



# The District View

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Volume 2016, Issue 12

December 2016

District 05 meeting in  
Menomonie Wisconsin!  
1412 6th Street E  
Menomonie, WI 54751-3331  
Second Wednesday of every month at  
6:45pm

If you have or know of an alcoholic with the willingness to serve at the district level, this is the chance and time to do so! You can't keep what you have unless you give it away.

\*Always looking for 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.

**Step 12** We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, and that our lives had become unmanageable..

**Tradition 12** Our common welfare should come first, personal recovery depends upon AA unity.

**Concept 12** Final responsibility and ultimate authority of A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship.

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District 05 meeting  
December 14, 2016  
6:45pm opened with Serenity Prayer  
Introductions

**Secretary Report: Derek B.**

- Read last month's minute highlights
- Passed around new contact sheet, it's blank so please provide your e-mails
- Please try to get reports to me before the meeting you're due to give a report, typing it in the body of the e-mail is acceptable

**No objections to approving last months minutes.**

**Treasure Report: Mary B.**

- Did not receive

**DCM Report: Bryon B.**

- Met with Andy B, our area 74 web master, and we discussed the meeting data base format and the potential new web site design. Andy developed a Beta test web page and he shared that with me.
- More to follow oo that subject. The test page is not available to the general public at this time.
- Attended Fall Conference Planning committee on 12-11-16 at the Metropolis Resort.
- Nicholas S. will be giving an update at the October District GSR Meeting
- Attended the Are Committee meeting in Three lakes Wi on 12-10-16. A major item of discussion was the potential breaking of some traditions as it related to the Fall Conference Flyer and the informational flyer promoting the main speaker for Saturday night. It was the consensus that of the Committee that the only requirement for a speaker was to be a member of AA and we, AA as a whole, should not affiliate with any other group or cause. The Area 74 Delegate, Derek T. gave a report. Included in his report was the current financial situation for the GSO. The contributions are ahead of the budgeted amount and the overall expenses are down. We seem to be in good financial shape. The Area Committee also pass a resolution indicating we are in favor of a Braille service manual. There is a secure section in the Area 74 web site, contact me directly if you want the web address and password
- Attended a workshop in Madison on 11-12-16 with the Area 74 Treatment Chair, James M. The subject was Bridging the Gap. It was hosted by Area 75's Bridging the GAP Chair. They reviewed their current procedure and were looking for suggestions and improvements.
- The monthly DCM conference call for Area 74 had technical difficulties was cancelled.
- As a friendly reminder, if any there is a planned event that is AA related in District 05, please send a copy of the flyer to the Webmaster and or the DCM. If you notice a flyer that is being circulated in the meetings and you do not see it on the District web site, let us know that also.

**Alternate DCM: Jim P.**

- Nothing to report, see him with questions or help organizing a workshop

**Corrections: Ken P.**

- Five more Big Books were delivered to the EC County jail. We also have a new 30 minute video on DVD for use in jail meetings. Titled "A New Freedom," it takes the place of the old video titled, "It's

better than sitting in a cell.” Anyone who wants to show it in their meeting, let me know and I will get it to you. If you just want to view the video, it is available online at AA.org.

- We continue to have meetings in county jails and support meetings in the Stanley and Chippewa Falls prisons.
- A reminder that anyone interested in being of service to incarcerated alcoholics is welcome to attend meetings of the District 05 Corrections Committee. Meetings are held at 7:45 pm the first Wednesday of each month in the small building of Club 12 in Eau Claire.

**PI: Myron M.**

- The committee held its last regular meeting of 2016 on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> with 8 members present.
- The primary item on the agenda was the nomination of a candidate to be our new committee chair, filling out the term of Paul M., who resigned in October. The committee unanimously supports Linda H., from Ellsworth, WI. Linda, who has 35+ years of sobriety, has been our most active volunteer this year, making numerous visits to school guidance counselors, community Senior Centers and senior housing facilities all over the western part of the District.
  - Looking ahead to 2017:
  - Work on the schools project will continue. We also expect to make good use of the help offered by the CPC committee to visit school guidance counselors in the eastern part of the district.
  - Work on the Seniors project will continue. To date, we have visited 11 community Senior Centers and 26 senior housing facilities, offering AA literature, contact information, and both AA and Al-Anon meeting lists.
  - Keeping our project databases current is an on-going effort.
  - We will again, after 2 years, send updated meeting lists and contact information to every motel/hotel in the District.
  - We will again, after 2 years, send updated meeting lists and contact information to every place of worship in the District.
  - We will continue to provide volunteer speakers, AA pamphlets, meeting lists and contact information to the clients of Programs for Change, an outpatient treatment program in Hudson, WI. We are invited to return on a quarterly basis, as each client group turns over.
- We on the PI Committee thank you for the opportunity to serve

**CPC: Robert S.**

- CPC flyer is ready, please distribute to your home groups
- Planning for presentation at “Senior America Day” on the UWEC campus June 6, 2017
- Schools Project:
  - CPC is working with PI and has sent mailing to Eau Claire, Altoona, Menomonie, Augusta, Fall Creek, and Elk Mound
  - Phase 2 will be follow up calls
- Requests for checks
  - Rent - \$150 – will cover rent for second half of 2016 and pay ahead to cover 2017
  - Robert S. Expenses, \$44.27
  - Envelopes: \$10.31
  - Postage: \$33.96

**Treatment: Sara D.**

- Elections were done and all positions were filled.

