



District View

P.O. Box 261
Eau Claire, WI
54702-0261

District 05 Newsletter

February 2011

Editor: Jason L.

www.aainwestwis.org

Email: districtview@aainwestwis.org

Thoughts on Step 2

Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

There are two aspects to this step, and both are often met with some apprehension by new comers. The latter part seems to imply that we are “insane”, and it is natural for anyone to resist such a label. For me, I had accepted this designation prior to the day I walked into my first meeting. My “bottom” began to reveal itself the day a friend hauled me into emergency counseling. It was a while later that I realized the broader role of the drinking problem in my descent. For most, this phrase need not be so literal, the word “sanity” is being used loosely here, and does not mean that one must be committable. A more subtle form of insanity is the pattern by which one keeps repeating the same actions, over and over again, despite an awareness of the consequences.

The first part of this step refers to a Higher Power, an entity with whom we have to cultivate a relationship with if we are to maintain any form of healthy sobriety. Many of us came into the program with apprehensions about *God*. Almost always, however, these apprehensions were about someone else’s God, and it is key for the apprehensive newcomer to realize that the *opportunity* to formulate one’s own conception of God – *customized* if you will – can be one of the most liberating experiences in this program. That may even hold true even for those who find their Higher Power in a religious tradition that they had previously abandoned. Indeed, God is often more open-minded than we are! To this point, there is no longer a need for us to be concerned with anybody else’s relationship with their God – our relationship is our own business, and that is all we need to be concerned with now. I came into the program as a self-described “spiritual agnostic”, but with a “chip on my shoulder” towards many mainstream religions. I have since come to realize this was an attitude of *arrogance* – *who was I to claim superiority over someone else’s God, about whom I had formulated some sort of biased and oversimplified conception?*

In terms of cultivating the relationship with my Higher Power, I probably over-thought the process. My profession (science), led me to the artificial boundary between Faith and Reason, but ultimately my faith became rooted in the incomprehensibilities of things I had understood from a logical perspective for years. Such mental journeys are, however, absolutely unnecessary. All that is needed to start is open-mindedness, and a willingness to accept that there is something out there that transcends humankind. There are 10 more steps and a lifetime during which the details can be worked out.

~Jim P.

Step Two

“Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.”

Tradition Two

“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 Two

“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.”

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The District View

The 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 50 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

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Newsletter Editor Jason L.
 DistrictView@AAinwestwis.org
Public Info John J.
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District 5 Monthly Meeting Notes February 9th, 2011

Meeting opened by the DCM with the Responsibility Statement.

Introductions: 21 present

Secretary's Report: report was read and accepted.

Treasurer: Adam went through the books and came up with the savings acct. balance at **\$452.63** and checking acct. balance at **\$1765.20**. We also owe **\$4.00/month = \$44.00** to the city of Menomonee for rent.

DCM report: Reported that the Delegates Workshop will be held on March 12. He also couldn't find where it says what the requirement for the treasurers position would be for sobriety. Others reported 2yrs. The other requirements are: Attend all district meetings, have a report done monthly for the district meeting.

Group and Meeting updates: Eleva workshop and potluck April 9, 2011.

Quarterly reports:

Corrections will now meet quarterly with the following months being the times: January, April, July and October. Jackie needs to be reimbursed: **\$10.00 rent, \$44.00 for P.O. Box rental**. She stated that some facilities would like to have Daily Relections, 12x12's and Big Books. She has Big Books in stock but would need to purchase the other books. This would not be part of her budget. A motion was made and accepted as follows:

"We accept Jackie's proposal for Daily Relections and 12x12's. Jackie can order a case of Daily Relections for distributions for Dunn, E.C., and Pierce County Jails."

P.I.: Public Information will now meet quarterly, January, April, July and Oct. He is the only one who has been attending the meeting. He has handed out meeting lists in Bay City, Maiden Rock and Pepin.

Webmaster: District 5 meeting list has been updated, and is current as of Jan. 20, 2011. He has received some meeting changes and encourages anyone

who knows of a meeting change please contact him. He has several people and groups e-mailing him with flyers. Please continue. Web stats: Viewing meeting lists: 1624, events calendar 228, flyers for events 216, District View Page 171 and Corrections information 147.

GSR Input: A question was asked if we should make copies of the different job descriptions, secretary's, treasurers, DCM and alternate DCM.

Do we still have a Grapevine chair and Treatment Chair? They have not attended in a few months. Jails also need people to go into them to help carry the message. GSR'S please mention this to groups.

Next Month meeting March 9, 2011

Quarterly Reports:

Grapevine, Literature, District View, CVIG

Meeting closed with the Serenity Prayer

Special Thanks...

Special thanks to Jim, Jason, and Anonymous 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 an upcoming Step, Tradition or Concept?

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.

