Greater Milwaukee Central Office

"Welcoming Newcomers and Aiding AA Groups In Our Community."

"BETWEEN-US"

Vol. 29 Issue 1 January 2021

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

https://venmo.com/code?

user id=2976454346276864728 ...0785 are the last four digits of the phone number associated with the Venmo account. (You may be asked for these numbers)

Use QR Code To Contribute Using VENMO



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

July 1981

Strength Through Failure

By: D. Y. | Seattle, Washington

A YOUNG LADY I have been corresponding with recently asked me how to gain self-confidence. My answer was surprising and pleasing to me, for I do have a great deal of self-confidence.

By taking the First Step, I opened the door to self-confidence. I recognized that I was not perfect and that my imperfections entailed failure on occasion. Being honest and fiercely intense on the Fourth Step, I admitted that--when sober--rarely did I attempt any course of action that did not seem to carry a 100 percent guarantee of success. I would accept the risk of failure in drinking moments, because any negative results could be blamed on alcohol. Needless to say, quite often I was drunk when important decisions were being followed up, and almost as often, that monkey called failure was there to greet me when the smoke cleared.

Drunk or sober, how could I handle failure on the job? At social engagements? How could I face the fact that my wife was seeking security and affection from other sources? How could I deal with the times

("Strength" Continued on page 11)

CHOICE IN DRINK?

Further refection on Step One brought about a different understanding of its context. The first the two parts of this step are separated by a dash—not a hyphen. A dash fulfills both segments of a sentence, e.g.:

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."

At first, I considered the second part "*unmanageable*" to mean; drunk tanks, getting fired again, losing friends, etc. —and it sort of does. However, much more prevalent is the word "*powerlessness*" in the first part which had caused my life to become "unmanageable." My real powerlessness was when I started drinking, I could not stop, but when I stopped drinking, I could not stop starting. (Physical Allergy and Mental Obsession).

While years of "quitting drinking" failure by use of willpower, I never knew about the allergy-obsession syndrome: I never realized that I was powerless; that I had: "no choice in the matter of drink." (p. 24 of the BB)

As alcoholic despair deepened throughout the last Twenty-four years of drinking. My efforts were not superficial: No more Lucky Strike cigarettes! High protein milkshakes! Running! Handball! Swimming! Weightlifting! Why I felt wonderful! Who needs booze? I was like the guy on page 57 of the Big Book (Fitz M): "He couldn't drink if he would." But alas, I came to believe that I had to drink whether I chose to or not—it would seem as though "quitting drinking" just got me drunk—and often in short order.

Could I have the dramatic relief as Fitz? Well, like Fitz, I asked God for help and have not had to drink alcoholic since my very first AA meeting. Choosing to drink alcohol has been removed from my emotional vocabulary, e.g.: Choosing "to drink" or "not to drink" no longer occurs to me. I certainly hope that "choice in drink" never returns.

Bob S.

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Greater Milwaukee Central Office AA November 2020 Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison

	Nov 20	Nov 19	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense	.0	8.9		
Income				
4000 · Literature Sales	4,952.44	9,541.93	-4,589.49	-48.1%
4050 · Between us	13.00	-48.00	61.00	127.08%
4070 · Contributions	5,463.05	7,283.43	-1,820.38	-24.99%
4080 · Gratitude boxes	4,377.31	73.75	4,303.56	5,835.34%
4130 · Personal Contri.	1,331.80	205.12	1,126.68	549.28%
4150 · Other Income	33.25	87.53	-54.28	-62.01%
4170 · Interest Income	0.00	320.75	-320.75	-100.0%
4600 · Merchandise Sales	320.00	0.00	320.00	100.0%
4830 · Sales Discounts	9.99	10.00	-0.01	-0.1%
48900 · Shipping and Delivery Income	18.52	80.76	-62.24	-77.07%
Total Income	16,519.36	17,555.27	-1,035.91	-5.9%
Cost of Goods Sold				
5000 · Literature	2,843.33	5,772.84	-2,929.51	-50.75%
5050 · Between us COGS	0.00	18.00	-18.00	-100.0%
Total COGS	2,843.33	5,790.84	-2,947.51	-50.9%
Gross Profit	13,676.03	11,764.43	1,911.60	16.25%
Expense				
51100 · Freight and Shipping Costs	12.20	21.92	-9.72	-44.34%
59900 · POS Inventory Adjustments	-1.19	-1.29	0.10	7.75%
6045 · Coffee/Soda/Candy Expense	5.88	104.28	-98.40	-94.36%
6050 · Credit card fees	132.05	153.89	-21.84	-14.19%
6170 · Computer and Internet Expenses	0.00	281.00	-281.00	-100.0%
6500 · Office	2,862.01	3,496.14	-634.13	-18.14%
6600 · Payroll	10,088.41	7,761.13	2,327.28	29.99%
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	-21.26	21.26	100.0%
Total Expense	13,099.36	11,795.81	1,303.55	11.05%
Net Ordinary Income	576.67	-31.38	608.05	1,937.7%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	0.00	5.00	-5.00	-100.0%
Other Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	5.00	-5.00	-100.0%
Net Income	576.67	-26.38	603.05	2,286.01%

Account Balances

Checking: 11,435.06 Savings Account: 60,021.84 Prudent Reserve: 168,953.54 What is the Prudent Reserve?

The A.A. guideline document produced by A.A. Wjorld Services, Inc., suggests a prudent reserve for a Central Office or Intergroup be fixed somewhere between one and twelve months operating expenses. The prudent reserve is <u>not available for everyday use</u>. It is only meant for startup and twelve months of operating expenses, in an emergency situation.

The <u>Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee</u> needs to rotate it's members. We are searching for two AA members to act as Co-Chairs, a treasure, and a liaison person to work with Members of AA Deaf community. They can email SWDAC at: milwareadeafaccess@ gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee
(SWDAC) November 2020

Beginning Balance: \$8,437.59
Contributions: \$449.28
Interpreter: \$50.00
Ending Balance: \$8,836.87
The cost for an interpreter is \$50 for a zoom meeting and \$80 for an in-person meeting. Contact Kath W. with

questions: brylerandme@gmail.com
VENMO Contributions: www.venmo.com/SWDAC

• Meeting Space Currently Available

•<u>St Peter's Episcopal Church</u>, 7929 W Lincoln Ave, West Allis, Contact: Steve 414-543-6040 or email: christume1@sbcglobal.net

Anchor Covenant Church 1229 Park Row Lake Geneva WI 53147, contact Laura, 262-903-6888 office@anchorcovenant.org

2 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,
Reprinted with permission AA World Services, Inc.

eprinted with permission AA World Services, inc <u>Seventh Tradition Checklist</u>

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

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

DISTRICT INFORMATION ON THE WEB:

