

"BETWEEN-US"

VOL. 19 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

1st Step

January 1970 Vol. 26 No. 8

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

BEFORE I came to AA, I took Step One slowly, over a period of years. It was not AA people who helped me with it. Instead, it was all the nonalcoholics who misunderstood and mistreated both me and my disease. In retrospect, I am grateful for their harshness. It forced me to AA, twenty-five years ago this month.

That first faltering step I took to AA recovery was not placed exactly in the First of the twelve footprints left us as a guide by the earliest AA members. But before I came to AA I had begun to realize that my drinking was causing me trouble. This, of course, was hard to believe; so many other people who drank did not get into trouble. My life presented a tough sequence of problems, yes; but I argued (with myself) that drinking surely was not the cause. Fate had just handed me unfair breaks: my family, my love life, my bosses and jobs, my unsteady finances, my

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A Sponsor Is. . .

He may be many things but above all he is one who cares.

To ME, a sponsor is the one who comes out on a Twelfth Step job after you have picked up the phone and dialed AA and yelled, "Help!" He arrives, and through the fog of alcohol and tears, the aftermath of a five-day bender, and the hair of the dog that morning, you hear him say, "Well, my son, got a bit of a problem?" "A bit of a problem!" you say. "Do you really know?" Boy, does he know! With all the patience and understanding in the world, he sits and talks to you, not preaching, but explaining. After a bit, you don't feel alone any more.

("Sponsor" Continued on page 9)

Between-Us Subscribers!

New this month. Due to some strange and unique postal bulk mail pricing, it will be cheaper for us to mail the group subscription in two separate envelopes. Each envelope will contain three copies of the newsletter. This means that the group will receive six copies instead of five for the same low price of \$18.00.

Also, individual subscribers will receive three copies in their envelope. The price will remain the same, \$9.00. Share the extras with your friends.

Enjoy, and thanks for your support.



Greater Milwaukee Central Office AA Profit & Loss November 2010

	<u>Nov 10</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Literature Sales	12,037.62
4050 - Between us	341.75
4070 - Contributions	4,502.37
4080 - Gratitude boxes	19.00
4130 - Personal Contri.	142.00
4150 - Other Income	160.45
4170 - Interest Income	1,047.12
4830 - Sales Discounts	10.00
48900 - Shipping and Delivery Income	188.89
Total Income	<u>18,449.20</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	
5000 - Literature	7,709.70
52900 - Purchases - Resale Items	41.01
Total COGS	<u>7,750.71</u>
Gross Profit	10,698.49
Expense	
59900 - POS Inventory Adjustments	-1,333.08
6020 - Automobile Expense	35.00
6040 - Bank Service Charges	29.00
6045 - Coffee/Soda Expense	244.36
6050 - Credit card fees	129.91
6260 - Shipping and freight	426.75
6262 - Postage	10.58
6500 - Office	3,002.50
6600 - Payroll	8,531.34
66900 - Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.90
Total Expense	<u>11,075.46</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-376.97</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-376.97</u></u>
Cd Prudent Reserve:	\$84,439.24
MM Account	19,184.79
Checking	3,415.27

AREA 75 EVENTS CALENDAR

1. Go to Area 75 website at: area75.org, 2. Look for the Area 75 Events Calendar on the right side of the page. 3. Events listed are color coded according to the area office that listed them. 4. Click on the small down arrow at the top right hand corner of the Events listing for the color "key" to the area's events. 5. Click on the small down arrow in the middle (next to the date) to view a specific date or just use the scroll button to move up and down through the days listed.

Secretary Meeting, December 14, 2010

Meeting opened by Jim B. at 7:00 p.m. Bank balances:
Business Checking: \$3,415.27
Money Market Savings: \$19,184.79
Prudent Reserve CD's: \$84,439.24

Time to return the Gratitude Boxes. If you notice that your group hasn't returned the box...try to get it into the office as soon as possible.

Most of the Between-Us subscriptions are now due. If your group hasn't paid yet for year 2011, now is the time. \$18.00 for 6 copies per month. Individual subscriptions are also available.

Central Office will be closed for the holidays. We will close at 5:00 p.m on both Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. We will be closed all

day on Christmas and New Years. Please have a joyous, safe and sober holiday season.

Announcement by Lisa Z. The rumors of the 12 Step Club closing have been greatly exaggerated. The Club is open and always has been. Regular AA meetings are held there....please join them.

Randy R. Area 75 CPC Chairperson was the guest speaker. He stressed the importance of working with and helping health care professionals understand what AA can and can not do to help their patients in need.

Meeting closed at 7:40 pm. Next meeting is January 11, 2011. Happy New Year everyone.

Deaf, Deaf/Blind and Hard of Hearing AA Meeting List, ASL Interpreter available

- Thursdays at 8:00 p. St John Vianney Parish 1755 N. Calhoun Rd, Brookfield WI. **Open AA Meeting for everyone—Third Thursday of Month**, Wheelchair entrance available.

Meetings are weekly closed AA meetings, except where otherwise noted. All meetings are Non-Smoking. **ASL Interpreter available.**

Contact John R. through Voice Relay Service 800-973-8024 / 414-546-3246 TTY/Voice.

E-mail at: jreskel@wi.rr.com

Contact George B. through Video Relay Service 866-327-8877 / 414-903-8905 TTY/VP

AA Groups Need Your Support

- **Monday at 1:30 pm.**
Bethesda Community Center
2845 W Fond du Lac Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53210

- **Thursday at 12:15 pm.**
- **Wednesday 5:30 pm. Topic**
both meet at
St. John's Cathedral Complex,
831 N. Van Buren St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Broken Arrow Gp.
- **Friday at 6:30 pm.**
Serenity Club, 3677 E Pulaski
Cudahy WI 53110

Perfect for a midday break, or a quick meeting before heading home. Get your meeting in early and relax.

