

# The BETWEEN-US

Monthly Newsletter of the Greater Milwaukee Central Office, Inc.

*Welcoming Newcomers and Aiding AA Groups in Our Community.*

October 2020 | Money and Sobriety

## Collective Conscience

By: Bob P. | Tucson, Ariz.

We cooperate to help the alcoholic. Our Twelve Concepts show us the way

When I first read our Twelve Concepts, I was confused. I ignored them for a long time. Then I started going to a monthly AA meeting on the Concepts. I began to see ways that I could apply the Concepts to my own recovery, to my home group and to local AA. I also started seeing links between the Concepts and my own experience with the Steps and Traditions. These links helped because I seem to understand ideas better when I can make a personal connection with them.

For example, when I talk to a newcomer one-on-one, I'm engaging with the Twelfth Step. When the members of my home group do things together that help the newcomer, we are engaging with Tradition Five. In fact, the words of Tradition Five are very similar to Step Twelve. The one primary purpose of an AA group is "to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

My home group has quite a few members and we hold an AA meeting every day. One group by itself however, wouldn't be able to help all the newcomers in our town. In much the same way that Tradition Five helps AA members work together to carry the message, Concept One suggests how AA groups can cooperate.

Before we can take constructive action, we must find out what needs to be done. As individuals, we practice the Eleventh Step. We ask for "inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision." My home group builds on this Step when we try to find what Tradition Two calls the "group conscience."

At my group's business meeting, we come together each month to make and discuss motions and to vote on them. Through this democratic process, we try to do as a group what the individual does with the Eleventh Step. Each of us can contribute something valuable to a well-informed group conscience. Time after time, I've seen an answer come out of the group conscience that is better, wiser and more loving than any one of us could have come up with alone.

Concept One is an application of the Second Tradition when more than one group is involved. In our business meetings, we often discuss topics that are related to the local AA service committees. Then our group's representative can pass along what he or she has learned from the discussion to the representatives of the other groups. This can mean they will make a better-informed decision at the next committee meeting. The "collective conscience" of Concept One is the shared group conscience of all the groups that choose to participate. At our district and Intergroup committee meetings, representatives of the groups try to discover what a loving God of our understanding would want us to do. Our goal is to help the suffering alcoholic find recovery.

Another way we can contribute to the collective conscience of AA is through Grapevine. In a December 1946 article, "What is Our AA Grapevine?," our cofounder Bill W. wrote that "AA Grapevine is rapidly becoming 'the collective voice of Alcoholics Anonymous.'" Grapevine, the International Journal of AA, is often called "AA's meeting in print." Sober alcoholics tell their personal stories of recovery, but that's not all. I believe that it's also our "business meeting in print." Sometimes when I read Grapevine, I feel like I could be reading what a member of my home group could say at our business meetings. Many questions that come up in our home group and at meetings of our various representatives are discussed in letters and articles in Grapevine. In Grapevine, individual AA members get a chance to say what they want to say, in their own words.

But we can be a part of the developing collective conscience of AA even if we never write for Grapevine. We can subscribe to the magazine and read what other people have to say. My opinion on a number of issues has been influenced by something I've read in Grapevine.

In AA, we cooperate to provide services that would be impossible for one person working alone or even for a single group to provide. The Fellowship as a whole can't answer the phone, write a letter or print a book. How do these things actually get done? The groups pass on some of their authority to our elected and trusted servants. Putting our collective conscience into action is where the other Concepts come in. When the newcomer reaches out for help, these principles help to make sure the hand of AA will be there.

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August 2018

## Crazy for service

By: Vera F. | Bend, Oregon

A district Grapevine rep discovers a wonderful world of service, meeting others and carrying the message

Ever since 1989, Grapevine has been an integral part of my sobriety. I can still remember reading it in the California recovery home I was in.

With my short attention span, it was much easier to read than the Big Book. The cartoons were always my favorite, with Victor E. being the first thing I looked for when I opened an issue. “If Walls Could Talk” is another favorite.

My sponsors have all been “service junkies” and I have held many service positions during my sobriety. By far, my favorite position was getting to serve as our district’s Grapevine representative (GVR). I must admit that when I received the email from our DCM (who happened to be my sponsor at the time) looking for volunteers for the position, I didn’t respond. But then a conversation with my sponsor about me feeling disconnected from my home group and AA brought me back to the position.

In my new role, I carried a large purple suitcase (which I named “the grape”). It was filled with Grapevine books, CDs, cassettes, subscription forms and other materials. My first task was to take an inventory of the contents of my suitcase. That’s when I learned about all the different Grapevine publications. I had no idea they published so many books!

Not knowing where to begin, I went to [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org) for ideas and found a wealth of resources for Grapevine reps. I was so excited to find a 16-page handbook for new reps and a 101-page workbook that described the job of GVRs at the group, district and area levels. I was able to download these and make copies. Once I saw the gallery of Grapevine displays, I was off and running.

I had, for a moment, a grandiose idea of a life-sized poster of Victor E. as part of our display. However I quickly abandoned that idea when I discovered how much money the poster would cost. Still, my enthusiasm was undaunted as I found more cost-effective ideas for displays in the workbook.

I started small. I bought a trifold display, the kind commonly used in school science projects. Working with another GVR, we decorated the trifold using fabric that had printed images of grapes. Then we added printouts from the website, back issues of Grapevines, along with “Man on the Bed” and Victor E. printouts. This display did the trick in attracting folks over to our spread of magazines, books, calendars, CDs and posters.

All this provided me a wonderful opportunity to carry the message and share my love of Grapevine. Using the suggestions we found from the workbook, we placed Grapevine subscriptions in our local library, our homeless shelter and in our county’s alcohol and drug services building.

I soon discovered that traveling around our district with “the grape” (often with our sponsees and other AA members) helped me to reconnect to the Fellowship and my Higher Power. It opened the door for me to attend new meetings I would not otherwise have gone to. But that’s how service works. It takes me to places I wouldn’t normally go, and to hang out with people I might not normally mix with. And for that I am really grateful.

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May 2014

## Note to Boss

By: Annemarie M. | Taunton, Mass., Massachusetts

Can Warranty Five help us grow outside of AA as well as inside? One member says yes

As a lifelong student of Gandhi and non-violence, I was surprised to find myself considering shooting the squirrels that had spent the morning tearing open my trash bags and scattering the contents all over the street. Did the squirrels deserve such punitive measures? This was hardly a spiritual state of mind. I realized I was dealing with a Warranty Five issue.

In AA’s Twelve Concepts for World Service, Warranty Five states: “That no Conference action shall ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy.” Fortunately for me, old-timers in general service beyond the home group helped me understand that these principles apply to my daily spiritual development, not just to the General Service Conference. A tall order? Yes, but one that I needed to embrace to continue to grow spiritually.

As I was guided through the Steps and Traditions, emphasis was placed on not just what I said or did, but how I was thinking. A bit much? Maybe. One of Bill W.’s favorite books was Emmett Fox’s Sermon on the Mount. An old-timer gave me a copy for my second AA birthday and urged me to study it. The book illustrates that old concept: As I think, so shall I live. Now, if this all sounds way too serious, it’s not. At my home group we spend a lot of time laughing about how poorly we did with Warranty Five in any given week. But the point is we do try. We’re aware when our behavior, however minor, really is punitive in some form.

We could talk about this forever, and at my home group we do. So I’ll just share a few behaviors that my group has come to label—with a smile—“punitive” and “Warranty Five.”

There is the infamous one-digit wave to the driver who just cut me off. The next stage is not waving “the bird,” but trashing the driver out verbally. The last stage is doing neither—but thinking it. Or how about when we’re at a meeting and realize that we’ve heard the speaker far too many times and begin to take his or her inventory? Now we’ve woven Tradition Twelve into Warranty Five, placing personalities over principles and taking punitive action.

Have you ever waved the “L” symbol with your hands after the boss, a co-worker, or family member left the room? Our interactions at work or with family or our significant others are the ideal places to check how we’re doing with Warranty Five. This challenging process helped me learn that sarcasm is not humor; it’s often punitive and at someone else’s expense.

Another spiritual principle woven into Warranty Five is that we in AA do not defend ourselves in public, thus staying out of public controversy, which can tangle up AA’s name. To many that may seem like a given, but back in the day when I served as a delegate to the General Service Conference, my area ranked all too high in public anonymity breaks and a rash of public controversy. Some of it came with being the home to national politicians, major league sports teams, artists and professional musicians, many of whom seemed to feel they needed to play True Confessions in the press. It was also a time when other recovery entities—not based on the Twelve Steps—found it necessary to trash AA. Local AAs wrote letters to the editors, called in to radio talk shows, and took up way too much time at meetings to express their outrage. This was before text messaging or email existed, so all communication came to me in the form of dozens upon dozens of phone calls and letters. Most of them said, “What are you going to do about this?”

