

The BETWEEN-US

Monthly Newsletter of the Greater Milwaukee Central Office, Inc.

Welcoming Newcomers and Aiding AA Groups in Our Community.

October 2010

The Perfect weekend

By: MEL B. | Toledo, Ohio

After 60 years in AA, an old-timer reflects back to the first convention

At age 24, I was one month out of a Nebraska state hospital and three months sober when the first international AA convention was held, in Cleveland, in 1950. I couldn't afford to attend, but I've studied the reports on it and all international conventions ever since.

In that year of dire poverty but beginning sobriety, I couldn't have imagined that in 2010 I would show up in San Antonio with 60 years' sobriety or that the convention there would host 53,000 people, or more than one-half the total AA membership in 1950. There would also be nearly 600 members reporting more than 40 years' sobriety and I would be targeted at the Saturday night "countdown" as the second oldest in length of sobriety. (One member was identified as having 63 years!)

Watching the surging crowds in San Antonio, I was reminded of Bill W.'s determination to preserve AA for "the million who still don't know" and to carry the message to the far corners of the earth. A large percentage of those who stood shoulder to shoulder in the huge Alamodome hadn't even been born when Bill passed away in 1971, but they found AA in remote places in Sweden or Denmark, in India's crowded cities, and in villages in Russia and the Middle East. This was underscored by the breathtaking flag ceremony Friday evening, when the banners of 94 lands were carried in and placed at the front of the auditorium. Some of the world's nations are in contention, but you couldn't have found a hint of it in San Antonio. The flag ceremony was said to have been started with the 1975 convention, but I've read that it was also a practice of the Oxford Group, the fellowship that gave AA most of its principles and practices.

In my drinking years, I was always seeking but never found the perfect weekend. I did come close to finding it in San Antonio, and have nothing but high praise for the GSO folks and volunteers who planned it and saw it unfold so efficiently. We could also reflect that these international conventions have helped establish AA as the truly worldwide society that Bill W. and Dr. Bob S. envisioned. Each convention has helped advance AA in its own way.

At the Cleveland convention, for example, Dr. Bob was in his final months and suffering deeply when he reminded us that the Twelve Steps simmer down to "love and service," a statement that has guided us for six decades. Bill W. also gained approval of the Twelve Traditions at that event. With Dr. Bob's backing, Bill was also moving ahead with plans for the General Service Conference, which would assume full control of AA's service functions at the next convention, in 1955 in St. Louis.

I never got to the 1965 International Convention in Toronto, as our youngest son (now 45) chose that weekend to be born. But it was said to be a convention in which AA "took its inventory" and adopted the Responsibility Declaration. Two years earlier, a national magazine had delivered scalding criticism of the Fellowship in a cover story.

This then paved the way for the adoption of the Unity Declaration at the 1970 convention in Miami Beach, only months before Bill W. would pass beyond our sight and hearing. And if there needs to be a future declaration of some type, it will probably be approved at an International Convention.

I had two peak moments at the San Antonio convention, and I'm still unwinding from the effects. One high point was to have 20 minutes on the Saturday afternoon panel "Pioneers of AA" with two longtime women members, Liz B. and Tommie D. Liz, from Queens, N.Y., is in heavy demand as a speaker, while Tommie, who lives in Connecticut and Florida, was associated with the early folks at the General Service Office in New York and had told me years ago that she was one of 12 persons who attended the 1966 funeral of Ebby T., the old school friend who had sponsored Bill W. Our chairperson was Susan U., a retired GSO staff person. She tried, but didn't prevent me, from reciting my own limerick about my drinking:

A fearful young man
from Nebraska,
drank amounts that would
surely aghast ya.

The second high point was to be singled out as an old-timer in the Saturday night countdown. I knew that I'd get a lot of kidding about it back in Toledo, where we've lived for 38 years, and fellow AA members always work to keep my ego under restraint. It is both exciting and embarrassing to be involved in a countdown--an AA practice that I believe began and became popular in the '70s; I can't remember them before then. A countdown might seem silly

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to a nonAA person, but it underscores two important things--the extreme necessity of staying continuously sober, and the fact that AA does have staying power. We believe that staying sober is a life-or-death issue, and some who go back out never return. All of us will die someday, but we want to die sober. I can say that I've known AA members who have stayed sober 30, 40 and even 50 years before passing on, sane and sober. My favorite example is the late Chauncey C., of Pontiac, Michigan, who had nine years' sobriety when I moved to Pontiac from Nebraska, in September 1950. When I saw him for the last time, in the same Pontiac church building where we first met, he had been sober 65 years and was still active in the Fellowship!

I can't prove it, but I still think the convention planners must have been listening to my AA discussions when they chose "A Vision For You" as the theme for the San Antonio event. AA offers a vision of a new life and millions have found it over the years. We can learn from the examples and experiences of those who have gone before us. It is always inspiring to hear the success stories shared by others. But in the end, the vision of successful sobriety has to be yours.

The thousands of sober folks who made San Antonio such a perfect weekend showed that it works. And like their predecessors 60 years earlier at the Cleveland convention, they read and heard this same message from the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*:

"Abandon yourself to God as you understand God. Admit your faults to him and to your fellows. Clear away the wreckage of your past. Give freely of what you find and join us. We shall be with you in the Fellowship of the Spirit, and you will surely meet some of us as you trudge the Road of Happy Destiny."

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October 2005

Living the Pledge

44,000 celebrate sobriety at the 2005 International Convention in Toronto

If alcoholics in their cups are unlovely creatures," Mary said, "this, then, must be a picture of what lovely creatures are." Her expansive gesture included the crowds of people flowing up and down on escalators, sipping coffee, eating ice-cream, hugging, laughing, and peering intently at Convention Center maps. Her flushed face broke out into an even wider smile. "Welcome to the International Convention!" And, as quick to go as a fresh pot of coffee in a room full of sober drunks, she was off, shaking all the hands she could reach.

Just one in an army of host volunteers, Mary and hundreds of AAs like her helped make alcoholics from around the world feel welcome at the 2005 International Convention of AA, held in Toronto, Ontario, June 30 through July 3, 2005.

AA's International Conventions, held every five years since 1950, mark the anniversary of Bill W.'s first meeting with Dr. Bob and the birth of the Fellowship in 1935. So, at the 2005 Convention, 44,000 AA members, friends, and family members gathered for one big 70th birthday party. As one smiling man put it, "I hope I'm this much fun when I'm seventy."

