

The District 05 View

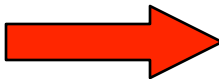


Vol 2024, FEB issue

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

Step 2: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Message from our Pat T - District Committee Member



Early in my sobriety, I passed over Step 2. I had grown up with a God, so I thought that would be good enough. As I worked the program, I began to develop an entirely different understanding of a higher power. I found a loving and forgiving God. The religious God I grew up with was a punishing God, so I had drifted away. As I began to become more open minded and heard the experiences of people in AA, my relationship with my higher power opened the door to growth. I have since become reliant on my higher power in almost every aspect of my life. I am grateful for this freedom!

I hit the ground running in January. We had our monthly GSR meeting. I have been working with other officers at District 05 to best communicate and disseminate information. I attended the Area 74 introductory meeting for new DCMs. Topics covered were, ensuring good communication with the Area, introductions, dates to remember and an opportunity to have questions answered. Our Area 74 Delegate, Nicholas S, also spoke about the Delegate's workshop March 2nd. It will be held at St Stephen Lutheran Church in Wausau. A key note, the zoom capability will be limited this year. Attendance in person is suggested. I have invited Nicholas to share about the Delegate's workshop at our February GSR meeting, February 14th at the Menomonie Leisure Center at 6:45 PM. All are welcome.

My goal is to attend as many meetings in District05, as possible, in the coming months. I am using the meeting list maintained by our Webmaster. The list is available on district05.org. If your group or meeting is missing or has incorrect information, please contact the webmaster@district05.org with any updates.

I look forward to being of service in our district. Please feel free to reach out to me at dcm@district05.org

Yours in service,

Pat T

District 05 GSR Meeting Minutes p. 8,9

GSO Re: Literature Changes Feedback to the Area p.10,11

GSO Bob W. letter of Jan 25th, p. 12,13

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

IN PERSON AT
THE MENOMONIE LEISURE
CENTER

1412 6TH ST. E
MENOMONIE, WI 54751

OR
JOIN ONLINE

Zoom ID: 829 0126 1204

Password: district05
All are welcome!

GRAPEVINE WEBSITE

<http://www.aagrapevine.org/>

Keep the 7th Tradition
Alive! Support our district
with cash or check .

Mail checks to:

District 05, PO Box 1902

Eau Claire, WI 54702

AREA 74 NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

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

DISTRICT 05 THE VIEW NEWSLETTER

Send an email to: newsletter@district05.org to request a digital copy in your inbox each month.

The District 05 View



Tradition 2: "For our group purpose, there is but one authority - a loving God. He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Member Share - Claire Z. Step 2

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

To "come to" ...which is exactly what I did. I "came to" as if from a coma or some other state of unconsciousness. Until coming into the rooms of AA, I had a total lack of consciousness regarding matters of belief and spirituality.

Like many in the program, Step 1 was easy to accept. Powerlessness and unmanageability regarding alcohol. If I didn't believe that I'd never have gone to my first meeting. The powerlessness got me here. Defeat duly admitted.

But Step 2 presented some issues.

That there is a power greater than myself, of course there is I thought: the cycle of life, death and re-birth of flowers and leaves in the spring; the power of the live-giving sun, the force of deep oceans and each wave that comes ashore. I had no trouble knowing there is a power greater than I. But a power than could restore my sanity? No, only I by golly could do that. I was convinced for so long that armed with enough self-help books and therapist sessions, sanity would auto-magically come.

And being an alcoholic, I even overthought the sanity part. Could something be "restored" that I never seemed to have? Was I insane or just a bit different from the so-called normal people (you know, all those people from seemingly happy, healthy families – capable of glib conversations, brimming with self-assurance etc.).

Mercifully, at my third meeting of AA, I found a sponsor who would patiently listen to my intellectual arguments about higher powers, the power of self, the no-God(s), the strength of my own good ideas, concepts and willpower that would get me through. She convinced me that I just needed to keep coming back, to listen (liked I'd never listened in my life) to the experiences, strength, and hope from members, to read the Big Book with her, and to (gasp!) pray.

But I did those things. As uncomfortable as those things felt, I did as my sponsor (heavily) suggested – I acted as if. And through "acting as if", I did come to believe that a greater power than I existed and if I kept following the steps in conjunction with meetings, sponsorship, and service work, I'd find sanity. And then surely serenity would come.