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The answer was simple: publicly we do nothing. Our Public Information Committee and I split up the items and followed AA's policy: we quietly contacted those involved and shared AA's experience with the Traditions and public controversy. Eventually it all died down to a dull roar.

The personal challenge was much harder for me in the first five to 10 years of sobriety. My life before AA was peppered with false accusations about my role in certain circumstances and events. Though I'm hardly an angel, too many times the accusations were untrue. So feeling offended and beat, I would start arguments. It was very difficult as I got sober to not repeat that defensive behavior or resent those who played with character assassination, innuendo and flat out lies. It took a very long time to let the need to "explain myself" to stop, to not react to someone else's fear, doubt and insecurity, and simply respond with silence and a quiet, internal "God bless you."

There are many levels to our spiritual development. However, as I improved within AA, I found it borderline impossible to apply this principle for a longer time outside of AA in the business world. Somewhere around the 20-year mark in AA, I realized that on the job, I had finally stopped fighting. I didn't give up or run away, I simply recognized that until I have CEO at the end of my job title and sign the paychecks, this is someone else's company. I still passionately disagree with some attitudes and policies, but I love my work and that's what I focus on. What a freedom!

None of this would have become possible if I hadn't continued to show up all these years at my Friday night home group. This is what we study—the incredible tapestry which results from weaving so many of AA's spiritual principles together into our daily lives. Bill W. further wrote in Warranty Five: "Of all societies, ours can least afford to risk the resentments and conflicts which would result were we ever to yield to the temptation to punish in anger." The old-timers always cautioned me that how I behaved within AA was only part of the deal. How was I behaving outside of AA? Was I really practicing these spiritual principles in all aspects of my life? In the meantime, how did you do with Warranty Five this week?

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August 2004

## The Twelve Concepts of AA: a Beginner's Guide

By: Boyce B. | Brooklyn, New York

### Understanding AA's Third Legacy

The Twelve Concepts of AA were a mystery to me for a long time in recovery. They were not a very compelling mystery since they were seldom referred to at meetings I attended. An oversimplified notion of service was part of my early training in sobriety; concepts of world service that provide principles like "the right of decision," the importance of hearing minority opinions, and "the right of appeal" were not brought to my attention. Only gradually did I notice how the third side of the triangle of recovery, unity, and service was overlooked.

It is not surprising that I have been a slow learner in recovery. Even those window shades with AA's Steps and Traditions were off-putting to me at my first meetings. This drunk had eschewed belief systems any more subtle than the Ten Commandments. I was raised in a nonreligious household and developed a strong sense of self-sufficiency and independence. So, it was not surprising then that, for me, a practical sense of what produces instant gratification provided a system adequate for living. Or so it seemed, for a couple of decades of serious drinking.

Full of negative attitudes, distorted instincts, distrust, superstitions, and low self-esteem doing nearly constant battle with inflated self-worth, I was primed for a harsh bottoming out from years of daily drinking. Fortunately, my resistance to help had only a few days to fortify itself before I was dragged to my first meeting. As I sat there quaking in dread and confusion, listening to three speakers share their stories, one after another, of how it was, what happened, and what it was like now, I underwent a spiritual transformation. Hope was instilled where before there had been only an empty place deep within. By the end of the meeting, the outlines on the window shade, the brightly-lit room, and the many strangers were no longer threatening. They held the promise of support in whatever might lie ahead. They held the promise of recovery.

In the next few weeks, while coming out of the fog of long-term addiction, I heard many speakers tell of recovery in the narrative of their stories. When I heard reference made to Steps as they were functioning in sober living, I would look at the shade to ponder the spiritual principles involved. Soon I was familiar with the phrase "these are the Steps we took to recover" and I looked at recent experience to see if the Step referred to was working yet in my new life. Often it was and I came to know the Steps of recovery.

Now and then, in the first few years of attending meetings, I found myself in a meeting whose focus was not on recovery but concerned with matters of running the meeting, housekeeping, and all sorts of details that evoked discussions—sometimes heated. There had been ample opportunity to notice that those who attended meetings had little in common other than their addiction to alcohol and a desire not to drink by sharing experience, strength, and hope. With such incredible racial, educational, ethnic, and cultural diversity, not to mention the variety of temperaments and individual neuroses, we should never have been able to sit together and peacefully mediate so broad a range of opinions as we brought to bear on each topic on the agenda. And yet, at each of these meetings, a group conscience emerged that addressed our common welfare. When the meeting would come to logger-heads, someone with experience would focus attention on the Tradition whose principles applied to the matter at hand. I came to see that when two or more people were involved and affected, AA has Traditions of unity.

From my first encounter with AA, I was encouraged to pick up after myself and to assist in making the meetings possible. It was the rare meeting that had hired help, so it was essential that each member contribute service to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. And as I gained familiarity with the Steps of recovery, the principle of carrying the message and, eventually, of the many ways of doing this in a spirit of anonymity, became an important service that enriched and insured my own sobriety.

Since volunteer service had not been a part of my life in active alcoholism, chairing meetings, answering telephones at our Intergroup office, and keeping commitments to go outside of AA to do public information speaking when asked—these were a major change in my priorities and provided important exercises in character building. I was beginning to understand AA's third legacy of service.

Not until I was sober for a decade, with considerable experience in AA service, did I become General Service Representative (GSR) for my home group. It was then that I began to notice the Twelve Concepts for World Service. If the Steps and Traditions had been off-putting to me when I was first sober, the Concepts were doubly so now. The spiritual principles that I saw embodied in them were familiar and to some degree already functioning in my sobriety. It was the formal, business-like sound of them that seemed to place them outside of day-to-day sober living. Bill W. wrote them out of his long experience as an analyst of business structures and his nearly twenty-five years of involvement in various capacities with the running of the corporate structure of AA. Then in 1962, the General Service Conference accepted the Concepts as part of the Third Legacy of Service. But AA as a whole has never really gotten that mes-

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sage. While recovery and unity are conscious elements in the process of living sober, the Concepts remain the domain of trusted servants in the general service structure. Many members, however, are curious about this important omission and are ready to add this leg of the triangle to their program. Although Bill entitled his writings *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, many of us have found the Concepts essential in our service activities whether we think them world in scale or not.

Concept I contains the notion of the collective conscience of our Fellowship to augment our group conscience and our common welfare. These are essential to assuming final responsibility for and ultimate authority in making support available to groups through publishing and other services necessary to passing our message on.

In Concept II, we AAs entrust the actual voice and effective conscience of our whole society to the General Service Conference through our elected area delegates.

The traditional right of decision is outlined in Concept III as a spiritual principle to assume the means of creating and maintaining a working relationship amongst us members. We cannot force anyone to participate actively in the decision-making process, but the right must be there or we fail to work together. This right of participation assumes that minority opinions are heard and considered, that a majority will not dictate decisions, and that voting blocks will be discouraged. And when all is said and done, the right of appeal, as described in Concept V, ought to prevail with personal grievances carefully considered.

Concepts VI through VIII describe the corporate structure and relationship amongst the Trustees, the General Service Board, and the General Service Conference, which should operate in such a way that the business of AA and the spirit-led work of our members inform one another at each step of any activity of our Society.

In a fellowship that has an actual spirit of democracy, where all members are peers, and there is no authority, Concept IX reminds us of the necessity of good service leadership at all levels. Our sound and appropriate ways of choosing leaders and adhering to timely rotation have served us well.

Concept X challenges our ability to match service responsibility with equal authority so that a trusted servant can fulfill the well-defined tasks expected of that member. It is always important to carefully select members of committees, elected officers, or any other doing the work of AA so that we have the best qualified.

Our Twelfth Step speaks of practicing these principles in all our affairs while our Twelfth Tradition reminds us to place principles before personalities. In the one case, the principles referred to are those of recovery as outlined in the Steps; in the other the principles of unity, as presented in the Traditions. Yet, in pondering both practicing the principles and principles before personalities, there emerges a further set that are outlined in Concept XII in the very specific form referred to as warranties. They have proved to be spirit-inspired standards that are evident in most service activities in the Fellowship. We should maintain the spirit of AA tradition: by avoiding the concentration of perilous wealth or power; by maintaining sufficient operating funds and prudent reserves; by declining to create positions of unqualified authority over others; by reaching decisions through discussion, vote, and substantial unanimity; by refusing to engage in personal punishment or incitement to personal controversy; by avoiding acts of government; by always remaining democratic in thought and action.

