



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 7

July 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 7: "Humbly asked him to remove our shortcomings."

Tradition 7: "Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Concept VII: The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness. (*short form*)

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

June 12, 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 July: None. GSR Sharing Session and Open Forum.
 - 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: 05/08/19-06/12/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,123.96
 - Group Contributions: \$742.13
 - Expenses: \$226.00
 - Corrections: \$92.00
 - PO Box: \$134.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,640.09
 - Savings Closing Balance: \$600.00
 - **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	\$540.00	\$700.00
Alt. DCM	\$60.00	\$60.00
Archives	\$50.00	\$50.00
Corrections	\$408.00	\$500.00
CPC	\$233.70	\$450.00
Grapevine	\$50.00	\$50.00
Literature	\$50.00	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$50.00	\$50.00
PI	\$510.00	\$600.00

Special Accessibilities	\$50.00	\$50.00
Treatment	\$400.00	\$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:

I attended the Area Assembly and Area Committee Meeting held in conjunction with the Area 74 Conference in Kimberly. The Assembly agreed to create ad hoc committees to review the content of the “Now and Then” and to take a look at how the Area conducts its business (including the number of assemblies held each year). There were 9 GSRs from District 05 in attendance. Thank you for being of service to your groups. I am asking for \$150 toward expenses for attending the conference and Assembly.

The Area Delegate’s report on the GSO Conference will be held on June 22 in Three Lakes.

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.

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

Reminder that elections will be held in September. Nominations will happen in August.

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 time for a report.

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – Pat T.**

- No time for a report.
- Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: July 1.)

- **Treatment – Megan S.**

- Submitted emailed report.
- Centers mostly have speakers through July.
- Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: July 8.)

- **Corrections – Ken P.**

- Eau Claire County Jail has agreed to let one person in at a time (instead of two), but we must go every week on the same day. This is for male inmates.
- Will be holding an out-of-cycle special meeting on July 8 at 7:00 PM, Club 12 (small building).

- 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: July 8; August 5.)
- **Special Accessibilities – Vacant.**
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.
- **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: July 17.)

Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - Hannah H.'s presentation tabled until next month.
- **Helping District 06 with Bringing Meetings into the Chippewa County Jail**
 - Corrections Committee special meeting: July 8, 7:00 PM, Club 12 (small building).
 - Safe Place to Be (EC): On board with bringing meetings but made suggestion about potentially changing District boundaries to spread out more.
 - Back to Basics (EC): No to meetings, but yes to literature.
 - Flimsy Reed (EC): Generally thought we should help if we can find people who want to take meetings in.
 - There is a Solution (RF): Help with literature. Help with people if available.
 - There is a Solution (EC): Group was for meetings but may reconsider due to manpower concerns.
 - Suggestion made to have a campaign/workshop to get more volunteers to bring in meetings.
 - Suggestion made to have applications available (printed) at District.
 - ***Motion made and passed:*** If sufficient resources are available, the Corrections Committee should take meetings to the Chippewa County Jail.
- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines Revisions**
 - John B. gave report.
 - Page 4: Intergroup removed as it is not a function of District 05.
 - Page 8: Removal of "trusted servant" and replacement with Webmaster and Newsletter Editor.
 - Page 10: Rotation of DCM to Grapevine Chair suggested to be listed as "offered" instead of implied obligation.
 - Page 11: Treasurer's reports changed from quarterly to monthly (used to be more detailed report quarterly).
 - Intergroup and WICYPAA: Should report be required or optional? General agreement that they should be optional.
 - ☞ Bring suggested changes back to your groups and bring back amendments for discussion next month.

New Business

- **Recovery on the River Jamboree**
 - Invitation to have District 05 represented at the event October 4-6.
 - Concern raised about being at an event that is not a function of District 05.
 - Noted that this is an opportunity to outreach, potentially.
 - ☞ ***Motion made and passed:*** Bring back to your groups to discuss.

Open Sharing

- Eau Claire Alano Club 12 produces meeting list that is inaccurate. Concern brought up about that. It is a function of the Club, so outside of our wheelhouse.
- January 18, 2020: Northside Group will have its potluck and extended invitation to District 05 for mini-conference event on the same day.
- ☞ **Reminder:** The Special Accessibilities chair is still vacant and a good opportunity to be of service.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: July 10, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: None. GSR Sharing Session and Open Forum.