Celebratory AA gatherings are rarely without earnest purpose, however. In the Big Book, in "Bill's Story," AA's cofounder Bill W. notes that there is "a vast amount of fun about it all. I suppose some would be shocked at our seeming worldliness and levity. But just underneath there is deadly earnestness." The theme of the convention, "I Am responsible," reminded participants that they were sober and alive because someone, somewhere, was responsible when they reached out for help.

In a quiet lull, a woman found time to sit outside with a friend. "I feel so welcome here. What a great job they're doing," she said. Then she paused for a moment and laughed, "You know, drinking like I did, in little bars across Texas, I wasn't really welcome anywhere. I always had to move. My welcome was all worn out. I ran out of boyfriends, ran out of people to hustle, ran out of luck. The fact that I feel welcome here, a thousand miles from home, is just part of the miracle."

Feeling welcome was a miracle to many of the AAs in Toronto, although veterans of other conventions were less surprised. AA members came with friends, family, partners, and home groups and left with more friends and family, as well as promises of visits. By Thursday afternoon, AAs had begun to arrive in twos, threes, fours, and whole busloads. Asked why they came, a group from southern California shouted, "To be sober!" Cornered for a more specific answer, Mike C. answered, "All these people here--they're all sober! No one should be alive, much less gathered in one place *and* celebrating sobriety. It's a miracle. And I am responsible, you know. No one here got sober by themselves, so everyone here has someone who took that pledge seriously. What an amazing gift."

For many, the high points of the convention were the big meetings: three open AA speaker meetings held Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning in the Rogers Centre, the stadium where the Toronto Blue Jays play baseball.

On Friday evening, AAs filed into the stadium for the flag ceremony and the big meeting. The noise, laughter, and deafening applause of almost 40,000 people from the far reaches of the globe putting their hands together, cheering, whooping, and hollering filled the stadium as AAs expressed joy for sobriety and a Fellowship of like-minded individuals under one very large roof.

At the dimming of the lights, all noise quickly subsided as the flag ceremony began. And, one by one, ninety AA members appeared on stage bearing the flag of each nation represented at the 2005 International Convention. And when the AAs from Mongolia, Cuba, and the People's Republic of China took the stage, the crowd went wild. It was the first time these countries were represented. For many, it was a moving event, demonstrating that AA does cross cultural, racial, economic, and geographic boundaries to offer hope to hopeless alcoholics. For others, it increased the sense of belonging. As Matthew of Brooklyn, New York, said: "Anywhere I go, there I am, and there AA is, too. I have it pretty good." After the flag ceremony, three AAs spoke, bringing their own personal history and struggles with alcohol to the podium.

Saturday night's big meeting was the Old-Timers Meeting. Old-timers--defined for that evening as any AA member with forty or more years of continuous sobriety--dropped their names into an oversized Mountie's hat, and twelve were selected by twelve AA newcomers. It seemed to underscore that newcomers are AA's life-blood; we stay sober by passing on the message of hope and recovery to the terrified and lonely drunk who hasn't yet heard of our parties, the alcoholic who can't imagine laughter without booze, or emotions without fear.

This marked the fourth International Convention for Tom M., from Tallahassee, Florida. "I always love the teary-eyed, goosebump moments at the Ics--40,000 AAs praying together, the bagpipe and drum corps, singing Amazing Grace, and people cheering as we ran around with the ICYPAA banner Friday night--all that was great stuff. But nothing prepared me for the introduction of the long-timers on Saturday night by those young people. Holy cow. I knew it was coming, and it still floored me."

The meeting began with a sobriety count-up: all AA members present were asked to stand until their sobriety length was announced--under one year, under two years, etc. As the count got higher, the cheering grew louder, and by the time one gentleman from Michigan with sixty-three years of sobriety was left standing--the ap-

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plause and cheering of the crowd nearly brought the roof down. One woman was overheard explaining to a newer member, "We applaud not for the person, but for the idea and the hope that we all have the opportunity to live full, sober lives."

By Sunday morning, the thousands of AAs sitting in the stadium seats had opportunity to recall moments in their own past when they'd reached out for help and were given the hand of AA. In a perfect gesture of thanks, the 25th million copy of the Big Book was given to the warden on behalf of San Quentin for its long history of making AA available to inmates (to read more about AA's history in San Quentin, see note at the end of this article). In addition, the 2005 International Convention commemorated the 50th anniversary of Bill W. turning over the operation of the Fellowship to the General Service Conference in 1955.

Before the big meetings, AAs kicked off the Convention with a giant "Party in the Park" outside the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. As the weekend wore on, there were more dances inside the Centre. And, at midnight on Thursday evening, the Marathon Meetings in English, French, and Spanish began.

Many alcoholics reveled in the chance to hear new speakers and old favorites. And, although AAs from around the world may call AA storytelling something different--"qualifying" or "leading"--each alcoholic filing into the meeting halls knew that identifying with another alcoholic--either on the podium or in the next seat--had the power to dispel a little of the isolation that often darkened our drinking days and separated us from our fellows. With over 200 topic meetings calling upon the services of over 800 speakers and chairs, Friday and Saturday seemed to promise that everyone might find what they needed. Among the meeting topics available to convention-goers were: Satisfaction of Right Living; Sex, Security, and Society; Principles Before Personalities; Prayer and Meditation; Bridging the Gap from Treatment to AA; Carrying the Message to Older Alcoholics; Women in AA; Twelfth-Stepping the Old-Fashioned Way; and many, many others.

By Sunday morning, all assembled had heard variations on the theme "I Am Responsible," but Tom I., of Aberdeen, South Dakota, reminded us what can happen when AAs take responsibility to carry the message in their hearts and into prisons: "The first place I felt freedom was in a maximum-security penitentiary. It was the first place I felt decency, integrity, and worth." After release, Tom went on to the highest command a state penitentiary ever awarded to a former inmate. He said, "Miracles happen. Miracles happen when preparation meets opportunity, and God intervenes. If you do the work, the walls come down."

If you didn't get a chance to go to Toronto, consider a trip to Texas for the next one. San Antonio, the site of AA's next convention, is preparing for a deluge of alcoholics in 2010. However, if you can't wait to party with a crowd that has a little experience with big bashes, check with your local intergroup, district, or area for upcoming events. As one alcoholic put it, "International Conventions and group anniversaries are really the same thing--just a rowdy bunch of happy drunks who not only have discovered how to live without booze, but want to dance and shout about it."

