
The MAICO GA.A.ZETTE

MAY/JUNE 2007

RECOVERY – “Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.” – Step Five
“Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.” – Step Six
UNITY – “Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.” – Tradition Five
“An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.” -- Tradition Six
SERVICE – Throughout our structure, a traditional “Right of Appeal” ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.” – Concept V
“The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.” – Concept VI

Tradition Five – Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers

June 1970

On my fourth sober AA day, I was sitting alone in one of our musty old meeting rooms, very sad and very broke. All the AAs had seemed very kind in their desire to help, but none of them had mentioned money. And, like thousands of other new members, I believed my biggest problems were financial. Yet not one person had offered a loan.

Then, suddenly, one of those big, handsome, gray-templed, well-dressed old-timers strode in with a friendly smile widening his face. He stuck out his hand and squeezed mine. “If I can help you any way at all, just say so, and I’ll do it!” he declared heartily.

Trying to sound as if I were merely asking for a match, I said, “I hope so. You see, I need to borrow two thousand dollars.”

His silence was total.

But finally he spoke. “You’re in the wrong place,” he said firmly. “We don’t lend money here, my friend. That’s not what this place is for.”

I froze, but he went on and on. “We won’t help you with the money problem. We won’t help you with the family problem or a job or clothes or a medical problem or food or a place to spend the night. All we will do in AA is help you stay sober,” he explained. “Then you can take care of these other problems yourself. You *can* take care of yourself, can’t you, if you’re sober?”

I hated that word “sober!” But what could I say? “Certainly,” I snapped, humiliated that, in my ignorance of AA folkways, I had been caught in a *faux pas*, as if someone had found me eating peas with my fingers.

What the man had said made perfectly good sense. I *had* been sober a few days and *could* take care of things. So I put my gradually clearing mind to it, remembered a cousin I had not tapped for months, sent a wire, and got some dough.

To my astonishment and sorrow, I almost instantly found myself drunk.

Within a few hours, my new AA benefactor had given me in very blunt words a sharp summary of Traditions Five, Six and Seven. And, by getting drunk, I had illustrated perfectly the special sense behind Five. What I needed most was not money, obviously. After getting it, I still had the *drinking* problem that had made me think of approaching AA in the first place.

This happened in January 1945, and the first hint of the Twelve Traditions was not to appear anywhere in AA until the July 1945 issue of the Grapevine, when Bill W. wrote, “I would like to discuss in coming issues such topics as anonymity, leadership, public relations, the use of money in AA, and the like.”

Therefore, what I encountered in AA during my first few months, before the Traditions were formalized, were customs of AA behavior followed by members who had learned that some AA ways would work and others would not.

That is the authority of the Traditions in my personal life. I honor them, not solely because of their authorship or their having the mystical number twelve or their being adopted by the Fellowship at the First International Convention in Cleveland in 1950. I cherish them because they work. They enable me and my fellow AAs to stay sober, together, and to carry our message to other alcoholics.

But I did not like the Traditions at first, especially when they conflicted with what I wanted. I was a suspicious character, often turning phony operator to get what I wanted. During those first weeks, I kept wondering what “those AAs” were really up to or out for, and what I could get out of them.

The real miracle is that most of them acted with extraordinary kindness. No matter what I tried to maneuver out of them, they tried just to give me the message.

In subsequent years, I tried to misuse AA in two ways; that is, I tried to get more out of it than the sobriety message. Once I wangled a part-time job from a fellow member, then took advantage of him. Coming in late, I would excuse myself by thinking, “After all, we’re both alcoholics; he ought to excuse my little weaknesses.” He exploited me, too, expecting long hours of unpaid work simply because I was a fellow AA. We began to concentrate on what we were owed, not on what we as AAs owed each other. Neither of us got drunk, but our friendship did not survive.

Another I tried to use AA for romance, and really did find balm for a lonely heart with an AA partner. We found romance, all right, but we lost our sobriety.

Years have gone by since I had my infancy in AA as an excuse for my “gimme” tendencies. Today I try to look at the Fifth Tradition as a giver, not as a taker. But the picture is not pretty enough to brag about. It isn’t always easy, even now, to keep my personal wants out of the way when I try to carry the message. I want applause as an AA speaker, compliments as a Grapevine writer. I want to be a “success” as a sponsor—that is, I want to be the one who sobered somebody up!