OPEN SERVICE POSITION: District 05 has a vacancy for **Accessibilities Chair**. Interested A.A. members can learn more by emailing to dcn@district05.org or better yet, by attending the monthly District05 Meeting on Wednesday, July 10th at 6:45 PM at the Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th St E, Menomonie, WI 54751. This position is a wonderful opportunity to make an immediate and lasting impact in service to A.A. locally.

Members' Views

...on STEP #7

Humility as our guide

"The Seventh Step is where we make the change in our attitude which permits us, with humility as our guide, to move out from ourselves toward others and toward God."

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 76

In the first six of A.A.'s Twelve Steps, we focus on ourselves: on the various manifestations of our disease; on our over-weening self-will that blocks us from access to a Higher Power; on the facts of our checkered pasts and our newly-admitted defects of character. As Bill W. points out in the quote above, Step 7 marks a shift in focus outward from ourselves as we seek to re-engage with the world around us, armed with a hard-won new perspective on ourselves.

If our experience with the first six Steps has not yet brought us a new and more fulsome appreciation of the spiritual value of humility, we might want to make a thorough review of our efforts to this point. *"The whole emphasis of Step Seven is on humility. ...If that degree of humility could enable us to find the grace by which such a deadly obsession could be banished, then there must be hope of the same result respecting any other problem we could possibly have."* (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 76.) Humility is our key to successful implementation of all of the remaining Steps: It enables us to make genuine amends to those we have harmed; it brings integrity to our daily inventories; it makes prayer possible; it imbues us with gratitude which compels us to serve.

While strolling through the archives display at this year's Gopher State Roundup, I came across the following quote from the Rev. Andrew Murray. Dr. Bob kept a plaque on his desk which bore this inscription.

HUMILITY

Humility is perpetual quietness of heart.
It is to have no trouble. It is to never be
fretted or vexed, irritable or sore; to wonder
at nothing that is done to me, to feel
nothing against me. It is to be at rest when
nobody praises me, and when I am blamed
or despised, it is to have a blessed home in
myself where I can go in and shut the door,
and kneel to my Father in secret, and be at
peace, as in a deep sea of calmness when all

around me and about is seaming trouble.

---an A.A. Member

...on STEP #10

Keep it in double digits

A few years into sobriety, I knew that exercise was a good thing for my mind and body, so I bought and started riding bicycles. Cycling became a passion. Solo rides became training rides. Bike computers track your speed, average speed, distance for the current ride and total miles to date. I started keeping a spreadsheet with all this data, including temperature, wind speed/direction, route, etc. My exercise had moved from “passion” to “obsession.”

The toughest part of cycling is, of course, the hills. One of my favorite routes had a hill which was not extremely steep but was very long. About half-way up the hill, I would drop speed and slow considerably. My training goal was to keep my speed at 10 mph or above on this hill, so as I pedaled, I would tell myself, sometimes out loud, “Keep it in double digits!” As conditioning improved, I could many times do that, but not always. If I was only going 7 or 8 mph when I crested the hill, I thought I had failed.

When meeting with my sponsor one morning this topic came up. His response was asking me if I had done the best I could do for that particular ride. Was I tired or hungry? Did other issues affect my abilities? Why be concerned if I had done the best I could do. After all, 7.8 mph IS two digits, right?

This is part of the lesson of Step 10. *“When evening comes...many of us draw up a balance sheet for the day. This is a good place to remember that inventory-taking is not always done in red ink.” “Even when we have tried hard and failed, we may chalk that up as one of the greatest credits of all time.” (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 93)*

Did you know that the chapter on Step 10 in the 12&12 mentions accounting for things well done five separate times? *Five times!* While we think we may have failed in some of our endeavors that day, can we look at them and call it a learning experience? Will something good possibly come out of that experience later? Are we physically, emotionally or spiritually stronger because of that experience? When we do this, we may find we have many more things to put in our plus column for the day than we might think.

Cycling spreadsheets are no longer something I maintain. Now my bikes are for exercise and recreation. However, I still remember that while 10 is two digits, so is 7.8 and so is 2.3. If that is the best you could have given to any situation at that moment in time, credit yourself for your assets and use them to keep getting stronger.

---Ken P., A.A. Member

...on TRADITION #7

Funny about money

“Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.”

---A.A. Tradition Seven, Long Form

In the wild and woolly teenage years of A.A.’s existence---that is to say, the pre-12 Traditions period of the 1940’s---an atmosphere very like chaos reigned across A.A. as positive publicity resulted in explosive membership growth. A.A.’s membership quadrupled in 1941. Groups were springing up all over the country and flooding the N.Y. office---until now staffed by Bill W. and one secretary, Ruth Hock---with all the questions and demands for attention that might be expected from newly-sober members swamped by a wave of even newer and needier people.

