



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 11

November 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 11: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

Tradition 11: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Concept XI: The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs, and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.
(short form)

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

October 9, 2019 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 15 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - Reports scheduled for November: 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.
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - Report Period: 09/11/19 - 10/09/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,189.51
 - Group Contributions: \$0.00
 - Expenses: \$0.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,189.51
 - Savings Closing Balance: ~\$600.00 (interest has been added)
 - **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:

Planning continues for the District 05 mini-conference which will be held in January 18, 2020. Our current Delegate, Sara P., will be participating in this mini-conference and will be sharing her story following the Northside Potluck. If you are interested in helping with this event please contact me. Our next committee meeting will be held on October 21.

I attend the Area 74 Fall Conference and Assembly in Waupaca. Our new Delegate is Char B. Other officers: Area Chair: Dawn M.; Treasurer: Barry B.; Secretary: Angie Z.; Registrar: Dean C.

Bryon B. from District 05 was elected to serve on the Area Structures and Guidelines Committee. I was honored to be elected to Chair the Area Treatment/Accessibilities Committee.

I am asking for \$157 in reimbursement for attending the Assembly. This amount includes room, gas, and registration.

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.
 - No report.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Pat gave report.

- Reviewed CPC workbook.
- New chair was in attendance and working on transition.
- 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.
 - Megan gave report.
 - New application is ready and will go to webmaster soon.
 - Elections: October 14 at the regular meeting. All positions open.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: October 14.)

- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - Ken gave report.
 - Had a table at Recovery on the River Jamboree and got a lot of good feedback.
 - Eau Claire County requirements have been made much harsher as of this week, unfortunately.
 - Trempealeau County is less restrictive.
 - 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: November 4.)

- **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: November 20.)

- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Pat T. gave report.
 - Intergroup Picnic is coming up. See flier [here](#).
 - Cell phone is coordinated.
 - New cell phone and contract in place.
 - Elections are coming up.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: October 23.)

- **WICPYAA** – Variable Representative
 - Sara D. gave report.
 - Next meeting: October 20 at 2 PM, Alano Club 12, Eau Claire, small building.
 - Halloween Dance sponsored by WICYPAA: October 26, following Saturday Nite Alive.

Old Business

- **Elections**
 - Special Accessibilities:
 - Lizz B. was presented as a nominee.
 - Jim S. was presented as a nominee.
 - We'll hold until next month when they are present.
 - Alt. DCM:
 - Gary S. was nominated and declined.
 - No others were nominated
- **Google Drive**
 - **Motion made and passed** to make use of Google Drive permanently.

- Joe will come up with an instruction sheet for the secretary.

New Business

- **Area 74 Conference Bid - Fall 2020 Bid**
 - Bryon B. presented some information about the fact that there is no host for Fall 2020.
 - Different venues were investigated in the area and the Best Western Plus looks like the most economical choice and they are open the correct weekend for the conference.
 - **Motion made and passed** to put in a bid for the Fall 2020 Area 74 Conference.
 - Minority voice expressed concern about the timeline and not knowing their group's opinion.
 - **Motion made and passed** to elect Bryon B. chair of committee.
- **District Guidelines**
 - Marybeth thinks we need to revisit the guidelines because there is nothing in there about Alternate or Co-Treasurer.
 - ☞ Tabled to bring back to groups to discuss.
 - Marybeth has been reviewing other guidelines and notices that ours does not declare who has a voice explicitly. Is it supposed to be GSRs only since this is a GSR meeting? Do voices other than group voices influence discussion?
 - ☞ Tabled to bring back to groups to discuss who has a voice.

Open Sharing

- Saturday Night Alive (Saturday Night, Eau Claire): Zach was wondering about hosting a Traveling Potluck. June appears to be available.
- Back to Basics (Thursday Night, Eau Claire): Hosting Traveling Potluck: February 16, 2020. Group made a decision not to donate to District and Area, but instead to GSO and Traveling Potluck.
- Great Goblin' Chili Feed: October 28, Elk Mound. Flier should be on the website soon.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: November 13, 2019.

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

Open Service Position: District05 is in need of an editor for *The District View* newsletter for 2020-2021. Interested members should contact thedistrictview@district05.org to learn more.