I have found I prefer to carry the message to pleasant, attractive, grateful alcoholics who do what I say and give me full credit for their sobriety. Sometimes I wish I did not even have to carry the message at all; I wish I could just wait where I am for people to come and pick it up.

On the other hand, I rejoice that I can now participate in so many good ways of fulfilling our primary purpose. I can help put on public meetings and other public information activities to carry the message to alcoholics who are still out there drinking—sick, scared, completely unaware that we want them, and completely wrong in their notion of what our sober life is like. I can be on our hospital and jail visiting committees. I can serve on my group’s hospitality committee, to welcome the ill-at-ease newcomer. I can attend or lead beginner’s meetings. I can help support our local Intergroup office and the AA General Service Office, which reach drunks in places I cannot get to. I can have coffee with the new AA after the meeting, instead of running off to chin and gossip with my old friends.

Yes, my group (made up of individual AAs, including me) has improved a lot in its respect for our Fifth Tradition—in its ways of carrying the message. My own AA history has lengthened considerably since I first caught glimpses of the sobriety-preserving wisdom in the AA way of doing things, summed up in our Traditions. But I have recently discovered something else quite wonderful about the Fifth: It does *not* say that AAs should help only newcomers.

I do not agree that the newcomer is *the* most important member at any meeting. In my opinion, equally important are those old-timers who showed me the way, and any middle-timer who may today be suffering. If newcomers are indeed the lifeblood of AA, old-and middle-timers are its skin and backbone. What a bewildered mess we would be in without them!

So in your next meeting, when that Tradition about carrying the message “to the alcoholic who still suffer” is mentioned, please give a thought, not only to newcomers, but also to the alcoholics older in AA who are sitting there. One of them might be me. I still suffer, sometimes. I still need to hear the message, always.

B.L., Manhattan, N.Y.

(reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine, Best of the Grapevine)

Take My Advice – I’m Not Using It – May 1997

I was feeling rather depressed and called my sponsor and found her in a similar mood. I said, “What shall I do?” At first she said, “I don’t know. If you figure it out call me back.” Then because she is a loving person, a good friend, and has a terrific grasp of the AA program, she shifted into sponsorship gear and told me to do the following:

1. Wear life like a loose garment.
2. Don’t take myself so seriously.
3. Count my blessings.
4. Find another alcoholic to work with.
5. Read the Big Book and go to a meeting.

Then she laughed and said, “Take my advice –I’m not using it.”

I called one of my sponsees, and she was also in a negative frame of mind. I addressed her problem and suggested one through five listed above. She said she had a sponsee in a melancholy mood. I proposed that I and my sponsor, she and her sponsor could form a singing group called The Depressions and sing the blues. She was not amused.

Later in the day my sponsor dropped by with another friend for coffee – and what a change! She’d made a Twelfth Step call and taken another alcoholic to a detox. They recounted how she looked like ten miles of bad road, was ill and full of fear and remorse. Suddenly we were all full of gratitude and laughing at the insanity of self-pity and self-imposed depression. We remembered all the pain and confusion of our early days in Alcoholics Anonymous.

The simplicity of this program never changes – what works is constant: trust in God, clean house, and work with others.

Terry B. Concord, California

Anger – Personal and Group Enemy

“As the book ‘Alcoholics Anonymous’ puts it, ‘Resentment is the Number One offender.’ It is a primary cause of relapses into drinking. How well we of A.A. know that for us ‘To drink is eventually to go mad or die.’

“Much the same penalty overhangs every A.A. group. Given enough anger, both unity and purpose are lost. Given still more ‘righteous’ indignation, the group can disintegrate; it can actually die. This is why we avoid controversy. This is why we prescribe no punishments for any misbehavior, not matter how grievous. Indeed, no alcoholic can be deprived of his membership for any reason whatever.

“Punishment never heals. Only love can heal.”

