



Monthly Reprieve

Volume 10, Issue 8

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RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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Store is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am—5:00 pm. Saturdays 9:00 am—2:00 pm; Closed Sundays

And in the end—the love you take is equal to the love you make

By: Sherry A. ♥

So I woke up other day feeling fearful, restless, irritable and discontent. I have been in recovery for eight and a half years now and know enough that I better get to a meeting. I prayed the Third Step prayer and really struggled before my meeting. I felt anxious, couldn't relax and had trouble paying attention or focusing on anything.

I sat in the meeting and was very uncomfortable. Someone started out the meeting speaking on a topic that was not about alcoholism and it drove me crazy. I was ready to leave and was filled with judgment, intolerance and really had trouble sitting in my seat without fleeing.

I find after being in AA awhile that this happens to me and that my head tells me I'm sick of these meetings and all this "b.s." running around the tables.

Finally someone, directs the topic to the steps and alcoholism, and asked was this person going to drink over it. They then precede to tell everyone how they feel and they had been around way longer than me. I started to perk up and listen and could immediately relate.

This was how I was feeling! They also complained of the lack of a solution-based topic and how it should always stay on the steps and alcoholism. I have to be careful and not forget that when I am getting

sick of AA and intolerant, there is something wrong with me! My thoughts and perceptions are my problem. Instead, I justify these feelings and quote circuit speakers who say sometimes we are too tolerant of newcomers and people who rant on and on about non-AA topics.

I heard from many people that day some really good solutions which I was slowly able to take in and see my part. So I read the meditation for the day one day later and the first sentence says, "Toleration is the greatest gift of the Mind".- Helen Keller.

How difficult it is to simply enjoy the gifts of the moment and not obsessively try to control the people and circumstances in our life.

By trusting guidance from a friend, meditation, or perhaps by just being still, we'll discover the peace of letting go and be enriched by the serenity that follows.

Today I will live the way that pleases me -And God. Someone also shared that whenever I am disturbed there is always something wrong with me. My inability to have Love and Tolerance is blocked.

There is always a lesson to be learned about myself in every meeting, in every person I listen to, in every conversation and event in my life. Experience demonstrates that the Twelve Steps work.

The program works when I follow the directions. When I get

stuck, I need to ask myself if I am thoroughly doing my part. Have I taken an inventory today? I have to watch for selfishness, fear, self-justification, impatience, false pride, negative thinking, self-importance, etc. Then I need to pray and ask God to help me to have humility, patience, love, tolerance, positive thinking, self-forgetfulness and act accordingly.

I am still the problem. I love AA and always need my thinking to be re-directed and thank everyone of you for helping me to do this one day at a time.

thank all of you for telling me the truth and setting me on the right path day to day. I am a proud member of Alcoholics Anonymous and can't imagine my life without the twelve steps.

By the time that meeting was over, I could feel calmness coming over me and I started feeling more relaxed and unblocked. I left the meeting and took care of all the things I needed to take care of, one by one on my list, and had a really purposeful day. I talked to a few girls who needed to vent about things and found myself not thinking about how I felt and my whole outlook had changed so I could once again live a grateful, purpose-driven life.

There is no indication I will be 'graduating' from AA anytime soon. I love and thank you all for this wonderful gift of sobriety.

Events and Service Notes

Let's hear YOUR voice in the Reprive!

The Monthly Reprive is always just like you!

You can share in a meeting, so why not put your experience, strength & hope down in print?!

If you have a particular story you'd like to share or even your recovery-inspired poetry, we'd love to add it to the next issue!



If interested, simply e-mail your 200-800 word submission to raconewsletter@gmail.com. Your contribution will adhere to the principles of anonymity and only your last initial will be used.

So come on!
Let's hear YOUR story!

Detox Help Needed

Volunteers are needed for detox meetings throughout the area. Detox meetings are a great way to carry your message to the newcomer, who often needs to hear a message of hope.

Requirements to become a volunteer are six months to attend with others and one year to attend solo.

