



District View

P.O. Box 261
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District 05 Newsletter

September 2010

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Thoughts On Step 9

Step 9 has been a turning point in my recovery. Now that I have made my most difficult amends, fear has seemed to subside. I have heard the promises many times in meetings, but they truly are "The 9th Step Promises."

I would encourage you to work this step under the guidance of sponsorship, and with all of the honesty and willingness you can muster. I hope that all of you are able to experience this for yourself. A new happiness, and a new freedom has certainly been my experience with this step.

Below, I will include the promises, as they appear on pp 83-84 in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous.

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others.

That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

Step Nine

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

Tradition Nine (Long Form)

"Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our overall public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness."

Concept Nine

"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."

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A District View

A District View is a non-profit Newsletter published by District 05-Area 74 of Alcoholics Anonymous for the purpose of providing local communication between the District Committee, Groups within the District and individual A.A. members. It is published monthly for members of the A.A. fellowship. Circulation is about 75 copies. Individual subscription rates are \$10.00/year. Flier insertion cost is \$7.50 for one-sided camera ready fliers; \$14.00 for two-sided fliers. There is no charge for flier insertion for District 05 Traveling Open Speaker Meeting and Workshops and Area 74 Assemblies and Conferences.

**Please submit copies prior to the 20th of the month
via email at: DistrictView@aainwestwis.org**

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Alt DCM Adam K.

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GROUP (DISTRICT 05 GSR'S RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER AT NO COST)

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District 05 Monthly Meeting – July 8, 2009

Meeting opened by the DCM with the Responsibility Statement

Introductions: 15 present.

Secretary Report: Was read and approved.

Treasurer Report: Savings balance at **\$452.25** and checking at **\$1905.17** after **\$25.00** contributions and disbursements of **\$452.25**. Shawna will have the quarterly report done for the next meeting. She was asked about Thank you notes and will be checking into them as well. The report was accepted.

DCM Report: Paul will be attending the Fall Conference in Gladstone, MI this weekend.

Groups & Meeting updates: The GSR's from two groups stated that their groups will not continue to send contributions to District until they see more activity with the money in our account. They were also displeased that we have not had a Districtview from Jan.2010 to date and had no idea what our District is doing. A question was asked about "If GSR's can attend Area Committee meetings even though we can not speak at them?" The answer being yes we can attend, it is our area and we are allowed to attend but not speak.

Workshop: Sept.25 in Maidenrock a Treatment Workshop but no information was given on it.

Old Business: None

New Business: There are new GSR's that have not gotten their packets yet and are not getting the "Now and Then" even though they have been in the position since the beginning of the year. Paul will be checking on that at Fall Conference.

Quarterly Report:

Grapevine: No report

Literature: Gary N. Nothing new to report

Newsletter: Our new editor Jason L. will have the Districtview out in 2 weeks. A section he is requesting for people to write in is called "IN THE BEGINNING". For newcomers or people who want to tell what it is like when you first come into AA, What is it like? If you think you would like to send something in contact Jason thedistrictview@gmail.com or the address now listed on the website

CVIG Report: The intergroup's year is going very well. They have their website up and running at: chippewavalleyintergroup.org They have their 4th annual picnic this Sat. Sept.11th,2010.They are planning more workshop's in 2010/2011. They reminded us that they have literature for

groups to purchase from and have **Big Books** and **Twelve by Twelves** in stock.

A discussion was held about a person who had paid for a Districtview subscription and should we reimburse her. A **motion was made by Shawna that reads as follows: "To reimburse her subscription along with a free subscription."** Motion was seconded by Dean and all approved. **Motion passed.**

Nick also made a motion that reads as follows: "To make a small adjustment to the "Districtview" making individual mailed copies \$10.00, electronically free. " **Bob seconded the motion,all approved. Motion passed.** Next months meeting will be held on Oct.13th.

Quarterly Report: Archives, Treatment and CPC.

Announcements:October 16 Fall Assembly in Three Lakes,WI

Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer

Special Thanks...

Special thanks to D. and to Les P. for submitting articles for this month's issue of The District View!

Thanks for sharing everyone!

Got Experience? Pass It On!!!

Do you have an experience to share regarding Step, Tradition or Concepts 10, 11, or 12?

Please email Jason L. at:
districtview@aainwestwis.org

to share any experience you have with Step, Tradition or Concept

Thank you for contributing to the District View.

Thoughts on Tradition 9

“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

My first experience with Tradition 9 was when I read an article in the newspaper advertising an AA Bake Sale. Where were the AA cops to put a stop to it? Can we apply sanctions to the body putting on the bake sale? With my limited knowledge of the traditions, at the time, I felt helpless. It was explained that AA does not have rules and regulations governing our actions. If I felt strongly about something it was up to me to take action.

