



# The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 9

September 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 9:** "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

**Tradition 9:** "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

**Concept IX:** Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.  
(short form)

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## District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

August 14, 2019 6:45 PM

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

### Opening

- Serenity Prayer

### Introductions

- 11 GSRs present.

### Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
  - Read last month's minute highlights.
  - ☒ Reports scheduled for September: Preparation for Area 74 Fall Assembly, GSR Session/Open Forum, Webmaster, Newsletter, 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: 07/08/19-08/14/19
  - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,398.79
  - Group Contributions: \$55.00
  - Expenses: \$0.00
  - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,333.79
  - 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 in January, 2020. We could really use some additional committee members. Please consider lending your experience, strength, and hope.

District elections will be held in September. All positions are open. Nominations are being accepted at both the August and September District meetings. Being of service to my fellow alcoholics has been a key part of my recovery.

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.
  - Will not have September meeting.
  - Will go over CPC Workbook in October.
  - 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.
  - Megan emailed report and summarized in person.
  - All is going well with treatment centers and their correspondents. No major issues have come up in regards to them.
  - Elections for Treatment Committee will happen during the September meeting.
  - All positions are open including correspondents for Affinity House, LE Phillips, Arbor Place, Fahrman Center and First Offenders and Secretary.
  - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: September 9.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
  - No meeting this month.
  - Eau Claire County changed position and will require two people to bring into meetings again.
  - Volunteers have applied and had orientations.
  - Chippewa County Jail has had people go through orientation, so that is about to get started.
  - 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.
  - Completed mailing to hotels and motels in the District.
  - Working on public event on the Saturday after the Super Bowl, February, 2020: “So this is AA.”
    - Speakers
    - Pamphlets
    - Will need help on the day of the event.
  - 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
  - Pat T. gave report.
  - October picnic.
  - Looking at new phone and new plan to reduce expenses.
  - 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.
  - Still enjoying the work.
  - ☞ Recommends sending in submissions.
  - ☞ Recommends printing the newsletter for those who cannot access otherwise.
  - Subscribe by sending an email to [thedistrictview@gmail.com](mailto:thedistrictview@gmail.com) or [newsletter@district05.org](mailto:newsletter@district05.org).
- **Webmaster** – Andy B.
  - Would like to end his responsibility at the end of the term.
  - ☞ Suggest to others who might be interested in the opportunity.
  - Some technical experience would be good.
- **WICYPAA** – Sara D..
  - Sara D. gave report.
  - Coon Forks: CAMPYAA at Site B28 with speakers. See flier [here](#).

- Can camp or just come to the potluck and speakers.
- Next bid meeting Sunday, Club 12, Basement, Noon.

## Old Business

- **Mini-Conference**
  - Next meeting will be in September. Contact Marybeth.
- **District 05 Hosting Area 74 Conference**
  - Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 are open.
  - Back to Basics in favor of Spring 2021.
  - Freedom from Bondage, same.
  - Northside Group, same.
  - Phoenix North, same.
  - Flimsy Reed, in favor, no date preference.
  - *General agreement, so will get the ball rolling on that by electing a chair at the next meeting.*

## New Business

- **Nominations for Next District Term**
  - DCM: Shane S. accepted.
    - *Alt. DCM: No nominations.*
    - *Secretary: No nominations.*
  - Treasurer: Pat T accepted.
  - CPC Chair: Monica accepted.
  - PI Chair: Nicholas S. accepted.
  - Corrections Chair: Derek B. accepted.
  - Treatment Chair: Megas S. accepted.
    - *Special Accessibilities Chair: No nominations.*
  - Literature: Dave B. accepted.
    - *Archives: No nominations.*
    - *Grapevine: No nominations.*
    - *Newsletter: No nominations.*
    - *Webmaster: No nominations.*
  - **U Note:** Nominations are open still and elections will take place in September, so bring interested parties with you to the meeting.