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

- 1. JACKSON, LaCROSSE, MONROE, VERNON, & TREMPEALEAU; 2 & 18 GREEN LAKE & MARQUETTE CNTY'S & PART OF WAUSHARA;
- 8 & 30 ROCK; 9. CRAWFORD, GRANT, IOWA and LAFAYETTE; 19 & 37. RICHLAND & SAUK;
- 20, 21 & 26 DANE; 31. COLUMBIA CNTY; 35. GREEN; 37. JUNEAU CNTY'S

(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. Feb. Apr. June. Aug. Oct. and Dec. only, Walworth Alano Club, 611 E. Walworth St., Delavan
- 7. KENOSHA CNTY 3rd Sun. of month, 4:00 p., Kenosha Alano Club, 630 56th St.
- 10. Spanish District. Contact: Salvador G. at 414-446-0158. Meets every 2nd & 4th Sunday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 1663 S. 6th Street, Milw.
- 11. JEFFERSON CNTY Meets last Wed. at 5:30 p.m. Moravian Church, 301 College St., Lake Mills,
- 12. WASHINGTON CNTY 1st Wed. of month, 6:00 p., the Jackson Community Center N165W20330 Hickory Ln,, Jackson, WI. 53037
- 13. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 1st Sun. of month, 1:00 p, St. Matthias Church, 111 E. Main, Waukesha
- 14. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p, Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield Ave., P.O. Box 13011, Wauwatosa WI 53226
- 16. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Wed. of month, 6:00 p, Milw. Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave.
- 17. RACINE CNTY (1 of 2) 3rd Sun. of month, 1:00 p, Grove Club, 1037 Grove Ave., Racine
- 23. DODGE CNTY 1st Wed of month at 7:00 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., Peltz Center for Jewish Life, 2233 W Mequon Rd. Mequon
- 25. FOND du LAC CNTY 2nd Tue. of month, 6:30 p., Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St., Fond du Lac
- 27. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 3rd Wednesday of month, 7:00 p.m. Covenant Lutheran Church, 8121 W Hope Ave, Milwaukee WI 53222
- 28. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Bay View United Methodist 2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave. Bay View, WI 53207
- 29. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 6) 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Luther Memorial Church, 2840 S 84th St., West Allis, WI 53227
- 32. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 4th Tuesday of month, 6:30 p, https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/88183312739? pwd=eVJwV0Q2UENydUJHcEhs UmM4RIJRZz09 Meeting ID: 881 8331 2739, Passcode: 071956
- 34. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 3) 1st Tue. of month, 6:30 p, Northwest Alano Club, N88W17658 Christman Rd., Menomonee Falls
- 36. RACINE/KENOSHA (1 of 2) 2nd Tues. month 6:00 p.m., 12 & 12 Club, 724 N Pine St., Burlington
- 38. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1of 6) Last Sunday of month 4:30 p.m. All Saint Cathedral, 818 E Juneau Ave.

SEND ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO:

7429 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214, dan@aamilwaukee.com

ADDRESSES FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Milwaukee Central Office: 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214 gmco@aamilwaukee.com

- Area 75 Treasurer: PMB #167, 5464 N Port Washington Rd., Glendale WI 53217
- General Service Office: G.S.O, P O Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10163
- Area 75 Corrections, or Bridging the Gap or Treatment write to: PMB # 170, 5464 N Port Washington Rd., Glendale WI 53217
- Southern Wisconsin Deaf Access Committee : Email: milwareadeafaccess@gmail.com; Mailto: Deaf Access Committee, P.O. Box 1982, Waukesha WI 53186

DISTRICT MEETINGS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

TAYCHEEDAH CORRECTIONAL, Meetings are held 1st, 2nd & [†] Tuesday and on the 3rd Thursday at 5:45 -7:30 p.m., Gloria K. (920) 921-2395

FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, P.O. Box 1085 Oxford, No Meeting!

FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL Satellite Camp, New Path Group, P. O. Box 1085 Oxford, WI. Meetings Wed. at 1:30 p.m.

OAK HILL AA GROUP, OAK HILL WCI 5212 Hwy M, P.O. Box 140 Oregon, WI 53575 Meetings Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Rick B. (608) 235-5154

THOMPSON FARM, RT. 2 DEERFIELD, WI., Closed meeting Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Contact: Tom Dickert, (608)764-5755

ROBERT ELLSWORTH CORRECTIONAL, 21425A Spring St., Union Grove, 53182 Call for AA Meeting times: Contact Jennifer H. 262) 237-1294 or Cheryl P. (262) 914-3970.

KETTLE MORAINE CORR., Box 31, W9071 Forrest Dr., Plymouth, AA Thr. at 6:00 p.m. Contact Mike L (920) 898-4782.

WAUPUN CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION AA Meeting Sat., 8:00a.m. 9:30 a.m. Dale C. 920-387-4229 after 5 p. clearance.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION, 8885 S. 68th St. Franklin WI.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY JAIL 9th & State Milwaukee WI.

MILWAUKEE SECURE DETENTION CENTER, 1015 N. 10th St. Milwaukee

Milwaukee Women's Correctional Ctr. 615 W Keefe Ave. Milwaukee

FOX LAKE CORRECTIONAL, Box #147, Fox Lake, WI 53933 Closed meetings Tue. & Fri. from 6:00 -8:00 p.m.

JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL 411 S. Center St., Jefferson, WI, Mtng. held on Mon. at 7:00 p.m., Contact: Scott N. 920-397-0170

RACINE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION for MEN Mtngs: Sun. 8:30 AM, Dane Rx Unit; Wed. 7:00 p. and two meetings or Thursday at 7:00 p. English and Spanish. Call Paul H. (262) 537 -2884

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday on odd numbered months at Greater Milwaukee Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis WI 53214. Donation should be sent to: MCCC, PO Box 270544, Milwaukee WI 53227-0544. Contact coordinator: Kota at email: mccccoordinator@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.

Area 75, Southern WI, ,Calendar of Events 2021 Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison,

Held at Senior Center except where otherwise noted. Join Zoom By phone: 312-626-6799, enter meeting ID and Password.

- Zoom Meeting Contact Area Chair: Veronica O. vodonnell52@gmail.com
- Jan 24, 2021 Winter Assembly
- March 14, 2021 Delegates Workshop
- April 11, 2021 Spring Service Assembly
- June 27, 2021 Summer Service Assembly
- Sept. 12 2021 Preconference Assembly
- Nov. 12-14, 2021 Area 75 Conference, LaCrosse WI.

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 donation, to: Payable to: "Greater Milwaukee Central Office" Memo: Birthday Club 7429 W Greenfield Ave West Allis WI 53214 enclosed. I will have years on / / / Name Address State City Zip Phone: () Email: Home Group: Payment/Contribution: using VENMO or from our website, using Credit Card or PayPal.