“Alcoholics Anonymous only provides us the tools to carry the message. I have embraced the Steps and Traditions as a way of life and I mean that literally. “

Alcoholics Anonymous only provides us the tools to carry the message. I have embraced the Steps and Traditions as a way of life and I mean that literally. Without either, I would surely go back to drinking and ultimately die. The disobedience of spiritual principles is a personal failure. As most people know I am particular when it comes to the Traditions. I apply them to my life as I understand them and encourage newcomers to do that as well. My home group, “The Northside Group” has a monthly meeting on a given tradition. As a group we feel that the Traditions are important. In all my involvement at the Group, District and Area, the tasks that need to be done were fulfilled. From simply making coffee, to setting the agenda, or representing your group, we as individuals will do what needs to be done.

Yours in service,

Les P.

The following section is a new idea hoping to connect to newcomers regardless of the Step, Tradition, or Month we are in.

I would like to extend a warm thank you to ‘D.’ for his efforts with this section’s maiden voyage.

In The Beginning

My story might be a little bit different than others you’ve heard, only in that I’m 62 years old and didn’t start drinking in earnest until I was about 24.

I was still 17 when I graduated from high school, and being a law abiding Catholic instilled with Fear of the Lord, I never participated in the underage beer-drinking scene. I had a small glass courtesy of my Dad on occasion like many Wisconsin kids of German descent, but I never actually cared for the taste. I attended UW-EC, living at home. Being the youngest of four kids, my folks were reluctant to even hear talk of moving out, except for a military career or matrimony (no thanks to both at the moment). I’d had enough of school by the middle of my senior fall semester, and dropped out, taking a position in corporate accounting right here in my hometown. You could still do that in 1969. After a couple years of working, I finally took an apartment with a buddy and started to really socialize.

Drinking made it easier for me to “fit in”; being shy, I needed all the intestinal fortitude I could find. Gradually, I grew to like beer, martinis (real gin ones, not today’s flavored crap), all other varieties of cocktails and wine. I liked alcohol’s liberating effect on my personality. I also have an avocation in church music, being blessed with innate talent and an excellent education on piano and organ (the great big wind-blown kind). I handled all of this with ease until my mid-twenties, when I started to experience “panic attacks” or stage fright, or some such malady. Just like the social lubricant I’d been using, I also found that alcohol could calm these new unpleasant sensations. I started to date the woman I would eventually marry, my drinking increasing all the while. She joined me, to a lesser degree.

By 1989, at the age of 41, my drinking was pretty well out of control. The Mrs convinced me to see a counselor with whom we’d both had contact through a couple of seminars/classes at CVTC. I quit drinking, using the “contract method” soon after. That lasted for perhaps six months, and the casual glass of wine with dinner began. That soon was not enough, and drinking in secret became part of my life. My wife was aware of this though, and I agreed to try AA. I did not take it seriously, and resumed drinking nearly immediately. Now drinking entirely in the closet, the quantity required to do the trick increased at a very steep incline. I drank morning, noon and night. I could not go more than two hours without a shot or two. I drank in the idle of the night, in my car, on the job, before playing at church – ALL the time. I was terrified. Finally, my wife found one of my hidden bottles, and confronting me, I had to call my physician for help. He admitted me to the hospital for three days to detox (in a regular room, not the psyche ward) and I returned to work and AA.

This time around is different. I’ve approached the program seriously, followed the suggestions, and have experienced something of a miracle. I’m happy, sober, still have my house, family, job, health – everything. I don’t know why I was chosen to be one of the lucky ones. I still have one thing buried inside of me that I know would do more harm than good if I let it out. I have to be the judge of that, and I have to live with that. I continue to pray for God’s grace, I strive to know His way, and He continues to bless me.

May He also bless you abundantly!

D.

* 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 newsletter editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE meets 1st Monday of even months at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 6:45
CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 7:45
DISTRICT 05 MONTHLY meeting 2nd Wednesday of each month at Leisure Center, Menomonie @6:45
PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI) COMMITTEE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Riverfalls Alano Club @ 9:15 p.m.
COOPERATION WITH THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC) COMMITTEE meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Club 12, Eau Claire @5:30
CVIG (Intergrup) meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 6:00 p.m.

Monthly District 05 Events

- August 15; *Traveling Potluck and Sponsorship Workshop, Alano Club 12, Eau Claire, WI. Workshop 3-5, Brai Feed & Potluck 5 p.m., speakers to follow.*
- September 12; *Chippewa Valley Intergrup's 3rd Annual Picnic, 11-4 p.m., Riverview Park in Eau Claire.*
- September 18-20; *Fall Conference, Marshfield, WI. Flier available via District 05 website.*
- October 17; *Fall Assembly, Three Lakes, WI, 8:30 a.m. new GSR/DCM orientation, 9:00 a.m. Assembly.*

2009 Events

Committee Report Schedule

October:

PLEASE SEND GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

District 05 Treasurer
P.O. Box 261
Eau Claire, WI 54729

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Eau Claire, WI 54702-0261