
The MAICO GA.A.ZETTE

JULY/AUGUST 2007

RECOVERY – “Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.” – Step Seven

“Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.” – Step Eight

UNITY – “Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” -- Tradition Seven

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.” – Tradition Eight

SERVICE – “The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purpose for final effectiveness.” – Concept VII

“The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.” – Concept VIII

Ten Minutes of Oneness

I'm grateful I made it to AA when I was twenty-two years old. I felt at the time that I'd lived forty years of hell. I started drinking when I was thirteen, and I blacked out and got sick right from the start. But the way I felt when the alcohol hit me was worth throwing up for. I remember having ten minutes of complete oneness with the world. I was no longer ugly, stupid, or boring, and I could talk about anything. When I wasn't drinking, I didn't quite fit in this world.

In the beginning, my drinking was mostly on the weekends, but when I got to high school, alcohol became a number-one priority. At night (with a fake ID), I went to bars to have “a few drinks” and would end up with strange people in strange places, coming out of a blackout and not knowing where I was, how I got there, what day it was, where my car was, if I had money left in my wallet. Any values I'd been given by my parents were annihilated when I put alcohol in my system. Drinking produced heart-wrenching shame and remorse when I was dry and the insanity of thinking that another drink would make the pain go away.

I came to a place in my life where I didn't care whether I lived or died. Then what I call miracles started happening in my life. In one of my blackouts, I came to at three o'clock in the morning in my parents' kitchen; two police officers were sitting at the table with me, explaining that I needed to go to the hospital. I had two black eyes, cuts, and bruises—and had no idea what had happened. There was nobody to take me to

the hospital, so the officers went through my parents' address book and picked out someone's name and called her and asked her if she could take me. The woman who came was one of our neighbors when I was a child and I hadn't seen her in years. I was checked out by a doctor and was told I'd be okay, but meanwhile, this lady asked me a few questions about my drinking: Did I think I might have a problem with alcohol? I hadn't really thought about it, but I did the next day when I woke up sick, with my head pounding, barely able to get out of bed. When I saw my reflection in the mirror, I was horrified since I couldn't remember what had happened to me. Then suddenly, while I was looking in the mirror, I had my first clear thoughts about drinking: how every time I started drinking, I ended up in trouble, that it was getting worse, and I always ended up drunk.

Through a few other small miracles, I went to my first AA meeting that night. My first reaction was that I was too young to be an alcoholic. I certainly hadn't lost my family, home, husband, etc. – because I'd never had those things in the first place. I hadn't been in jail, and I had no drunk driving arrests – police officers used to escort me home or to a coffee shop.

However, at that first meeting, I listened to a woman sharing about how she felt. I couldn't believe that someone felt as I did – different, shy, ashamed, full of guilt and remorse. I was terrified in that meeting, but when it was over I realized I had nothing to lose by checking out AA for a while. I was told to go to ninety meetings in ninety days, and if I didn't like what AA had to

offer, I could go back to the misery of my drinking. I was also told not to pick up that first drink because that's the one that would get me drunk. What a profound statement that was. I thought about it for days, trying to figure it out!

I was full of fear in those first few weeks and wouldn't raise my hand to speak. I just wanted to go from feeling terrible to feeling bad – a step up at the time. It was suggested I get a sponsor and I thank God I did; I was afraid of the woman I asked, yet at the same time I liked her because she had a sparkle in her eyes. (She still does!) I was able to talk to her and ask questions. Talking to her helped me start sharing myself in meetings.

I came to accept that I was an alcoholic when I was sober about six months. At the time there weren't many people around who were my age, but fortunately I was taken under the wings of gracious AA members and spoiled with tough love. It's ten years later and I'm still sober. I'm very active in AA. I don't think I could ever give back what has been given to me but I try to thank God and AA for this gift in one way or another every day.

My drinking experience also involved the use of other chemicals, but I feel that's unnecessary to share at AA meetings. When I brought up this "controversy" with my sponsor, she told me to read the Traditions and come to my own conclusion about what was right for me. I love the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous and I think the more I change, the more I hope the Traditions and principles of AA don't change. I believe it's my responsibility to support the Traditions and live the principles. I'm not here to change Alcoholics Anonymous; Alcoholics Anonymous is here to change me. Thank God. D.W.

San Mateo, California
December 1995

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New Grapevine publication – "In Our Own Words, Stories of Young AA's in Recovery."

Bill W. on General Services and the G.S.R.

"...an A.A. service is anything whatever that helps us reach a fellow sufferer – ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a ten cent phone call and a cup of coffee, and to A.A.'s General Service Office for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service." (A.A. Service Manual, page S1)

Whether performed by individuals or groups or areas or A.A. as a whole, these activities are vital to our existence and growth. Nor can we make A.A. more simple by abolishing such services. To do so would only be asking for complication and confusion.