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October 2000

THE LAST WORD

By: Cynthia K.

AA'S INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2000

"Alcoholics," a woman named Nancy once said in a meeting, "are people who treat loneliness with isolation." Walled off by our alco-

holism, we retreat into the solitary confinement of fear, resentment, and self-pity. Sobriety helps change that, and for a blowout example of that change, consider the International Convention, AA's biggest party, which has been held every five years since 1950. At the 2000 Convention, 47,000 AA members, friends, and family gathered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from June 29 through July 2 to celebrate sobriety. With the theme, "Pass It On--Into the 21st Century," it was a combination AA meeting, workshop, meeting-after-the-meeting, and birthday bash, since June 2000 marks AA's sixty-fifth birthday. As a young man from Portugal put it heading home from the convention, "It was the very, very best party I've ever been to."

The sense of belonging began at the first point of arrival, whether that was at the airport or the bus station, on a shuttle bus, or at the doors of the Convention Center, where volunteer greeters, all AA members, met everybody with a smile, a handshake, and an enthusiastic "Welcome!" It was a great way for people to feel part of things immediately. David B., a greeter from Salt Lake City, Utah, said, "I've never had a smile stuck on my face--for real!--for such a long time." In fact, many attendees got sore muscles from their nonstop convention grins. It was hard not to smile when immersed in the energy generated from the sheer numbers of sober alcoholics.

People came to the International Convention for all kinds of reasons. "This is where you see just how big AA is," Tony T. of Connecticut said, "and you never lose the feeling once you've been here." For Vanda K., attending her third International Convention from Vilnius, Lithuania, it was "a chance to see people who have many years of sobriety--one day at a time. I've seen thousands of sober alcoholics who are happy. It's made me cry."

Mary K. and her sober husband Tom, from Saginaw, Michigan, came in honor of their fifteenth wedding anniversary. They had spent their honeymoon at the International Convention in Montreal fifteen years ago. Dennis C. of Chugiak, Alaska, called the convention "a spiritual shot in the arm. It rejuvenates my program." Eleanor K., from the Ukrainian city Kiev agreed: "When I was in San Diego, I was impressed that there were so many people from so many parts of the world. The air here could give you so much strength you could be sober for five more years."

AA members came with friends, family, spouses, partners, children, and home-group pals. The twenty-four-year-old daughter of Thomas K. of Grand Haven, Michigan, flew in from Detroit for one night; she wasn't in AA, but "she wanted to be part of the weekend." Two sober bikers from Flint, Michigan, brothers Michael and Gerald W., made it part of their ongoing roadtrip. They describe themselves as "permanent vacationers"; they winter in Florida and spend three months out west every summer, carrying AA directories to locate meetings and going online at local libraries to find sober events for bikers.

Five people from Spokane, Washington--including someone who'd been drinking the day before--traveled in a pickup truck. Two people thought that the Convention would be a good place to celebrate a new phase of their lives, and after getting married that afternoon in a hotel, came to the Old-Timers Meeting on Saturday night in full wedding dress--she in a bridal gown with veil and train, and he in a black tux. Joe M. drove from Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a stop in Akron to see Dr. Bob's house. At the first big meeting, he said, "I was thinking about Dr. Bob and Bill--from there to this--and I just started bawling!"

It wasn't easy or inexpensive for everyone. Donna P. of Tacoma Park, Maryland, explained, "This is the first time I could afford it. Part of the Seventh Tradition, for me, is to become fully self-supporting." Dick W. of Newfoundland, Canada, said, "You know, I've spent more money sober than I ever did drinking. All of us have. My friend spent \$2,400 in plane tickets for him and his wife

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to get here from Newfoundland." Once there, one man had to use an ambulance to get from his hotel to meetings.

AA NATION

The festivities kicked off on Thursday night with a block party, where thousands of people streamed along Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis, turning it into AA Main Street. There were five sites for listening to music and dancing, including Big Band entertainment, Latin and other music from around the world, and country western music, where people executed the intricacies of line dancing. A group playing in the street was billed as "a high-energy band" and it lived up to its promise: even non-dancers were jiving and swaying under the dark blue sky of the northern evening. Henk W. from Germany said of the energy at the party, "It came over me like a big--how do you say, from the sea?--a wave!" The block party was also the place to run into old friends. When two people shrieked upon seeing each other, it was often old home-group cohorts or people who'd been beginners together.

Since everybody wore their registration badges, it was easy to see that in the downtown area, Convention-goers were in the majority--in fact, an ordinary Minneapolitan without a badge was a rarity. Conversations between badge wearers sprung up all over town--at the art museum, in the line for the riverboat, in restaurants. For three or four days, Minneapolis became an AA nation. Dee K., who came with three other members of her home group in Manhattan, New York, said, "It was as if everybody was part of the same family. We all knew each other--even if we'd never met!"

Susan C. of Richmond, Virginia, said, "It was great to be sort of 'out of the closet' as an alcoholic." No waiters, even at the best restaurants, asked any of us if we wanted "a drink"; what they said was, "Do you want coffee, iced tea, soda?" Questions about the alcoholic content of food were met with understanding and a prompt reply. For sober alcoholics to be welcomed by a whole city was just plain fun.

MEETINGS AROUND THE CLOCK

Continuous marathon meetings in both English and Spanish began at midnight on Thursday and continued through Sunday morning; mini-marathons on the Big Book and the Steps, also in Spanish and English, went on all day Friday and Saturday. In addition, there were about 250 "regular" meetings--including at least 42 meetings in Japanese, Russian, Finnish, French, Farsi, and other languages. There were also signed meetings for people with impaired hearing and Al-Anon and Alateen meetings for members of those fellowships.

The meetings focused on such topics as AA and Cyberspace; Healing Through Laughter; Identification: Why It Matters; Group Autonomy; AA and Native Peoples; Sponsorship: Leading by Example; Fear as a Stepping Stone; Willing to Believe; We Agnostics; Anonymity: Our Spiritual Foundation; Young, Sober, and Responsible; Twelfth-Stepping the Old-Fashioned Way. Workshops gave people a chance to hear what AA means to people from all over the world and how they work their programs. For example, Mary Alice K. of Mendham, New Jersey, heard a man from South Africa explain why he wore a suit and tie when asked to speak. "He said that when a newcomer arrives at his first meeting, he might be too fogged in to see the speaker's serenity or contentment," Mary reported, "but he could see that the man before him was neat and clean and respectful of himself and others, and that might be the 'something' that the newcomer wants. It might get him to come around to that second meeting--the most important one." A speaker from Eastern Europe explained that until the Berlin Wall came down, they had to attend AA meetings in secret.

