



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 5

May 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 5: "Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

Tradition 5: "Each group has but one primary purpose---to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Concept V: Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

April 17, 2019 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 10 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - ☒ Reports scheduled for May: Grapevine, Archives, Webmaster, Newsletter, and Literature.
 - 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: 03/11/19-04/10/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$1,957.18
 - Group Contributions: \$203.00
 - Expenses: \$202.50
 - March-December Rent: \$202.50
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$1,957.68
 - **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:

Our next Area Assembly is on April 27th in Three Lakes. I will be attending and will provide a report in May. A reminder that 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 members from across Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Please considering attending. Registration forms are available on the Area 74 [website](#).

Thank you to the Eleva Group for allowing us to host a workshop at their Annual Potluck. Another amazing evening of sharing and great food.

The planning event for the District 05 mini-conference will be held on May 4th. Please consider attending and being of service.

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.
 - Service workshop in conjunction with Eleva potluck was successful.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Continued to look at CVTC as possible location for presentations to classes there.
 - Did presentation to Eau Claire County Health Department High Risk Drinking Team, which was a good opportunity.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 6.)
- **Treatment** – Vacant Position Filled in New Business Below.
 - 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: February 11.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - There is a new flier out requesting people to bring meetings to the jails in general.
 - Eau Claire County Jail has asked for more meetings.
 - They are looking for both men and women.
 - There is some flexibility on new days and times.
 - There has been a request from Chippewa County Jail, but they are in District 06.
 - 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: May 6.)
- **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.
 - Hotels and motels mailing: Will be reaching out to make sure hotels have AA information.
 - Talking about holding an event in River Falls the Saturday after the Super Bowl, 2020: Informational session for the public about AA called “So this is AA.”
 - 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.
 - If your group needs literature, contact them because they want a bulk order to go out soon.
 - Consensus that they want to get rid of the 800-number and will plan on removing listings over time.
 - Workshop coming up on May 5th.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: April 25.)

Old Business

- **Tradition and Concept Presentation**
 - Pat T. presented.

- **Mini-Workshop**
 - Brainstorming session coming up. See flier [here](#).
 - Suggestion was made to have these types of things in conjunction with other events so that more people can attend, especially if they have to travel from out of town.
- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines Revisions**
 - Suggested revisions have been made and will be emailed for review by everybody.

New Business

- **Special Accessibilities Chair**
 - ☞ We need a new one, so let your groups know about the open position.
 - This would be a good opportunity to do some work that has not really been done yet.
- **Coffee**
 - We make coffee every month but few people drink it.
 - Are we being wasteful?
 - Charles S. will donate a smaller coffeemaker to help with that.
- **Group Contributions Listed on Treasurer's Report**
 - Decision was made prior not to publish these in the District View.
 - Do we want to do that? Is listing on the report okay?
 - Agreement that "thank you" letters are ok.
 - Agreement that names of groups making contributions should **not** be listed on reports.
- **Treatment Chair Replacement**
 - **Motion made and passed** to have Megan S. fill the remaining term.

Open Sharing

- Safe Place to Be (Friday Night, Eau Claire): Wants to have a voice in Guidelines changes.
- Myron M.: Raised concern about events not being on the District 05 calendar.
 - ☞ Send events to webmaster@district05.org for posting.
- Saturday Night Alive (Saturday Night, Eau Claire): May 4th *Star Wars* Movie Night, after the meeting (9 PMish).
- There is a Solution (Monday Night, Eau Claire): 1st Monday of the month they have a panel for beginners.
- Lucas M.: Wondering how best to process GSO Conference background information with his group.
 - Discussion about that.
- Pat T.: What about activities are available for families and community members, such as the recent Recovery on the River Family Fun Night?
 - Discussion about how to announce. Perhaps in a special area on the District 05 website?

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: May 8, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: Grapevine, Archives, Webmaster, Newsletter, and Literature.

OPEN SERVICE POSITION: District 05 has a vacancy for **Accessibilities Chair**. Interested A.A. members can learn more by emailing to dcm@district05.org or better yet, by attending the monthly District05 Meeting on Wednesday, May 8th 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 #5

The Slingshot Step

"After a time, we realize that we are standing firm on a brand-new foundation for integrity, and we gratefully credit our sponsors, whose advice pointed the way."

---Bill W., *Grapevine*, August 1961

I'm certainly not alone among A.A. members in pointing to Step 5 as a crucial turning point in my recovery. I think of it as a point in time---in fact, a few hours of a single afternoon---but it really provided the climax and the exclamation point at the end of the much longer process of Step 4.