Meetings are held Sunday-Friday at 8pm and Saturday & Sunday mornings at 9:30am.

Detox meetings are held at St. Lukes on Wisconsin Ave. and 14th St. For further information, please contact Roxann D.

Considering a new service opportunity? Look no further!

Racine Area Central Office currently has opportunities available for you to step up your (or your sponsee's) service and volunteer efforts.

If you have even just a few hours a week, consider volunteering for the hotline, front desk, steering

committee or a variety of other positions to help carry the message.

For more information on available service opportunities and eligibility requirements—please email raconewsletter@gmail.com

You'll be glad you did!

Upcoming Events & Activities

August 9th

Grove Club Membership Mtg
8:30pm
The Grove Club
Racine, WI

August 10th

District 17 meeting
1:00pm
Racine Area Central Office
Racine, WI

August 16th

Alano Club Picnic
Noon to 8pm
Speaker at 6pm
Pritchard Park Pavillion
Racine, WI

August 15th-17th

Green Lake Round-Up
Friday through Sunday
Green Lake, WI

(Save the Date!)

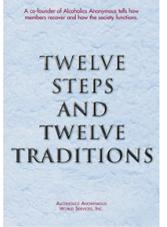
September 27th

Fellowship Day 2014
9am - runs all day
Speaker at 6:30pm
Racine Area Central Office



ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS

Our Stories



An “amazing life” comes down to perception

By Carly R.

My name is Carly, I'm a recovered alcoholic and drug addict. And my life is amazing today. My life is amazing not because today I do to have to chase that next drink to the brink of insanity, though that is a miracle of grace in itself that I am eternally grateful to have been gifted. No, my life is amazing today because you, the beautiful AA Gods in skin, have taught me how to live a beautiful life.

My life doesn't look good on paper: I'm divorcing. I'm losing my house. My financials are wrecked. My family is in turmoil. I don't get to see my adorable son every night of the week. I live in the hood (my parents swear that there's lead paint and other dangers lurking).

My career is stagnant. My body is misshapen. My cat is neglected. I won't even tempt you with the details of my newly developing love life -- it's far too scandalous for this small town!

And you know what? I don't wish to shut the door on any of it! These experiences are constantly bringing me closer to you, to my sponsor, to the steps, and to a power greater than myself.

My life is beautiful even when it looks terrible on paper, because I am tapped into a power that transcends that paper. It gives my life new meaning and direction; it allows me to find new joy all around me in our fellowship. It allows me to walk -- or bumble -- through all

of the difficulties. And that, friends, is an amazing feat to witness.

Thank you for guiding me and lifting me and pushing me as I bumble through these steps and principles. Thank you for helping me tap that power. Thank you for making my life amazing and more beautiful than I could have ever imagined possible.

“My story has a happy ending, but not of a conventional kind. I had a lot more hell to go through, but what a difference there is going through hell without a power greater than myself and with it!” –

Alcoholics Anonymous, 3rd Edition, 1976, “They Stopped in Time,” Ch 16 (“Me an Alcoholic?”), p 437.

Knowing a new freedom...

When one has an obsession over a resentment or fear while in recovery, it can become a deadly mind game that no human power can restore. It is easy for someone to point out others flaws when that someone is not in fit spiritual condition. But when someone focuses on someone else's shortcomings beyond that individual's control, it can often lead to an obsession. There were times in my recovery where I made a mistake of doing this and often lead my sponsor to state “What about your inventory?” When I looked at my own inventory and through practicing daily meditations, it allowed me to look at others with compassion with a firm understanding. It does not happen overnight, but when I continually meditate—my own character defects are committed to a lesser degree. Through personal experiences, it has led those on my fourth step list to become some of my closest friends even to this day. It was never about me. As some in the program say: “You are not THAT important.” I felt free to know the whole world was “not out for me.” (By: Jason A.)



Literature and Comics

Red dot sale continues at Racine Area Central Office

In need of a new meditation book or simply looking to add to your already growing collection?

