



The District View

Web: www.district05.org Email: thedistrictview@gmail.com

Volume 2018, Issue 6

June 2018

District 05 Meeting in Menomonie, WI!
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.

****We always are looking for your written 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 6: Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

Tradition 6: An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Concept 6: On behalf of A.A. as a whole, our General Service Conference has the principal responsibility for the maintenance of our world services, and it traditionally has the final decision respecting large matters of general policy and finance. But the Conference also recognizes that the chief initiative and the active responsibility in most of these matters should be exercised primarily by the Trustee members of the Conference when they act among themselves as the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

May 9, 2018 6:45 PM

Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th St E, Menomonie, WI 54751

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 11 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - Sent around contact sheets for GSRs for additions, verification, and indication of GSR vs. Alt. GSR.
 - Offered to help anybody who does not have a Google account to sign up for one at the end of the meeting.
 - *Note:* Please try to get reports to the secretary before the meeting you're due to give a report. An emailed report with or without an attachment is acceptable.
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - Report Period: 04/11/18-05/09/18
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$3389.35
 - Group Contributions: \$229.00
 - Expenses: \$237.60 (PI - \$90.60; Rent - \$27.00; PO Box - \$120.00)
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$3380.75
 - Year-to-Date Budget Summary:

Budget Item	Remaining Budget	Yearly Budget
Administrative	\$680.00	\$800.00
DCM	\$975.00	\$1000.00
Alt. DCM	\$300.00	\$300.00
Archives	\$50.00	\$50.00
Corrections	\$418.00	\$500.00
CPC	\$190.14	\$250.00
Grapevine	\$100.00	\$100.00
Literature	\$50.00	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$150.00	\$150.00
PI	\$355.00	\$500.00
Rent	\$108.00	\$162.00
Special Accessibilities	\$100.00	\$100.00
Treatment	\$323.00	\$400.00
Webmaster	\$120.00	\$120.00

- **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

The following reports were given and accepted:

- **District Committee Member (DCM) – Marybeth S.**
 - Marybeth submitted a written report, which she summarized in person:

I attended the Area 74 DCM Conference Call at the end of April. The discussion focused on safety at meetings. I would like this to be a topic for discussion at one of our future District Meetings.

I will be attending the Spring Area 74 Conference in Green Bay on May 18-20. The Area Assembly will be held on May 19th. Our Area Delegate will be reporting on the General Service Conference she attended in New York in April. This is an excellent opportunity for AA members to hear what decisions were made by the Delegates on the proposals made and voted on by our Area 74 DCMs and GSRs and carried to this conference by our Delegate.

The Alternate DCM for District 05 has resigned. We will be electing someone to fill this position at our June meeting. If you or someone you know is interested in serving AA in this capacity, please plan on attendance at the June meeting. Suggested qualifications include extended sobriety (2-5 years); prior service as a GSR and a willingness to fill in when the DCM is unavailable.

I continue planning to attend as many AA meetings in our District as possible. Please contact me if you would like me to attend one of your Group Conscience and/or Business Meetings. Thank you for allowing me to be of service. ~ Marybeth Schuster
- **Alternate DCM – Vacant.**
 - No report.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – Pat T.**
 - The committee is making a list of contacts who may want CPC to come in and deliver presentations.
 - The CPC workbook is being reviewed.
 - Pat made a request for \$45 to cover Club 12 rent for the monthly meeting.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: June 4.)
- **Treatment – Matt A.**
 - Nothing new to report since there has not been a committee meeting since the last GSR meeting.
 - Still coordinating speakers for underage drinkers class at UWEC and that is going well.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 14.)
- **Corrections – Ken P.**
 - Ken submitted a written report which he delivered in person.
 - Corrections committee met as scheduled on Monday, May 7.
 - The following items were reported:
 - Four AA members went through orientation to become new volunteers at the Eau Claire County Jail: 3 women and 1 man.
 - Four men have gone through the orientation process to be volunteers at the Trempealeau County Jail.
 - All volunteers are required to go through the process even if they have previously been volunteers.
 - Two of these 4 were new and two were current volunteers.
 - A new schedule for AA meetings at the Trempealeau County facility is being worked on with the jail staff, so more meetings can be held for inmates there.
 - Literature delivered: Ten 12/12 books to the prison in Chippewa Falls and 10 Big Books to the prison in Stanley.
 - A large order of books has been placed since there have been requests from three facilities for more.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November, 7:00 PM, Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire. (Next meeting: August 6.)
- **Special Accessibilities – Brett Z.**
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined. Contact Brett to help.
- **Public Information (PI) – Doug H.**