I am a grateful recovering alcoholic with 5 years sobriety – someone who couldn't string 24 hours together without grabbing a wine bottle. My gratitude to the Bill W. and the founders, the lines of sponsorship that came before me and the line I'm in, the writings, and the magnificent and inspiring shares of those in meetings that keep me on this road to sanity and serenity. Thank you.

Claire Z.

The District 05 View



Concept 2: "The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs."

[District05 Website Events Calendar Here](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER 2023 – 2024		
10/14/2023	Election Assembly	Rhineland, WI
11/17-11/19/2023	ECR Forum	East Central Regional Forum Independence, OH
12/16/2023	Area Committee Mtg	(Optional) Virtual
2/9 – 2/11/2024	Conference Del Past	Area 22 – Muncie, IN
3/2/24	Delegates Workshop	– Holiday Inn, Wausau, WI ***tentative***
3/2/24	Area Comm Mtg	– Holiday Inn, Wausau, WI ***tentative***
3/30/24	Winter Assembly	Rhineland, WI
4/14-4/20/24	73 rd Gen Serv Conf	Brooklyn, NY
5/17-5/19/24	Area 74 Spring Conf	District 13 Ashland, WI
5/18/24	Area 74 Assembly	District 13 Ashland, WI
5/19/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 13 Ashland, WI
6/7-6/9/24	East Centrl Reg Conf	Michigan State Conv Grand Rapids, MI
8/3/24	Area Comm Mtg (optional)	Virtual
9/13-9/15/24	Area 74 Fall Conf	District 04 Stevens Point
9/14/24	Area Assembly	District 04 Stevens Point
9/15/24	Area Comm Mtg	District 04 Stevens Point
10/12/24	Fall Assembly	Quality Inn Rhineland, WI
12/2/24	Area Comm Mtg	Virtual

NOTE FROM THE DELEGATE: The servants of Area 74 are excited to provide the dates for the Area 7 Service Structure. We are lucky to live in an area that hosts many conferences, workshops and fellowship events. As your trusted servants, we sometimes miss the chance to participate in local events because they conflict with the service events you have entrusted us to conduct. We hope that, by providing the Area 74 service structure dates in early fall; they can be considered as you plan your service and fellowship events for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you.

NOTE FROM CO-EDITORS: We have combined the general events and the Area 74 Service Structure events into one calendar.

BOLD = AREA 74 events UNBOLD = General AA events in our area

**DISTRICT 05
PUBLIC
INFORMATION
COMMITTEE MEETING**
A GREAT WAY TO BE OF SERVICE

DESIGN | PSA | INFORMATION BOOTHS | AND MORE

JOIN US THE SECOND MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:15PM

ZOOM ID: 961 8488 4909 PASSWORD: 609156
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL PI@DISTRICT05.ORG

Beyond The Steps!
a weekly meeting on the 12 concepts of world service
hosted by VITA groups from around the country
wednesdays at 7pm central starting January 3rd

zoom id: 856 2102 1018
password: 461064

The District 05 View



64TH
ANNUAL

Club 12
BANQUET
& Dance

EARLY BIRD PRICE: \$35 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14TH

REGULAR TICKET PRICE: \$45 FEBRUARY 15TH UNTIL SOLD OUT

THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!

Saturday March 16th

4PM- SOCIAL HOUR
5PM- AL-ANON PANEL
6PM- DINNER
7PM- AA SPEAKER
Paul J. Lexington, Kentucky

8PM- DESSERT &
DANCE TO FOLLOW!

*Location: Holiday Inn Eau Claire South
Address: 4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701*

TICKETS: \$45 PER PERSON

Sunday March 17th

11AM- SOCIAL HOUR/BRUNCH
12PM- AA SPEAKER
David L. Madison, Wisconsin

*Location: Alano Club 12
2926 Pamona Dr, Eau Claire, WI 54701*

BRING A DISH TO PASS!

MORE INFO CONTACT: ALEXIS L.
715-338-5245



Recovery on the River Jamboree

PRESENTS

Step 6 & 7

WORKSHOP

Gary S & Jake F
River Falls, WI

"THE MEAT AND POTATOES!"