There were conflicts between group members, between groups, as well as a great deal of mistrust of A.A.'s founders, who were wrongly accused of personally making a bucket of money from the publication of the Big Book. It was as though new-found sobriety had unleashed pent-up drives for money, recognition, power and control all across the membership. A.A. was hot and lots of people wanted a piece of the action. Anonymity breaks, the lure of commercial endorsements, and general power-driving fanned spiritual flames of suspicion, jealousy, resentment and fear. There was a very real fear that A.A. could explode under the pressures of rapid success, and that everyone would be left to fend for themselves.

Today we know A.A. as a relatively stable, reliable institution, even though made up of sometimes erratic individuals. Group life is guided by the 12 Traditions, formulated during that decade of near-chaos. In response to the uproar over the distracting effects of money, A.A. pledged itself to permanent corporate poverty, budgeting only for needed services plus a prudent reserve. To avoid any taint of outside influences, all funding from non-member sources was refused. A.A. "governance" migrated from the founders to the groups, and has been described as "spiritually-driven anarchy."

We in A.A. still are funny about money. There have been attempts, largely futile, since the early 1960's to encourage members to put more than \$1 in the meeting basket. There have been suggestions to put into the basket an amount equal to the price of a drink. Well, one member may have drunk the cheapest beer (3 cases for \$10), while another drank only top-shelf stuff in fancy hotel bars (\$15-\$20 per shot); besides, it's pretty weird to tie an A.A. group's funding to liquor industry pricing policies. There are even attempts to use shame as an inducement to increase member funding as in, "What's your recovery worth to you today?" Many remain adamant in their pursuit of A.A. poverty.

Yet, it is inescapably true that the group and A.A. as a whole do need funding, just as we need people willing to serve. *"Despite these misgivings, we had to recognize the fact that A.A. had to function."* (Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 161) With a budget policy that covers only basic needs plus a prudent reserve, there is nowhere else to go in a time of greater need other than to rein in the scope of services offered. A local Corrections Committee can serve only as many jails as their volunteers can manage; an Intergroup office can't skip paying the rent in order to stock more books.

---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

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.)

Who's up next?

Active alcoholics excel at a very few things: finding a way to drink; drowning their cares and anxieties; and getting someone else to take care of them. If they somehow make it into recovery in A.A., they usually find they can overcome the first two of these items---but many cling to the third one. It's just so easy to let other members do the work necessary to keep the group---and A.A. itself---running.

"That sort of service is fine for some people but I'm busy with my job, my family, and I think that newcomer might ask me to be their sponsor. Besides, I have to make up for all that lost ground on the financial front! And I really don't want to be seen as one of those 'A.A. show-offs.' What if I did step up for a position, and then made a mistake? I'm no leader. Anyway, I'm doing well enough." We could increase the list ad infinitum.

The Big Book is 80 years old this year. A.A. is the largest and most enduring society of recovered alcoholics in human history. All others failed to outlive their founders. Dr. Bob has been gone now for 69 years; Bill W. passed in 1971. They haven't been around to take care of us for a long time. How has A.A. kept growing without them?

Certainly the recovery program of A.A.'s Twelve Steps has changed many lives. But it is the unique organizational structure built by the founders that has kept the society stable. With the groups at the top of an upside-down pyramid-shaped structure, the direction of A.A.'s affairs funnels downward to a relatively small group of elected leaders at the bottom. In this way, the membership ultimately runs the ship. Hand-in-hand with this pyramid is a tradition of rotation for all elected positions. Two-year terms of service are the norm across A.A. So, not only does each group have the opportunity for its voice to be carried by their own General Service Representative (GSR), but rotation builds leadership experience in a huge number of members. Over any given period of time, the membership's knowledge and appreciation of---and sense of belonging to---the whole of A.A. grows and deepens and strengthens. This tradition also enhances the recovery experience of the many members who take part in service to A.A. Rotation is a very tangible example of placing principles before personalities. No one member is in any position long enough to claim it as 'their turf.'

In typical A.A. fashion, accepting one's responsibility to serve is not an onerous burden; it is an opportunity to expand one's recovery experience. Elections are just around the corner. Who's up next?

---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 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

July 2019:

- 1st -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 8th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 13th -- **4th Step Inventory Workshop**, 12:30-5:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 17th -- **Public Information Committee Mtg.**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 24th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

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.
- 28th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

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

