



The District View

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

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November 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 11: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.”

Tradition 11: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.”

Concept 11: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

October 10, 2018 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 7 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - **Reports scheduled for November:** Grapevine, Archives, Webmaster, Newsletter, and Literature.
 - 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.
 - Sara reported by phone there were no contributions over the most recent period.
 - **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

The following reports were given and accepted:

- **District Committee Member (DCM)** – Marybeth S.
 - No report.
- **Alternate DCM** – Paul H.
 - No report.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Pat submitted emailed report, which he summarized in person.
 - Checked to see if *Alcoholics Anonymous* books are in libraries in the area and they are in stock at L.E. Phillips in Eau Claire.
 - Reached out to area library system to see if they needed AA Literature. They didn't call back, which Pat assumes to mean they didn't feel it necessary. They have 5 Big Books available when searching "Alcoholics Anonymous" on the L.E. Phillips library site.
 - Reached out to Eau Claire County to introduce CPC. Attended public meetings regarding new ordinances for excessive drinking in Eau Claire. Established initial contact with county health department.
 - Had monthly meeting and had some discussion about possible workshops. Committee seems open to combining with other committees.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: November 5.)
- **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: November 12.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - Ken submitted emailed report.
 - Events which have happened in the past month are:

- 5 Big Books donated to Eau Claire County Jail.
- 5 Big Books donated to Pierce County Jail.
- 10 Daily Reflections donated to Pepin County Jail.
- Ken met with the new program coordinator of the Eau Claire County Jail to make sure we are doing things correctly by their standards (yes we are) and also met with the program coordinator of the Pierce County Jail to see about establishing AA meetings in that facility. They are very receptive and notices will be sent out the AA groups in that vicinity to see about volunteer interest.
- Newly established meetings in Trempealeau County Jail are going well. Several volunteers and good attendance by the inmates. Every Thursday plus one Monday a month.
- A new Saturday meeting for women has been started in the Dunn County Jail. This meeting is twice a month.
- One person has expressed interest in being the scheduler for jail meetings, but that happened recently, so we will see if that happens. Ken is hopeful.
- We are still needing more female volunteers for Eau Claire Jail. Flyers were made up and distributed.
 - ☺ Bring back to your groups to see if women are interested and put them in contact with Ken.
- 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: November 5.)

● **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: November 21.)

● **Intergroup** – Variable Representative

- No report.
- Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: October 24.)

● **WICYPAA** – Variable Representative

- No report.

● **Recovery on the River Jamboree** – Derek B.

- Tickets are available for December 21 Holiday Party. See the flier at district05.org/calendar.

District 05 Meeting Updates

- No updates.

Old Business

● **Tradition and Concept Presentation**

- Shane S. presented on Tradition 7 and Concept 7.
- **Tradition 7:** Presented information from the pamphlet “The Twelve Traditions Illustrated.”
- **Concept 7:** Presented information from “The Twelve Concepts for World Service.”

● **Budgets for 2019**

- Tabled until November due to absence of DCM and Treasurer.
- General discussion that we need to figure out how to spend money to be of service to the District.
- We still need to figure out prudent reserve before we spend money.

● **Committee Workshop**

- Committees are considering combining forces to put on a workshop or some other type of event.

New Business

- **Area Assembly**

- **GSRs:** Remember to be there. October 27, 8:30 AM, [Reiter Center, 1858 S Michigan ST, Three Lakes, WI 54562](#)

GSR Sharing Session

- A Vision for You Young Persons' Group will be having elections, paired with "A Vision for Boo" Halloween party on October 26. See flier [here](#).
- Northside Group potluck is coming up in January. See flier [here](#).
- Women's meeting starting October 12 at 5:30 PM, Club 12, Small Building. It is a Big Book study.
- Women's meeting in River Falls. Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, River Falls Alano Club. On-site childcare.
- Shane S.:
 - Total GSRs in attendance at the Fall Conference was 29, so maybe worry less about getting more GSRs there and focus on the fact that people are showing up and have a voice.
 - Still encourage GSRs to attend to help with items on the agenda (newsletter, WICYPAA/RAFTYPAA group donations).
 - Area is looking for newsletter co-editor.
 - There was discussion about who is supposed to give reports each month. Concern was expressed about people not showing up.
 - Joe will send out the schedule to help with that.

Open Sharing

- No sharing

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: November 14, 2018.

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

Members' Views

...on STEP #11

"A man who persists in prayer finds himself in possession of great gifts. When he has to deal with hard circumstances, he finds he can face them. He can accept himself and the world around him."

Bill W. – Grapevine, June 1958.

Like many who have turned to A.A. as the place of last resort, my defining characteristic was self-absorption; in all matters great or small, I alone would decide my actions based entirely upon what I judged to be my best self-interest. Very rarely—and only in the most dire circumstances—would I turn to prayer for help. In my life, God truly was nothing more than a bench-riding pinch hitter.

The futility of life as I led it, exemplified by runaway alcoholism, brought me to A.A. Willingness to change was born out of desperation. Led by terrific mentors, I have worked to make the 12 Steps my basis for daily living. Progress has been made, if at times and in some ways more slowly than I would have liked. I feel I am growing into the Steps rather than having had them installed in my life like a software upgrade.

My early stabs at Step 11 were clumsy, infrequent, and made up of other people's words. I felt no contact, conscious or otherwise. Rather than abandon the effort, which is exactly what I would have done pre-A.A. in any endeavor at which I wasn't near-perfect from the start, I kept at it. I began to relish the sense of peace I feel from my efforts to pray and meditate. I have come to realize that the power and purpose of prayer is to change MY mind, not God's, and I have begun to grasp what *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions* says about the sense of belonging that comes to us from prayer and meditation.