## GSR Sharing

- Back to Basics - Shane S.: Looking into getting involved in Traveling Potluck.
- Freedom from Bondage - Hannah H.: Will be having 1 year anniversary dessert social October 11. Closed to women. Flier forthcoming.
- Monday Night Big Book - John B.: Steady attendance.
- Saturday Night Alive - Zach H.: Fellowship last Saturday of the month (movie night).
- Flimsy Reed - Derek B.: Might increase time of Group Conscience, looking for a new closing prayer, nominations in October, elections in November.
- Northside Group - Dave Z.: Strong group, January 18 Potluck.
- Monday Night There is a Solution River Falls - Charles S.: Attendance lower in the summer.
- Phoenix North - Amy B.: Getting more people into group conscience (has only had two so far). Fourth Tuesday of the month if interested.
  - LE Phillips 10 AM Wednesday meeting needs support
- There is a Solution Eau Claire - Lucas M.: Took Area 74 group survey.
- Gay Chatter - Joe P.: Will be attending Fall Conference.

## Open Sharing

- Concern raised about money:
  - About \$30,000 at Area 74, building up, likely due to stopping the printing of the newsletter.
  - What are we doing to spend money to help the still suffering alcoholic?

- U GSRs: Where is the money going for your groups? Something to think about.
- Concern raised about elections:
  - Open positions left: Concern about more people not being here to be nominated.
- Another concern about elections:
  - Concern about lacking nominations.
  - Suggested people need to be brought in to help.
  - Need more enthusiasm for elections to make District better.
  - U Bring somebody back for a nomination next month.

### Closing

- Responsibility Statement

**Next Meeting:** September 11, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: Preparation for Area 74 Fall Assembly, GSR Session/Open Forum, Webmaster, Newsletter, Literature.

## **DISTRICT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:**

**Date: ??? Your Group's Business Meeting**

Nominations and Election of General Service Representative (GSR), Alternate GSR.

### **September 11<sup>th</sup> District 5 Monthly Meeting**

Nominations and Elections for all: **District Officer Positions, Committee Chairs, and Trusted Servants.**  
(Voting by GSR's only.)

## **Members' Views**

### **...on STEP #9**

*"The readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine."*

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions pg. 87

A.A.'s 12 Steps were crafted to help us come to greater spiritual awareness, a spiritual awakening. They provide a framework for taking actions by which we seek to strengthen positive elements of character and weaken those defective character traits commonly associated with alcoholism. To me, the spiritual principle most closely addressed in Step 9 is the building of personal integrity.

My dictionary defines integrity as 'a firm adherence to a code or standard of values,' and also uses the word 'uprightness.' So which character traits do we focus on in the building of integrity? And how is the pursuit of integrity a goal in our making of amends?

There's no question I needed to call up every shred of courage I could muster to make some of my amends. If the amend is going to be more than just "I'm sorry---my bad," we need to carefully and realistically assess the real harm we have done. It might be as hard to admit the fault to ourselves as it is to approach the other person involved. And looking at the amend in a larger sense, we must be willing to change the behavior in ourselves as we go forward; it doesn't do us any good to say, "I'm sorry I lied to you" if we are not committing ourselves to practice honesty in all our future affairs. That takes courage, and it helps us to build personal integrity.

Certainly the building of greater truthfulness is an aim of several of the 12<sup>th</sup> Steps. But in the wording of Step 9, there is a warning about telling the whole truth in every situation, "...except when to do so would injure them or others." This cautionary phrase says that while telling truth can heal, in some cases it may cause further damage. We need to carefully examine our attempted amend to insure our intent is to help heal the other person---and not bury our old ghosts with no regard to the effect it may have on those we have harmed. That's why it is so important for each of

us to talk over each intended amend with a sponsor; we know each situation only from our side of the conflict, so an impartial eye may be needed to see that we may be inadvertently causing more heartache even though our intent is healing.

The second phrase in the quote above speaks to the development of this important sense of discretion in truth-telling. We seek to grow into an understanding of our responsibility for the well-being of all those around us. Like a physician, we pledge to do no harm. In this way, through Step 9 we more fully rejoin the fellowship of the human race. We do so with a commitment to personal integrity built on courage, truthfulness, and an acceptance of our responsibility to care for our fellows.

---an A.A. Member

### **...on TRADITION #9**

*“So we of A.A. do obey spiritual principles, first because we must, and ultimately because we love the kind of life such obedience brings. Great suffering and great love are A.A.’s disciplinarians; we need no others.”*

---Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, pg. 174.

