

Vol 2023, JULY issue

Serving Pierce, Pepin, Buffalo, Eau Claire and Trempealeau & parts of Saint Croix, Dunn Chippewa counties

Step 7: "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

MONTHLY DISTRICT MEETING Second Wednesday, 6:45 p.m. NOW HYBRID!

IN PERSON AT
THE MENOMONIE LEISURE CENTER
1412 6TH ST. E
MENOMONIE, WI 54751

Zoom ID: 829 0126 1204

Password: district05

All are welcome!

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To sign up to receive a copy of the Area 74 Newsletter "Now and Then", please email nowandthen@area74.org

### Message from Byron B. Area 74 Panel 72 Delegate

#### Greetings District 05,

Over the last few months, I have been fielding a few phone calls about some of the Advisory Actions that were approved by the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Service Conference. Some of those questions had to deal with when was this agenda item voted on and exactly what was voted on (misinformation). My hope is the following dissertation helps with understanding the flow of information in the General Service structure of AA.

I recently attended the East Central Regional Conference in South Bend, Indiana, and at that Conference I gave a short presentation on Concept 1, which states, "Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." Which then begs the question, how does a Group or District get their Group Conscience to New York? The answer is participation.

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# The District 05 View Vol 2023, JULY issue

Tradition 7: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

#### Member Share on Step Seven - Isaiah

#### Hi, I'm Isaiah and I am an alcoholic.

I believe that I am powerless over my character defects. If I held power over them-based on self-knowledge and self-will-they would have disappeared when I stopped drinking. The idea that I am powerless over my character defects was proven to me in my experience. I first got sober in 2019 and was in and out of Alcoholics Anonymous until 07/28/2022 when I decided that I wanted to stay sober and commit to this program. From 2019 to 2022, character defects ran rampant in my life. I lived my life in constant fear of what others thought of me. I lived in self-pity. I was dishonest in every area of my life. I was angry and resentful. To sum it up, I was miserable.

Alcoholics Anonymous and God had a solution waiting for me. When I first went through step 7 with my sponsor he told me that we don't just work this step once. We continue practicing this day by day. At the time, I had a basic understanding of what this step meant; but my question was, "How does this step manifest in my life?"

That day I made a decision that I would continue to practice this step. Over the past six months, I have gained a deeper understanding of what this step means to me and I have seen how it has manifested in my life.

Nearly each day I recite a shortened version of the step 7 prayer: "God please remove my character defects that take away from my usefulness to you and my fellows." This prayer is soothing to my heart. It takes my selfishness out and directs my focus to Him. When I came into Alcoholics Anonymous, my sole objective was to get sober. I had no idea that when I took that seat a door had been opened to unlimited possibilities and a spiritual realm. It opened a door to be free of self, which unknowingly was what I was looking for in a bottle, and it opened a door to be of maximum service to others. I don't know what God's plan is with my character defects. However, I know that at this very moment, I am exactly where I am supposed to be. All I can do is continue to humbly ask God to remove my shortcomings, stay willing, and trust God has a plan greater than myself.

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Concept VII "The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness."

Step 7 has been a growing experience for me. I continue to keep an open-mind and the willingness that I committed to in step 6, which has been vital in my experience with this step. The beginning of the 7th step prayer states, "My creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad." When I first went through this step the words "good and bad" didn't hold meaning to me. In time, I began to understand that I don't know exactly what God wants me to be. I have many ideas and my sponsor helps point those out in my life. Something that I think is bad may be something that God wants to use in my life. Something that I think is good may not be something God wants to use in my life. I have had thousands of ideas in my lifetime. Many ideas that I thought were good turned out to be bad and many ideas that I thought were bad turned out to be good. The point is that only God knows what is best for me. Through this step, many of my character defects have been removed or have, at least, become less common occurrences in my daily life. I feel more peace and serenity than I have ever felt in my entire life.

When I take an action that counters a character defect I am blessed with a spiritual release. I can take a deep breath and acknowledge that I am going to be okay. Each time that I follow through with prayer and action, I feel peace and serenity.

Isaiah

A reminder - we have a great resource in the AA Grapevine. If you're not familiar with all the fabulous resources, please read here.



