



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 10

October 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 10: "Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."

Tradition 10: "Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

Concept X: Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined. (*short form*)

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

September 11, 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 October: 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.
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - Report Period: 08/14/19-09/11/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,333.79
 - Group Contributions: \$75.00
 - Expenses: \$69.28
 - PI Reimbursement: \$69.28
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,339.51
 - Savings Closing Balance: \$600.00
 - **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 on January 18, 2020. Thank you to everyone that stepped up to serve on the committee.

By the time you read this, District 05 elections will have been held. You will find the results elsewhere in the District View.

I will be attending the Area 74 Fall Conference and Assembly in Waupaca. Area elections will be held and I will share those results in my October report.

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.
 - They will be reviewing the CPC workbook at the next meeting.

- Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: October 7.)
- **Treatment** – Megan S.
 - Elections will be on October 14 at the regular meeting.
 - They are hoping to spark interest in coordinator positions.
 - They are looking for coordinators for treatment centers and the First Offenders group at UWEC. Secretary is also 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.
 - Will have a table at Recovery on the River.
 - Will be at one day event in January as well.
 - 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.
 - Myron M. gave report.
 - February 8 public event will be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: September 18.)
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - The annual picnic will be on October 12 at the Altoona Beach Clubhouse.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: September 25.)
- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - Sent around a sheet to gather emails for subscriptions.
- **WICYPAA** – Sara D.
 - CAMPYPAA went well.
 - Planning for the next event will happen at the next meeting.
 - Next meeting: September 15 at 2:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire, small building basement.

Old Business

- **One Day Event in January**
 - Will be an all-day event.
 - Will be a brief GSR orientation at the beginning (approximately 45 minutes).
 - The rest of the day will be sessions that show how the service structure works (District meeting, Area meeting, etc.)
 - **Motion made and passed** to set lunch budget of \$200.00.

New Business

- **Area 74 Spring Conference 2021 Bid**
 - Bryon B. is willing to be chair for the bid.
 - Bryon B. voted in as chair (unanimously).

- **2020/2021 Elections**

- Congratulations to all of those elected for the next term!

Position	Accepted Nominations	Elected for 2020/2021
DCM	Shane S.	Shane S.
Alt. DCM	None	Vacant
Secretary	Shannon S.	Shannon S.
Treasurer	Pat T., Shannon S., Joe P.	Joe P.
Corrections Chair	Derek B.	Derek B.
CPC Chair	Monica B.	Monica B.
PI Chair	Nicholas S-S.	Nicholas S-S.
Treatment Chair	Megan S.	Megan S.
Special Accessibilities Chair	None	Shane S.
Archives	Zach H.	Zach H.
Grapevine	Pat T.	Pat T.
Literature	Dave B.	Dave B.
Newsletter Editor	None	Myron M. (will stay on)
Webmaster	Alex S.	Alex S.

Open Sharing

- Gary mentioned 4th Step Workshop in River Falls and left fliers.
- Gary recommended that newly elected people attend their committees this year instead of waiting for the new term to start.
- We can register now for the 2020 International Conference in Detroit.
- Flimsy Reed will have an anniversary party in November.
- Chili Cook-off on September 14 to support Recovery on the River. See flier [here](#).
- Freedom from Bondage women's meeting: First anniversary on October 11, starting at 5 PM.
- Northside Group is happy to have the one-day event in conjunction with their Traveling Potluck.
- Back to Basics Big Book Study will join the Traveling Potluck starting in February 2020.
- Gary and Pete gave history of Traveling Potluck.
 - Was started by the District with a GSR meeting at the beginning.
 - Then groups took over and some have fallen out.
 - Always a possibility to pick up missing months.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: October 9, 2019.

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

Members' Views

Step 10: Up Close and Personal

(This member essay appeared in the October, 2007 issue of the *Grapevine*.)

"And so, taking a "personal" inventory means that I attend to all aspects of myself, of my "person," including, but not only, the "moral" part of me."

I don't like going to doctors. But this sponsor of mine has a rule: if it bleeds, swells, or hurts for more than twenty-four hours, call a doctor.

So, "Call your doctor," was his suggestion when, one day, I casually mentioned a dull pain around my right ear, an annoyance more than anything, although at times it throbbed a bit. And no, I didn't know why it was hurting, though I thought it might have had something to do with swimming a couple days earlier and, yes, it had been going on for a few days.

