




MAICO NEWSLETTER

October – December 2024

www.aamadisonwi.org

The mission of MAICO (Madison Area Intergroup Central Office) is to help A.A. groups within its service area (South Central Wisconsin) carry the A.A. message. MAICO helps coordinate and facilitate communication and cooperation among individual A.A. groups, area 12-step and other committees, and components of the A.A. service structure. MAICO provides needed services that are beyond the scope and ability of any individual A.A. group, and is at all times responsible to the groups it serves.

MAICO, in all of its activities, shall abide by the intent and spirit of the Twelve Traditions, the Twelve Concepts and where possible the suggested procedures and limitations suggested by the AA Service Manual and other conference approved literature.



WHAT'S UP?
MAICO NEWS

MAICO STEERING COMMITTEE
Elections: December 10, 2024
at the 6:00 Online Meeting. Pg. 5

NOVEMBER GRATITUDE MONTH
Our chance to say thanks for our
Madison Area Intergroup Central Office
providing their many services.

NEW LITERATURE BOOKS!
-Plain Language Book-AA World Service
-Beginners' Book: Getting & Staying
-Sober in AA
-Our Twelve Steps ...

MAICO Newsletter
Subscribe Online! *Spread the word.*

PERMANENT OFFICE HOURS
Mon. Closed
Tues – Thurs. 11:00 – 6:00
Fri. & Sat. 11:00 – 2:00
2000 Engel St. Suite 104
Madison, WI 53713

THEME: PROMISES & GRATITUDE

In this Newsletter two articles "Promises in Reverse & Positive - pgs. 2 & 3.

- 1 If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through.
- 2 We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness.
- 3 We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it.
- 4 We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace.
- 5 No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.
- 6 That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear.
- 7 We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows.
- 8 Self-seeking will slip away.
- 9 Our whole attitude and outlook on life will change.
- 10 Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us.
- 11 We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.
- 12 We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us - sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

Reprinted from the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc. *Alcoholics Anonymous – pg. 83-84*

The Promises – IN REVERSE

GRAPEVINE | SEPTEMBER 2012 | BY: ROBBY R. | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE |

I have been struggling with recovery since 1991. But here I am with 93 days of sobriety. I've come to believe that any and every time I've relapsed it's because I failed to grow spiritually. So now I have three home groups. It feels good to be involved in AA. **SO I CAME UP WITH THIS:**

If we are **NOT** painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be **drunk** before we leave the parking lot. We are going to know a **new pain and a new misery**. We will **regret** our deeds and **repeat them over and over**. We will comprehend the word **chaos** and we will know **calamity**. No matter how far down the road we **stagger**, we will still wonder **where we are going**. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity **will intensify**. We will lose interest in things and gain relations with **strange fellows**. Self-seeking will be constant. Our whole attitude will be on the **lookout for the cops**. Fear of people and economic insecurity will leave us—**homeless**. We will intuitively know how to **stay drunk** with little or no money. We will suddenly begin to think that **God does not exist**.

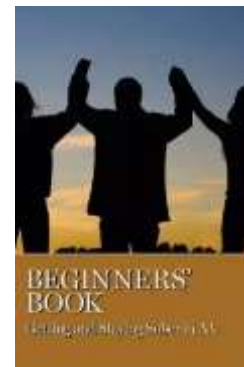
Are these extravagant promises? Probably not. They are being practiced daily, **sometimes insanely, sometimes deadly**. **They will continue to happen if we keep drinking.**

I've been told that something similar to this has been written before. But I don't care. I wrote this from my own experience. My only hope is that this time I can experience the real Promises. But more than that, I hope that no one else will have to drag themselves through years of pain and misery like I have. Maybe someone will read this page and realize I did it for them, and they don't have to.

Find more stories where AA members share useful suggestions and insights about their new lives of recovery in:

Beginners' Book: Getting & Staying Sober in AA.

Available to purchase at our **MAICO Office**. Call or drop in!
2000 Engel St. Suite 104 | Madison, WI 53713 | 608-222-8989



Twelve Promises “Positively”

Eleven of them offer growth beyond sobriety.