BUNCHES OF GRAPES

The Grapevine proudly presented its newest anthology, *AA Around the World*, at the Convention and sold almost 4,000 copies. The magazine also hosted four workshops and maintained an information booth from Wednesday until Saturday evening, handing out almost 30,000 complimentary copies of the magazine and answering questions about both Grapevine and La Viña.

Grapevine staffer Mary Pat H. and her AA husband, Ed, organized an enthusiastic "bunch of grapes" at the booth, whose hard work and commitment surpassed all expectation. "We'd arrive to open the booth at 8 A.M. and find that the volunteers had gotten there at 7 and already set up," said Mary Pat. "It was a real AA deal to see so many people pitching in for no reward other than the satisfaction of doing service and working with other AA members."

At two workshops, Grapevine reps explained how they used the magazine to carry the message and what they did to encourage readership: ideas ranged from "forgetting" the magazine on bus seats and taking it into prisons to reading a passage from a current issue out loud to their home group and passing around a pen and clipboard stocked with subscription forms.

Keeping the focus on AA's Traditions was an important topic at Saturday's meeting on "AA in Cyberspace," where Maggie K., the Grapevine's website manager, described some of the difficulties in establishing a website and talked about what the Internet is. In addition, there was a workshop, in Spanish, where AA members shared their experiences with La Viña--"nuestra reunión impresa" (our magazine in print).

But the highpoint for the magazine came on Friday night. A local drunk was seen lurching down Nicollet Mall clutching a Grapevine gift bag, giving us heart that at some point the drunk might open the issue and get a whiff of freedom and hope from our pages.

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Convention was a highly organized, well-planned, and well-executed event. Valerie O., the Conference Coordinator, with the help of other General Service Office staff members, worked long hours to make sure that registration ran smoothly, that the information booths were well-staffed, shuttle buses were moving, workshops were in place, the Saturday morning 5K Fun Run went off as planned, and the stadium was ready.

Valerie explained, "The success of the Convention was due in part to the enthusiasm and work of over 2,000 volunteers, the organization of the host committee, and the generosity of the city of Minneapolis. AA owes a huge debt to this city." Minneapolis, which won its bid for the Convention back in 1991, "closed off streets, gave us large spaces to congregate safely, gave us a fleet of 210 buses and the use of the city bus terminal, and for the block party, helped provide concessions and a safe environment."

GREET THE PRESS

Providing accurate information about the Convention--including the importance of anonymity--was a critical element for an event that attracted widespread media coverage. On Thursday morning, GSO held a press breakfast for the media, and throughout the week supplied information to television and radio stations and local newspapers. By Monday, sixty-three news spots about the Convention had been shown on local television. Other media sources that covered the event included National Public Radio, the Associated Press, and CNN. On Saturday morning, July 1, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* devoted several pages to the Convention, including an entire front page with the headline: ANONYMOUS & TOGETHER. Another local newspaper made Alcoholics Anonymous its "Newsmaker of the Week" and interviewed

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George Vaillant, a Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, who was free to reveal his face and full name while representing our Fellowship.

Public Information staff member Bill A. said, "The ultimate benefit of public information at the Convention isn't that AA becomes a media star for a week, but that it becomes less mystifying to those who may need it." Bill had heard an immediate example of this from those working at registration: a Minneapolis man, in trouble with drinking, read the coverage in the local papers and decided that he had a lot in common with these AA folks. He showed up at the Convention, registered, and went to his first AA meeting that day.

REALLY BIG MEETINGS

For many, the big events of the Convention were the big meetings--the open AA speaker meetings held Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning in the Metrodome, the huge stadium where the Minneapolis baseball and football teams play. For our Convention, extra seats were set up, a stage was erected, and four large viewing screens were hung, two with closed captioning. In addition, the proceedings were simultaneously translated into German, French, Spanish, Japanese, and American Sign Language.

People danced in the aisles as tens of thousands of AAs filed into the stadium on Friday night. The event opened with a sobriety countup: all AA members present were asked to stand until their sobriety length was announced--under one year, under five years, under ten years, etc. As the count got higher and higher, the applause and whistles grew louder, until only one AA--a man with 56 years--remained standing. The crowd went wild, but we weren't applauding the length of one person's sobriety alone. We were applauding the demonstrable power of a program that works. We were applauding ourselves.

The flag ceremony followed: eighty-six people, several in national garb, came forward one by one, waving their national flags--from Israel, Kuwait, and Guam to Lithuania, India, Zimbabwe, and Scotland, whose natty kilt-wearer received special applause. (The flag-bearers, who must live and attend meetings in the country they're representing, are randomly selected.) It was a moving occasion, raising the hope that as our new century unfolds, more and more countries will be represented at each Convention. As Gary Glynn, chairperson of the General Service Board and Class A (nonalcoholic) trustee, reported, "A woman from Cuba told me, 'At the next Convention, I want the flag of my country to be there!'"

After the flag ceremony, three AAs spoke, bringing everyone back to personal history and identification with another alcoholic: a woman who'd gotten sober in her early twenties, a Japanese man, and a woman who found herself at many years' sobriety having to confront some old demons.

So what is it like to be in an open meeting with 47,000 participants? Well, imagine your home group's anniversary night--then turn up the wattage. It's the roar of spontaneous applause, laughter, fellowship, belonging, higher-powered gratitude--and joy, pure joy. There are also a lot of tears because, as we know, sober alcoholics often cry when our gratitude comes home to us.

Saturday night's big meeting was the Old-Timers Meeting. Over two hundred old-timers--defined for that evening as anyone with forty or more years of continuous sobriety--dropped their names in a hat, and the names of fifteen were drawn out and asked to be the evening's speakers. The speakers came from all over--Oregon; Florida; Saskatoon; Nevada; Massachusetts; Australia; Finland; and France. One gentleman appeared in a white dinner jacket and black tie; a man from Memphis, Tennessee, skipped to the podium arm in arm with two young people. And although they had only three minutes apiece to speak, they all freely gave their gift of experience, strength, and hope.

Looking around at the thousands of people gathered in the stadium on Sunday morning, a man in the crowd summed up one of the miracles of AA: "A friend of mine says when you see a sober alcoholic, it's like seeing a turtle sitting on a fencepost; you know it had help."

