



The District View

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

Volume 2019, Issue 4

April 2019

District 05 Meeting in Menomonie, WI!
1412 6th Street E
Menomonie, WI 54751-3331
2nd Wed. of each month 6:45pm

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 4: "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

Tradition 4: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

Concept IV: Throughout our Conference structure, we ought to maintain at all responsible levels a traditional "Right of Participation," taking care that each classification or group of our world servants shall be allowed a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

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District 05 of Area 74 Meeting

March 13, 2019 6:45 PM

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

Opening

- Serenity Prayer

Introductions

- 11 GSRs present.

Reports

- **Secretary** – Joe P.
 - Read last month's minute highlights.
 - ☒ Reports scheduled for April: Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, and Special Accessibilities.
 - Please try to get reports to the secretary before the meeting you're due to give a report. An emailed report with or without an attachment is acceptable.
 - **Approved:** *Last month's minutes approved without objection.*
- **Treasurer** – Sara D.
 - Report Period: 02/13/19-03/13/19
 - Checking Opening Balance: \$2,182.93
 - Group Contributions: \$0.00
 - Expenses: \$225.75
 - Leisure Center Rent: \$60.75
 - CPC Rent (February - December 2019): \$165.00
 - Checking Closing Balance: \$1,957.18
 - **Approved:** *Report approved without objection.*

The following reports were given and accepted:

- **District Committee Member (DCM)** – Marybeth S.
 - Marybeth submitted a written report, which she summarized in person:

It is that time of year when Area 74 is helping our Delegate prepare for the GSO General Conference to be held in New York in May. Some of the agenda items will include:

- Establishing guidelines for the AA connection to LinkedIn
- Corrections database
- Updates to many of the pamphlets
- Publishing a 5th Edition of the Big Book

Your GSR should have received all of the background information for the Conference which includes detailed background information on these and many other agenda items.

A new book entitled *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Talks* is scheduled for publication in May. This is the first time these talks have been made available in print form and is also the first original book from AA in over 30 years. The next Area 74 Assembly will be held on April 27th in Three Lakes. I hope that all the District 5 GSRs will be able to attend. Please let us know if you need a ride!!

District 5 will be holding a workshop in April in Eleva. Please check the District website for flyers and share with your meetings and groups.

If your group is interested in hosting a workshop on service please contact our Alternate DCM - Paul H.

I am humbled and grateful to be of service and please contact me if you would like a representative from District 5 to attend one of your Group Conscience and/or Business Meetings. And always feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Marybeth S.

**** Please note: No reports were scheduled for this month due to normally scheduled Delegate's Workshop discussion, but the following reports were given:**

- **Newsletter** – Myron M.
 - Myron is accepting submissions for the “Service View” and “Member’s View” sections.
 - Email thedistrictview@gmail.com to submit articles.
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Pat T. gave report.
 - Working on having a Special Projects group instead of one coordinator.
 - There is talk about abandoning the 800-number due to charges associated with that.
 - \$30 per month approximately.
 - About 12 calls come through per month.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: March 27.)
- **Recovery on the River Jamboree** – Derek B.
 - Zach H. gave information about the Family Fun Night on April 6. See the flier [here](#).

Old Business

- **One-Day Conference Planning**
 - Shane S. made up a flier to advertise about one-day conference brainstorming session on May 4.
 - Concern was raised about lack of funding for this event and being cautionary with the budget for the event.
- **District 05 Service Structure Guidelines**
 - John B. will be having a meeting sometime in May and will bring back recommendations.
 - GSRs will hopefully be able to vote on them in June.
- **District 05 Service Workshop in Eleva**
 - Paul H. summarized.
 - Will be a workshop on the various committees in District 05.
 - One hour workshop: What is Service and Why Does it Matter?
 - April 13th from 3:00-4:00 PM.
 - Myron will give some information about the newsletter.

New Business

- **Donation from Family Members of Deceased AA Member**
 - Family members of a deceased AA member sent checks to our District addressed to “Alcoholics Anonymous.”
 - Since we do not know if the checks were from members of AA, there was agreement that we cannot accept this money because of Tradition 7.
 - They will be sent back.

- **Tradition and Concept 5**
 - Pat T. will present in April.