Your Central Office continues its Red Dot sale of meditation books, among other selected items in stock.

Each dot represents one dollar off the initially listed price and the more dots you see, the more you save!

And as always, we continue

to sell the basic text of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Come on down to see what else we have to offer in our store and while you are here, keep a sponsee or sponsor in mind if they are celebrating a milestone in recovery.

We also sell a variety of sobriety coins and even offer Gift Certificates if you simply do not know what to get.



We are not a glum lot...



"So tell me, do I come here often?"



"Oh I never clean house, I have a woman come in once a week for that!"



"Welcome, I remember my first meeting. I came as Batman."

"Seems awfully bright out for a Wednesday night."



AA GRAPEVINE

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

Financial Reports

Group Donations

| GROUP | May | June | YTD | GROUP | May | June | YTD |
|--|--------|-------|--------|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Anonymous Donations | | 5.45 | 51.25 | Benj. House Friday 10:00am | 8.95 | | 45.95 |
| Estate of Tracy Scott Van Meerbeek | | | 565.00 | Benj. House Friday 7:30pm | | 50.00 | 65.00 |
| In Memory of Tracy (from Pauline) | | | 20.00 | Benj. House Sat. 7am Cellar Dwellers | 26.00 | | 86.00 |
| In Memory of Elaine L. (from Pauline) | | | 20.00 | Benj. House Saturday 7am Upstairs | 11.00 | 29.00 | 115.00 |
| Alanon - New Beginnings | | | 50.00 | Benj. House Saturday 6:30pm | | | 16.00 |
| Alano 10:00am Sunday | | 50.00 | 50.00 | Birthday Club (Laurel S—16 yrs) | | | 16.00 |
| Alano 8:00pm Sunday Big Book | | 50.00 | 50.00 | Covenant Combined | | | 300.00 |
| Alano 6:00pm Monday Coffee Hour | 179.40 | | 179.40 | Fox River Group - Waterford | 40.00 | | 114.00 |
| Alano 8:00pm Wednesday | 50.25 | | 50.25 | Grove Friday 10:00am 12X12 | | | 125.00 |
| Benj. House - No Meeting Specified | 19.00 | | 33.00 | Grove Friday 5:30pm Big Book | | | 100.00 |
| Benjamin House - People, Places & Things | | 10.00 | 10.00 | Grove Saturday 10:00am | | | 100.00 |
| Benj. House Sunday 8:00am AA/ Alanon | | | 142.50 | Grove Saturday 7:00pm | 50.00 | | 50.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Sunday Dwnstrs | | | 80.00 | Kenosha Big Book Study - Monday 4:30pm | 50.00 | | 200.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Sunday New-comers | | 22.00 | 95.00 | Kenosha St. Mary's Lutheran Sunday Grp | | 50.00 | 50.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Monday | | | 12.00 | Kenosha Thursday Night South Side / BB | | | 25.00 |
| Benj. House 6:00pm Monday 12X12 | 24.50 | 18.00 | 83.00 | Paddock Lake 12 Step, Monday 7:00pm | 72.00 | | 72.00 |
| Benj. House 6:00pm Monday Women's | 3.00 | | 3.00 | Paddock Lake Miracle on 75th, Wednesday | | | 30.00 |
| Benj. House 7:30pm Monday | | | 29.00 | Pleasant Prairie Good Shepherd 12X12 | 36.00 | | 85.00 |
| Benj. House Tuesday 10:00am | | | 78.05 | Racine Transitional Care | | 50.00 | 250.00 |
| Benj. House Tuesday 6:00pm AA/ Alanon | 22.00 | | 50.75 | RACO Wednesday 7:00pm Big Book | | | 25.00 |
| Benj. House Wednesday 6:00pm ISM'S | | 16.00 | 62.00 | St. Andrew's Fireside Group | | | 30.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 10:00am | | | 47.00 | Union Grove Visiting Vets Group 75 | | | 50.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 1:00pm AA/ Alanon | | 8.00 | 20.00 | Union Grove United Church of Christ Wed | 20.00 | | 20.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 6:00pm Big Book | | | 46.25 | | | | |
| | | | | DONATION TOTALS | 603.15 | 358.45 | 3,797.40 |