As symbolized by the triangle in the circle of Fellowship, the gifts bestowed on us recovering alcoholics known as the three Legacies --the Steps of *recovery*, the Traditions of *unity* and the Concepts of *service*--have proved to be invaluable. For these I'm grateful.

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## What's Holding Up the Triangle?

By: Billy N. | New York, New York

It is with great honor and humility that I am a young sober alcoholic and member of Alcoholics Anonymous. During my first three years of sobriety I was convinced (with a little help from my ego) that it was young sober alcoholics like me that would save AA from the old-timers and change it for the better. Now in my fifth year of sobriety, I pray that the old-timers who have preserved this lifesaving program since 1935 will always be willing to share their knowledge of the Steps, Traditions, and Concepts with young members of the Fellowship.

For a while I felt I was spinning my wheels in the road of recovery, until a sponsor showed me the solution laid out so simply in the first 164 pages of the Big Book. The Twelve Steps have since changed my life a day at a time. What I didn't realize was how complete I would feel having also a knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts.

For a long time I had no idea that there was such a thing as the Twelve Concepts for World Service. I never bothered to see what kept the third side of our triangle together. I had the idea that I would try to change AA--before I learned some AA history and discovered how hard some of the lessons were in the early days of AA. In the Big Book this is referred to as "contempt prior to investigation."

But during the last couple of years I've done some investigation, and to my surprise, I have discovered that my contempt for old-timers and some of their principles had more to do with my lack of knowledge of the Traditions and Concepts than any cause I thought I stood for. Understanding the plight of the early members of AA, and how the early struggles of the Fellowship encouraged Bill W. to write the Traditions, gave me some perspective.

I recently spoke at a Traditions meeting, and a member with more than ten years said that she really didn't like Traditions meetings because so few people want to talk about the Traditions. I hope I will continue to develop a greater understanding of the Traditions and Concepts.

Although young peoples groups, local young peoples conferences, and the International Conference of Young People in AA (ICYPAA) have worked hard to be accepted by old-timers and mainstream AA, I believe that the older young people and the advisory councils for these conferences must strive to operate inside all of AA's Traditions and Concepts. We must remember that our young people all over the world will be among the future GSRs, DCMs, and delegates.

We must reach into AA and have service speakers whenever possible at our young peoples meetings, workshops, and conferences. It is as simple as devoting the first ten or fifteen minutes of a meeting to a discussion of service. It is my experience that most members of the service structure are eager to share their experience, strength, and hope with us.

I thank my Higher Power every day for giving me the gift of sobriety at the early age of twenty-three. Knowing that my sobriety is contingent on my daily spiritual condition, I find my spiritual condition is best when all sides of the triangle are alive and well in my daily life.

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April 1984

## What Is Unique About AA?

By: J. B. | Modesto, California

A lot of mental horsepower has been generated in defining what is unique about AA. I would like to submit that the uniqueness of our Society is our obedience to the Traditions--other than that, I don't see what we have going for us that is so unusual. We have proved that large numbers of drunks can recover by spiritual means, but the Washingtonians proved that, and so did the Oxford Group. Churches right now are proving it every day.

Our Traditions are even more remarkable for the fact that we *choose* to submit ourselves to these restraints. The Twelve Traditions are not a bunch of guidelines set up by "them" and handed down to us with the directive "This is what you are going to do, or else." The Traditions are the result of mistakes that almost tore our Fellowship apart, and we voluntarily accept them.

When speaking of the Traditions, we are speaking of life or death. I cannot live without AA. You cannot live without AA. Yet you and I *are* AA. In spite of ourselves, we have to be responsible for ourselves. In spite of myself, I have to be responsible, and responsibility is what the Traditions are about.

Why the Traditions? They simply provide us with a direction, so that our Society can survive. If AA survives, we will live; and if we live, we are going to learn to love one another. When we love one another, we learn to serve; and when we serve, we guarantee that AA will be here in the future to carry its message to alcoholics still to come.

Our Three Legacies are: Recovery, which brings us enlightenment through the Twelve Steps; Unity, which teaches us responsibility through the Twelve Traditions; and Service, which allows us to practice love through the Twelve Concepts.

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February 1972

## The Fourth Concept

Bill W.'s Twelve Concepts for World Service

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*Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.*

THE PRINCIPLE of "Participation" has been carefully built into our Conference structure. The Conference Charter specifically provides that the Trustees, the Directors of our service corporations (AA World Services, Inc., and the AA Grapevine, Inc.), together with their respective executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference itself.

Exactly the same concept is borne in mind when our General Service Board elects the Directors of its wholly-owned active service corporations, AA World Services, Inc., and the AA Grapevine, Inc. If it wished, the General Service Board could elect none but its own Trustees to these corporate directorships. But a powerful tradition has grown up to the effect that this never ought to be done.

For example, AA World Services, Inc. (which also includes the AA publishing division), currently has seven directors, only two of whom are Trustees. The other five, non-Trustee directors, comprise

three volunteers, expert in both office management and publishing, and two directors who are paid staff members: the general manager and his assistant. The general manager is traditionally the president of AA World Services, Inc., and his assistant is a vice-president. For communication linkage, the editor or a staff member of the Grapevine or his nominee is invited to attend AA World Services, Inc., meetings.

Therefore, the active management of AA World Services, Inc., and its publishing division is composed of Trustees whose mission is to see that these projects are properly managed; of volunteer experts who contribute their advice and professional experience; and of two paid office executives who are charged with getting most of the work done. It will be seen that each member of every classification is a director and so has a legal vote; that each corporate officer bears a title which, both practically and legally, denotes what his (or her) actual status and responsibility are.

Such a typical corporate business management easily permits a proper degree of voting "participation." Every skilled element to do the allotted job is present. No class is set in absolute authority over another. This is the corporate or "participating" method of doing business, as distinguished from structures so common to many institutional, military, and governmental agencies wherein high-level people or classes of people often are set in absolute authority, one over the other.

We should also note that the seven [now nine] AA Grapevine directors are elected on the same principle as those of AA World Services, Inc. Here, too, we see Trustees, volunteer experts, and paid staff members acting in concert as the active managers of that operation. And a world service nominee should be present at all GV meetings, both corporate and editorial.

The General Service Board, furthermore, rigorously abides by the principle of "Participation" whenever its chairman makes appointments to the Board's principal standing committees. Numbers of non-Trustees and paid staff workers are customarily chosen for these important posts. As with the active service corporations, the same elements are nearly always present in these committees, viz., representatives of the General Service Board, non-Trustee experts, and one, or more staff members who must do most of the legwork. All can vote, and therefore all can truly "participate." When the time comes to ballot, there are no "superiors," no "inferiors," and no "advisers."

To this highly effective and unifying principle of "Participation" at all responsible levels, there is one regrettable but necessary exception. Members holding paid staff positions cannot become Trustees. This cannot be permitted because such a practice would interfere with the four-year rotation of the AA Trustees. And if ever the General Service Board had to be reorganized by the Conference, paid AA Trustees might prove to be a vested interest most difficult to dislodge.

Nevertheless, our Trustees of today traditionally invite paid executives, staff members, accountants, and any others whose reports or advice may be required, to attend each quarterly meeting of the General Service Board. Thus the Trustees are put into direct communication with these workers, who are thus made to feel that they are wanted and needed. Although they do not vote, these workers may freely participate in debate.

The preservation of the principle of "Participation" in our service structure is, to those of us who already understand its application and benefits, a matter of the highest importance to our future. Experience suggests, however, that some of each new generation of Delegates and Trustees will inevitably try to weaken, modify, or toss out the principle of corporate "participation." Every year, a few Delegates will question the "right" of the corporate directors, of the staffs, and even of the Trustees to vote in Conference. New volunteer corporate directors will ask why any paid woman staff member should also be a director and thereby have a vote as good as their own. Every now and then, a move will be made to abolish AA World Services, Inc., and the AA Grapevine, Inc. It will be urged that these separate corporations ought to become "departments" or "committees" of the General Service Board, mainly managed by Trustees. To my view, it is so vital that we preserve this traditional

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"Right of Participation" in the face of every tendency to whittle it down that we should here bring some of our pioneering experience to bear upon the problem.

In its early days, the AA Headquarters [now the General Service Office] was run on authoritarian and institutional lines. At that time, the Trustees saw no reason to delegate their managerial powers or to work in voting participation with any others outside their own body. The result was often grievous trouble and misunderstanding, and it was out of this rough going that the principle of "Participation" finally emerged. This lesson was learned the hard way, but it *was* learned.