MILW. CENTRAL OFFICE

• E-mail us at:

dan@aamilwaukee.com

Temporary Hours until further notice: M - F 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

- Secretary Meeting Bimonthly on 2nd Tuesday of each odd numbered month at 6:30 p. Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept. and Nov.
- Board of Directors Meeting, Wednesday following Secretaries Meeting, (odd months) 6:30 p.
- A. A. Meetings, Mon Fri at 12:15 p., Wed. & Thur at 4 p., Sat. 9:15 a.. & 10:30 a.
- Service Manual Study: 2nd Thurs. of month at 6 p.m.
- Dist. 14, 4th Wed. at 7 p.m.
- Dist. 16, 1st Wed. at 6 p.m.

Spanish Speaking Meetings: Meeting at English Speaking Clubs

- •GRUPO 5 CONCEPTOS, Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Av, Milw, on Saturday at 8: p.
- •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

SERVICE MANUAL STUDY, 6-p.m. 2020 Schedule: Sept 10, Oct 8, and Nov 12, Dec no meeting.

Milwaukee Central Office, 7429 W Greenfield Ave, West Allis WI 53214

Find out more about the AA Service Manual. Study group is open to any AA member whether currently active in AA service work, or not.

Contact: Nancy H at 414-801-5184 with questions.





November 2020 Central Office Contributions 64 Groups Contributed - Thank You

Group Name	Group #	Amount	Group Name	Group #
#010 Fri Gp	114446	25.00	Pewaukee Mon Night	114365
#040 Mon Big Book	150771	20.00	Reliance Group	121595
#059 Gp	117184	20.00	Sat Morning Women's Freedom	695465
#093 Men's Group	130257	300.00	Simple Morning Meeting	715785
#4094 Over/Under 40	162338	20.00	Step Meeting, Lumen Christi Cat	00031624
11th Step Meditation Practice	715492	150.00	Stepping Into Promises Women's	697077
24 Hr Club Mon-Sat 6:30 a.m.	711522	100.00	Sun Morning Wake Up	617656
About 10	149809	60.00	Thank God It's Mon	720790
ARO Tue Night	667103	60.00	Thr As Bill Sees It	610097
Back To Basics	149978	60.00	Thr Success Step	MIL-RB
Back To Basics 12 & 12 GP	610624	54.60	Today's Choices	614204
Belgium Twelve Steppers	686411	50.00	Tue Night Candlelight	632422
Big Book and 12 Steps Gp	715113	50.00	Tue Reflections	MIL-TH
Big Book Readers	617805	60.00	Tue Topic 6 p.m. West Allis	676017
Big Book Study, Promise View	720616	60.00	Twelve Steps/Traditions Study	675518
Common Solution	704515	335.00	Victory Group	163882
Conscious Contact	718580	30.00	Wed Night Men's Meeting	663905
Cross Roads Gp	119518	30.00	Wed Night Women's Lifeline Gp	134047
Delafield Tue p.m. Positive	163884	120.00	Wed Noon Lunch Bunch	690831
District 6	District 6	200.00	Women's Big Book	697839
Drop the Rock, Pass It On Club	MIL-TG	60.00	Written For Us	717556
Elm Grove Living Sober	665770	20.00		TOTAL
Fellowship of the Spirit	687104	100.00		
First Step	635840	180.00	Personal Contri	butions
Fri Noon 12 & 12	MIL-FB	49.83	November 2020	
Gopher Sun Night	125948	79.20	Name	Amount
Hartford Women's Big Book	667036	200.00	Anonymous	145.65
Helping Hand	116923	60.00	B, Douglas	15.00
Home For Dinner	WAK-T4	200.00	B, John	284.00
Honesty Gp	145607	60.00	C, Margaret Ann	228.00
How It Works, Whitnal Park	145640	20.00	K, Wally	50.00
Juneau Pioneers Men's	628213	120.00	K, Marnie	24.15
Keep Passing It On	630882	60.00	McC, Rob	20.00
Koala Group	143751	36.00	M, Gordon	100.00
Lake Geneva Kitchen Table	125465	25.00	N, Elizabeth	250.00
Mayfair Ladies Mon & Fri	114336	120.00	N, Mike	25.00
Mon Independence Group	MIL-MH	81.50	Q, Brian	10.00
Mon Night Big Book Study		132.00	R, Joe	20.00
Mon Night How It Works	716315	5.00	S, Nanci	50.00
Muskego Tue Night Step & Topic	690183	95.35	S, Linda	50.00
New Berlin Big Book Tue 8 p.m.	667045	50.00	S, Gail	50.00
Noon Risers Steps & Traditions	675593	34.91	U, Todd	10.00
Otter Group	168152	120.00	TOTAL	1,331.80

Need to make a group or personal contribution?

Use our **CONTRIBUTE** button on our website: <u>aamilwaukee.com</u> or use our your **VENMO app** from your smartphone.

All the groups listed in your When and Where 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.

ASL Interpreter Available: Meeting for Deaf and Hard of Hearing,

Tuesdays 7:00 P.M., H.O.W To Club, 8930 W National Ave. West Allis Redemptorist Retreat Center, 1800
N Timber Trail Lane, Oconomowoc, WI 53066, (262) 567-6900 Email:
rrc@redemptoristretreat.org Please
call for information and schedule of
retreats for recovering people. AA and
Al-Anon, \$250 three nights. We discuss the 12 steps and related topics.

2021 Weekend Retreats
Jesuit Retreat House,
4800 Fahrnwald Rd. Oshkosh,
WI 54901, call 800-962-7330
jesuitretreathouse.org

Amount 50.00 96.60 100.00 93.00 250.00 60.00 82.20 50.00 60.00 35.00 66.00 90.00 59.78 30.00 147.51 25.00 40.00 100.00 24.57 250.00 40.00 3,713.39

Men and Women in AA, Al-Anon
Total cost: 4 days \$390.00. Send a \$75.00
deposit with requests for specific dates to retreat house or call for info.
Men:

NEW DAY CLUB

11936 N. Port Washington Meguon, (262) 241-4673

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 a. Topic 11:00 a. Topic 5:00 p. Young People 7:30 p. Topic

12:30 p. Tenth Step Gp 5:30 p. More about Alcoholism 7:00 p.

8:15 p. Men's Gp

Tue. 10:00 a. Topic 5:30 p. Big Book 7:00 p. Beginners Gp 8:00 p. Big Book Gp Wed.

10:00 a. Topic 2:00 p. Promises Meeting 5:30 p. Step Meeting 7:00 p. Women's Lifeline 0:00 a. Topic Meeting 1:00 p. Women's AA Gp 5:30 p. Topic Meeting

10:00 a. Topic Meeting 5:30 p. Step/Tradition 8:00 p.

10:00 a. 5:00 p. 7:00 p. 10:00 p. Step Meeting Fellowship of Spirit Feelings Young People Sat.

