



# The District View

Web: [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org) Email: [thedistrictview@gmail.com](mailto:thedistrictview@gmail.com)

Volume 2019, Issue 12

December 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](http://www.district05.org)

**Step 12:** "Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

**Tradition 12:** "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities."

**Concept XII:** The Conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principle; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government, and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.  
*(short form)*

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**District 05 of Area 74 Meeting**

November 13, 2019 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.
  - Reports scheduled for December (odd-numbered year): All outgoing and incoming GSRs, Outgoing and Incoming Committee Chairs and Officers.
    - 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: 10/10/19-11/13/19
  - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,189.51
  - Group Contributions: \$225.00
  - Expenses: \$226.16
    - DCM Reimbursement: \$157.00
    - Corrections: \$69.16
  - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,188.35
  - **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

**Year-to-Date Budget Standings (Added Post Meeting for Reference)**

Budget Item	Remaining Budget	Yearly Budget
Administrative	\$123.00	\$500.00
DCM	\$383.00	\$700.00
Alt. DCM	\$60.00	\$60.00
Archives	\$50.00	\$50.00
Corrections	\$338.84	\$500.00
CPC	\$233.70	\$450.00
Grapevine	\$50.00	\$50.00
Literature	\$50.00	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$50.00	\$50.00
PI	\$440.72	\$600.00
Special Accessibilities	\$50.00	\$50.00

Treatment	\$280.00	\$400.00
Webmaster	\$120.00	\$120.00
Workshops	\$500.00	\$500.00

*The following reports were given and accepted:*

- **District Committee Member (DCM) – Marybeth S.**

- Marybeth submitted a written report, which she summarized in person:

Planning continues for the District 05 mini-conference which will be held in January 18, 2020. Our current Delegate Sara P. will be participating in this mini-conference and will be sharing her story following the Northside Potluck. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact me. Next planning meeting: Monday, November 18 at 7 PM at Marybeth's house.

I attended the Area 74 Assembly in Three Lakes on October 26. District 05 was awarded the bid for the Area 74 2020 Fall Conference that will be held in Eau Claire on September 11-13, 2020. We will need many AA members to assist in planning this conference. Byron B. is the conference chair and you may contact him or myself on how you can be of service in the planning of this conference. Also at the conference a new Area Archivist was elected. Discussion continued regarding an Area 74 inventory which will take place in 2020. ASL interpreters will now be present at all Area 74 Assemblies and Conferences.

As this year winds down, please consider being of service to your groups. Groups are the foundation of the AA service structure. Please consider electing and supporting a GSR. New GSR orientation will be part of the Mini-Conference being held on January 18, 2020.

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.

- **Alternate DCM – Paul H.**

- No report.

- **Cooperating 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: December 2.)

- **Treatment – Megan S.**

- 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: December 9.)

- **Corrections – Derek B.**

- 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: February 3, 2020.)

- **Special Accessibilities – Vacant.**

- No report.

- Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.
- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
  - Myron M. gave report.
  - Looking for a need a new editor.
- **Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.
  - Myron M. gave report.
  - Working on February 8 event:
    - Has coordinated with CPC to participate in the event as well as the general public.
    - Planning is going well.
    - Flier is made.
    - Speakers are lined up.
    - AA members will be at tables to answer questions.
    - Pamphlets provided.
  - Yellow pages ad with CVIG help number:
    - \$90.60 for yearly membership
    - ☞ Bring back to your group: Do we want to continue this? It will be local, not 800 number.
  - 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 20.)
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
  - Pat T. gave report.
  - Elections coming up.
  - Encourage people to get rid of 800 number links.
  - Intergroup is not tax exempt so will have to pay tax on literature.
  - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: November 27.)

## Old Business

- **Special Accessibilities Election**
  - No candidates present.
  - Tabled to December.
- **Alt. DCM Election**
  - No nominations.
- **Newsletter Editor Election**
  - No nominations.
- **Who has a voice a District meetings?**
  - Marybeth clarified her previous question about who has a voice at GSR meetings pertaining to District-related issues.
  - Back to Basics made a motion: Motion to defer for more investigation and information from District 05.
    - Discussion:
      - Northside Group: Be cautious not to exclude good, helpful experience. DCM should determine if the information shared is experience or opinion.
      - Monday Night Big Book Study: Group voice is represented by the GSR. Concern that determining experience or opinion may be hurtful and unhelpful.
      - Phoenix North Group: Don't want to discourage people from coming here. Don't want outside influences to override group conscience.
      - There is a Solution (EC): Group in support of updating guidelines. Thinks something should be done to make an effort towards something (not table).
      - There is a Solution (RF): Wants to hear all voices because that may present information that would be helpful to bring back to their group.
      - Early Risers: Same as above. Hear all voices.
      - Saturday Night Alive: Only GSRs and Committee chairs should have a voice.

