

*The MAICO*

**Sept/Oct 2009**

# GAAZETTE

***Our 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.*

## ***59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference Meets***

*Members meet to chart the course of AA over the next year*

In 1951 the first panel of elected delegates thundered into New York to inspect the operation and hear reports of the work going on at "Headquarters." They went over the books and thoroughly examined every aspect of the office. They questioned the trustees and the staff, and probably would have cross-examined the dog if there had been on lying about the place. Despite the objections of those who worried that such a gathering would result in "politics, confusion, expense and fruitless strife," the annual meetings continued and, at the International Convention in 1955, the General Service Conference was designated as "the actual voice and the effective conscience of our whole society." Our founders had faith that future generations of AA members could accept the responsibility of maintaining our vital world services.

In that spirit, members of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference assembled in New York City from April 26 to May 2, 2009. Sequestered in the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Broadway, 93

delegates, 18 trustees (12 alcoholic, six nonalcoholic), three AA World Service directors, along with 15 General Service Office and Grapevine staff members, came together with the task of charting the course for Alcoholics Anonymous through the months ahead.

On Sunday, April 26, Conference members gathered for the opening session. Leonard Blumenthal, Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee and chairman of the General Service Board, gave a stirring welcome address before Phyllis H., manager of the General Service Office, called the roll of Conference members. Dorothy W., trustee at large U.S., shared the joy and honor she felt in being part of this Conference. In her keynote address, Dorothy's gentle voice reached the Conference members with a unifying, simple message: "Because of our gratitude for our sobriety and our commitment to guard the Traditions and the Concepts, we need to listen, and to listen with love and tolerance; we must also listen to and respect the minority opinion when it is voiced," she said. With Dorothy's

words still hanging in the air, Conference members filed out of the room to begin the work.

Thirteen committees handled the vast workload of a full agenda, with over 40 items discussed this year. Each committee met at least twice – about six hours total – before presenting its recommendations to the entire Conference body. But most committees actually met three or more times – fitting their extra meetings around a schedule that was already full from 9am to 10pm. The workhorses on the Report and Charter Committee met five times before deciding their work was complete. The delegates, trustees and staff members were up and working early each morning and toiled late into the night. Tom R., Panel 58 Delegate/Area 29 described the experience as, “a week of enthusiasm, hard work, a full agenda, high emotions, new friends, exhaustion, exhilaration, old friends, excitement, love and service.”

Throughout the week, Conference members heard reports from the Grapevine Board, General Service Board, AA World Service Board and the Budgetary Committee, and took full advantage of the question periods to thoroughly examine all aspects of the operations as well as the people entrusted with the oversight of our affairs. The Grapevine unveiled a new book, *Voices of Long-Term Sobriety*, a collection of 42 stories by old-timers about how they hit bottom and got sober – a vivid description of the early days of AA.

Conference members took part in daily presentations, workshops or sharing sessions. A tour of the General Service Office, the Grapevine office and Archives was also on the itinerary.

Later in the week, each committee presented its recommendations to the Conference as a whole for acceptance, rejection, revision or further

discussion – or whatever option the Conference decided upon.

The Conference enthusiastically roared with approval as the long-awaited Videos for Young People project was reviewed. “The outcome was beautiful, a product of love and tolerance (and patience). Good job, PI committee – good job to our young AAs, “said Suzanne W., delegate from Area 56.

Most items on the agenda were handled without discord. Others were contentious and invoked passionate debate.

It took very little discussion before the Conference agreed that a Special Needs recovery pamphlet should be developed and that stories be solicited from AAs with various special needs – such as members who are deaf, blind or wheelchair-bound.

By the time the final item was dispatched, the 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference was officially the longest in history. It was nearing 2:30am on Saturday morning when the Friday afternoon session ended. After a few hours of sleep, members gathered again – at 8am on Saturday for a farewell brunch.