We have seen how Doctor Bob and I had placed our Board of Trustees in full legal possession of all of our service assets. This had included our book literature, our funds, our public relations, and our AA General Service Office. This is how our early Trustees came to have all of the authority there was. But most of the actual responsibility for the conduct of AA's Headquarters nevertheless fell on me, my assistant, and her staff. On the one hand, we had Trustees who possessed complete authority, and on the other hand, there were founders and office managers who had great responsibility but practically no authority. It was a kind of schizophrenia, and it caused real trouble.

It was natural for the Trustees, who had all of the authority and all of the money, to feel that theirs was the duty to directly manage the office and to actively superintend practically everything that was done. To accomplish this, two Trustee committees were formed, a policy and an administrative committee. We at the office had no membership on these committees and hence no real "participation." Of course, I could go to Trustee meetings to persuade or advise, and the same was true of the committee meetings. But my assistant, who really carried the greater part of the office load, couldn't get inside a Trustee meeting, and she was called into committee meetings only to make suggestions and reports, answer questions, and receive orders. Sometimes, these committees issued us conflicting directives.

The situation was complicated by yet another wheel in the management machine. Our publishing company (then Works Publishing, Inc.) was of course wholly owned by the Board of Trustees. Except in one important particular, Works Publishing, Inc., had, however, become a pure "dummy." It had nothing to do with the active management except to issue checks for office and publishing expenses. An old AA friend of mine, its Trustee-treasurer, signed those checks. Once, when he was a bit out of sorts, he tore up all of our paychecks because my assistant had issued them a couple of days early so that the gals in the back office could buy Easter bonnets. Right then and there, we began to wonder how much *absolute* authority over money and people any one of us drunks could handle; also, how much of this type of coercion we alkie on the receiving end could sit and take. In any case, it had become dead sure that our Headquarters could not be run by two executive committees and a dummy corporation, each able to issue point-blank nonparticipating directives.

The point may be made that nowadays we drunks can "dish it out" or "take it" better than we used to. Even so, I would sure hate to see us ever go back to a nonparticipating setup. Now that we have more service people involved and more money to handle, I am afraid the result would be much the same and maybe worse. There was really nothing exceptional about the incident of the torn-up checks. Every time an absolute authority is created, it always invites this same tendency toward overdomination respecting all things, great and small.

It was years before we saw that we could never put all authority in one group and virtually all responsibility in another and then expect efficiency of operation, let alone real harmony. Of course, no one is against the idea of final authority. We are only against its misapplication or misuse. "Participation" can usually stop this sort of demoralizing nonsense before it starts.

Let us look at another aspect of this participation problem. The final authority for services must lie in the AA groups; but suppose the groups, sensing their great power, should try to overexercise it by sending in Delegates irrevocably instructed as to how to vote on most questions. Would the Delegates feel that they were partici-

pants, trusted servants? No, they would feel like agents and order-takers.

The Delegates themselves, of course, could also give the Trustees this same treatment. The Delegates' power is so great that they could soon make the Trustees feel like rubber stamps, just as the Trustees unknowingly did to workers at Headquarters. If, therefore, the Conference ever begins to refuse the Trustee vote in it, and if the Trustees ever again refuse to let corporate service volunteers and staff members vote at the level of their own corporate and Conference work, we shall have thrown all past experience to the winds. The principle of allowing a proper voting participation would have to be painfully re-learned.

One argument for taking away the Trustee and service-worker vote in the Conference is this: It is urged that there is danger if we allow service people and Trustees to vote on their own past performance; for example, their annual reports. To a certain extent, this argument is sound. As a matter of tradition, there is no doubt that Trustees and service workers alike should refrain from voting on reports of their own past activities.

But those who would *do away entirely* with the votes of Trustees and service workers in the Conference overlook the point that such reports of past performance constitute only a fraction of the business of that body. The Conference is far more concerned with policies, plans, and actions which are to take effect in the future. To take away the votes of Trustees and service workers on such questions would obviously be unwise. Why should our Conference be deprived of the votes of such knowledgeable people as these?

(There is another very practical reason for not giving Conference Delegates absolute voting authority over Trustees, service Directors, and staff members. It should be borne in mind that our Delegates can never be like a Congress in constant session, having its own working committees, elected leaders, etc. Our Delegates cannot possibly function in this manner for the simple reason that they meet for a few days only, once a year. Hence they cannot have an extensive firsthand acquaintance with many of the problems on which they are expected to vote. This is all the more reason for allowing the sometimes better-informed minority of Trustees and Headquarters people the balloting privilege in all cases where no self-interest is involved.)

Perhaps someone will object that, on close votes in the Conference, the combined Trustee and service-worker ballots may decide a particular question. But why not? Certainly, our Trustees and service workers are no less conscientious, experienced, and wise than the Delegates. Is there any good reason why their votes are undesirable? Clearly, there is none. Hence we ought to be wary of any future tendency to deny either our Trustees or our service people their Conference votes, except in special situations that involve past performances, job qualifications, or money compensation, or in case of a sweeping reorganization of the General Service Board itself, occasioned by malfunction of the Board. However, this should never be construed as a bar to Trustee vote on structural changes. It is also noteworthy that in actual practice our Trustees and Headquarters people have never yet voted in a "bloc." Their differences of opinion among themselves are nearly always as sharp and considerable as those to be found among the Delegates.

There is another good reason for "participation," and this one has to do with our spiritual needs. All of us deeply desire to *belong*. We want an AA relation of brotherly partnership. It is our shining ideal that the "spiritual corporation" of AA should never include any members who are regarded as "second class." Deep down, I think this is what we have been struggling to achieve in our world service structure. Here is perhaps the principal reason why we should continue to ensure "participation" at every important level. Just as there are no second-class AAs, neither should there be any second-class world service workers.

The "Right of Participation" is therefore a corrective of ultimate authority because it mitigates its harshness or misuse. It also encourages us who serve AA to accept the necessary disciplines that our several tasks require. We can do this when we are sure that we belong, when the fact of our "participation" assures us that we are truly the "trusted servants" described in AA's Tradition Two.

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### 3 Bucks In The Basket... Make it a Reality, not just a dream!



“Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.” Tradition Seven, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions,

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[Seventh Tradition Checklist](#)

Use **VENMO** on your smartphone to contribute.

Or Contribute using **PayPal** or your **Credit Card** from our website.



#### MILW. CENTRAL OFFICE

- E-mail us at:  
[dan@aamilwaukee.com](mailto:dan@aamilwaukee.com)
- Hours:  
M - F 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Board of Directors Meeting, in-person. Wednesday following 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (odd months) 6:30 p.
- A. A. Meetings, Sun. at 9 a., Mon.- Fri. at 12:15 p., Sat. 9:15 a., & 10:30 a.
- Dist. 14 monthly meeting, 4th Wed. at 7 p.m.
- Dist. 16, monthly meeting 1st Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

#### Spanish Speaking Meetings:

##### Meeting at English Speaking Clubs

- Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Av, Milw. GRUPO 5 CONCEPTOS, 7:00 P.M. Saturdays, Upstairs. And Viajeros Wisconsin, 7:00 P.M. Saturdays, in lower level.
- GRUPO NUEVO AMANECER, Tri-County Unity Club, 104 N. First St, Watertown, on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:00 PM and on Sunday at 11:00 AM
- GRUPO FE Y ESPRONZA, Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St. Fond du Lac WI on Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Sundays at 4:00 PM

#### SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS

(The General Service Office has made this optional statement available as an A.A. service piece for those groups who wish to use it.)

##### Suggested Statement on Safety

Our group endeavors to provide a safe meeting place for all attendees and encourages each person here to contribute to fostering a secure and welcoming environment in which our meetings can take place. As our Traditions remind us, the formation and operation of an A.A. group resides with the group conscience. Therefore, we ask that group members and others refrain from any behavior which might compromise another person's safety.

Also, please take the precautions you feel are necessary to ensure your own personal safety, for example, walking to your car in a group after a meeting. If a situation should arise where someone feels their safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved should take appropriate action. Calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions and is recommended when someone may have broken the law or endangered the safety of another person.

Service Material from the General Service Office

All the groups listed in our meeting directory, should be contributing regularly to the support of your Central Office. We want to be here when anyone reaches out for help. A big thank you to everyone, for all you do.

Need to make a group or personal contribution? Use our **CONTRIBUTE** button on our website: [aamilwaukee.com](http://aamilwaukee.com) or use our your **VENMO app** from your smartphone.

