



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 8

August 2019

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.

The District View is 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.

Recent past issues of **The District View** are available for viewing or download on the District 05 website at www.district05.org

Step 8: "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all."

Tradition 8: "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

Concept VIII: The trustees are the principal planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities. (*short form*)

Inside this issue:

1. District Meeting Information / Step 8, Tradition 8 and Concept VIII
2. District Meeting Minutes
3. District Meeting Minutes, cont'd.
4. District Meeting Minutes, cont'd. / Service Opportunity / Members' Views
5. Members' Views, cont'd.
6. Service View / Monthly Events / Calendar View
7. Calendar View, cont'd. / Subscription Information
8. Area 74 Member Survey

District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

July 10, 2019 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 13 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - ☒ Reports scheduled for August: Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, and Special Accessibilities.
 - 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: 06/10/19-07/08/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,640.09
 - Group Contributions: \$60.00
 - Expenses: \$301.30
 - CPC Pamphlets: \$51.30
 - Conference/Assembly DCM Travel: \$160.00
 - PI Committee: \$90.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,398.79
 - Savings Account Balance: \$600.00
 - **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 Delegate's report on the GSO Conference held on June 22nd in Three Lakes. An article with highlights of the report will be published in the District View Newsletter. If any group or individual would like a full copy of the report please let me know.

Planning continues for the District 05 mini-conference which will be held in January, 2020. We could really use some additional committee members. Please consider lending your experience, strength, and hope!

District elections will be held in September. All positions are open. Nominations will be accepted at both the August and September District meetings.

If your group is interested in hosting a workshop on service, please contact our Alternate DCM, Paul H.

I am humbled and grateful to be of service and please contact me if you would like a representative from District 05 to attend one of your Group Conscience and/or Business Meetings. And always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Marybeth S.

- **Cooperation with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: August 5.)

- **Treatment** – Megan S.
 - Treatment committee applications should not be sent to the PO Box. Instead, bring to the meeting or give to Megan directly.
 - Working on revising the application.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: August 12.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - Looking to expand meetings in Eau Claire County Jail.
 - Next Orientation: July 25th at 5:45 PM. Application must be in by July 22.
 - Chippewa jail support: Others are organizing meetings on Sunday nights in Chippewa County Jail. Men only. 7 or 8 applications are in. Orientations: 7/21 at 3:30 PM and 7/28 at 3:30 PM.
 - District 05 will provide literature.
 - May help with other support as requested.
 - Applications available from Nicholas S.
 - Interested in putting on a workshop on Corrections.
 - Open to possibly scheduling a meeting before November.
 - 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 4; August meeting skipped due to special July meeting.)
- **Special Accessibilities** – Vacant.
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.
- **Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.
 - Myron M. gave report.
 - Hotels and motels mailing: Will be sending out information at the next meeting.
 - Talking about holding an event in River Falls the Saturday after the Super Bowl, 2020: Informational session for the public about AA called “So this is AA.”
 - Looking for parties interested.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: September 18th.)
- **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: August 18th.)
- **WICYPAA** – Sara D.
 - CAMPYPAA event in August. See flier [here](#).

Old Business

- **Recovery on the River Jamboree**
 - Safe Place to Be in favor and suggests helping with Hospitality Room.
 - Back to Basics on board.
 - GSO said there is no Traditions violation.
 - People who go to roundups may be different than normal conference attendees, so could be a good outreach opportunity.
 - General consensus that representation is acceptable.
- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines Revisions**
 - Safe Place to Be: Some people thought they were too long.
 - Flimsy Reed: Don't offer Grapevine to outgoing DCM. Intergroup is for unity.

- **Motion made and passed** to accept guidelines as proposed last time.

New Business

- **Area 74 Conference Bid**
 - Any interest in hosting Spring 2021 Area 74 Conference?
 - ☞ Bring back to group if interested in hosting an upcoming conference: Either Fall 2021 or Spring 2021.

Open Sharing

- Safe Place to Be (Friday Night, Eau Claire): Wondering if anybody has shown interest in Special Accessibilities or Literature. No interest shown.
- ☞ Back to Basics: Bring back to your groups to get people to the next meeting if interested in positions for District at the next election.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: August 14, 2019.

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

DISTRICT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Date: ??? Your Group's Business Meeting

Nominations and Election of General Service Representative (GSR), Alternate GSR.

August 14th District 5 Monthly Meeting

Nominations open for all:

District Officers: District Committee Member (DCM), Alternate DCM, Secretary, Treasurer.

Committee Chairs: Treatment Facilities, Corrections, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Public Information, Archives, Literature, Accessibilities, and Grapevine.

Trusted Servants: Webmaster, Newsletter Editor.

September 11th District 5 Monthly Meeting

Elections for all: **District Officer Positions, Committee Chairs, and Trusted Servants.**

(Voting by GSR's only.)

Members' Views

...on STEP #8

Just a list?

"Calm, thoughtful reflection upon personal relations can deepen our insight. We can go far beyond those things which were superficially wrong with us, to see those flaws which were basic, flaws which sometimes were responsible for the whole pattern of our lives."

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 80

Coming right on the heels of the ego-battering experiences of Steps 4-7, Step 8 can seem like it's just more piling-on, can't it? Well, yes it can; but it calls for so much more than that. My ego just really wanted me to make a quick list of people I had harmed (simply copied from my 4th Step inventory) and to get on with making those amends I really couldn't avoid. In other words, part of me still wanted to minimize my harmful character traits and the resulting misbehaviors that poisoned my relations with people and brought out the worst in them. There is no change or growth in writing a simple to-do list, is there?