I had dragged my feet on my inventory for weeks that dragged into months. I credit that to fear of what I would have to face, bolstered with a near-total ignorance of what is good for me. For truly, I was afraid of honesty in all its forms. I hated it when others were honest to me about me, and I had virtually no experience at all with being honest to myself about myself. That, and I think I was more afraid of Step 5 than Step 4. My sponsor was patient at first. Then he pointed out that there would be no further progress at all until I faced up to this inventory. He directed me to the last paragraph on page 72 of the Big Book: "If we skip this vital step, we may not overcome drinking." Once I actually started to put pen to paper, it wasn't so hard after all. As usual, fear turned out to be just a bogeyman with no claws or fangs.

So, inventory in hand, I met my sponsor outside the club for my 5th Step. I sat at a picnic table and read the thing while he listened and pulled weeds. First he asked me for the worst thing on the list, so I told him. Then he related the worst thing on his list, and I immediately relaxed. The rest flowed quite easily, and I even recalled for the first time something from years ago that didn't appear in the inventory. It didn't occur to me until much later that while he was pulling weeds and discarding them, so was I doing the same with my past.

I have a hard time describing how I felt right after my 5th Step, except that for the first time in my life I felt like an adult. And I felt so clean. The quote from Bill W., above, talks about a new basis for the building of integrity. I think that is a real gift of Step 5.

The rest of the steps came rather quickly and easily for me from that day forward: Step 5 was like a slingshot for my recovery program. My Higher Power must have thought so, as well, because just a few days later a newcomer asked me to sponsor him. My sponsor told me to say yes. And I've been busy in A.A. ever since.

--An AA Member

...on TRADITION #5

Evolving Definitions

"Each A.A. group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose---that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

--Tradition Five, Long Form

The cover of the latest Grapevine features the upcoming 80th anniversary of the Big Book. There have been lots of changes in our society over eight decades. That includes changes in how we communicate. Technological advances aside, the common meaning of various words has evolved, as well. In some cases,

the evolving definitions of some terms can affect how the alcoholics of today understand some of the messages handed down by A.A.'s founders.

Some terms have simply fallen into disuse over the years. A couple of examples of such changes are found in the chapter More About Alcoholism where Fred, the accountant, is struck with the thought that “a *highball* would be fine before going to bed...” Highball refers to a particular cocktail served in a tall glass. Later in the same story, we’re told Fred “had felt only *the nip of the wringer*.” In the next sentence, the term “*mangled*” is used to describe alcoholics who have suffered more serious consequences from their drinking. Both of these terms refer to laundry equipment of the day. Every washing machine had a pair of adjustable rollers on top used to wring the excess water from the just-washed clothes before hanging them on a clothesline to dry. People quite frequently got the tip of a finger caught in this “*wringer*” and had to quickly pull their hand free. A “*mangle*” was a larger appliance with a heated, electrically-powered set of very heavy rollers used to press large cloth items like tablecloths and bedsheets after they were dried. Much more severe injuries were a hazard with this appliance; a person could get “badly mangled.”

The meaning of some words have evolved due to cultural factors. As Bill W. was pacing the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel in Akron, he was tempted to step into the hotel bar by the happy clamor of the “*gay* crowd” inside. His use of the term “*gay*” does not refer to sexual preference, as is common today, but meant an attitude which was care-free and celebratory in nature.

Bill W. had his spiritual experience while a patient at Townes Hospital undergoing his 4th “*treatment*.” Today we call this procedure “detox.” Today’s treatment centers appear in the Big Book only as “*asylums and sanitariums*.”

At last we come around to Tradition Five and the group’s primary purpose. The word “*primary*” had meanings to the founders that may not be apparent to us today. In the 1930’s, parents sent their young children not to elementary schools, but to primary schools. The textbooks used in primary schools were called *primers*. A child needed to master the primary lessons before moving on to higher education. More significantly, we can be quite sure that nearly every one of the first 100 A.A. members knew what it meant to “*prime the pump*” because they grew up in homes where the only source of water was a well with a hand-operated pump on top of it. If the pump hadn’t been used for a time, it would be necessary to pour some water down the pipe, *priming* the pump so it could then draw fresh water up from the source. This truly is a test of faith; one is using up what might be the last water on hand in the hope that it will generate a new, abundant supply of water. Seen in this light, the message of Tradition Five is that members of the group ought to be willing to give away all which it has—the A.A. message of recovery from alcoholism---that they may receive so much more in return.