- We have tabled more discussion in regards to the new facility and will be getting more information from Mary Beth.
- Sara is in contact with Affinity House to see if they want us to continue to send speakers
- Committee in contact with Northwestern Wisconsin Treatment Facility as well for speakers
- Revamping binders that the speakers take into the treatment centers
- Requesting reimbursement of \$76

#### **Special Accessibilities: John P.**

- No Report Given

#### **Wicypaa: Katie J.**

- Last event was this past Saturday, it went well
- A couple more business meetings before the conference January 14<sup>th</sup>
- If you're interested in attending the conference see Katie

#### **CVIG: No Report**

#### **Fall Conference: Nicholas S.**

- Fall Conference meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- We have finalized speakers and panels.
- Registration prices have been set and online registration is the point of order.
- Fall Conference asks District 05 for a link on the district 05 website for online registration.

#### **Group Updates:**

- A Vision for You now has a GSR – Schedule remains the same
- 6:00pm Friday Night River Falls Alano Club, 11<sup>th</sup> Step Open Meeting
- 11:30pm Saturday Night in Menomonie is no longer Meeting
- Name of Church changed from First Baptist to Renew Covenant Church for Flimsy Reed and Young Persons – Address remains the same

#### **Old Business:**

- Listing AA hotline number in yellow pages @ \$90 per year also gets us into online yellow pages
  - Motion to approve budget request – Motion passes
- Website rebuild/Linking meeting locations to the phone app (meetingguide.org)
  - Brian brought his projector and showed a mock version of the changes Andy (Webmaster) created
  - Motion made to move forward with the updating of the website

#### **New Business:**

- Floor opened for PI Chair nomination
  - Linda H. from Ellsworth nominated - Accepted
  - Linda wins by acclamation
- Floor opened for Archives Chair
  - Steve C. from Eau Claire nominated – Accepted
  - Steve wins by acclamation
- Grapevine remains open – no one nominated
- 2017 proposed budget

- Will be included in meeting minutes, look it over and we will discuss it next month
- Request link to the District 05 website
  - The 2017 Fall Conference is requesting a “widget” (hyperlink to fall conference online registration) shaped like a button to make it appear more clickable
  - Brian demonstrated the functionality of the online registration
  - Motion made and approved to have widget on website
- A card with \$50 check historically has been given to Phil (custodian and the Menomonie Leisure Center)
  - Passed unanimously

**GSR Sharing Session:**

- Northside Group Traveling Potluck February 18th from 5p-9p – Hope Lutheran in Eau Claire – Dinner, Al-anon, and AA Speaker – Flyer to follow

**Open Sharing Session:**

- No Sharing

**Next Month’s Meeting – January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – No reports to be given, Open Forum – Sharing Session**

**An Interview with Katie J**

**By: Austin S.**

Happy New Year District 5! This year I have made it my New Year’s resolution to add more to the newsletter. So starting off I have decided that every month I am going to interview an alcoholic about that month’s step, to describe their experience strength and hope with it. This month I was lucky enough to sit down with Katie J. from Eau Claire to discuss step 1. Here is my experience interviewing Katie.

I sat down with Katie at a coffee shop and just asked her to tell me about her experience with step 1. She began to tell me how she was 25 years old when she came to AA. All she knew was her life was clearly unmanageable. The unmanageability for her was easier to admit than the powerlessness.

To be powerless felt weak, not normal, made her feel less than. She said it took her time to be humble enough to admit she was powerless and that she needed the help of AA. Yet, when she examined her drinking, she knew she couldn’t stop. She had no idea what would happen once she started drinking.

As we talked, I asked her if she did her step 1 with a sponsor. She said yes, she did. She said he was a temporary sponsor, but she definitely did the step with the guide of a sponsor. Without a sponsor, it would have been difficult to understand with the step really means.

That made me wonder, do you do step 1 and you're done with it? Do you never need to revisit this step? Katie described to me how this step she does every single day. Every day with morning prayer and meditation she reminds herself that she can't go back to that old life. Especially being so young, it's very easy to convince yourself that you don't need this program.

A sponsor once told Katie that she was like an outlaw in the Wild West. You think you can do it all on your own. It took her a while to realize it was ok to need help, to need a sponsor and to need this program.

If Katie could give a newcomer advice, she would tell them to just stop fighting. Be willing to do something you've never done before to get something you've never had. You'll get soundness of mind and once your mind is calm, it gets easier to put that drink down.

Lastly, I asked Katie if she could give her old self advice, what would you have told yourself? She would have told herself to look at the bigger picture here. You keep doing the same things over and over and life isn't changing. Snap out of it!

I'd like to thank Katie for sitting down with me! If anyone would like to tell me their experience about a step for a coming month please email me at [thedistrictview@gmail.com](mailto:thedistrictview@gmail.com).

**The District View is a nonprofit newsletter published by District 5 in Area 74 for the purpose of providing local communication between the district committee, groups within the district, and individual AA members.**

**It is published monthly for members of the AA fellowship. Electronic subscription to The District View is free.**

**Print subscriptions are available at the cost of \$10 per year but members are urged to use the electronic option. Approved AA related fliers may be inserted into the District View for a nominal fee, contact the editor for more information.**

**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., Menomonie, WI. Any 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 6:45pm on the 2nd Monday of every month.

**Corrections Committee** meets monthly at 7:45pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee** meets at 7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at Club 12 in Eau Claire.

**Public Information Committee** meets on the ODD months (Jan, Mar, May, etc.) at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 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 your GSR, any district officer, or the newsletter editor before the 20th of the month preceding the event.

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