



The District View

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

Volume 2018, Issue 5

May 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 5: Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

Tradition 5: Each group has but one primary purpose---to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Concept 5: Throughout our world service structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, thus assuring us that minority opinion will be heard and that petitions for the redress of personal grievances will be carefully considered.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

April 11, 2018

6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 12 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - Sent around contact sheets for officers and GSRs (asked for additions, verification, and indication of GSR vs. Alt. GSR).
 - *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.
 - Submitted emailed report.
 - Report Period: 03/14/18-04/11/18
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2353.21
 - Group Contributions: \$1247.00
 - Expenses: \$210.86
 - Corrections: \$82.00
 - Rent (March and April): \$27.00
 - DCM: \$25.00
 - Treatment: \$17.00
 - CPC: \$59.86
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$3389.35
 - **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 March. The discussion again centered on how to encourage attendance at both the group and District level.

Area Assembly was held on April 7th in Three Lakes. A few GSRs and other representatives from District 05 were in attendance. Committee reports from the Delegates Workshop were presented and voting took place on a number of committee recommendations. Our Delegate will carry the Area voice to the General Service Conference in New York later this month. If your group wants more information on this important work, please contact your GSR or myself. Participation at the Assembly was an important reminder of the important work being done by Alcoholics Anonymous. If your group does not have a GSR, please consider electing one and sending them to District and Area meetings. That is the only way you have a voice at the General Service Conference. The next Area Assembly will be held at the Area 74 Spring Conference in Green Bay in May.

Now that the weather is better, I am planning to attend as many AA meetings 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.

- Mailing address for Area 74 is currently not that easy to find because it is the Area treasurer's personal address.

- Should Area 74 have a PO Box?
 - Marybeth will make the suggestion that the address should be more accessible. Perhaps we could put it in the “District View.”
- Brittany B. suggested more GSRs should attend assemblies to make sure group voices are heard.
- Shane S. mentioned that the recent Area 74 Assembly was a powerful experience, but there was a very tight timeframe for getting group conscience on a lot of information.
- Rent for the Leisure Center is going up. Alt. DCM Beth E. will call for exact amount.
- **Alternate DCM** – Beth E.
 - No report.
 - Beth will call Menomonie Leisure Center for new rent amount and WiFi information.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Pat T. was absent.
 - Jim P. gave report.
 - A presentation at UW-Stout was very well received.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 7.)
- **Treatment** – Matt A.
 - No report.
 - 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.
 - No report.
 - 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: May 7.)
- **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.
 - Currently reaching out to schools/guidance counselors and shelters.
 - Sending out packets of information.
 - If interested in the Al-Anon portion of these packets, contact Myron M. He coordinated with Al-Anon for this information.
 - Reaching out to homeless and women’s shelters is new this year is the current project/focus.
 - Expense for yellow pages listing was presented for reimbursement.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: May 16.)
- **Literature** – Cole K.
 - No report.
- **Archives** – Stephe C.
 - Met with Pete W. and Bryon B. about having a workshop in July to outreach and get historical information about the District.
 - Will be a recorded panel of old-timers.
 - Stephe requested people to bring historical documents to scan in during this event.
 - Either July 21st or 28th, starting at 11:30 am for about 1.5 hrs.
 - The workshop will start in Eau Claire and then move every 6 months or so to other areas of the District.
 - Stephe will be reaching out to GSRs to gather information about group histories via emailed questionnaire.
 - Jim P. suggested that it would be good to have a history page on the District 05 website. Jim is willing to write some copy.
- **Grapevine** – Bryon B.
 - No report.

- **Webmaster** – Andy B.
 - No report.
- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - No report.
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Bonnie B. gave report.
 - Workshop is coming up:
 - “How to Get the Most Out of Meetings”: May 12th, 2:30-4:00 pm before Italian Potluck at the Triangle Club in Eau Claire.
 - Topics: How to share, meeting types, etc. A brochure will be present to participants.
 - Annual Picnic:
 - Figuring out what they can do to spice it up.
 - Maybe a jam session with games.
 - Probably around September.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: April 25.)
- **WICYPAA** – Brittany B.
 - May be a bid committee forming to bid to host WICYPAA in 2020.

District 05 Meeting Updates

- The Friday night women’s meeting at the Affinity House has been removed from the meeting list.

Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - Jacki B. presented on Tradition 3 and Concept 3.
 - Tradition 3: “The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.”
 - Concept 3: “To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.—the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives—with a traditional ‘Right of Decision.’”
 - Centers around trusting others to make decisions.
 - Groups are the ultimate authority, but GSRs and Delegates are given authority to make decisions based upon new information if they think it will reflect their group’s conscience.
 - This concept allows for mistakes, but also for reprimand.
- **Workshop Subcommittee Report/Discussion**
 - Members: Shane S., Ken P., Marybeth S., Katie B-B., Paul Mc., Matt A., Brittany B., Beth E., Shane R.
 - Shane S. gave report.
 - District 05 Workshop: “Carrying Your Voice to New York.”
 - July 14th, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
 - Fellowship and picnic lunch to follow at Club 12.
 - Interactive workshop. Learn how to become an informed member of AA with suggestions about how to do a workshop.