GRAPEVINE | SEPTEMBER 1976 | BY: W. C. | SHELBYVILLE, INDIANA |

WE ARE ALL familiar with the **first great promise of Alcoholics Anonymous**--that through its teachings and by working the **Twelve Steps**, we can recover from alcoholism and be able to attain and maintain sobriety. Great as this promise is, it is **not the only promise the program makes** - contrary to the current belief of many.

Go back and read the eleven promises again. They are beautiful. They assure us of happiness, serenity, peace, and freedom from regret, self-pity, selfishness, and insecurity. Are not these the things we so desperately sought, along with sobriety, when we came to AA? I believe that they are and that newcomers should be informed of these promises when they are being told of the AA way of life.

I was well into my twenty-fourth year of continuous sobriety in the AA program, at a meeting 1,200 miles away from my home group, before it was brought to my attention that the **Big Book makes us eleven other promises besides that of sobriety.**

On page 96 of the original 1939 edition of *Alcoholics Anonymous* and starting in the last paragraph on page 83 of the second and third editions, are these assurances: "We are going to know a **new freedom** and a **new happiness**. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word **serenity**, and we will know **peace**. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how **our experience can benefit others**. That feeling of **uselessness and self-pity will disappear**. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. **Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change**. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. **We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.**"

In all three editions, these words follow: "Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us--sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them."



OUR TWELVE STEPS

A brand-new collection of stories from AA members about the joys and challenges of working the program's Twelve Steps of Recovery.

Each chapter illuminates a different Step through the experiences of a wide variety of AA members. This volume features all-new, up-to-date stories from the pages of *Grapevine*, the International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous. Great for sponsees and AA Step meetings

Available in English

Available to purchase at our **MAICO OFFICE**. Call or drop in!
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Tradition #12

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

1. Why is it a good idea for me to place the common welfare of all AA members before an individual's welfare. What would happen to *me* if AA as a whole disappeared?
2. When I do not trust AA's current servants, who do I wish had the authority to straighten them out?
3. In my opinions of and remarks about other AAs, am I implying membership requirements other than a desire to stay sober?
4. Do I ever try to get a certain AA group to conform to *my* standards, not its own?
5. Have I a personal responsibility in helping an AA group fulfill its primary purpose? What is *my* part?
6. Does my personal behavior reflect the Sixth Tradition – or exemplify it?
7. Do I do all I can to support AA financially? When is the last time I anonymously gave away a *Grapevine* subscription?
8. Do I complain about certain AAs' behavior – especially if they are paid to work for AA? Who made *me* so smart?
9. Do I fulfill all AA responsibilities in such a way as to please privately even my own conscience? Really?
10. Do my utterances always reflect the Tenth Tradition, or do I give AA critics real ammunition?
11. Should I keep my AA membership a secret, or reveal it in private conversation when that may help another alcoholic (and therefore me)? Is my brand of AA so attractive that other drunks want it?
12. What is the real importance of me among more than a million AAs?

Gratitude Month - Thank You for Your Support!

Group and Individual contributions are MAICO's major source to provide all our services.

How to Get this Contribution Flyer and an envelope?

- Print this flyer and attach to an envelope.
 - Call the MAICO Office ahead to pick up several packets for separate groups.
 - Ask your General Service Representative or a MAICO Representative to obtain the flyer and envelope.
 - For contributions, please send Cash or Check. Either mail or drop off at our MAICO office.
- ➔
- Scan this QR Code and download from the MAICO Website.



Bill W. urged in a letter; "Gratitude should go forward, rather than backward ...
If you carry the message to still others, you will be making the best
possible repayment for the help given to you."

THE GIFT OF GRATITUDE!

