



The District View

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

Volume 2020, Issue 1

January 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 1: "We admitted we were powerless over alcohol---that our lives had become unmanageable."

Tradition 2: "Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."

Concept I: Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship. (*short form*)

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

December 11, 2019 6:45 PM

Menomonie Leisure Center, 1412 6th St E

Menomonie, WI 54751

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 10 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - Reports scheduled for January (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.
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - Report Period: 11/13/19-12/10/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,188.35
 - Group Contributions: \$170.00
 - Expenses: \$0.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$2,358.35
 - Actual Bank Balance: \$2,488.36 (Sara will look into difference)
 - Savings Account Balance: \$602.63
 - **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:

I am really excited about the District 05 mini-conference which will be held in January 18, 2020. A group of AA members have been meeting frequently and working hard on organizing this conference. Our current Delegate Sara P. will be participating in this mini-conference and will be sharing her story following the Northside Potluck. I strongly encourage you to attend and to send your sponsees. Please spread the word! If you are interested in helping this event, please contact me.

As this year winds down, please consider being of service to your groups. Groups are the foundation of the AA service structure. Please consider electing and supporting a GSR. New GSR orientation will be part of the mini-conference being held on January 18, 2020. We also have unfilled positions at the District level.

Planning meetings are being held for the Area 74 2020 Fall Conference that is being held in Eau Claire on September 11-13, 2020. [See **Appendix A for the full report.**] We will need many AA members to assist in planning this conference. Bryon B. is the conference chair and you may contact him or myself on how you can be of service in the planning of this conference. Our next planning meeting is being held at 10:00 a.m. on January 5, 2020 at the Best Western Plus in Eau Claire.

The December 2019 District meeting ends six years of service at the District level. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as a GSR, District Treasurer, and DCM. Service work is so important to my recovery and I so appreciate your support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Shane S. as our new DCM and it is my prayer that he and the other new officers and GSRs find the same sense of gratitude in helping to carry the message as I experienced.

Yours in service. Marybeth S.

- **Alternate DCM** – Paul H.
 - No report.
- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Thanks for the service opportunity.
 - Working with new chair to transition.
 - Contacted Eau Claire County Health Department will mention AA resources in TV interview.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: January 6, 2020.)
- **Treatment** – Megan S.
 - Working on transitioning coordinators.
 - Making sure speaker positions get filled.
 - 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.)
- **Corrections** – Derek B.
 - Goals:
 - Wants to get facility coordinators for each jail.
 - Explore additional opportunities.
 - Wants to create a meeting format.
 - Create list of facilities.
 - 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: February 3, 2020.)
- **Special Accessibilities** – Vacant.
 - No report.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined.
- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - No report.
- **Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.
 - \$90.60 for yellow pages renewal?
 - Will have 715- number instead of 800- number.
 - Discussion about why we pay for the Intergroup phone.
 - **Motion made and passed** to pay the bill.
 - Motion made to take bill to Intergroup to see if they will reimburse for the bill. Not passed.
 - February 8 workshop in River Falls.
 - 100 invitations sent out locally.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place at a time yet to be determined.
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - No report.

- Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: TBD.)

Old Business

- **Mini-Conference Planning Committee**
 - In DCM report.
- **Alt. DCM Election**
 - No nominations.
- **Newsletter Editor Election**
 - No nominations.

New Business

- **2020 Budget**
 - Motion made to keep budget at 2019 amounts.
 - **Year-to-Date Budget Standings** (Added Post Meeting for Reference)

Budget Item	Yearly Budget
Administrative	\$500.00
DCM	\$700.00
Alt. DCM	\$60.00
Archives	\$50.00
Corrections	\$500.00
CPC	\$450.00
Grapevine	\$50.00
Literature	\$50.00
Newsletter	\$50.00
PI	\$600.00
Special Accessibilities	\$50.00
Treatment	\$400.00
Webmaster	\$120.00
Workshops	\$500.00

- **Chippewa Meeting Lists**
 - Can we get meeting list for Chippewa (District 06) linked from District 05 website?
 - A list exists and contact people needed for meetings.
 - ☞ Bring back to your groups to discuss if posting the list on the District 05 website is okay.