Treasurer's Report

| Expenses | May | June | YTD | Income | May | June | YTD |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Monthly Rent & Utilities | 1,813.00 | 1,812.09 | 10,919.15 | All Donations | 612.10 | 358.45 | 4,062.40 |
| Misc. Office Expenses | 95.88 | 36.78 | 831.57 | All Sales | 3,279.75 | 1,965.40 | 13,422.35 |
| Literature & Merchandise | 1,886.51 | 235.00 | 6,604.92 | Rent—Groups | 570.00 | 710.00 | 3,770.00 |
| Quarterly Office Expenses | 25.00 | 25.00 | 1,136.31 | Misc Adjustments | (40.00) | (70.00) | (403.50) |
| EXPENSE TOTALS | 3,820.39 | 2,108.87 | 19,491.95 | INCOME TOTALS | 4,421.85 | 2,963.85 | 20,851.25 |
| | | | | GAIN / (LOSS) | 601.46 | 854.98 | 1,359.30 |



Help is Everywhere

District/Club Information

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| District 17 | | Racine, Wisconsin |
| Racine Alano Club 1140 Douglas Ave. Racine, WI 53404 (262) 634-9902 | The Grove Club 1037 Grove Ave. Racine, WI 53405 (262) 634-9656 | Benjamin House 4848 Highway H Franksville, WI 53126 (262) 886-9611 |
| Benjamin House Website: http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/ | | |
| District 7 | | Kenosha, Wisconsin |
| Kenosha Alano Club 630 56 th St. Kenosha, WI 53140 (262) 654-8246 | Outcasts 1310 63 rd St. Kenosha, WI 53144 | Club Breakaway 8017 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha, WI 53143 (262) 653-9800 |
| Kenosha Alano Club Website: http://kenoshaalanoclub.org | | |
| District 36 | | Burlington 12 x 12 Club 724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI |
| West Racine/Kenosha County | | |
| District 6 | | Walworth County Alano Club 611 E. Walworth St. Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 740-1888 |
| Eastern Walworth County | | |
| District 12 | | Eastern Lake County, Illinois |
| Alano Club of Waukegan 2419 Washington St. Waukegan, IL 60085 (847) 662-9640 | Zion-Benton Alano Club 228 Sheridan Rd. Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096 (847) 746-9842 | |
| Alano Club of Waukegan Website: http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/ | | |
| Waukegan Hotline: (847) 623-9660 | | |
| District 10 | | Antioch Recovery Club 311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882 |
| Western Lake County | | |
| Antioch Recovery Club: http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/ | | |
| Antioch Hotline: (847) 395-5988 | | |

Alcoholics Anonymous is not affiliated with any club or other outside enterprise

Racine Area Central Office

Officers/Steering Committee

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Chairperson | Darrell S. |
| Co-Chairperson | Roxann D. |
| Secretary | Courtney K. |
| Co-Secretary | Rachel S. |
| Treasurer | Pam L. |
| Co-Treasurer | Christine S. |
| Staffing Coordinator | John B. |
| Co-Staffing Coordinator | James S. |
| Newsletter | Kevin B. |
| Co-Newsletter | VACANT |
| Hotline Chairperson | Mark S. |
| Co-Hotline Chairperson | VACANT |
| Literature Chairperson | Mary S. |
| Co-Literature Chair | Nick J. |
| Procurement | Jenny L. |
| Webmaster | Courtney L. |
| Co-Webmaster | VACANT |
| Advisor | Dawn S. |
| | |
| 3701 Durand Avenue #225 | |
| Racine, WI 53403 | |
| (262) 554-6611 | |
| 24-Hour Hotline: (262) 554-7788 | |

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