Among the most vital, yet probably least understood, group of services are those that help us function as a whole – the work of the General Service Office (G.S.O.) and the General Service Board (the trustees). Our worldwide unity and much of our growth since early times are directly traceable to them.

To get the benefit of direct guidance from A.A. as a whole, the General Service Conference was formed – a body of about 91 delegates from the United States and Canada. These delegates sit yearly with our trustees, directors, and the staffs of G.S.O. and the Grapevine. The Conference has proved itself an immense success. Over the years, its record of achievement has been completely convincing.

The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance.

When you're a G.S.R.

You are linking your home group with the whole of A.A. Back in 1953, when the "group contact" was suggested as a new type of trusted servant, the job was seen simply as a good means of exchanging up-to-date information between individual groups and "Headquarters" (now the General Service Office). That's still an important side of your work. But now, as general service representative, you have an even bigger responsibility: You transmit ideas and opinions, as well as facts; through you, the group conscience become a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship," as expressed in the General Service Conference. Like everything else in A.A., it works through a series of simple steps. (For the complete picture in detail, read The A.A. Service Manual.)

Pass it On" Upcoming Events 2007

Check MAICO website for flyers at: www.aamadisonwi.org

or

Area 75 web site: www.area75.org

June 29-July 1 – Ontario Fellowship 2007 Campout, 2 miles north of Ontario on Hwy 131, 29330 State Hwy 131, Norwalk, WI. Contact 608-337-4641. am Pancake Bkfst, Fri 8pm Speaker, Sat 6pm Roast Pork Dinner (bring a dish to pass if you can), Sat 8pm meeting, Sun. 10am speaker.

June 30 - Mt. Horeb Serenity Groups Summer picnic, Noon to ????, Tom & Kathy W. House, 302 Perimeter Rd., Mt Horeb, 608-437-3964. (2 blocks up Perimeter Rd from McDonalds), Meat, soda & cake provided, bring a dish to pass, maybe a lawn chair too.

July 8 – First Sunday Breakfast Open Meeting, Royal Ridges of Ripon, Hwy. 23 West, Ripon, Breakfast 10am, Speaker at 11am, Hosting group: Oshkosh Growth – Big Book Grp.

July 13-15 – 11th Annual Keep It Simple AA-AI-Anon Door Cty, Washington Island Retreat, Island Campground & Recreation, Washington Island, WI. Registration \$20, Fee does not include food, ferry cost, lodging or camping fees. Send registration form to: Island Retreat, P.O. Box 125, Forestville, WI. 54213-0125

July 22 to July 29 - 20th Annual meeting of 12 Step High Group, EAA Nature Center, EAA Convention Grounds, no EAA admission charge into meeting, 7am coffee & fellowship, 8am AA & AI-Anon meetings
July 28, Groups 20th Anniversary celebration with cake & speaker – Max from St. John, MI at 8:00am.

July 27 - 10th Annual Chippewa Valley Roundup, Plaza Hotel & Suites, Eau Claire, WI.

www.chippewavalleyroundup.com Registration: \$15.00.

August 11 – MAICO Reps 2nd Annual Picnic, Monroe Honey Creek Park, 10th St. & 4th Ave. Food served 1:00pm, Bring a salad or dessert, lawn chairs, sporting equipment. 2:00pm Alateen speaker – Amanda V. Madison followed by AI-Anon speaker Peg K. Madison. 3:30pm AA speaker Randy M. Waunakee.

August 17- 19 – 27th Annual Green Lake Round Up, Green Lake Conference Center, American Baptist Assembly, Green Lake. Registration \$10.00 per person. On site lodging or camping call Green Lake Conference Center – 1-800-558-8898.

August 16-19 – 30th Annual Cornhusker Roundup, Holiday Inn, 3321 S. 72nd St., Omaha, NE. 402-393-3950. www.AA-Cornhusker.org Registration: \$20.00

August 26 – Richland Center Group Picnic, Krouskop Park, The Retrum Shelter, Eat at Noon, group will supply meat, bring a dish to pass. Speaker Tori F. from Dodgeville.

September 16 – Area 75 Pre-Conference Assembly, 9am, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin, Madison

October 12 -14 – 27th East Central Regional Conference and Area 75 56th Fall Conference, Holiday Inn, Exit I-43 & Hwy 151, Manitowoc, WI. Hosted by District 3. Registration forms available at www.area75.org Registration: \$15.00.

October 27 – Dist. 8/Dist. 30 Mini-Conference, Trinity Episcopal Church, 409 E. Court, Janesville

November 3 – 11th Annual MAICO Reps Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, 10am to 3pm.

November 10 & 11 – East Central Regional Forum, Chicago, IL.

November 16 – 18 – 18th Annual McHenry's Soberfest, Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, WI.

www.soberfest.org or email info@soberfest.org

M.A.I.C.O. Business

MAICO Web Site: www.aamadisonwi.org

Upcoming Events If you would like your AA event listed, please email an electronic flyer to maico@tds.net Thanks.

