



4920 Plainfield Ave. NE, Ste. 19
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Office Phone (616) 913-9216
Website: www.grandrapidsaa.org
AA 24-hour Hotline (616) 913-9149

OFFICE HOURS

Monday 2:00PM to 6:00PM
Tuesday through Friday 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays

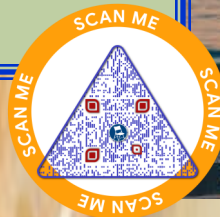
HAPPY!
JOYOUS!
FREE!

September
2026

NEED TO FIND A MEETING?

Scan the QR Code @ below-right, or go to the AA meetings listing at www.grandrapidsaa.org/meetings.

SEPTEMBER IS
RECOVERY MONTH



Recovery is not a lone wolf journey
It's a wolf pack mentality.
Support is the combination to the lock

Upcoming Events

The 66th ICYPAA Michigan

International Conference of Young People in A.A.
September 3 - 6

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, 187 Monroe Ave. NW, GR, MI
(See flyer for details.)

Happy Labor Day!
September 7

District 7 Business Meeting

Saturday, September 12
Host: GR YPAA Meeting, St. Mary's Church
423 First St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI
9 a.m. District Committee Members
10 a.m. Business Meeting

Friday Evening Speaker Meetings

September 4, 11, 18, 25
7 p.m., North Alano Club (See Flyer.)

KCCO Business Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 6:00 p.m., KCCO/ZOOM
(For ZOOM sign-in, contact KCCO.)

Area 34 Assembly

Sunday, September 20, 10:30 a.m.
(See area34aa.org for details.)

KCCO THANKS-giving **Gratitude Dinner, Auction, &** **Speaker Event**

Saturday, November 7, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Alano Club South, 256 Celia St. SW, Wyoming, MI

Thank you
for your
Support!

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!

Keep on Growing

Just For Today

Search for Serenity

Friends for Life

KCCO Business Meeting

Git Er Dun

Saturday Night Live

Donna H. Group

Friday Night Speaker Mtgs.

Ben H.

Women's Serenity

Way of Life

CHANGE IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT COMING THIS FALL

The office management of the Kent County Central Office will be changing this fall. At the time of this writing (8/13/2026), the new manager has not yet been identified. Mike (Bach) W. is stepping down due to health issues that have advanced much faster than he anticipated when accepting the Office Manager position in April 2025. Doug P. will continue as Office Assistant.

This is a good time to refresh the memories of those in our program about why a "Central Office" exists, and the role such offices play in extending the hand of A.A. to those in recovery and to those who are still suffering. Larger metropolitan areas and combined rural areas have Central Offices or Intergroup Offices to assist in the logistics of recovery. It's a place where you can pick up just about anything A.A. approved, including Grapevine booklets.

Originally, there were no central offices. Each group ordered their own Big Books, etc., from A.A. World Services. One can readily see the duplicate efforts and time delays in that arrangement. Central offices formed spontaneously in order to purchase A.A. approved items in bulk at a lower cost. The central office would then sell the items at AA World Services prices with the difference used to fund the central office operation. Over time, central offices took on the task of developing a local directory of meetings (in print and online) and the operation of the AA Hotline (616)913-9149). Bill W. and Dr. Bob gave form to the A.A. you see today, which you can attest to by reading an A.A. Service Manual (BM-31). They did not invent the central offices.

KCCO is a separate, not-for-profit corporation, distinct from the A.A. service structure. Yet KCCO needs your donations, too, to continue its services to and for YOU. You can only benefit from it by utilizing the services it provides, and by supporting its continued services through your donations. Thank you for helping us to continue to help others in their recovery journeys.

SAVE THE DATE

for the

Kent County Central Office

**THANKS-giving Gratitude
Dinner, Auction & Speaker Event**

Saturday, November 7, 2026

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Alano Club South, 256 Celia St. SW, Wyoming, MI

Cost: \$0

The Kent County Central Committee extends an invitation to all local groups to donate a themed gift basket for our auction fundraiser. This is a fun way to spark participation and service in the group setting!

Basket theme is the local group's choice. Your donation will help the KCCO to continue serving YOU!

**Please contact our office to register
your basket donation.**

JOIN US! SEPTEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

September 17th, 6:00 p.m. at the KCCO.

For ZOOM sign-in codes, contact the office.

We invite you to consider sobriety-enhancing service work in one of the highlighted roles below.