Orientation for GSR's

Second Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. prior to the secretary's meeting, at the Milwaukee Central Office. Or, call Ken G. 608-221-2891, sherwood1@charter.net, to arrange for G.S.R. orientation at your district or workshop.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

DISTRICT

1. JACKSON, LaCROSSE, MONROE, TREMPLEAU & VERNON CNTY'S 2nd Sat. of month, 1:00 p.: Country Kitchen Hwy 27 and I-90 (Exit 25), Sparta WI 54656
2. GREEN LAKE & MARQUETTE CNTY'S & PART OF WAUSHARA CNTY 4th Sun. of month, 4:30 p., St. John's Church 1211 W. Main St., Princeton
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
4. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 2nd Thr. of month, 6:00 p., Alano Club, 1521 N. Prospect Av.
6. WALWORTH CNTY 2nd Wed. of month, 7:30 p., Walworth Alano Club, 611 E. Walworth St., Delavan
7. KENOSHA CNTY 3rd Sun. of month, 4:00 p., Kenosha Alano Club, 630 56th St.
8. ROCK CNTY (1 of 2) 1st Fri of month, 6:30 p., Good Shepard Lutheran Ch, 2447 Park St., Beloit
9. CRAWFORD, GRANT, IOWA and LAFAYETTE CNTY'S Last Mon. of month, 6:30 p., West View Methodist, Madison & Hathaway, Platteville,
10. Spanish District, at large. Contact Ernesto N. at 414 645-8591. Meets every Tue. at 5:00 p., 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., Jansen Family Park, Schuster Dr. West Bend
13. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 4) 1st Sun. of month, 4:00 p, St. Matthias Church, 111 E. Main, Waukesha
14. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 4th Wed. of month, 7:00 p, Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield Ave., P.O. Box 13011, Wauwatosa WI 53226
15. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) Last Sunday of month, 5:30 p, Milwaukee Room 933 E. Center St. Milwaukee
16. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 1st Wed. of month, 7:00 p, Faith United Methodist Church, 400 S. 91st St.,
17. RACINE CNTY (1 of 2) 3rd Sun. of month, 1:00 p, Grove Club, 1037 Grove Ave., Racine
18. Combined with District 2. See "District #2"
- 19/37. RICHLAND & SAUK CNTY'S Last Wed. of month, 6:15 p, in Rm 14, at Baraboo Civic Cntr.
- 20/21 DANE CNTY (1 of 2) Last Tue. of month, 6:30 p, Monona Community Center, 1011 Nichols Rd., 53716
22. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 2nd Thr of month, 6:00 p, Alano Club, 1521 N. Prospect Ave.
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., Advent Lutheran, W63N642 Washington, Cedarburg
25. FOND du LAC CNTY 2nd Tue. of month, 6:30 p., Gratitude Club, 295 Ruggles St., Fond du Lac
26. DANE CNTY Combined with District 20
27. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 3rd Sat. of month, 9:00 a.m. 12 Step Club, 4102 W. Townsend
28. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 3rd Mon. of month, 7:00 p, Bay View United Methodist 2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave. Bay View, WI 53207
29. MILWAUKEE CNTY (1 of 9) 1st Mon. of month, 7:00 p, St. Alphonsus School, 6000 W. Loomis Rd., Greendale (enter west side/rear of school)
30. ROCK CNTY (1 of 2) 1st Fri. of month, 6:30 p. 734 Railroad St., Janesville. (Unity Group)
31. COLUMBIA CNTY 3rd Sun. of month, 6:30 p., Pardeeville Village Library, 119 N. Main St. Pardeeville, South entrance, lower level.
- 32/33. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 4) 3rd Sun. of month, 1:00 p, Galilee Lutheran Church, N24 W26430 Crestview Dr., Pewaukee.
34. WAUKESHA CNTY (1 of 4) 1st Tue. of month, 6:30 p, Northwest Alano Club, N88W17658 Christman Rd., Menomonee Falls
35. GREEN CNTY Quarterly, when called.
36. RACINE/KENOSHA (1 of 2) 2nd Tues. month 6:00 p.m., 12 & 12 Club, 724 N Pine St., Burlington
37. JUNEAU CNTY No information available.

SEND ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO:
Greater Milwaukee Central Office
7429 W. Greenfield Ave, West Allis, WI 53214,
dan@aamilwaukee.com

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

ETHAN ALLEN SCHOOL, Wales, WI 53183

Open speaker meetings every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. (no meeting on the 5th Tuesday of a month). Need facilitators and speakers for 2010, contact Mark G at 262-896-9526 mgukich@wi.rr.com or Perry C. at 414-588-1638 pgcristan@sbcglobal.net

TAYCHEEDAH CORRECTIONAL, Meetings are held every other Tuesday, 5:30 -7:30 p.m. Contact: Deb L-H. (920)238-7414

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

SOUTHERN OAKS GIRLS SCHOOL, Union Grove WI, AA Wednesday 5:55 p.m. and Alateen Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Contact: Marty S. (414) 975-8903 for clearance

ROBERT ELLSWORTH CORRECTIONAL, 21425A Spring St., Union Grove, 53182 AA Wed. 7:30 PM, AA Mon. night 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and Wed, at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jo

(262) 551-7371 or Karelyn P. 414-327-7915.

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

MILWAUKEE COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION, 8885 S. 68th St. Franklin WI. **AA Women's** Saturday 10:00 a.m. Contact: Chris S. (414) 329-9310 or **AA Men's** on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Contact: Dennis D. (414-372-8324

MILWAUKEE COUNTY JAIL 9th & State Milwaukee WI. Clearance needed at both facilities. **AA Women's** Sat. at 5:00 p.m. Contact Felisa C. (414) 672-6724. **AA Men's** Thr. at 7:00 p.m. Contact: John A. at (414) 915-9512

MILWAUKEE SECURE DETENTION CENTER, 1015 N. 10th St. Milw. Sunday Nights from 6:30 p. to 7:30 p., Men & Women, Call Marty S. at 414-975-8903 for information

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

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, Mng. 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. Contact: Bill H. (262) 633-1851

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at Faith United Methodist Church, 400 S. 91st St (91st & Adler). All Milwaukee County Corrections donations should be sent to: **MCCC, PO Box 270544, Milwaukee WI 53227-0544**. Call coordinator: Lynn G at 414-688-7164 with questions. Treasurer Bill E. at 414-433-3507. 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 Wisconsin, Calendar of Events 2011

Madison Senior Center (MSC), 330 W. Mifflin St. Madison, WI, except where otherwise noted.

- Jan 16, Winter Service Assembly
- Feb 11-13 Delegates Past/Present in Appleton WI
- Mar 27, Delegate Workshop
- Apr 10, Pre-Conference Assembly
- May 1-7, General Service Conference NYC
- May 20-22, Spring Conf., Sheraton Brookfield
- Jun 26, Summer Service Assembly
- Oct 16, Fall Service Assembly
- Nov 11-13, East Central Regional, Miamisburg OH

- 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, Bridging the Gap and Treatment write to:** PMB # 170, 5464 N Port Washington Rd., Glendale WI 53217

(“Step” Continued from page 1)

friends, my insomnia, my nervousness.

