

THE MAICO GAAZETTE

APRIL – JUNE 2020

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.

www.aamadisonwi.org MAICO Office closed to the Public until April 24th unless order changes

SPRING THEME: Utilizing AA Resources

Literature, Meetings, Speakers, Recordings & Conferences – Taking in what helps

Your section of sharing through letters at the back of each Grapevine is very helpful to me. Sometimes, I become confused with the different theories and opinions contained in some of the longer articles in each issue. It seems to me, as an avid reader of most AA literature, that we have to be careful to remember that the "opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole." (So it states in fine print at the beginning of each Grapevine.)

It is important for me to apply only that which aids in my recovery, without taking into my mental faculties that which may be a deterrent to my spirit. As with AA meetings, I read the Grapevine with the attitude of taking what helps me and leaving the rest. In this way, it is possible to keep an open mind and allow others to have opinions that may be contrary to mine. The articles about Bill and Dr. Bob always blend with my other AA readings and efforts to find a way out.

*Beverly, New Massachusetts
Grapevine March 1981*

LITERATURE

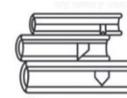
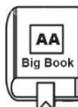
A low mileage Big Book. The night after my twelfth birthday of sobriety, I came home late and found a man sleeping on the ground in my parking space. I couldn't park without either awakening or injuring him, so I decided to park in an empty space allotted to another apartment.

When I came out the next morning, he was gone. I could see a book lying on the ground. As I got closer, I saw it was a **Big Book, brand new and unopened.** I cleaned up the mess he'd made and tucked the Big Book away.

Later that night, I took the **Big Book** to a meeting where I told the story of finding the book. I ended by holding it up and saying, "So, here we have a near-new, **low-mileage copy of the Big Book**, which can now belong to the first newcomer who says he wants it." A young man spoke up and the book was his. There are many ways to "pass it on."

*M.H, Ventura California
Grapevine July 1992*

LITERATURE



I understand that regardless of what kind of meeting it is, the program needs to look attractive to newcomers.

I came in not feeling all that good about myself.

After having been given my first Big Book, I was so drawn to the stories in the book's second half. Those first-person accounts helped me see that I was in no way a pioneer when it came to screwing things up. There's no denying that the first part of the Big Book offers a solution to my drinking problem, but when I tried to read it my focus wasn't sharp. I just didn't get it.

I failed to understand how any of this was going to help me get sober. But when I flipped to the book's second half, I found the stuff I could relate to. Speaker meetings are where it's at. I love hearing some absolute stranger coincidentally—and quite miraculously—tell parts of *my* life story. Like they've been reading my mind. All I want is to share about it with people who understand me, people who appreciate that sobriety can be hard. It's important to find the meetings where this can happen

*Brian R. – Brentwood, California
Grapevine – February 2020*

LITERATURE
SPEAKERS



H O P E



A NEW AA FILM FOR TREATMENT FACILITIES: “HOPE”

“After I get out of treatment and join AA, those people will help me find a job.”

“My wife's left me, but AA members will show me how to get her back.”

“Alcohol isn't my main problem, but AA meetings will help with all my difficulties.”

Misconceptions such as these among alcoholics coming to AA from treatment facilities formed the primary reason for developing and producing the film “Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous.” Approved by the General Service Conference in April 1990, the film went through a lengthy process of review by the Conference and by the Trustees' Committee on Treatment Facilities.

“**Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous**” was envisioned at first as a way of informing alcoholics in treatment, as well as treatment facilities administrators, about what AA is--and is not. Since it demonstrates clearly and simply many fundamental principles and practices of our program, it can also serve a variety of general purposes in AA service, such as letting AA groups know what new members have been told about AA, and making sure that any AA member is well informed about the Fellowship. Service committees such as public information, cooperation with the professional community, and correctional facilities are finding it a clear, concise way of explaining AA to alcoholics and nonalcoholics alike.

“**Hope**” was written and produced by Karen and David Crommie, who brought the experience of three previous AA films and a number of television public service announcements to their task, it begins with a disclaimer and, observing the Traditions of anonymity, shows no faces. The characters represent a racial and ethnic mix.