The counselor who conducted my outpatient treatment put a lot of emphasis on two concepts I initially thought had nothing at all to do with my drinking: courage and discipline. Being brand-new to recovery, I assumed the guy had a military background, so he could only see life through that lens. (I was then still one who was lightning-quick to judge people and to nail them inside the boxes to which I assigned them.) I thought I had plenty of courage---I didn’t recognize that for me it came in a bottle. As for discipline, I loathed the term; defiance of authority was something I wore as a badge of honor and proof of my own strong character. I was, of course, wrong on all these counts. Eventually he brought me to where I could see these two concepts as essential building blocks of genuine humility. And that gave me a chance at a new life.

An old saying around A.A. is that ‘you can always tell an alcoholic---you just can’t tell him much.’ Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, who is credited with paving the way for A.A.’s acceptance within the medical and psychiatric establishment, saw the alcoholic’s ego-centricity, immaturity and defiance of authority not as baked-in character flaws that caused alcoholism, but as adaptations and defense mechanisms adopted by the alcoholic as the disease progressed. As these traits were adopted, so could they be treated; and as they were treated through A.A.’s Twelve Steps we could grow and develop in humility and maturity.

In A.A.’s 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition, we see again how the growth in maturity of the group mirrors our individual growth in recovery. Recognizing our problems with discipline and authority, the founders created an organizational structure with no disciplinarians and no authorities. As the 12 Steps are not rules, but suggestions, so the 12 Traditions that guide the groups have no real teeth, either. The individual member who strays too far from the Steps is likely to relapse; the group which deviates too far from the Traditions is likely to break apart. In both cases, discipline to obey spiritual principals must come from within.

The key spiritual imperative in both recovery and group life is service freely given to others. In both cases, the great goal is true fellowship. As Bill W. puts it in his essay on the 9<sup>th</sup> Tradition, “Just as the aim of each A.A. member is personal sobriety, the aim of our services is to bring sobriety within reach of all who want it. If nobody does the group’s chores...then A.A. as we know it would stop.”

---an A.A. Member

### **Why My Mower Caught Fire**

I had nearly finished mowing the whole farmyard when I noticed wisps of smoke coming from the mower’s engine. I had seen something like this before; on a windy day, grass clippings blew up onto the hot engine and started to smolder. So I drove it over near the shed to use the air compressor to blow the clippings off. Right away I saw that this time it was something very different. Flames were now rising from near the carburetor, and they were spreading. I ran to the house and grabbed our two small fire extinguishers. They didn’t even cause the fire to pause. Out of options, I called 911.

In a few minutes, I saw the parade coming down the road: three sheriff’s department vehicles, a small fire truck, and for some reason, an ambulance. Apparently, the 911 dispatcher reported a farm tractor was on fire---not a mere lawn tractor. Or maybe it was just a slow day in our little nearby town.



There was a good bit of humor as we all watched one firefighter extinguish the flames in just a few minutes. But I noticed that one sheriff's deputy was focused not on the fire, but on me. In my drinking days, getting the attention of the law was never a good thing; but after some years in A.A., I no longer have any reason to be nervous around officers. He walked over to me and asked if I'd lived in this house for long. I replied, yes we have been here since '93. Looking me right in the eye, he asked if I'd ever before called 911. Again I replied yes, I had called when I suffered a major heart attack seven years ago.

"Yes. Yes, you did," he said, still looking at me very closely. He explained that he was on duty that night, so he and his partner sped to our house. They found me on the bed, unresponsive. "You were dead," he said, "no breathing, no pulse." Undeterred, they moved me to the floor, attached the heart defibrillator and gave me a couple shots of epinephrine, and he immediately started CPR chest compressions. He kept it up for a long time; the defibrillator gave a total of five electric shocks before my heart showed any sign of life. At that point, the ambulance crew finally arrived, so he stepped aside. They packed me into their truck and took me into the city for emergency heart surgery. My sheriff deputy and his partner went about their business and never did hear what had become of me.

It was an indescribable feeling to, at last, meet the man who had saved my life. I thanked him over and over for giving me the past seven years---the best of my life. He clearly showed that meeting me was very important to him, as well. In all the years he has been performing CPR as part of his duties, almost none have survived. He and I are connected in a way few others could fathom.

I don't know *how* my mower caught fire. I do know this: It was time for my sheriff's deputy and me to meet; and that's *why* my mower caught fire.

---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

### Why Serve?

The following essay first appeared in the November, 2018 issue of *The District View*.