One way to keep a grateful heart is to remember what **AA has given us.**

The following passages were selected from our vast Grapevine Story Archives, which goes back to 1944. **Thank you for sharing your stories with us!**

GRAPEVINE | NOVEMBER 2022 | FUN IN SOBRIETY ON THE COVER | INDIVIDUAL PASSAGES |

“Love is the principle that guided my first friends in AA. They welcomed me without question into their Fellowship. *They were not concerned about anything except that I was a drunk.* I was asked if I wanted help, if I had a place to sleep that night, and if I’d care for a cup of coffee. *I was allowed to be myself, as best I could.* **No demands were made, no expectations were declared, no conformity was required. I was simply invited to share what they offered.”**

GREG H., | MORENO VALLEY, CALIF. | FROM
“PRINCIPLES TO LIVE BY,” | AUGUST 1994 |

“AA has rewired my thinking. What makes me happy now isn’t living the life I saw on TV when I was a kid. *It truly is an inside job.* AA has taught me how to try things I didn’t think I could do. **I learned that I have to go through fear and can’t avoid it by going around.** After I went to the mat with a few of my monsters, I realized that I really wasn’t afraid of things so much. **I had some successes, and the failures weren’t so bad; sometimes they even ended up changing things for the better. I count on that now.** When I face a tough problem, it helps me to remember that the next time it comes, *I will be able to go through it more easily, that hope and confidence give me happiness.”*

PAULA C., HOUSTON, TEXAS | FROM “HAPPILY EVER AFTER,” | MAY 2013 |



“With the still-elusive feeling of loving and being loved just around the corner, there is one feeling we can hang onto...one that will bring us nearer and nearer to that serenity we all seek. **Hang onto a deep and sincere gratitude.”**

M.K., | MIAMI, FLA. | FROM “THE POWER OF THE WORD,” | AUGUST 1961 ||



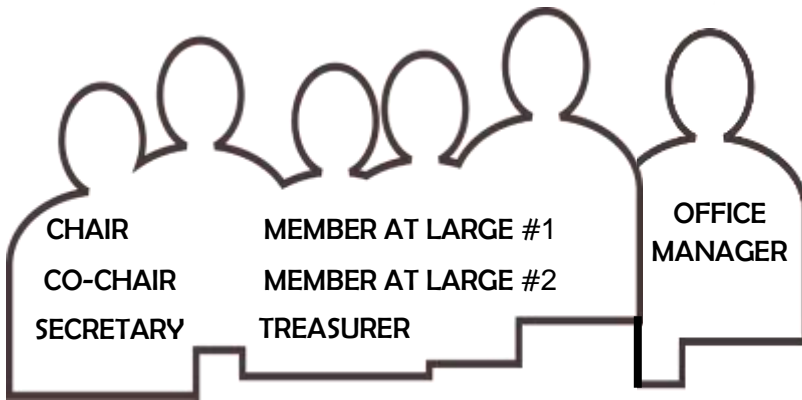
“Every morning as I pour water into my coffee maker, I’m filled with gratitude because I’m reminded of what it was like **14 years ago.** Every morning, I filled a glass with **brandy** just to get my day started. **Today, thanks to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, I don’t have to do that anymore.”**

ART V. | JOHNS ISLAND, S.C. | FROM
“GRATITUDE,” | AUGUST 2002 |

MAICO Steering Committee Online Meeting

December 10, 2024 Three Positions Will be Open.

SIX STEERING POSITIONS Exist Always + Office Manager



Get Involved!

Learn, have fun and help out!

Contact the MAICO Office Manager, or a current Steering Committee Member if you are interested to join!

The process to be considered and the MAICO Representatives voting will be explained. Bylaws can be provided.

DEFINITION (MAICO Bylaws Updated Oct. 13, 2009)

The **Steering Committee** is a group formally charged with watching over and directing the affairs of MAICO. For legal purposes of the corporation, the Steering Committee is one and the same as the Board of Directors.

OFFICE MANAGER (Permanent Employee Position)

Other important positions:

Volunteer Coordinator

Archives and Technology Specialist.

FUNCTIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Our Steering Committee also ensures that the AA MAICO bylaws, finances, the newsletter, procedures, etc. are followed.

MAICO REPRESENTATIVES (ANY GROUP CAN ELECT ONE!)

Each AA Group can appoint or elect a representative and an alternate! Representatives work with the Steering Committee to vote on important issues, are involved in elections, volunteer for events and bring important information back **YOUR GROUP!**

MAICO Steering Committee Terms and Rotation

- Each member serves for two years.
- All positions move to another position after one year. No one serves longer than one year in the same position.
- MAICO Representatives will nominate and elect three new members each December.