Step 7: "Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

#### Continued article from page 1 by Bryon B.

For the past few years, the deadline for submitting an agenda item for the next General Service Conference has been September 15th. The potential agenda items are then reviewed by the General service Board (the Trustees) after which a final list of Agenda Items is created. Around February 15<sup>th</sup> the Final List of Agenda Items and background materials is sent out and I then email that information to the all the DCM's in Area 74. Usually, the first weekend in March the Delegate holds a workshop to review the Agenda items. That is the beginning of a group conscience. The next step is for the GSRs to bring those discussions that were held at the Workshop to the individual Groups. At the Area Assembly that is held in the beginning of April, the discussion on the agenda items continues and eventually the Delegate will ask for a sense of the body on whether to support or not to support any particular agenda item. The Delegate then takes that information to the General Service Conference which is held in New York, usually near the end of April. The Agenda Items are then debated and voted on by the members of the General Service Conference which is composed of 93 Delegates, 21 Trustees, and 19 General service Office staff and Directors. If an agenda item is passed it then becomes an Advisory Action which is implemented by the General Service Board. At the next Area 74 assembly after the General Service Conference, the Delegate is given time to report back on what took place in New York. This is a simplified overview of what takes place every year.

As I stated earlier, the key to communication (both up and down the service triangle) and the development of an informed group conscience is participation. Some of the tools that I have found to help me were the AA Service Manual (which can be downloaded from AA.org), attending District meetings, attending Area 74 Assemblies, attending the Delegates Workshop, asking to be on the DCM's email list, asking to be on the Delegate's email distribution list, and finally, subscribing to the Now and Then- the Area 74 Newsletter.

If anyone has any questions or would like to talk about any Advisory Action, please feel free to contact me directly.

Bryon B Area 74 Panel 72 Delegate 715-579-5820 delegate@area74.org

For information on our Area, please visit the above link. Area 74 Website\

To sign up to receive a copy of the Area 74 Newsletter "Now and Then", please email nowandthen@area74.org



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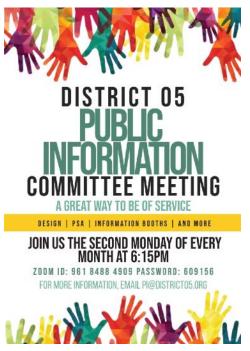
Tradition 7: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

### **District Calendar Click Here**

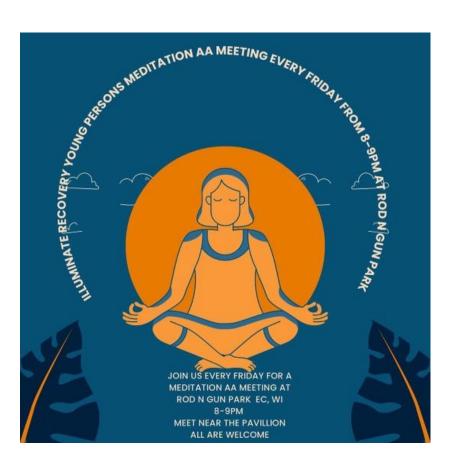




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"Each Day a New Beginning" women's meeting will be meeting in Owen Park in Eau Claire throughout the summer.

If it will be at least 60 degrees by 10:00 a. m., you will find us near the bandshell each Saturday. morning at 10 o'clock.

The Illuminate Recovery
meditation meeting will be
meeting at Rod and Gun park at
8 pm for the summer. All are
welcome, we hope to see you
there:)



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### 2023 AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE - \$25

**September 15th - 17th, 2023** 

Saturday Speaker - Bob W. (General Manager -New York)

The Holiday Inn South - 4751 Owen Ayres Court. Eau Claire, WI - (715) 830-9889

(Reserve your room by August 15, 2023 - \$134.95)

Additional Room Block located at Candlewood Suites (715) 839-0967

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE: EMAIL:
Willing to be of services: Yes / No AA / Alanon Bill W. Donation
Please indicate any special accommodations by 8/1/2023: ASL Other
DEADLINE FOR BANQUET / LUNCH BUFFET SUBMISSION: August 31, 2023
BANQUET # (ADD \$30)
CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Area 74 Fall 2023 Conference
Mail in Form to: 2517 Paul St., Eau Claire, WI 54701

 $Questions: (715)\ 559\text{-}2546 - area 74 fall conference 2023 @outlook.com$