



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 1

January 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 1: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol---that our lives had become unmanageable."

Tradition 1: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

December 12, 2018 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 8 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - Reports scheduled for January (odd year): None—Open Forum/Sharing Session.
 - 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.
 - Report Period: 11/14/18-12/11/18
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,395.03
 - Group Contributions: \$0.00
 - Expenses: \$0.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,395.03
 - Savings Closing Balance: \$463.17
 - Checking Balance, According to the Bank: \$2,178.68
 - Sara will figure out the discrepancy.
 - **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 Sharing Session and Area Committee Meeting in Three Lakes on December 8th. There were two items that seemed to generate the most interest. The first was a potential change in the number and locations of the Area Assembly. Currently two Area Assemblies are held in conjunction with the Spring and Fall Conference. Concern was expressed that precludes a number of members from attending the actual conference as they spend all of Saturday dealing with Area Business. There was also sharing regarding the need for the number of Assemblies and Area Committee Meetings that are held each year. Another topic that generated a great deal of discussion was the pending motion to provide an ASL interpreter at all Area events.

The Now and Then newsletter is still looking for a co-editor. Please let me know if you would be interested in this position.

Several new publications are available on the GSO website. These include the new service manual and some new pamphlets.

District 5 will be holding a workshop on January 19th at in the afternoon at Hope Lutheran Church for newly elected GSRs any member that would like to learn more about the responsibility and duties of this group position.

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

I shared a ride to the Area Committee Meeting, but I am asking for \$15 as my share of the gas money. Request to be reimbursed \$50.00 for Christmas gift for custodian at Leisure Center.

I am humbled and to be of service and please contact me if you would like a representative from District 5 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. Yours in service. Marybeth S.

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – Pat T.**
 - Talked about possibility of joint workshop.
 - Trying to find new prospects for presentations.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 7, 2019.)

- **Treatment – Matt A.**
 - Elected new coordinators for all four treatment centers at most recent meeting.
 - Working on trying to get people to commit to showing up where they should when they sign up to speak, etc.
 - Part of pocket-size book order was delivered to L.E. Phillips. The rest will be given to Cole, the Literature Chair.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 14, 2019.)

- **Corrections – Ken P.**
 - Orientation at Eau Claire County Jail (December 13, 2018) with three new women to bring in meetings.
 - Currently, there are three meetings per month for women, but that might need to be scaled back to two, since two people are always required to bring a meeting, which makes things difficult.
 - Trempealeau County Jail currently has 4-5 meetings per month.
 - Ken is still looking for contacts to help bring meetings into Pierce County Jail.
 - 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, 2019.)

- **Special Accessibilities – Vacant at the time of the meeting, but filled in Old Business, below.**
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined. Contact Shane R. to help.

- **Public Information (PI) – Doug H.**
 - Some shelters have expressed interest in getting materials.
 - Bought Big Books for the “Little Libraries.”
 - A school reached out for information about alcoholism and Al-Anon.
 - 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, 2019.)

- **Literature – Cole K.**
 - Will attend new GSR workshop in January.
 - Will distribute extra pocket-sized Big Books and 12 x 12s.

- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - Submit articles for the newsletter and Myron will happily edit them because he is loving the newsletter gig.
- **Intergroup** – Zach H.
 - Looking for a Treasurer.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: August 22.)

Old Business

- **Budget**
 - PI amount was increased due to rent and Literature was added back in.
 - **Motion made and passed to approve the budget with changes above.**
 - Minority voice was acknowledged: Workshop budget is too low.
 - 2019 Budget passed again after revote.

