

GAAZETTE

Our area 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.

Paradoxes of Sobriety

September 17, 1997, marked my thirty-second year in this great Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. In all those years, if I've had any bad days, I can't remember them. AA has taught me that I'm the architect of my own success or happiness. The quality of my sobriety is up to me---it will be what I want it to be. The truth is that my alcoholism is the best thing that ever happened to me, because it brought me to AA and this wonderful new way of life.

Over the years, I've made some observations about the AA program which can be summed up by the phrase "the paradoxes of sobriety." The dictionary defines paradox as a statement that's true but appears to be false or self-contradictory. What follows are a few examples:

You have to surrender to win. The keys are giving up the futile struggle, admitting we're powerless over alcohol and turning our lives and will over to the care of God as we understand him. The only way we can beat a Heavyweight

Champion of the World is not to get into the ring with him. But we need help to stay out of the ring. We can't do it alone.

It's not the end, it's the beginning. Newcomers to AA are preoccupied with the thought of never drinking again. They are guilty of "forever" thinking, and coming into AA seems like the end. In reality, it's the beginning of a new life. The "weller than well" theory tells us that we can enjoy a better life for having—and solving—our drinking problem.

It's not forever, it's just for today. The great secret of AA is living a day at a time. That's all we have anyway. Living a day at a time doesn't mean we can't set some goals or plan our vacation or retirement, only that we can't live emotionally beyond the twenty-fours allotted to us.

AA is a spiritual program, not a religious one. Getting outside of ourselves—getting rid of the hate, hostility, and resentment—is the spiritual purpose of AA. We are asked to find our own Higher Power, as we understand him, to bring focus to our lives. While we are told to “leave religion at the door” of AA, some of us find a way back to our religion, but as an adjunct to, not to the exclusion of, the spirituality of AA.

The more dependent we are on the AA program, the more independent we become. The more we commit to AA, the more freedom we enjoy. Happiness and peace of mind are the by-products of working the Steps, attending meetings regularly, reading the Big Book, and getting involved in the Fellowship. AA gives us a life that sets us free.

You have to give it away to keep it. We can't hoard the sobriety we enjoy. We need to share our experience, strength, and hope with each

other to stay. In fact, we are never “even”; we always get more than we give.

What are the rewards of AA? Let's start with life itself and freedom, and go on to self-respect, self-esteem, and straight thinking, new friends, and pride in ourselves and our families. We have a Higher Power we might never have found otherwise. AA gives us a Ph.D. in life and a black belt in common sense. Thanks to AA, we've become “converts to life.”

At an open meeting some years ago, the speaker said he was proud to be at the meeting. Proud? I'd never heard that before. He went on to say, “I'm proud to be with the people who saved my life.” So am I.

Joe H., Keego Harbor, Michigan, June 1998.
Reprinted with permission from Grapevine, Beginner's
Book-Getting & Staying Sober in AA

Because One Man Was Lonely - January 1977

As I see it, the ever-growing, multiplying, and compounding miracle of AA is that because one man was lonely, afraid, and sick in a strange city, I need never be alone again in a strange city. Because he sought out a physician for his own incurable disease and arrested it by helping to heal the physician, there is great hope for me. Because one man – greatly gifted by his Higher Power—failed to live up to the expectations of the crowd, never scaled the heights of social, financial, or professional worlds, and never made headlines or created empires, but chose instead to share his private spiritual awakening with other sufferers, I have a life to live and share.

The miracle is that this one beautiful man – without funds or financial aid, without benefit of publicity and great advertising campaigns – quietly, *anonymously* spread a message from one man in one room in one city to reach millions of

person in thousands of rooms clear around the world. Today, more than a million of us who

suffer from the disease of alcoholism have found not just the ability to live with or survive this insidious disease, but a joyful way of life as new as this morning and as old as mankind. We can gain sobriety, aspire to serenity, at no greater price than caring for our fellow sufferers and sharing with them what has been freely given to us. We can experience the true joy of love that we once tried to destroy by not giving it away, and we can learn the truth that the more we give away, the more we will have.

The miracle is that I won all this by admitting defeat. The miracle is that the whole world became mine when I had nowhere else to go. The miracle is God's greatest gift – people who care, love to share, and have honest, open hearts.

MAICO is a 501(3)c nonprofit corporation.
Your donations are tax deductible up to
\$2,000 per AA member per year.

*MAICO wishes to thank everyone that
made contributions during
Gratitude Month.*

To date \$1,667.00 has been received.

Need that Special Gift



*Remember MAICO has a wide selection of
conference and nonconference literature,
medallions, and gifts for that special someone.*

Please keep in mind when purchasing

*items at MAICO, that the Central Office only accepts
Cash or Checks*

Upcoming Events

2008

December 24 – 25 – Dist. 30 Alkathon, Janesville, 12 & 12 Club, 1833 Wesley Ave. 608-754-2828
Christmas Eve 6:00 pm thru Christmas Day 6:00 pm – Food, Fellowship & Fun!!!

