



# The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 6

June 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 6:** "Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

**Tradition 6:** "An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

**Concept VI:** The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board. (*short form*)

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## District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

May 8, 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 June: 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.
  - 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: 04/10/19-05/08/19
  - Checking Opening Balance: \$1,957.68
  - Group Contributions: \$300.00
  - Expenses: \$0.00
  - Transfer to Savings: \$133.72
  - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,123.96
  - Savings Balance: \$600.00
  - **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

*The following reports were given and accepted:*

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

I attended the Area Assembly is on April 27th in Three Lakes. There were 9 GSRs from District 5 in attendance. Thank you for being of service to your groups. The committee chairs from the Area presented their recommendations from the Delegates Workshop and the Assembly voted on those recommendations. I am asking for \$10 toward gas for attending the Assembly.

Please consider attending the Area 74 Spring Conference is being held in Kimberly the weekend of May 17-19. These are always the perfect opportunity to meet fellow AA member from across Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Please consider attending. Registration forms and electronic registration is available on the Area 74 website.

The planning event for the District 5 mini-conference was held on May 4th. Few people were in attendance. However, it was decided to hold this event in January, 2020 with a focus on how AA members can be of "maximum service"! The next committee meeting will be held on June 3 at 7:00 p.m. at my home. Please consider attending and being of service. This is an excellent opportunity for newcomers whose voices we would love to hear as the planning of this event continues.

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 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. Marybeth S.

- **Alternate DCM** – Paul H.
  - No report.
  
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
  - Still working on things.
  - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: June 3.)
  
- **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: May 13.)
  
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
  - Looking to make a case for more lenient rules about who can bring meetings into the Eau Claire County Jail.
  - Flier is being revised.
  - Working on possibility of meetings at Chippewa County Jail.
    - In District 6.
    - Discussion about whether we should help.
      - We already help at two other Chippewa County facilities.
      - People from Eau Claire in Chippewa Jail due to staffing problems.
      - More information may be needed to determine if we should be willing to actively help with volunteers.
        - ☞ Take back to groups to determine: Go all in, don't go at all, support with literature, or something else.
        - We will get more information from Nicholas S-S. who is spearheading the effort.
  - Trempealeau County Jail is very open about meetings.
  - 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: 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.
  - Myron M. gave report.
  - Completed putting Big Books in Little Libraries.
  - Planning public event for February 2020 in River Falls.
    - Perhaps will hold in other cities in the future.
    - Will be looking for volunteers to help.
  - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: May 15.)
  
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
  - Pat T. gave report.
  - Need cell phone coverage in September.
  - Large literature order will be going in soon, so be in touch with the literature person ASAP.
  - Talking about doing a workshop with the Brown Bag group.
  - May 5th workshop was good but poorly attended. Marybeth suggested using the material in the District 05 one-day session coming up in January 2020.
  - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 22.)

- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
  - Things are going well.
- **Webmaster** – Andy B.
  - Things are going well.
  - Submit fliers or at least the information about the function so it can get posted to the website.
  - Let Andy know if you have suggestions for the website.
- **WICYPAA** – Sara D.
  - Bid committee formed for 2021 event.
  - Will have events prior to January 2020 bid presentation.
  - Be of service! Next meeting: June 9, 4:00 PM, Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire.

### Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
  - John B-B. presented on Tradition and Concept 6.
  - Hannah H. will present on Tradition and Concept 8 next time.
- **Mini-Workshop**
  - Shane S. gave report.
  - Brainstorming session was held. Seven people attended.
  - Ideas:
    - Presentation by delegate?
    - Inclusiveness, rigidity?
    - Panels?
    - District 05 inventory?
    - Cost concerns: Could be allayed by combining with Northside Potluck, January 25, 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM.
  - Next planning meeting at Marybeth's house: June 3 at 7:00 PM.
- **Special Accessibilities Chair**
  - ☞ Still in need, so bring back to your groups for potential people to fill in until the end of the year.

### New Business

- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines Revisions**
  - Suggested revisions have been made and emailed for review by everybody.
  - Review prior to discussion in June meeting.
  - Vote on changes in July.
- **Mini-Workshop**
  - Shane S. stepping down from commitment as chair.
  - ☞ We will need a new chair, so bring back to your groups. Marybeth will fill in until somebody else takes up the role.

