

# District View

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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 a 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 for next month prior to the 20th of the month via email at: [DistrictView@aainwestwis.org](mailto:DistrictView@aainwestwis.org)

## Step Three

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

## Tradition Three

The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

## Concept Three

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."

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# Service Structure

## AREA 74

**Delegate** Marty L.  
**Area Chair** Mary Jo R.  
**Registrar/  
Secretary** Kim R.  
**Area Treasurer** Mike McG.

## DISTRICT 05

**DCM** Gary S.  
**Alt DCM** Cheryl L.  
**Secretary** Renee W.  
**Treasurer** Jaynee W.

## DISTRICT 05 COMMITTEES

**Archives** Dick P.  
**Corrections** Jacki B.  
**CPC** Mike S.  
**Grapevine** Paul S.  
**Literature** Ed F.  
**Newsletter  
Editor** John J.  
**Public Info** Andy W.  
**Treatment** Craig H.  
**Webmaster** Jason L.

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INDIVIDUAL - \$10.00 PER YEAR

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY & STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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#### GSR'S COMPLETE THIS SIDE

GROUP NAME:

GROUP GSO#

\$10.00 PER YEAR (12 ISSUES) **OR** ELECTRONICALLY FREE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **OR** Email Address **FREE - Email the editor at: [districtview@aainwestwis.org](mailto:districtview@aainwestwis.org)**

RETURN COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO: DISTRICT VIEW, P.O. BOX 261, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54702-0261

# Personal Stories

## Story of a Drunk

by anonymous.

A broken man, spiritually sick, emotionally dead, physically depleted was assisted into a treatment center some time ago. He sulked in his chair during the intake completely baffled how it had come to this. "How did I get here?" "What is it that I just can't manage the bottle?" He sat there, full of remorse, shame, guilt, and desperation. He was so desperate for a life of not even happiness, but just a sense, a glimpse of normalcy. This 30 year-old man was scared....afraid. He didn't know it then, but he had been afraid his entire life. Afraid of having too much, afraid of having too little, afraid of people talking to him, afraid of people not talking to him, afraid of not being accepted and afraid of not being accepted for the right reasons. He had spent all of his time trying to be happy in the game of life and more often always came up nil. Even when all the effort, manipulation, and plotting worked out, he still wasn't happy. It didn't work well enough.

When things went well in his career, getting the promotion he wanted, it wasn't enough, when he bought the new car, it wasn't nice enough, when he had a great relationship, it wasn't enough. He always yearned for more, I will be happy this time. When collectively all of those things continued to fail.....and they always did, the solution that always worked, or so he thought was not just in the bottle, but at the bottom of the bottle. The basic premise of a little is good, more is better. He drank. He drank a lot. He drank when sad, he drank when happy. It was rarely a conscious thought, it was just something he did.....drink.

As life continued to mistreat him he chased and engaged in the solution with more earnestly than ever, again not consciously, it was just something he did, it made the pain of everyday life go away. Simultaneously he continued to step on more and more toes. The larger the web he wove the more often he found himself caught in his own trappings.....he would not have told you that at that time. People, places, and things did not treat him that way he felt he deserved, did not understand him the way he felt he needed to be understood. It was a cruel world

Sitting in that chair during intake he felt the world had won and he had lost. He had been convicted of being himself and the punishment would be a mundane life not drinking and a living through a series of going through the motions. He was defeated. He had surrendered the night before to the notion of not ever being able to drink again; he had accepted for him, to drink is to die.

This man today is free. He is free of fear. It has been removed. Ask him today and he will tell you that all of the crippling thoughts and thinking patterns that had dominated his life as far back as he can remember have been removed. He will tell you he worked through 12 steps and fell in love with what they promised

From page 84-85 of the book Alcoholics Anonymous

"And we have ceased fighting anything or anyone-even alcohol. For by this time sanity will have returned. We will seldom be interested in liquor. If tempted, we recoil from it as from a hot flame. We react sanely and normally, and we will find this has happened automatically. We will see that our new attitude toward liquor has been given us without any thought or effort on our part. It just comes!"