In reflecting on her second Conference experience, Joan R., Panel 58 Delegate/Area 48, said: “The 59<sup>th</sup> General Service Conference was another opportunity for a cross section of members who love this Fellowship to meet and discuss issues. I am confident this Fellowship will be around for generations to come. What an honor it is to serve and to be a small part of this life-changing organization.”

D.B. – Consort, Alberta

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***MAICO, the Madison Area Intergroup Central Office only accepts Cash or Checks***

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

**Did you know that MAICO Sells in addition to AAWS & Grapevine materials?**

- |           |            |                    |                                   |              |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| T-Shirts  | Bookcovers | Medallions         | Coffee Cups                       | Wallet Cards |
| Bookmarks | Key Chains | Al-Anon Literature | DVD's – My name is Bill W. & more |              |

# Proposed Revised MAICO By-Laws

## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Your group is cordially invited to participate in this process by voting. Please have your MAICO Representative or another person (if you do not have a MAICO REP) from your group come to vote at the October MAICO Representatives meeting:

Copies of the Proposed Revised By-Laws available at [www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org)

October 13, 2009

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Goodman Community Center  
149 Waubesa St, Bolz Room A  
Madison, WI 53704

**If your representative cannot attend the Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> meeting then you have two options:**

- 1) Send or deliver the ballot below to MAICO, 6033 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716 by October 1, 2009.
- 2) Do nothing and the Steering Committee will vote for you.

(Please detach)-----

### Ballot

#### Please Print information

Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us how you want us to vote for you by marking one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) **In favor** of adopting the revised By-laws.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) **Not in favor** of adopting the revised By-laws.

By signing and sending in this ballot, I acknowledge I give the Steering Committee the right to vote for my group by proxy. I understand the Steering Committee will vote as directed on this ballot. I understand there is only one vote per group.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ (Group Representative)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Upcoming Events

2009

Some event flyers on [www.aamadisonwi.org](http://www.aamadisonwi.org) or [www.area75.org](http://www.area75.org)

**Sept. 12 – Dist. 31 Workshop**, Poynette Dekorra Ch., Hwy CS, Portage, WI. 9am to 3pm

**Sept. 12 – WICYPAA XVII Bingo**, 511 Club, 511 N. Carroll St., Madison, 8pm Speakers, 9pm Bingo

**Sept. 19 – 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Greater Milwaukee Central Office City Wide Jamboree**, Milwaukee County Zoo, Peck Welcome Center, 10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee. Tickets: \$24.00

Speaker: Jack C. Hagerstown, MD., Dance to follow. Ticket purchase include zoo admission & parking.

**Sept. 20 – Fond du Lac Third Sunday Breakfast**, Breakfast 10am, Speaker 11am. Ramada Hotel, 1 North Main St., Fond du Lac. Free parking in ramp north of hotel. Breakfast: \$8.00 (children under 12 \$4.00)

**Sept. 20 – Area GSR Workshop**, R.A.C.O., 3701 Elmwood Plaza, #201, Racine, 2pm-4pm

Contact #: 262-672-2186

**Sept. 25 – WICYPAA XVII Chili**, The Grove Club, 1037 Grove Ave., Racine, Dinner 6pm, Speaker 7pm, Suggested donation per bowl of chili \$3.00

**Sept. 27 – Area 75 Pre-Conference Assembly** at Madison Senior Center, Madison

**Oct. 10 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “AA at the V.A.” Mini-Conference**, Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI. 8:30am to 5pm then pizza party & entertainment 5pm – 8pm. Registration: \$10.00, AA & Al-Anon panels & Speakers.

**Oct. 17 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual New Glarus Mini-Conference**, 8:30am – 3:00pm, Shepherd of the Hills Ch., 506 12<sup>th</sup> Ave., New Glarus. Panels, Lunch provided, salads & desserts welcome, raffle.