### Open Sharing

- Be on the lookout for the Intergroup 800-number so they can get that updated to be just the local number.
- Eau Claire Saturday Nite Alive has a picnic coming up for Memorial Day. See flier [here](#).
- Recovery on the River Jamboree Summer Spectacular is coming up. See flier [here](#).
- John B. offered ride to Spring Conference, so contact him.
- Shane S. is wondering if there are open months for the traveling potluck.
- John B-B.: Friday Night Safe Place to Be and Freedom from Bondage may be able to share Intergroup phone for September or whichever other month Freedom from Bondage is already signed up for.
- Charles S. was impressed by attendance at Three Lakes Assembly (9 District 05 GSRs present out of 50).
- Myron M.: Alano Society of River Falls is having a picnic, 3:00 PM, May 26.
- Lucas M.: Good discussion with his home group after Assembly.
- Kay K.: Just for Today had a well attended potluck.
- Joe P.: The Gay Chatter is turning two. See flier [here](#).

- ☪ Marybeth would be interested in why workshops and so forth have not been well attended.

## Closing

- Responsibility Statement

**Next Meeting:** June 12, 2019.

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

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**OPEN SERVICE POSITION:** District 05 has a vacancy for **Accessibilities Chair**. Interested A.A. members can learn more by emailing to [dcm@district05.org](mailto:dcm@district05.org) or better yet, by attending the monthly District05 Meeting on Wednesday, June 12th 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.

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## Members' Views

...on STEP #6

### Pride

*“For pride, leading to self-justification, and always spurred by conscious or unconscious fears, is the basic breeder of most human difficulties, the chief block to true progress.”*

--- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 48-49

At the time my sponsor was leading me through the Steps, the 5<sup>th</sup> Step felt like the finish line of a marathon, and I was thrilled and gratified to cross it. I had so feared sharing my moral inventory with anyone that I delayed working on Step 4 as long as I could get away with it. As for basking in the glow of Step 5 before moving on---the Big Book gives us one whole hour to do so.

Steps 4, 5, 6 & 7 together form an assault team that roots out our ugly secrets and defects, and hangs them out in the open for us see, to see through, and to commit to changing with help from our Higher Power. In Step 6 we acknowledge those character defects which have had so very much to do with our past difficulties and which still bedevil us today. To paraphrase a line from the old comic strip “Pogo,” we have met the enemy and know that he is us.

For this alcoholic, the chief character defect is pride, along with its running mate---that liar, fear. I think they are an inseparable pair. In small ways and large, pride can subvert and threaten any commitment to personal growth: It can suggest I skip a bit of my A.A. program today; it can adamantly insist I’m not really an alcoholic at all. Pride can erase good motives. It can deny responsibility for harms done to others, or to myself. It can poison relationships. It can be that voice that says, “I’ve done well enough.” In regard to the Higher Power, pride tells me I am It.

Step 6 doesn’t take up much space in the Big Book; great ideas often require few words. We can’t begin to become free of our character defects until we recognize them for what they are; until we become truly ready to let them go; until we commit to a life-long process of actions taken to counter them in ourselves.

---An AA Member

...on TRADITION #6

### Bankrupt Idealists

*“We of Alcoholics Anonymous could not be all things to all men, nor should we try.”*

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 157

Bill W. was a man who dreamed big. He freely admitted when telling his story that he had considerable problems with grandiosity. A.A.'s Tradition 6 very directly was crafted to counteract this tendency toward 'big ideas' that finds prevalence in many A.A. members, then and now---not only in Bill W.

In the essay on Tradition 6, alcoholics are described as "bankrupt idealists." *"Nearly every one of us had wished to do great good, perform great deeds, and embody great ideals. We are all perfectionists who, failing perfection, have gone to the other extreme and settled for the bottle and the blackout."* This description shouldn't surprise anyone who has spent considerable time on a barstool in the company of fellow regulars who wile away endless hours spouting their solutions to all the world's problems.

When newly freed from enslavement to the 'bottle and the blackout' through the A.A. program of recovery, it seems only natural that our former tendencies toward grand ambitions would once again begin to stir. We need this tradition to keep us in check. Can you imagine A.A. today without it? Of course, we would operate a tremendous chain of treatment centers. A.A. would be taught in all public schools. We would have lobbyists badgering every legislature in the land to pass our versions of sensible alcohol-related policies. There probably would be A.A. vacation properties, retreat centers and golf courses. Maybe A.A.-brand coffee! Anyone could increase the list ad infinitum.

Tradition 6 reminds us that A.A. must not be diverted from our primary spiritual aim: to be here for the alcoholic who stills suffers. That person must not be confused about what A.A. offers; nor can he or she have any questions about who else or what else we are involved with; nor about the source of our funding. We must not mix the material with the spiritual.