So I desperately kept trying to prove that drinking was not one of my problems. If I was a failure at drinking, rather than a success, it wasn't for lack of trying! Looking back, it is not so hard to understand now why it was difficult for me, as it has been for others, to accept this inability to drink (for which pharmacological addiction provides a simple explanation). The rewards, pleasures, and gratifications of drinking were so overpoweringly great. Drinking was easy to do, and it worked almost instantaneously, anesthetizing any discomfort as if by magic. It was socially acceptable; my whole social life, all the activities I considered fun, were accompanied by drinking.

The idea of *not* drinking was so unfamiliar to me that it was frightening. If I thought of a nondrinking life at all, I thought of it as a cheerless existence devoid of grace and charm. To give up drinking would mean turning into the blue-nosed, narrow-minded, Puritan type.

It is important now for me to remember that my entire style of life was at stake, not just the apparent benefits of alcohol. Lying to people and sinking into gloomy self-pity were habits neither unfamiliar to me nor frightening. I was thoroughly comfortable with them—even, in a way, found them enjoyable. Besides, "I was drunk at the time" was a marvelous excuse to have when I did shameful things.

Giving up drinking, then, looked like an unpleasant, unendurably long-term proposition. Anyhow, it would-

n't be necessary, would it, *if* other people would just change?

But they didn't. They got worse. My family, in their displeasure with me, pointed clearly to drinking as the source of my troubles. Friends who expressed concern and bosses who fired me helped drive home that truth. Kind strangers and bartenders who shook their beads while being helpful all said, in effect, "You should not drink." A cop who jailed me for being drunk and disorderly, a doctor who scolded me for drinking too much, a grocer who wanted his money, and a bouncer who shoved me out a tavern door all reinforced the lesson.

My repeated solo failures to "do better" kept building an interior despair which finally crushed my false reasoning and false pride. Hung there at the edge of madness, I read a newspaper story about AA.

And so, on the day 1 first telephoned AA, I was not struggling too hard against the mountains of undeniable proof that my life was one awful mess because of my drinking. I had also already admitted, unwillingly, that I could not handle alcohol.

Those admissions of mine are not necessarily identical to scientific diagnosis of the disease of alcoholism, of course. Any well-trained physician, alcoholism counselor, or other professional familiar with Dr. Jellinek's classic list of the symptoms of alcoholism, can correctly determine whether or not a given drinker has the symptoms.

But such diagnosis by another person is not a step toward recovery

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for the drinker--until he himself takes the First Step. I took it blindly at the start, and that was not the best way for me, although any beginning is better than none. In subsequent AA years, through conscious, systematic efforts to understand and practice all the Steps, I have found that they repeatedly come to have new and surprising values.

For me, the hardest part of that First Step has been in the implications of the statement that my life had become unmanageable. With the effects of booze a bit behind me, I could see more plainly than ever what a mess my life was, what a job lay before me. And it became clearer than ever that, in order to stay sober, I had to undertake a mammoth overhaul of myself in many aspects which, at first, seemed unrelated to drinking.

In short, stepping into the first footprint that led from the dismal swamp of alcoholism toward the sunlight of sobriety would not take me far enough. Would I muddle along on some little trail of my own in the weeds, vaguely paralleling the clearly marked AA road? Or would I choose to follow in the exact footsteps of the AAs who had preceded? The choice was up to me. I could do either, but I had to cover the whole trail if I wanted to get where the others were. Since I had already taken Step One, I could decide to stop right there. I could just dry up, period. I could survive like a raisin the rest of my life.

Going the whole route looked too

hard--until someone said to me, "One step at a time." So I looked ahead, along the path marked by the footprints of hope, commitment, and action. All around me were many happy, sober people who had walked that path. Listening intently to their stories, I heard some more horrifying than mine, others less so. But it was plain that all these alcoholics had once *felt* the same hopelessness, fear, pain, and anger I had experienced. It was also obvious that people with drinking troubles like mine could come out of them and--unbelievable as it seemed at first--laugh at them! It was evident, too, that these people had much knowledge of alcoholism that I did not have. They knew that it was an illness, that it could deceive its victims, that the danger lay in the first drink.

They had some magic or information, secrets or power which I lacked, but which might get me out of the fix I was in. I had to believe what I saw: that some power wiser, stronger, or greater than mine could restore me to health. Next came a decision I did not even notice making at the time: to try this AA plan of theirs, even though I did not understand it. Some said it was God doing the good work, but I saw unbelievers like me being helped, too. So what had I to lose by going along?

Beginning with the First Step, I have found the following Steps out of alcoholism to be true and benevolent. I still know of no other suggestions more effective as a program of recovery.

B. L.
Manhattan, New York

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But the Glow Remains The tinsel tree is down and Christmas is over. . .

THIS IS an after-Christmas story. The tinsel is down; the dead needles are vacuumed up. But the glow remains. Rather, the glow *arrived* for the first time, and it's staying. Christmas is a thing of the heart. It's one gigantic AA meeting that nonalcoholics, too, can get in on emotionally. Christmas is no more than the love and the understanding I find over the coffee cups at every meeting I attend. But never before did I know how to love and accept being loved. No wonder Christmas always shook me.

As far back as I remember, Christmas was a time for fears and tears on a grand scale. I was a timid child, scared of everything, constantly being upset by anything that wasn't an everyday part of our household and many things that were. Then came Christmas Eve, bringing that loudmouthed, ratty-bearded, red-flanneled old man. I wanted to run in panic, but someone always pushed me toward terror.

It *might* have been different if he'd brought presents worth the fright. But it was always socks and handkerchiefs, a bag of candy and a book. No matter that those were depression years, and many kids didn't get even candy or books. I must have been an alky even then, because I wanted the perfect, unattainable, magic present. I'd have settled graciously for a three-foot talking doll, though dolls didn't talk then, except

to say "Mama." Every Christmas was a vast disappointment, because the one gift which would make everything all right--or nearly so--was never there.

As I grew, I added to the emotional bag most alkies carry through the holidays: my unrealistic dream of the ideal, the impossible, but for me the *only* happy Christmas; the loneliness I felt so keenly the rest of the year, intensified when everyone else was being obviously unlonely; the precious, never-neglected mourning of supposedly happier past Christmases and the people I had shared them with, but never would again; my resentment at demands to send cards, shop, contribute, bake, sing carols, smile, give; perhaps most important, the internal agonies as I increasingly loused up one holiday after another after another.

For instance, there was the year I bought my sons English ten-speed racer bikes. The bikes were hidden across the street, and on Christmas Eve, fortified by a gallon of wine, I went for them. My neighbor noticed my wobbling, so he delivered the second one. I draped stockings over the handlebars and passed out on the sofa.