This man will tell you he spent, wasted rather, fighting everything, employers, institutions, friends, loved ones, family, and certainly the last few years.....the bottle. He was always looking for a way to win, to be right. Today he will tell you the thought of taking a drink has not crossed his mind since being in that chair. He will tell you since taking the steps outlined in the above cited book he has ceased fighting.....anything or anyone- even alcohol. This isn't something he consciously thinks about. Just as he never gave conscious thought to his drinking this too has just come. He will tell you that it wasn't a lot of work, it wasn't hard. It was different. He would tell you that it isn't any harder to admit powerlessness than it is to trying to control all of mankind. He would tell you it isn't harder to accept the notion of a higher power helping you than consistently running ground. He would tell you it isn't harder living under the care of your of a higher power than it is continually driving your own life into the tell you it isn't harder to do an honest self-inventory than it is walking and full of anger. He would tell you it isn't harder to tell someone all yourself than it is to continue to lie. He would tell you it isn't harder live differently than it is to continue to pound your head against the tell you it isn't harder to ask to have all of that decay removed from plotting through life holding onto it. He would tell you it isn't harder the damage we have caused than it is to think about the damage done tell you it isn't harder to attempt to correct that damage than it is to He would tell you it isn't hard to live this way continually, than it is to convenient. He would tell you it isn't harder asking for help and listening from your higher power than it is having those intolerable conversations in your head. He would tell you it isn't harder to share this with other people than hanging onto it for yourself. He would tell you recovery isn't hard. It is different. He would tell you that that is the great news of recovery, it is different. Isn't that what we want? To be different than we had been?

He was fortunate early on to meet some incredible people to show him not how to do the steps, how to live the steps. He was fortunate enough to be sponsored from nearly the beginning. He was fortunate enough to have the love and support of parents, siblings, and loved-ones alike that aren't a requirement for this, but certainly helped him. He is fortunate to have a significant other that is incredibly supportive of his recovery.....he made it clear that his recovery would always have to come first or there would be no relationship to be had.

This man is filled with so much joy and hope. I hope you come into contact with him at a meeting.

He will tell you since taking the steps outlined in the above cited book he has ceased fighting.....anything or anyone- even alcohol.

yourself into the own conception gutter. He would around afraid the truth about to be ready to wall. He would you than it is just to acknowledge to us. He would live in fear of it. do it when

## February 8, 2012 District 05

### Meeting Minutes

**Meeting was opened with the Responsibility Statement.**

**Introductions:** 25 people present

**Secretary's report:** Was read and approved.

**Treasurers report:** Beginning savings account balance was **\$453.21** with **.02** interest leaving the ending balance at **\$453.23**. Checking account beginning balance was **\$1722.09** with 1 group contribution of **\$25** & disbursements of **\$163.50** which were EC North side Group Workshop of **\$150 & \$13.50** rent (Feb) leaving an ending balance in checking of **\$1583.89**.

**DCM Report:** Attended potluck and Speakers at Wesleyan Church in Eau Claire. Asked that GSR's get flyers for upcoming events printed up and bring them to district meetings to pass out. Also spoke of getting people involved in the district committees. Jan, April, July & October committee reports are Archives, CPC, Treatment & Treasures report. March, June, Sept and Dec. are Grapevine, Literature, Newsletter and Inter Group. Feb, May, Aug & Nov. committees are Corrections, public information & web master.

**Group and meeting updates:** PIC committee meetings will be on odd months instead of even. There will be 2 assemblies in the spring/fall with delegate workshops on Saturday and 2 assemblies with the spring and fall conferences that GSR's should try and make. DCM provided list of committee meeting presentations at district for the year. March 2nd, 3rd & 4th is club 12 banquets. Tickets for banquet are going fast. March 17th Chippewa Valley round-up. 5 pm social time, 6 is dinner corn beef and cabbage and 7 pm is speaker. Cost is \$7. April 27th is triangle clubs potluck.