Requirements to become a Steering Committee Member

- Must be recovering an Alcoholic and sober for one year.
- Must be willing to give a two-year term.
- Have had at least six months experience as a MAICO Group Representative.
- It is helpful to have some business background.

SHORT TAKES

MARCH 1952

One AA call *today* is worth three promises for tomorrow.

GRAPEVINE SHORT TAKES | MARCH 1952 |

JUNE 1967

If you look back too much you will be headed that way.

GRAPEVINE SHORT TAKES | BY: THE EYE OPENER | JUNE 1967 |

AUGUST 1960

HEAVEN and HELL are in opposite directions and no man can go both ways at the same time.

GRAPEVINE SHORT TAKES | BY: THE ORACLE | MENARD, ILLINOIS | JUNE 1967 |

DECEMBER 1961

"You must give something to your fellowmen. Even if it is a little thing, do something for those who have need of help, something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing. For remember, you do not live in a world of your own. Your brothers are here, too."

GRAPEVINE SHORT TAKES | BY: THE ORACLE | MENARD, ILLINOIS | JUNE 1967 |

FEBRUARY 1965

The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts. Therefore, guard accordingly.

GRAPEVINE SHORT TAKES | MARCUS AURELIUS | FEBRUARY 1965 |

12 ways to have a Sober Holiday

BY: ANONYMOUS | KEWANEE, ILL. | DECEMBER 2021 |

Pitching in, reaching out, fellowship and prayer. These are the things that work.

1. Line up extra activities for the Holidays.
2. Be host to AA friends, especially newcomers.
3. Keep your AA phone list with you all the times.
4. Find out about the Special Holiday parties, meetings, or other celebrations.
5. Skip any drinking occasion you are nervous about.
6. If you have to go to a drinking party and can't take an AA with you, keep some candy handy.
7. Don't think you have to stay late. Plan in advance an "important date" you have to keep.
8. Worship in your own way.
9. Don't sit around brooding. Catch up on those books, museums, walks, and letters.
10. Don't start now getting worked up about all those holiday temptations. Remember – "One Day at a time".
11. Enjoy the true beauty of Holiday love and joy. Maybe you cannot give material gifts – but this year, you can give love.
12. Having had a Spiritual Awakening: No need to spell out the Twelfth Step here, since you already know it.

"Twelve Tips on Keeping Your Holiday Season Sober and Joyous" | GSO BOX 4-5-9 | WINTER 2012 |

Announcing: a new book from AAWS on sale November 1, 2024



The *Plain Language Big Book* is a tool to help readers understand the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, which was first published in 1939. This new book is designed so that the A.A. Twelve Step program of recovery from alcoholism may be easily understood and accessible by all people who have a desire to stop drinking.

Members of A.A. fondly call the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous* "the Big Book." It is the basic text of the A.A. program. The *Plain Language Big Book* has been written to present the original ideas and same spiritual message of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*.

This new text is not intended to replace the much beloved Big Book. Rather, the *Plain Language Big Book* is a book crafted over several years by A.A. members and publishing professionals to support alcoholics on the path to recovery. The book is intended to help people who have a problem with alcohol gain access to A.A.'s lifesaving message.

For years, A.A. members have expressed a need for a *Plain Language Big Book*. Based on the shared experience of A.A. members, some people may not have regular contact with other A.A. members to help them understand the A.A. program of recovery and the specific vocabulary as it is used throughout the original book *Alcoholics Anonymous*. Other people have a hard time reading, especially books that were written long ago. This *Plain Language Big Book* is written in simpler language to support readers in their recovery.

This book is published in accordance with Advisory Actions passed by substantial unanimity of the General Service Conference (GSC) of Alcoholics Anonymous. In 2021, the 71st GSC advised that this book be developed. Progress reports, then sample chapters were reviewed at the 72nd and 73rd GSCs. The final draft of the *Plain Language Big Book* was reviewed and approved by substantial unanimity at the 74th GSC, in April 2024. This process and outcome adopts this text as Conference Approved Literature.

The *Plain Language Big Book* covers the core content of what is the "abridged version" (the edition without personal stories) of the original Big Book.