The meeting showed some of that help in action. It began with a sobriety countdown starting with sixty-five years and ending with one year, nine months, ninety days, and finally, one day when at least three newcomers stood up and got a rousing welcome. Reminding everyone how difficult that first step is, the chairperson called out, "If you have less than twenty-four hours of sobriety and you didn't stand because it's scary or hard, we want you to know you're home. It works."

To give you the flavor of the meeting, here are some quotes from the AA members who spoke that morning:

"I was having blackouts when they were first invented."--*Arnold R., Maryland.*

"We laugh ourselves better!"--*Nancy N., California.*

"I have a friend who says he knows AA works because an Irishman got sober on St. Patrick's Day."--*John K., New Jersey.*

When the speakers were finished, there was one more surprise in store: the children of AA members came up on the stage and waved while a small band sang a powerful song of hope. Soon, the stadium full of people began swaying in their seats, and even those who didn't know the language caught the feeling in the soaring melody.

Being in the Metrodome that morning was a lot like being at a World Series game when your team wins--except we were celebrating the fact that in AA, everyone wins, and continues to win, every day we don't drink.

That is the promise of Alcoholics Anonymous, and it goes wherever we go. So for many of those in Minneapolis, the Convention renewed their pledge to share our promise of hope with the men and women out there who are drunk and sick and scared and alone: We want to invite them to the next party.

THE LAST WORD

If you didn't make it to this International Convention, don't worry: you'll find the same spirit--if not the same level of noise!--at your own home group. Even at the largest gathering, passing it on still comes down to one person listening to another. That was true for Heidi of Munich, Germany. "The high point of the Convention for me," she asserted, "was when I went outside to have a smoke and a man born in Germany and now living in Canada told me his story. Only fifteen minutes, and I don't know what it was, but that was the high point." Amy of Princeton, New Jersey, suggests why: "Everybody here has been touched by the miracle"--and "here" is anywhere AA members help each other stay sober.

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October 1995

... As Others See Us

By: Anonymous

Mother of All AA Meetings" - "AA Success Is a Cause for Celebration

These are but two of the high-note headlines in San Diego's *Union Tribune*, from a series of articles about Alcoholics Anonymous and the Convention that ran for four days starting June 19, 1995. They sparked my interest in how the media were reporting our event, and their attitude toward AA. So I studied the newspaper and TV reports for that period, not to learn what AAs said when interviewed, but what the media were saying about us.

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Here are a few examples from several writers who contributed to the series in the *Union Tribune*.

1. "AA is a unique made-in-USA creation that has been able to take root and thrive in other countries and cultures. The San Diego Convention comes at a time when the AA Fellowship is seeing a burst of international growth of its power to change the course of human lives."
2. "Earlier the parking lot of the Stadium (where three big meetings were held) looked a lot like most other gathering except there wasn't a beer can or a bottle of wine in sight."
3. "AA has held together and flourished for sixty years with an organization that looks from the outside like a recipe for anarchy. . . . One researcher concluded that the lack of a conventional power structure in AA gives it the tone of the 'classical anarchy' that social philosophers only dream about."
4. On page one of the Los Angeles *Times*, there were these observations in a story headline: "AA Quietly Marks 60 Years of Deep Impact on Society." The article says: "AA members and guests are in the midst of celebrating a movement that has changed the attitude of Americans toward alcoholism and radically altered the way the culture approaches myriad ills and afflictions. . . . It is hard to exaggerate the impact of AA and its founders. . . . AA is also unique in its structure and its relentlessly modest public persona. In a modern culture obsessed with celebrity, AA is hopelessly retrograde."

5. An Associate Press story said: "Downtown bars are serving up fruit drinks. Airport traffic is as heavy as a Christmas weekend. Coffee flows at the rate of 200 gallons a minute."

And from Time magazine: "Though many who feel they have been saved by AA cannot explain exactly how or why it works, they do believe they stay sober by helping others to stay sober too. . . ."

The media generally were in some awe of our "organizational" structure, or lack of one. "Alcoholics Anonymous is a kind of talking pyramid scheme in which drunks who've sobered up help the next one to stare down the liquid demon. Then he helps the next one and so on. . . . A cornerstone of AA is that no one is responsible for the destruction in an alcoholic's life except the alcoholic himself," wrote the *Union Tribune*.

In a major editorial, the San Diego paper named AA as "a program that successfully treats the root causes of many of our nation's worst social problems." It goes on: "And how much does this program cost the taxpayers? Not one dime. . . . The underpinnings of the organization are people helping each other, thereby helping themselves. There are no contributions from outside AA. What's more, it is free to all who need and want it. And it has no leaders--most AA members don't even know each other's last names--so there are no power plays or major personality conflicts."

Likewise, the television reports I saw were circumspect and respected our anonymity. The AAs who were interviewed were off-camera with the lens pointed at their feet or their badges, and in the case of longer shots, the lenses were slightly out of focus so anonymity prevailed.

Oh, there were minor errors or misplaced emphasis, such as referring to our "taking a pledge" or "signing up for AA"--nothing of lasting significance to outsiders, as I see it. The series of articles did include discussions of other treatment modes, the limitations of AA, and a little outright criticism. Most of the criticism came from the world of academe, one savant reported as saying, "There's little scientific proof that AA's program leads to sobriety." I read no further, turned to look into a mirror, saw an AA miracle and smiled.

All in all, I would say that for a Fellowship with no organization and a public relations policy based only on attraction, Alcoholics Anonymous "attracted" unbelievable amounts of publicity and respect. The media don't have to like us, true, but it's kind of nice that they do, and that they recognize, as we've always known, that it works. It really does.

Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine, Inc.



Come Join Our Tuesday Nite Impaired Professional AA Meeting

Tuesday nights at 7:00
Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church
11709 W. Cleveland Ave.,
Milwaukee

Not just for professionals but for anyone seeking sobriety and a better way of life by working the 12 steps and living well. Come share in the fellowship with us and start enjoying life again.

We meet in person and on Zoom. Meeting ID = [9817 8765 495](#) Password = 071150.

Hope to see you there!!

Brown Bag Meeting, Wednesdays @ The H.O.W. to Club



Open Meeting/Bring Your Own Lunch

This is an open meeting where you bring your own lunch but please purchase your drinks at the club.