December 31st – New Year's Eve Celebration, Rhyme's Drugstore Basement, 117 E. Cook St., Portage. Dinner at 7:00 pm, Speaker at 8:00 pm – Larry M. of Portage – Please bring dish to pass.

December 31st – New Year's Eve Celebration, East Side Alano Club, 1017 Northport Dr. Madison
8pm Speaker: Bill S. Party to follow speaker, cost \$10.00 for food, raffle etc.

2009

January 18 – Area 75 Winter Service Meeting, 9am, Madison Senior Center, 300 W. Mifflin, Madison

January 18 – Third Sunday Breakfast, Open AA meeting, Ramada, 1 N. Main St., Fond du Lac,
Breakfast begins at 10:00 am, Speaker at 11:00 am, AA Speaker: Adrian B. Breakfast \$8, coffee only \$1.50

January 24 – Celebrate with Les for his 30th Anniversary, East Side Alano, 1017 Northport Dr., Madison
8pm Speaker – Les S., dance to follow

January 30 – February 1 – WICYPAA XVI – Olympia Resort and Conference Center, 1350 Royale Mile Road, Oconomowoc, WI. Rooms: \$79.00/night. Registration \$15, Buffet \$24.95

February 12 – 15 – 45th International Women's Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.

www.internationalwomensconference.org

February 21 – MAICO Reps "History of the Big Book" Workshop, 10:00 am to 2:30 pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison – Suggested Donation of \$5.00 – Pizza will be ordered for those that are interested.

March 28 – Breakfast With MAICO, March 28, 2009, 8:30 am to 11:00 a.m. Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison. Suggested donation of \$5.00.

March 29 – Area 75 Delegate's Workshop, 9am, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison

April 4 – Dist. 9 Mini-Conference, Kieler, WI.

April 19 – Area 75 Pre-Conference Assembly, 9am, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison

April 26 – May 2 – General Service Conference, New York, New York

May 15, 16 & 17 – 58th Annual Area 75 Spring Conference, Marriot Hotel & Conference Center, Racine, WI. (Delegate's Report from General Service Conference)

Thank You's
October 24th 2008 to December 12, 2008

General Fund

Beloit Thursday Big Book Group
Beloit Thursday Night Group
Columbus Group
DeForest Progress Group
Dodgeville Downtown Group
Fennimore Experience, Strength & Hope Group
Into Action Group
It's a God Thing Group
Living Sober Group
Madison Professionals Group
Mauston Wednesday Afternoon Group
Milton Young at Heart Group
Monona Serenity Group
Monday Night Rock River Group
Monday/Sunday 511 Group
Mt. Olive Group
New Beginnings Group
Not a Glum Lot Group
Out to Lunch Group
Pinehurst Group
Portage 207 Group
Poynette DeKorra Group
Slip Nots Group
St. Andy's Group
Sullivan Big Book Group
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Group
Village Group
Waunakee Wauna Meeting
Waupun Tuesday Night Group
Windsor Group
Working Step Group

Prudent Reserve

Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Group
Larry L. - monthly

Answering Service

Individual Anonymous
St. Dunstan's Beginners Group

Gratitude Month

Anonymous Donations
Baraboo Wednesday Afternoon Group
Baraboo Sunday/Tuesday Beginner's Groups
Caring & Sharing Group
Columbus Group
Dave S.
Dodgeville Downtown Group
Don G.
Doreen H.
Easy Breather's Group
Freedom Group
Happy Hour Group
Lonny S.
Madison Professionals Group
Monona 8:00 pm Sunday Group
Monroe Sister Blandine Group
New Glarus Sobrietyfest Group
Our Primary Purpose Group
Platteville Monday Night Group
Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Group
Sun Prairie Monday Night Group
Sun Prairie Tuesday Women's Group
Sun Prairie Thursday Grapevine Group
Traditions Group