Open Sharing

- Shane S. brought up concern about printable meeting list not being up to date.
 - The Secretary emailed the Webmaster to fix that during the meeting.
- Shane S. brought up concern about the password protected area of the Area 74 website not working.
 - This will be brought up to Lucas M., the Webmaster for Area 74, to see if there is new access information.

Summary of Upcoming Activity in District 05

- **Cooperating with the Professional Community (CPC)** – Pat T.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: April 1.)
- **Treatment** – Matt A.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the second Monday of each month, 6:45 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: April 8.)
- **Corrections** – Ken P.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the first Monday of February, May, August, and November, 7:00 PM, Club 12 (small building), Eau Claire. (Next meeting: May 6.)
- **Special Accessibilities** – Shane R.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings will occur at a time yet to be determined. Contact Shane R. to help.
- **Public Information (PI)** – Doug H.
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, 6:30 PM, Alano Club, River Falls. (Next meeting: May 15)
- **Intergroup** – Variable Representative
 - Be of service! Regular meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:00 PM, Club 12, Eau Claire. (Next meeting: April 27.)

Closing

- Responsibility Statement

Next Meeting: April 10, 2019.

- Normally scheduled reports: Corrections, PI, CPC, Treatment, and Special Accessibilities.

Members' Views

...on STEP #4

New Eyes

“Guilt is really the reverse side of the coin of pride. Guilt aims at self-destruction, and pride aims at the destruction of others.”

--Bill W. in *Grapevine*, 1961

When I first cracked open the Big Book, I was not immediately a fan of Bill W.’s writing. What he had to say about you alcoholics struck me as sort of hokey and precious. I had not progressed through many pages, however, before my initial criticisms evaporated. Bill’s writing didn’t change; this reader did. I fairly

quickly came to the realization that he wasn't talking about you: He was talking directly to me about me. Now I could read these ideas with new eyes.

The section in Chapter 5 leading up to the 4th Step contains several ideas that were brand new to me. Here I was introduced to the truth that my drinking was only a symptom of my real problem, which was—and still is---the self. I also learned about my resentments; which, if you had asked me about one day earlier, I would have claimed to be without. Similarly, I was previously unaware of the corrosive role of fear in my life. Maybe the most remarkable new idea was that I am no different than those I resent; that we all are alike in our spiritual sickness, just flawed people doing our best with where we at spiritually. That idea led me to a new understanding of forgiveness. What I had previously thought was a sort of get-out-of-jail card I may or may not give you depending on how magnanimous I wanted to appear, I now know to be my only reasonable response to an interpersonal conflict.

I've read quite a lot more since those early days, particularly about the self. I really like the quote from Bill at the top of this essay, and its image of the two sides of the same coin. I think of that coin as the currency of self-absorption, and there's only one item I can purchase with it: resentment. If the pride side is up, the resentment is against you. If the guilt side is up, I'm buying a resentment against myself. It's a dangerous coin tossed either way.

--An AA Member

...on TRADITION #4

Children of Chaos

"With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience."

--Tradition Four, Long Form

There's a recurring theme running through AA's steps, traditions and the concepts for service: the movement from chaos to a spiritual solution that provides balance and equilibrium.

In the early days of AA, prior to the adoption of the traditions, new groups formed wherever AA's relocated. It was truly a trial-and-error free-for-all in terms of membership requirements, meeting structure, affiliation with outside entities, and with promotion. For example, one group in Virginia actually served beer at their meetings. They wanted to attract lots of members, and they were focused on keeping people off the "hard stuff." As there were no traditions or guidelines for groups, even they were not disqualified from calling themselves an AA group.

Bill wrote, "...every conceivable deviation...has been tried. That was sure to be, since we are so largely a band of ego-driven individualists. Children of chaos, we have defiantly played with every brand of fire, only to emerge unharmed and, we think, wiser." It seems we, as alcoholics, individually or in groups, are driven to exhaust those ways which do not work before accepting that which clearly does work. Experience has demonstrated that eventually groups will come to rely on the basic principles of their primary purpose—to serve those who still suffer.

This tradition is a testament to AA's great faith in an inspired group conscience. A.A. is so certain of this that each group is regarded as an individual entity governed only by its group conscience, so long as it doesn't affect neighboring groups or A.A. itself. So it is that every group has the right to be wrong.