Figure 1: Budget Comparison

Budget Item	2018	Proposed 2019	Approved 2019
Administrative	\$800.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
DCM	\$1000.0	\$700.00	\$700.00
Alt. DCM	\$300.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Archives	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Corrections	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
CPC	\$250.00	\$450.00	\$450.00
Grapevine	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Literature	\$50.00	(Take off)	↑ \$50.00
Newsletter	\$150.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
PI	\$500.00	\$500.00	↑ \$600.00
Rent	\$162.00	(Administrative)	(Administrative)
Special Accessibilities	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Treatment	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Webmaster	\$120.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Workshops (*New)		\$500.00	\$500.00
		\$3,930.00	\$4,080.00 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- **Prudent Reserve**
 - **Motion made and passed to set prudent reserve at \$600.00.**
 - Minority voices were acknowledged: Their groups thought \$1,600.00 was a good number.
 - Passed with no revote.
- **Proposals to Spend Money**
 - Had a discussion about lower contributions due to groups thinking we have too much money.
 - John B-B. suggested providing literature to Stanley Prison (in District 6).
 - Motion made and rescinded.
 - Ken P. (Corrections Chair) has books for this purpose that he will provide to John.
 - **Motion made and passed to hold a one-day conference with speakers sponsored by District 05.**
 - Subcommittee will be formed in January 2019.
- **Joint Workshop Discussion**
 - Matt is hoping this will occur in the first quarter of 2019 and will be a day-long event with the Delegate or Area Committee Chair.
- **New GSR Workshop Discussion**
 - Will take place in conjunction with North Side Group Traveling Potluck.
 - Will be informative about service structure.
 - Looking for people to be involved, so contact Paul H.
 - Paul will get subcommittee together. (So far: Shane S., Cole K., Marybeth S., John B-B., and Paul H.)
 - Myron mentioned that there is a PowerPoint that Jim P. and Bryon B. had.
 - Myron will reach out to them to see if we can use it or if they can present it.
- **Special Accessibilities Chair Replacement**
 - Shane R. was nominated and he accepted.
 - No other nominations.
 - **Shane R. elected by simple majority.**
- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - Matt A. was going to present on Tradition 8 and Concept 8, but that will be postponed until next time, due to time constraints.

New Business

- No new business was discussed.

Open Sharing

- Holiday Party, hosted by Recovery on the River. Friday, December 21, 2018. See flier [here](#).
- New Year's Eve Dance and Open Speaker Meeting, hosted by Saturday Night Alive. Monday, December 31, 2018. See flier [here](#).
- Gay New Year's Day Holiday Party and Open Speaker Meeting, hosted by the Gay Chatter LGBTQ Meeting. Tuesday, January 1, 2019. See flier [here](#).
- Annual Club 12 Banquet is coming up on March 9-10.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: January 9, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: None—Open Forum/Sharing Session.

Members' Views

...on STEP #1

A Simple Statement of Fact

"Our admissions of personal powerlessness finally turn out to be firm bedrock upon which happy and purposeful lives may be built."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, p. 21

On the day I first walked into the doors of A.A., I really had no idea what to expect from you people. Would there be some kind of entrance test, an assessment of me and my drinking history? Would I qualify for membership *as an alcoholic*? How would I measure up to all of you folks who introduced yourselves as alcoholics?

Fortunately, I was asking the wrong questions. Step One didn't ask whether I consider myself an alcoholic, which was good since I didn't have a definition for that term. It was then---and still is now---irrelevant how I think I compare to any other alcoholic. The step simply asks if I am powerless over alcohol. It is a yes/no question. For me, that question was not difficult to answer on that day; I had left the jail a couple of hours earlier and was sitting in my first A.A. meeting, picking windshield glass out of my hair. Powerless? Unmanageable? I'd have to say yes.

Answering with a "yes", admitting powerlessness over alcohol, has proven to be the starting point for a new life for me. Saying "yes" means I belong here among you; that I want what you have and will do what you have done to get it. Saying "yes" has meant I can't just sit in the back, say nothing, and judge people.

Only Step One mentions alcohol. Sobriety is our primary concern. That doesn't mean it is our only concern, by any means; it is our first concern. The rest of the Steps help us grow to live a useful life. But it all starts with simple statement of fact: I am powerless over alcohol.