#### Meeting Space Currently Available

- **DryHootch, 4801 W National Ave.** Space available various time of day and evening. Call Otis W. [414-336-6576](tel:414-336-6576)
- **Luther Memorial Church**, 2840 S 84th St. West Allis WI. Contact by email: [prviviame28@outlook.com](mailto:prviviame28@outlook.com)
- **St Peter's Episcopal Church**, 7929 W Lincoln Ave, West Allis, Contact: Steve 414-543-6040 or email: [christumc1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christumc1@sbcglobal.net)
- **Anchor Covenant Church** 1229 Park Row, Lake Geneva WI 53147, contact Laura, [office@anchorcovenant.org](mailto:office@anchorcovenant.org)

#### Redemptorist Retreat Cen-

**ter**, 1800 N Timber Trail Lane, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, (262) 567-6900 Email: [rrc@redemptoristretreat.org](mailto:rrc@redemptoristretreat.org) Please call for information and schedule of retreats for recovering people. AA and AI-Anon, \$260 three nights. We discuss the 12 steps and related topics.

#### 2026 Weekend Retreats

##### Jesuit Retreat House,

4800 Fahrwald Rd.

Oshkosh, WI.

WI 54901,

call 800-962-7330

[jesuitretreathouse.org](http://jesuitretreathouse.org)

**Men and Women**

**in AA, AI-Anon**

Total cost: 4 days \$440.00.

Send a \$75.00 deposit with requests for specific dates to retreat house or call for info.

## ZOOM MEETING NEEDS SUPPORT!

ZOOM At Noon Women's Meeting

Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:00 PM (Noon)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?pwd=RytDa2hwNlczeExqL112SjZFR2dYUT09)

[pwd=RytDa2hwNlczeExqL112SjZFR2dYUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?pwd=RytDa2hwNlczeExqL112SjZFR2dYUT09)

By phone, dial 312-626-6799 and enter Meeting ID #

Meeting ID: 587 735 9740 Password: 123456

# DISTRICT MEETINGS

# CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

COMPLETE DISTRICT INFORMATION ON THE WEB:

<https://www.area75.org/page/districtmeetings>

1. Jackson, LaCrosse, Monroe, Vernon & Trempealeau; 2 & 18 Green Lake & Marquette Counties & part of Waushara; 7. Kenosha; 17. Racine County; 8 & 30 Rock County; 9. Crawford, Grant, Iowa and LaFayette; 19 & 37. Richland & Sauk; 20, 21 & 26 Dane; 31. Columbia County; 35. Green; 37. Juneau County.

(Check the web address above for meeting info.)

**3. MANITOWOC & SHEBOYGAN CNTY'S:** 3rd Wed. of month, 6:30 p., Even numbered months at 1907 Club, 2908 N. 21st St., Sheboygan. Odd numbered months: Alano Club, 404 S 29 St Manitowoc

**6. WALWORTH CNTY:** 2nd Tue. 7:30 p. odd numbered months only, Walworth Alano Club, 611 E. Walworth St., Delavan

**10. Spanish District.** Contact: Salvador G. at 414-446-0158. Meets 1st Sunday 5 p.m. 1663 S. 6th Street, Milw.

**11. JEFFERSON CNTY:** Meets last Wed. at 5:30 p.m. Moravian Church, 301 College St., Lake Mills, or Zoom: 817 4085 9820, Password: 665473

**12. WASHINGTON CNTY:** 1st Wed. of month, 6:00 p., the Jackson Community Center N165W20330 Hickory Ln., Jackson, WI. 53037

**13. WAUKESHA CNTY:** 2nd Sunday of month, 1:00 p, St. Matthias Church, 111 E. Main, Waukesha

**14. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** 4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p, Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield Ave., West Allis WI 53214

**16. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** 1st Thursday of month, 6:00 p, Milw. Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave. West Allis WI 53214

**23. DODGE CNTY:** Last Sunday of month at 6:00 p, Dodge Cnty Alano Club, 115 N. Lincoln, Beaver Dam, call to confirm 920-583-3142

**24. OZAUKEE CNTY:** 3rd Tue. of month, 6:30 p., Advent Lutheran Church, W63N642 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, WI 53012.

**25. FOND du LAC CNTY:** 2nd Tue. of month, 5:30 p., Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St., Fond du Lac, WI.

**27. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** 3rd Wednesday of month at 7:00 P.M., the Zoom ID number is [824 0616 9567](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6870109941?pwd=YVl4SVQzU3FaSE1rc3dzVmtxdFM4QT09) the password is 869 916. Covenant Lutheran Church, 8121 W Hope Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53222.

**28. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** 2nd Thursday of month, 7:00 p, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4419 S Howell Ave, Milwaukee WI 53207.

**29. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Luther Memorial Church, 2840 S 84th St., West Allis, WI 53227

**32. & 33 WAUKESHA CNTY:** 4th Tuesday of month, 6:30 p, Meeting ID: [321 751 3275](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3217513275), Passcode: [323232](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3217513275)

**34. WAUKESHA CNTY:** 1st Tues. of month, 6:30 p, Northwest Area Alano Association, N88W17658 Christman Rd., Menomonee Falls. Join online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6870109941?pwd=YVl4SVQzU3FaSE1rc3dzVmtxdFM4QT09>

**36. RACINE/KENOSHA:** 2nd Tuesday of the month 6:00 p.m., 12 & 12 Club, 482 S Pine St., Burlington

**38. MILWAUKEE CNTY:** Last Sunday of month 4:00 p.m. Milwaukee Group Meeting Room, 933 E Center St. Milwaukee WI 53212

SEND ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO:

7429 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214, [dan@aamilwaukee.com](mailto:dan@aamilwaukee.com)

[Area 75, Southern WI, Calendar of Events 2025](#)

[Madison Senior Center,](#)

[330 W Mifflin St, Madison WI.](#)

[9 A.M. to Noon except where noted.](#)

[Summer Service Assembly](#) – June 22, at the [Madison Senior Center](#)

[International Conference](#) – July 3-6, in [Vancouver, B.C., Canada](#)

[Fall Service Assembly](#) – September 14, at the [Madison Senior Center](#)

[Area 75 Fall Conference](#) – November 7-9, at [Ingleside Hotel, Pewaukee, WI](#)

In-person meetings have started back up in the Area corrections facilities. Contact Fred K., Area Corrections Chair by email; [corrections@area75.org](mailto:corrections@area75.org) for information on days and times of meetings.

For meetings at Milwaukee Area Correction facilities contact: Andrew K. at 262-239-6528 or email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com)

- TAYCHEDAH CORRECTIONAL, Fond du Lac, WI 54937
- OAK HILL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION: 5212 County Road M, Fitchburg, WI 53575
- WAUPUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, Waupun WI
- FOX LAKE CORRECTIONAL, Box #147, Fox Lake, WI 53933
- JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL 411 S. Center St., Jefferson, WI,
- RACINE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION for MEN 2019 Wisconsin St, Sturtevant, WI 53177
- FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL Satellite Camp, Oxford, WI.
- THOMPSON FARM, RT. 2 DEERFIELD, WI.,
- ROBERT ELLSWORTH CORRECTIONAL, Union Grove, 53182
- KETTLE MORAIN CORRECTIONAL., Forrest Dr., Plymouth,
- MILWAUKEE COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION, 8885 S. 68th St. Franklin WI. Emily J. by Email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com)
- MILWAUKEE COUNTY JAIL 9th & State Milwaukee WI. Emily J. by Email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com)
- MILWAUKEE SECURE DETENTION, 1015 N. 10th St. Emily J. by Email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com).
- MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTER, 615 W Keefe Ave. Emily J. by Email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com)

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: meets IN-PERSON.** Contact Andrew K. at 262-239-6528 or email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com) for date and location. Donation can be sent to: MCCC, PO Box 270544, Milwaukee WI 53227-0544. Contact coordinator: Email: [mcccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:mcccoordinator@gmail.com) with questions.

Corrections volunteers must go through the committee to get AA literature to take into the various facilities. Milwaukee Central Office no longer handles the funds.