I've heard that some people do what their sponsors suggest at breakneck speed, but I'm not in that group. A week went by, and my sponsor said, "How's the pain? Have you called your doctor yet?" I answered the questions in order: "Still as it was, but not getting any worse" and, "No; I tried, but his phone was busy." Silence from him. Then: "Don't you think you need to do a little more work on your Tenth Step?"

Tenth Step? What did the Tenth Step have to do with it? Personal inventory...when wrong...admitted it. What did this have to do with an earache? "Just read the Step," he suggested. "You've heard the words at every meeting. But maybe you need to understand more of what they mean." So I did what was suggested. Not a breakneck speed, of course, but I did it.

"Continued to take personal inventory": "Continued" was easy enough, since it refers to an ongoing process I do frequently---sometimes daily or even minute-by-minute. "Inventory" was also easy. It was an echo of the Fourth Step, where I did an inventory of myself.

But then I noticed a difference. It was always there, so how did I miss it? In the Fourth Step, the inventory was "moral"; in the Tenth Step, it is "personal." Was the different wording significant?

Perhaps it was; perhaps more than I'd first noticed. Bill W. warned us against complacency or self-congratulation ("After Twenty-Five Years," *Grapevine*, March 1960) and reminded us that, unless we keep growing, we fall back. It seems to me that one of the major purposes of the last three Steps is to keep us from complacency, to keep us growing so that we don't fall back into our old, sick ways and perhaps even into active alcoholism. Of course, that growth needs to continue on the moral level and we need to "inventory" it. But my inventory, and growth, also need to include all that I am as a "person," and that includes my spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical dimensions, to say nothing of how I relate to other people. And so, taking a "personal" inventory means that I attend to all aspects of myself, of my "person," including, but not only the "moral" part of me.

"And when we were wrong, promptly admitted it." Over the years, how often had I heard that line and misunderstood it? At first, I thought that it meant to pay attention only to my faults or character defects. But that's not what the Step says; and, in fact, in the "Twelve and Twelve," Bill W. writes that we need to be aware not only of our limitations, defects, and shortcomings, but also of our strengths, talents, and successes. In short, we need to take a balanced approach to ourselves. Should my "personal inventory" reveal that I am off-balance in any aspect of myself, I should "promptly admit it."

"Admit it": This is not a mere acknowledgment that something about my person is off-balance, that some aspect of me needs correcting, but, once that's done, I must take action on restoring the balance. From first to last, AA is a program of action. It is not particularly useful for me simply to admit that some aspect of myself needs correcting and then to do nothing about it. Admission that something is the matter is the doorway to growth; there will be no growth unless I follow up the admission with action.

My meditation on the Tenth Step showed me some powerful ways of applying it to my life that I had not seen before. Since alcoholism is an illness that affects all aspects of me, recovery from alcoholism must then include all aspects of me. For me, working the Tenth Step properly means being attentive to my moral growth---as well as my spiritual life, my mental and physical health, my emotional well-being, and my relationships with others. Should I find anything "wrong" about any of these aspects of me, I need to correct it as soon as I can.

"How's the pain now?" my sponsor asked some weeks later. "Gone," I replied. "Ear infection. Good antibiotics. Good Doctor." And, I thought, Great Tenth Step!

---Jamie C., A.A. member from Elmhurst, NY

...on TRADITION #10:

Leave It Outside

“All history affords us the spectacle of striving nations and groups finally torn asunder because they were designed for, or tempted into, controversy. Others fell apart because of sheer self-righteousness....”

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 176

We humans naturally tend to think the times in which we live are the most momentous, most significant times in all of recorded history. Many of us immerse ourselves in the news because we think it is, well, new---and therefore important. But is the news really new, or is it largely just the continuing saga of basic human foibles, conflicts and controversies with an ever-changing cast of characters?

In April of this year, our book *Alcoholics Anonymous* turned 80 yrs. old. A.A. has weathered numerous wars fought over religion or race or geopolitical power, economic collapses and booms, cultural conflicts over civil and personal rights, technological upheavals, and even the rise and fall of nations. Our Society of Alcoholics Anonymous has survived and flourished because it has deliberately steered well clear of all of it.