Individual Donations

Ken Y.
Richard

Changes to "Meeting Directory" (As of December 2nd)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Change, Addition or Deletion</u>
10/1/2008	Change	Baraboo	Tuesday	7:00 pm	O,NS,H	St. Clare Hospital., Beginners meeting now, no longer speaker
10/1/2008	Delete	Beloit	Wednesday	8:00 pm	O,NS	St. Paul's Lutheran, 617 St. Lawrence Ave.
9/9/2008	Delete	Beloit	Thursday	10:00 am	C,NS,H	New Hope Church, 2345 Prairie Avenue
9/9/2008	Change	Beloit	Thursday	7:00 pm	C,NS,H	New Hope Church, 2345 Prairie Ave. moved to 1st Methodist Ch., 511 Public
9/9/2008	Change	Beloit	Sunday	8:00 pm	C,NS,H	New Hope Church, 2345 Prairie Ave. moved to 1st Methodist Ch., 511 Public Church on Main Street
10/1/2008	Add back	Belmont	Wednesday	Noon		Church on Main Street
11/21/2008	Add	Berlin	Wednesday	Noon	C,NS,H	Federated Church, 116 S. State Street
11/21/2008	Change	Berlin	Friday	8:00 pm	C,NS,H	Senior Citizen Ctr., 142 Water St. - Changed from 123 E. Park
11/21/2008	Change	Berlin	Sunday	6:30 pm	C,NS,H	Berlin Memorial Hosp. Non-Smoking
9/1/08	Change	Boscobel	Tuesday	7:30 pm	C,NS	Boscobel Hospital -- moved to Immanuel Marion Church., County Hwy T & Town Hall Road (off Hwy 61 West, 5 miles on T)
9/1/08	Change	Boscobel	Thursday	7:30 pm	C,NS	Boscobel Hospital, Mental Health Unit moved to Conference Room, Main Entrance
9/1/08	Delete	Boscobel	Sunday	7:30 pm	O,NS	Boscobel Hospital, Mental Health Unit
10/1/08	Add	Fall River	Thursday	7:00 pm	O,NS,H	United Methodist Church, Church & South Streets
11/21/08	Add	Green Lake	Wednesday	5:30 pm	C,NS,H,W	Federated Church, 489 Scott Street
11/21/08	Add address Non-	Green Lake	Tuesday	9:00 am	C,NS,H	Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church., 530 Ruth Street
11/21/08	Smoking	Green Lake	Saturday Mon, Tues,	8:00 pm	C,NS,H	Green Lake Village Hall, 534 Mill Street. Enter on Water Street
11/10/08	Delete	Janesville	Thursday	Noon		Good Fellowship, 1833 Wesley Avenue
11/21/08	Add	Janesville	Tuesday	7:00 pm	O,NS,W	407 W. Van Buren
12/2/08	Delete All	Madison	Mon to Sun	10:00 pm		Fitchburg Serenity Club, 6048 McKee Road
12/2/08	Add	Madison	Monday	6:00 pm	C,NS	Plymouth U.C.Ch., 2401 Atwood Ave., AA literature/Grapevine study, Ring Bell
10/1/08	Change	Madison	Monday	7:00 pm	O,NS,H	Foxhall Recovery, Trinity Lutheran., No longer has child care
10/1/08	Delete	Madison	Saturday	6:30 pm	O,H,YP	Monona Serenity, 4933 Prairie Dock Drive - Young People's Group
10/1/08	Delete	Madison	Saturday	6:30 pm	O,S/NS,H	Monona Serenity, 4933 Prairie Dock Drive
11/21/08	Delete	Madison	Wednesday	8:00 pm	C,NS,H	511 Club, 511 N. Carroll
11/21/08	Add	Markesan	Friday	1:00 pm	C,NS	Fernwood Campground, W1934 Pleasant Avenue
11/21/08	Change	Montello	All			All meetings are Non-Smoking
11/21/08	Change	Palmyra	Monday	8:00 pm	C	St. Mary's moved to Palmyra United Methodist Church, 122 N. Fifth Street
11/21/08	Change	Princeton	Thursday	9:00 am to 10:00 am		Jubilee Fellowship Church, 325 Sunnyview Lane
11/21/08	Add	Princeton	Saturday	11:00 am		Jubilee Fellowship Church, 325 Sunnyview Lane
11/21/08	Add	Ripon	Wednesday	7:00 pm	C,NS,H	City Hall Building., 100 Jackson, Enter back door on Jefferson
11/21/08	Add	Ripon	Sunday	9:00 am	C,NS,H	City Hall Building., 100 Jackson, Enter back door on Jefferson
11/21/08	Add	Ripon	Mon & Thurs	7:00 pm	C,NS,H	St. Peter's Church, 217 Houston

9/2/08	Add	Stoughton	Monday	Noon	O,NS,H	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles
9/2/08	Add	Stoughton	Tuesday	Noon	O,NS,H	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles
9/2/08	Add	Stoughton	Wednesday	Noon	O,NS,H	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles
9/2/08	Add	Stoughton	Friday	Noon	O,NS,H	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles
9/2/08	Add	Stoughton	Saturday	Noon	O,NS,H	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles
9/2/08	Change	Stoughton	All	All	Non-Smoking	Stoughton Alano Club, 900 Giles, Smoking upstairs only effective 7/1/08
11/21/08	Change	Watertown	Saturday	10:00 am	C,NS,W	Address should be N9656 Oak Hill Rd., Call 920-261-6511 for directions
11/21/08	Change	Wautoma	All			All meetings are Non-Smoking & handicap accessible
11/21/08	Add	Wautoma	Thursday	10:00 am	C,NS,H	Hope Lutheran Church, E. 301 Mt. Morris- Big Book
11/21/08	Add	Wild Rose	Wed & Saturday	7:30 pm	C,NS	Wild Rose Hospital, 601 Grove Avenue -- Basement Saturday - Big Book
10/1/08	Add	Wisc. Dells	Sunday	7:00 pm	C,NS,H	Presbyterian Church, Cedar Street, 1/2 block South of Broadway