**ADDRESSES YOU MAY SOMEDAY WANT TO KNOW!**

**Milwaukee Central Office:** 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214 [gmco@aamilwaukee.com](mailto:gmco@aamilwaukee.com)

- **Area 75 Treasurer:** 6580 Monona Drive #1040, Monona, WI 53716
- General Service Office, P.O. Box 2407, James A Farley Station, New York, NY 10116-2407
- Area 75 [Corrections@area75.org](mailto:Corrections@area75.org), [Bridging the Gap/Treatment@area75.org](mailto:Bridging the Gap/Treatment@area75.org) or mail: 6580 Monona Drive #1062, Monona, WI 53716
- Area 75 Accessibilities Chairperson: [accessibilities@area75.org](mailto:accessibilities@area75.org)
- **Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee** : Email: [milwareadeafaccess@gmail.com](mailto:milwareadeafaccess@gmail.com);

# MEETING ROOMS

<p><b>NEW DAY CLUB</b> 11936 N. Port Washington Rd Mequon, (262) 241-4673 <a href="http://www.newdayclub.org">www.newdayclub.org</a> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun. 8:00 a. Topic 11:00 a. Topic 5:00 p. Young People 7:30 p. Topic</p> <p>Mon. 12:30 p. Tenth Step Gp 5:30 p. More about Alcoholism 8:15 p. Men's Gp</p> <p>Tue. 10:00 a. Topic 5:30 p. Big Book 8:00 p. Big Book Gp</p> <p>Wed. 10:00 a. Topic 2:00 p. Promises Meeting 5:30 p. Step Meeting 7:00 p. Women's Lifeline</p> <p>Thr. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting 1:00 p. Women's AA Gp 5:30 p. Topic Meeting</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting 5:30 p. Step/Tradition</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 a. Step Meeting 5:00 p. Fellowship of Spirit 7:00 p. Feelings 10:00 p. Young People 7:00 p. Open Meeting (held on 3rd Saturday of month only)</p> <p>AL-ANON MEETINGS Monday 6:30 p. Al-Anon Tuesday 1:00 p. Al-Anon/ACOA Wednesday 7:00 p. ACOA Thursday 7:00 p. Al-Anon Contact club for information on other fellowships.</p>	<p><b>PASS IT ON CLUB</b> 6229 W. Forest Home Ave Milwaukee WI (414) 541-6923 <a href="http://www.passitonclub.com">www.passitonclub.com</a> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun. 8:00 a. Sun. Wake Up 9:30 a. Reliance Meeting 11:00 a. Today's choice 3:00 p. Gratitude Plus 7:00 p. Big Book Readers</p> <p>Mon. 7:30 a. Jump Start 10:30 a. First Step 4:00 p. Happy Hour Step Gp. 7:00 p. Open IntroductoryAA</p> <p>Tue. 7:30 a. Comin' Back Gp 10:30 a. Keep It Simple 4:00 p. Drop the Rock 6:00 p. Key To Sobriety Women's 7:30 p. Three Legacies 7:30 p. Double Trouble DD/O</p> <p>Wed. 7:30 a. Big Book Study 10:30 a. Pass It On 4:00 p. Happy Hr Promises 6:00 p. Courage to Change 7:00 p. We, Us &amp; Ours</p> <p>Thr. 7:30 a. Welcome Back Gp 10:30 a. Made Decision 5:15 p. As Bill Sees It 7:00 p. Gateway Topic Gp</p> <p>Fri. 7:30 a. Honesty Gp. 10:30 a. Came To Believe 6:00 p. Women's Fri. Kickoff 6:30 p. Thoughts 4 Today 8:00 p. Broken Arrow 8:30 a. Early Bird</p> <p>Sat. 10:30 a. Happy Joyous Free 7:00 p. Vajeros Wisconsin lower level 7:00 p. 5 Conceptos upstairs 8:00 p. Back to Basics 12x12</p>	<p><b>LAKE AREA CLUB</b> N60 W 35878 Lake Dr Oconomowoc, WI (262) 567-9912 <a href="http://www.lakeareaclub.com">www.lakeareaclub.com</a> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun. 8:00 a. Early Bird 9:30 a. Literature Meeting 11:00 a. Friendship Gp 6:00 p. Big Book 8:00 p. Gopher Sunday 9:00 a. Positive Attitude 6:30 p. Otter Gp 8:00 p. Step/Tradition Study</p> <p>Mon. 1:00 p. 4:00 p. 7:00 p. Life House Beginners 8:00 a.</p> <p>Wed. 8:00 a. 10:00 a. Back To Basics 2:00 p. Women's Meeting 6:00 p. 8:00 p.</p> <p>Thr. 10:00 a. 4:00 p. 5:00 p. Woman's Way 12 Steps 6:00 p. Hybrid Meditation Mtng</p> <p>Zoom ID: 8923930536, PW: 999525</p> <p>Fri. 12:30 p. 4:00 p. 8:00 p. Old School House 10:00 a. Big Book</p> <p><b>OPEN AA/Al-Anon SPEAKER MEETING</b> Sat. 7:00 p. 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays (AA and/or Al-Anon Speakers)</p> <p><b>AL-ANON MEETINGS</b> Mon. 7:00 p. Al-Anon Tue. 9:00 a. Al-Anon Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon &amp; Alateen</p>	<p><b>WAUKESHA ALANO CLUB</b> 318 W. Broadway Waukesha, WI, 262-549-6541 <a href="http://www.alanoclubofwaukesha.com/">http://www.alanoclubofwaukesha.com/</a> (IP)=In-person,</p> <p>Sun. 9:30 a. Sun Morn Sunlight (IP) 11:00 a. Sun Go-To-Mtng (IP)</p> <p>Mon. 12:00 p. (IP) 6:00 p. Beginners AA (IP) 7:00 p. (12 &amp; 12) (IP)</p> <p>Tue. 12:00 p. Wed Nooners (IP) 5:30 p. Topic Gp (IP)</p> <p>Thr. 12:00 p. Nooners (IP)</p> <p>Fri. 12:00 p. T.G.I.F. Gp (IP)</p> <p>Sat. 6:00 a. Early Morning (IP) 10:00 a. Gp 124 (IP)</p> <p>OPEN MEETINGS, DANCES &amp; EVENTS Call for information.</p>	<p><b>GALANO CLUB</b> - LGBT &amp; All in Recovery - 7210 W Greenfield Ave LL Milwaukee, WI 53214, 414-276-6936 <a href="http://www.galanoclub.org/">http://www.galanoclub.org/</a> <a href="mailto:galanoclub@gmail.com">galanoclub@gmail.com</a></p> <p>(V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V &amp; IP)=Both In Person and Phone Meetings Phone/ Video AA Meetings, Call (978) 990-5195 Meeting Id: galano7210 Code: 1919178#</p> <p><b>Sunday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 10:30 a.m. - AA - Step / Topic Meeting (In-person/phone/video) 10:30 a.m. - Al-Anon - Papillion Group.</p> <p><b>Sunday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 4:00 p.m. - AA - Personal lead &amp; Daily Reflections. Meeting (In-person/ phone/video) <b>4th Sunday is Open Mtng.</b></p> <p><b>Monday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 7:30 p.m. - AA "Come to Believe" 12 Spirituality. (In-person/ phone/video)</p> <p><b>Tuesday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 6:00 p.m. - AA Over and Under 40 Group (In-person/phone/video)</p> <p><b>Thursday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 7:30 p.m. - AA - Living Sober One Day at A Time In-person &amp; Phone/video</p> <p><b>Friday: (V &amp; IP)</b> 10:30 a.m. AA Step &amp; Topic</p>
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<p><b>NORTHWEST AREA ALANO ASSOCIATION*</b> N88 W17658 Christman Rd Menomonee Falls WI 53051 (No Phone) <b>Room 202</b> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE (V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V &amp; IP)=Both</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 a. Big Book Rm 202 7:00 p. Sun Night Gp Rm 202</p> <p>Mon. 7:00 p. Just Do It Gp Rm 202</p> <p>Tue. 10:00 a. Step 8:00 p. Topic</p> <p>Wed. 7:00 p. Step/Topic</p> <p>Thr. 10:00 a. Step 6:00 p. Women's</p> <p>Fri. 8:00 p. Step/Topic (V &amp; IP)</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 a. Sat Serenity Gp 7:00 p. Simply Sober Gp Rm 202</p> <p>AL-ANON MEETINGS Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon Fri. 7:30 p. Al-Anon</p> <p>*This is a Smoke-Free environment. We have ample meeting space available for 12 Step groups. Contact the Northwest Alano Club by mail.</p>	<p><b>WALWORTH COUNTY ALANO CLUB</b> 611 Walworth St. (Hwy. 50 &amp; 11) Delavan, WI 53115, (262) 740-1888</p> <p><b>Sunday AA</b> 10:00 a. Primitive Group 12:00 p. Open Speakers 6:30 p. Delavan Discussion</p> <p><b>Monday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. Delavan Step Meeting 6:30 p. Delavan Meeting</p> <p><b>Tuesday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp. 6:30 p. Delavan 12 Step Topic</p> <p><b>Wednesday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. As Bill Sees It Gp. 6:30 p. Delavan IT Meeting</p> <p><b>Thursday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp. 6:30 p. Delavan Big Book Gp.</p> <p><b>Friday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. Big Book Study 6:30 p. Delavan Discussion</p> <p><b>Saturday AA</b> 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp. 6:30 p. Delavan Beginners Gp.</p>	<p><b>ALANO CLUB</b> 1521 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53202 (414) 278-9102 <a href="http://www.mkealanoclub.org/">http://www.mkealanoclub.org/</a> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun. 7:00 a. AA Express Mtng 7:45 a. AA Big Book/Discussion 10:00 a. Gp 17 Step Mon. 7:00 a. Early Morning 10:30 a. Gp 72 Topic 12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch 6:30 p. Gp 40 Big Book</p> <p>Tue. 7:00 a. As Bill Sees It, 10:30 a. Gp 70 Step 12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch 5:45 p. Step Tue 5:45 Group 7:00 p. Beginner's Meeting</p> <p>Wed. 7:00 a. AA 10:30 a. Gp 9, Step 12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch 6:00 p. Chicks at Six Gp, women, Child Care available 7:30 p. We Agnostics</p> <p>Thr. 7:00 a. Thr Express Mtng 10:30 a. Gp 97, Step 12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch 7:00 p. AA (LGBT)</p> <p>Fri. 7:00 a. Daily Reflections 10:30 a. Gp 21, Step 12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch 6:30 p. Here &amp; Now Friendly Gp 7:30 p. Men's Zoom Mtng. 12:15 am. Second Shifters (Sat.)</p> <p>Sat. 7:00 a. AA Meeting 11:00 a. Gp 87 Step 7:30 p. Open AA Speaker</p> <p><b>AL-ANON MEETING</b> Sunday 10:00 a. Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>H.O.W. TO CLUB</b> 8930 W. National Ave, West Allis, (414) 543-2448 <a href="mailto:howtoclub8930@yahoo.com">mailto:howtoclub8930@yahoo.com</a> <a href="https://www.howtoclub.org">https://www.howtoclub.org</a> Hours: 9am to 9pm daily.</p> <p>Sun. 8:00 a. Eye Opener AA Gp. 10:00 a. Grass Roots (Steps) 4:30 p. Drop the Rock 6/7 Step 6:00 p. Restore Us To Sanity 7:30 p. Sun. Sober &amp; Serene</p> <p>Mon. 11:00 a. Winner's Circle 5:45 p. Gp 132, Women's Gp 7:00 p. Big Book Gp. 8:00 p. New Hope Gp. 10:30 P. What's the Point Gp.</p> <p>Tue. 11:00 a. Willingness Group 6:00 p. Tue Topic 6pm Gp 8:00 p. New Hope Meeting</p> <p>Wed. 10:00 a. Foundations Meeting 6:00 p. AA Beginners Gp. 7:00 p. Women's Freedom 8:00 p. Promises Group</p> <p>Thr. 10:00 a. But For Grace Of God 6:00 p. Here and Now 8:00 p. How To Get It Going</p> <p>Fri. 6:00 a. Early Risers Big Book 11:00 a. Priority Group 6:00 p. Big Book Friday 8:00 p. R.U.S. For Us 11:00 p. Candlelight Promises</p> <p>Sat. 9:15 a. Men's Topic 11:00 a. Pioneers Group 3:00 p. Spiritual Growth 6:00 p. 1st &amp; 12 Topic 8:00 p. Open Speaker 3rd Sat 8:00 p. HOW To Saturday</p>	<p><b>24 HOUR CLUB</b> 153 Green Bay Rd. Thiensville, WI <a href="http://www.walworthalano.org">www.walworthalano.org</a> A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE (V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V &amp; IP)=Both</p> <p>Sun. 8:00 a. Topic 10:00 a. Step/Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594</p> <p>Mon. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 10:00 a. Topic 8:00 p. Men's</p> <p>Tue. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 10:00 a. Step/Topic 5:30 p. Big Book</p> <p>Wed. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 10:00 a. Big Book</p> <p>Thr. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 10:00 a. Topic 5:30 p. Step/Topic/Trad</p> <p>Fri. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 10:00 a. Step/12 &amp; 12 8:00 p. Step</p> <p>Sat. 6:30 a. Topic (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW: 485594 8:30 a. Big Book/Steps (V &amp; IP) Meeting ID: 844 4566 9750 PW: District24 10:00 a. Big Book</p> <p><b>7:00 p. Open Speaker Mtng.</b> <b>(1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Only)</b></p>
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## In Person AA Groups NEED YOUR SUPPORT