Members' Views

...on STEP 11:

An Atmosphere of Grace

"We relax and take it easy. We don't struggle...What used to be the hunch or the occasional inspiration gradually becomes a working part of the mind."

---*Alcoholics Anonymous*, pg. 86-87

Each week I take part in a Big Book study meeting attended by people fresh out of in-patient treatment programs and temporarily living in a local half-way house. This meeting feeds my recovery in ways that other meetings I regularly attend, filled mostly by members with some years or decades of sobriety, simply cannot equal. Don't get me wrong---I benefit from every A.A. meeting for which I am truly present---but this little Big Book study always yields much more than I can possibly contribute.

These are people living in the problem and angling about for a solution. For the majority, this is not their first rodeo; they may tell of six, eight or a dozen prior experiences in treatment settings, each followed by relapse. Sentences often begin, "This time around, I'm doing it different by..." and much of their talk is about 'being smarter' and 'avoiding triggers.' Many share that they're "not into the whole God thing." I think if we changed the name of the

meeting to “Recovery Tips & Tricks,” the meeting hall would be bursting at the seams. Instead, we simply take turns reading aloud from the first 164 pages of the Big Book, pausing only to share our experiences, strengths, and hopes. Then we start over again from the beginning.

In recovery, I try to live in the discipline of the A.A. program “One Day at a Time.” I know that each morning I awake with untreated alcoholism. I also know there is help---today, right now, before my feet hit the floor---in A.A.’s 11th Step. I think of it as starting my day “on purpose,” as opposed to stumbling into the day completely without direction, as in my previous life. My current practice is to begin by meditating on the first three Steps. Then, I look ahead at my day much like it says in the Big Book on page 86, asking for help especially with motives.

The quote above, *in italics*, says we don’t struggle in this effort; struggle suggests an attempt to control a situation or outcome. A member once said to me that we can be no more successful at controlling our recovery than we were at controlling our drinking. Instead, through Step 11, we seek to live today in a relaxed, joyous expectancy that good things certainly will come if only we can let go. Bill W. called it “an atmosphere of grace.” Having tasted this sense of peace, we see the benefits of seeking it daily in the discipline of Step 11. In time, we come to rely upon it, and that becomes faith.

So relax and take it easy---but give Step 11 an honest effort. Just as I dug this alcoholic hole one drink at a time, I will become spiritually more fit one positive action at a time.

---an A.A. Member

...on TRADITION #11:

How Anonymous?

“On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.”

---Bill’s Last Message, 1970.

A.A.’s 11th Tradition is quite narrowly worded to caution members against exposing their full names or pictures in the media. This is because many early members, particularly in New York City, tended to be men who craved personal recognition, money and influence: they were “promoters,” and Bill W. was certainly among members with this personality type. Fortunately for the future of A.A., Bill recognized the danger posed by public exposure of any individual’s membership.

The history of prior efforts to build and maintain organizations dedicated to helping alcoholics clearly demonstrates the danger of tying the credibility of a group to the personality of a single leader or group of leaders: The Washingtonian Society fell apart quickly as their small group of leading figures relapsed into disgrace, one by one. In the field of religious reform, the Oxford Group, in which both of A.A.’s founders looked for help before they met each other, fell into disrepute when its founder was tied to remarks seen as supportive of Adolf Hitler. These lessons were not lost on A.A.’s founders and certainly influenced their focus on “A.A. principles before personalities.”

So Tradition 11 is clearly aimed at protecting A.A. from any member who would seek public media attention regardless of their motives; whether he or she seeks to help A.A. grow, or is just seeking personal recognition. But what about anonymity inside A.A.? Members hold widely varied views on this question.

Here are some of Bill W.’s thoughts on the subject of anonymity as written in a personal letter in 1959:

“In some sections of A.A., anonymity is carried to the point of real absurdity. Members are on such a poor basis of communication that they don’t even know each other’s last names or where each lives. It’s like the cell of an underground.

“In other sections, we see exactly the reverse. It is difficult to restrain A.A.’s from shouting too much before the whole public, by going on spectacular ‘lecture tours’ to play the big shot.

