

"I AM RESPONSIBLE...When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that I am responsible."

## My time in Oconomowoc

by Louie C.

So I'll just start from the beginning and work my way around. I'm Louie, I'm an alcoholic, and I went to WICYPAA. For all those who don't know, WICYPAA stands for Wisconsin Conference of Young People in A.A.

I rolled up there in a car packed full of Chicagoans or Chicagoites, however you prefer it, on Friday to a town called Oconomowoc. I apologize if the spelling is wrong, and don't ever ask me how to say it, I tried all weekend with no success.

I went armed with a box of Monster, some change of clothes, my big book and a heart full of excitement. When we arrived, I was not disappointed: young alcoholically challenged anonymous people were all over the place, there were t-shirts, sweat shirts, and cool packets that came with seeds, when you registered. I think the theme was "our roots grasped new soil," hence the seeds. So anyways, we got there and got checked in, I was bunked up in a room with a couple of bros, but as anyone who's ever been to a conference knows, we didn't stay in there too often. Most of the time was spent either in alkathons or the hospitality rooms.

On Friday night, they had karaoke set up. Along with another sober individual, whom I'll let remain anonymous, I sang a heartfelt rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings." After that I proceeded to celebrate, along with other friends that came up, a fellow AA's three year anniversary. So, to say the very least, it was an experience. Later on that night, I participated in a rousing midnight meeting chaired by a fellow Chicago naught.

Having experienced a conference before, I knew I had to get my sleep in at least a little bit on Friday, so I blew out the candle early. Saturday was where the real action was anyway; it was pretty

much a whirlwind of excitement. I ate a hearty breakfast and was off to the races; fueled by home fries and coffee, I hit the ground running. First thing I did was listen to a speaker named Rick give a talk on the fourth step and his experiences with it. It was a really refreshing take on that step and something that I really needed to hear. The rest of the day was full of socializing and mingling with those wonderful sober Wisconsin folk. I don't know if you've ever heard anyone pronounce about like "about," but it's a pretty fantastic thing to hear and I heard it a good amount that weekend. I attended the main speaker on Saturday and it was freakin' sweet. They did a sobriety countdown all the way from 40 years to that very day. The man with the microphone doing the count was extremely enthusiastic, almost to where near the end it looked like he might not make it to "just for today." The final speaker was the same man I had seen earlier that day, Rick, whose story was like so many of ours that are alcoholic. He was drunk for several years, and he went through some hardships. He got sober and is living a great life. It was a good speech and I enjoyed it.

The hospitality rooms were a melting pot of people, and I would like to think I made a lot of friends that weekend. I don't know if I'll see most of them again, but I hope so. Sunday, I was running off less than a healthy amount of sleep. What really affected me the most about the weekend wasn't the speeches, it was seeing all those people with so much sobriety, seeing them smile, and enjoy themselves all without any substances. It's a mind-blowing experience to stay up all weekend, have fun doing it and be sober the whole time; I can't wait for my next conference!

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## WHERE AND WHEN DO YOU MEET?

When: Da BID meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month at 8pm

Where: Chicago Area Service Office  
180 N. Wabash 3rd Floor

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There are many ways to get involved and to be of service! Here are just a few...

- ⚠ Forward this newsletter to another alcoholic
- ⚠ Attend a committee meeting
- ⚠ Come to our next event and heck bring a newcomer!
- ⚠ Announce our meetings and events at the meetings you attend.

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## SUBSCRIBE TO THE GRAPEVINE

Get the magazine of AA delivered to your door!  
Find out more at [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org)!

Still have questions? Then send us a dang email!

>>> [info@dabidchicago.org](mailto:info@dabidchicago.org) <<<

\* for more information about DA BID  
check out [dabidchicago.org](http://dabidchicago.org)

## It's all in the presentation

by Jordan N.

One of the most fun bidding requirements that must be met is our bid presentation!

When bidding in Atlanta our committee must present our bid to the Advisory Council and to the other committees that are hoping for a chance to host the 2010 ICYPAA. The presentation must be in accordance with the 12 traditions of AA and 20 minutes or less.

This is a crucial part of our bid because it offers an awesome opportunity to show everyone what "DA BID" is about. It also gives Advisory the opportunity to ask questions or make comments during the bidding process.

The presentations take place early Saturday morning during the conference. Advisory, other committees, and anyone else who elected to not go to sleep the night before are there to watch each committee vie for the opportunity to host their very own ICYPAA. The presentation is usually video, live action, or a combination of both.

A well-executed presentation not only reflects AA's primary purpose, but also should be entertaining enough to keep a room full of tense and exhausted

alcoholics interested in what our bid has to offer. A badly executed presentation can feel tedious, drawn out, or preachy. Nothing is more painful at 7am than sitting through a humorless and dull presentation. Who wants to go to a conference hosted by that committee?

If there is one thing DA BID is not, is humorless and dull. Therefore, we plan on having a presentation that is as goofy, fun and smart as the alcoholics who comprise our beloved committee. We are going to have a primarily video based presentation that will feature alcoholically reworked trailers of 3-4 popular movies.

This is going to be a lot of fun to do, but we are going to need a lot of help. We need actors, actresses, props, locations, costumes, and people who love to be the center of attention. Which is all of us!

**If you would like to help us make an awesome bid video come to our bid presentation meetings which are held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Starbucks in the basement of Macy's, 111 north state street. Or contact us at: [chicagoicypaaid@gmail.com](mailto:chicagoicypaaid@gmail.com)**

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## CHECK OUT THE NEW SITE!

That's right superfans! Our website is back and it's better than ever! Got a question? You can find out the dates of our events, when the next meeting is, and so very much more at [dabidchicago.org](http://dabidchicago.org)!

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## ST. PATTY'S DAY WORKSHOP!

Join us in **FITCHBURG, WI** for a workshop this St. Patrick's Day from **Noon to 4:00PM**. Afterwards there will be fun and fellowship plus some speaker meetings, featuring both AA and Alanon speakers and members of DA BID!

**SATURDAY MARCH 14, 2009 at Fitchburg Serenity Club 6048 McKee Road**

## ICYPAA 51 is right around the corner!

Pre-register for ICYPAA 51 in Atlanta at  
[icypaahost.org](http://icypaahost.org)!

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## GET ON THE BUS WITH DA BID!

\$135 round trip ticket to Atlanta, Georgia  
(includes snacks)

**DEPARTING:** Wednesday May 20, 2009 at 8:00 PM from the Sears Parking Lot at 1900 W. Ravenswood Ave. Chicago

**RETURNING:** Sunday May 24, 2009 Time TBD, pending BID results

**ONLY 50 ROUND TRIP SEATS AVAILABLE!**

For more information contact Bob C. at 219-724-3867 or Jocelyn at 312-523-3121

## SUPPORT THESE MEETINGS!

**Young People's Meeting  
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM**

2000 N Sheridan Rd, Evanston IL  
(on the campus of Northwestern)

**Open Young Person's Meeting  
Wednesdays at 8:00 PM**

UIC Levine Hillel Center  
924 S Morgan St, Chicago IL