Readers are also encouraged to seek out the current edition of the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* and meet with A.A. members to support their own individual paths of recovery from alcoholism.

The *Plain Language Big Book* is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature.

PLAIN LANGUAGE BIG BOOK: A Tool for Reading *Alcoholics Anonymous*

- **Publication (on-sale) date: November 1, 2024**
- **List Price \$11.**
- **Item B-90**
- **192 pages; 8 ½" x 11"**
- **Softcover format with flaps**

Available to order at our
MAICO OFFICE. Call or drop in!
2000 Engel St. Suite 104 |
Madison, WI 53713 | 608-222-8989



2000 Engel Street, Suite 104
Madison, WI 53713

2024 STEERING COMMITTEE:

OFFICE MANAGER: Lori W
CHAIR: Jeri M.
CO-CHAIR: Sean M.
TREASURER: Derek H.
SECRETARY: Amy B.
AT LARGE 1: Bridget W.
AT LARGE 2: Laura M.

Tech Services: Patrick S.
Volunteer Coordinator: Amy H.

24 HOUR AA HOTLINE
Phone: 608-222-8989
Email: info@aamadisonwi.org

www.aamadisonwi.org

CONTACT INFO & WEBSITES

UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Check the MAICO Website for more information under Events

EVENT	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
District 35 Speakeasy Oct. through Dec. 2024	1 st Sat. of Month 18th & 8th	2 Speakers 5:30-8:00 pm Goodies at 5:00 & Potluck 5:30.	18 th & 8 th Community Bld. 1802 8 th St., Monroe, WI 53566 www.greencountyaa.org
Three Legacies Conference	Oct. 11-12, 2024	8:00 pm-12:00 am	HYBRID EVENT Download the PDF flyer on MAICO for details.
Open AA Speaker Meeting Oct. through Dec. 2024	Last Saturday each month Main dish provided, bring one to pass.	Food/Fellowship 6:00 pm Speaker 7:00 pm	207 W. Cook St. Portage WI 53901 -Downstairs. The Historic Apartments
Area 75 Conference & Assembly	November 1-3, 2024 Hosted by District 31 First 100 registrants enter win a CD		Chula Vista Resort, WI Dells, WI 53965 See flyer on MAICO for details.
AA at the VA	November 9, 2024 - 9:00 am -3:00 pm Open ceremony/Speakers AA and AI-Anon		Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Medical Center 5000 West National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53295

Reminder! ANONYMITY
with names, flyers and information on the internet!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN DISTRICT 20

ACCESSABILITIES: Explores, develops and offers all AA Services, resources and accessibility to disabled AA members.
Emily M. ejmota@gmail.com

ARCHIVES: Is responsible collecting and caring of all documents and artifacts of District 20. **Contact: Vacant**

BRIDGING THE GAP COMMITTEE: Is responsible for coordination volunteers to provide information presentations about AA in Treatment facilities and maintain a temporary contact person. **Contact: Arielle E. btgchair20@gmail.com**

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Provides coordination and support to groups/individuals to carry the AA message in correctional facilities. **Contact: Carolyn M. corrections20district@gmail.com.**

CPC (Cooperation with the Professional Community)

Informs those who have contact with alcoholics through their profession about what A.A is, what we do, and what we don't do while using the G.S.O. C.P.C. workbook as a guide. **Contact: Nathan H. haskinsne@gmail.com.**

TREATMENT COMMITTEE: Provides coordination and support to groups/individuals to carry AA message into treatment facilities. AA conference approved literature is provided. **Contact: Desirae R. district20treatment@gmail.com**

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE (PI): provides information about Alcoholics Anonymous to the general public within District 20. **Contact: Jess B. pi.district20@gmail.com**

GRAPEVINE COMMITTEE: Relays Grapevine and La Viña information, magazines and all digital publications (websites,

Madison Area Intergroup Central Office, Inc.