- No report.
- Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: July 18th.)
- **Literature** – Cole K.
 - No report.
- **Archives** – Stephe C.
 - No report from Stephe.
 - Bryon B. met with Stephe and Pete W. (Area 74 Archivist) and they are working on planning a workshop. They intend to have people with over 25 years of sobriety in our District get together to have their stories recorded and archived.
- **Grapevine** – Bryon B.
 - Has not been asked to speak about Grapevine yet.
 - Showed Grapevine issues to illustrate what they look like.
 - Advised how to sign up and types of subscriptions that are available.
- **Webmaster** – Andy B.
 - No report.
- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - The newsletter is going well.
 - Distributed only by email.
 - Contact Myron via email to get added to the list: thedistrictview@gmail.com
 - Subscription list has grown since he took over.
 - Willing to take submissions for articles in “Members’ View.”
 - Committee chairs can submit articles for “Service View.”
 - Marybeth encourages groups to subscribe and submit articles.
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Lucas M. gave report.
 - “How to Get the Most Out of Meetings” workshop is coming up on May 12.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 23.)
- **WICYPAA** – Jon Su.
 - Eau Claire is starting a bid to host WICYPAA in 2020.
 - Elections will be held on May 20.

District 05 Meeting Updates

- Brittany B.: Flimsy Reed is not considering moving due to better finances.

Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - Myron M. presented on Tradition 4 and Concept 4.
 - See Appendix A for the full text of Myron’s presentation.
- **Workshop Subcommittee Report/Discussion**
 - Members: Ken P., Marybeth S., Katie B-B., Paul Mc., Matt A., and Brittany B.
 - Shane S. gave report.
 - Things are going well and the flier is out.
 - It has been an enjoyable experience to watch people come together and grow as they put the workshop together.
 - The outline is under construction and the next meeting is on May 21 to discuss that.
 - There will be a picnic after the workshop, they the committee is going to see about combining forces with Saturday Night Alive.
 - Bring workshop flier back to your groups. Contact Shane with any questions.
- **Discussion about Resentments in Service**
 - Not discussed.

New Business

- **Alternate DCM Replacement**

- ☞ Bring back to your groups to see if anybody has interest in standing for this position.
- Show up in June for the election.
- **June Presentation**
 - Nobody was selected to present on Tradition 5 and Concept 5.
- **June Discussion**
 - We will have a discussion about safety.
 - ☞ Discuss with your groups what safety-related concerns should be addressed.

Open Sharing

- Recommendation was made for everybody to attend the Spring Conference if they are able to do so.
- Recommendation was made for everybody to attend future Delegate's Workshops when given the chance.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: June 13, 2018.

- Normally scheduled reports: Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, Special Accessibilities.

Appendix A

Tradition 4: *"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."*

There's a recurring theme running through AA's steps, traditions and the concepts for service: **the movement from chaos to a spiritual solution that provides balance and equilibrium.**

In the early days of AA, prior to the adoption of the traditions, new groups formed wherever AA's relocated. It was truly a trial-and-error free-for-all in terms of membership requirements, meeting structure, affiliation with outside entities, and with promotion. For example, one group in Virginia actually served beer at their meetings. They wanted to attract lots of members, and they were focused on keeping people off the "hard stuff." As there were no traditions or guidelines for groups, even they were not disqualified from calling themselves an AA group. Bill wrote, "...every conceivable deviation...has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. **Children of chaos**, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser." It seems we, as alcoholics, individually or in groups, are driven to exhaust those ways which do not work before accepting that which clearly does work. Experience has demonstrated that eventually groups will come to rely on the basic principles of their primary purpose—to serve those who still suffer.

This tradition is a testament to **AA's great faith in an inspired group conscience.** A.A. is so certain of this that each group is regarded as an individual entity governed only by its group conscience, so long as it doesn't affect neighboring groups or A.A. itself. So it is **that every group has the right to be wrong.**

Concept 4: *Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.*

In English, this means that AA Trustees, the Directors of the service corporations—AA World Services, Inc. and The AA Grapevine, Inc.—together with their executive staffs, shall always be voting members of the General Service Conference. So, every year when all the Areas send their delegates to the GSC to be our voting representatives, these other folks also are able to vote even though they do not represent any AA area.

Who are they?

Trustees—alcoholic and non-alcoholic chosen to lead such a large organization as AA.

Directors—also People with expertise in some relevant aspect of running AA, chosen by the Trustees to sit on the two service boards directing AA's services.

Executive staff—paid employees of AA who carry out the directions and do the actual work.

Each of the two service boards, World Services and the Grapevine, have a mix of all three of these types on their boards, and each has an equal **vote**, and therefore, **participation.**

This idea of staff representation on the boards actually has its roots in a dispute about Easter bonnets.

[Related story of issued paychecks getting ripped up because the director of the New York AA office didn't like paychecks getting written early so that female employees could buy Easter bonnets. Bill W. was not pleased.]

Bill W. - "Every time an absolute authority is create it always invites this same tendency toward over-domination respecting all things, great and small."

When it comes to the GSC, it gets more controversial. Nearly every conference, some delegates want to take away the right of trustees, directors and staff to vote at the Conference because they do not represent AA groups.

Consult *Service Manual* footnote, pg. 18.