It's my lifelong companions, fear and pride, that lead me to want to minimize how I have negatively affected other people. Bill W. called it, "purposeful forgetting." This doesn't mean I've flunked Steps 1-7; it is just once again an attempt by the self-will to re-establish control of my life. I need to remember that I'm not trying to graduate from the Twelve Steps; I'm trying to live in them.

And Step 8 isn't just about rehashing what we have learned about ourselves in the preceding Steps; we need it to be the beginning of living among others on a different basis. Without the 'calm, thoughtful reflection upon personal relationships' as described in the quote above, our 9th Step amends could mean little more than "My bad, I'm sorry." Step 8 is about addressing, owning and understanding our basic flaws, and using that understanding to change how we will approach and interact with each and every one of God's kids, today and in the future. Without a careful, honest and persistent attempt to live in the real spirit of Step 8, we'd better keep a pen and paper at hand because as we go along we'll be making lots more lists of people we have harmed.

---an A.A. Member

...on TRADITION #8

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers."

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 166

The 8th A.A. Tradition can be seen as a sort of Rorschach ink blot test, wherein what a member sees in it tells as much about the member as it does about what is actually written there. The same is true of the 3rd Tradition, *"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."* Many read this simple statement as an open-armed invitation to one and all, emphasizing the word ONLY, while ignoring the obvious—that a desire to stop drinking IS the requirement for A.A. membership. (If that is not clear, read it again, leaving the word 'only' out of the sentence.) In the 8th Tradition, most of the confusion seems to come at the beginning, before the comma: It is ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS which should remain non-professional; nothing at all is said about career choices made by individual A.A. members.

In essence, the tradition is saying is that there never should be paid sponsorship or other Twelfth Step work within A.A. So sponsors, speakers, GSR's, delegates, etc., all serve on an unpaid, volunteer basis. In the case of those serving within the A.A. service structure, such as GSR's, their legitimate expenses for travel, etc., may be reimbursed, as otherwise only wealthier members could fill those volunteer positions.

From the earliest years, some members have been uncomfortable with the idea that any A.A. member should choose to take paid employment in any alcoholism-related enterprise, and especially in for-profit addiction treatment settings. Their argument seems to be that those members are capitalizing their A.A. experience, and therefore "making money off of A.A." Well, in a sense, aren't most of us capitalizing our A.A. experience? Has not our recovery in the A.A. program helped us to become better people---and therefore, more employable? Isn't an A.A. member who works as a police officer likely to be better at his or her job because of their A.A. experience? Or a minister, carpenter, school bus driver, sales manager, or anyone else? An A.A. member who pursues the schooling and expense necessary to become employable as an addiction counselor is no different. He or she is not an "A.A. counselor" but a counselor with a particular life experience that includes A.A. membership. No one complains about an "A.A. nurse."

It seems the major complaint may not be about profiteering from A.A., but fear about breaks in A.A. anonymity. Of course, no one should be "speaking for A.A." in their workplace or anywhere else, nor openly leveraging their A.A. membership for cash. That issue is clearly spelled out elsewhere in the Traditions.

Finally, a quick word about the last half of the 8th Tradition---the paid workers in A.A.: Obviously, A.A. needs accountants, various office professionals, janitors, and even a few forklift operators. Should membership in A.A. disqualify anyone from these paid positions?

---an A.A. Member

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

A.A. Service View

Why Do We Need a Conference?

The late Bernard B. Smith, nonalcoholic, then chairperson of the board of trustees, and one of the architects of the Conference structure, answered that question superbly in his opening talk at the 1954 meeting: "We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the dark one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

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 and all 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 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

August 2019:

- 5th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
9th to 11th – **Wolf River-Nicolet A.A. Camping Trip**, White Lake, WI. 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.
23rd-24th – **CAMPYPAA**, Camping, speakers, potluck. Coon Fork Lake County Park. Flyer at www.district05.org
24th – **River Falls Alano Annual Picnic**, 2–5:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.
28th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

September 2019:

- 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.
18th – **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.

Subscribe to *The District View*

The District View is available via email at no cost. If you wish to receive this monthly newsletter, simply email a request to thedistrictview@district05.org and your email address will be added to our list of subscribers. No member email addresses will be shared with anyone, nor used for any other purpose.

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.

IMPORTANT!!! AREA 74 MEMBER SURVEY

Greetings and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. This survey was developed to study the effectiveness, efficiency and facilitation of four Assemblies/Area Committee meetings per year. Your responses are valuable to the health and welfare of Area 74.

Currently Area 74 holds four Assemblies per year. The Standing Committee Chairs report to the Assembly at least once per year. Since 2011, Assemblies have been held as follows:

- April - stand-alone event (Three Lakes WI), focused on the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda items
- May - held in conjunction with the Area 74 Spring Conference (rotating location), focused on the Delegate's Report on the GSC.
- September - held in conjunction with the Area 74 Fall Conference (rotating location); in odd years the entire Assembly is devoted to elections.
- October - stand-alone event (Three Lakes WI); includes annual budget.

Currently the Area Committee Meeting (ACM) includes reports from the District Committee Members (DCMs) and is held four or five times per year as follows:

- March - after the Delegate's Workshop (Three Lakes, WI).
- May - during the Area 74 Spring Conference (rotating location).
- August - optional (Three Lakes, WI).
- September - during Area 74 Fall Conference (rotating location).
- December - (Three Lakes, WI).

This survey can be completed as an individual or as a group conscience. **Please complete the survey only one time as an individual.**

1. Fill out online at www.area74.org, this will be automatically tallied when you hit the **submit** button at the end.
2. The link below will go directly to the online survey; https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiwT8055YTCH2-9jc2xp330ECUe2MqxkvwebZwSr4cbfzn5g/viewform?usp=sf_link
3. The survey can be returned via email to survey@area74.org or to address below.

Area 74 Treasurer
PO Box 1191
Appleton, WI. 54912