- **Sun. 7 p.m.** Waukesha Sunday Night Beginner's, Ascension Lutheran Church, 1415 Dopp St, Waukesha WI
- **Sun. 7 p.m.** Butler Sunday Night, St. Agnes, 12801 W Fairmount St, Butler WI.
- **Mon. 7 p.m.** Unity Gp, 4600 Pilgrim Rd, Brookfield, WI
- **Mon. 7 p.m.** Group 232, Mother of Good Counsel, 6924 W. Lisbon Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53226
- **Wed. 8:00 p.m.** Helping Hand, Nativity Lutheran Church, 6905 W Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee WI
- **Thurs. 8:00 p.m.** Grateful Gp. Chabad House, 3030 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee, WI
- **Thurs. 8:30 p.m.** Gp 22, Milwaukee Chin Baptist Church, 1916 Wauwatosa Ave,
- **Fri. 9:30 p.m.** Big Book, Martin Luther Church 9235 W Bluemound Rd. Milw.
- **Sat. 8 p.m.** Gp 18, St Luke's, 3200 S Herman, Bay View, WI

# MEETING ROOMS

<p><b>UNITY CLUB</b> 1715 Creek Rd West Bend, (262) 338-3500 <a href="mailto:unityclub1715@att.net">unityclub1715@att.net</a> <a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a></p> <p><b>AA MEETING SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Sun. 10:30 a.* Gratitude Gp. 7:00 p. Candlelight Gp.</p> <p>Mon. 10:00 a. Monday A.M. 7:00 p. Men's 7:00 p. Women's</p> <p>Tue. 10:00 a. Tuesday A.M. 6:00 p. More About 12&amp;12 7:30 p. Beginner's</p> <p>Wed. 10:00 a. Promises 1:06p. Steps/Promises 5:00 p. Happy Hour Gp</p> <p>Thr. 10:00 a. Big Book</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 a. Step/Topic Gp 6:00 p. Big Book</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 a. Here &amp; Now 7:00 p. 12 Step Meeting</p> <p><b>AL-ANON &amp; ALATEEN MTNGS</b></p> <p>Wednesday 1:00 p. Al-Anon Friday 11:00 a. Al-Anon Saturday 9:00 a. Al-Anon (Zoom only.) Mtng ID: 810 5054 8668, Pass Code: 860539</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Mtng. 3rd Sunday of month</li> </ul>	<p><b>FRIENDSHIP CLUB</b> 2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave Milwaukee, WI (414) 931-7033</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net">friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net</a></p> <p><b>AA MEETING SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Sunday 10:00 a. Friendship 11:00 a. Third Sunday Open Meeting</p> <p>Monday 10:30 a. Step Gp</p> <p>Tuesday 7:00 p. Gp 43 Big Book</p> <p>Saturday 10:30 a. Gp 112 Step</p> <p>Call for information on other types f meetings.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net">friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net</a></p>	<p><b>TRI-COUNTY UNITY CLUB</b> 110 S 2nd St. Watertown WI <a href="http://www.tricountyunityclub.com">www.tricountyunityclub.com</a></p> <p>Sunday 11:00 a. Big Book Study 6:30 p. New Beginners 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer Monday 10:00 a. Eye Opener Grp. 7:00 p. As Bill Sees It Tuesday 7:00 p. Keep It Simple 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer Wednesday 10:00 a. New Freedom 7:00 p. AA Grapevine Open Mtng Thursday 10:00 a. Thur.Morning 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer 8:00 p. Big Book Group Friday 4:30 p. Friday Happy Hour 7:00 p. Reality Check Saturday 10:00 a. Morning Group 8:00 p. Saturday Night Open Mtng</p> <p><b>BEAVER DAM ALANO CLUB</b> 115 N Lincoln St. Beaver Dam WI 53916</p> <p>Sun: 10:30 a.m. &amp; 7 p.m. Mon: 8 a.m., 6 p.m. &amp; 8 p.m. Tue: 9:30 a.m. &amp; 7:30 p.m. Wed: 8 a.m. &amp; 7 p.m. Thur: 9:30 a.m. &amp; 8 p.m. Fri: 12 Noon &amp; 6 p.m. Sat : 12 Noon &amp; 7 p.m. Open</p>	<p><b>MILWAUKEE GROUP</b> 933 E Center St, Milw WI 53212.</p> <p><b>A.A. MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Sun. 10:00 a In-person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Mon. 5:30 p. In-Person 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Tue. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Wed. 5:30 p. Zoom <a href="https://zoom.us/j/8974697046">https://zoom.us/j/8974697046</a> pw:0 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Thur. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Fri. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Sat. 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p><b>Milwaukee Central Office</b> 7429 W Greenfield West Allis WI 414-771-9119</p> <p><b>A.A. MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Sun. 9:00 a. Gp 10 Sunday</p> <p>Mon. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Tue. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Wed. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Thur. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Fri. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Sat. 9:15 a. 1st Step 10:30 a.</p> <p><b>We do not meet on major holidays.</b></p>	<p><b>LIGHTHOUSE ON DEWEY</b> 1220 Dewey Ave. Wauwatosa WI</p> <p><b>AA MEETINGS</b></p> <p>Sunday 6:00 p. Jim's First Step 7:30 p. Gp 78 Great Room</p> <p>Monday 7:30 p. Laughs/Leisure</p> <p>Tuesday 6:00 p. 11th Step Meditation 7:30 p. Professionals</p> <p>Wednesday 7:30 p. Presidents Hall 8:00 p. "RES-IPSA"</p> <p>Thursday 7:30 p. Alumni No 12 Friday 7:15 p. Gp 74 Saturday 10:00 a. Gp 59</p> <p><b>All Saint's Cathedral</b> 818 E Juneau Ave. Milw 53202</p> <p>Sun: 7:00 p.m. Bench Meeting Mon: 7:30 p.m. #08 Sane &amp; Sober Tue: 10:30 a.m. Men's Gp. Wed: 7:30 p.m. Men's Gp. Fri: 7:30 p.m. Big Book Gp. Sat: 10:30 a.m. Men's Gp.</p>
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**JOIN the BIRTHDAY CLUB!**