Finally, Bill comes to the spiritual angle: "everyone has the right to belong". There are no members who are regarded as "second class". "Deep down, I think this is what we have been struggling to achieve in our world service structure. Here is perhaps the principle reason why we should continue to ensure "participation" at every important level. Just as there are no second-class AA's, neither should there be any second class world service workers, either."

Members' Views

...on STEP #6

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character"---is A.A.'s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 65

An A.A. member who might cringe if I called him a mentor says of Step 6 & 7, "This is where we decide what sort of person we want to become, and then begin the work of becoming that person." He gives an important reminder that no one ever really completes this step; that it marks the beginning of a journey rather than an end in itself.

For me, this step is emblematic of the entire A.A. program of recovery as a new and better way of living--not as a quick cure for addiction. Perhaps the most dangerous words one can hear in A.A. are, "I've *done* the Steps." I sincerely hope I never think I am done growing by and through applying the Steps to daily living.

The character defects we seek to lose in Step 6 are self-defense mechanisms necessary to support a life run on self-will. They are useless and incompatible to lives we seek to live by God's will. So why do we still cling to them? Is it because deep down we harbor the idea that we weren't really all that "bad" or all that alcoholic? Do we think we can get along well enough with just a little A.A.?

Here is how Bill W. closed his essay on Step 6: "Delay is dangerous, and rebellion may be fatal. This is the exact point at which we abandon limited objectives, and move toward God's will for us."

An AA Member

...on TRADITION #6

"Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual."

A.A. Tradition Six, Long Form

In A.A.'s early years, groups and individual members sought business relationships, endorsements and all manner of entanglements with entities outside of A.A. itself. Today, it's likely the only outside body with which an A.A. group may have dealings is a club or meeting house which hosts the group's meetings. This simple tenant/landlord relationship can be fraught with complications in terms of money, blurred boundaries, and hard feelings. It seems that even in recovery, alcoholics can find relationships challenging.

In a local town, A.A. members pooled their resources years ago to purchase a small former church building to serve as a meeting place for recovery meetings. They incorporated as a non-profit organization, with all control in the hands of the members of the groups renting meeting space in the building; all members of the board of directors are elected from the memberships of those groups. Here is where some folks get confused: as individuals who regularly attend recovery meetings at the club, they are collectively, in fact, *the landlord*; as members of an A.A., Al-Anon or other group assembled in a recovery meeting, their group is *a rent-paying tenant*.

Somehow, this apparently split personality has worked pretty well for quite some time. There are discussions around questions of funding for everything from coffee to furniture, medallions to building improvements. Those members willing to serve as board members sometimes need thick skin, and a firm grip on the Serenity Prayer. It sometimes brings to mind a quote from Bill W., "*Within A.A., I suppose, we shall always quarrel a good bit. Mostly, I think, about how to do the greatest good for the greatest number of drunks...Surmounting such problems, in A.A.'s rather rugged school of life, is a healthy exercise.*"

An A.A. Member

Members' Views will share brief essays submitted by District05 A.A. members. Please send your views to thedistrictview@district05.org

A.A. Service View

"Sponsorship is a bridge to trusting the human race, the very race we once resigned from. In learning to trust, we are strengthening our sobriety."

One on One: AA Sponsorship in Action, pg.1

Bill W. always considered Ebby T. to be his sponsor, even though at the time of their seminal talk at the kitchen table there was not yet anything we now know as A.A. When Bill met for the first time with Dr. Bob they, too, met as equals: It was simply one alcoholic talking with another, sharing their recovery experience.

There is no Sponsorship College in A.A.; no conference-approved checklist for guiding a newcomer to a new way of life. There is one alcoholic with experience in A.A.'s 12 Steps of recovery sharing that experience with one alcoholic trying to gain or maintain sobriety in A.A. Styles of sponsorship may vary from member to member. I personally try to tailor my sponsorship to the individual sponsee, but in each case the emphasis on the Steps remains the same. I do my best to convey to him all that has so graciously been given to me.

I don't think I am the right sponsor for every newcomer. I am the right sponsor for some, and I think every experienced member is just the right sponsor for someone. I believe God blesses sponsorship. I also take great comfort that in A.A. there is an unbroken sponsorship line from my sponsor back to the founders: one alcoholic sharing their experience, strength and hope with another.

---An A.A. Member

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 7:00pm on the 1st Monday of February, May, August, and November.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee meets at 6:30pm on the 1st Monday of every month.

Public Information Committee meets in 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 6:00pm 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.

Calendar View

The District05 website, 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

June 2018:

- 4th – C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 11th – Treatment Committee Meeting, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 13th-- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center
- 14th – Treatment Committee Meeting, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 19th – The Gay Chatter LGPTQ & Friends 1yr. Anniversary, 6pm Dessert Potluck, 7pm Speaker Mtg. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 421 S. Farwell St. in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 27th -- Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

July 2018:

- 2nd -- C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- Treatment Committee Meeting, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 11th -- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center
- 14th – Interactive Workshop “Carrying Your Voice to New York” – 10am to 1pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. Picnic lunch to follow. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 18th – P.I. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm /River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 25th -- Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

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We are now working to build our 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.