8:00 p. Open Meeting (held on 3rd Saturday of month only)

AL-ANON MEETINGS
Monday 6:30 p. Al-Anon
Tuesday 1:00 p. Al-Anon
Thursday 7:00 p. Al-Anon

Contact club for info on other

PASS IT ON CLUB

6229 W. Forest Home Ave Milwaukee WI (414) 541-6923 A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE 8:00 a. Sun. Wake Up 8:00 a. 3 Legados (Spanish) 9:30 a. Reliance Meeting 11:00 a. Today' choice

9:30 a. Reliance Meeting 11:00 a. Today' choice 3:00 p. Gratifude Plus 7:00 p. Big Book Readers 7:30 a. Jump Start 10:30 a. First Step

4:00 p. Happy Hour Step Gp. 7:00 p. Open IntroductoryAA 7:30 a. Comin'Back Gp 10:30 a. Keep It Simple Tue.

10:30 a. Keep It Simple
4:00 p. Drop the Rock
7:30 p. Three Legacies
7:30 p. Double Trouble DD/O
7:30 a. Big Book Study
10:30 a. Pass It On
4:00 p. Happy Hr Promises
5:30 p. Courage to Change
7:00 p. We, Us & Ours
7:30 a. Welcome Back Gp
10:30 a. Made Decision
5:15 p. As Bill Sees It
7:00 b. Gatleway Topic Gb

5:15 p. As Bill Sees It 7:00 p. Gateway Topic Gp 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 10:30 a. Happy Joyous Free 3:00 p. Twelve Promises 8:00 p. Spanish Speaking 8:00 p. Spanish Speaking 8:00 p. Spanish Speaking

8:00 p. Back to Basics 12x12 AL-ANON MEETINGS

11:00 a. 7:00 p. 7:00 p. Sun. Wed. Fri. 7:30 p. Sat. 10:30 a.

LAKE AREA CLUB N60 W 35878 Lake Dr

Oconomowoc, WI (262) 567-9912

A.A. MEETING CHEDULE

8:00 a. Early Bird 1:00 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 Stdy Mon.

1:00 p. 4:00 p. 7:00 p. Life House Tue

Wed. 8:00 a. 10:00 a. 2:00 p. 6:00 p. 8:00 p. Back To Basics Women's Meeting

4:00 p. 8:00 p. Grapevine Mtng

12:30 p. 4:00 p. 6:00 p. Non-smoking 8:00 p. Old School House 8:30 a. 11th Step 10:00 a. Big Book

OPEN AA/AI-Anon SPEAKER MEETING

7:00 p. 2nd & 4th Saturdays (AA and/or Al-Anon Speakers) AL-ANON MEETINGS

Mon. 7:00 p. Al-Anon Tue. 9:00 a. Al-Anon Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon

WAUKESHA ALANO CLUB

318 W. Broadway Waukesha, WI (262) 549-6541

A.A. MEETING **SCHEDULE**

Sun. 9:30 a. Sun Morn Sunlight 11:00 a. Sun Go-To-Mtng (Open speaker 2nd Sunday & Breakfast)

7:00 p. (Open Step Gp)

Mon. 12:00 Noon

6:00 p. Beginners AA 7:00 p. (12 & 12)

Tue 12:00 Noon Wed. 12:00 Noon

5:30 p. Topic Gp Thr. 12:00 Noon

12:00 Noon T.G.I.F. Gp

7:00 Topic Discussion Sat. 10:00 a. Gp 124 7:00 p. Closed Meeting

> OPEN MEETINGS, **DANCES & EVENTS** Call for information.

GALANO CLUB

- LGBT & All in Recovery -7210 W Greenfield Ave Suite 1, Lower Level Milwaukee, WI 53214 414-276-6936

http://www.galanoclub.org/ galanoclub@gmail.com

MEETING SCHEDULE

Phone/Video AA Meetings Using the FCC App. Video at the club Sun. 10:30 am, M,T @ 7:30pm Phone: W, Th. Sat 7:30pm (978) 990-5195 Meeting Id: galano7210 Code: 1919178#

Sun. 10:30 a. In-person/Phone/Video 6:00 p. AA Multimedia

Mon. 7:30 p. In-person/Phone/Video

7.30 p. In-person/Phone/Video Wed. 7:30 p. Phone/Video Thurs. 7:30 p. Phone/Video Fri. 7:30 p. In-Person Sat. 7:30 p. Phone/Video AL-ANON MEETINGS

Sun. 10:30 a. Al-anon In-person

Meeting Space Available See website for Club Events. www.galanoclub.org

NORTHWEST ALANO CLUB*

N88 W17658 Christman Rd Menomonee Falls WI 53051 (No Phone)

A.A. MEETING **SCHEDULE**

Sun. 10:00 a. Big Book 7:00 p.

7:00 p. Just Do It Gp Mon. 8:00 p. Action Gp

10:00 a. Step 8:00 p. Topic

7:30 p. Step/Topic Wed

10:00 a. Step Thr. 6:00 p. Women's

Fri. 8:00 p. Step/Topic

10:00 a. Step Sat. 7:00 p. Simply Sober Gp

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon

7:30 p. Al-Anon

*This Club is a Smoke-Free environment. We have ample meeting space available for 12 Step groups. Contact the Northwest Alano Club by mail.

WALWORTH COUNTY ALANO CLUB

611 Walworth St. (Hwy. 50 & 11) Delavan, WI 53115, (262) 740-1888

Sunday AA

10:00 a. Primitive Group

12:00 Noon Open Speakers

6:30 p. Delavan Discussion

Monday AA

7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon Delavan Step Meeting 6:30 p. Former Miss Americas 6:30 p. Delavan Men's Meeting

Tuesday AA 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.

6:30 p. Delavan 12 Step Topic Wednesday AA 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon As Bill Sees It Gp. 6:30 p. Delavan IT Meeting

Thursday AA 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp. 5:30 p. Step Sisters Women 6:30 p. Delavan Big Book Gp.

Friday AA 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon Big Book Study 6:30 p. Delavan Discussion

Saturday AA 7:30 a. Sunny Side Up 12:00 Noon Delayan Noon Gn 6:30 p. Delavan Beginners Gp ALANO CLUB 1521 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee, WI, 53202 (414) 278-9102

ttp://www.mkealanoclub.org/ A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

7:00 a. AA Meeting 10:00 a. Gp 17 Step 1:00 p. Refuge Recovery

4:30 p. Life Savers Mon. 7:00 a. Early Morning

6:30 p. Gp 40 Big Book 7:00 a. As Bill Sees It,

10:30 a. Gp 70 Step 12:15 p. Gp 76 7:00 p. Beginners, 1st Step **Wed.** 7:00 a. AA Women's meeting 10:30 a. Gp 9, Step

11:59 p. Second Shifters (Sat.) 7:00 a. AA Meeting

9:00 p. Here and Now AL-ANON MEETING

10:30 a. Gp 72 Topic 12:15 p. Big Book Meeting

12:15 p. Oasis Topic Gp 6:00 p. Chicks at Six Gp

Yoga AA & We Agnostics 6:00 a. AA

6:00 a. AA 7:00 a. Big Book Meeting 10:30 a. Gp 97, Step 12:15 p. Here & Now Gp 7:00 p. Sober and Out 7:00 a. Daily Reflections 10:30 a. Gp 21, Step 12:15 p. Gp 65 6:30 p. Here & Now

11:00 a. Gp 87 Step 3:00 p. Spiritual Growth 7:30 p. Open Speaker

Sunday 10:00 a. Al-Anon

H.O.W. TO CLUB 8930 W. National Ave, West Allis, (414) 543-2448

http://howtoclub.info/ M, W, F, Sat. 9 a. -11 p, Tue Thr 9a. - 9p., Sun 8a to 9p.