In his essay on Tradition Ten, Bill W. refers at length to the unfortunate history of The Washingtonian Society, a mutual-aid movement started by six drunks in Baltimore in 1840. Through exhaustive personal recruiting efforts, their group grew explosively to over 100,000 drunkards nationwide. They also accepted non-alcoholic members---anyone willing to make a pledge not to drink---and grew to some 600,000 members. Then, just as quickly, they crumbled. They lost control of their message and their original mission to help fellow alcoholics; their members, alcoholics and non-alcoholics alike, allowed the group to become entangled in the major social and cultural controversies of the day. The Washingtonian Society largely disintegrated in just seven years.

This sad history was not lost on A.A.'s founders. The lessons they absorbed are carried over into our Traditions, and especially in our 10th Tradition. The long form of this Tradition is remarkable in its forceful wording: *No A.A. group or member should ever, in such a way as to implicate A.A., express any opinion on outside controversial issues--particularly those of politics, alcohol reform, or sectarian religion. The Alcoholics Anonymous groups oppose no one. Concerning such matters they can express no views whatever.* The final sentence seems especially prohibitive in intent.

A.A. does not seek to tell members what they should do or think or say in regard to any outside issues *as individuals*. In fact, A.A. encourages us to become fully-engaged members of society, or to return to being such, as our own cases may be. A.A. does, however, want us to be aware of the difference between acting or speaking as an individual, and attempting to speak *for A.A.* on any outside issue. The very same caution is directed at every A.A. group. It doesn't matter if we think the cause is a worthy one. A.A. simply takes no side in any outside debates.

Apart from Tradition 10, there is the question of bringing outside issues inside the rooms of A.A. In my own experience, I can recall only two such instances. In both cases, the more senior members quietly let it be known that such demonstrations are most unwelcome. We are here to build each other up and to form a supportive community---not to divide ourselves into factions. I have known some members for years, and I have not the least idea of their political or cultural leanings or outside affiliations. In an A.A. recovery setting these questions are irrelevant. What a blessing! If A.A. was not a haven from the messy noise of society at large, how differently would I value my membership? If I did drag those things inside here, could someone feel a need to stay away? I don't want to find out if my sobriety could withstand the guilt that would follow from driving someone else out of their A.A.

---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

Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need

(Excerpts from Bill W.'s article in the April 1959 Grapevine.

For the full essay, see Concept IX, page 38 of "Twelve Concepts for World Service.")

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "our leaders do not drive by mandate: they lead by example." In effect, we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."

Therefore, a leader in S.A. service is a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own---well, he really isn't a leader at all....

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its service. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source....

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can obtain, sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided, of course, that such action be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility....

Another qualification for leadership is give-and-take, the ability to compromise cheerfully whenever a proper compromise can cause a situation to progress in what appears to be the right direction. Compromise comes hard to us all-or-nothing drunks. Nevertheless, we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a series of improving compromises. We cannot, however compromise always. Now and then, it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled. These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take....

Leadership is often called upon to face heavy and sometimes long-continued criticism. This is an acid test. There are always the constructive critics, our friends indeed. We ought never fail to give them a careful hearing. We should be willing to let them modify our opinions or change them completely. Often, too, we shall have to disagree and then stand fast without losing their friendship.

Now we come to the all-important attribute of *vision*. Vision is, I think, the ability to make good estimates, both for the immediate and for the more distant future. Some might feel this sort of striving to be a sort of heresy, because we A.A.'s are constantly telling ourselves, "One day at a time." But that valuable principle really refers to our mental and emotional lives and means chiefly that we are not foolishly to repine over the past nor wishfully to day-dream about the future.

As individuals and as a fellowship, we shall surely suffer if we cast the whole job of planning for tomorrow onto a fatuous idea of Providence. God's real Providence has endowed us human beings with a considerable capacity for foresight, and He evidently expects us to use it....

Vision is therefore the very essence of prudence, an essential virtue if ever there was one. Of course we shall often miscalculate the future in whole or in part, but that is better than to refuse to think at all.

While this article was first thought of in connection with our world service leadership, it is possible that some of its suggestions can be useful to anyone who takes an active part in our Society.

This is true particularly in the area of Twelfth Step work, in which nearly all of us are actively engaged. Every sponsor is necessarily a leader. The stakes are about as big as they could be. A human life and usually the happiness of a whole family hang in the balance. What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example---these qualities of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death.

We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs.

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

October 2019:

- 4th-6th – **Recovery on the River Jamboree**, Best Western Plus Eau Claire Conference Center, 3340 Mondovi Rd. in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 7th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 14th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 23rd – **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.
- 23rd -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

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.
- 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.

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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.