At dawn or possibly earlier, there were the kids, squealing ecstatically--not the world's best medicine for me. I barked a few fast words; the

(“Tinsel” Continued on page 15)

("Sponsor" Continued from page 1)

He comes back to see you in the comedown period, when you feel like the wreck of the Hesperus and you're crying out for that one drink which you may think will put things right, but in fact will push you one more step down the ladder. The phone rings, and a cheerful and happy person is on the other end--somebody who cares what is happening to you through John Barleycorn. He takes you to your first meeting. You go with a certain amount of apprehension, but again you are met with that feeling of "Somebody cares," and you join the most exclusive club in the world--exclusive because each one has paid the highest entrance fee that can be paid. The sponsor is the man who is responsible now, for rescuing from the ashes a marriage and the love of

small children and for making a drunk a happy man. As a comparatively new member in the Fellowship, I shall never cease to be grateful to my sponsor, Steve, for the time, patience, and attention he gave to me. When I could not get to meetings in the early weeks, there wasn't a day he failed to call. Every night he rang up (and still does). Far from feeling that he was checking up on me, I welcomed his continual reassurance and proof that AA had indeed brought me friends who cared what happened to me. God bless all sponsors in AA! Perhaps this article will give them a view of one newcomer's opinion of one great sponsor.

B.
Birmingham

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CLUB INFORMATION

NEW DAY CLUB
11936 N. Port Washington
Mequon, (262) 241-4673
<http://www.newdayclub.org>

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Mon. 12:30 p. Tenth Step Gp
5:30 p.
7:00 p.
8-15 p. Men's Gp

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

Wed. 10:00 a.
2:00 p. Promises Meeting
5:30 p. Step Meeting
7:30 p. Women's Gp

Thr. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting
1:00 p. Women's Gp
5:30 p. Step Mtng.
8:00 p. Step Meeting

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

Sat. 10:00 a. Step Meeting
5:00 p. Steps/Principles
7:00 p. (Feelings)
10:00 p. Young People

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/ACOA
Thursday 7:00 p. Al-Anon
Contact club for info on other fellowships.

PASS IT ON CLUB
6229 W. Forest Home Ave Milw, WI
(414) 541-6923 passitonclub.com

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Sun. Wake Up
9:30 a. Reliance Open Disc.
11:00 a. Today choice
3:00 p. Gratitude Plus
7:00 p. Big Book Readers
7:30 a. Jump Start
10:30 a. First Step
4:00 p. Happy Hour Step

Mon. 7:00 p. Mon. Freedom
7:00 p. Open IntroductoryAA
7:30 a. Comin' Back Gp
10:30 a. Keep It Simple
4:00 p. Drop the Rock
6:00 p. Women's Step
7:30 p. Three Legacies
7:30 p. Double Trouble DD/O
7:30 a. Big Book Study

Wed. 10:30 a. Pass It On
4:00 p. Happy Hr Promises
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 p. Gateway Topic Gp
7:30 a. Honesty Gp

Fri. 10:30 a. Come To Believe
6:00 p. Women's Fri. Kickoff
6:30 p. Thoughts 4 Today
8:00 p. Spanish Speaking
8:00 p. Group # 1
8:30 a. Early Bird
10:30 a. Happy Joyous Free
3:00 p. Twelve Promises
8:00 p. Back to Basics

12x12

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Sun. 11:00 a. Thr. 7:00 p.
Tue. open (Alateen)
Wed. 7:00 p. Fri. 7:30 p.
Sat. 10:30 a.

LAKE AREA CLUB
N60 W 35878 Lake Dr
Oconomowoc, WI
(262) 567-9912

Visit our website at:
www.lakeareclub.com

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a.
11:00 a.
6:00 p. Big Book
8:00 p.

Mon. 9:00 a. Positive Attitude
6:30 p.
8:00 p. Step/Tradition Stdy

Tue. 1:00 p.
8:00 p. Back To Basics

Wed. 8:00 a.
10:00 a.
6:00 p.
8:00 p.

Thr. 10:00 a.
6:00 p. Women's Group
8:00 p.

Fri. 12:30 p.
6:00 p. Non-smoking
8:00 p.

Sat. 8:30 a.
10:00 a. Big Book
8:00 p.

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Mon. 8:00 p. Al-Anon
Tue. 9:00 a. Al-Anon
Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon

OPEN SPEAKER MEETING

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

MEETING at CENTRAL OFFICE

Saturdays at 10:30 A.M.

"WRITTEN FOR US"

12 + 12 Step Book
Alternating with **Big Book**
reading every other week.
(Bring your Big Books and 12 & 12's)

One Room, One Group Discussion,
ONE HOUR!

Milwaukee Central Office
7429 West Greenfield Avenue
West Allis WI 53214, 414-771-9119

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

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 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
8:00 p.

Thr. 12:00 Noon
8:00 p.

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

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

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

UNITY CLUB
1715 Creek Drive
West Bend, (262) 338-3500
<http://www.unityofwb.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

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

Wed. 10:00 a. Promises
8:15 p. Step Gp

Thr. 10:00 a. Big Book
8:00 p. Young People

Fri. 10:00 a. Step/Topic Gp
8:00 p.*** Step Gp.

Sat. 10:00 a. Here & Now

AL-ANON & ALATEEN MTNGS

Monday 6:30 p. Alateen
Wednesday 8:15 p. Al-Anon

* Open Mtng. 1st Sunday Quarterly
** Open Mtng. 3rd Sunday of month (a.m.)
*** Open Mtng. last Friday of month

SERENITY CLUB
3677 E. Pulaski Ave,
Cudahy, WI 53110,
(414)483-8308
serenityclub.info

AA Meetings

Sun. 10:00 a. Welcome Gp.
7:00 p. Gp. 83

Mon. 10:00 a. Honesty Gp.
6:30 p. Ladies Big Book
8:00 p. Sharing Strength

Tue. 10:00 a. Gp. 118
8:00 p. Gratitude Gp.

Wed. 10:00 a. Rap Discussion
5:30 P. Courage/Change
8:00 p. 1 Day At A Time

Thr. 10:00 a. Gp. 89
8:00 p. Gp. 88

Fri. 10:00 a. Gp. 41
6:30 p. Broken Arrow
8:00 p. Gp. 449

Sat. 10:00 a. Reliance Gp.
7:00 p. Big Book Gp.

AL-ANON MTNG: Sunday 5:30 p.
AL-ANON MTNG: Tuesday 6:30 p.
ALATEEN MTNG: Tuesday 6:30 p.
AL-ANON MTNG: Friday 7:30 p.

