



The District View

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

Volume 2020, Issue 3

March 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 3: "Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Tradition 3: "The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Concept III: To insure effective leadership, we should endow each element of A.A.---the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives---with a traditional "Right of Decision." (*short form*)

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

February 12, 2020 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- “We” version of the Serenity Prayer

Introductions Etc.

- 12 GSRs present.
- Big Book/AA History Trivia!

Reports

- **Secretary** – Shannon S.
 - o Read last month’s minute highlights.
 - o No Reports Scheduled for March
 - Recap Delegates workshop
 - Recap Budget
 - o Approved: Last month’s minutes approved without objection.
- **Treasurer** – Vacant-Shane S gave a report per Sara
 - o Report Period: 1/08/20-2/12/20
 - o Checking Opening Balance: \$2488.36 (actual bank)
 - o Group Contributions: \$400
 - o Expenses: \$924.4
 - o Checking Closing Balance: \$1962.96 (actual bank)
 - o Savings Account Balance: \$602.63?
 - o Question on 300\$ payment to Church for Cancelled Event-- Church still charged will get some money back though from group.
 - 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

Greetings Greetings District 05! Hello, my name is Shane and I’m an alcoholic. I would like to take a moment to say thank you to our newly elected GSRs, Officers and Committee Chairs for your service to Alcoholics Anonymous and more importantly, working for the alcoholic that still suffers in and out of these rooms.

District 05 Meeting Our first District 05 meeting, which was held on January 8th, was a success. We had the opportunity to begin getting to know each other and more about the role of DCM. I would encourage all of you as GSRs, Officers and Committee Chairs to do the same. Building relationships happens both at these meetings and outside of meetings which helps strengthen our district.

Fall Conference Planning Committee I attended the Fall Conference Committee Meeting which was held on February 2nd at Club 12. Bryon B, the committee chair and his team, are doing a great job putting things together for the conference in a short amount of time. They will be releasing the program flyer and registration on March 7th. The theme of the conference will be “Our Common Welfare Comes First”. **Public Information Workshop** I also attended the Public Information Workshop in River Falls which was held on February 8th. The workshop was well organized and informative. Thank you to the Public Information Committee for all their work to make the workshop a success.

Delegates Workshop The first delegates workshop is coming up on March 7th and we are looking forward to all new GSRs, Officers and Committee Chairs attending. There will be a carpool sign up sheet available at the February District meeting. This will be discussed in more detail at the District meeting. **Elections** Elections will be held for the following positions at the February District meeting: 1) Alternate DCM 2) Treasurer 3) Special Accommodations Committee Chair 4) Webmaster 5) Newsletter Editor **Club 12 Banquet** The 61st annual Alano Club 12 banquet is

coming up on March 7th. It will be held at the Florian Gardens. For more information, contact Brett Z. at 715-559-0146.

Area 74 Updates Dean, our Area 74 Registrar Chair, has been communicating with GSO to provide updates for newly-elected GSRs and DCMs. For GSRs that have not yet submitted a change form, please complete the form ASAP and submit it to Shane S. If you have not received your new GSR or Committee Chair packet from GSO, they are still working to record the new change forms so there may be a delay. Shane S. has been elected to serve on the Wisconsin Corrections Committee for Area 74.

Other Upcoming Events It is exciting that there are so many events occurring at the end of February and into the month of March. In addition to those that were already shared above, upcoming events include:

- Back to Basics Pot Luck
- District 05 Mini-Conference
- District 06 – 2nd meeting to “turn the lights back on”

In love and service, Shane S.

DCM Report- Approved

- **Alternate DCM** – Vacant

No report.

- **Corrections** – Derek B.

- We haven't met since last month's district meeting, our next meeting is March 3, at 6:00pm.
- Requesting reimbursement for \$120 (Stanley prison) written to me and \$246.87 written to intergroup (Chippewa Jail and Inventory)
- Working with Jason R from Menomonie to get a schedule of males going into Dunn Jail, will be working to expand women volunteers
- Jim was able to get another women volunteer to go into Trempealeau Jail
- Will have someone representing corrections committee at the mini conference

Be of service! Regular meetings take place at 6pm Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 3, 2020.)