--An A.A. Member

Members' Views will share brief essays submitted by District05 A.A. members. Please send your views to thedistrictview@district05.org or to thedistrictview@gmail.com

A.A. Service View

A.A.'s Place in History

The following is excerpted from Slaying the Dragon, The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America by William L. White. This 1998 work is widely used as a textbook for students of addiction treatment counseling.

A.A.'s legacies are many. First, A.A. constitutes the largest and most enduring mutual-aid society of recovered alcoholics in human history. It is the only addiction recovery mutual-aid society that has outlived its founding generation. A.A. also constitutes the most fully developed culture of recovery that has ever existed—a culture with its own history, mythology, values, language, rituals, symbols, and literature. A.A. has also exerted an enormous influence on the evolution of social policies related to alcohol and alcoholism, and on the evolution of alcoholism treatment. This influence is exerted---not institutionally, as A.A. traditions would prohibit---but through the personal advocacy of individual A.A. members whose beliefs about alcoholism and recovery were shaped within A.A. But A.A. has made an even broader contribution to American culture.

Ernest Kurtz believes that A.A. warrants a place in the history of ideas. Believing that “alcoholism replicates the essence of the human condition,” Kurtz suggests that A.A.'s refutation of absolute control, its acceptance of limitation, its openness to dependence on resources outside and beyond the self, and its unique healing response to existential shame constitute a benchmark in the modern history of ideas.

Robin Room suggested that A.A. would merit mention in the history of the 20th century, not only for its work with alcoholics, but also for providing a unique organizational model that was “nonhierarchical, non-professionalized and flexible.”

A.A. will surely earn a place in the history of social institutions. The birth of A.A. marked the emergence of a new and seemingly enduring form of social affiliation that unfolded within the context of weakening nuclear family structures; decreased contact with extended families and kinship networks; the loss of socially stable, value-homogenous neighborhoods; and the growing impermanence of workplace affiliation. Here in A.A. were groups of people who were not relatives, neighbors, or co-workers; and who represented diverse social, political, and religious backgrounds. They represented different ages, genders, races, sexual orientations, and lifestyles. What bound them together into this association was a shared history of pain, psychological death, and resurrection. And in these small, intimate circles, alcoholics perhaps found an answer to a broader quest shared by alcoholic and non-alcoholic alike: the hunger for the experience of community.

A.A. was the modern beginning of social affiliation based on shared experience. A.A. marks the apex of new voluntary spiritual communities that have increasingly taken over the functions of family, extended family, and neighborhood, as well as the social functions of the church and the workplace. A.A. marks the beginning of voluntary communities defined by psychological and spiritual boundaries rather than by the boundaries of blood, geography, faith, or profession. These voluntary communities are bonded together by what Kurtz has eloquently christened, “the shared honesty of mutual vulnerability openly acknowledged.”

---An A.A. Member

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 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 6:45pm on the 2nd Monday of every month.

Corrections Committee meets monthly at 7:00pm on the 1st Monday of February, May, August, and November.

Cooperation with the Professional Community Committee meets at 6:30pm on the 1st Monday of every month.

Public Information Committee meets in 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 6:00pm 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 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

April 2019:

- 1st -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 6th -- **4th Step Workshop**, 12:30-5:00pm, River Falls Alano, Hwy. 29 and County FF, River Falls.
- 6th -- **Recovery on the River Event**, 5:00-9:30pm, Family sports fun & speakers, Eau Claire Sport Warehouse, 2983 11th St. in Eau Claire. **See more at www.district05.org**
- 8th -- **Treatment Committee Meeting**, 6:45pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
- 10th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
- 13th -- **Eleva Traveling Potluck**, 3:30pm, **District05 Service Workshop**, potluck & speakers, Eleva Lutheran Church, 50533 S. 2nd St., Eleva WI. **See flyer at www.district05.org**
- 24th -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr., Eau Claire.

May 2019:

- 6th -- **C.P.C. Committee Meeting**, 6:30pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
 - 6th -- **Corrections Committee Meeting**, 7:00pm, Alano Club 12, 2926 Pomona Dr. in Eau Claire.
 - 8th -- **District 05 Monthly Meeting**, 6:45pm, Menomonie Leisure Center.
 - 22nd -- **Chippewa Valley Intergroup Meeting**, 6pm, 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.