Call Club for Open Meeting
& Dance Information

CLUB INFORMATION

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. Delavan Sunny Side Up
12:00 Noon Delavan Step Meeting
6:30 p. Former Miss Americas
(Women's Step Group)
6:30 p. Delavan Men's Meeting

Tuesday AA

7:30 a. Delavan Sunrise Tue
12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan 12 Step Topic

Wednesday AA

7:30 a. Delavan Sunrise Wed.
12:00 Noon As Bill Sees It Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan IT Meeting

Thursday AA

7:30 a. Delavan Sunrise Thr.
12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
5:30 p. Step Sisters Women
6:30 p. Delavan Big Book Gp.

Friday AA

7:30 a. Delavan Sunrise Fri.
12:00 Noon Big Book Study
6:30 p. Delavan Discussion
8:00 p. Delavan Candle-less Gp.

Saturday AA

12:00 Noon Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan Beginners Gp.

ALANO CLUB 1521 N. Prospect Ave.
Milwaukee, WI (414) 278-9102
<http://www.alanofoundation.com>

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:00 a. Gp 17 Step
4:30 p. Step Gp
7:30 p. Gp 19 Step
10:00 p. Topic Gp
Mon. 7:00 a. Early Morning
10:30 a. Gp 72 Topic
12:15 p. Big Book Meeting
5:30 p. Gp 12 Monday Blues
6:30 p. Gp 40 Big Book
8:00 p. Gp 20 Topic
10:30 p. Living Sober Step/Topic
Tue. 7:00 a. As Bill Sees It.
10:30 a. Gp 70 Step
12:15 p. Gp 76
5:30 p. Men's AA & Al-Anon
8:00 p. Beginners - 1st Step (3rd fl)
8:00 p. Gp 57 Topic
10:30 p. 4th Dimension Step/Topic
Wed. 7:00 a. Men's Step
10:30 a. Gp 9 Step
12:10 p. Oasis Topic Gp
6:00 p. Gp 91 Women's
8:00 p. Gp 3 Step/Topic
10:30 p. Step/Topic Gp
Thr. 7:00 a. Big Book Meeting
10:30 a. Gp 97 Step
12:15 p. Here & Now Gp
5:30 p. Acceptance Topic
7:00 p. LGBT Big Book
7:30 p. Gp 26 12x12
10:30 p. As Bill Sees It
Fri. 7:00 a. Daily Reflections
10:30 a. Gp 21 Step
12:15 p. Gp 65
6:30 p. Here & Now
8:30 p. Gp 30 Tub Topic
11:30 p. Step/Topic
12:15 a. Second Shifters
Sat. 11:00 a. Gp 87 Step
3:00 p. Spiritual Growth
7:30 p. Open Speaker
9:00 p. Here and Now
11:30 p. Tub-Topic

AL-ANON MEETING Sunday 10:00 a.
Club is smoke free. Many meetings break
outdoors for smoking.

H.O.W. TO CLUB

8930 W. National Ave,
West Allis, (414) 543-2448

<http://howtoclub.info/>

Sun. 8 a.-11 p.
Mon - Thr. 9 a. - 11 p
Fri - Sat. 9 a. - 1 a.

AA MEETING SCHEDULE

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. AA Topic Group
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.
11:15 p. Nighthawk Gp.
Tue. 11:00 a. Willingness Group
6:00 p. Tuesday Non-Smok
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
11:15 p. After Hours Gp.
Thr. 10:00 a. But For Grace Of God
6:00 p. 6 PM Here and Now
8:00 p. How To Get It Going
Fri. 11:00 a. Priority Group
6:00 p. Big Book Group
8:00 p. R.U.S. For Us
11:15 p. Candlelight Promises
Sat. 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)
10:30 p. Candlelight Gratitude

CLUB INFORMATION

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

2245 W. Fond du Lac
Ave. Milwaukee, WI
414. 931.7033

AA MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday:

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

Monday:

10:30 a. Step Gp

Saturday:

10:00 a. Gp 112

Call for information on
other types of
meetings.

12 STEP CLUB

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

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:00 a. Gp. 24 Upstairs

Mon. 11:00 a. Gp. 92

Tuesday **No AA Meeting**

Wed. 11:00 a. Gp. 27

Thursday 07:00 p. Here & Now

Fri. 11:00 a. Gp. 61 (12x12)
6:00 p. Women's Gp.

Sat. 10:00 a. Beginners Gp.
7:00 p. Gp 6

CALL THE CLUB FOR
INFORMATION ON OPEN
A.A. MEETINGS,
MEETINGS FOR OTHER FEL-
LOWSHIPS and
SPECIAL EVENTS.

1907 CLUB

2908 N 21st St.
Sheboygan, WI 53083
(920) 457-9633

AA MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun: 7:00 p. As Bill Sees It
Mon: 6:30 p. Old Timers
7:30 p. Women's
8:00 p. Beginners
Tue: 6:00 p. Big Book
Wed: 9:30 a.

8:00 p. WITTS
Thr: 6:00 p. Topic Meeting
7:00 p. Closed Speaker
Fri: 8:00 p. Good Fight Gp
Sat: 9:30 a. Non-Smoking
6:30 p. Grapevine

Mtng
Open Meeting 1st & 3rd
Saturday of month at 8:00 p.

Al-Anon Meetings

Monday: 7:00 p. Al-Anon
Wednesday: 9:30 a. Al-Anon
Saturday: 9:30 a. Ala-teen
9:30 a. Ala-Tot
9:30 a. Al-Anon

The "Clubs" listed here are not A.A. Clubs. **A.A. DOES NOT HAVE CLUBS!**

A.A. neither endorses nor opposes such clubs. These are social clubs established by groups or individuals who are themselves recovering alcoholics. The A.A. group meeting at the club is available to any alcoholic - club member or not. The group is separate from the club and pays a fair rent for the use of the club facilities. Even though the group meets in a club that may be composed exclusively of A.A. members, and many members of the group may be club members, too, the relationship of the A.A. group itself to the club should be the same as it would be to a church, hospital, school, etc., in which it might rent space for its meetings.

When and Where

NEW MEETINGS

The First 164, Roundy's Memorial Baptist, 4819 N Ardmore at Hampton, Whitefish Bay. Meets on Tuesday's at 5:45 p.

Polish Sober Eagles (Polish Speaking) Prince of Peace, 4419 S Howell Ave Milwaukee 53207 (rear parking, rear entrance) Meets on Tuesday and Friday at 6:00 p. (Russian Interpreter available)

Bright Spot of Our Lives Young People, St James Congregation W222 N6570 Town Line Rd, Meno-

nee Falls Wednesdays at 7:00 p.

UW-Whitewater, Ambrose Health Center, 800 W Main St, Whitewater, Wednesdays at 4:00 p.