--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

### A.A. & the Birth of Modern Treatment

*"Paid workers would kill our good will with alcoholics. If we went into the hospital business, everybody would say it was a racket."*

---A.A. Comes of Age, pg. 145

Very early in A.A. history, Bill W. had a vision of A.A.-owned and operated hospitals for the detoxification and treatment of alcoholics. That dream never was realized for very good reasons: first, there was no money; more significantly, the fledgling membership of A.A., including Dr. Bob, didn't buy the idea. But certain realities soon forced A.A. members to confront an alarming situation: due to positive media coverage, A.A. was attracting increasingly large numbers of primarily low-bottom drunks. A.A.'s knew that such people could experience delirium tremens and die during withdrawal from alcohol, so they must have professional medical help to detoxify safely. The A.A. policy of working with alcoholics hospitalized for medical detox was already so ingrained that, as early as 1939, there was debate within A.A. whether someone could even become a member if they had not first been hospitalized.

Gaining access to hospital beds for alcoholics was extremely difficult. In the post-depression economy, hospitals were overcrowded. Alcoholics generally were viewed as moral degenerates who had brought their physical problems on themselves, while beds were needed for decent people who were "really sick." Besides, alcoholics were notorious for not paying their bills. Even worse, a drunk going through D.T.'s was not a spectacle anyone wanted to see, especially hospital staff. Such patients were loud, messy, and frequently violent. So, at first, Dr. Bob smuggled A.A. prospects into Akron hospitals for detox under a diagnosis of "acute gastritis."

The situation began to change in 1939 when Dr. Bob found a sympathetic ear in Sister Ignatia, who was the admitting clerk at St. Thomas Hospital. Together they formalized a regimented treatment program for alcoholics. It began in a tiny extra room previously used to store flowers as well as dead bodies awaiting the trip to a funeral home. It ultimately was expanded to a remodeled 8-bed ward, with all materials, labor and furnishings provided by A.A. members. Members also volunteered to work regular shifts as unpaid orderlies on the ward, cleaning up and dealing with unruly patients; more importantly, they provided companionship and a model of successful recovery from alcoholism.

Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia created a model for treatment that soon spread to Cleveland, New York City, Philadelphia, and other cities as A.A. grew. Their model combined medical detox with intensive immersion in A.A.'s 12 Steps. Some key features of the program were copied in each new location.

--The hospital was responsible only for the medical detox. All other matters were the responsibility of A.A. members; no other visitors were allowed on the ward.

--Patients were responsible to welcome, care for and help orient newer patients. Treatment was defined as participation in a caring community. This practice was the beginning of their 'work with others.'

--Each patient was admitted under the direction of an A.A. sponsor who had at least 1 year of sobriety. Actually the term 'sponsor' came into use because the A.A. member personally guaranteed payment of the hospital bill, (\$75 for 5 days) paid in advance. He likely was reimbursed later by the groups. The sponsor's role was key, according to Sister Ignatia, "*The sponsor acts as a catalytic agent in combatting all adverse forces. He tries to appease an exasperated wife, talks with the employer, landlord, creditors, and others. He explains the program, tells them that this is not simply another 'sobering up process.'*" The sponsor had a voice in the decision to admit the patient; he brought the patient in, led the A.A. training, and personally discharged the patient into his own care. In most cases, the patient was then taken to the home of an A.A. member. This was the beginning of the 'halfway house.'

--Dr. Bob, always a man of few words, peppered his daily rounds on the ward with brief slogans still in use today, such as 'Easy Does It' and 'First Things First.' He personally saw to the care of nearly 5,000 patients. A.A. literature and other inspirational material was also an important part of the treatment. Sister Ignatia is credited with starting the tradition of tokens given as a milestone celebration. She also handed out books similar to today's *Daily Reflections*. She personally conducted an exit interview with each patient and sponsor.

--Both Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia detested their program being called 'the cure' and adopted the term 'treatment' to describe their efforts. They always stressed that there is no 'cure' for alcoholism.

This Akron model of treatment spread rapidly because it filled a pressing need and was successful in changing many lives. It also kept A.A. itself free to state that it had no official ties to any outside entity. To allay the concerns of hospital administrators, no repeating patients were allowed. Their acceptance of such programs was also helped by the presence and behavior of the A.A. volunteers who saved the hospital a lot of money, and saved their staff a lot of grief; they also clearly demonstrated that alcoholics could, in fact, become sober, caring, contributing members of society. This was especially evident as early treatment graduates returned to the ward as A.A. volunteers and sponsors.

---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.

## **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)

### **June 2019:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> -- **District05 Mini-Conference Idea Session**, 7pm. Email [dcm@district05.org](mailto:dcm@district05.org) for details.
- 10<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 12<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 26<sup>th</sup> -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

### **July 2019:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 8<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 17<sup>th</sup> -- **Public Information Committee Mtg.**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 24<sup>th</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.

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