\$10 Suggested Donation

LUNCH • FELLOWSHIP • 50/50

Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. Eau Claire
Saturday, March 23rd, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

AA & Al-Anon

www.recoveryontheriver.org

January Sobriety Celebrations!



Jim S.
27 Years ~ 1/1/24



Josh C.
1 Month ~ 1/7/24

Ebony
5 Months ~ 1/19/24

You're invited to share with the District continuous sobriety dates with the District!

Each month, the newsletter will print your first name and date/duration of sobriety - and if you choose, you can include a photo of the back of your head in keeping with respecting anonymity.

Send this information to me for February by 2/27/2024, and it will be included in the March issue.

Submit to newsletter@district05.org.



Call For Stories

For the

A.A. Pamphlet



Do You Think You're Different?

In compliance with a 2022 Conference Advisory Action the Trustees Literature Committee is seeking submissions from AA members with diverse backgrounds in order to update the A.A. pamphlet *Do You Think You're Different?* with stories that represent a greater diversity.

In particular, stories are sought from A.A. members that reflect multicultural backgrounds, those who have multiple alienating factors, as well as those from diverse populations not addressed in current A.A. literature.

Formatting Manuscripts: 500-800 words, double spaced, in 12-point font.

Handwritten manuscripts: should be approximately 5 to 6 pages.

Deadline: April 30, 2024

Submission link: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/5a77c27d179d4856b32eed86b01e3426>

Email: pamphletstories@aa.org Subject Line: "Do You Think You're Different?"

Postal Mail: Attn. Literature Assignment

General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station

New York, NY 10163

Write: "Pamphlet" on the envelope, and at the top of the first page of the manuscript.

Please include your complete name, address, and email/phone information on the first page of your manuscript. A copy of your manuscript should be retained for your files. The anonymity of all authors will be observed whether their story is selected for publication or not.

The District 05 View



District 05 GSR Meeting Minutes Wednesday January 10th, 2023 6:45 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. (Zoom)

Opening:

Serenity Prayer – 13 GSR'S Present - - - Tradition 1 - Max

Welcome:

Introductions, Anniversaries, Speaking Engagements, Review of Membership Guidelines

Reports

(3-5 minutes each)

Note: Email reports to secretary prior to monthly GSR meetings

Officers

• DCM (Pat T)

- Welcome incoming GSRs and committee members. Also welcome back to members continuing to serve in their roles. I have been organizing my thoughts and files to best serve in my new role as DCM. There are many things to process and many that I probably haven't thought of yet. I will do my best to convey information from the GSRs to the Area and vice-a-versa. I encourage GSRs to subscribe to the District View and the Area Now and Then. Both are full of information pertinent to District 05 and Area 74- calendars, minutes, GSO information, fliers and much more. Please reach out to the secretary (Taylor) secretary@district05.org and dcm@district05.org with your contact information to receive the minutes and other pertinent information on a timely basis. Also, please complete a GSR Change form and forward that to secretary@district05.org and dcm@district05.org, as well. We will forward that form to Area Registrar and they will convey to New York. You will receive a GSR packet as a result. I learned a lot as a GSR for my group. GSRs play a vital part in having your group's voice reach all the way to GSO. This is your meeting. My role is to facilitate the meetings and bring your collective voices to the Area. I encourage new GSRs to review The AA Service Manual. Feel free to reach out to me with questions or comments. I look forward to being of service. Thank you for your service!

• Alt. DCM (Courtney R.)

- Reviewed responsibilities.

• Secretary (Taylor H)

- No Report

• Finance (Kaufua)

- Bank account was transferred to Pat T and Kaufua
- Email Treasurer for reimbursements
- Debit card will come in a week or two
- Ken voted to approve Treasurer minutes - Matt seconded - passed unanimously.

• Corrections– Pam S.

- 30 people screened to go into Eau Claire county jails - waiting for background checks to come back
- In person to Pepin county starting tomorrow night at 7PM Thursdays - no background checks
- Men's meeting at Pierce county on Thursdays at 5:30PM

• PI– Doug H.

