018 magazine.

Fill 'er up

When I came into AA many years ago, I would ask, "How often do I have to go to those darn meetings?" Here's what I was told: "Until the day comes when you want to go to those meetings." Well, after 43 years of sobriety, here's why I still go to meetings.

I see meetings as a spiritual gas station. Unlike other gas stations, the gas is free. They give me the energy needed to continue my day's journey. My windows are washed clean by the sharing of my brother and sisters. I can then see things differently, with clarity and truth and honesty. Real air—not the hot air of self-deception, lies and negative thinking—is put into my tires to give me proper emotional and spiritual balance.

These spiritual gas stations are where we get clear, truthful direction for our lives by hearing and applying the slogans and Steps. They give us all grace, strength, fortitude and courage.

After the meetings, we go to our cars and drive off feeling better, thinking better, acting better and having a renewed hope for the next 24 hours, until our tanks get low and our next fill-up is needed.

Jimmy O.
Long Beach, New York

Pickles galore

The other day, while sitting in the kitchen of a local church waiting for our AA meeting to a start, a woman came in and asked me if this was where the pickles were.

Thinking this was a clever way to ask if this was an AA meeting without breaking her anonymity, I said sure. So I talked with her for a minute.

After a bit, she started looking around. Finally, I glanced over to my left and there was indeed a table loaded with pickle jars for sale.

She really was looking for pickles.

Bari R.
Bradenton, Florida

From the September 2018 magazine.

Madison Area Intergroup Central Office, Inc.
2000 Engel St., Suite 104
Madison, WI. 53713

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison, WI
Permit No. 1562

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 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_____