

District 05 Meeting

August 12, 2015

6:45pm opened with serenity prayer!

Introductions: (13) GSR'S (20) Total in Attendance!

### **Secretary's Report: Shane**

- Reports Due: Corrections, Public Information, and Webmaster
- Passed around contact list.
- Starting next month I will be attending night classes at CVTC
- Derek B, will be our note taker for the rest of the year. Thank you Derek for being of service. I will continue to send out information and meeting minutes for the rest of my term!
- **At the end of the meeting minutes there will be attachments. Please open and print them off for your meetings back home.**

### **Treasure Report: Ron**

- Savings Acct: \$455.36
- Checking Acct: \$863.47
- Cash Assets: \$1,398.83
- Reimbursement for Nicholas \$30.60 for copying expense for District Meeting. And also looking for reimbursement of last months \$55.60 that was approved!
- Reimbursement for Molly \$30.00 for rent!
- Reimbursement for District Rent \$27.00

### **Workshop Report: Paul H.**

- A Workshop on AA's Primary Purpose will be held in Eau Claire on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Where: Alano Club, Time: 1-4pm. See you there!
- This flyer will be attached for you to print off and take to your meetings.

### **Corrections Report: Molly**

- The Committee requests 30\$ paid to Club 12 for rent for the last quarter.
- The Chippewa Prison orientation had a great turn out. Thanks to all who attended. Unfortunately, the original plan to have numerous volunteers come in every week to make it a regular group is no longer a possibility, due to a change in decisions from prison staff.
- The experience did, however, lead the committee to consider the possibility that the turnout may have been better because people were allowed to attend the orientation before completing a volunteer application and being officially accepted. I have sent emails to Eau Claire and Dunn county staff requesting feedback on that possibility for their facilities. I am awaiting their responses.
- A new flier has been created and is being emailed to all GSRs and committee chairs with volunteer applications attached. This flyer will be attached at the end of the meeting minutes!

### **Public Information Report: Myron**

- Since our last report on 5/13/2015, the committee held regular bi-monthly meetings on May 20<sup>th</sup>, with six members present, and on July 15<sup>th</sup>, with 13 members present.
- We stuffed and mailed updated district meeting lists, Al-Anon meeting lists, and contact information to 275 **places of worship** in District 05.

- We are discussing ways to structure the committee so there is a lead member for each of our on-going projects, in order to lessen the load on the chairperson. Going forward, there will be a committee secretary position; a lead member to generate and maintain databases; a lead for workshops; and leads on our projects for schools, churches, seniors, hotel/motels, and Pierce Co. drug court.
- We have identified our candidate for the next chair of the PI committee. He is Paul M., currently GSR for the Came to Believe Monday night group in River Falls. Paul has been very active on the committee for 3+ years. We have every confidence he will lead us well.
- We would welcome an invitation from any group in District 05 to organize a workshop on Anonymity. We hope to do 3 such workshops over the fall/winter season, as we did last year. We would especially welcome a workshop in areas of the district where we have not yet done one.
- Our next bi-monthly meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at the River Falls Alano Club. All AA members who wish to do service to AA are welcome to attend.

**Webmaster Report: Jason L.**

I've done a LOT of work on the website in recent weeks, although you (hopefully) don't notice anything different than usual.

1. Money verification for the conversion and 5-years of hosting included.
  - a. the check I was previously given for 5 years of hosting and 1 year of domain renewal, was for \$257.33
  - b. I submitted a receipt to the Treasurer (via email) for \$258.11 and I am NOT asking for reimbursement but want to explain because this leads to #2 and a pretty cool opportunity we have as a district.
    - i. First, the quote I was given did not include the \$0.18 annual fee that ICANN gets for registering all of the website domains in the world.
    - ii. Second, we were given a free (as in 1 additional, not existing) domain name for 3 years. Free that is except for the ICANN fee. Basically I paid \$0.78 for us to have an option to improve the ease at which people can find us; more details follow...
      1. *\*\*For more information about ICANN check out the following link...*  
<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/welcome-2012-02-25-en>

2. More info about the 'free' Domain Name:
  - a. I did have to name the 'free' domain name as part of the transaction and the 2 hour or so phone call.
  - b. What I did was follow suit with what our area currently uses "area74.org" so I chose "district05.org" which (fortunately) was available.
  - c. If we do nothing different, for the next 3 years we will have a mirror of our existing site ([www.aainwestwis.org](http://www.aainwestwis.org)) at the new site ([www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)).

3. QUESTION FOR THE DISTRICT BODY with potential change in domain name:
  - a. **"Which domain name do you think would be easier for someone to find the website for District 05?"**

- i. **Current:** [www.aainwestwis.org](http://www.aainwestwis.org)
- ii. **Proposed:** [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)

- b. SUPPORTING INFORMATION - Take a moment to please consider the following information
- i. I have heard comments several times from people about our website not being a bit obscure. If we are District 05, then most people are going to look for us at [district05.something...](http://district05.something...) *Just like CNN is at [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) or the white house is at [whitehouse.gov](http://whitehouse.gov)*
  - ii. If we were ever going to make a change, we have a very safe opportunity to do so right now. If we changed the URL (website name) listed on our meeting directory, and in the District View, for the next 1 year we would have no cost associated with this. Also, we would be able to have our old URL point to the new one.
  - iii. We HAVE planned on paying \$18.17 per year (for the [aainwestwis.org](http://aainwestwis.org) domain name) for the next 4 years (total of 5 years).
    1. IF we switch now, to [district05.org](http://district05.org), and if we decided to keep the old URL ([aainwestwis.org](http://aainwestwis.org)) active for a few (3) years we would have no increase in cost associated with that transition, and we would have 3 full years for meeting lists to be pulled from circulation.

