



The District View

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

Volume 2020, Issue 2

February 2020

District 05 Meeting in Menomonie, WI.
1412 6th Street E
Menomonie, WI 54751-3331
2nd Wed. of each month 6:45 p.m.

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 2: "Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Tradition 2: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority---a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Concept II: The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs. *(short form)*

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

January 8, 2020 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Responsibility Statement
- **Introductions/Getting to Know one another**
10 GSRs present.
Welcome to all the new Service Members!

Reports

- **Secretary** – Shannon S.
 - o Read last month's minute highlights.
 - o Reports scheduled for February (even-numbered year): All Committee Chairs, GSRs, Officers.
 - 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.
 - o **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Vacant-Shane S gave a report per Sara
 - o Report Period: 12/11/19-1/08/20
 - o Checking Opening Balance: \$2488.36 (actual bank)
 - o Group Contributions: \$250.00
 - o Expenses: \$638
 - o Checking Closing Balance: \$1850.36 (actual bank)(there is still a discrepancy between books and actual bank Sara will look into difference)
 - o Savings Account Balance: \$602.63?
 - o **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

The following reports were given and accepted:

- **District Committee Member (DCM)** – Shane S.
 - o Shane submitted a written report, which he read in person
Hi, my name is Shane Speckien Alcoholic. Welcome to our newly elected GSR'S, Officers, and Committee chairs. I'm very excited for us to work together to carry the message of hope to the alcoholic that still suffers. My
Home group is back to basics in Eau Claire that meets at 7pm on Thursday nights. My sponsor is Nicholas S.S, who has walked me through the steps, traditions, and working on the concepts. I'm married to my beautiful Wife Jennifer and a stepdad to her two beautiful children.
I believe my job of DCM is to facilitate and create enthusiasm at our monthly district meetings. To uphold the Traditions and Concepts of Alcoholics Anonymous. As I continue to work the steps in my daily life, I have much to learn about how the traditions keep AA alive and how the concepts help our service structure. I'm super excited for 2020 as our district will be hosting the Fall Conference in September. We have the District 05 Mini Conference on January 18 th ,2020 here in Eau Claire, Recovery on the River in October, and hopefully many more events to be added to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the Alcoholic that suffers.
Since January 1 st , I attended the Fall Conference committee meeting held on January 5 th . Bryon B. our Fall Conference Chair, and his committee are doing an amazing job putting together a conference in a short amount of time. I took my first Monthly DCM call in December. There was five DCM'S on the call. I've been active attending AA meetings and going into treatment centers, and jails. We have some positions to fill including Alternate DCM, Treasurer, Webmaster, and special accommodations. We will have elections in February for these positions. I encourage our GSR'S and Committee Chairs to take back to your homegroups and meetings these vacant positions so that we can have a healthy election in February.

Let's work together, have fun, and work for the alcoholic that suffers in and out of the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous
IN LOVE AND SERVICE!
Shane Speckien

- **Alternate DCM – Vacant**
No report.
- **Corrections – Derek B.**
Contact for transition out of Jackson Correctional Facility
 - Look into offering this to other facilities?
 - Derek found a AA World Services Org Pamphlet that has this type of transition request for inmates. Rather than sending out a PDF that volunteers have to print, let's look into making a welcome packet for new volunteers with script, pamphlets, and other materials to bring with on visits.

Meeting script

- Thoughts on having script or freestyle meeting
- Type of meeting (beginner, topic, step, etc.)
- Volunteer to come up with draft?
- The group discussed the need for this and decided after going in for a couple times, speakers generally feel comfortable coming up with a format on the fly. Laurene is going to look through her files to find the old script to provide to new speakers. It should be noted new speakers are always sent in with an experienced member.

Coordinators for facilities

- Schedule speakers
- Dunn County is currently on a set schedule with the same speakers, so no need for a coordinator, but we will re-evaluate when males are also going in. Trempealeau County is currently scheduled by Jim and the speakers have pre-arranged times they go in each month, Jim is serving as contact for facility. Laurene is currently scheduling speakers, but the group didn't think she should have to send a reminder text every week to four speakers, so Annette is looking into the possibility of an automated reminder text/e-mail.
- Derek and Laurene are currently contact people for Eau Claire
- Serve as contact for Correctional Facilities
- Recruit new speakers
 - More female speakers are needed to fill schedule in Eau Claire. Will begin personalized requests to AA members to fill out applications.

Offering speakers to both genders in all facilities

- Females in Trempealeau
 - Jim is currently working to get more females on the volunteer list, only one female volunteer at this time
- Males in Dunn
 - Derek will reach out to contact provided by Pam to inquire about adding male speakers

Other:

- Derek will reach out to Eau Claire Jail to see if we can have books on site/in their library and ask if we can get an address added to volunteer application so we don't have to pass around or email documents with social security numbers on them
- The group decided it would be better for our committee to meet on the second Tuesday of every week, the next committee meeting will be March 3rd at 6:00pm in the small building of Club 12
- Rent was paid for the last half of 2019.

Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the Second Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, 6:00 PM, Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 3, 2020.)

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC) – Monica B**
 - This committee met on 01/07/2020 at 6:45pm
 - Updated contact list

- o Discussion of goal for this year
- o New members
- o Materials needed

Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:45 PM, Club 12 (small building) Eau Claire. (Next meeting: February 3, 2020.)

- **Public Information (PI)** – Nicholas SS

Greetings District 5 GSRs, committee chairs, and officers. I hope your first meeting is going well and you are having a chance to become acquainted with each other. The PI committee is having a workshop in February in River Falls that is being led by past PI committee members Myron and Gary. The intended audience for this event are members of the public and professional communities and AA members are welcome to attend as well.

As we begin to rebuild a new PI committee based in Eau Claire here are the steps we have taken, Our first meeting will be held on January 13th at 6:30PM in Eau Claire. We currently have 9 individuals committed to attending our first meeting. The committee has ordered workbooks and the welcome kit. Our first meeting will be going through the workbook and brainstorming ideas about what we hope to work towards over the next 2 years. The committee will also be discussing the Delegates workshop in March and encouraging the committee members to attend.

I am requesting a reimbursement of \$27.90 for literature expenses. The check can be made directly to CVIG and if they are in attendance please give directly to them, otherwise please give to DCM whom can give to me.

I will attend the February District meeting to give my report as scheduled in the District guidelines.

We continue to seek representatives and AA members to join our committee, please contact me at 414-803-9906 for further information.

In love and service,

Nicholas S.

Be of service! Regular meetings take place at a time yet to be determined. Next Meeting: January 13, 2020, 6:30pm (for more info call Nicholas 414-803-9906)

- **Treatment** – Megan S.

- o treatment books
- o set goals for the new year

Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 13, 2020.)

- **Archives** - Zach

- o Picked up all of the Archives has not gone through it all yet
- o talked about how much it would cost to scan it and it would be very expensive (est, \$1000.00)

- **Grapevine**- Pat T

- o no report still learning position

- **Literature**- Dave

- o No Report

- **Special Accessibilities** – Vacant.

- o No report.

Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.

- **Newsletter** – Myron M.

- o Thank you for this opportunity to grow. It has been a gift.
- o Will cover the position until March.

Other Reports

- **Fall Conference- Bryan B**
Take back to groups!
 - Most positions filed
 - New ASL -Area pays for it
 - Send Marybeth or Bryan Theme Ideas
 - Will need help with registration and programs please contact Bryan and he will call you when they need help.Be of service! Next Meeting: February 2, 2020, 1pm Club 12 (small building)
- **Recovery On The River- Derek B**
 - They have speakers etc. all set!
 - look for more events
- **Intergroup – Variable Representative**
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 22.)
- **Mini Conference-January 18, 2020**
 - Everything looks good just need outreach.

New Business

- **Mini Conference-January 18, 2020**
 - GSRs encouraged to come
 - great service opportunity
- **Eleva Traveling Potluck**
 - For April come up with a panel from 3:30-4:30 before potluck
 - will talk about it next month
- **February Elections**
 - **Alt DCM**
 - **Treasurer**
 - **Special Accomodations**
 - **Webmaster**
 - **Newsletter**

**PLEASE TAKE BACK TO YOUR GROUPS IF THESE POSITIONS DO NOT GET FILLED
THE STUFF WILL NOT GET DONE!!**

- **Chippewa Meeting Lists-John B update**
 - put on hold as John and others are going to try to get district 06 up and running again
- **Delegates workshop**
 - GSRs are encouraged to go to the New GSR orientation

Closing

“WE” version of the Serenity Prayer

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020.

Normally scheduled reports: All Committee Chairs, GSRs, Officers.

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 2:

Came to Believe

"First, Alcoholics Anonymous does not demand that you believe anything. All of its Twelve Steps are but suggestions. Second, to get sober and to stay sober, you don't have to swallow all of Step Two right now. Looking back, I find that I took it piecemeal myself. Third, all you really need is a truly open mind."

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 26

The Big Book tells us that the purpose of the Twelve Steps is to bring about a spiritual awakening, or psychic change, in each A.A. member. Clearly, the founders did not intend Step Two to be a demand that this awakening or change take place immediately at the beginning of the new member's journey---rather, it is the much hoped-for goal of the journey.

When I was new in the A.A. program, a friend and mentor directed me to a recording of an A.A. speaker talking about spiritual growth. He used the analogy of a trip to see the circus to illustrate the process. I'll try to convey the main points of his illustration, if not the exact words.