These days, I'm more often able to slip into prayer quite naturally, at any time of the day, and the words are fewer but they are mine. My most-frequent prayer consists of only two words and I have mentally tied it to my breathing: I inhale and say/think *welcome*, and exhale and say/think *thank-you*. *Welcome* brings me

acceptance of whatever circumstance my self-will has judged to be unacceptable at that moment; *thank-you* brings me gratitude that I don't need to react to life that way anymore. In mathematical terms: Acceptance + gratitude = humility. I find the effects of this prayer upon me are immediate, if not long-lasting, as sooner or later my self-will re-asserts itself and I need to take another 'conscious breath' if I want to keep living life as I now am able to live it, thanks to my Higher Power (no longer on the bench; now team MVP) and to A.A.

An AA Member

...on TRADITION #11

"It is more than a denial of self-seeking. This Tradition is a constant and practical reminder that personal ambition has no place in A.A. In it, each member becomes an active guardian of our Fellowship."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 183

I find it remarkable that there are not more anonymity breaks in A.A. today considering that most members carry in their pockets or purses a camera device that can instantly share photos and text across the planet. We live in a culture that grants higher prestige based on the number of one's social media "friends" and "followers." Much of society daily screams, "Look at me and what I'm doing!" Celebrity is everything.

The remainder of this essay is from Bill W., who in 1955 wrote a piece entitled, "*Why Alcoholics Anonymous is Anonymous.*"

"Anonymity is the greatest protection our Society can ever have. The spiritual substance of anonymity is sacrifice. At the beginning, we sacrificed alcohol. We had to, or it would have killed us. But we couldn't get rid of alcohol unless we made other sacrifices. We had to toss self-justification, self-pity, and anger right out the window. We had to quit the crazy contest for personal prestige. To gain enough humility and self-respect to stay alive at all we had to give up what had really been our dearest possession—our ambitions and our illegitimate pride."

"But even this was not enough. Sacrifice had to go much further. Other people had to benefit, too. So we took on some Twelfth Step work and began to carry the AA message. We couldn't keep what we had unless we gave it away. Sacrifice had to bring a double benefit, or else little at all. We began to know about the kind of giving of ourselves that had no price tag on it."

"We found that each of us had to make willing sacrifices for the group itself, sacrifices for the common welfare. The group, in turn, found that it had to give up many of its own rights for the protection and welfare of each member, and for AA as a whole. The survival of AA would always depend upon our continued willingness to sacrifice our personal ambitions and desires for the common safety and welfare. Just as sacrifice meant survival for the individual, so did sacrifice mean unity and survival for the group and for AA's entire fellowship."

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

Take it From the Wall

I Am Responsible...

*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.
And for that: I am responsible.*

--DECLARATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY
A.A. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 1965

One wall of the room in which we hold A.A. meetings displays a number of familiar, framed A.A. recovery slogans, such as “First Things First” and “One Day at a Time.” These slogans are short-hand reminders of key concepts in the A.A. program of recovery that teach us how to live sober, peaceful and useful lives. Some folks who don’t understand their significance might think them kind of silly; those of us whose lives depend upon remembering their context truly value having them there on the wall. So we take these concepts from the wall and put them to use in our lives.

The Responsibility Statement, above, is also framed and hanging on that wall in a prominent, central location. Several of the meetings I attend have adopted it as their closing message. When I first came here, most of the meetings were closed with group prayer—just a sign of the times, I guess.

I’m glad that statement is there. Sometimes I wonder about how others construe its message; just as there is a variety of reactions to the recovery slogans, I suppose people have varied reactions to this statement on the wall. From what I have observed, most members really like reciting it at the meetings. It sends us off with a good dose of warm, fuzzy feelings. But is that all it is good for? I think the membership at the Convention back in ’65 might have attached a bit more weight to the statement than just warm fuzzies.

Primarily, the statement is a blunt reminder to me that each and every one of us has a part to play in service to A.A. Certainly, not every member is so situated in life that it is feasible for them to serve a 2-yr. term as Area Chairperson. But it is equally certain that each and every member is capable of taking some part in carrying the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic. I find it interesting and telling that while each of the 12 Steps begins with the implied word “We” this statement is directed at each member individually.

The use of the word “responsible” is also quite telling; the statement doesn’t refer to service opportunities, nor does it hold out the personal benefits to be received from doing service work. There is nothing there to suggest that service to others is at all optional.

With great gifts come great responsibilities. Take it from the wall.

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 the Events 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 Events Calendar, email to webmaster@district05.org

November 2018:

- 3rd – **4th Step Workshop**, 12:30-5pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 5th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 5th -- **Corrections Committee Meeting**, 7pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- **Five Years of Flimsy**, 5:30-8pm, Renew Church, 416 Niagara St. in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 12th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 14th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center
- 21st -- **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 28th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

December 2018:

- 3rd -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 12th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center
- 21st -- **Recovery on the River Holiday Party**, 5:30-10pm, Renew Church, 416 Niagara St. in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 26th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., 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 be 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.

Big Book

4th Step Inventory

Workshop

When – Saturday, November 3rd

Time – 12:30pm to 5pm

Where – River Falls Alano Club

Based on the Big Book using Joe and Charlie 4th step worksheets.

Requirement – must have worked/completed Steps 1-2-3 with a sponsor.

Worksheets, Pen/pencil will be provided.

Bring your Big Book; Books will be available if you don't have one.

Bring your own Snack/Beverage & Willingness!!

Questions? Call Andy W 651-206-0019 / Gary S 715-425-9973