KENT COUNTY CENTRAL OFFICE THANK YOU to Our Trusted Servants

Mike W. (Bach) - Office Manager

Doug P. - Assistant Office Manager

Dwayne N. - Committee Chairperson

Vacant - Committee Vice-Chairperson

Vacant - Committee Secretary

Shelly W. - Committee Trustee 1/Treasurer

Mike W. - Committee Trustee 2

Dave P. - Committee Trustee 3

Toni M. - Literature

Jeff O. - Webmaster

Chris B. - Web Assistant

Toni M. - Newsletter Editor

Beth B. - KCCO Liaison; Amy H. - Alternate

Vacant - YPAA Liaison

Sandee C. - Committee Member

What's YOUR "Freedom from Bondage" Story?

We all have a story. Will you share yours?

**Stories can be submitted to our Newsletter Editor
at: newsletter@grandrapidsaa.org**

Meetings EVERYWHERE!

*You can access and download
MEETING GUIDE app using the QR Code on page one
of this newsletter.*

KCCO continues to edit those meetings in our meeting directory that are currently listed as inactive.

Please check the meetings you attend on the directory at: www.grandrapidsaa.org/meetings

If your group DOES meet and you are listed as "In-active," please contact us at officeadmin@grandrapidsaa.org and we will update your listing. Only meetings currently listed as "In-Active" will be deleted from the database.



HELLO
we're here to

HELP.

I'm not okay.

I'm here, and
I'm listening.

24/7 SUPPORT
HOTLINE

616-913-9149

Is A.A for you? Only you can decide. If you are unsure, we are happy to share with you how we stopped drinking, ourselves. Just call our Hotline. ♥

We can show you how taking some simple steps can help loosen the grip that alcohol has on your life. The first step is to reach out and ask for help. This can be done by attending an AA meeting. If you are unsure or have questions, call the 24 hour hotline. Making that call will put you in touch with an AA member that can answer your questions and point you in the right direction.

meeting
spotlight

12 x 12 x 12

STEP NINE

"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

TRADITION NINE

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

CONCEPT NINE

"Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety."

The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous."

A.A.'s Twelve Steps are principles for personal recovery. The Twelve Traditions ensure the Unity of the Fellowship. Written by co-founder Bill W. in 1962, the Twelve Concepts for World Service provide a group of related principles to help ensure that various elements of A.A.'s service structure remain responsive and responsible to those they serve.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THESE GROUPS

Women's Meeting

Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m. (Big Book study)
North Alano Club, 1020 College Ave., Grand Rapids

Portland Group

Sundays (Open) & Thursdays (Closed Step Mtg.)
@ 7:30 p.m. Friday @ 5:30 p.m. (Open Big Book Mtg.)
Mt. Hope Church, 845 Ionia Rd., Portland

Second Chance Alano Club

Open Meetings, Monday through Friday @ 12:00 noon
(Mon.: 12/12; Tues.: Women; Wed.: Living Sober;
Thurs.: Grapevine; Fri.: Open Discussion)
1000 Muskegon NW, Grand Rapids

Comstock Park Group

Open Meeting, Fridays @ 7:30pm
Closed Meetings, Mondays & Thursdays (12/12 Study) @ 7:30pm
Grace Fellowship Church, 735 Butth Dr. NE, Comstock Park

Downtown Promises Group

Open Meetings, Monday through Thursday @ 12:05pm
(Thursdays: Book Study format, Big Book/12 & 12)
Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St., NE, Grand Rapids

Easy Does It Group

Open Meeting, Wednesdays @ 8:00 p.m.
Home Acres Reformed Church, 21 Murray St., SE, Kentwood

What is "Meeting Spotlight"?

Is your group looking to increase participation? Looking to get the word out of the availability of its meeting? KCCO can help! If you would like your group featured in "Meeting Spotlight", please submit your group's meeting details and any information you would like us to share, to: newsletter@grandrapidsaa.org.

KCCO SEPTEMBER FEATURE:

YPAA - Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

"I convinced myself that if I could just fix my mental health, fix my circumstances, or figure out what was "wrong" with me, then maybe someday I could drink like a normal person."

Chandler's Story:

From my very first sip of alcohol, I knew something was different about the way I drank. I didn't drink like a normal person. Looking back, I often say that I came into this world with an addictive nature. If it wasn't alcohol, it was shopping, gambling, relationships, or anything else that could temporarily fill the emptiness I felt inside.

Long before I ever picked up a drink, I was addicted to attention, validation, and the approval of other people. I was constantly searching outside of myself for something I didn't know how to give myself. My journey has been messy, painful, and at times completely chaotic. But today, I wouldn't change any of it. Every mistake, every setback, and every painful chapter has brought me closer to the person I am today. The Promises say, "We will not regret the past, nor wish to shut the door on it." For the first time, I understand what that truly means. My past doesn't have to define me—it can become the foundation of the life I get to live today.