Open Sharing

- A Safe Place to Be is in need of support. About one newcomer per week shows up there.
- Shane S. thanked for the service opportunity. Traveling Potluck in February.
- Saturday Night Alive could use some support.

- Freedom from Bondage had elections and filled all positions and can start giving money back.

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020.

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

Appendix A: Area 74 2020 Fall Conference Planning Committee Report

Good Day to All,

I apologize for not being at the meeting, bad planning with my schedule, my mistake.

So far the Committee has met twice and progress has been made with the planning process. The next Committee meeting will be on January 5th , 10:00 am, at the Best Western Plus. A flyer has been sent to the Web Master and it will be on the District 05 Calendar of Events.

One of the objectives of the next meeting we will be to review the facility. This will help finalize what panels and events we can accommodate during the Convention. After reviewing the facility, we will be able to meet in one of their rooms to continue the meeting.

The Following positions have been filled:

Committee Chair: Bryon B
Co-Chair/Secretary: Hannah H
Treasurer: Dave K
Co-Treasurer: Paul H
Program Chair: Marybeth S
Hospitality Chair: David G
Hotel/Venue: Jackie P
Co-Registration Chairs: Jackie B and Lizz B (still need a vote to confirm)
ASL Chair: Jennifer Ann H

The Committee is still looking for a PI chair, and each individual sub-committee will need volunteers to assist them. There will be plenty of work for everyone.

Two out of the three AA speakers have been confirmed and we are still in need of an Alanon Representative.

The meeting minutes have been saved on Google Docs. If you would like a link to the minutes, please contact Bryon B or the secretary Hannah H.

Thank you all for letting me be of service,

Bryon B

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 1:

From Denial to Surrender

"He explained that my drinking, once a habit, had become an obsession, a true insanity that condemned me to drink against my will."

---Bill W., *A.A. Comes of Age*, pg. 52

The first time I read this quote, which directly calls out my drinking for what it was---true insanity---was a key moment in my full acceptance of Step 1 powerlessness. Until I saw this quote, I readily conceded to misbehavior; to having been 'out of control' in a sort of pop culture use of the term. Looking back, I think part of me just wanted A.A. to teach me how not to be so naughty anymore. Sure, I had read The Doctor's Opinion, but only because my sponsor thought it was important---I had wanted to start out at Chapter 5, How It Works, and to get on with fixing this thing. I had the common newcomer's idea that I could just "learn" my way out of this trap of being an alcoholic.

Well, I thought I knew what an allergy was, and it didn't sound too serious. I had developed an allergy to milk, becoming lactose-intolerant as an adult, so if I wanted to eat ice cream I just had to take a pill first. I had often heard people use the term 'obsession' and that didn't seem too serious, either---a kind of character flaw in people who tend to over-do things. There's a popular perfume marketed under the name "Obsession." So Dr. Silkworth's theory about alcoholism as given in the Big Book didn't hit me too hard.

I also didn't put much stock in the examples of relapse in the chapter More About Alcoholism. I didn't identify with Jim, the car salesman or Fred, the accountant and certainly not with the jay-walker. Instead I laughed at their problems, smugly certain that my own mental state was not so bad as these men. On page 37 in this chapter, Bill W. uses the word 'insanity' or its synonyms nine times---and yet my pride wouldn't let me absorb his message.

One of the most remarkable and impactful elements of the A.A. program is the telling of one's story. The teller is more closely bound to the group by this sharing, through honestly making her/himself vulnerable to the group's trust; a greater sense of belonging is the result. A tremendous benefit is granted also to those who receive the story. One might hear essentially the same message from several different sources, but one particular messenger may, through a turn of phrase or emphasis or by communicated emotion, deliver that message in such a way that it drills itself straight through the listener's defenses and implants itself in the psyche. I believe each one of us is exactly the right messenger for some new member. I also believe the old saying that when the student is ready, the right teacher appears.