Wednesdays, Starting 11/6/24

Meeting time @ 12:30-1:30

HOW to Club - 8930 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53227
Contact Rick H. For more information: 262-758-4705

**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 3200 S. HERMAN ST.
BAY VIEW**



**WE GRATEFULLY NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
COME AND CHECK US OUT**

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



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

Reprinted with permission AA World Services, Inc.

[Seventh Tradition Checklist](#)

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



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

MILW. CENTRAL OFFICE

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

Spanish Speaking Meetings:

Meeting at English Speaking Clubs

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

SAFETY CARD FOR A.A. GROUPS

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

Suggested Statement on Safety

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

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

Service Material from the General Service Office

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

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

Meeting Space Currently Available

- **DryHootch, 4801 W National Ave.** Space available various time of day and evening. Call Otis W. [414-336-6576](tel:414-336-6576)
- **West Allis Senior Center.** 7001 W National Ave, West Allis WI. Call Shanon at [414-302-8717](tel:414-302-8717).
- **Luther Memorial Church,** 2840 S 84th St. West Allis WI. Contact by email: prviviane28@outlook.com
- **St Peter's Episcopal Church,** 7929 W Lincoln Ave, West Allis, Contact: Steve 414-543-6040 or email: christumc1@sbcglobal.net
- **Anchor Covenant Church** 1229 Park Row, Lake Geneva WI 53147, contact Laura, office@anchorcovenant.org

Redemptorist Retreat Cen-

ter, 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 AI-Anon, \$260 three nights. We discuss the 12 steps and related topics.

2025 Weekend Retreats

Jesuit Retreat House,

4800 Fahrnwald Rd.

Oshkosh, WI.

WI 54901,

call 800-962-7330

jesuitretreathouse.org

Men and Women

in AA, AI-Anon

Total cost: 4 days \$440.00.

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

ZOOM MEETING NEEDS SUPPORT!

ZOOM At Noon Women's Meeting

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?pwd=Rytda2hwNWczeExqL1l2SjZFR2dYUT09)

[pwd=Rytda2hwNWczeExqL1l2SjZFR2dYUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5877359740?pwd=Rytda2hwNWczeExqL1l2SjZFR2dYUT09)

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

Meeting ID: 587 735 9740 Password: 123456

DISTRICT MEETINGS

COMPLETE DISTRICT INFORMATION ON THE WEB:

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

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

(Check the web address above for meeting info.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEND ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO:

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

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

[Madison Senior Center,](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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

For meetings at Milwaukee Area Correction facilities contact:

Andrew K. at 262-239-6528 or email: mcccoordinator@gmail.com

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

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

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

ADDRESSES YOU MAY SOMEDAY WANT TO KNOW!

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

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

MEETING ROOMS

NEW DAY CLUB

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

www.newdayclub.org

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Topic
11:00 a. Topic
5:00 p. Young People
7:30 p. Topic
Mon. 12:30 p. Tenth Step Gp
5:30 p. More about Alcoholism
8:15 p. Men's Gp
Tue. 10:00 a. Topic
5:30 p. Big Book
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
Thur. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting
1:00 p. Women's AA Gp
5:30 p. Topic Meeting
Fri. 10:00 a. Topic Meeting
5:30 p. Step/Tradition
8:00 p.
Sat. 10:00 a. Step Meeting
5:00 p. Fellowship of Spirit
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
Wednesday 7:00 p. ACOA
Thursday 7:00 p. Al-Anon
Contact club for information on other fellowships.

PASS IT ON CLUB

6229 W. Forest Home Ave
Milwaukee WI (414) 541-6923

www.passitonclub.com

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Sun. Wake Up
9:30 a. Reliance Meeting
11:00 a. Today's choice
3:00 p. Gratitude Plus
7:00 p. Big Book Readers
Mon. 7:30 a. Jump Start
10:30 a. First Step
4:00 p. Happy Hour Step Gp.
7:00 p. Open Introductory AA
Tue. 7:30 a. Comin' Back Gp
10:30 a. Keep It Simple
4:00 p. Drop the Rock
6:00 p. Key To Sobriety Women's
7:30 p. Three Legacies
7:30 p. Double Trouble DD/O
Wed. 7:30 a. Big Book Study
10:30 a. Pass It On
4:00 p. Happy Hr Promises
6:00 p. Courage to Change
7:00 p. We, Us & Ours
Thur. 7:30 a. Welcome Back Gp
10:30 a. Made Decision
5:15 p. As Bill Sees It
7:00 p. Gateway Topic Gp
Fri. 7:30 a. Honesty Gp.
10:30 a. Came To Believe
6:00 p. Women's Fri. Kickoff
6:30 p. Thoughts 4 Today
8:00 p. Broken Arrow
8:30 a. Early Bird
Sat. 10:30 a. Happy Joyous Free
7:00 p. Vajeros Wisconsin lower level
7:00 p. 5 Concepts upstairs
8:00 p. Back to Basics 12x12

LAKE AREA CLUB

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

www.lakeareacub.com

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 8:00 a. Early Bird
9:30 a. Literature Meeting
11:00 a. Friendship Gp
6:00 p. Big Book
8:00 p. Gopher Sunday
9:00 a. Positive Attitude
6:30 p. Otter Gp
8:00 p. Step/Tradition Study
Tue. 1:00 p.
4:00 p.
7:00 p. Life House Beginners
8:00 a.
Wed. 10:00 a. Back To Basics
2:00 p. Women's Meeting
6:00 p.
8:00 p.
Thur. 10:00 a.
4:00 p.
5:00 p. Woman's Way 12 Steps
6:00 p. Hybrid Meditation Mtng
Zoom ID: 89239303536, PW: 999525
8:00 p. Grapevine Mtng
Fri. 12:30 p.
4:00 p.
8:00 p. Old School House
Sat. 10:00 a. Big Book
OPEN AA/Al-Anon
SPEAKER MEETING
Sat. 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 & Alateen

WAUKESHA ALANO CLUB

318 W. Broadway

Waukesha, WI, 262-549-6541

<http://http://alanoclubofwaukesha.com/>

(IP)=In-person,

Sun. 9:30 a. Sun Morn Sunlight (IP)
11:00 a. Sun Go-To-Mtng (IP)
Mon. 12:00 p. (IP)
6:00 p. Beginners AA (IP)
7:00 p. (12 & 12) (IP)
Tue. 12:00 p. Wed Nooners (IP)
5:30 p. Topic Gp (IP)
Thur. 12:00 p. Nooners (IP)
Fri. 12:00 p. T.G.I.F. Gp (IP)
6:30 p. Half Measurers (IP)
Sat. 6:00 a. Early Morning (IP)
10:00 a. Gp 124 (IP)

OPEN MEETINGS,
DANCES & EVENTS
Call for information.