Reprinted with permission from AAWS, As Bill Sees it

Pass it On" Upcoming Events 2007

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

May 18 – 20 – Area 75 56th Annual Spring Conference, Marriott Madison West, 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr., Middleton 608-831-2000 or 800-228-9290. Room rates per night \$109.00 all occupancy, mention AA Area 75 Conference. Registration: \$14.00, Sat. Banquet \$28, Sunday Breakfast Buffet \$14.00. Address: Conference Treasurer, P.O. Box 6642, Monona, WI. 53716-0642

June 16 – Union Center Open AA Annual Picnic – Noon picnic, 1pm AA speaker Jim T. Wonewoc, Union Center Park. Bring a dish to pass if you can, hot dogs, hamburgers, coffee, utensils will be furnished.

June 20 – Annual AA & Al-Anon Family Picnic in the Park, North Shelter House, Twining Park, Monroe, dinner at 5:45pm, speaker following dinner Harvey O. Rock Grove, IL. Dish to pass would be appreciated but not necessary. Meat & beverages will be furnished. Sponsored by Monroe Wed. Night BB Grp.

June 23 – Dist. 37 Open AA Workshop "Is Recovery Enough?" – Ruffner Hall, 108 S. Washington St., New Lisbon, WI. 8:00am to 7:00pm. Corrections/BTG/CPC/Treatment/Special Needs/Oldtimers Sponsorship Panels, Archives, Dance, Bring your instruments for jam session. Bring a dish to pass. Bake Sale.

June 22-24 – 7th Annual Midwest Motorcycle AA Convention, Emerald Acres Campground, Pearl City, IL. Weekend registration fee \$30.00 per person before 6/5/07. \$35.00 at gate. One day \$20 per person, for more information web site is www.MMAAC.org for map and schedule. Send registration to M.M.A.A.C., P.O. Box 8925, Rockford, IL. 61126

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.

July 13-15 – 11th Annual Keep It Simple AA-Al-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

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 Al-Anon speaker Peg K. Madison. 3:30pm AA speaker Randy M. Waunakee.

Additions, Changes & Deletions to MAICO directory in 2007

Belleville, Sun changed to Thursdays, 7pm, C,NS, Grace United Methodist Ch., 326 W. Pearl, Big Book Study

Cottage Grove, add, Sat. 6pm, O, NS, Hope Lutheran Ch., 3702 Cty AB, 4 Blks north of Hwy 12/18

Janesville, Fri. 8pm changed to 7pm, Young People's grp, moved from 407 W. Van Buren to Wesley Alano, 1833 Wesley Ave.

Madison, Delete, Wed. 5:15pm, Midvale Lutheran Ch., 4329 Tokay Blvd.]

Madison, Delete, Thurs. 5:30pm, ARO Counseling, 1050 Regent St. (Lawyers concerned for Lawyers)

Madison, Delete, Thurs. 6:30pm, Porchlight, 306 N. Brooks St., (Capital Steps Big Book Study)

Madison, Delete, Fri. Noon, Fitchburg Serenity Club, 6048 McKee Rd., (Big Book Study)

Madison, moved, Fri. 7pm, C,NS,Women, Midvale Ch., moved to Bethany United Methodist Ch., 3910 Mineral Pt. Rd.

Madison, moved, Sat. 9am, Step Meeting, Midvale Ch., moved to 511 Club, 511 N. Carroll

Madison, moved, Sat. 9am, Kitchen Grp, Midvale Ch., moved to Covenant Presbyterian Ch., 326 S. Segoe Rd.

(Child Care provided)

Madison, moved, Sat. 9am, Slackers Grp, Midvale Ch. moved to Capital City Ch., 401 N. Blackhawk Ave.

Madison, add, Sat. 6pm, O, NS, Hope Lutheran Ch., 3702 Cty AB, 4 Blks north of Hwy 12/18

McFarland, add, Sat. 6pm, O, NS, Hope Lutheran Ch., 3702 Cty AB, 4 Blks north of Hwy 12/18

New Lisbon, Add, Mon. 10am, Ruffner Hall, 108 S. Washington (Back to Basics Grp)

Potosi, moved & time change, Sat. 7:30pm now, O,NS,H, moved to Davies Memorial U.C.C., 134 N. Main St.

Sparta, new home for Sparta Grp, Masonic Lodge, lower level, 603 N. Court St. (corner of Court & Montgomery)

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

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.

Attention Groups:

The MAICO Steering Committee is trying to improve communication to groups in the outlying areas of our service area. Would your group be interested in having a MAICO Rep if teleconferencing was set up between the MAICO Rep at their home and the MAICO Reps meeting at MAICO? It would be on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm. Please email or call and let us know if your group may be interested.