Grand Rapids Area Young
People in Alcoholics
Anonymous

♦ **SUNDAY 8PM** ♦

ST. MARY'S ACTIVITY CENTER
423 FIRST ST NW

♦ **TUESDAY 8PM** ♦

ALANO CLUB SOUTH
256 CELIA ST SW

♦ **THURSDAY 8PM** ♦

ALANO CLUB OF KENT COUNTY
BALCONY
1020 COLLEGE AVE NE

MCYPAA

AIMS & PURPOSES

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO STAY SOBER AND HELP ALCOHOLICS TO ACHIEVE SOBRIETY. WE DIRECT OUR ATTENTION TOWARDS YOUNG PEOPLE BY PROVIDING THE MICHIGAN CONVENTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA, WHICH MEETS ANNUALLY AROUND THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN MCYPAA AS A PRIME OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE AND SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE WITHIN AA AS A WHOLE. WE ENCOURAGE ALL AAS, AL-ANONS, A.C.O.A.S, AND AL-ATEENS TO PARTICIPATE IN AND SUPPORT MCYPAA. NON ALCOHOLICS ARE ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND ALL OPEN MEETINGS TO FURTHER PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF ALCOHOLISM.

I began trying to find recovery in 2016, starting with classes at Pine Rest. As my addiction progressed, so did my desperation to find a way out. I eventually moved to California, where I spent four years, and along the way I found myself in more than ten treatment centers. I tried over and over again to get sober, but I could never seem to make it stick. For a long time, I was looking everywhere except within myself. I convinced myself that if I could just fix my mental health, fix my circumstances, or figure out what was "wrong" with me, then maybe someday I could drink like a normal person. I didn't understand that alcohol wasn't my only problem—it was the solution I had been using for everything I didn't know how to face.

Continued on page 5

NOV. 27-29 2026

MCYPAA.ORG

PRE-REGISTER



BOOK HOTEL



Eventually, my addiction took me to a place where I couldn't keep pretending I could figure it out on my own. I finally reached the point of saying, enough is enough. That's when I decided to give the YPAA community in Grand Rapids a chance. And that decision changed everything. For the first time, I found people who didn't just tell me I could recover—I found people who showed me what recovery could actually look like. I found connection. I found laughter. I found purpose. I found people who understood me, challenged me, loved me, and most importantly, showed me that I didn't have to do this alone. I came into these rooms thinking I needed to change everything about myself to be worthy of a different life. Instead, I learned how to look inward, accept myself, and become the person I was always meant to be.

My story isn't perfect. It never will be. But today, I'm incredibly grateful for every chapter of it—the good, the bad, and the ugly—because every piece of my journey led me here. And today, I get to live a life I once couldn't even imagine. Joining WESTYPAA/YPAA has been one of the most transformative parts of my recovery journey. It has given me far more than a place to be of service—it has given me purpose, meaningful friendships, and a deeper understanding of what living sober can truly look like.

The people in WESTYPAA have shown me that recovery doesn't have to be dull or isolating. Our community is full of energy, laughter, and genuine connection, but what stands out most is that recovery is always at the center of everything we do. Whether we're planning events, serving others, or simply showing up for one another, we're reminded that sobriety comes first. Serving on this committee has changed the way I approach every area of my life. It has taught me the value of selflessness, accountability, and consistency - qualities that have made me a better wife, mother, and friend. Every meeting, event, and service opportunity offers a chance to learn, grow, and strengthen my recovery. - Chandler R.

District 7 Business Meeting Saturday, September 12, 2026

Host: GRAND RAPIDS YPAA!!

St. Mary's Church
423 First St. NW, Grand Rapids, MI

**9a.m. District Committee Members
10a.m. Business Meeting begins**



AI Fun

In Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous (YPAA), slogans are divided between traditional Alcoholics Anonymous wisdom and the fast-paced, high-energy culture unique to youth conferences like ICYPAA.

Some Core YPAA Slogans

Young only means you have room to grow:

Anyone can join YPAA regardless of age, provided they have a desire to stop drinking.

Happy, joyous, and free: A core quote from the Big Book heavily emphasized at youth events to show that sobriety isn't boring.

Rule 62: Don't take yourself too seriously: Reminds young people to keep humor and humility alive to avoid ego traps.

