



# The District View

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January 2018

**District 05 Meeting in**  
Menomonie, Wisconsin!  
1412 6th Street E  
Menomonie, WI 54751-3331  
2nd Wed. of each month 6:45pm

If you know of an alcoholic willing to serve A.A. at the district level, this meeting is the place and time to do so! You can't keep what you have unless you give it away.

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\*Always looking for experience, strength and hope experiences to add to future newsletters. Submissions can be made to The District View email at the top of this page.

**Step 1:** We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

**Tradition 1:** Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

**Concept 1:** Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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## **District 05 meeting December 13, 2017**

6:45pm opened with Serenity Prayer

Introductions

### **Secretary Report: Derek B.**

- Read last month's minute highlights.
- Passed around new contact sheet, it's blank so please provide your e-mails.
- Please try to get reports to me before the meeting you're due to give a report, typing it in the body of the e-mail is acceptable.
- No objections to approving last month's minutes.

### **Treasurer Report: Mary B.**

- Savings: \$460 Checking: \$2,303.60

### **DCM: Bryon B.**

- I want to start out by saying this has been best 2 years of my life. Not that being the DCM was the cause for that, but it is a part of that. Since being introduced into a spiritual way of life, what happens around me keeps getting better and better. An example of that is that both vehicles I drive are out of service and I have to borrow my daughter's car to get to the meeting tonight. Before AA this would be a cause of great anger and frustration. Today I am grateful that most times I have a working vehicle. My daughter is still in my life and is glad to help. There are still bumps in the road, but my program has enabled me to keep going, with a smile.
- As far as reporting on any District work that I have done there was not much this last 30 days with one exception. I have been working with 2 AA members from Bloomer trying to figure out a way to get the lights turned on in District 06. I will continue to meet with them and report back to District 05 periodically. They may need some help up there.

### **Alternate DCM: Jim P.**

- Nothing to report

### **Treatment**

- Elections occurred Monday and all the coordinator positions and secretary were filled.
- Matt A. will take over January 1.

### **WICYPAA: John S.**

- WICYPAA is in La Crosse, WI – January 19-21, 2018
- 2 upcoming events:  
Saturday December 16, 2017 at 11:00am pancake breakfast panel at the KC hall  
\$5 suggested donation, but no one will be turned away.

New years dance on December 31, 2017 speaker from 8-9 dance to follow (at Club 12), \$5 suggested donation, but no one will be turned away.

**Intergroup: Mary B.**

- Upcoming elections: December 27th (might be rescheduled for the 4th Wednesday in January) at 6:00pm (club 12 small building).

**PI: Myron M.**

- Had final meeting of 2017 and welcomed Doug H. as the incoming chair.
- Discussed a new effort concentrated on homeless shelters.

**Meeting Updates:**

- Gay Chatter – needs to be updated for printable schedule to match the online version
- Saturday Night Alive is considering hosting a Tradition Workshop Series beginning the first week in February, more to come after the group approves it.
- 2 new meetings in Menomonie starting soon:  
Tuesday 6:30pm St. Paul's Church  
Thursday 6:30pm St. Paul's Church

**Old Business:**

- Vote on budget
- Proposed change for administrative expenses for printing – Accepted
- Proposed change to reduce Newsletter from \$150 to \$50 - Accepted
- Budget is approved.
- Should Area74 accept contributions from “other AA entities” (i.e. WICYPAA) (Yes)
- Should District05 accept contributions from “other AA entities” (i.e. WICYPAA) (Yes)
- District05 believes the Area Newsletter “The Now and Then” should offered electronically, as opposed to mailing it to everyone on the defunct list in order to reduce cost and increase delivery effectiveness. (Approved)
- Special Accessibility Chair nominations

**New Business:**

- Holiday gift check for Menomonie Leisure Center custodian? (Approved)

**Next month's meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup>. Attendees: All committee chairs, GSRs, and officers.**

## Members' Views

### **...on STEP #1**

At my first meeting, everyone introduced themselves as alcoholics, so I did the same. I looked up at the Twelve Steps on the wall and thought, "Well, that's one out of the way. I'll be done in no time." With patient sponsorship and intensive exposure to collective AA wisdom, I've come to understand there's more to Step 1 than a casual 'OK, I'm one, too.'

My first admission was made in complete ignorance of what being an alcoholic really means, and it took time to absorb that hard truth. An AA speaker then said that even with a realization of my powerlessness over my disease, my admission still meant very little unless I could accept my alcoholism without resentment. That has taken considerably longer.

Like many of us, I was wondering how and why I had become an alcoholic. I even grilled my late mother about who else in our family tree may have been afflicted. I had to learn that the how and why of my becoming a drunk made no difference at all: even if I knew those answers, it wouldn't change the fact that I am an alcoholic. I had been asking those questions in one more futile attempt to find someone else to blame for my condition.

Admission, realization, acceptance without resentment, and one to go. There's really so much more to this step than meets the newcomer's eye. These days, when I'm doing pretty well spiritually, I actually experience gratitude that I am an alcoholic. I just may be getting closer to fully grasping Step 1.

