



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 2

February 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 2: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Tradition 2: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

January 9, 2019 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 February: Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, 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.
 - Sent around contact sheets for officers and GSRs (asked for additions, verification, and indication of GSR vs. Alt. GSR).
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - No report.

The following reports were given and accepted:

- **District Committee Member (DCM)** – Marybeth S.
 - No report.
- **Alternate DCM** – Paul H.
 - Paul submitted a written report, which he summarized in person:
 - Met with Bryon B. and Cole K regarding workshop agenda.
 - Bryon B. has graciously accepted our request to present a PowerPoint on service structure and finances within the fellowship.
 - Cole K. will bring AA literature and visual posters to the workshop.
 - Paul H. will be organizing refreshments, venue, and clean up.
 - Workshop will be January 19, 2019 at Hope Lutheran Church on the corner of Eddy Lane and Starr Ave.
 - Workshop to start at 2 PM and close and 4 PM. This will provide enough time for set up for Northside potluck.
 - Timeline:
 - 2:00 - 2:15 PM: Gathering/coffee/snacks
 - 2:15 - 2:45 PM: Service structure PowerPoint
 - 2:45 - 3:00 PM: Break
 - 3:00 - 3:30 PM: Presentation on "Money in AA"
 - 3:30 - 4:00 PM: Open discussion and closing
 - Proposed that District 05 provide refreshments
 - Water, coffee, cookies, vegetable tray, etc.

Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - There was no presentation on Tradition 8 and Concept 8.
- **One-Day Conference Sponsored by District 05**
 - Marybeth suggested that a subcommittee be formed in order to brainstorm the idea and bring back suggestions.

- Marybeth will send out some dates to see about the first meeting.
- **ASL Interpreter at Area 74**
 - In favor of it for the main speakers; other things by request.
- **Assembly/Conference Timing and Number**
 - Back to Basics: Keep things the same.
 - Safe Place to Be: Two assemblies and two conferences on different days.
 - Motion made for District 05 to put on the Area agenda to discuss timing and number of assemblies/conferences.
- **Mondovi Meeting**
 - The old meeting ended.
 - John B-B. said his group is willing to help if a meeting is still needed.

New Business

- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines**
 - Does the [“District 05 Service Structure Guidelines”](#) document need review?
 - Big change at the last review was that committee chairs stopped having voting rights.
 - Consensus that the document should be reviewed and a review committee be formed.
- **Spanish-Speaking Meeting**
 - Priest in Arcadia reached out to CPC and asked about a Spanish-speaking meeting in that area.
 - There aren’t any.
 - There aren’t any in Winona.
 - Looking for people who speak Spanish and are in recovery to help with starting a meeting.
 - Reach out to Pat T. (CPC Chair) with information.
 - A notice will go into the District View.
 - 🗨 GSRs: Mention to your groups to see if anybody can help with this.

Open Sharing

- Shane S.:
 - Back to Basics is hosting a “Building and Rebuilding Relationships in Recovery” workshop on January 26. See the flier [here](#).
 - New GSR share at the end of the meeting once per month seems to be helpful to let people know what is happening in the District and Area.
- Cole K.:
 - Has been dispersing the mini Big Books and 12 and 12s in the Little Libraries in the area. He will check back to see if they are missing.
 - Working on posters for the [GSR Workshop](#).
- Zach H.:
 - Saturday Night Alive just had elections and filled every position.
 - Fellowship on the last Saturday will be a game night at Club 12.
- Jackie B.:
 - Her group is meeting every other month now.
- Brittany B.:
 - WICYPAA is happening January 11-13.
- Charles S.:
 - Has been going to other meetings to help encourage more representation from River Falls.
- Myron M.:
 - Put together flier about the District View.
- Robert N.:
 - Reached out to bridging the gap after incarceration and did not get a response. (Contact Ken P.)
- John B-B.:
 - Prisoner released to Gilman and he was able to help get them to a meeting.
 - Decline in female attendance at Safe Place to Be, so help would be appreciated.
- Teena P.:
 - Northside Group had elections and most positions filled.

- Working on Traveling Potluck. See flier [here](#).
- Joe P.:
 - Club 12 Banquet fliers are going out and tickets will be out soon. See flier [here](#).

Summary of Upcoming Activity in District 05

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: February 4.)
- **Treatment** – Matt A.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: February 11.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - 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 4.)
- **Special Accessibilities** – Shane R.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined. Contact Shane R. to help.
- **Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: January 16)
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 23.)

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: February 13, 2019.

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

Members' Views

...on STEP #2

Higher-Powered

“In the face of collapse and despair, in the face of the total failure of their human resources, they found that a new power, peace, happiness, and sense of direction flowed into them.”

--Alcoholics Anonymous, pg. 50

On the day I walked into my first A.A. meeting, I was thoroughly beaten. Every means I had tried to control my drinking had failed completely. I readily accepted the fact of my powerlessness in Step 1. The current state of my life was all the evidence I needed.