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Monica B

- This committee met on 02/03/2020
- Updated contact list
- Discussion of goal for this year
- Voted in Secretary: Mary B
- Materials needed
 - \$52.75 to CVIG for workbooks
- Went to Stout and did a presentation

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: March 2, 2020.)

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

District 05: Public Information Report

Greetings District 5 GSRs, committee chairs, and officers. The PI committee met on 2/10/2020 and had 9 in attendance. We identified the projects we will be working on and whom on the committee that will be leading those projects. The projects are; AA literature in District Libraries – big and small, AA resources in community organizations, ie homeless shelters, food pantries, etc., PSA's on Eau Claire Public Transit, composing a list of public events that AA could attend, ie festivals, community events etc, county fair project, working on a script and list of presenters for our public events. Our committee is also seeking input from District 5 GSR's if there is a need that we are not aware of or a job we can assist with to

please let us know. Our committee also agreed to bring treats to each of our monthly meetings. The outgoing River Falls PI committee hosted an event on 2/8/2020 that was attended by approximately 20 people. An appreciation and thanks should be given to Myron, Gary, and all those in River Falls who put in a lot of work and effort on a great event.

Our committee reviewed the PI agenda items for the General Service Conference and will be represented at the Delegates workshop on March 7th .

Our committee wanted to express frustration in the mini-conference. We felt it was scheduled too soon without proper notice to be involved and we were invited through our current DCM but not given any direction or request as to what our role would be.

Our hope is that District Sponsored workshops have the voice of the GSR's and committee chairs.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 9th at 6:15pm at the Unitarian Church.

Action item, our committee wishes to request \$650 for an informational booth at Northern Wisconsin State Fair. This 5 day event in July attracts 70,000 – 90,000 people and is a great opportunity to present the public with information about our fellowship.

Nicholas

PI Chair

LOTS of Discussion regarding the money request including concerns about stepping on District 6's toes (which there is not an active District 6 right now, they are working on it) also Motion Made for PI to go over budget by \$175. Motion Approved 7-1 vote minority voice was heard

Be of service! Regular meetings take place at a time yet to be determined. Next Meeting: Monday, March 9,2020, 6:15pm at the Unitarian Church in Eau Claire. (for more info call Nicholas 414-803-9906)

- **Treatment** – Megan S.

All is going well for the treatment committee and the treatment centers! We recently put an order in for more literature and will be getting started on the treatment workbooks next month. We will also now be going into Fahrman twice a month on the second and fourth Friday at 7 p.m. It is so exciting to continue to spread the word about AA in treatment centers! I will also be attending the mini-conference on February 29th, 2020 to help answer questions about the treatment committee and also have information on how others can get involved!

Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 9, 2020.)

Other Reports

- **Fall Conference-** Bryan B (absent-Hannah H filled in)

- Committee met on 2-2-2020 at Club 12 in Eau Claire.
- The main speakers have been selected
- The online registration process will be up and running soon using EventZilla.
- The registration flyer will be approved and ready for distribution after our next meeting.
- The Best Western Plus has set aside a block of rooms at a cost of \$99.

Be of service! Next Meeting: March 1, 2020, 11:30 Club 12 (small building)

- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative

- Making a large Literature Order
- New Comer Packets
 - Put together New Comer Packet with various pamphlets etc and phonelist for groups for cost of approx. \$3-5 per packet, bring back to groups--Would your group be interested in this?

Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: February 26.)

- **Mini Conference-**January 18, 2020--- Postponed due to weather. Moved to February 29, 2020

ELECTIONS

Alternate DCM- remains vacant

Treasurer- Amy B

Special Accomodations- Jim S

Webmaster- Robert S

Newsletter- remains vacant--Myron will do the newsletter for March but then he is done.

Please bring vacant positions back to your groups if they want the position they must come to the next District meeting and get voted in. Thank you to the New Members!!