*An AA Member*

### **...on TRADITION #1**

Sometimes I think about those early days in A.A., and how the Big Book was written so individuals anywhere could read the book and hopefully get sober on their own. How difficult that must have been! Today, well-established AA groups can be found in all cities and most little towns in this country. When my alcoholic crisis finally came, I knew exactly where I could go to find help because I had driven past that little Alano club---while drinking---at least a hundred times. Even in my drunken haze I often thought, "It's really good *those people* have a place to go."

I had only to walk through that door to find a warm welcome from happy, recovered people who were once just like I was then. Here was experience and strength and wisdom when I had none; here I found hope that life could actually get better.

What if that group hadn't been there for me? As Bill W. wrote in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, "... most individuals cannot recover unless there *is* a group."

It is now crystal clear to me that my recovery and serenity depend upon spiritual growth, from a former life of utter self-absorption to a life centered on usefulness to others. Service to my fellow alcoholics, to my local recovery community, and to the larger Fellowship of A.A. is crucial to my survival.

So this to me is the core of Tradition #1: A.A. is a huge farm with lots of chores that need to be done; and as I hope to remain sane and sober, I need chores to do.

And there's always going to be that next person still circling the parking lot....

*An A.A. Member*

**Members' View** will print brief essays submitted by District05 A.A. members. Please send your views to [thedistrictview@district05.org](mailto:thedistrictview@district05.org)

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## A.A. Service View

### **The General Service Representative --- G.S.R.**

*"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."*  
*---Bill W. on General Services and the G.S.R.*

In A.A. recovery, we share the joy we have found in progressing from a state of "apart from" toward becoming "a part of" something greater than ourselves. In A.A. service, there is a similar, parallel progression taken by an A.A. group: By selecting and supporting a G.S.R., the group makes a significant step away from isolation toward a meaningful connection with the wider entity which is A.A. General Service.

In the early 1950's, following the death of co-founder Dr. Bob, A.A. began to create a structure by which it could sustain itself into the future. The G.S.R. is the foundation of that structure, essentially transmitting group conscience to a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." The G.S.R. transmits not only information, but ideas and opinions. At monthly district meetings and at quarterly assemblies at the area level, G.S.R.'s cast the votes that guide A.A. decisions.

The personal qualities required of a G.S.R. candidate will seem familiar to all A.A.'s: patience, understanding, and a firm determination "to place principles before personalities." A willingness to be of use to one's fellows is the real key to A.A. service. The G.S.R. serves a 2-year term, as the A.A. "spirit of rotation" looks to provide opportunities to serve for as many members as possible.

If you know of an A.A. group that may benefit from becoming more connected to A.A., invite a member or two to a District05 monthly meeting. See p.1 for meeting details. For more information, see A.A. pamphlet #P-19, "G.S.R. -- MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN A.A."

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**Just a thought:** Winter in Wisconsin brings early darkness, tough driving, icy sidewalks, and COLD. For some of our members, it also brings increased isolation. Are familiar faces missing from your meetings this winter? **Pick up that phone!**

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**Monthly District 05 Events:** District 05 Monthly GSR Meeting is held at 6:45pm, on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Leisure Center, 1412 Sixth St., Menomonie, WI. Any AA. members are welcome to attend.

District 05 Committees offer AA service opportunities for alcoholics who want to help carry the AA message.

**Unless otherwise noted, committees meet at Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.**

**Treatment Facilities Committee** meets at 6:45pm on the 2nd Monday of every month.

**Corrections Committee** meets monthly at 7:45pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee** meets at 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month.

**Public Information Committee** meets on the ODD months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at River Falls Alano club.

**Chippewa Valley Intergroup** meets at 6:30pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month.

\*\* 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 website editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

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## **Calendar View**

The District05 website, [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org) maintains the most up-to-date listing of A.A. events in our vicinity. If you click on an event on that calendar, any flyer that has been provided for the event will appear for you to print. Please check in there regularly to keep connected with local A.A. happenings. To have your event listed on the calendar, email to [webmaster@district05.org](mailto:webmaster@district05.org)

### **January 2018:**

10th – District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th Street E, Menomonie, WI 54751-3331

19th to 21st – WICYPAA XXV (WI Conference of Young People in A.A.) Radisson Hotel, La Crosse, WI. **See the event flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)**

### **February 2018:**

3rd – Big Book Sponsorship Workshop, 2:30-5:30pm. River Falls Alano Club. **See the event flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)**

14th -- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th Street E, Menomonie, WI 54751-3331

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We are now beginning to build a database of subscribers. All G.S.R.'s and their alternates, district officeholders, and district trusted servants will receive the newsletter. We hope *The District View* soon will be available to at least one member of each A.A. group in the district. Please share this issue with fellow members via email, and we hope those who are able to do so will print a copy to share with A.A. members who do not have access to email.

If you wish to have your email address removed from our subscription list, simply email us with your request.

Your comments, suggestions and essay submissions are most welcome! Please send them by email to the same address, above.

