



# District View

P.O. Box 261  
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District 05 Newsletter

December 2010

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## Thoughts on Step 12

Step 12 to me was a slow process which didn't happen suddenly. Going through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous is a never ending process. Following these principles learned in AA is a lifetime effort to grow to be of maximum use to God and man.

I had to do certain actions in order to even begin to have any growth or recovery in AA. My entire life had been centered in me, satisfying my wants and so called needs. I was constantly in a state of conflict with everything around me. I needed to be of use to God and people. To do this I needed to change my thinking by doing actions opposite of how I was living. Instead of being a lying, dishonest, lazy person only concerned about my personal well being, I would try to become a truthful, useful Human Being more concerned with helping others. This hasn't happened easily. I am still working at this.

First I had to become willing to change me thinking enough to follow others in AA, their actions and examples until I began to believe this could work for me also. It wasn't until I felt better about myself that I could begin to help others. Since I couldn't recover from alcoholism by myself I had to seek help from a Higher Source, who I call God, who speaks to me through AA. I believe only God has that power, but I have to do the work which is the 12 Step Program of AA.

After receiving the gifts of working the program of AA I had to begin sharing or giving this gift to others. The only way I think that can work is to be the best example you can be of AA's program by actively doing not just talking. Treating others with respect, like we would like to be treated by others.

By watching many demonstrations of Faith and resulting examples of AA members, I came to believe in AA's program of recovery, only by sharing my experience with this can I stay in recovery. Only by staying in the program of AA, can I keep my sense of purpose and Usefulness which I never had before.

Respectfully,  
Al P.

## *Step Twelve*

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

## *Tradition Twelve (Long Form)*

"We of Alcoholics Anonymous believe that the principle of anonymity has an immense spiritual significance. It reminds us that we are to place principles before personalities; that we are actually to practice a genuine humility. This to the end that our great blessings may never spoil us; that we shall forever live in thankful contemplation of Him who presides over us all. "

## *Concept Twelve*

"The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action. "

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## **The District View**

*The District View* is a non-profit Newsletter published by District 05-Area 74 of Alcoholics Anonymous for the purpose of providing local communication between the District Committee, Groups within the District and individual A.A. members. It is published monthly for members of the A.A. fellowship. Circulation is about 50 copies. Individual subscription rates are \$10.00/year. Flier insertion cost is \$7.50 for one-sided camera ready fliers; \$14.00 for two-sided fliers. There is no charge for flier insertion for District 05 Traveling Open Speaker Meeting and Workshops and Area 74 Assemblies and Conferences.

**Please submit copies prior to the 20th of the month  
via email at: [DistrictView@aainwestwis.org](mailto:DistrictView@aainwestwis.org)**

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**District 5 Monthly Meeting Notes– Dec. 8,2010**

Meeting opened by the DCM with the Responsibility Statement.

**Introductions:** 18 present

**Secretary's report** accepted as written.

**Treasurer's report:** Saving acct. beginning at 425.44 with .09 int. ending balance \$452.53, **corrected as beginning balance at \$452.44.** Ending balance is correct. Checking account beginning at \$2235.17 which includes \$30.00 contribution that was excluded in the last month report. \$105.00 (4 groups) contributions, disbursements of \$392.72 ending balance of \$1947.45. Report accepted after changes.

**DCM:** January 8th Area Committee Meeting in Three Lakes, WI.

**Group & meeting updates:** None

**Workshop:** none

**Old Business:** Denny bought a printer for the District after we had voted last month that we needed one for the meetings. He bought a spare ink cartridge and got a wonderful deal on a Epson printer for the total of: \$ **78.58.** Dean made a motion to reimburse Denny and Jerry seconded the motion. All approved. Pierce county received Big Books after requesting them from Corrections last month. A question whether our corrections put District 5 on the books brought into jails was mentioned. Some GSR's questioned about the budget being submitted by the treasurer and the DCM informed them that the report was due at the January meeting and he would inform her of that. She was absent from this months meeting.

**New Business:** None

**Monthly reports:**

**Grapevine:** Didn't attend but Paul gave the report. Nothing new, Mike is willing to go to any functions if asked.

**Literature:** No show

**Newsletter:** Jason submitted his budget to date. He will be reimbursed **\$57.92** to get him to the \$75.00 budget we had decided he would continually have. He

plans on having the December issue completed before Christmas. He plans on having the mailing list finalized by the January's meeting. We all thanked him for doing a wonderful job on the Newsletter.

**CVIG report:** Nickolas is the new Special Projects Coordinator for the intergroup. He is helping plan different functions for the intergroup to bring the AA community together and to help people new in sobriety to help do 12 step work. The intergroup's literature sales are going very well and if any groups need to purchase books please help support the intergroup by buying them from us.

**GSR Input and Questions:** Nickolas report the Northside group will be hosting a workshop on Feb.18th followed by their annual potluck speaker meeting. Workshop from 2 pm-4pm. Potluck at 5:00 Alanon and then AA speakers.