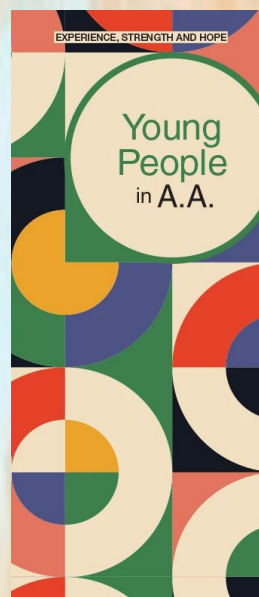
Stick with the winners, win with the stickers:

Encourages newcomers to align with peers who actively work a strong 12-step program.

If you don't change, your sobriety date will:

A blunt warning that physical abstinence without personal growth leads back to drinking.

Focus On Literature



P-4 Young People in A.A.

Completely revised and redesigned, the "Young People in A.A." pamphlet now contains seven new stories by young A.A. members. Informed by input and feedback from young A.A. members attending recent YPAA meetings, this beautifully redesigned pamphlet includes colorful illustrations crafted by one of our most beloved Grapevine illustrators.

General Service Conference
Approved

**View the KCCO literature and pamphlet
stock/price lists at:
grandrapidsaa.org/literature.**

FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER MEETINGS

PUBLIC WELCOME!

LOCATION: THE NORTH ALANO CLUB

1020 College Ave, NE, Grand Rapids, MI
(Lower-Level Balcony)
Phone 616-456-5709

Friday, September 4, 2026, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Mike K.

Home Group: Happy Hour

Friday, September 11, 2026, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Victoria W.

Home Group: North Club

Friday, September 18, 2026, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Myla T.

Home Group: St. Anthony

Friday, September 25, 2026, 7:00 pm

Speaker: Mel W.

Home Group: Calhoun County

FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS AFTER THE MEETING

(Coffee provided by the Alano Club of Kent County)

Sponsored by Kent County Central Office

4920 Plainfield NE, Suite 19, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

For any information call: 616-913-9216

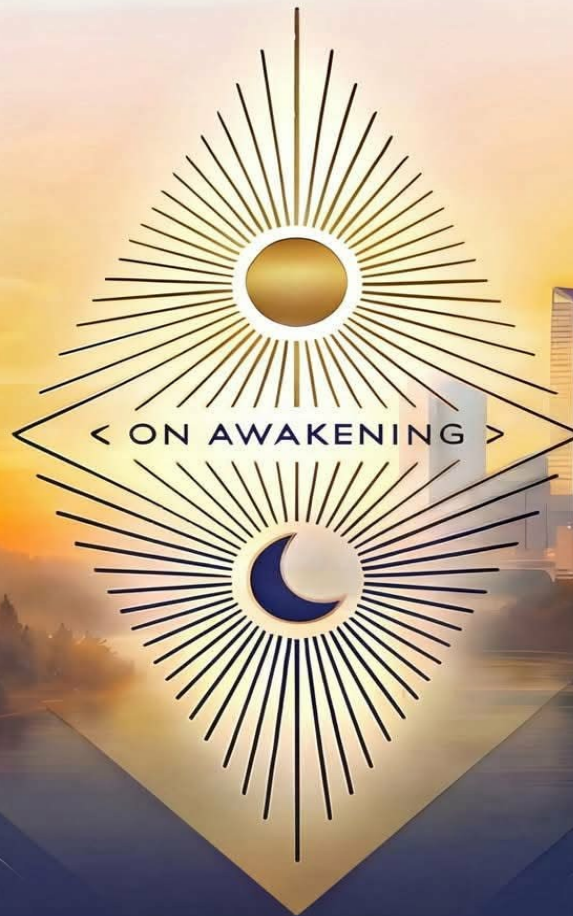
EVER BEEN TO A SPEAKER MEETING?

The Kent County Central Office hosts Speaker Meetings every Friday at 7:00 p.m., at the Alano Club of Kent County (North Alano Club), 1020 College Ave. NE, Grand Rapids, MI . Please help us to continue offering these vital meetings by sharing your story at one of our speaker meetings. We can't do it without YOU, the Fellowship members of Alcoholics anonymous.

For more information how you can carry the message through volunteering to be a speaker meeting speaker, please reach out to the Kent County Central Office.

THE 66TH ICYPAA MICHIGAN

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF YOUNG
PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS



REGISTER

**SEPTEMBER
3RD-6TH, 2026**

The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
187 Monroe Ave NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan

www.icypaa.org



HOTEL

What is ICYPAA?

International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous

ICYPAA was founded in 1958 for the purpose of providing a setting for an annual celebration of sobriety among young people in Alcoholics Anonymous. It's a weekend event that occurs once per year and consists of panels, workshops, and speaker meetings where recovering alcoholics can share their experience about getting and staying sober. Attendees of all ages come from across the globe to experience this truly remarkable gathering.