- **Eleva Traveling Potluck**

- For April come up with a panel from 3:30-4:30 before potluck
- Megan, Randy, and Tammy will come up with a topic

- **Delegates workshop**

- Nicholas and Gary shared their experience with this.
- Carpool sign up--please contact Shane S if you want to carpool
- GSRs strongly encouraged to go

- **Update on District 6**

- Nicholas Secretary for Area 74 attended the meeting and said they were enthusiastic and also that they appreciated everything District 05 has done for their district.
- Read from Service Manual:
Reactivating districts: Frequently, there is a need within an area to attempt to reactivate districts or groups that have become inactive or are unrepresented. Areas encourage participation in general service in many ways, especially by direct contact with groups by district/area officers to provide information about service events and opportunities to carry the message beyond the group level. Sometimes there is district-to-district sponsorship in which an active district shares its experience and suggestions to “jump start” activity among groups within the inactive neighboring district.
Next Meeting February 20, 7:45 pm.

Closing

“WE” version of the Serenity Prayer.

Next Meeting: March 11, 2020

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 3:

“Like all the remaining Steps, Step Three calls for affirmative action, for it is only by action that we can cut away the self-will which has always blocked the entry of God---or, if you like, a Higher Power---into our lives.”
---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, pg. 34

With typical alcoholic thinking, I thought this step impossible for me because I didn't have an understanding of God---mostly just confusion about God, coupled with a stubborn refusal to be seen as wrong about anything. I leaped at this apparent “out” in the second half of the sentence, “*as we understood Him*,” to dodge the call for an active decision in the first half. I needed guidance from A.A.'s collective wisdom to bring focus to this bedrock step.

As a child, I had been taught there was exactly one non-negotiable way to understand God. In A.A., it seems there are as many different understandings of the Higher Power as there are members. In *A New Pair of Glasses* Chuck C. said, “I like to use three words: Life, Good, God, which to me are synonymous words.” Another member, Bob D., who often is quite blunt in his approach to recovery, said that Step Three is the means by which we “fire the jerk who has been running our life into the ground.” I like that!

The Big Book, of course, provided me with two really significant road signs to Step Three. The first one was the scene at Bill W.'s kitchen table when Ebby T. asked Bill, "*Why don't you choose your own conception of God?*" Much like Bill, my old ideas, arguments and grudges against religion couldn't stand up to that challenge. Ebby took the focus off of anyone else's idea of God and laid the issue squarely in my lap. The second quote from the Big Book that made a big impact on my struggle with Step Three is Herbert Spencer's admonition against closed-mindedness on page 568, "*...contempt prior to investigation.*" Taken together, these two quotes pointed me in the right direction: Finding my Higher Power is not a process of addition---it is not something I try to add to my daily life---it is a process of removal---as I am able to strip away some of the self-will that is blocking me from the needed power, that power can flow into me. So the affirmative action taken in Step Three and those that follow help me to uncover, discover, and discard the old ideas, the flaws in my character that are defense mechanisms I once needed to prop up a life run by self-will.

With new-found open-mindedness, liberated by A.A.'s near total lack of dogma, I have been able to make Step 3 the cornerstone of my daily program of recovery. Today I know there is no problem in life that I cannot make much worse by trying to conquer it by my own will. Step 3 has opened for me the way to contented sobriety.

---an A.A. Member

...on TRADITION #3:

"We just want to be sure that you get the same great chance for sobriety that we've had. So you're an A.A. member the minute you declare yourself."

---*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p.139

In this essay on Tradition 3, Bill W. acknowledged the fear-based intolerance of many early groups that sought to protect A.A. from people who, in many respects, were very much like me. Looking back to those early times, it is remarkable how rapidly A.A. moved from restrictive membership regulations to the adoption of this tradition. "*Who dared to be judge, jury, and executioner of his own sick brother?*" The history of A.A. traces a path toward inclusiveness and away from exclusiveness.

Relatively few of the A.A. newcomers I meet today identify themselves as what used to be called 'pure alcoholics.' For most, it is a matter of alcohol AND some other substances. Many, in fact, admit that it was addiction to one or another illegal drug that finally led them to seek help. For me, it was alcohol that brought me to my knees. When some are asked their 'drug of choice,' they may reply as I once did, "What've you got?"