As the film opens, a man is getting ready for his first AA birthday, and he serves as the Narrator as we follow him to the meeting. In flashbacks, he remembers his drinking, recalls how he came to AA, and reflects on what his life is like in sobriety. Voice-over conversations with other members illuminate what AA is and isn't, our primary purpose, sponsorship, slips, the importance of a home group, the Steps and Traditions, and other basic recovery tools.

The impact of a year's sobriety is captured in the Narrator's closing words: “A year has passed since I've had a drink, and I'm proud of me. Maybe the hardest thing I had to learn, and the most valuable, was that crazy as it sounds, you just don't pick up the first drink. And you do it a day at a time. Sometimes an hour at a time. It's been the bravest thing I've ever done because I had to put my sobriety first and respect myself, and I needed to grow up to do that. At times it was hard, but I didn't have to do it alone - and you don't either.”

The film is available from the General Service Office in both 16mm and video cassette form, with closed captions for the hearing impaired, for \$15. Both Spanish and French soundtracks will be available soon.

*Around AA
Grapevine – February 1991*

FILM

ANNUAL GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE: Wide range of interests in Fellowship

Convening each year, the annual General Service Conference addresses a wide range of matters of interest to the Fellowship in the U.S. and Canada.

Addressing some difficult issues—issues of trust, overcoming barriers, and keeping the Fellowship united—the Conference worked its way through agenda items, slowly and carefully formulating a path forward for the Fellowship.

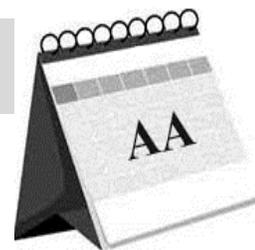
Achieving projects and proposals examples:

- La Viña be published at its current frequency of six times per year as a service to the Fellowship.
- The pamphlet “The God Word” (from Great Britain) be adopted by AAWS.
- Development of a pamphlet based on AA's Three Legacies, how they work together and including personal personal stories of members' experiences with the Three Legacies.

*AA News: General Service Conference Highlights
Grapevine – September 2018*

CONFERENCE

INCOME STATEMENT



REVENUES	<u>Jan-Feb 2020</u>	<u>Jan-Feb 2019</u>
Donations – Groups	7,331.87	6,848.05
Donations – Events	309.74	0.00
Individual Donations	1,021.17	30.20
Donations – Answering Service	0.00	0.00
Donations - Gratitude Month	853.61	610.32
Conference Literature	5,139.90	6,362.30
Non-Conference Literature	1,109.05	1,378.83
Non-Conference Merchandise	3,190.14	2,725.62
Grapevine Literature	323.71	252.20
Faithful Fivers	25.00	72.00
Directories	100.00	69.00
Savings Account Income	1.65	4.93
Other Income	30.41	38.35
Sales Tax Discount	<u>10.00</u>	<u>5.03</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>19,446.25</u>	<u>18,396.83</u>



COST OF SALES		
Inventory Exp.-Conference Lit.	2,939.20	3,732.00
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Lit.	237.10	884.25
Inventory Exp.-NonConfer Mer.	1,095.92	1,858.01
Inventory Exp.- Grapevine Lit.	244.84	335.77
Inventory Exp – Directories	0.00	0.00
Total Cost of Sales	<u>4,517.06</u>	<u>6,810.03</u>
Gross Profit	<u>14,929.19</u>	<u>11,586.80</u>



EXPENSES		
Wages Expense	7,100.30	6,706.40
Employee Medical Reimbursement	320.00	320.00
Payroll Tax Expense	543.17	513.04
Credit Card Processing Costs	162.99	169.00
License and Fees Expense	60.00	245.00
Office Supplies/Expense	159.86	207.46
Computer Maintenance Expense	500.00	500.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	0.00	504.28
Telephone/Internet Expense	340.00	322.98
Answering Service Expense	1,357.31	1,284.33
Advertising in Phone Book	176.00	176.00
Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.14	-0.08
Postage and Shipping Expense	23.49	44.63
Occupancy Expense	1,670.00	1,630.00
Printing Expense	180.00	0.00
Directory Printing Expense	0.00	1202.00
Travel Expense	156.81	41.04
MAICO Reps Events Expense	155.07	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>12,904.86</u>	<u>13,866.08</u>
NET INCOME	<u>\$2,024.33</u>	<u>\$-2,279.28</u>



UPCOMING Events 2020

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** at www.area75.org

Be mindful of anonymity with names, flyers and information on the internet.