New Business

- **Shared Google Drive/Groups Proposal**
 - Joe P. emailed out proposal and presented in person.
 - See Appendix A for details.
 - Privacy concerns addressed.
 - Good place to house historical documents and centrally store District information.
 - Motion made to implement Google Drive/Groups for a trial period with evaluation in the future.
 - *Motion passed, unanimously.*
- **Events Calendar**

- Not very many events are showing up on the District05.org calendar.
- It is a GSR job to announce events, so check website regularly for announcements.
- Submit your events to webmaster@district05.org. You can also email secretary@district05.org.
- Suggestion was made that all committee meetings should show up on the events calendar. (Joe will email the Webmaster.)
- **May Presentation**
 - Myron M. will present on Tradition 4 and Concept 4.
- **May Discussion**
 - Dealing with resentments in service.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: May 9, 2018.

- Normally scheduled reports: Grapevine, Archives, Webmaster, Newsletter, Literature.

Appendix A District 05: Shared Drive and Google Group Proposal

Purposes

- To define a space to centrally house District 05 documents.
- To offer a space to collaborate on District 05 documents.
- To make sharing information and emails with District 05 easier and more efficient.

Benefits

- Centralization of District 05 documents offers a “continuity” plan when group membership changes.
- Collaborative channels offer the ability for members to work on the same documents without the time and hassle of emailing documents back and forth.
- Google Group email lists offer the ability to use one email address to reach all District 05 members or subgroups of members.
 - Group membership can change and members will not have to remember which people to email.
 - Member email addresses will be kept private, helping to make District 05 a safe place to be.
 - Members of the group can opt out or in at any time with minimal maintenance by the administrator.
- A single sign on allows access to all of the functionality listed below. Other options, like Dropbox, do not have such a wide range of storage, sharing, and collaboration options.

Access and Functionality

- **Google Account:** to-be-determined@gmail.com
 - Password:
 - To be highly secure.
 - Maintained by the Secretary and DCM has a copy.
 - Changed at least yearly for security.
- **Google Drive:**
 - Members of the District 05 contact list will be invited to join the Drive.
 - A Google account is required. Any email can be used. Sign up [here](#).
 - Access levels will be granted based on District 05 role. Documents will either be Read or Write, depending upon access level assigned.
 - Document Naming Conventions:
 - The following conventions will be adopted for consistently naming files (for ease of access and understanding):
 - FourDigitYearTwoDigitMonthTwoDigitDay_Document_Name.type (i.e., 20180407_Shared_Drive_Proposal.docx).
 - Folders:
 - Folders will be created and named according to content. Here are some examples:
 - **Agendas and Minutes** (self-explanatory)

- **Approved Documents** (documents, such as District 05 Service Structure Guidelines, that have group approval)
- **Working Documents** (documents that members or a subcommittee are actively editing and collaborating on)
- **Finances** (a place for the Treasurer to house documents, such as spreadsheets, etc.)
- **Archives** (a place to house documents about District 05)
- **Google Group:**
 - There will be several groups so that emails can be directed to the whole group or subgroups:
 - D05-GSRs@googlegroups.com (will go to GSRs/Alt. GSRs only, if the address is available)
 - D05-Officers@googlegroups.com (will go to DCM, Alt. DCM, Secretary, and Treasurer, if the address is available)
 - D05-Committees@googlegroups.com (will go to Accessibilities, Corrections, CPC, PI, and Treatment chairs, if the address is available)
 - D05-Support@googlegroups.com (will go to Archives, Grapevine, Literature, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster, if the address is available)
 - D05-All@googlegroups.com (will go to all of the above email address, which is the whole contact list, if the address is available)
 - Membership:
 - Populated by directly adding members of the current email list.
 - New people may request membership by emailing to-be-determined+subscribe@googlegroups.com or by contacting the Secretary.
 - Members may unsubscribe by clicking the link in any email from group, by emailing to-be-determined+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com, or by contacting the Secretary.
 - Emails will not display individual email addresses.
 - The Group will not be public.
 - We will need to be conscious to email only relevant materials to the entire group.

Recommendation

- District 05 should utilize Google in the ways described above as soon as possible in an effort to:
 - Streamline the process of communicating with our group.
 - Provide a centrally located place to house important documents so that we do not have to rely on individual group members for certain documents (which allows for continuity when District 05 membership changes).
 - Provide a transparent record of activities and information as it pertains to District 05.