- Tuesday Night Step Group: Voices of GSRs heard. Wants to avoid the possibility of “bleeding deacons” overwhelming discussion.
- Gary S: Questions possibility for unity if voices are excluded. We need past service voices to help others, especially people new to service and hopes people will be “elder statesmen.”
- Myron M: Look at meeting list and compare with number of GSRs who come to this meeting. Barring the voice of non-GSRs would exclude the voice of the majority of members of AA in this District.
- Nicholas S-S: Members have a right of participation. Voices allow for a well-informed group conscience. We trust GSRs to represent their group. DCM has right to set agenda and cut off discussion where appropriate.
- Pat T: Open sharing should be as noted.
  - Motion not passed.
- **Motion made and passed**: Keep guidelines as written.

### New Business

- **PI Committee Discussion**
  - Nicholas made an announcement that PI is moving to Eau Claire. Thanks to Myron for all the great work over the years. There is a flier out about that.
- **Gift to the Janitor for Christmas**
  - \$50.00 gift per tradition.
  - Motion made and passed to do this.

### Open Sharing

- Back to Basics: Excited to join Traveling Potluck (February 16, Club 12, 1-4 PM). Bringing in out of town speaker who used to be part of the community. Elections are coming up on December 5.
- Recovery on the River Jamboree will host NYE Party, December 31, Club 12, 9 PM.
- WICYPAA bowling event December 7 at Wagner’s after SNA speaker Amy B.
- Northside: January 18 Traveling Potluck.

### Closing

- Responsibility Statement

**Next Meeting:** December 11, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: All outgoing and incoming GSRs, Outgoing and Incoming Committee Chairs and Officers.

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**Open Service Position:** District05 is in need of an editor for *The District View* newsletter for 2020-2021. Interested members should contact [thedistrictview@district05.org](mailto:thedistrictview@district05.org) to learn more.

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### Members’ Views

...on STEP 12:

### God’s Will for Us

*“For many years I pondered over God’s will for me, believing that perhaps a great destiny had been ordained for my life.”*

---Daily Reflections, November 12<sup>th</sup>, pg. 325

The A.A. member who authored the above quote voices a quandary faced by many A.A. members making their initial attempts to understand Step 11: Just how am I supposed to recognize, understand and accept God’s will for me? Members who have held lifelong membership in an organized religion may always have contemplated some form of

this question. For those of us who do not claim to be religious, who may have struggled mightily to come to terms with Steps 2 & 3, this may seem to be a bridge too far.

Setting aside our individual beliefs regarding God, it is perfectly natural for us to wonder about our purpose in the world. Philosophers have debated the question since before the invention of writing. For a newly-recovered alcoholic who is struggling to define this strange new life that has been given to him or her, one's proper place in tomorrow seems utterly undefinable. A few may come to be fearful that God's will might turn out to be that they are meant to give away all their possessions, live in a cave and pray constantly. Some others, unfortunately, throw up their hands and turn away from all spiritual aspects of the A.A. program of recovery. History demonstrates this is a very perilous course to follow, as it may well lead back to the bottle.

A.A. literature doesn't provide a direct answer to the question. It seems the founders intended that we do need to seek an answer for ourselves; that the answer may well be in the seeking---not necessarily in the finding. This keeps us practicing Step 11 and ever looking to do the next right thing.

The member whose essay appears in *Daily Reflections* for November 12<sup>th</sup> has arrived at a definition of God's will that both satisfies and surprises with its simplicity: ***"...God's will for me was simply that I practice Step Twelve on a daily basis. Furthermore, I realized I should do this to the best of my ability."***

I think that is a beautiful and very workable definition of God's will for A.A. members. I would add just two words---stay sober.

---an A.A. Member

### **...on TRADITION #12:**

#### **Anonymity: a Public Expression of Personal Humility**

*"Indeed, the attainment of greater humility is the foundation principle of each of A.A.'s Twelve Steps."*

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 70

*"We are sure that humility, expressed by anonymity, is the greatest safeguard that Alcoholics Anonymous can ever have."*

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 187

Like many of us, I came to A.A. thinking all my problems were caused by an excessive intake of alcoholic beverages. I was humiliated by that admission of 'naughtiness'; but I thought if I could learn from you how to control that intake, I would be able to get on with running my life as I knew it. A.A.'s program of recovery has disabused me of that silly notion not by teaching me how to avoid booze, but by helping me find a new way to live.