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

RECURRING - All Gatherings on Hold until Safe at Home is lifted

1st Sunday of Month – Ripon's Royal Ridge Open Speaker AA Breakfast, Royal Ridges, State Hwy 23 (W. Fond du Lac St.) Ripon. Breakfast 10am, Speaker 11:00 am \$10.00 adults, (Holiday meets 2nd Sunday).

2nd Sunday of Month – Open AA Speaker, Adams, Adams-Friendship Club, 1093 County M, Adams, Noon.

3rd Sunday of Month – Pocket Full of Sunshine Breakfast, Howard Johnson, 3841 E. Washington Ave., Madison, 10:00 am breakfast buffet, \$10.00 all you can eat, 11am Speaker.

Last Wednesday of Month – Sunlight of the Spirit Group, (SOTS) Open speaker meeting, Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2401 Atwood Ave., 5:30 pm Potluck, bring dish to share, 6:30pm Speaker.

Last Saturday of Month – Hosted by Portage Area Recovery Groups, Open Speaker Meeting, 8:00 pm, Historic Apts., 207 W. Cook St., Portage, basement, handicap accessible, Potluck to follow meeting.

Last Saturday of Month – Hosted by Dodgeville Downtown Group, Dodgeville Serenity Club, 401 N. Union St., Dodgeville. 7:00 pm Speaker, Please bring a snack or dessert if you would like.

1st & 3rd Saturday of Month – Monroe Sister Blandine Group, Open Speaker Meeting, 6:30 pm, St. Victor's Church, 1760 14th St., Monroe, entrance off 20th Ave (parish library door) Everyone welcome.

Every Saturday – New Voices Open Speaker Meeting, 7:00 pm, 402 W. Delavan Dr., Janesville, Hosted (Chair & Speaker) each month by groups in Area 75 & nearby Illinois groups.

Every Saturday – Turning Point Group, Saturday Night Live AA Speaker Meeting, as of Jan. 4th 7pm (was 8pm), East Side Alano Club, 1017 Northport Drive, Madison, WI. Last Saturday of the Month is an AA and an Al-Anon Speaker

Upcoming in 2020

June 6, 2020 – WI/UP Michigan Corrections Conference, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, WI. Details to follow.

June 28, 2020 – Area 75 Area Assembly, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, 9am

July 2-5, 2020 – 2020 International Convention, Alcoholics Anonymous, Detroit, MI. Information and registration on www.aa.org

August 22, 2020 – Dist. 2/MAICO Reps Picnic, Riverside Park, Shelter #1, Berlin, WI. Family activities, speakers, details to follow.

November 6-8, 2020 – Area 75 Conference, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc, WI.

November 14, 2020 – MAICO Reps 24th Annual Youngtimers/Oldtimers Workshop, Chili Cookoff, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, WI. 9am to Noon