GALANO CLUB

- LGBT & All in Recovery -
7210 W Greenfield Ave LL

Milwaukee, WI 53214, 414-276-6936

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

galanoclub@gmail.com

(V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V & IP)=Both
In Person and Phone Meetings Phone/
Video AA Meetings, Call (978) 990-5195
Meeting Id: galano7210
Code: 1919178#

Sunday: (V & IP)

10:30 a.m. - AA - Step / Topic
Meeting (In-person/phone/video)
10:30 a.m. - Al-Anon - Papillion Group.

Sunday: (V & IP)

4:00 p.m. - AA - Personal lead & Daily
Reflections. Meeting (In-person/
phone/video) 4th Sunday is Open Mtng.

Monday: (V & IP) 7:30 p.m. - AA "Came
to Believe" 12 Spirituality. (In-person/
phone/video)

Tuesday: (V & IP)

6:00 p.m. - AA Over and Under 40
Group (In-person/phone/video)

Thursday: (V & IP)

7:30 p.m. - AA - Living Sober One Day at
A Time In-person & Phone/video

Friday: (V & IP)

10:30 a.m. AA Step & Topic

NORTHWEST AREA

ALANO ASSOCIATION*

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

Room 202

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

(V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V & IP)=Both

Sun. 10:00 a. Big Book Rm 202
7:00 p. Sun Night Gp Rm 202
Mon. 7:00 p. Just Do It Gp Rm 202
Tue. 10:00 a. Step
8:00 p. Topic
Wed. 7:00 p. Step/Topic
Thur. 10:00 a. Step
6:00 p. Women's
Fri. 8:00 p. Step/Topic (V & IP)
Sat. 10:00 a. Sat Serenity Gp
7:00 p. Simply Sober Gp Rm 202

AL-ANON MEETINGS

Wed. 7:00 p. Al-Anon
Fri. 7:30 p. Al-Anon

*This 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 p. Open Speakers
6:30 p. Delavan Discussion

Monday AA

7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 p. Delavan Step Meeting
6:30 p. Delavan Meeting

Tuesday AA

7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan 12 Step Topic

Wednesday AA

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

Thursday AA

7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan Big Book Gp.

Friday AA

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

Saturday AA

7:30 a. Sunny Side Up
12:00 p. Delavan Noon Gp.
6:30 p. Delavan Beginners Gp.

ALANO CLUB

1521 N. Prospect Ave.,
Milwaukee, WI, 53202
(414) 278-9102

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

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

Sun. 7:00 a. AA Express Mtng
7:45 a. AA Big Book/Discussion
10:00 a. Gp 17 Step
Mon. 7:00 a. Early Morning
10:30 a. Gp 72 Topic
12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch
6:30 p. Gp 40 Big Book
Tue. 7:00 a. As Bill Sees It,
10:30 a. Gp 70 Step
12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch
7:00 p. Beginner's Meeting
Wed. 7:00 a. AA
10:30 a. Gp 9, Step
12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch
6:00 p. Chicks at Six Gp, women,
Child Care available
7:30 p. We Agnostics
Thur. 7:00 a. Thr Express Mtng
10:30 a. Gp 97, Step
12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch
7:00 p. AA (LGBT)
Fri. 7:00 a. Daily Reflections
10:30 a. Gp 21, Step
12:15 p. Gp 76 Lunch Bunch
6:30 p. Here & Now Friendly Gp
7:30 p. Men's Zoom Mtng.
12:15 am. Second Shifters (Sat.)
Sat. 7:00 a. AA Meeting
11:00 a. Gp 87 Step
7:30 p. Open AA Speaker
AL-ANON MEETING
Sunday 10:00 a. Al-Anon

H.O.W. TO CLUB

8930 W. National Ave,
West Allis, (414) 543-2448
mailto:howtoclub8930@yahoo.com

<https://www.howtoclub.org>

Hours: 9am to 9pm daily.

Sun. 8:00 a. Eye Opener AA Gp.
10:00 a. Grass Roots (Steps)
4:30 p. Drop the Rock 6/7 Step
6:00 p. Restore Us To Sanity
7:30 p. Sun. Sober & 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.
10:30 P. What's the Point Gp.
Tue. 11:00 a. Willingness Group
6:00 p. Tue Topic 6pm Gp
8:00 p. New Hope Meeting
Wed. 10:00 a. Foundations Meeting
6:00 p. AA Beginners Gp.
7:00 p. Women's Freedom
8:00 p. Promises Group
Thur. 10:00 a. But For Grace Of God
6:00 p. Here and Now
8:00 p. How To Get It Going
Fri. 6:00 a. Early Risers Big Book
11:00 a. Priority Group
6:00 p. Big Book Friday
8:00 p. R.U.S. For Us
11:00 p. Candlelight Promises
Sat. 9:15 a. Men's Topic
11:00 a. Pioneers Group
3:00 p. Spiritual Growth
6:00 p. 1st & 12 Topic
8:00 p. Open Speaker 3rd Sat
8:00 p. HOW To Saturday

24 HOUR CLUB

153 Green Bay Rd.
Thiensville, WI

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

A.A. MEETING SCHEDULE

(V)=Virtual, (IP)=In-person, (V & IP)=Both

Sun. 8:00 a. Topic
10:00 a. Step/Topic (V & IP)
Meeting ID: 816 604 624 PW:
485594
Mon. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
10:00 a. Topic
8:00 p. Men's
Tue. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
10:00 a. Step/Topic
5:30 p. Big Book
Wed. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
10:00 a. Big Book
Thur. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
10:00 a. Topic
5:30 p. Step/Topic/Trad
Fri. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
10:00 a. Step/12 & 12
8:00 p. Step
Sat. 6:30 a. Topic (V & IP) Meeting ID:
816 604 624 PW: 485594
8:30 a. Big Book/Steps
10:00 a. Big Book
8:00 p. Open Speaker Mtng.
(1st Saturday Only)

In Person AA Groups NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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