Thank You – Groups and Individuals who contributed to MAICO - 2/17/07 to 4/20/07

General Fund

24 Hour a day Grp
Anonymous Indiv. Donation
Atwood Women's Grp
Barneys Grp
Caring & Sharing Grp
Columbus AA Grp
Cuba City Mixers Grp
Dale N.
Early Risers Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Friday Night Fellowship Grp

Good Fellowship Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Happy Hour Grp
Kris W.
Larry P.
Marshall 449 Grp
Mauston Wed. Afternoon Meeting
Mon. Morning Grp in Beloit
Monona Serenity Grp
Mt. Horeb Saturday Morning Grp
Mt. Olive Grp
New Beginnings Grp
New Glarus Sobrietyfest Grp
Our Group Wednesday Grp
Phoenix Grp
Red Circle Grp
Reedsburg Thurs Night Grp
Reflections Grp
Richard P.
Rock River Grp
Sat. Morning Eye Opener Grp
Sauk Prairie AA Grp
St. Dunstan's Grp
Suburban Sobriety Grp
Sullivan Big Book Grp
Sunday Morning Miracle Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sunrisers Grp
Tom D.
Tom S.
Village Grp
Wanakee Wauna Meeting
Wed. Night Big Book Grp
Whitewater Tues. AM Grp
Working Step Grp

Faithful Fiver

Larry L.

Answering Service donation

Freedom Grp
It's a God Thing Grp
Jackie H.
Sauk Prairie AA Grp
Susan K.
Tom G.

Area 75 Southern Wisconsin

Web Site: www.area75.org

Upcoming Area 75 Conferences:

May 18-20, 2007 –56th Annual Spring Conference,
Our Three Legacies, Marriott Madison West,
Middleton

5 State Regional/Fall 2007- Manitowoc

Spring 2008 – Olympia Village, Oconomowoc

Fall 2008 – Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac

Area 74 North Wisconsin/Upper Peninsula Michigan

Web site: www.area74.org

Year to Date Income Statement: March 2007

REVENUES

Donations.....	6,904.74	27.31%
Individual Donations	1,210.00	4.79%
Donations/Answering Service	280.00	1.11%
Conf Lit & Merch.....	7,826.25	30.95%
Grapevine Lit & Merch	588.60	2.33%
Non-Conf Literature	3,249.24	12.85%
Non-Conf Merchandise	3,586.30	14.18%
Faithful Fivers.....	89.00	0.35%
Directories	484.60	1.92%
Investment Income.....	43.96	0.17%
Miscellaneous Income	2.55	0.01%
Big Book Study 2007	855.00	3.38%
Other Income	18.10	0.07%
Shipping Charges Reimbursed.....	148.03	0.59%

TOTAL REVENUES \$25,286.37 100.0%

COST OF SALES

Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	6,486.81	25.65%
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine	696.00	2.75%
Inventory Exp. NonConf Literature.....	2,950.70	11.67%
Inventory Exp. Non Conf Mer.....	1,593.96	6.30%

TOTAL COST OF SALES\$11,727.47 46.38%

GROSS PROFIT\$13,558.90 53.62%

EXPENSES

Auto Expense (mileage).....	42.34	0.17%
Wages Expense.....	8,097.75	32.02%
Payroll Tax Expense.....	619.53	2.45%
License and Fees Expenses.....	170.00	0.67%
Supplies Expense.....	91.61	0.36%
Office Expense	78.73	0.31%
Bank Charges (returned check).....	6.00	0.02%
Telephone Expense.....	301.70	1.19%
Domain Name-Go Daddy Acct.....	18.23	0.07%
Answering Service Expense	1,060.00	4.19%
Advertising in Phone Book.....	267.00	1.06%
Postage and Shipping Expense	190.64	0.75%
Occupancy Expense.....	1,605.00	6.35%
Insurance Expense	2.00	0.01%
Intergroup/C.O. Seminar 2007	25.00	0.01%
Big Book Study 2007	353.82	1.40%
MAICO Reps Picnic 2007	45.00	0.18%
Other Expense	23.10	0.09%

TOTAL EXPENSES\$12,997.45 51.40%

NET INCOME \$561.45

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_____