Districts in our Service Area: If you would like your district minutes on the MAICO web site, just send minutes electronically to maico@tds.net

MAICO 2007-2008 South Central Wisconsin Meeting Directories are here – .75 cents each.

12 Step List

We need men and women for our 12 Step List, especially women available during the day. Call or email MAICO office to volunteer.

FYI: MAICO is a 501C3 non-profit corporation so your donations are tax deductible. Limit is \$2,000 per AA member per year.

MAICO Merchandise Catalog

Now available on the web site and/or mailed when requested.

MAICO 2nd Annual MAICO Reps Picnic

August 11, 2007, Noon, Monroe Honey Creek Park, 10th St & 4th Ave., Monroe, WI.

1:00pm – Food served, bring a salad or dessert

2:00pm – Alateen Speaker – Amanda, Madison
Al-Anon Speaker – Peg K. Madison

3:30pm – AA Speaker – Randy M. Waunakee

Bring - lawn chairs, sporting equipment

Honey Creek Park offers a shelter, play structures, ball field and restrooms.

Thank You – Groups and Individuals who contributed to MAICO - 4/25/07-6/22/07

General Fund

207 Grp
Early Birds Grp
Early Risers Grp
Easy Breathers Grp
Easy Does It But Do It Grp
Expect a Miracle Grp
Experience, Strength & Hope Grp
Go After Your Sobriety Grp
Good Fellowship Grp
Madison Professionals Grp
Mauston Wed Afternoon Grp
Midvale Grp
Monona Serenity Grp
New Beginnings Grp
Noon Lunch Bunch Grp
Not a Glum Lot Grp
Pinehurst Grp
Richland Center Grp
Rock River Grp
Scott & Pam J.
St. Andrew's Grp
Saturday Night Live Grp
Serenity at 6pm Grp
Sunlight of the Spirt (SOTS) Grp
Sunrisers Grp
Sunshine Grps
Thursday Night Floaters Grp
Traditions Grp
Tuesday Night Big Book Grp

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.

Answering Service donation

Freedom Grp
Go After Your Sobriety Grp
Jan K.
Midvale Grp

Area 75 Southern Wisconsin

Web Site: www.area75.org

Upcoming Area 75 Conferences:

5 State Regional/Fall 2007- Manitowoc

Spring 2008 – Olympia Village, Oconomowoc

Fall 2008 – Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac

Area 74 North Wisconsin/Upper Pennisula Michigan

Web site: www.area74.org

Year to Date Income Statement: January 1 - May 31, 2007

REVENUES

Donations.....	11,214.87	26.70%
Individual Donations	1,242.00	2.96%
Donations/Answering Service	430.00	1.02%
Conf Lit & Merch.....	12,654.44	30.13%
Grapevine Lit & Merch	1,012.00	2.41%
Non-Conf Literature	6,112.88	14.56%
Non-Conf Merchandise	7,295.85	17.37%
Faithful Fivers.....	149.00	0.35%
Directories	716.10	1.71%
Newsletter Subscriptions	5.00	0.01%
Investment Income.....	92.01	0.22%
Miscellaneous Income	3.57	0.01%
Big Book Study 2007	855.00	2.04%
Other Income	18.50	0.04%
Shipping Charges Reimbursed.....	196.87	0.47%

TOTAL REVENUES \$41,998.09 100.0%

COST OF SALES

Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.....	10,632.03	25.32%
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine	1,162.50	2.77%
Inventory Exp. NonConf Literature.....	5,082.50	12.10%
Inventory Exp. Non Conf Mer.....	3,699.85	8.81%

TOTAL COST OF SALES\$20,576.88 48.99%

GROSS PROFIT\$21,421.21 51.01%

EXPENSES

Auto Expense (mileage).....	76.65	0.18%
Wages Expense.....	12,965.25	30.87%
Payroll Tax Expense.....	991.92	2.36%
License and Fees Expenses.....	170.00	0.40%
Supplies Expense.....	345.51	0.82%
Office Expense	120.42	0.29%
Bank Charges (returned check).....	6.00	0.01%
Telephone Expense.....	502.91	1.20%
Domain Name-Go Daddy Acct.....	18.23	0.04%
Answering Service Expense	1,781.80	4.24%
Advertising in Phone Book.....	447.00	1.06%
Postage and Shipping Expense	318.92	0.76%
Occupancy Expense.....	2,675.00	6.37%
Insurance Expense	377.00	0.90%
Intergroup/C.O. Seminar 2007	25.00	0.06%
Big Book Study 2007	353.82	0.84%
MAICO Reps Picnic 2007	45.00	0.11%
Other Expense	23.10	0.06%
Over/Under cash on hand	10.52	0.03%

TOTAL EXPENSES\$21,254.05 50.61%

NET INCOME \$167.16

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_____