In many towns and rural areas, A.A. is still the only local source of recovery help.

If these folks stay in A.A. long enough, they may come to understand that the condition we call alcoholism can apply to them, as well. Like all other newcomers, once a few cracks are made in their 'terminal uniqueness,' they begin to see how we are very much alike: Our 'what it was like' stories differ in the details, while our 'solution' stories are remarkably similar. And as with all newcomers, we seek to emphasize our commonalities, rather than let them seize upon some minor perceived difference as an excuse that can lead them right back out the door.

I am well aware there are some differences between addiction to alcohol and addiction to some other substances. We alcoholics are addicted to a substance which, for well over 90% of the population, is not physically addictive. Conversely, virtually anyone who uses heroin for any length of time will develop a physical addiction to it. An important question facing all newcomers is whether they have a purely physical addiction that can be solved by the detox and withdrawal process, or if they also are mentally and spiritually unwell, as I was.

I have been asked how I, as a recovered alcoholic, can function as a sponsor for newcomers whose addiction to drugs brought them seek help in A.A. My reply is simply that the sponsor/sponsee relationship need not entail a debate about chemistry at all. Powerlessness is powerlessness; spiritual awakening is spiritual awakening. Once we start to focus on the solution, which we do almost immediately, chemical preference is largely irrelevant. Only our first Step even mentions alcohol.

Some A.A.'s are uncomfortable with drug addict newcomers, as their use of illegal drugs is, by definition, criminal behavior. I would remind these members that the first 100 A.A.'s did the bulk of their drinking during the Prohibition era, when it was illegal to produce or sell alcoholic beverages. Generally, each of the first 100 "had to know someone" in order to obtain their booze, exactly like today's users of illegal street drugs.

My Big Book tells me that "*bottles were only a symbol*" of my problem; I see syringes and pipes as likely symbols of the very same spiritual malady. As an alcoholic, I believe I cannot honestly claim sobriety while using *any* mood-

altering or mind-altering substances; these folks desire to do the same, including abstinence from alcohol. We all seek to live sober in the A.A. solution.

---an A.A. Member

A.A. Service View

Greetings from the District 05 Public Information Committee

As a committee we would like to thank the River Falls area for their commitment and service on this committee over the past 10+ years.

With that being said, the Eau Claire area is excited to announce that we are underway with new and exciting ways to continue to inform the public about Alcoholics Anonymous. We have now met two times and will continue to meet monthly at 6:15 pm on the 2nd Monday in the lower level of the Unitarian Universalist Church. (421 S. Farwell St, Eau Claire) We invite you to check out our meeting and help bring the message of A.A. to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the public.

Public Information (P.I.) in Alcoholics Anonymous means carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. program. We carry the message by getting in touch with and responding to the media, schools, industry, and other organizations, which can report on the nature and purpose of A.A. and what it can do for Alcoholics.

The P.I. committee is excited to share that we have multiple projects in the works. Here are some of our new endeavors:

- Ensuring that all libraries in the district have literature available. Along with that we will be looking into the mini neighborhood libraries and providing literature to them.
- Inquiring about placing a PSA on the Eau Claire public transportation on how to contact A.A.
- Providing literature to community help centers in the district.
- Hosting booths at community events.

Our biggest project that is in the works is hosting a booth at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair in July. This is a big undertaking and we will be seeking many volunteers to help staff the booth. We look forward to sharing more detailed information as we move forward with this adventure.

For more information or any questions you can contact: Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider, P.I. Committee Chair, pi@district05.org
Ph. 414-803-9906

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

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.

April 2020:

- 4th -- **4th Step Inventory Workshop**, 12:30-4:30 pm, River Falls Alano Club, Hwy 29 & County Rd
- 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 -- **Eleva Traveling Potluck**, 3:30 pm, Eleva Lutheran Church, 50533 S. 2nd St. in Eleva. See flyer at www.district05.org
- 22nd -- **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.