**Workshop report:** Cheryl updated on the workshop for GSR. Asked to furnish maps for events in the future

**Old Business:** Many groups in favor of bringing Roger and Dennis BB work shop to the area. Some concerns about cost. A committee of Pete, Shawna, Cheryl, Andy & Jan volunteered with Pete being the committee chair. 2012 budget- discussion took place. News letter budget looked high but was discussion we didn't have one for 6 mths last year. Motion to increase the Alt DCM budget to **\$300** was approved. Motion to increase the administration budget to **\$500** was made and approved. Changes to 2012 budget was approved.

**New Business:** Take information back to our groups about putting the phone number in all the area's phone books. Information provided for cost by the PI committee chair Andy. Also discuss people being contact volunteers for the CVIG phone. This will be needed if the phone numbers goes out in all the phone books.

**Quarterly reports:**

**Corrections:** No report

**Webmaster:** Make sure to get flyers for events sent to the webmaster.

Prefers word documents. Email to districtview @ aainwestwis.org

**Public Information:** 9 people attended January meeting. They identified a highest priority was to get the AA hotline phone number in more phone books. A proposal was brought to the district that the AA hotline number that rings to the phone carried by CVIG & it's service volunteers, be put in as many cities phone books as it can in district 05. The proposal would be paid for out of the PI's budget. The committee

also discussed others ways of getting the phone number & AA information in public places. It was decided to start making a data base collecting names, address, phone number and email addresses of TV stations radio stations, libraries, churches and hospitals in the district for future projects. Next meeting is March 21st, @ 6:30 PM at the River Falls Alano club.

**GSR input and Questions:** Discussed getting AA group information change forms filled out if needed. Sheets to get GSR's registered with the district.

**Concept 2 presented by Andy -Shawna will do Concept 3 in March**

**Wynne presented Tradition 2 - Tradition 3 will be done by Bob L.**

**Closed with the serenity prayer at 8:55 PM**

## The Area Treasury has a new mailing address

**Mail to:**

**Area 74 Treasury  
PO Box 313  
Eau Claire, WI 54703**

**Please include your group Name, Group  
Number and the Town in which your  
group is located.**

**Thank you  
Mike McG  
Area 74 Treasurer**

### Monthly District 05 Events

**District 05 Monthly GSR Meeting** is held at 6:45pm, on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Leisure Center, 1412 Sixth St., Monomonie, WI. Any Members are welcome to attend.

**District 05 Committees** offer AA service opportunities for

alcoholics who want to help carry the AA message. The following committees meet at the Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomoná DR. in Eau Claire. (Note: Public Information Committee is currently meeting in River Falls)

**Treatment Facilities Committee** meets at 6:45pm on the 1st Monday of even numbered month.

**Corrections Committee** meets QUARTERLY (Jan, Apr; July; Oct) at 7:45 pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community**

**Committee** meets at 6:45 pm on the 2nd Monday of even months

**Public Information Committee** meets QUARTERLY

(Jan, Apr; July; Oct) at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the River Falls Alano club

**Chippewa Valley Intergroup** meets at 6:30pm on the 4th

Wednesday of each month.

*\*\*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 you GSR, any district officer, or the newsletter editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.*

### Upcoming Events

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

**Traveling potluck Saturday - March 24th - 2012**

206 Locust Street in Prescott, WI Basement of United Church of Christ

Up the hill from Freedom gas station to Locust and take a right

**Prescott Saturday Morning Big Book study group 20th**

anniversary

**Saturday April 14th, 2012 St. Joseph Catholic Church 269**

Dakota st. Prescott WI 54021

Starts 11am Potluck lunch

If you have an event you'd like listed in the newsletter,

Just contact the editor

**DistrictView@aainwestwis.org**

**PLEASE SEND GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

**District 05 Treasurer**

**P.O.Box 261**

**Eau Claire, WI 54702**

**District View**

**P.O. Box 261**

**Eau Claire, WI 54702-0261**