The first quote above speaks to the "how" aspect of the stated goal of A.A.'s Twelve Steps: the generation of a spiritual awakening---or psychic change, if you prefer---in each of us. Without some elementary progress from the humiliation of Step 1 toward a better understanding of actual humility, Steps 2 & 3 are gibberish to us. As Bill W. wrote, *"For just so long as we were convinced that we could live exclusively by our own individual strength and intelligence, for just that long was a working faith in a Higher Power impossible."* Not difficult, not troublesome, but impossible. Steps 4 & 5 together form only a hollow confession of missteps unless one has grasped enough humility to see the actual harms we have done, and what it is inside of us that has led us to behave this way. In Steps 6 & 7, humility unmask harmless 'personality quirks' and reveals them to be defects of our character, and makes us ready and willing to have them removed from us. In Steps 8 & 9 we need all the humility we can yet muster to take our first steps outside ourselves to atone to the victims of our prior behaviors. In the remaining Steps we seek to maintain our growth in humility. For in the absence of humility, sobriety is a mere counting of dry days---pride in a personal accomplishment. Grounded in humility, sobriety is a priceless gift of new life to be freely shared.

The second quote above, with which Bill W. closed his essay on Tradition 12, is probably our most significant reminder that the spiritual principles offered in the 12 Steps to give new life to alcoholics are the same concepts that keep A.A. itself alive and whole. In this essay, he points out that anonymity was chosen for the book title and the name of our society not so much out of a complete grasp of its spiritual significance as it was out of fear of the public stigma regarding alcoholics. Our society remains largely anonymous in part to reassure newcomers that their safety is protected here. That form of anonymity looks inward within A.A. But the outward-looking anonymity practiced by A.A. itself in the media, under Traditions 11 & 12, took a number of years to work out; A.A. was not born with it. Early A.A. history shows numerous cases in which A.A. members, in apparent disregard of the 12 Steps' talk of the

value of humility, publicly trumpeted their A.A. membership. Whether these anonymity breaches were well-intentioned or done merely for personal gain, they threatened our public good will and belied our name. It wasn't until the 12 Traditions were written and accepted that the concept of public anonymity as an expression of personal humility became well established within the membership.

We see that personal search for greater humility is a bedrock spiritual principle in the 12 Steps of recovery; and that same humility, as expressed by public anonymity, also forms the basis of all of our society's 12 Traditions. In the absence of humility, both recovery and the unity of A.A. are in peril.

---an A.A. Member

**Members' Views** will share brief essays submitted by District05 A.A. members. Please send your views to [thedistrictview@district05.org](mailto:thedistrictview@district05.org) or to [thedistrictview@gmail.com](mailto:thedistrictview@gmail.com)

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## A.A. Service View

### Thanks for Your Service

*"It is not to the few that we owe the remarkable developments in our unity and in our ability to carry A.A.'s message everywhere. It is to the many; indeed, it is to the labors of all of us that we owe these prime blessings."*

---Bill W., from a talk given in 1959.

With the turn of the calendar to 2020, we mark the end of the two-year terms of service for most of the members in A.A.'s service structure. It is only right for us to offer a big 'thank you' to all who given of their time and of themselves over the past two years to help keep A.A.'s wheels turning. In A.A.'s traditional spirit of rotation, they now will hand over their duties to the next willing A.A.s.

While their official duties may be ending, their responsibilities as member-volunteers do not. It is the privilege of each out-going volunteer to share what they have learned during their terms of service, both to benefit the next in line and to spread within their group and recovery community the value of their participation. No only does a better-informed membership benefit all of A.A., but spreading the message that service-volunteer efforts are personally very rewarding helps prepare future volunteers to rise to the task. If nothing else, newcomers need to see and hear that giving of oneself in service is not an abnormal pursuit; that members need to give back what has so freely given to them. And, as we all know, A.A.'s work will never completely be done.

Having had a positive experience in service to A.A., there is nothing in our tradition that says it cannot continue beyond two years. Why not take what you have learned by this term of service and find another outlet for your energies? District service committees always are in need of willing hands. Pick one and pay them a visit at their next meeting. Clubs and groups and the local Intergroup office can always use experienced help. Or, why not work within your group to host a District service workshop?

So to those whose terms are ending, thanks again for your service. Welcome to the newly-minted volunteers: Embrace the adventure ahead! Service to A.A. marches on.

---an A.A. Member

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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 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 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every month.

**Public Information Committee** meets in the ODD months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) at 6:30pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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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 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](mailto:webmaster@district05.org)

### December 2019:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 4<sup>th</sup> -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup 2020 Elections**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire. See flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)
- 9<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 11<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 25<sup>th</sup> -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.
- 31<sup>st</sup> -- **Recovery on the River Jamboree New Year's Eve Party**, 9pm, Games, music, speakers etc., Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)

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### January 2020:

- 6<sup>th</sup> -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 8<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 13<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 18<sup>th</sup> -- **District05 Mini-Conference**, 9:00am, Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane in Eau Claire. See flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> -- **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.

**SAVE THE  
DATE**



**AREA 74**

**FALL CONFERENCE**

**HOSTED BY DISTRICT 5**

**SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020**

**BEST WESTERN PLUS**

**EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN**

**Speakers, panels, banquet!!**