--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

The First but not the Final Step

The following is an excerpt from a letter Bill W. wrote to an A.A. member in 1959. Comments follow.

“Each of us in turn---that is, the member who gets the most out of the program---spends a very large amount of time on Twelfth Step work in the early years. That was my case, and perhaps I should not have stayed sober with less work.

“However, sooner or later most of us are presented with other obligations---to family, friends, and country. As you will remember, the Twelfth Step also refers to ‘practicing these principles in all our affairs.’

Therefore, I think your choice of whether to take a particular Twelfth Step job is to be found in your own conscience. No one else can tell you for certain what you ought to do at a particular time.

"I just know that you are expected, at some point, to do more than carry the message of A.A. to other alcoholics. In A.A. we aim not only for sobriety---we try again to become citizens of the world that we rejected, and of the world that once rejected us. This is the ultimate demonstration toward which Twelfth Step work is the first but not the final step."

By the time he wrote this letter in 1959, Bill W. had largely and literally turned over his all-consuming duties as the sole controlling force in the structure of A.A. The General Service Conference had been built, and the future of A.A. was securely in the hands of its membership. He writes as one who has found a degree of peace in letting go; he is the model of the 'elder statesman' and not at all the 'bleeding deacon.'

This letter apparently was written in response to a member who has asked Bill's advice on whether or not to take a particular---probably not his/her first---service position in A.A. Where a more controlling person might say, "Yes, you must take the position because we need you in this role," he encourages a larger, yet more personal, view of the question. He intimates that the member ought to assess his life in recovery, inside and outside of A.A.; that we need to look for balance there. Service in A.A. is not a destination nor a haven in which we insulate ourselves from life---he seems to see it as a cocoon in which we develop the skills we need in order to emerge successfully to rejoin the human race, to practice our principles in all our affairs. It seems the 'spirit of rotation' he instilled in A.A. is as much for the benefit of the individual member as for A.A. at large.

This is not to say that taking a role, or any number of roles, in A.A. service is harmful---quite the opposite is true, as Bill notes in the letter's very first two sentences. For some, an election to be a group's GSR may well be the beginning of decades of very rewarding A.A. service. But not necessarily. It is a commitment of two years---not a life sentence. Let your conscience be your guide.

---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

May 2019:

- 4th – **24th Annual Corrections Conference**, 9am-3pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1904 Winnebago St., Madison, WI. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 4th – **District05 Idea Session**, 12:00-3:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 5th – **CVIG Service Solutions Workshop**, 2:00-4:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 6th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 8th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 13th – **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 15th – **Public Information Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 17th-19th – **Area 74 Spring Conference**, Liberty Hall Banquet & Conference Center, 800 Eisenhower Drive, Kimberly, WI. See flyer and registration at www.district05.org
- 22nd -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

June 2019:

- 3rd -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 12th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 26th -- **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.



**When anyone, anywhere reaches out for help,
I want the hand of AA always to be there.**

Women and men are needed to take
more AA meetings into the Eau Claire
County Jail.

The Eau Claire Jail has requested that we provide MORE meetings for inmates there. This is a good problem, but in order to do this, we need more volunteers, **especially women.**

The District 05 Corrections Committee recommends a minimum of one full year of sobriety and that you have worked the 12 Steps with a sponsor.

The jail staff will approve or disapprove a volunteer based on the following guidelines:

- The volunteer is not currently on probation.
- Has been off of probation for over a year.
- Has not been in the Eau Claire County Jail for over 3 years. Including weekend stays
- Does not have any active cases going thru the court system.
- Is an "active member" of society (has been working, has a place to live)
- Pass the background check
- The easiest way to sum up everything is, each volunteer needs to be off probation, has not been arrested, or been in the Eau Claire County Jail for the last 3 years, and does not have an open case within the last 3-5 years.

Volunteer application forms are available on the District05.org website. Click on the "Committee Information" tab, then on "Corrections", then Eau Claire County.

Complete the application and email it to mrebbby227@gmail.com or mail it to:

Corrections Committee, PO Box 2142 Eau Claire WI 54702

If you need an application printed, call or text Ken Presley at 507-884-9954 and he will get a copy to you.

On behalf of the District 05 Corrections Committee, thank you for considering being of service to incarcerated alcoholics. If you have any questions contact Ken Presley at the email or number listed above.