Entering the big tent, you are delighted to find a front-row seat. There's a tall pole in front of you, but it doesn't really block your view of the whole arena. Far across the ring, you see a second tall pole, and see a tight cable stretched between the two poles. You realize there's going to be a high-wire act! Soon the performer appears and begins climbing the ladder rungs on the pole right in front of you. Your first reaction is that you HOPE this guy doesn't fall and squash you. Should you move to a seat in the back row? The performer looks confident as he climbs upward. You start to get the feeling he's done this many times before. You begin to have a BELIEF he knows what he's doing, and soon you've forgotten your initial fear that he could fall on you before the act even begins. Now at the top of the pole, the performer composes himself in preparation for the act. Suddenly, and with a flourish, he unveils a wheelbarrow. How exciting! He's going to push the wheelbarrow across whole length of the wire! Now all your fear is gone; you have FAITH that he's not just going to make it, but he's going to make a lasting impression upon the whole crowd. One more thought occurs to you: if you had TRUST that the performer would succeed perfectly, you would jump out of your seat, climb that ladder, hop in the wheelbarrow and say, "Ready when you are!"

---*an A.A. Member*

...on TRADITION #2:

Elder Statesmen

"Theirs is the quiet opinion, the sure knowledge and humble example that resolve a crisis...They become the voice of the group conscience; in fact, these are the true voice of Alcoholics Anonymous. They do not drive by mandate; they lead by example. This is the experience which has led us to the conclusion that our group conscience, well advised by its elders, will be in the long run wiser than any single leader."

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 135

Eighteen years before I truly admitted my powerlessness over alcohol, I very briefly flirted with A.A. Clearly, I was not yet ready; I couldn't see how I belonged among all these "old" guys and gals, regardless of their stories that were just like mine. To my thinking at the time, I was only 38 yrs. old and still invincible. I didn't know it, but I had a lot more suffering to cause myself and those close to me. Looking back, I think those folks knew that very well.

Today, I gravitate to the more senior members in A.A. These were the members who embraced me when I arrived, who steered me to an appropriate sponsor, who watched to be sure I gave myself a chance. They guided me into positions where people were counting on me; they showed me by their example that service to my group and to A.A. is a natural and necessary part of this new life.

Of course, as one new to service, I was over-flowing with ideas to make it all better. It was clear to me that most of you were doing it all wrong, and it was my job to tell you so. I was acting like the "bleeding deacons" described in this essay on Tradition 2 in the 12 & 12, but I couldn't wait long enough to put in the time to become a deacon. It's simply a problem of self-will; I still have the delusion of control. That is what I see as the clear and obvious difference between bleeding deacons and elder statesmen/stateswomen. In the quote above, Bill W. describes true elder statesmen; it is a description of a spiritually mature person. The description of a bleeding deacon shows us the opposite, "...one who is just as surely convinced that the group cannot get along without him...who continues to be consumed with self-pity." Once again we see that group problems and A.A. service problems often have their roots in individual members' recovery problems. When I bring my continuing character defects into group service, I'm not the only one who suffers. The solution will be found by living in the 12 Steps, one day a time.

---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 Principle of Rotation

Traditionally, rotation ensures that group tasks, like nearly everything else in A.A., are passed around for all to share. Many groups have alternates to each trusted servant who can step into the service positions if needed.

To step out of an A.A. office you love can be hard. If you have been doing a good job, if you honestly don't see anyone else around willing, qualified, or with the time to do it, and if your friends agree, it's especially tough. But it can be a real step forward in growth --- a step into the humility that is, for some people, the spiritual essence of anonymity.

Among other things, anonymity in the Fellowship means that we forgo personal prestige for any A.A. work we do to help alcoholics. And, in the spirit of Tradition Twelve, it ever reminds us "to place principles before personalities."

Many outgoing service position holders find it rewarding to take time to share their experience with the incoming person. Rotation helps to bring us spiritual rewards far more enduring than any fame. With no A.A. "status" at stake, we needn't compete for titles or praise --- we have complete freedom to serve as we are needed.

---from the A.A. pamphlet, "*The A.A. Group...where it all begins*"

Monthly District 05 Events:

District 05 Monthly GSR Meeting is held at 6:45 pm, 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 6:45 pm on the 2nd Monday of every month.

Corrections Committee meets at 6:00 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of January, March, May, July, September and November.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee meets at 6:45 pm on the 1st Monday of every month.

Public Information Committee meets at 6:15 pm on the 2nd Monday of every month in the lower level of the Unitarian Church, 421 S. Farrell St. in Eau Claire.

Chippewa Valley Intergroup meets at 6:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month at Club 12.

** 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

February 2020:

- 1st – 2nd -- **8th Annual Men's Retreat** thru Feb. 2nd. Luther Bible Camp, 944 24 ¼ St., Chetek, WI.
See flyer at www.district05.org
- 3rd -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:15 pm, Unitarian Church, 421 S. Farrell St. in Eau Claire
- 12th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 16th -- **Traveling Potluck**, 12:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 26th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.
- 29th -- **District 5 Mini-Conference** 12 pm-6 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

March 2020:

- 2nd -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 9th -- **P.I. Committee Meeting**, 6:15 pm, Unitarian Church, 421 S. Farrell St. in Eau Claire
- 10th -- **Corrections Committee Meeting**, 6:00 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 11th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 25th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6 pm, 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.