- Will now be meeting in person at 6:15PM on the second Monday of the month at Acoustic cafe
- Requesting GSRs to recommend groups to elect PI representatives

The District 05 View



- **Special Accessibilities– Jim S.**
 - Main focus is making meetings accessible to those who can't get out of the house via zoom - Let Jim know if you know someone
- **Treatment - Isaiah**
 - Reach out to Isaiah if you would like to be added to speaker contact list
 - Continuing to meet on zoom on the second Monday of the month at 6:45PM
 - Discontinued temporary contact lists at Fahrman and Arbor until further notice - last known update to list unknown
- **Archives Chair - Brittany**
 - Meeting will previous district 05 Archivist to get more information and get literature
 - Looking for recommendations on what to do
- **Webmaster - Weaver**
 - Requested committee chairs and GSRs to email webmaster@district05.org with email and phone number to update and forward committee chair email and information
 - Requested GSRs to send meeting information to webmaster@district05.org to make updates on district list and meeting guide app (Time, day, place, zoom, etc.)

Old Business

- Chippew Valley Intergroup Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00PM
- Grapevine and literature representatives are still vacant

New Business

- Reach out to Pat to update contact information (Groups, committee chairs)
- Questionnaire on the original AA text regarding changes - GSRs bring information to group for individual members to fill out - Pat has a copy, reach out to Pat for more information
- Delegates workshop is on March 2nd in Wausau - GSRs and committee chairs are encouraged to attend
- Winter assembly is on March 30th in Rhinelander
- North side group GSR
 - Potluck on Saturday March 9th
 - Patti Eleva Step Group GSR
 - Eleva potluck will be on April 13th - flyer was sent to webmaster
- Discussed Moving meeting to Eau Claire
 - Large amount of support in moving meeting to Eau Claire
 - Rent would be 20\$
 - SNA is willing to share internet access with district
 - Support in moving back to Menominee in the future if attendance from groups East begin to join meeting
- Reasoning to move to Eau Claire is because of the people who attend are from Eau Claire or south of Eau Claire
- GSRs encouraged to bring idea back to groups

Meeting closed at 8:15

Please direct all
communications to:

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

November 13, 2023

Dear Trusted Servants:

A.A.'s Co-Founder, Bill W., in his 1953 address to the General Service Conference, stated that he did not consider himself the author of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Big Book (Our Great Responsibility, p. 92). He also alluded to the fact that in the various A.A. literature published prior to his passing, he borrowed heavily from other sources, and that other A.A. members made significant contributions.

On the other hand, addressing the historical context of some of the writings of our Founders, many members in our Fellowship have expressed strong sentiment against any changes in the first 164 pages of Alcoholics Anonymous, the Big Book, as well as the Preface, the Forewords, The Doctor's Opinion, Doctor Bob's Nightmare, and the Appendices. In fact, as early as 1995 and most recently in 2022, Advisory Actions designed to protect the above-referenced contents have been passed by the General Service Conference.

In response to a Committee Consideration from the 73rd General Service Conference suggesting that trustees' Literature Committee seek input from the Fellowship (including but not limited to Area delegate feedback) regarding any possible future changes to literature written by A.A.'s Founders, the trustees' Literature committee agreed it would be beneficial to gather shared experience from the Fellowship regarding this topic.

We would like to hear from you – the top of the triangle! While we hope that the suggested questions will help to spark thoughtful sharing and discussion, please feel free to add questions that we may not have thought of that you feel may best inform the discussion. Most of all, we are grateful for and thank you for your participation.

In fellowship,

The trustees' Literature Committee (2023-2024)

***Attachment: Suggested Questions HOW SHOULD WE TREAT A.A. FOUNDERS' WRITINGS
(See next page)***

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SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that A.A. Founders would object to or embrace revisions to their writings? If yes, why? If not, why?
2. Do you think the Founders' writings are effective in reaching new members? If not, what measures do you think can be taken to resolve this issue?
3. What reasons would you consider for changing our Founders' writings?
4. How do you feel about changing A.A. Founders' writings to replace outdated references?
5. What suggestions do you have for preserving the Founders' writings, along with keeping pace with our current A.A. Society and its future?
6. Should there be a special Conference process for approval of changes to our Founders' writings? (e.g., super, or qualified majority – 75%, and/or 2-year consideration process.)
7. What additional ideas, thoughts or suggestions can you share about changing or not changing the Founders' writings?

Note: Please be as concise as possible in your responses to the questions.