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 8:00 p. Sun. Sober & Serene 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. 11:00 p. What's the Point 11:00 a. Willingness Group 6:00 p. Tue Topic 6pm Gp

7:00 p. Sign for Sobriety AA 8:00 p. 12 & 12 AA Meeting Wed 10:00 a. Foundations Meeting 6:00 p. AA Beginners Gp. 7:00 p. Women's Freedom 8:00 p. Promises Group 11:00 p. After Hours Group

10:00 a. But For Grace Of God 6:00 p. Here and Now 8:00 p. How To Get It Going

11:00 a. Priority Group 6:00 p. Big Book Group 8:00 p. R.U.S. For Us 11:00 p. Candlelight Promises

9:15 a. Men's Topic 11:00 a. Pioneers Group 6:00 p. 1st & 12 Topic *8:00 p. HOW To Saturday *(Open meeting on 3rd Saturday)

24 HOUR CLUB

153 Green Bay Rd. Thiensville, WI

Web and Facebook Info

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

8:00 a. Topic

10:00 a. Step/Topic 5:00 p. Step

6:30 a. Topic Mon

10:00 a. Topic

8:00 p. Men's

6:30 a. Topic

10:00 a. Step/Topic

5:30 p. Big Book

Wed. 6:30 a. Topic

10:00 a. Big Book 5:15 p. Women's

6:30 a. Topic

10:00 a. Topic 5:30 p. Step/Topic/Trad

8:00 p. Men's 12 & 12

6:30 a. Topic 10:00 a. Step/12 & 12

5:30 p. Principles

8:00 p. Step

6:30 a. Topic 8:30 a. Big Book/Steps

10:00 a. Big Book 8:00 p. Open Speaker Mtng. (1st Saturday Only)



UNITY CLUB

1715 Creek Rd West Bend, (262) 338-3500 unityclub1715 www.facebook.com

AA MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:30 a.** Gratitude Gp. 8:00 p. Candlelight Gp Mon. 10:00 a. Monday A.M. 7:00 p. Men's 7:00 p. Women's

Tue. 10:00 a. Tuesday A.M. 7:30 p. Beginner's 8:00 p. Step Gp

Wed. 10:00 a. Promises 1:00 p. Steps/Promises 5:00 p. Happy Hour Gp 8:15 p. Step Gp

Thr. 10:00 a. Big Book 7:00 p. EZ Dozen12x12 10:00 a. Step/Topic Gp 8:00 p. * Step Gp.

10:00 a. Here & Now 7:00 p. Big Book **AL-ANON &**

ALATEEN MTNGS urday 9:00 a. Al-Anon Irsday 7:15 p. Al-Anon Open Mtng. Last Friday of Saturday Thursday

month
** Open Mtng. 3rd Sunday of
month (10:30 a.m.)

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave Milwaukee , WI (414) 931-7033

Email:

friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday

10:00 a. Friendship 11:00 a. Third Sunday Open Meeting

Monday

10:30 a. Step Gp

Tuesday

7:00 p. Gp 43 Big Book

Saturday

10:30 a. Gp 112 Step

Call for information on other types of meetings.

Fmail:

friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net

12 STEP CLUB

4102 W Townsend St. Milwaukee, WI 53216 (414) 871-0610

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday: 11:00 a. Gp. 27

Friday:

11:00 a. Gp. 61(12x12)

Saturday:

10:00 a. Beginner's 7:00 p. Gp 6

Call the club for information on Open Speaker AA meetings, meetings for other fellowships and for special events.

MILWAUKEE GROUP

933 E Center St, Milw WI 53212. Zoom Information:

https://us02web.zoom.us/ i/8974697046?pwd=3CBAt

A.A. MEETINGS

10:00 a Zoom. 8:30 p. In-Person Sun. 5:30 p. Zoom Mon. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. Zoom Tue. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. Zoom Wed. 6:30 p. In-Person 8:30 p. Zoom Thur. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. Zoom 8:30 p. In-Person Fri. Sat.

Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield West Allis WI 414-771-9119

A.A. MEETINGS 12:15 p Mon.

Tue. 12:15 p Wed. 12:15 p, 4:00 p 12:15 p, 4:00 p Thur. 12:15 p 9:15 a, 1st Step Fri. 10:30 a

We do not meet on major holidays.

LIGHTHOUSE ON DEWEY 1220 Dewey Ave. Wauwatosa WI

AA MEETINGS Sunday Sunday
6:00 p. Jim's First Step
7:30 p. Gp 78 Great Room
Monday
7:30 p. Laughs/Leisure
Tuesday
6:00 p. 11th Step Meditation
7:30 p. Professionals Wednesday
7:30 p. Presidents Hall
7;30 p. Women Mellows Lounge 7,30 p. Wolfiell Mello 8:00 p. "RES-IPSA" Thursday 7:00 p. Women's AA 7:30 p. Alumni No 12 Friday 7:15 p. Gp 74 Saturday 10:00 a. Gp 59

All Saint's Cathedral 818 E Juneau Av Milw 53202

Monday: 7:30 p.m. Sane & Sober Tuesday: Zoom 10:30 a.m. Men's meeting Wednesday: In-person 7:30 p.m. Men's meeting Thursday: Zoom 7:00 p.m. Men's meeting Friday: Zoom 7:30 p.m. Big Book Saturday: In-person 10:30 a.m. Men's meeting

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NEW MEETINGS

Sundays 6:00 p.m. Galano Club, 7210 W Greenfield Ave. West Allis. "Multimedia Sunday Night AA Meeting"

Mondays & Wednesdays & Saturday "We Agnostics". 7:30 p.m. https://

us02web.zoom.us/j/86432257621? pwd=dTBwak9VaHVRZEhPTU1Tckk3YnBqUT

Mondays 6:30 p.m. Uhles Cigar Shop (LL) 114 W Wisconsin Ave. Milw 53203. Cigar smoking allowed. No wheelchair access.