By The Book, Tippecanoe Presbyterian, 125 W Saveland Ave Milwaukee 53207 Wednesday, 7:00 p.

LGBT Friendly, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W Mineral St. Milwaukee 53204. Thursdays at 6:30 p.

Thursdays at 6:30 p.

DISBANDED GROUPS

Group 94 (Gay) All Saints Cathe-

24 HOUR CLUB

153 Green Bay Rd.
Thiensville, WI
(262) 242-9999

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/Topic
5:00 p. Step
Mon. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Topic
12:00 p. Women's
8:00 p. Men's
Tue. 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
Thr. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Topic
5:30 p. Step/Topic/Trad
Fri. 6:30 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/12 & 12
5:30 p. Principles
8:00 p. Step
Sat. 8:30 a. Living Sober
10:00 a. Big Book

8:00 p. Open Speaker Mtng.
(1st Saturday Only)

GALANO CLUB

- LGBT Recovery -

315 W. Court St. Suite 201
Milwaukee, WI 53212-3825
(414) 276-6936

<http://www.galanoclub.org/>

mail@galanoclub.org

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 10:30 a. Step Topic
Mon. 7:30 p. Came To Believe
Tue. 5:30 p. 40+ Topic
Wed. 7:00 p. 12 x 12
Fri. 7:00 p. Step/Topic
Sat. 7:30 p. Topic

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Sun. 10:30 a.m. (Co-ed.)

CALL THE CLUB FOR INFO ON
SPECIAL EVENTS AND OPEN
MEETINGS!

NORTHWEST ALANO CLUB*

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

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 7:30 p.
Mon. 7:00 p.
8:00 p. Action Gp
Tue. 10:00 a. Step
8:00 p.
Wed. 8:00 p. Step/Topic
Thr. 10:00 a. Step
6:00 p. Women's
Fri. 8:00 p. Step/Topic
Sat. 10:00 a. Step

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Wed. 8:00 p. Al-Anon
Fri. 8:00 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.

dral, 818 E Juneau, Milwaukee, met on Sundays at 6:00 p.

Group 1394 (Gay) Galano Club, 315 W Court St, Met Sundays 7 p.

Brown Deer Friday, Abiding Savior, 5214 W Luebbe Ln, met on Fridays at 8:00 p.

We Need Sanity, St Johns, Brookfield, met Tuesdays at 10:30 a.

Cudahy Into Action, Cudahy United Methodist, 5865 S Lake Dr. Cudahy, met Saturdays at 7:00 p.

OTHER CHANGES

Women's Step & Promises, formerly met at Holy Trinity, 11709 W Cleveland, **NOW** meets at Grace Bible Church **2643 S 117 St** West Allis, Monday at 6:00 p.

Gp No 2, 10 am Tuesday, formerly at Sacred Heart 3641 S KK Ave, **now** meets at Bay View United Methodist 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee

Friday Night Second Shifter's formerly met at Serenity Club, now meets at the Alano Club, 1521 N Prospect Ave Friday night/Saturday morning at 12:15am

Fri North Shore, Bay Shore Lutheran, 1200 E Hampton, formerly at 8 p. now meets at 7:30 p.

St Anskar, N48 W31340 Hill Rd Hartland: Thursdays meets at 7:00 p. and Fridays now meets at 8:00 p.

OPEN MEETINGS

Weekly & monthly open meetings listed in July 2010

When & Where

aamilwaukee.com/directory.html

Grapevine Open Meeting, Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Ave. meets on **Sundays at 5:00 p.**

AA OPEN MEETING at the VA, 5000 W National Ave, Milwaukee, Dom 43 Cafeteria, **Monday November 8, 7pm**

West Allis Memorial Hospital, (Conf. Rm. B), 8901 W. Lincoln Ave., **Sundays at 4:30 p.** Ace Boxing 1st Monday Open Meeting, 2160 S. 10 St., Milw., meets **1st Monday at 7:00 p.**

Bethesda Seniors Community Center Open Meeting, 2845 W Fond du Lac Ave **1st Monday at 1:30 p.**

Salem United Methodist Church, 541 Hwy. 59, Waukesha, ea. **Wed. 7:00 p.**

St. Lukes Church, 300 Carroll St., Waukesha **1st Friday only 8:00 p.**

24 Hour Club Open Meeting, 153 Green Bay Rd, Thiensville, **First Saturday of month at 8:00 p.**

New Hope United Church, 4360 N. Jackson Dr., Jackson WI, meets on **Second Saturday only at 7:00 p.m.**

Dist 34, St. Francis Episcopal Church, N84 W16525 Menomonee Ave., **Second Saturday at 7:00p.**

Waukesha Alano Open Mtng. 318 W. Broadway, Waukesha, **2nd Sunday, at 11:00 a.**

Open Meeting 2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave. Milwaukee, WI. Meets on **3rd Sunday at 11:00 a.**

HOW To Club Open Meeting, 8930 W. National Ave., **3rd Saturday 8:00 p.**

New Day Club Open Meeting, 11936 N. Port Washington Rd, Mequon, **Third Saturday at 8:00 pm**

Trinity United Church of Christ, 4435 N. Calhoun Rd. **Last Wed. 8:00 p.**

Holy Assumption School, 72nd & Orchard, **Last Wednesday 8:00 p.**

Holy Hill Friday Night Open Meeting, Parish House, 1525 Carmel Rd. Hubertus, **3rd Friday of May and September at 7:30 p.**

New Day Club Open Meeting, 11936 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon, **Third Saturday at 8:00 p.**

Alano Club Open Meeting, 1521 N. Prospect Ave Milw. **Every Saturday**

5/5

"Faithful Fivers"

Greater Milwaukee Central Office
7429 W. Greenfield Ave. West Allis WI 53214

Faithful Fivers "When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat, we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with those who still suffer." - *Bill W.*

Every single AA service is designed to make 12th Step work possible. As a **Faithful Fiver** your personal contributions can and will make our vital services possible. You can start with a minimum monthly contribution of \$5.00 or more. This can be paid by check or billed to your credit card.

Yes! I want to participate in the Faithful Fivers Club.

Contribution Information: Date: _____
Amount \$: _____ **Monthly** _____ **Quarterly** _____ **Annually** _____

(Note no AA member can contribute more that \$3000 per year)

I am a new member _____ a current member _____ a returning member _____.