*I Am Responsible...*

*When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A. always to be there.  
And for that: I am responsible.*

--DECLARATION OF 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
A.A. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 1965

One wall of the room in which we hold A.A. meetings displays a number of familiar, framed A.A. recovery slogans, such as "First Things First" and "One Day at a Time." These slogans are short-hand reminders of key concepts in the A.A. program of recovery that teach us how to live sober, peaceful and useful lives. Some folks who don't understand their significance might think them kind of silly; those of us whose lives depend upon remembering their context truly value having them there on the wall. So we take these concepts from the wall and put them to use in our lives.

The Responsibility Statement, above, is also framed and hanging on that wall in a prominent, central location. Several of the meetings I attend have adopted it as their closing message. When I first came here, most of the meetings were closed with group prayer---just a sign of the times, I guess.

I'm glad that statement is there. Sometimes I wonder about how others construe its message; just as there is a variety of reactions to the recovery slogans, I suppose people have varied reactions to this statement on the wall. From what I have observed, most members really like reciting it at the meetings. It sends us off with a good dose of warm, fuzzy feelings. But is that all it is good for? I think the membership at the Convention back in '65 might have attached a bit more weight to the statement than just warm fuzzies.

Primarily, the statement is a blunt reminder to me that each and every one of us has a part to play in service to A.A. Certainly, not every member is so situated in life that it is feasible for them to serve a 2-yr. term as Area Chairperson. But it is equally certain that each and every member is capable of taking some part in carrying the A.A. message to the still-suffering alcoholic. I find it interesting and telling that while each of the 12 Steps begins with the implied word "We" this statement is directed at each member individually.

The use of the word "responsible" is also quite telling; the statement doesn't refer to service opportunities, nor does it hold out the personal benefits to be received from doing service work. There is nothing there to suggest that service to others is at all optional.

With great gifts come great responsibilities. Take it from the wall.

---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.**

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### **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)

### **September 2019:**

9<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.

11<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.

18<sup>th</sup> -- **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd FF in River Falls.

25<sup>th</sup> -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.



## **October 2019:**

- 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> – **Recovery on the River Jamboree**, Best Western Plus Eau Claire Conference Center, 3340 Mondovi Rd. in Eau Claire. See flyer at [www.district05.org](http://www.district05.org)
- 7<sup>th</sup> -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9<sup>th</sup> -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 14<sup>th</sup> -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.
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## **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](mailto: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.

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## IMPORTANT!!! AREA 74 MEMBER SURVEY

Greetings and thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey. This survey was developed to study the effectiveness, efficiency and facilitation of four Assemblies/Area Committee meetings per year. Your responses are valuable to the health and welfare of Area 74.

Currently Area 74 holds four Assemblies per year. The Standing Committee Chairs report to the Assembly at least once per year. Since 2011, Assemblies have been held as follows:

- April - stand-alone event (Three Lakes WI), focused on the General Service Conference (GSC) agenda items
- May - held in conjunction with the Area 74 Spring Conference (rotating location), focused on the Delegate's Report on the GSC.
- September - held in conjunction with the Area 74 Fall Conference (rotating location); in odd years the entire Assembly is devoted to elections.
- October - stand-alone event (Three Lakes WI); includes annual budget.

Currently the Area Committee Meeting (ACM) includes reports from the District Committee Members (DCMs) and is held four or five times per year as follows:

- March - after the Delegate's Workshop (Three Lakes, WI).
- May - during the Area 74 Spring Conference (rotating location).
- August - optional (Three Lakes, WI).
- September - during Area 74 Fall Conference (rotating location).
- December - (Three Lakes, WI).

This survey can be completed as an individual or as a group conscience. **Please complete the survey only one time as an individual.**

1. Fill out online at [www.area74.org](http://www.area74.org), this will be automatically tallied when you hit the **submit** button at the end.
2. The link below will go directly to the online survey; [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiwT8055YTCH2-9jc2xp330ECUe2MqxkvwebZwSr4cbfzn5g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeiwT8055YTCH2-9jc2xp330ECUe2MqxkvwebZwSr4cbfzn5g/viewform?usp=sf_link)
3. The survey can be returned via email to [survey@area74.org](mailto:survey@area74.org) or to address below.

Area 74 Treasurer  
PO Box 1191  
Appleton, WI. 54912