THANK YOU'S – DONATIONS



General Fund

511 Step Grp
Baraboo Sat. Morning Eye Opener
Belleville Big Book Grp
Beloit Thursday 7:30pm Grp
Belmont Thursday Grp
Berlin Sunday Night Grp
Blackhawk Good Fellowship
Brodhead Sister Blandine Tuesday
Brodhead Sister Blandine Thursday
Crossroads Grp
DeForest Progress Grp
District 31
Early Risers
Easy Breathers Grp
Fitchburg Sun 10:10 Back to Basics
Fitchburg Sunrisers Grp
Foxhall Recovery Grp
Friday Night Lights Grp
Ft. Atkinson Open Beginners Grp
Grace Lunch Grp
Happy Hour Grp WI. Dells
High Noon Grp
Into Action Grp
It's a God Thing Grp
Lake Mills Our Group Wednesday
Life on Life's Terms Grp
Living Sober Grp
Mauston Friday Night Fellowship
Milton Thursday Young at Heart
Monroe Early Birds
Monroe New Beginnings Grp
Monroe Sat. Sister Blandine Grp
Mt. Olive Grp
New Glarus Sobriety Fest Grp
Platteville Wednesday Noon
Portage 207 Grp
Prairie Dock Grp
Richland Center Grp
Rock River Grp
Sat Morning Ontimers Grp
Sat Morning Women's Serenity Grp
Sauk City Early Risers Grp
Sauk Prairie Grp
Serenity at Six Grp
Serenity Seekers Grp
Slip Nots Grp
Sober Today Grp
St. Andy's Grp
Spring Green Read n Lead
Stoughton Grp
Sunday Night By the Book Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sun Prairie Phoenix Grp

Sunrise Serenity Grp
The 1728 Grp
The Spillers Grp
Thursday Floaters Grp
Traditions Grp
Tuesday Night Workshop
Waupun H.O.W. Grp
Woman's We are not a glum lot
Westfield 12 & 12 Grp
Working Step Grp

Gratitude

Anonymous
Beaver Dam Sat. Night Grp
Beaver Dam Sun Serenity
Beaver Dam Thursday Morning
Beaver Dam Tuesday Morning
Dodgeville Grp
Family Afterward
Happy Hour Grp WI. Dells
Into Action Grp
Living Sober Grp
Monroe New Beginnings
Monroe Sat. Sister Blandine Grp
Monroe Solution Sisters
Platteville Mon Night
Rock River Grp
Sat Morning Ontimers Grp
Sauk Prairie Grp
Serenity at Six Women's Grp
Sheryl S.
St. Dunstan's Beginner's Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Sun Prairie Eye Openers Grp
Sun Prairie Phoenix Grp
Watertown Mon Night Madness Grp
Watertown One Day at a Time Grp
Woman's Reflection Grp

Individual Donations

Alice G.
Dave S.
Jan K.
Larry L.
Les S.
Steve H.

Corrections/Treatment Fund

Any Lengths Grp
Early Risers
Living Sober Grp
Sunlight of the Spirit Grp
Watertown One Day at a Time Grp

Faithful Fivers

Larry L.
Mary S.
Mike G.

Prudent Reserve

Watertown One Day at a Time Grp

New Year's Eve Open House

Donations of \$27.00

SHORT TAKES Utilizing AA Resources

Literature, Meetings, Online, Speakers, Recordings & Conferences

The No. 1 Disappearing Book

Distributing AA literature is part of his service. If only he could keep enough books on the shelf

After the next district meeting, I walked out of the meeting having been elected CPC/PI chair. I didn't even know what the letters stood for. I felt totally inadequate. My sponsor said they had my back, that I would learn AA is a "we" program and not to worry.

The two plus years flew by. After I had recruited a small CPC committee of AA volunteers, a number of service projects were implemented:

- Placing "Drinking Problem?" cards with our district hotline telephone number written on them, in doctors' offices and hospital reception areas.
- Sending copies of the *Big Book* to all the middle and high school libraries. These two projects had something in common: the cards and the copies of the *Big Book* disappeared continuously. Librarians told me the *Big Book* was their number one disappearing book, so it must have aroused a tremendous amount of interest with the students.
- Attended a variety of health fairs using the area's display, which led to additional professional inquiries.

Grapevine - May, 2015 - Sam H.
North Carolina

LITERATURE
HEALTH FAIRS

AA Special needs pamphlet, DVDs, CDs now in multiple formats - AA News 2013

"It is so good to be made to feel welcome and 'a part of,' especially when you have a disability," says Lee, a deaf member in "A.A. for the Alcoholic With Special Needs." "I have come to realize that deafness, like alcoholism, is surmountable when I make use of the help that is available."