“However, I know that from these extremes we slowly pull ourselves onto a middle ground. Most lecture-giving members don’t last too long, and the superanonymous people are apt to come out of hiding respecting their A.A. friends, business associates, and the like. I think the long-time trend is toward the middle of the road---which is probably where we should be.”

---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

Anonymous in Full View

“We believe that our experience should be made available freely to all who express sincere interest. We believe further that all our efforts in this field should always reflect our gratitude for the gift of sobriety and our awareness that many outside of A.A. are equally concerned with the serious problem of alcoholism.”

---1956 General Service Conference: *A.A.'s Movement-Wide Public Information Policy*

Fresh out of Townes Hospital following his spiritual awakening, with Dr. Silkworth's explanation of alcoholism ringing in his ears, Bill W. set out to find some drunks to help. He went to the skid row areas of New York City and the missions that served free meals, and maybe some hope, to the down-and-outers. Today, according to the most recent A.A. member survey, 59% of our members received some type of treatment or counseling related to their drinking prior to coming to A.A. If those members who were first directed to A.A. by the legal system were added to this number, it would be clear that today A.A. is finding its new members in a very different environment than the one that Bill faced 84 years ago.

This does not mean that today's members of A.A. can just sit in our cozy meeting rooms and wait for newcomers to be sent to us. The name “Alcoholics Anonymous” may be famous, but this fellowship is still largely misunderstood by the public at large, and, remarkably, by many professionals who encounter alcoholics on a regular basis, such as those in the legal system, treatment counselors, the medical field, schools, churches, and many others. That A.A. is still seen as a somewhat shadowy entity is not the fault of others---it is a failure by us to carry the A.A. message out of our meetings and into our own communities.

Our tradition of anonymity does not mean that we should be ‘Alcoholics Invisible.’

So A.A. members are left with the question of how they can help lift A.A. out of the shadows and into the public and professional consciousness. First and foremost, we can reject the temptation to live as though “sobriety is enough.” Each of us is responsible to fit ourselves, through education and action, to be able to represent to others what A.A. is, and what A.A. is not. We are responsible to familiarize ourselves not only with the 12 Steps that help keep each of us alive and well, but with the 12 Traditions that give A.A. its present form, substance and unity. And each of us should be able to give outsiders a basic idea of how A.A. is organized and how our services are supported.

An excellent way to begin is to plop down in front of a computer, go to www.aa.org, and browse in the “for A.A. Members” area. All of our literature is there, including a wide range of pamphlets most of us have never read. You can read any of them there. Then go to www.district05.org and click on the Committees area. Learn what they are and what they do, when and where they meet, and how to contact one or more of them so you can ask questions.

Ask at your next meeting to be introduced to your group's General Service Representative. If your group doesn't have one, ask why not. Consider attending a monthly District 05 meeting to see a part of the A.A. service structure in action. Invite another member to go with you. Introduce yourself there as a member who wants to learn more---you will be very welcome.

Two of the standing committees, Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community, deal specifically with outreach efforts to the community, and may offer opportunities for members to interact directly with the public. They will be happy to help you prepare yourself to be of use. They will help you understand our tradition of anonymity and exactly how to avoid running afoul of it.

A final thought: A.A. members who present A.A. to the public carry a serious responsibility: Even though they explain that they are not speaking for A.A. as a whole, some with whom they meet may base their opinion of our Fellowship on what is said and how it is said, and that may affect their future decisions whether or not to refer alcoholics to A.A. Weighty as that responsibility may be, we can't shrink from it. Nor can we sit back and leave the responsibility to carry the message solely in the hands of very senior members, as that tends to skew A.A.'s demographics in the eyes of the public and suggests a Fellowship of the past as opposed to one very much dedicated to today and tomorrow. A wide diversity of members best represent A.A. Could you be one of those to step up? You may be the only version of the Big Book some people ever see.

---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

November 2019:

- 2nd – 4th **Step Inventory Workshop**, 12:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.
- 4th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 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.
- 17th – **Fall Conference 2020 Planning Mtg.**, 11:15am, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 20th -- **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.
- 27th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

December 2019:

- 2nd -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 4th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup 2020 Elections**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 9th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 11th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 25th -- **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.

**SAVE THE
DATE**



AREA 74

FALL CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 5

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020

BEST WESTERN PLUS

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

Speakers, panels, banquet!!