--An AA Member

...on TRADITION #1

"Realization dawns that he is but a small part of a great whole; that no personal sacrifice is too great for preservation of the Fellowship."

Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 130

The theme of Tradition One is A.A. unity. What does unity mean to this member, this one small part of the great whole? It means that the health and strength of my group and of A.A. are dependent upon my actions just as surely as my sobriety and serenity are dependent upon my actions.

If I take my sobriety for granted, I risk losing it. If I choose self-interest ahead of what is best for the group, I weaken the group. A.A. has gained strength and flourished now for eight decades. It may seem indestructible. We take for granted that no outside forces are likely to threaten it. If A.A. is to be weakened, the damage will come from within; not in the form of a sudden upheaval, but from a multitude of little selfish pinpricks. Just as surely as a pattern of self-centered behavior threatens spiritual growth of the individual, so does the same behavior weaken A.A.'s ability to fulfill its primary purpose.

For that, I am responsible.

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

Never Done

"In all probability, we shall never be able to touch more than a fair fraction of the alcohol problem in all its ramifications."

Alcoholic Anonymous, Forward to the Second Edition, pg. xxi

Within an hour's drive from my home at the western end of District05, there are well over 1,000 weekly A.A. meetings; in my small town alone there are 20. The Big Book, the 12 & 12, and every A.A. pamphlet

and video are just a click away, as are meeting lists, newsletters and event calendars. I can “attend” meetings on my phone anytime, day or night. A.A. helplines are staffed by volunteers around the clock. We are awash in information. What else can possibly be left to do in service to alcoholics?

Yet, if we look up from our phones for a bit, we see that the quote above from the Big Book is every bit as true today as it was when written back in 1955. One thing that has not changed is the nature of alcoholism---cunning, baffling and powerful. Human self-will has not changed; it still dogs our every step toward spiritual growth. Fortunately for all of us, what also has not changed is A.A.’s program of recovery, unity and service: One alcoholic reaching out to another alcoholic remains the solution that works.

The challenge for service-minded A.A.’s presented by this new era of e-resources might be called “paralysis by ease of access.” Why should we bother organizing local A.A. events when all that information is so neatly packaged right in our pockets? Looking back over my early A.A. experience, I can recall District-sponsored workshops and similar events that each made a very positive impression upon me. I recall a workshop on sponsorship held in a greenhouse; I don’t recall exactly what was said, but I do clearly remember being impressed that this panel of experienced A.A.’s made time to share their experiences with a newcomer like me. I remember two crowded Big Book studies I attended at the Menomonie Leisure Center. The chief message I took from them was the great importance that successful A.A.’s place on a continuous program of personal education, constantly broadening and deepening their understanding of our program. In later years, having seen that District service is possible, spiritually enriching, and not actually at all abnormal, I helped organize a few other workshops which, though not that well-attended, gave me some organizing skills and introduced me to working alongside other A.A.’s toward a common goal in service of others. Clearly, each of these events was impactful by helping me come to belong in A.A. They were not slick or sophisticated or air-brushed into perfection, but they all were 100% real exercises in A.A.’s walking the talk concerning our primary purpose.

We must not allow ourselves to be lulled into service paralysis by some nebulous fear that real-world, eye-contact-with-newcomers service events can’t compete for eyeballs with e-anything. We must remember that we are responsible for what we can control: our efforts and our attitudes. Outcomes are entirely out of our control, and most definitely in the hands of a power that is not me.

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

January 2019:

- 1st – **A Gay New Year's Day**, Holiday Party & Open Speaker Mtg., 6pm, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 421 Farwell St. in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 7th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 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.
- 19th – **District 05 GSR Workshop**, 2-4pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 19th – **Traveling Potluck**, 5:00pm, Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.district05.org
- 23rd -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.
- 26th – **Building & Rebuilding Relationships in Recovery Workshop & Potluck**, 4-7:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See event flyer at www.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.

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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.