Members' Views

...on STEP #5

“What are we likely to receive from Step Five? For one thing, we shall get rid of that terrible sense of isolation we’ve always had. ”

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 57

Long before I took my first drink, I lived with a feeling that I didn’t quite belong. Isolation was my default position in life. This is loneliness as alcoholics know it: as Bill W. called it, “...the old pangs of anxious apartness.” Drinking alcohol brought some relief for a time by allowing me to act more freely in the company of others. Decades later, when my drinking had reached proportions that caused me to drink only in private, I had come full-circle: I had to be alone to drink to feel comfortable with people I couldn’t be with while drinking.

My feeling of isolation developed a crack from my very first A.A. meeting. Here I found people who knew my problems first-hand and gave me hope that my life could be different. Attendance at more meetings gradually lessened my social anxieties, but it was only by getting a sponsor and making a

beginning on A.A.'s actual program of recovery that real progress toward change in me could begin. As my sponsor guided me through my inventory while sharing parts of his own, the isolation faded further. But it was the experience of coming clean in Step Five that really gave me a start at a connection with another and with my higher power that I never before experienced.

This connection, or kinship, is built from new-found humility and honesty acquired in taking the actions of Steps 4 through 7 with all the realism we can muster. We come to know the people we have been, and we begin to form a vision of who we want to become.

An AA Member

...on TRADITION #5

“Under these compulsions of self-preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our Society has concluded that it has but one high mission---to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out.”

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 151

As an A.A. member, I need always remember that I cannot keep my sobriety unless I give it away. I need to say yes to the newcomer. I need to attend meetings not so much for what I can get out of them, but for what I might add to them. I need to uphold a service commitment to my group and the recovery community. I need to live each day in awareness that sobriety is a gift and not an accomplishment. I need to take A.A.'s Responsibility Statement as a call to action---not just as a source of warm fuzzies.

This personal imperative also applies to the A.A. group. A member cannot stay sober nor a group fulfill its purpose solely on fellowship. This is not just a sober social club; the A.A. group has a higher calling than providing members with good donuts. As a member needs a service element in their recovery, so does a group need to do its part to carry on the mission of A.A. A group may choose to remain unregistered, to be unrepresented at district and area levels, to be unsupportive of outreach efforts by district committees, and to be disconnected from other local groups. Just as a member may choose personal isolation as a recovery path, so may a group take this path---the group is, by A.A. tradition, an autonomous entity.

But a group is also a democracy of A.A. members who collectively form the group conscience. Members who reject isolation as a plan of action can vote---with their voices or with their feet---to become part of a group that reflects their belief in A.A.'s one high mission.

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

A.A.'s Legacy of Service

“Our Twelfth Step---carrying the message---is the basic service that the A.A. Fellowship gives: this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, A.A. is more than a set of principles; it is a society of alcoholics in action.”

---Bill W., A.A. Service Manual, pg. S5

I have been blessed with A.A. mentors who stressed that the actions taken in the Twelve Steps comprise the A.A. program of recovery. They said meeting attendance, general fellowship, studying A.A. literature and listening to skilled A.A. speakers are all helpful good practices for a newcomer; but actual recovery requires nothing short of daily personal action on the steps. My sponsor would agree to be my sponsor only if I committed myself to passing on what I was to receive. So much for my vague notions of getting a little better at drinking and then moving on with my life as before.

My mentors also pointed out that Step 12 is no more optional than Step 1. They arranged service “opportunities” that put me in positions where people were counting on me. Within months I was: meeting

chair, sponsor, group treasurer, club secretary, literature/medallion guy, alternate GSR, and a grateful, sober, active member of A.A. Society at large didn't trust me to drive a car.

The A.A. founders created Step 12, and said we must give it all away to keep it. Later they established the framework for service to A.A. Service is anything from coffee with a newcomer to leading an international convention. But what keeps the Legacy of Service alive is people like our mentors, and their mentors, and through our experience, the people who serve after us---*alcoholics in action*.

---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

May 2018:

- 7th – C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 7th – Corrections Committee Meeting, 7:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th – Treatment Committee Meeting, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th-- District 05 Monthly Meeting, 6:45pm. Menomonie Leisure Center
- 12th – Chippewa Valley Intergroup Workshop, 2:30-4:00pm, Triangle Club, 2708 Thomas Drive, Eau Claire. Italian Potluck to follow. See the event flyer at www.district05.org
- 14th – Treatment Committee Meeting, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 16th – P.I Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 23rd -- Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 26th-28th – Gopher State Roundup, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington, MN

June 2018:

- 4th -- C.P.C. Committee Meeting, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 7th – Corrections Committee Meeting, 7:00pm, 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
- 27th -- 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.