Step 2, however, presents a very different challenge: it is not a simple, fact-based proposition. Having lived my entire adult life by self-reliance and self-absorption, I was not well-equipped for a rapid shift to a reliance upon some other---hopefully more powerful---power. I approached Step 2 from a reason-based perspective, because that was the only perspective from which I could work. To begin a search for this power, I needed to ask, “Who/What, When, Where, Why and How” questions.

A.A. answers the first question by making the decision mine and mine alone, “your own conception of God.” This is crucially important because I would reject having someone impose their own particular vision of a power I must accept.

A clue to “when?” was pointed out to me in the reading from Chapter 5 that is heard at most A.A. meetings, “...may you find Him now.” That phrase is not just well-wishing that one’s search for God will be brief: “Now” refers to living in the moment, the only place where conscious contact with the higher power is possible.

My answer to “where?” is found on page 55 of the Big Book: “We found the Great Reality deep down within us. In the last analysis it is only there that He may be found.” So after looking to this and that religion, philosophy and everywhere else---Aha!

For the answer to “why?” all I really needed to do was to review the state I was in when I took Step 1, but for further clarification, see page 43: “The alcoholic at times has no effective mental defense against the first drink....His defense must come from a Higher Power.”

Finally, “how?” Honesty—Open-mindedness---Willingness. I would add that a good sponsor, a well-worn Big Book kept within reach, and placing one’s seat in a chair at many meetings also help.

--An AA Member

...on TRADITION #2

Different Strokes

“It seems proved that A.A. can stand on its own feet anywhere and under any conditions. New, able, and vigorous people keep coming to the surface, turning up where they are needed. Besides, A.A. has reached enough spiritual maturity to know that its final dependence is upon God.”

Bill W., *personal letter, 1940*

A.A. groups are entirely free to organize themselves, or not to organize themselves, as they see fit. Some groups form rotating leadership committees, elect officers and service representatives, debate every issue that arises at the district or area level, and keep abreast of all actions taken at the General Service Conference. Other groups may not even hold regular business meetings, so long as the rent gets paid and someone remembers to buy the coffee. Under A.A. tradition, each group is functioning according to their group conscience, whether by election or by inaction.

These disparate group traditions might be confusing to visiting A.A.’s, whether they are relative newcomers or old-timers. When I was new to A.A., it was suggested that I visit many different groups to see where I felt I could belong. They said it was like a drinker looking for a new bar: there are country music bars, gay bars, biker bars, upscale bars, sports bars, whatever---just find one where you feel you belong. As I have been in A.A. for some years, I do find myself frequenting some groups over others and there is one meeting I very, very seldom miss.

I don’t mean to imply that the groups I have gravitated away from are doing A.A. the wrong way. They are doing A.A. their way. It doesn’t matter if their way is not my way. I did used to fret about that, wondering if somehow I owed it A.A. to tell a group their traditions were not up to snuff! Tradition 2 tells me I have no business in their group conscience.

Who am I to say they are not listening to their ultimate authority?

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

To Accept and to Act

“Ever deepening humility, accompanied by an ever greater willingness to accept and to act upon clear-cut obligations---these are truly our touchstones for all growth in the life of the spirit. They hold up to us the very essence of right being and right doing.”

---Bill W., *Grapevine, January 1966*

On a day that is especially trying for me, when gratitude is far from top-of-mind, part of me may want to rebel against doing what I really know is good for me to do---the next right thing---because it seems too hard. I might think about postponing that meeting with a sponsee; I might want to call an A.A. friend to ask if she will chair tonight’s meeting in my place. When the self-pity is really *on me* like that, I just don’t want to be an alcoholic today. But I am.

Days like that are one reason I feel so blessed to have been brought up in A.A. by a sponsor who gets Step 12 and who made certain that I do, too. It is a lifesaver for me. As Bill W. said in his story, “...I soon found that when all other measures failed, work with another alcoholic would save the day. It is a design for living that works in rough going.”

It's true that there are no dues or fees for A.A. membership, but there are obligations. In typical A.A. fashion, these obligations are not so much onerous burdens as they are aids to spiritual growth and contented living. For me to attempt to "get by" without a commitment to regular service for others would absolutely short-change my recovery. So, just how "recovered" do I want to be? To put it another way---how can a Higher Power hold you up if you tie His arms behind His back?

---An A.A. Member

WANTED: District 05 needs to hear from A.A. members who speak Spanish.

Please email: cpc@district05.org

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

February 2019:

- 1st-3rd – **7th Annual Men's AA Retreat**, 5:30pm Fri. thru 10:00 Sun., Luther Bible Camp, 944 24 ¼ Street in Chetek, WI 54728. See event flyer and registration at www.district05.org
- 4th – **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th – **Sponsorship Workshop**, 3-5:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 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., Eau Claire.

March 2019:

4th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

9th – **Club 12 Annual Banquet**, Speakers/Dinner/Dance, Florian Gardens, 2340 Lorch Ave., Eau Claire. See the event flyer at www.district05.org

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.

20th – **P. I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.

27th -- **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.

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Your comments, suggestions and essay submissions are most welcome! Please send them by email to the same address, above.