We celebrate birthdays, and we'd like to help you celebrate yours! Send us a contribution of **\$1 for each year of Sobriety**- or more if you choose- and we'll print your birthday in the Between-Us Newsletter. Include your Home Group, and we'll print that also!

Requests should be in by the 24th of the month prior to your sobriety date. Late arrivals will appear the following month.

Just fill in the form below and mail, with your contribution, to:

**Payable to: "Greater Milwaukee Central Office"**  
**Memo: Birthday Club**  
7429 W Greenfield Ave  
West Allis WI 53214



Payment/Contribution: using [VENMO](#) or from our website, using [Credit Card](#) or [PayPal](#).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

I will have \_\_\_\_\_ years on \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group: \_\_\_\_\_



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

<u>Years</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Group</u>
43 (Feb 15)	Nancy H.	Hartford Women's Big Book
34 (Feb.)	George M.	West Bend Area
32 (Feb 28)	John W.	What's Happening Gp
45 (Feb 25)	Bob "Muff"	Walworth Cnty Alano
39 (Feb 12)	Rhonda P.	Serenity in the Woods
43 (Feb 10)	Scott H.	
38 (Feb 15)	Irene L.	Badger Gp
41 (Mar 18)	Annette C.	Women's Lifeline NDC
25 (Mar 31)	Fran M.	Suggestive Only Group
49 (Mar 20)	Houston S.	Group 56, Thurs Morning
36 (Mar 12)	Tom W.	Turning Point Sunday Night
35 (Mar 31)	Cynthia S.	Hope For Today Zoom
19 (Apr 01)	Chris W.	Thursday Night St Anskar's
16 (Apr 09)	Lynn M.	Early Risers Alano Club

**Congratulations!**

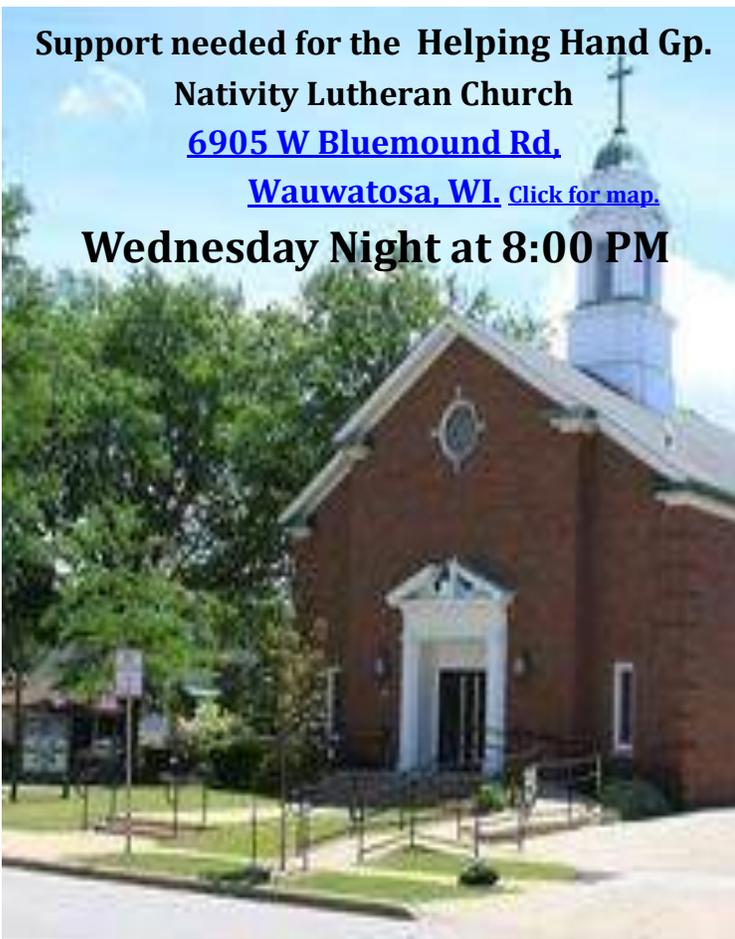
**Support needed for the Helping Hand Gp.**

**Nativity Lutheran Church**

**[6905 W Bluemound Rd.](#)**

**[Wauwatosa, WI. Click for map.](#)**

**Wednesday Night at 8:00 PM**



**NEW WOMEN'S AA MEETING**

**GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN**

Starts **Wednesday** December 4<sup>th</sup>

**6:30 PM**

Mt Olive Lutheran Church

211 Main St. Mukwonago

Enter through the South door from the parking lot



**Financial News:** Please remember our tradition of self-support. If you wish to contribute to the Central Office, you can now use Venmo from your smartphone.

**[@MilwaukeeCentralOffice-AA](#)**

...0785 are the last four digits of the phone number associated with the Venmo account. (You may be asked for these numbers)

If you don't use Venmo or PayPal, you can always come visit us at the Central Office or mail a check.

Use QR Code  
To Contribute  
Using  
**VENMO**



**NEW MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

***The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety***

After we quit drinking, we face various challenges inherent in living sober. Bill Wilson identified that "dependency" was an impediment to our emotional sobriety and maturity. He realized that emotional dependency on people, places and things was the source of his emotional and mental distress, in fact he identified this as his basic flaw. This new meeting focuses on discussing issues relating to our emotional sobriety. We come together to explore ways we can overcome our emotional dependency and the unreasonable expectations and unenforceable rules that our dependency generates. *Are you ready for the next frontier?*

**Join us Thursday nights for a closed discussion meeting on emotional sobriety.**

**When:** Thursdays @ 7pm

**Where:** St. John's Lutheran Church, 20275 Davidson Rd, Brookfield WI

*GREATER MILWAUKEE CENTRAL OFFICE*  
PRESENTS

# SPRING THING

DINNER AND OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026**

HOSPITALITY: 5:00 PM, DINNER: 6:15 PM

AA SPEAKER: AMANDA S. RELIANCE GROUP  
AT 7:30 PM

MILWAUKEE ELK'S LODGE #46

5555 W. GOOD HOPE RD, MILWAUKEE, 53222

SEATING IS LIMITED: **\$35.00 PER PERSON**

Tables of 8. If you want to sit together, get your tickets together.

Proceeds to support Milwaukee Central Office.

Tickets by mail, \$35.00 each. Include a self addressed stamped envelope.

**Greater Milwaukee Central Office**

7429 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI 53214, 414-771-9119

Call or email for more information: [gmco@aamilwaukee.com](mailto:gmco@aamilwaukee.com)

Pay by check or credit card, Visa/MasterCard/Discover, include all necessary information.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ CVC# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets \_\_\_\_ X \$35.00 ..... = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tables of 8. If you want to sit together, get your tickets together.

Tax deductible donation to  
**Greater Milwaukee Central Office**..... + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check or Credit Card **Total**..... = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut-off date for tickets Monday April 20, 2026**

**Buffet menu, with all kinds of stuff on it.**