Profit & Loss Quarterly January through September 2024



INCOME	
Contributions – Groups	34,715.67
Contributions – Events	979.00
Contributions – Individual	10,560.90
Contributions – Answering Service	125.00
Contributions – Gratitude Month	1,286.12
Conference Literature	26,250.62
Non-Conference Literature	5,308.81
Non-Conference Merchandise	10,788.03
Grapevine Literature	2,995.62
Savings Account Income	3.34
Other Income	458.83
Sales Tax Discount	90.00
TOTAL INCOME	93,561.94
COST OF GOODS SOLD	
Inventory Expense – Conference Literature	13,742.79
Inventory Expense – Non-Conference Literature	5,517.34
Inventory Expense – Non-Conference Merchandise	14,567.45
Inventory Expense Grapevine Literature	2,005.55
Physical Inventory Adjusted	-1,594.57
TOTAL COST OF GOODS SOLD	34,238.56
GROSS PROFIT	59,323.38
EXPENSE	
Auto Expense - Mileage	158.12
Wages Expense	24,836.18
Payroll Services	810.00
Medicare/Fica Payroll Taxes	1,884.20
Credit Card Processing Fees	666.92
Office Expense/Supplies	3,005.53
Computer Maintenance	12,150.00
Computer-Software/Hardware	4,390.22
Bank Charges Direct Deposit	88.00
Telephone/Internet Expense	1,063.97
Answering Service Expense	4,636.39
Reconciliation Discrepancies	187.06
Postage and Shipping Expense	50.83
Occupancy Expense	8,415.36
Insurance Expense	1,061.00
Printing Expense	563.30
Travel Expense	505.79
Conference Expense	431.04
MAICO Representatives Events Expense	824.20
TOTAL EXPENSE	65,728.11
NET INCOME	-6,404.73

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS

1st 164 Monday Night Group

511 Step Group

7:30 Sunrisers Group

Acceptance is the Answer Group

Adams-Friendship Beginners

Adams-Friendship Sunday Nooners Group

A Few Simple Rules Group

Baraboo Morning Reflections Group

Sister Blandine Thurs Night Big Book Group

Cambridge Thursday PM Group

Capital Steps Group

Chix at Six

Clear Cut Directions Group

DeForest Progress Group

Edgerton Discussion Group

Early Risers Group

Easy Breathers Group

Easy Does It But Do It Group

Family Afterward Group

Fitchburg Traditions Group

Foxhall Recovery Group

Good Fellowship Group

Grace Lunch Group

Happy Hour Groups in WI. Dells

HWY 21 Tues Night Group

Into Action Group

It's A God Thing Group

Janesville Keys to Kingdom Group

Lake Mills Our Group

Living Sober Group

Lunch Bunch Group

Mauston Friday Night Group

Mauston Monday Group

Middleton Young at Heart Group

New Glarus Sobrietyfest Group

Platteville Monday Night Group

Prairie Dock Group

Precisely How We Recovered Group

Queer Serenity Group

Richland Center Group

Rock River Group

Saturday On Timers Group

Sauk Prairie AA Groups

Sister Blandine Thurs Night Big Book Group

Slip Nots Group

Spring Green Read n Lead Group

St. Dunstan's Beginners Group

Suburban Sobriety Group

Sun Prairie Phoenix Group

Sunday Morning Grapevine Group

Sunday Serenity 11th Step Meeting

Sunlight of the Spirit (SOTS) Group

The Way Out Group

Thurber Serendipity Women's Group

Thursday Off The Shelf (TOTS) Group

Tuesday Night Page Turners Group

Tuesday Night Workshop Group

Waterloo Thursday Group

Watertown One Day at a Time Grp

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- _____ Aquanisha E.
- _____ George E.T.
- _____ Greg F.
- _____ Gregg S.
- _____ In Memory of Joe R.
- _____ Mary C.
- _____ Michael W.
- _____ Lee C.
- _____ Richard P.
- _____ Sue M.
- _____ Tom S.
- _____ William D.

MAICO CORRECTIONS & TREATMENT FUND

- _____ 1st 164 Monday Night Group
- _____ Early Risers Group
- _____ Janesville Keys to Kingdom Group
- _____ Living Sober Group
- _____ New Glarus Sobrietyfest Group

MAICO ANSWERING SERVICE

- _____ Janesville Keys to Kingdom Group



THANK YOU!

Your **CONTRIBUTIONS** helps
MAICO carry the message and
 provide services to the
Alcoholic in need!