Next month meeting on Jan.12,2011

*Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer*

***Special Thanks...***

Special thanks to Al P., Larry M., and Phil B. for submitting articles for this month's issue of The District View!!

Thanks for sharing everyone!!

***Got Experience? Pass It On!!!***

Do you have an experience to share regarding an upcoming Step, Tradition or Concept?

Please email Jason L. at:  
[districtview@aainwestwis.org](mailto:districtview@aainwestwis.org)

to share any experience you have with Step, Tradition or Concept

Thank you for contributing to the District View.

## Thoughts on Tradition 12

**Tradition Twelve:** “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.”

Basically this tradition is telling me that AA is not mine; it is *ours*. All of AA’s Twelve Traditions are principles that promote our common welfare. Where the Steps provide the framework for developing an individual understanding of one’s relationship with God, the Traditions provide a framework for developing a common understanding of our relationship to each other and the world around us. Each of us sacrifices a very small portion of our personal individuality in order to ensure that we will *all* survive individually. Common welfare becomes individual welfare. Rather than demand our own way, we step back, sit down, and listen to God in our group conscience.

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We welcome (or at least tolerate) all who want recovery, even though we may not yet love them. We allow groups to evolve and grow (or die) as they will, always hopeful that our common solution remains the primary purpose. We rely on God and each other and collectively decline outside affiliations and money. We are not professionals and certainly know that we do not have a monopoly on life’s answers for all. We only hope that our recovery and way of life is attractive to the next sufferer willing to share our common sacrifice and thereby reap the reward we find in this simple, humble way of life. Anonymous service to God and man in unity is the spirit of all the traditions.

Larry McF.

## In The Beginning

This section exists with hopes to connect to newcomers regardless of the Step, Tradition, or Month we are in.

I guess for me AA was a last resort. I had tried every other way I could think of to get my drinking and my life under control and nothing ever worked. I can really relate to the part in the Big Book where Bill talks about how you will no longer be able to imagine a life with, or without alcohol. For me I had just run out of options, and with no friendly direction left to turn I walked into AA.

I remember circling the block numerous times before I finally got up the nerve to actually go inside. What I walked into was nothing like what I expected. I always thought AA was a bunch of miserable old people whining about their problems. Thank God I was wrong. What I found were a bunch of people who had once drank like I did, had been where I had been, and had had the same crazy thoughts running through their heads as I had in mine. What was different was that they were smiling, laughing about their “plights” and seemingly had a solution to their problems. I was such a nervous wreck that I had forgotten my wallet at home and didn’t have a dollar for the basket or to buy a book, but they gave me a Big Book and told me to keep coming back anyway. Next thing I knew I was headed to more meetings, people in the program were calling me, I was going out to coffee with some of them. I even had a sponsor before I really knew what that was. I remember feeling so grateful that here were people who finally truly understood me. And it had been a long time since I had been asked to come back anywhere.

I can’t say that I got this program right away. I think I fall into the “sometimes slowly” category. I showed up and still had a few of my own ideas on how this was going to work. Needless to say my own ideas always seem to come with a few flaws and I’ve had to run back to my sponsor with arrows in my ass more than once, but slowly and surely I’ve learned to take some direction and have learned to really apply these steps in my life. And I find that when I’m able to do that, life goes a lot smoother. Today, I have the tools to meet life’s problems head on and while life certainly isn’t perfect I can still find serenity and happiness. If you had asked me what I was hoping to get out of this when I showed up here, I would have sold myself so short. This program has given me gifts I never even knew that I wanted. I just want to say to the newcomer, Don’t give up before the miracle happens, even if you do fall into the “sometimes slowly” category like myself. It’s worth the work and worth the wait.

Phil B.

**\*\*** Care is taken to include all events. If your event is not listed we regret the error. To list your group's event please contact your GSR, any district officer, or the newsletter editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

month at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 6:00 p.m.  
CVIG (Intergruop) meets on the 4th Wednesday of every

each month at Club 12, Eau Claire @5:30  
NITY (CPC) COMMITTEE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of  
COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMU-

Riverfalls Alano Club @ 6:30 p.m.  
3rd Wednesday of each month at:  
PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI) COMMITTEE meets on the

**DISTRICT 05 MONTHLY meeting 2nd Wednesday of each month at Leisure Center, Menomonie @6:45**

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE meets QUARTERLY (Jan, Apr, July, Oct) at 7:45 pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE meets 1st Monday of even months at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 6:45

### Monthly District 05 Events

**PLEASE SEND GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**  
District 05 Treasurer  
P.O. Box 261  
Eau Claire, WI 54702

DistrictView@aainwestwis.org

If you have an event you'd like listed here,  
just contact the editor.

*Check out the District website  
or ask your meeting's GSR for what's ahead.*

### Upcoming Events

District View  
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