MEETING ROOMS

<p>UNITY CLUB 1715 Creek Rd West Bend, (262) 338-3500 unityclub1715@att.net www.facebook.com</p> <p>AA MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sun. 10:30 a.* Gratitude Gp. 7:00 p. Candlelight Gp.</p> <p>Mon. 10:00 a. Monday A.M. 7:00 p. Men's 7:00 p. Women's</p> <p>Tue. 10:00 a. Tuesday A.M. 6:00 p. More About 12&12 7:30 p. Beginner's</p> <p>Wed. 10:00 a. Promises 1:00 p. Steps/Promises 5:00 p. Happy Hour Gp In-person & Zoom: 332602852, pw: 123456</p> <p>Thur. 10:00 a. Big Book</p> <p>Fri. 10:00 a. Step/Topic Gp 6:00 p. Big Book</p> <p>Sat. 10:00 a. Here & Now 7:00 p. 12 Step Meeting</p> <p>AL-ANON & ALATEEN MTNGS Saturday 9:00 a. Al-Anon Thursday 7:15 p. Al-Anon</p> <p>• Open Mtng. 3rd Sunday of month</p>	<p>FRIENDSHIP CLUB 2245 W. Fond du Lac Ave Milwaukee, WI (414) 931-7033</p> <p>Email: friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>AA MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>Sunday 10:00 a. Friendship 11:00 a. Third Sunday Open Meeting</p> <p>Monday 10:30 a. Step Gp</p> <p>Tuesday 7:00 p. Gp 43 Big Book</p> <p>Saturday 10:30 a. Gp 112 Step</p> <p>Call for information on other types of meetings.</p> <p>Email: friendshipinc@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>TRI-COUNTY UNITY CLUB 110 S 2nd St. Watertown WI www.tricountyunityclub.com</p> <p>Sunday 11:00 a. Big Book Study 6:30 p. New Beginners 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer Monday 10:00 a. Eye Opener Grp. 7:00 p. As Bill Sees It Tuesday 7:00 p. Keep It Simple 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer Wednesday 10:00 a. New Freedom 7:00 p. Lost In Woods (Women) Thursday 10:00 a. Thur. Morning 7:00 p. Spanish Nuevo Amanecer 8:00 p. Big Book Group Friday 4:30 p. Friday Happy Hour 7:00 p. Reality Check Saturday 10:00 a. Morning Group 8:00 p. Saturday Night Open Mtng</p> <p>BEAVER DAM ALANO CLUB 115 N Lincoln St. Beaver Dam WI 53916 Sun: 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. Mon: 8 a.m., 6 p.m. & 8 p.m. Tue: 9:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m. Wed: 8 a.m. & 7 p.m. Thur: 9:30 a.m. & 8 p.m. Fri: 12 Noon & 6 p.m. Sat : 12 Noon & 7 p.m. Open</p>	<p>MILWAUKEE GROUP 933 E Center St, Milw WI 53212. A.A. MEETINGS</p> <p>Sun. 10:00 a In-person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Mon. 5:30 p. In-Person 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Tue. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Wed. 5:30 p. Zoom https://zoom.us/j/8974697046 pw:0 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Thur. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Fri. 7:00 p. In-Person 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Sat. 8:30 p. In-Person</p> <p>Milwaukee Central Office 7429 W Greenfield West Allis WI 414-771-9119 A.A. MEETINGS</p> <p>Sun. 9:00 a. Gp 10 Sunday</p> <p>Mon. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Tue. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Wed. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Thur. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Fri. 12:15 p.</p> <p>Sat. 9:15 a. 1st Step 10:30 a.</p> <p>We do not meet on major holidays.</p>	<p>LIGHTHOUSE ON DEWEY 1220 Dewey Ave. Wauwatosa WI AA MEETINGS</p> <p>Sunday 6:00 p. Jim's First Step 7:30 p. Gp 78 Great Room</p> <p>Monday 7:30 p. Laughs/Leisure</p> <p>Tuesday 6:00 p. 11th Step Meditation 7:30 p. Professionals</p> <p>Wednesday 7:30 p. Presidents Hall 8:00 p. "RES-IPSA"</p> <p>Thursday 7:30 p. Alumni No 12 Friday 7:15 p. Gp 74 Saturday 10:00 a. Gp 59</p> <p>All Saint's Cathedral 818 E Juneau Ave. Milw 53202</p> <p>Sun: 7:00 p.m. Bench Meeting Mon: 7:30 p.m. #08 Sane & Sober Tue: 10:30 a.m. Men's Gp. Wed: 7:30 p.m. Men's Gp. Fri: 7:30 p.m. Big Book Gp. Sat: 10:30 a.m. Men's Gp.</p>
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JOIN the BIRTHDAY CLUB!

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

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

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

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

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

\$ _____ enclosed.

I will have _____ years on _____ / _____ / _____.

Name _____


Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____


Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

Home Group: _____


HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<u>Years</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Group</u>
41 (7/16/1984)	Dan B.	East Side Alano
38 (7/13/1987)	Jackie J.	Grafton
51 (July 1974)	Jeanne P.	Oconomowoc
53 (7/26/1972)	Dennis O'h	Gp 51, Sicker Than Most
47 (7/26/1978)	Jim S.	Lake Area Tue Afternoon
37 (7/19/1988)	Delores K.	Unity Club Monday 10a.m.


Congratulations!

Support needed for the Helping Hand Gp.

Nativity Lutheran Church

6905 W Bluemound Rd.

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

Wednesday Night at 8:00 PM



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

[@MilwaukeeCentralOffice-AA](#)

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

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

**Use QR Code
To Contribute
Using
VENMO**



NEW WOMEN'S AA MEETING

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Starts **Wednesday** December 4th

6:30 PM

Mt Olive Lutheran Church

211 Main St. Mukwonago

Enter through the South door from the parking lot



NEW MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Next Frontier: Emotional Sobriety

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

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

When: Thursdays @ 7pm

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



AA SPEAKERS with AA SUMMER PICNICS

Started by

AA WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP

From DELAVAN METHODIST CHURCH

Meetings Since 1983

Dates: **JUNE 11, JULY 9**

AUGUST 13 and SEPTEMBER 10

Meets at **SPRINGS PARK in DELEVAN**

HWY 11 to MAIN STREET SOUTH at the

END, TURN RIGHT

5PM - FELLOWSHIP

6PM - COOKOUT

7PM - SPEAKER

BRATS, HOT DOGS AND

ITALIAN SAUSAGE PROVIDED

BRING A DISH TO PASS AND A CHAIR!

CONTACT: JEAN AT 262-203-2914

FOR MORE INFORMATION