4. Moving Forward - Committees Page Addition to the website. will begin working on this during the weekend of Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>.

- a. The link for the Corrections Calendar will be replaced with the Committee Page, which will have a link for each Committee.
- b. The link for "Information for Those Visiting District 05 Correctional Facilities" will be replaced with a link to a form that users can fill out to submit their name, phone, and email address as being interested in serving.
- i. We won't be able to capture information from a web-based form and put it into a spreadsheet or database without paying money.
- ii. We will be able to capture information from a web-based form and have it send an email with this information. I will set this up to email the webmaster account, which can then be easily forwarded onto the manager of this information. The district would need to determine who will create, manage, and maintain this information.

\*\*This report by Jason L. Was tabled until next month. There was much discussion.

**CVIG Report: Bob** was not present for report.

**WICYPAA Report: Cole** was not present for report.

Special Needs Report: Shawna R.

- It's now been over a month since the Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention in Atlanta Georgia. It is estimated that 70,000 Alcoholics, Al-Anons and Alateens were in Atlanta, GA, July 2-5, representing 90 countries, to celebrate the 80th birthday of Alcoholics Anonymous. Nearly 800 speakers participated in topic meetings, panels, and special interest and regional meetings. Although most meetings were held in English, there were also meetings in Spanish, French, Italian, German, Japanese, Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, Swedish and American Sign Language. As District 05 Special Needs Chair I believe I took everything in with a different outlook than I had before. There were many strengths noted at the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Convention. American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters were widely used at the hundreds of topic meetings. Can you imagine how much coordination that must have

taken to ensure there were ALS interpreters at all those meetings? Also it appeared that the Convention planners took special care to include AA's with differing abilities as speakers. One thing I noted was the long distances required to get anywhere at the convention. I saw many scooters and wheelchairs in use. Upon my arrival I saw one man resting off to the side of the huge throng of people walking to the Georgia World Congress Center. A bit later I saw another man trip and fall while stepping off a curb. Many other AA's went to help him up. Another area of concern besides walking distances was the need to get a badge holder. The line was literally overwhelming and I saw many people with disability challenges finding makeshift chairs while waiting in line.

- For the opening ceremony everyone was required to walk quite a distance to see the main speakers at the Georgia Dome. I was glad to see that people with differing abilities had a front row seat to the opening ceremony that was strictly adhered to and enforced by The Convention Center staff. There were 3 speakers the first night and one was a man (Michael B. from California) who used American Sign Language and signed his talk to an interpreter. The interpreter then spoke it for him to the audience. His was an amazing story but my favorite part was at the end when he said he didn't like the term "Special Needs". He pointed out that if WE didn't have an interpreter telling us what he was saying, "who is really the one with special needs"?? Great Point! Lastly I received a letter from the General Service Office acknowledging my submission of information as District 05 Special Needs Chair, and I received the Special Needs Workbook from GSO.

Dear Shawna,

Greetings from the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous. My name is Steve, I am a G.S.O. staff member and my duties include serving the Special Needs-Accessibilities desk.

Thank you for writing

Steve Smithing, I am glad to be in touch. Shawna, your contact information is being forwarded to G.S.O. Records Department. All of us at G.S.O. are glad to be touch with you and your committee. We hope for the very best in your service endeavors!

In fellowship,

G.S.O. staff  
212.870.3344

### **Group Updates:**

- ***Approved was to add Sand Creek, "New Hope Meeting" 201 W. Central to the district 05 meeting list***
- ***There was a question on the Thursday meeting in Augusta, Time: 6pm, United Methodist Church. If that meeting was alive or dark?***

### **DCM Report: Nicholas S.**

- Thank You Paul for fulfilling your role as Alternate DCM this evening and facilitating this meeting of GSR's in my absence. I am fulfilling an obligation tonight that is AA inspired. It is the epiditmey of taking spiritual actions and leaving the outcome to our higher power. I send you hello along with the 60 youth visiting me this week from Selma, Alabama and the

60+ youth and host families they are meeting tonight to begin a week long exchange program that I have been a Co-Creator of.

- Our book tells us to become of maximum service to God and our fellows. AA has taught me to do that and I have been graced with an abundance as a result. It is truly remarkable. Each of you have played a significant role in my recovery and I humbly thank you.
- **Next Month is elections night! Please have AA Members in mind for all the positions that need to be elected. We will be seeking the most qualified individuals. I will bring counters with that will conduct the elections. We will be using substantial unanimity for the officer positions and simple majority for committee chairs if the body is agreeable to that.**
- This past month I have visited the Northside Group in Eau Claire, attended the Chippewa Valley Round Up, a number of speaking engagements and met with a disenfranchised resident who lives in the geographic borders of district 6. I (we) see where and how we might be able to be helpful.
- I attended the Chippewa Valley Treatment Prison/Corrections orientation for the new weekly meeting which will be held there. There were approximately 25 in attendance! Great Stuff!
- Thank You Again for allowing me to serve District 05!!!!

#### **OLD Business:**

- 2016 Fall Conference Bid – Read letter from Jay Hands. Vote on if District 5 wants to put forth a bid. **Tabled until next Month.**
- October Workshop – Do we want a comprehensive district 5 workshop? **Yes**
- Guidelines Review and Vote. **Approved and will be included into the minutes.**
- Sand Creek on Meeting Directory. **Added to district 05 meeting List.**

#### **New Business:**

- **Mary Jo will give delegates report in October. Nicholas will make flyers and announcements.**
- **SEPTEMBER ELECTIONS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

**SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 REPORTS DUE. Grapevine. Literature. Newsletter/Intergroup**