**Oct. 24 – Dist 8 & 30 Mini-Conference**, Trinity Episcopal Ch., 409 E. Court St., Janesville, WI.

Panels 8:00am to 3:45pm, Al-Anon Speaker 4pm,

**Oct. 24 – AA Women to Women**, closed AA meeting, Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Ave., Milwaukee, WI. - 9am to 2:30pm. Registration Fee: \$10.00 includes lunch, coffee, doughnuts

**Nov. 6 – 8 – 58<sup>th</sup> Area 75 Fall Conference**, Heidel House Resort, Green Lake (Area Inventory)

**Nov. 13 – 15 – 2009 East Central Regional Forum, with our U.S./Canada General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous**, Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo Ctr., 100 W. Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI.

Register online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)

**Nov. 14 – 13<sup>th</sup> Annual MAICO Reps Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop**, Trinity Lutheran Ch., 1904 Winnebago St., Madison. 10am to 3pm.

**Nov. 20 – 22 – McHenry’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Soberfest**, Grand Geneva Resort, 7020 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva, WI. They need 300 volunteers. [www.soberfest.org](http://www.soberfest.org)

2010

**Jan. 22 - 24 – WICYPAA Conference**, Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

**Jul. 1 -4 – 2010 AAWS International Convention**, San Antonio, TX – Reg. forms & You can register on line at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org) which opens Sept. 1, 2009 , look for International Convention logo

*Thank You's*  
*June 20, 2009 to August 14, 2009*

***General Fund***

Adams Sunday Nooners Grp  
Baraboo Wed. Afternoon Grp  
Barneveld Grp  
Columbus Grp  
Dodgeville North End Grp  
Early Risers Grp  
East Side Grps  
Easy Breathers Grp  
Easy Does It But Do It Grp  
Foxhall Recovery Grp  
Going After Your Sobriety Grp  
Grace Lunch Grp  
Jefferson Mon Wed Fri Morning Grp  
Jefferson Rock River Grp  
Lake Mills Our Group Wednesday  
Madison Professionals Grp  
Mauston Wednesday Afternoon  
High Noon Wednesday Grp  
Into Action Grp  
Lodi Lifeliners Grp  
Mineral Pt Grapevine Grp  
Monona Serenity Grp  
Monroe Wed Night Big Book Grp  
Mon/Sat Grp at 511  
Morning After Grp  
New Beginnings Grp  
New Glarus Sobrietyfest Grp

Out to Lunch Grp  
Portage 207 Grp  
Portage Serenity at Six Grp  
Richland Center Primitive Grp  
Slip Nots Grp  
St. Andy's 7am Grp  
St. Dunstan's Grp  
Sullivan Big Book Grp  
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp  
Waunakee Wauna-Meeting  
Waupun Tuesday Night Grp  
Wautoma Hwy 21 Open Discussion Grp  
Whitewater Tues AM Grp

***Prudent Reserve***

***Answering Service***

Anonymous - monthly  
Easy Breathers Grp  
Easy Does It But Do It Grp  
Lodi Lifeliners Grp  
St. Dunstan's Grp

***Faithful Fivers***

Larry L. – monthly

***Gratitude Month***

***Individual Donations***

Anonymous

**Please Note: District 20 G.S.R. meetings are being held at Monona Community Center, 1011 Nichols Rd., Monona, last Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm now.**

**Please Note: MAICO Steering Committee & Reps Meetings are now being held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison (park in extra lot on First St. by railroad tracks) 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.**

**The exception is Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> when the meetings will be held at Goodman Community Center, 149 Waubesa St, Madison for voting on proposed revised by-laws.**  
6PM – Steering Committee  
7PM – MAICO Reps



**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 with any changes that you know of or fill out this form and send it to MAICO, 6033 Monona Drive, Suite 204, Madison, WI 53716-3963.

**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\_\_\_\_\_

**MAICO**

Madison Area Intergroup Central Office  
6033 Monona Drive, Suite 204  
Madison, WI 53716-3963

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