In The Beginning

Ok I'm not one hundred percent sure what I'm about to tell y'all here, but it was told to me by one of my AA heroes and yes lady's and gentlemen it is ok to have AA heroes as long as you don't put them up on a pedestal. They're just a drunk the same as you who has a few more twenty four hours than you. He told me "share until you can't tell the truth any more then shut up." That makes me think about one of if not the biggest part of this program, honesty. When I came in to AA I considered myself a reasonably honest person; was I wrong, there was no reasonableness about it. You're either honest or you're not! My dishonesty always stemmed from my selfish, self-centered, self-seeking, behavior. Furthermore, most of my resentments came from the same place, I had to have some of them shook out of me but that's another story.

"You're either honest or you're not! My dishonesty always stemmed from my selfish, self-centered, self-seeking, behavior. Furthermore, most of my resentments came from the same place..."

So where was I at a little under a year and a half ago? To put I frankly, I hated my **SELF**. I bold that word because??? You guessed it, there's that self-thing again. I hated me for everything I was, everything I wasn't, everything I should be, and everything I could be. At the end of a long 10 year drinking career it all came to a head one night alone on Facebook. Being alone had become the norm for me by this point. I had always felt his way but now I was physically alone and if any of you out there still doubt God being there in our lives he was there for me that night, and is still with me today. He was always there but I wouldn't let my **SELF** see him working; I fought every one and everything.

So on with the story my cousin Jeff - a minister living in a Detroit suburb - was also on Facebook and we began instant messaging. He asked me how things were going and I said fine and we talked a bit more before I got honest. I told him I wasn't doing well and asked if I could talk to him on the phone so I could explain. He said "call, I got nothing going on." This turned in to my first introduction to the twelfth step because that's what my cousin was doing.

He listened and let me dump all my stuff on him in two and a half hours. He did not say much; he just listened. By this time I was drunker then when I began and my mind was going where it liked to go; and that was suicide although I

did not tell him that... I just said "what do I do with all this?" He said "Jason, you need to go to an AA meeting." This had only crossed my mind briefly in the past because I felt I hadn't hit a proper bottom. I had not had many of the consequences that others did. I later found out that everyone's bottom was different.

I put off the AA thing for a few weeks but had it in the back of my mind until Halloween night when an old drinking bud came into the tavern where I was. He was getting a pop, nothing more, and was on his way home. I was going to get him a beer but he said "No, I'm not drinking. I've got the weight of the world on my shoulders and my wife is leaving me." In my drunken thinking and rambling speech I asked him how he was doing it. He said his brother got him into AA and he had been sober nine months and was doing quite well. My cousin's voice came to my head... you need to go to a AA meeting.

Here was my chance. God was working in my life and I was listening. I asked if anyone could come to that and he said "All are welcome and they want you there; they love you." Then I replied, "when?" He told me Thursday night and I got his phone number. I know I had gotten it many times before and lost it when drinking but this one stayed with me. I picked him up for my first meeting and walked in to a big book study. what better meeting to walk into for the first time than a big book study? I got the basis of the program thrown at me from the word go. I wish I could remember the chapter we were on but as most people know it takes a good month or longer not drinking and working the program to get a clear head.

I know everything I heard that night was just what I needed to hear. Better yet, I saw examples of people that God put in my life that night to show me the joy, love, and some of the pains of a sober life. I was given the ability to peel things back that night. By God it did not come all right away, but that night I felt like these people wanted me here. I felt that all of them cared for me and yes loved me for everything I was, everything I wasn't everything I could be, and everything I should be. They were happy. I was there and they would not let me leave without a book but my pride would not let them give it to me. I paid the eight dollars and thought I've got to read this. I hate to read but I did and I attended ninety meeting in ninety days, and got a sponsor. But best of all I made friends and started giving back - at first for **SELFish** reasons - but it has become what Dr. Bob called a pleasure. There is much more to tell and if it needs to be told to help someone I will it is my experience its real and its valid when we speck from experience we have nothing to fear. Like I said before, it was my pleasure to give back and get out of my **SELF** wile writing this. Thanks Y'all for being here and I will pass.

Jason B.

Monthly District 05 Events

TREATMENT FACILITIES COMMITTEE meets 1st Monday of even months at Club 12, Eau Claire @ 6:45

CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE meets QUARTERLY (Jan, Apr, July, Oct) at 7:45 pm on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

DISTRICT 05 MONTHLY meeting 2nd Wednesday of each month at Leisure Center, Menomonie @ 6:45

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI) COMMITTEE meets quarterly (Jan, Apr, July, Oct) on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at:
Riverfalls Alamo Club @ 6:30 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.

**** 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.**

Upcoming Events

Elve Potluck APRIL 9th

Check out the District website or ask your meeting's GSR for what's ahead.

If you have an event you'd like listed here, just contact the editor.

DistrictView@aainwestwis.org

**PLEASE SEND GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO:
District 05 Treasurer
P.O. Box 261
Eau Claire, WI 54702**

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