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Cedar Springs Church, 3128 Slinger Rd, Slinger WI 53086

Tuesday 7p.m., Primary Purpose, First Evangelical, 311 W Mackie St. Beaver Dam 53916 Thursday at 6 p.m., St Matthew CME, 2944 N 9th St, Milwaukee 53206

Thursday at 7 p.m. Men's Gp, All Saint's Cathedral 818 E Juneau Ave, Milw. 53202. Zoom : https://us02web.zoom.us/j/74831701793? pwd=ZGdsZWtMVE9mSFRGMHh5ZzRlckN5Q

Fridays at 7p.m., Primary Purpose, St James Catholic Church, W220N6588 Town Line Rd, Menomonee Falls WI 53051

Saturday 8:30 a.m. Step Meeting Lumen Christi Catholic Church, 2750 W Mequon Rd, Meguon WI 53092. Zoom: https://zoom.us/ i/6701384020 Password: fellowship

DISBANDED GROUPS

Tuesday 8:00 p.m. Treat Yourself Tue. Christ Church, 5655 N Lake Dr. Whitefish Bay WI Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Bridges of Milw. Rehab and Care Center, 6800 N 76th St. Milwaukee.

OTHER CHANGES

Friday 6:30 p. A Vision For You Big Book **Gp.** Now meets at Holy Trinity Church, 11709 W Cleveland Ave, West Allis 53227, In-person & Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/20895306493 pwd=akQ0YIYyNzB5RXV3cFV1R1dlNzlRZz09

OPEN SPEAKER

Weekly & monthly speaker meetings listed in October 2019 When & Where aamilwaukee.com/directory.html

Sundays at 10 a. Milwaukee Gp. 933 E Center St, Milwaukee 53212 Zoom: https:// us02web.zoom.us/j/8974697046? pwd=3CBAuoiYS3s

2nd Sunday at 11:00 a. Alano Club 318 W. Broadway, Waukesha,

3rd Sunday Open 11 a., Friendship Club, 2245 W Fond du Lac Ave. Milw

Sundays at 7:00 p. VA Hospital 5000 W National Ave 3rd Floor Unit 3A

1st Tuesdays in Jan, Apr, July and October at 7:30 p. Acceptance Gp. First Congregational Church, 1111 N Chicago Ave So. Milwaukee. Last Wednesday 7:30 p. Gp 23 First Lutheran

Church, 7400 W Lapham St, West Allis Wednesdays at 7:00 p. Salem United Methodist Church, 541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8035659147 Password: 052 240

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p. Badger Gp, St John Vianney, 1755 N Calhoun Rd, Brookfield WI. Plus Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/498452652 Password:668830

Every Friday 7:00 p. Christ the King, 1600 N Genesee Rd Delafield. Zoom: https:// us04web.zoom.us/j/79611727313

4th Friday 8:00 p. Imago Dei Church, 2327 N. 52nd St., Milwaukee 53210

1st Saturday 8:00 p. 24 Hour Club Open Meeting, 153 Green Bay Rd, Thiensville.

1st Saturday at 7:00 p. Dist.12, Living Word Lutheran Church, 2240 Living Word Ln., Jackson WI 53037

2nd Saturday at 7:00 p. Dist. 34, St. Francis Episcopal Church, N84 W16525 Menomonee Ave, Menomonee Falls, WI-Zoom: https:// us04web.zoom.us/j/902402700? pwd=MU9XYzhhRCtCNIBMYUFBcGdzQ29yZz 09

3rd Saturday 7:30 p. HOW To Club 8930 W. National Ave. West Allis

3rd Saturday 8:00 p. New Day Club 11936 N. Port Washington Rd, Mequon,

5th Saturday 3:00 p. How To Club, 8930 W National Ave, West Allis

Every Saturdays 7:30 p. Alano Club 1521 N. Prospect, Milwaukee.

Contact the Central Office via email: gmco@aamilwaukee.com, with changes. February 1981

Box of Paradoxes

By: W. S. | Texas

I AM A NEWCOMER. I've been dry less than a month, and I've nearly slipped three times. The only thing that stopped me was my fear of the consequences of that first drink. So far, that fear has overwhelmed my desire to take it. I am in the newcomer's "box of paradoxes"--fear of drinking on one side, desire to drink on another, and on the other sides, bewilderment as to how I got into this state to begin with.

I have gotten through exactly one of the Twelve Steps--the First.

I know I'm an alcoholic; I can't control my drinking once I've started. At times, I get a glimmer of attaining some of the goals implied in the other eleven Steps, but I can't get there yet. However, I am starting to learn some new concepts of life.

I am beginning to accept the premise that an alcoholic is not necessarily a weakling, psychopath, or bum, with a total lack of willpower. Admitting my alcoholism has been especially hard for me, because I had always thought I could control my life as well as my drinking. It was an enormous ego blow to discover that I couldn't. My whole life and career had been based on self-discipline and self-control. I am an internist, with a very large practice, and a clinical professor of medicine. Yet I now know that alcoholism is no respecter of achievement, social status, intelligence, or ambition. I have the same insidious, lethal disease that every other alcoholic has.

I am an insecure person; consequently, I have always felt compelled to achieve. My drinking started with a little pickme-up when I was tired. The ensuing euphoria helped to obliterate, at least momentarily, the cobwebs of fatigue and its frequently associated depression. I felt happier and less discouraged. Moreover, I seemed to have a high tolerance for alcohol, so that my "day after" never interfered with my work--or so I thought. I never drank during work or my nights on--only when it was "safe," during nights and weekends off.

Gradually, I became the classic binge drinker. Predictably, though, I required more and more to achieve my happy

land. Then, one day, I stepped over that grim, invisible line that separates the heavy drinker from the compulsive drinker. I now kept on drinking long past the phase of euphoria. There was never a more classic Dr. Jekyll - Mr. Hyde, in every sense. Once started, I was gone like a runaway express--totally out of control. I started having blackouts, and I became paranoid if our sons so much as talked softly to my wife. Although I continued to work, it became a hated chore completely devoid of any satisfaction. I became more miserable, more insecure, more withdrawn, and I drank still more. Despite all of this, my family stuck by me out of love and devotion--the likes of which I no longer understood or even thought existed.

Finally, one Saturday morning, some inner voice somehow penetrated my well-established alcoholic defenses and forced me to face the truth: I was beamed onto a self-destruct pattern that was about to take me over the brink. I picked up a textbook of medicine and read the medical facts. In the course of one morning, I read a considerable amount of material pertaining to a subject that I had avoided reading about for several years, because I was afraid the shoe might fit. It did! I walked into an AA club that afternoon, after driving around it half a dozen times, getting my courage up. I walked in--frightened, guilt-ridden, and full of shame. Four hours later, I walked back to my car--a little less ashamed, a little less frightened, and a little freer of guilt.