John, a deaf and blind member, says in the pamphlet: "I understand how important it is for people who are deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind to stay sober, and they have a greater chance of relapse if they don't have interpreters. It is vital that the communication is there between deaf and hearing members. I'm grateful to God and AA for the restoration of my sobriety and a new life."

Disability Avenues Available now are: The American Sign Language translation of "AA for the Alcoholic With Special Needs" on DVD and CD Audio (Spanish) (English) (French). Included are personal stories and special needs circumstances.

Grapevine - September 2013
- AA News

DVDs & CDs

Sobriety Downloaded

Big Book and "Twelve and Twelve" are now out as eBooks

AA's two central texts describing the program of action for recovery from alcoholism are now available in **eBook format** English, French and Spanish.

Publication in this digital media format will give broader distribution and access to AA's basic textbook, *Alcoholics Anonymous*, known popularly as the *Big Book*.

"We are thrilled at the prospect of reaching an even wider audience to offer AA's message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic who may not have had access to our basic literature."

AA members, many of whom read, re-read and quote from the literature at AA meetings as part of their recovery, will be able to search for specific passages quickly and highlight key words and sentences in the highly portable format.

Grapevine- February 2012- AA News

eBOOK

MANY AA WAYS to Recovery



MAICO Web <http://www.aamadisonwi.org>
info@aamadisonwi.org
608-222-8989 24-hour phone

aa-intergroup.org/directory.phponlinegroupaa.org
aaonlinemeeting.net
aagrapevine.org
<https://aamadisonwi.org/meetings>

It is often said at AA meetings that there's your way and there's AA's way.

The clear implication is that you'd better do it AA's way, or else. The less clear, but often very real, implication of such pronouncements is that the speaker already knows AA's way and that you'd better do it his or her way, or else. The underlying premise is that there's a single uniform AA way of getting sober, "one-size-fits-all" variety for everybody.

Yet, there are many "AA ways" to recovery, just as there are many varieties of alcoholism. How often has a speaker at a meeting announced that they knew they were not an alcoholic because they never drank in public, only to be followed by another speaker who knew they were not an alcoholic because they only drank in public? The list of such varying perceptions of the symptoms of alcoholism could go on and on. Varieties of successful AA recoveries are equally diverse.

The recorded experience of the early members of **AA indicates many ways to recovery**. While the call is to "thoroughly follow our path," the material that follows demonstrates the many paths taken by early AA's. Again the Big Book covers the spectrum not only of the varieties of alcoholic symptoms. Chapter Five, entitled, "How It Works," is scattered with comments setting out differences, ". . . on the other hand"; "Some of us had great self-confidence [obviously, some did not]; "One school would allow man no flavor to his fare and the other would have us all on a straight pepper diet"; "Whatever our ideal turns out to be". And on it goes.

Chapter Seven, entitled, "Working With Others," containing AA's "Twelfth Suggestion", is equally pragmatic. "Sometimes it is wise to wait..."; "...never force yourself upon him"; "You will get a better idea of how you ought to proceed"; "Let him draw his own conclusion"; "He can choose any conception he likes, provided it makes sense to him"; "He should not be pushed or prodded by you"; "If he thinks he can do the job some other way, or prefers some other spiritual approach, encourage him to follow his own conscience. We have no monopoly on God." Again, the list goes on and on. The practical aspects of Twelfth Step recovery work set out in the "Twelve and Twelve" is even more varied.

There are many AA paths to recovery. AA's greatest gift to the alcoholic seeking recovery is to help the alcoholic find the path that is right for him or her. That part of the "your-way-and-AA's-way" pronouncement is all too true. But the phrase might better be stated not as, "There's your way and there's AA's way," but rather as, "There's your way and there's an AA way for you. Your way didn't work. Based on the experience of many AA's in recovery, there's an AA way for you. Your job, with AA's help, is to find it."

Grapevine October, 20101 – John K. New York, New York



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

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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 update our information. 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_____
Handicap 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)