Payment Plan:

Check enclosed: _____ or Bill my credit card: Visa _____ M/C _____ Discover _____

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone Number (____) _____ - _____

2011 Weekend Retreats Jesuit Retreat House, Oshkosh, WI jesuitretreathouse.org

Men and Women members of AA, Al-Anon
Total cost: 4 days \$290.00. Send a \$40.00 deposit with requests for specific dates to: Jesuit Retreat House, 4800 Fahrwald Road, Oshkosh, WI 54901 or call for information, 1(800) 962-7330
May 5-8 Men, Fr Peter O'Brien, S.J.
May 12-15 Women, Fr: Tom Weston, S.J.
May 19-22 Men, Fr Tom Weston, S.J.
Aug 18-21 Women, Mildred Frank
Nov 10-13 Women, Sr Kerry Larkin OSM
Nov 17-20 Women, Sr Elise Cholewinski OSF
Dec 01-04 Men, Fr Kevin Ballard, S.J.

Spanish Speaking Meetings: Meeting at English Speaking Clubs

- GRUPO 5 CONCEPTOS, Pass It On Club, 6229 W. Forest Home Av, Milw, on Friday at 8:00 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

MILWAUKEE CENTRAL OFFICE

- **E-mail the Board President at:** board@aamilwaukee.com
- **E-mail Director Jim B. at:** jim@aamilwaukee.com
- **Hours:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday
- **G.S.R. Orientation, 2nd** Tuesday 6:30 p.
- **Secretary Meeting, 2nd** Tuesday 7:00 p.
- **Board of Directors Meeting,** Wednesday following Secretaries Meeting, (odd numbered months) 7:00 p.
- **A. A. Meetings,** Mon - Fri at 12:15 p. and 4:00 p.
- **A. A. Meeting Saturday** 10:30 a. and 3:00 p.
- www.aamilwaukee.com

(“Tinsel” Continued from page 8)

boys left; and somewhere near noon I came to--alone! Imagine those ungrateful youngsters, leaving me to spend Christmas by myself!

It took a year to pay for those bikes. If only I had been less pushed by my guilt at doing so badly, had bought what I could afford, and had given it in love and gentleness! Of course, the following Christmas I bought presents to make up for ruining last year's--a vicious, never-ending cycle.

After my first four years in AA, my sons were willing to speak to me, to come into my house to eat or talk with me. That was a miracle, and it happened faster than I deserved, because I'd spent more than four years telling them with my every action, if not with words, to go to hell--who wanted or needed them? Today, I know I do.

But even with physical sobriety, holidays were an emotionally spiraling, miserable mess. My second dry year, I tried to make the office party. Someone said, "Want some coffee?"--and I spent two hours sobbing. A couple of years later, another AA member drove nearly fifty miles (I think this was on Thanksgiving, but I was rehearsing my Christmas misery) and repeatedly offered to take me to dinner. But I refused to stop crying. Poor me! Finally he left, ate, and came back with a turkey sandwich, which I swallowed between snivels. (You catch *me* being as tolerant as he was, it'll be an icy day you-know-where.)

Christmas of 1968 was the first tolerable holiday I'd ever had. That was not my fault! We had a big AA group,

nearly all men without families, kitchens, or dining-room tables, so me and my stove got volunteered. I was so busy giving everybody the Thanksgiving and then the Christmas they wanted, that I didn't blow up until around 9:30 Christmas night. Then I went sky-high--but the effort had been the best I'd made in my life, and I hadn't ruined the season for everyone else.

I thought about that afterwards. It hadn't been a happy holiday, but it had been bearable. That was progress. I hadn't agonized. That was one thing AA had taught me: I didn't have to hurt inside. On the Christmas just past, I hadn't hurt nearly as badly. There had to be a reason, if I could figure it out.

"Physically dry" doesn't mean "fully recovered," I found. The message was simple, but this complicated kook spent weeks realizing what it was: Get off the pity-pot; unwrap myself from that teensy-tiny, precious parcel labeled "Me"; and think about others. What do they need? Where do they hurt? How can I help?

The rest of the year, I kept on getting better. How come? "Never mind how come," I told myself. "Just get busy. 'Me' is a microscopic package. Get it untied and unwrapped, and move! Even if it's wrong, *do* something."

From then on, did I stir myself! Both my kids showed up on Thanksgiving, plus other company. And I was scheming for Christmas. I went to the man responsible for a meeting in a hospital on Christmas night, seventy miles away, and sweet-talked him into swapping my turn for his. I talked to our local hospital about getting a

(“Tinsel” Continued on page 16)

(“Tinsel” Continued from page 15)

long-term alky patient out for the day. I tried to make arrangements with another institution for a second man. A tree? I hadn't put one up since the boys were young, but I bought lights and tinsel and, while I was at it, lined up a new alky in town. The tree looked fine, and, surprisingly, I felt better. The compliments about it helped, too.

Cards? I'd bought twenty-five maybe five years earlier. I had seventeen of those left. I wasn't going to send them that year, either! But the third or fourth card I received was from an institutionalized AA member, and after that I began answering every one I got. In the process, I said "Thank you" to several AAs I owed a good deal to, and I told everyone, in effect, "I'm glad you're part of my life. Thank you for the privilege of knowing you." Why hadn't anyone ever explained that *that* was the reason for cards, not another imposition on poor over-worked me?

Christmas came. The ham, the turkey, the frozen pies were ready. The blanket invitation was out. Maybe I'd have eight or ten, like last year, I thought. But only three actually showed up--and I'm including myself. One hospitalized man went into orbit and refused to leave the institution; the other was denied permission to come out. My sons, having been here on Thanksgiving, spent most of Christmas with their in-laws, but did drop in briefly to see me.

After dinner, I drove to the hospital meeting. Of the eight patients there, three said, "We never expected anyone on Christmas."

I'm a selfish girl. I'm tired of agonizing. When the Big Book says, "If you have

decided you want what we have and are willing to go to any length to get it. . .," the message offers a way out of emotional hurting, not merely the drinking that may follow such hurt. If "any length" extends seventy miles on Christmas, that's no great length to go to avoid misery. And so I explained to the patients why I was there: only secondarily for them; primarily for me. And it was working. That Christmas didn't hurt! I told them what Christmas had been like other years, what happened, and what it was like now.

After the meeting, one woman came up to me. "I hope you don't cry tonight," she said. (Imagine a woman in a mental hospital worrying about *me*! That showed she was getting better.) I promised her I wouldn't, and I didn't.

Why couldn't I have learned years sooner that Christmas is simply an AA meeting, with its love, its outpouring, its understanding? How many of them I spoiled for myself, and for those around me, because only now am I learning to love.

Christmas is over, but the feeling those earth people get only that one month a year is still glowing in my heart. Be afraid of Christmas? Never again. What it means to me now (miraculously, wonderfully, happily) is practicing these principles in all my affairs just a speck more than on any other day. An agonizing period designed by the world only to torment me? How silly. It's a time to reach out to everyone.