As a newcomer who also fancies himself a perfectionist, I am still expecting too much too soon. However, I am learning to apply the twenty-four-hour plan, not only to the maintenance of my sobriety, but to my everyday living as well. In fact, I've even broken it down into an eight-hour plan. I am trying to get through each eight hours, not only sober, but with a little more equanimity, by pacing myself-crossing one bridge at a time instead often all at once. I know that sobriety isn't going to change life, but there's no way it isn't going to help me change my attitudes in dealing with life. There's no denying that I still get tired and still would like to have a drink at such moments. However, with God's help and my family's backing, I think I'm making a start toward earning the toughest degree of my life--my AA-with no graduation!

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January 1960

Short Snorts

By: B. D. | Kansas City, Missouri

While I was photographing a wedding reception recently, a waiter approached me with a glass of champagne. "That stuff doesn't agree with me," I told him.

"Well then, maybe you ought to join the double A's," he suggested.

"What do you know about the AA's?" I asked him.
"Plenty," he said. "My brother belongs to them, and he was so bad, they'd only let him take one 'A' at a time!"

By: A. S. | Rego Park, New York

Two skid-row characters who had broken into a building discovered that it was a wine warehouse. They lost no time in surrounding themselves with bottles, and while they got to work on them, one of the winos began reading a report he found on a desk.

"It says here," he informed his partner, "that the State of California produced about 3,000,000 tons of grapes last year."

"Damn!" exclaimed the second man. "Drink up, man-they're gaining on us!"

Gratitude

"We are self-supporting through our own contributions"



2020 Gratitude Campaign in the Months of November and December. Contributions are used solely to operate <u>Your Milwaukee Central Office</u>.

Use "<u>Venmo</u>" app from your smartphone to send donations to: <u>@MilwaukeeCentralOffice-</u>AA

Use QR Code To Contribute Using VENMO



It Happened To Joe, page 8



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In Memoriam....Mary Ellen Ryan. Mary Ellen Ryan was a member of the Hartford Women's Big Book Group in Hartford, Wisconsin. She began her recovery in the Milwaukee area in 1974, attending many meetings in the Northshore area. After moving to Hartford 23 years ago, she graced the community with her experience, strength and hope at both closed and open meetings. Mary was known to introduce herself at her home group with these words, "Hi everyone, I am Mary, an alcoholic, and blessed among women." Mary brought authenticity to the meetings. She told her truth about the disease and how far down it took her. Mary explained how to work the 12 steps and stay in touch with your sponsor. Mary had the courage to bring everything to a meeting, never leaving her joy or pain, shame and truth, anger or delight at home. She shared it all. Mary formally sponsored many women and mentored hundreds of men and women with her wisdom. She gave credit to the program and God on a regular basis. Mary and her deceased husband, Bill, taught everyone how to be respectful of differences. Mary particularly loved the Jesuit Retreat House where she attended more than 100 retreats. Mary died on Wed., October 21, 2020 in peace. She was 85 years of age and demonstrated to the very end to her children, grandchildren and everyone the value of recovery.



7210 W. Greenfield Ave. Suite 1 Lower Level

galanoclub.org 414-276-6936

email: galanoclub@gmail.com

Sunday:

LGBT and all in Recovery Welcome

10:30 a.m. - AA - Step / Topic Meeting (In-Person/Phone/Video)

10:30 a.m. - Al-Anon -Papillion Group (In-Person)

6:00 p.m. - SCA Meeting (Zoom) sca.recovery.milw@gmail.com

6:00 p.m. - AA Multi-Media (Postpone)

Monday:

7:30 p.m. - AA "Came to Believe" 12 Spirituality (In-Person/Phone/Video)

Tuesday:

7:30 p.m. - AA Over and Under 40 Group (In-Person & 7:30 Phone/Video)

6:00 p.m. -Pages of Healing -Recovery Book Club (Postpone)

7:00 p.m. - SCA - Blue Group (Zoom) sca.recovery.milw@gmail.com

Wednesday:

7:30 p.m. - AA -12 Steps and 12 Traditions (Phone/Video)

Thursday:

7:30 p.m. - AA - Living Sober One Day at a Time (Phone/Video)

Friday:

7:30 p.m. - AA - Topic "Grapevine" (In-Person)

Saturday

7:30 p.m. - AA Big Book and More (Phone/Video)

LGBT AA Phone in Sun. 10:30 am M, T, W, Th, Sat. 7:30 pm (978) 990-5195 Code 1919178# ("Strength" Continued from page 1)

my friends turned and walked away? How could I look at my daughter and know that she was a stranger?

I handled those failures by running from them, by putting them someplace where I could not see them. The only successes I had were the ones that ensured my continued struggles in the miserable quicksand of active alcoholism.

Well, thank God, I hit bottom and I hit it hard. My bottom was a state penitentiary, representing a total loss of family, a total loss, period. The people in prison, both guards and cons, were more than willing to point out that I was not good for much of anything other than being a magnet for misery--my own and other people's.

That's all changed now. Sure, there is lots of residue from the past. There are still amends to be made, amends that are going to be extremely difficult. But I'll at least make the attempt to do them. And I will do so with the realization that, just as I don't have to drink, neither do I have to succeed.

That seems to be the essence of my self-confidence--I don't *have* to succeed. Sure, success is important, but so is failure. By realizing that it's not all-important to end every endeavor with success, I tend to take more risks, to actually accomplish more in life. And failure? Well, it makes one stronger on occasion. By failing, I can study that endeavor and find its weaknesses, the reason it failed, then try again. I get a particularly good feeling when I try something the second, third, or fourth time and meet with success.

My self-confidence is a warm covering spread around me, telling me that should I fail, I possess the ability to try again with the reasonable expectation that continued effort will someday be mated to success.

Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine Inc., July 1981

SAFETY AND A.A.: OUR COMMON WELFARE

Safety is an important issue within A.A. — one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.

"Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward."

—Tradition One (Long Form)

A.A. groups are spiritual entities made up of alcoholics who gather for the sole purpose of staying sober and helping other alcoholics to achieve sobriety. Yet, we are not immune to the difficulties that affect the rest of humanity.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society within which we exist. Problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. As we strive to share in a spirit of trust, both at meetings and individually with sponsors and friends, it is reasonable for each member to expect a meaningful level of safety. Those attending A.A. meetings derive a benefit by providing a safe environment in which alcoholics can focus on gaining and maintaining sobriety. The group can then fulfill its primary purpose — to carry the A.A. message to the alcoholic who still suffers. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety.

Autonomy and Group Action

Because A.A., as such, ought never be organized, as indicated in Tradition Nine, it is individual members and groups who ensure that all members feel as safe as possible in A.A.

There is no government within A.A. and no central authority, legal or otherwise, to control or direct the behavior of A.A. members. As embodied in the Fourth Tradition, the formation and operation of an A.A. Group resides with the group conscience of its members. A.A. groups and service entities such as areas, districts, intergroup/central offices are autonomous.