So it was with me and my denial of the insanity of my alcoholism. In this case, both the originator of the message, Dr. Silkworth, and the teller, Bill W., were the same in both sources. But when I was exposed to the quote above, from *A.A. Comes of Age*, it hit home to me in such a way that the same message from the Big Book had not. I could now clearly see Jim and Fred as my alcoholic equals, and that if I had not suffered as much damage as had the jay-walker, it was only by the grace of God.

---an A.A. Member

...on TRADITION #1:

A.A. Unity Comes First

"I learned that the temporary or seeming good can often be the deadly enemy of the permanent best. When it comes to survival for A.A., nothing short of our very best will be good enough."

---Bill W., *A.A. Comes of Age*, pg. 294

The theme of Tradition One is A.A. unity. What does unity mean to this member, this one small part of the great whole? It means that the health and strength of my group and of A.A. are dependent upon my actions just as surely as my sobriety and serenity are dependent upon my actions.

If I take my sobriety for granted, I risk losing it. If I choose self-interest ahead of what is best for the group, I weaken the group. A.A. has gained strength and flourished now for eight decades. It may seem indestructible. We take

for granted that no outside forces are likely to threaten it. If A.A. is to be weakened, the damage will come from within; not in the form of a sudden upheaval, but from a multitude of little selfish pinpricks. Just as surely as a pattern of self-centered behavior threatens spiritual growth of the individual, so does the same behavior weaken A.A.'s ability to fulfill its primary purpose.

For that, I am responsible.

---an A.A. Member

(This essay appeared previously in the January 2019 issue of The District View.)

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 General Service Representative --- G.S.R.

"The strength of our whole A.A. service structure starts with the group and with the general service representative (G.S.R.) the group elects. I cannot emphasize too strongly the G.S.R.'s importance."

---Bill W. on General Services and the G.S.R.

In A.A. recovery, we share the joy we have found in progressing from a state of "apart from" toward becoming "a part of" something greater than ourselves. In A.A. service, there is a similar, parallel progression taken by an A.A. group: By selecting and supporting a G.S.R., the group makes a significant step away from isolation toward a meaningful connection with the wider entity which is A.A. General Service.

In the early 1950's, following the death of co-founder Dr. Bob, A.A. began to create a structure by which it could sustain itself into the future. The G.S.R. is the foundation of that structure, essentially transmitting group conscience to a part of "the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship." The G.S.R. transmits not only information, but ideas and opinions. At monthly district meetings and at quarterly assemblies at the area level, G.S.R.'s cast the votes that guide A.A. decisions.

The personal qualities required of a G.S.R. candidate will seem familiar to all A.A.'s: patience, understanding, and a firm determination "to place principles before personalities." A willingness to be of use to one's fellows is the real key to A.A. service. The G.S.R. serves a 2-year term, as the A.A. "spirit of rotation" looks to provide opportunities to serve for as many members as possible.

If you know of an A.A. group that may benefit from becoming more connected to A.A., invite a member or two to a District05 monthly meeting. See p.1 for meeting details. For more information, see A.A. pamphlet #P-19, "G.S.R. -- MAYBE THE MOST IMPORTANT JOB IN A.A."

---an A.A. Member

(This essay first appeared in the January 2018 issue of *The District View*.)

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 7:00 pm on the 1st Monday of February, May, August, and November.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee meets at 6:30 pm on the 1st Monday of every month.

Public Information Committee meets in the ODD months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at River Falls Alano club.

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

group's event please contact your GSR, any district officer, or the website editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

** Care is taken to include all events. If your event is not listed we regret the error. To list your

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

January 2020:

- 5th – **Fall Conference Planning Meeting**, 10:00 am, Best Western Plus, 3340 Mondovi Rd., Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 6th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 8th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 13th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 18th – **District05 Mini-Conference**, 9:00 am, Hope Lutheran Church, 2226 Eddy Lane in Eau Claire. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 22nd -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6 pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.
- 31st – **8th Annual Men's Retreat** thru Feb. 2nd. Luther Bible Camp, 944 24 ¼ St., Chetek, WI. See flyer at www.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.
 - 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.
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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.

**SAVE THE
DATE**



AREA 74

FALL CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 5

SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2020

BEST WESTERN PLUS

EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN

Speakers, panels, banquet!!