How lucky can one kooky gal be? What Christmas really is--an affair of the heart--I've been learning, unknowingly, to enjoy each day of my life.

L. D. S.
Colusa, California

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Join us for the 33rd Annual Snow Ball
Fundraiser to support the Al-Anon Service Center of SE Wisconsin

Dinner, Drawing, Speakers & Dance

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Serb Hall 5101 W Oklahoma Ave

Dinner 4:30-6:00 pm

Speakers 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Dance 9:30-12:00 midnight

Speakers:

Al-Anon – Ramona C. – Chicago, IL

AA – Max M. – Chicago, IL

Alateen- TBA

Donations:

Dinner & Dance Tickets: \$25

Dance Only Ticket: \$10

Dinner Choices:

Sliced Beef or

Chicken Breast w/wild rice

Contact the service center office for tickets:

AFG of SE WI

6737 W. Washington

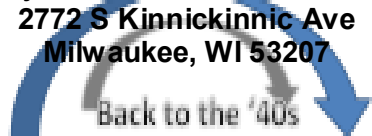
West Allis, WI

414-257-2415



**RESERVE THE DATE FOR A
GREAT WORKSHOP**

Bay View United Methodist Church
2772 S Kinnickinnic Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207



Back to the '40s

March 19th & 20th, 2011

Over two days, we cover the 12 steps of AA as discussed in the first 164 pages of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous.

Mike & Ray, from St. Pete, FL, discuss the History of AA and walk us through the 12 Steps as was done back in the 40s by early groups of AA.



Big Ticket Drawing!*

Make quick work of your cleaning projects with a new **Pressure Washer**, 2500 PSI Gas Powered, with Detergent Injection and 4 quick-connect spray tips

Then, when the work is done, head off for a couple of days of fun & sun!



Family Fun Pack

Including Gift Certificates for Country Springs Hotel & Water Park in Pewaukee (can be used anytime for any of the amenities), and

Join another family for a Day on Pewaukee Lake with all the toys! (Including boating, swimming and lunch), and More items to come!

* Need not be present to win. **Pressure Washer** and **Family Fun Pack** to be offered in separate drawings. Tickets available through the service center and at the event.

GROUP # 48's
39th Annual Open Meeting
Saturday February 19, 2011

Immaculate Conception
1051 E. Russell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI. 53207

Al-Anon Speaker: Kay B.
AA Speaker: Bob B.
(Past Delegate Area 75)

5:00PM To 6:00P.M. Hospitality
6:00PM to 7:00P.M. Dinner
7:00PM to 9:00 P.M. Speakers

Dinner tickets: \$10.00

Ticket sales deadline February 14th, 2011
Call John B. 414-727-0716
Ken N. 262-835-1296

You are invited to an Open Speaker Meeting, Saturday 01/15/2011

Lake Area Club

N60 W35878 Lake Drive, Oconomowoc, WI

Lunch at 1:00

Speaker at 2:00

A.A. Speaker: Theresa W.

A.A. Speaker: Dodie A.

Rolls, meat, Coffee/Cake provided.

Please bring a dish to pass.

R.S.V.P. by 1-5-11

Ken Y. 414/559/4239

Kyoung125@wi.rr.com

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MAYFAIR WOMEN'S GROUP
ST. PIUS CHURCH
2506 N. WAUWATOSA AVE
Wauwatosa, WI
76th Street between
North Ave and Center Street

We are a small women's AA support group looking to increase our size. Support and share with other women in the journey through sobriety.

Sign up for a topic, step or tradition. Our group enjoys readings from "Everyday a New Beginning".

Meetings are held on Mondays and Fridays at 11 a.m. Come and help women support women.

**Annual
Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner
Fund Raiser**

Saturday January 29th 2011

Dinner: 5:30 p.m.
Spaghetti and Meatballs
Salad
Garlic Bread
Coffee and Dessert
Speakers: 7 p.m.



AI-Anon: TBA

A.A. Bob S. (AKA Baker Bob)
Tuesday Morning Keep It Simple

Pass It On Club
6229 W. Forest Home Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 414-541-6923

Dinner tickets
\$10
Children 5 to 10 \$5
Under 5 free

Please see a board member for tickets or purchase ticket at counter. There may also be other members with tickets. Thanks Eddie.

**SATURDAY
BREAKFAST
BUFFET**

Served from 8am to 10am

PASS IT ON CLUB
6229 W.
Forest Home Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53220
414-541-6923

BREAKFAST DATES
January 8, 2011
February 12, 2011
March 12, 2011
April 9, 2011



- Menu**
- Scrambled Eggs
 - Sausage
 - Pancakes
 - Fruit Cup
 - Juice
 - Milk

**Tickets sold at door
\$5.00**

35th Annual

BADGER Architect
in
iversity

INTERGROUP!

SATURDAY

March 26, 2011

Waukesha Expo Center
(non-smoking facility)

**Speaker: Clancy I.
from Los Angeles, CA**

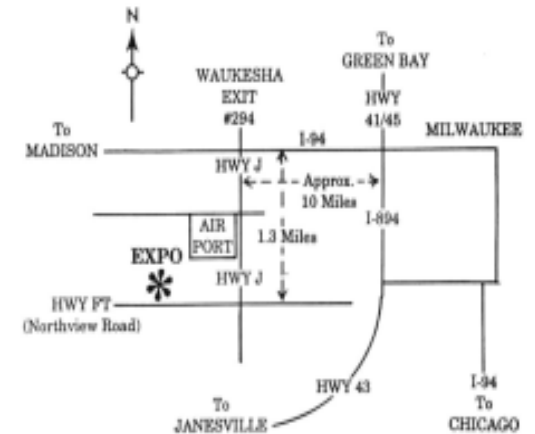
Social Hour – 5:30 pm
Dinner – 6:30 pm
Speaker – 8:00 pm

Dance to follow

Coffee & Soda Available

Tickets: \$24.00 each

(PROCEEDS WILL BE SPLIT)
All Sales are Final – No Refunds



TICKETS BY MAIL-IN ONLY.

Payment must be received by **February 26, 2011.**

Tickets will NOT be sold at the door.
THIS FLYER MAY BE REPRODUCED

"We absolutely insist on enjoying life."

MAIL TEAR-OFF SECTION TO: Christine Hutchinson 3929 S Troy Ave, St. Francis, WI 53235,
262-227-4836

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER of TICKETS: _____ x \$24.00 each = AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

_____ A.D.A. Accessible Seats Needed

Check Payable to: Badger Intergroup

All Sales are Final!

THANK YOU!