Recognizing that safety is an issue of importance to its members, many groups have taken actions to keep distractions and disruptions to a minimum within the context of the group.

A.A. Membership

A.A. membership has never been contingent on any set of behavioral or moral standards — beyond those founded on common sense, courtesy, and the timeless values of kindness, tolerance and love.

A.A.'s Third Tradition states that the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. This brings an openness that helps to define our character as a diverse Fellowship; yet it also requires us to be mindful of our group and individual safety.

Some people, however, come into A.A. without an understanding of the type of behavior that is appropriate in meetings or in the company of other members. A person can be sober in A.A., yet still not understand what is acceptable.

Dealing with Disruptions

While most groups operate with a healthy balance of spontaneity and structure, there are a number of situations that can threaten group unity and challenge the safety of the group and its members. Often this can center on disruptive individuals, those who are confrontational, aggressive, or those who are simply unwilling to put the needs of the group first. Such behavior can hijack the focus of a meeting and frighten members, new and old.

Some groups have developed plans for addressing disruptive behavior and have established procedures through their group conscience to ensure that the group's welfare is protected. In many cases, disruptive behavior is pre-empted by having the chairperson state the expectations for behavior in the meeting.

Some groups include in their opening announcements that illegal and disruptive behavior is not tolerated. Still other groups have asked disruptive members to leave the meeting. Additionally, groups and members always have the option to call the appropriate authorities if disruptive behavior continues or anyone's safety is at risk.

Group Safety and Unity

Situations that groups have addressed through their group conscience include, sexual harassment or stalking; threats of violence; bullying; financial coercion; racial intolerance; sexual orientation or gender identification intolerance; pressuring A.A. members into a particular point of view or belief relating to medical treatments and/or medications, politics, religion, or other outside issues. In addition, there may be other behaviors that go on outside of typical meeting times that may affect whether someone feels safe to return to the group.

Some groups have their own guidelines or procedures to help keep the meeting safe. A.A. members can speak to those who are acting inappropriately. Situations can be discussed at business meetings to come to a group conscience about how to handle a situation. As a last resort, the disruptive member may be asked to stop attending the meeting for a specific period of time. Groups that take this drastic action do it in order to preserve the common welfare of the group and to maintain A.A. unity.

In any situation, if a person's safety is in jeopardy, or the situation breaches the law, the individuals involved can take appropriate action to ensure their safety. Calling the proper authorities does not go against any A.A. Traditions. *Anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal or inappropriate behavior.*

Inappropriate or predatory behavior, such as unwanted sexual attention or targeting vulnerable members can be especially troublesome. These behaviors may go on outside of typical meeting times. While A.A. members can be caring and supportive to those affected, we are not professionals trained to handle such situations. Law enforcement or other professional help may be necessary.

Victims of inappropriate behavior, harassment or predators can let the group know about such situations, often through a sponsor or trusted friend. This way the group is informed, and members can help address the situation and curtail further problems. Group discussion should be focused on creating an environment where all alcoholics can find and maintain sobriety.

A.A. and the Law

Common sense and experience suggest that A.A. membership does not grant immunity from local regulations and being at an A.A. meeting does not put anyone beyond the jurisdiction of law enforcement officers. As individuals, A.A. members are also "citizens of the world," and as

citizens we are not above the law.

Through the group conscience process, many groups have established guidelines regarding when it may be appropriate to call authorities and handle a given situation within the legal system. No A.A. group has to tolerate illegal behavior and any activity within an A.A. meeting is subject to the same laws that apply outside the meeting. The nature of illegal acts that groups have faced include violence, embezzlement, theft of property, drug sales at a meeting, and more.

Emergencies

Injuries, accidents, fires, etc., sometimes do occur during meetings. To accommodate these situations, groups can also develop plans and procedures, often in consultation with their landlord or local authorities. Addressing an emergency situation is more important than continuing the meeting, and members should not hesitate to call emergency personnel in critical situations.

Keeping the Focus on Our Primary Purpose

It is hoped that our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. would transcend most issues and curtail negative behaviors. As noted in the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*. "Love and tolerance of others is our code."

Safety, however, is important to the functioning of the group. By maintaining order and safety in meetings, the group as a whole will benefit and members will be able to focus on recovery from alcoholism and a life of sobriety.

Ultimately, the experience of how these situations are handled can be as varied as our Fellowship. Good judgment and common sense, informed by the Twelve Traditions, seem to provide the best guide.

What Can Groups and Members Do?

Groups and members can discuss the topic of safety, to raise awareness in the Fellowship and seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible for the newcomer, and other members or potential members. This can be the subject of sharing among groups at the district or area level.

Here are some helpful suggestions and reminders:

- Talk about issues of safety before they arise.
- Safety is something each member attending an A.A. meeting can be mindful of.
- Communicate clearly what A.A. is and what it is not.
- Sponsorship plays an important role and sponsors can be helpful in pointing out warning signs or unhealthy situations to sponsees and newcomers.
- A.A. members who are concerned about the words or actions of a sponsor or other member, may find it helpful to speak to someone they trust, their A.A. group, or a professional, as needed.
- Include Safety and the A.A. Meeting Environment as topics for a group inventory.
- Consider developing group guidelines and procedures on safety.

 In all discussions about safety, keep the focus on our primary purpose, our common welfare, and place principles before personalities.

Helpful Resources for A.A. Members and Groups

- Box 459 October 2010 edition, articles on "Disruptive Members at A.A. Meetings" and "A.A. and the Law" (available on the newsletters page at www.aa.org).
- A report from the 62nd General Service Conference Workshop: "Safety in A.A. Our Common Welfare."*
- Final Report of the "Ad Hoc Committee on Group Safety of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous, U.S. and Canada" (Feb. 2, 2014).*
- A.A. pamphlet, "Questions & Answers on Sponsorship."**
- A.A. pamphlet, "The A.A. Group... Where it All Begins."**
- Service Material, "Safety Card for A.A. Groups."**
- Contact your District Committee Member or Area Delegate for local shared experience.

General Service Office

P.O. Box 459 Grand Central Station New York, NY 10163 Phone: (212) 870-3400

G.S.O.'s A.A. website: www.aa.org

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^{*}Available upon request by contacting G.S.O.

^{**}Available on aa.org.

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

Our Common Welfare

Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole.

A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.

-Tradition One (Long Form)

It is hoped that our common suffering as alcoholics and our common solution in A.A. will transcend most issues and curtail negative behaviors that could jeopardize the safety of anyone attending an A.A. meeting. Nevertheless, Alcoholics Anonymous is a microcosm of the larger society we exist in. As such, problems found in the outside world can also make their way into the rooms of A.A. For this reason, groups and members discuss the topic of safety — to raise awareness in the Fellowship and to seek through sponsorship, workshops and meetings, to create as safe an environment as possible to carry A.A.'s message of hope and recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic.

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