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communications to:

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Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163
Fax: (212) 870-3003

January 25, 2024

To: GSB Trustees, AAWS Board, AA Grapevine Board, Trustees Emeriti, Appointed Committee Members, Current Delegates, Past Delegates, Past Trustees, All Conference Members, IGCOs: U.S. and Canada, International GSOs, GSRs, DCMs, Area Officers, Area Registrars, GSO/AA Grapevine Employees

Dear A.A. Friends,

On behalf of the **General Service Office**, I wish you a very Happy New Year! Although we A.A.s strive to live one day at a time, for many of us the new year brings a spirit of renewal and an added spark of hope. I share this spirit for A.A.'s future as well!

I want to provide an update to my most recent letter regarding A.A.'s finances in which I shared details of the challenges we've been facing and the need for sustained increases in contributions. The response from the Fellowship in the last two months has been extremely heartwarming. We have heard from many of you expressing your support, concerns, and understanding in the form of heartfelt messages and generous contributions to the General Service Board. I want to personally express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

I'm very encouraged and happy to share that we have seen recent increases in both the number of contributions received as well as total dollar amounts. In fact, in December, we received contributions from more than 9,000 groups and members. The average we typically receive in December is 6,900. This increased participation has resulted in the highest amount ever received in the month of December, just over \$1.65 million. We also saw an increase in participation in November just following the call for help. On a year-to-date basis, contributions to the General Service Board also have exceeded the highest ever received at over \$10.8 million. This amount also exceeds the amount budgeted for 2023, which was \$10.5 million.

Your positive response and increases in participation and dollar amounts have been very helpful to operations in the last few months, however, we are still facing difficulties meeting expenses. Gross literature sales in December were strong, but profits for 2023 will be below budget. As I mentioned in my November message, the reduction in literature sales and profits has been the driving factor in the loss in income. Although contributions have increased post-pandemic, literature profits have dropped at a higher rate. Our literature is a vital spiritual tool and service to our Fellowship. The volume in which it is purchased is based on the needs of the Fellowship. It is very important to keep it affordable so it can be distributed as widely as possible and assuring it finds its way into the hands of those who need it. But we cannot rely on increased literature profits to solve our financial challenges.

In addition, the ability to rebuild the Reserve Fund is also challenging. As of December year end, the balance is sufficient to cover approximately 7.28 months' operating expenses, which is less than the general expectation of 9 to 12 months.

Your overwhelming response also brings to mind the principle of participation that resides within our Seventh Tradition. Even more significant than financial contributions is our participation, which fills us with the spirit of belonging and connection to A.A. This is in line with the overarching goal to meet and overcome our financial challenges in the long term. That is, more frequent and sustained contributions but also from a larger representation of our groups and members. **Continued on following page**

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Continued from previous page

Bill W.'s insights on the Seventh Tradition reinforce the answer to our financial challenges:

“But this leaves us with a responsibility — one that every member ought to understand. We cannot skimp when the treasurer of our group passes the hat. Our groups, our areas, and A.A. as a whole will not function unless our services are sufficient and their bills are paid. “When we meet and defeat the temptation to take large gifts, we are only being prudent. But when we are generous with the hat we give a token that we are grateful for our blessings and evidence that we are eager to share what we have found with all those who still suffer.” (*The Language of the Heart*, p. 221)

The AAWS and AA Grapevine Boards, in strong collaboration with the office, have been working very hard for the last several months preparing the 2024 budget. The General Service Board will review, discuss, and finalize the budget during their next scheduled quarterly Board Weekend at the end of this month. Several projects and items have been deferred in order to present a balanced budget.

So let's keep it going—continued participation! Perhaps your group, or you personally, may consider setting up a reoccurring contribution to the General Service Board. It's very simple to set up through our online contributions site, which can be accessed through [AA.org](https://www.aa.org) or by clicking [here](#). There are options to make a one-time, weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly contribution.

Thank you again for your participation not only with our Seventh Tradition but with all each and every one of you do for our beloved Fellowship. Your participation is the very best investment in A.A.'s future and keeps Alcoholics Anonymous vibrant and available for all who need it today, tomorrow, and beyond.

With gratitude for all the sacrifices you make for A.A.

Bob W.
General Manager, G.S.O.