

# Monthly Reprieve

Volume 11, Issue 8

August 2015

## 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

## Taking a look at Steps 8 and 9

**“Step 8—**Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all”

Here again in Step 8 we take pencil and paper in hand and proceed with the action of writing out a listing of all we have harmed with our behavior and reactions caused by our alcoholism and our boozing. Referring to our 4th Step Inventory, we list ALL the people, businesses, institutions and organizations noted there, even though we may not as yet be willing to make any amend to them.

The willingness will come in time, as we complete the amends to those we are willing, and witness and feel the marvelous freedom each brings to us. We can actually feel the "monkey" sliding off our back. We can begin to walk down the street, on either side and in either direction without looking back over our shoulder, with the constant fear that someone/something is going to catch up with us.

But for now, not to worry about any confronting, or actual making of amend. All we are doing is making a list and becoming willing to become willing to make amends to them all.

When the list is complete, even with some whose names we don't know or remember, the next action is one of prayer to become willing to begin making the amends, one at a time, one day at a time, as God presents the opportunity to make the amend.

With our willingness to begin, Step 8 is "started", but again notice that the step contains the word ALL twice.

Step 8 is not complete until ALL are included in our willingness, even though we may never, or not in the foreseeable future, cross paths with some. That is in God's Hands, and in my experience He put them in my path when the time was right.

**Step 9—**"Made direct amends to such people, wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others"

When it comes to Step 9, We should waste no time beginning the actual amend making. We can begin immediately making amends to our loved ones who have most been affected by our insanities, our self-serving un-lovingness, our fears and resentments. Although one purpose of doing the 9th step is to bring our lives to order,

our REAL purpose is to FIT OURSELVES to be of MAXIMUM service to God and the people about us, setting all past relationships right, and establishing new ones on that solid bedrock.

Remember this when it comes to making amends, that the RESTORED FAITH, of those about us most affected by our alcoholism, will come to pass as the result of our LIVING the Steps in all our affairs, and will be worth much more than all the words of amends we can express.

Remember also that the way we make amends to society and those we may never be able to contact is by staying sober a day at a time, practicing all the steps in all our life's affairs, continuing to help one another, doing all things out of LOVE. In this manner we come to peace within ourselves, and able to carry a message of Love and Hope and Peace into the world.

With the willingness to make complete amends to all, and the making of amends to those about us where we are able, the 9th step is "started", as it is unlikely that we shall complete the step in this lifetime.

### Eighth Promise

*“Self seeking  
WILL  
slip away”*



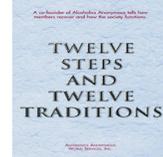
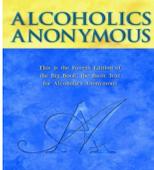
## August Focus

### Step Eight

*“Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all”*

### Eighth Tradition

*“Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers”*



# Our Stories

## SPIRIT

by: Jon K.

*(One local A.A.'s experience at the 2015 International A.A. Convention)*

**WOW.....**

I could just leave it at that...

I recently celebrated 18 years and this was my first International conference. I haven't attended one in the past for numerous reasons but I finally convinced my wife that I needed to go and got her to come along.

It is extremely difficult to articulate my feelings about my experience at this conference but I am going to try.

My wife and I arrived at the Atlanta airport after leaving Milwaukee at 5:00am and we were over tired. We got on the shuttle system to go downtown and within seconds I was filled with a power that cannot be described. The shuttle was filled with men and women from all over the world headed downtown to the convention center. The chatter, laughter, energy and spirit on this shuttle that was so powerful that within seconds I was welled up with tears, seriously...., within seconds. All I could do was look at my wife, point and choke back my tears. Bless my wife, she knows all too well when I am a lost sack of goo and she just took my hand, squeezed it, and put her head on my shoulder. Truth is I am welled up now as I recall that initial JOLT.

That, my friends, is POWER. It is a power derived from a unified "spirit" of recovery and it is much greater than you or me.

Man how I wish I could just bottle that shit up and tap into it whenever I want to. I can't help but think how awesome life would be if I could have that jolt every moment of every day.

Is it any wonder that Alcohol is referred to as "spirits"?

I am in the process of training a hunting dog. Those that have been in meetings with me, or are close to me, know this because I have been comparing our training experiences to recovery. I work with my dog everyday. We have a routine and during these sessions there are many opportunities to teach and learn, for both the dog and I. When it is just the two of us he often just sort of goes through the motions and tends to lack enthusiasm. There sure isn't much spirit in his behavior; he just sort of does the drills. I try to create enthusiasm by making it fun and giving lots of praise to go along with the difficult tasks of training. He will give spurts of enthusiasm but the spirit does not last long.

A couple times a week I am able to bring him where there are other dogs and their owners, doing the same training as we are. They are at all different levels of their training, or experience. It is remarkable how my dog's attitude changes in this environment. He is typically on fire with enthusiasm and his spirit is unquestionably raised to a different level.

I often wish I could just bottle that shit up and use it when it is just he and I.

I have Alcoholism, cunning baffling and powerful. Selfishness and self-centeredness is the root of all my troubles. I let worldly clamors enter in and I find myself lacking power. I often lack spirit.

So where's the energy? Where's the spirit?

I woke up yesterday and asked my god to be a part of my life. I asked for power. I had brief contact with another AA. It was a difficult day and I learned a lot. I went through the motions and by 2:00 that power had dwindled some. I had spurts of

enthusiasm but they did not last long. It is a Wednesday so I did not attend a meeting because I bring my dog to a training session with other dogs. Not surprising, he got recharged and is once again a happy dog filled with spirit.

I woke up today and asked my god to be a part of my life. I asked for power. It is Thursday and I get to go to a meeting tonight. As I am writing this I feel somewhat secure and comfortable. I know that this evening the spirit of recovery will surround me. I can hardly wait to feel the power. There will be men and women at all different stages of recovery, or experience. I realize full well that I will not be rocked like I was in Atlanta, but the power is there, ready for me to tap into. I don't know that I will be overwhelmed and will have to hold back tears, but it has happened, right here, too many times to count.

Doing the drill is not enough for me. Going through the motions just doesn't cut it. Not for me. I need the power that comes from the spirit that exists in Alcoholics Anonymous. I need to be around you guys. I need to feel the power.

I hope that I can somehow demonstrate and share this spirit with you and most importantly I trust that you will all continue to share it with me. I think I'll keep coming back.

That is what I got out of, and experienced, at my first International conference.



## ***Being mindful of 'character assassination'***

***by: anonymous***

When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous I was beaten down physically and emotionally. My alcoholism had alienated me from most people. In the beginning I received a much warmer welcome than I was expecting.

You hear many people speak of the feeling that they finally found somewhere they belonged. I felt that. I felt safe in being who I was which was a new feeling for me.

As I was growing in some areas I was still struggling in others. Some people supported through the struggles and encouraged further growth and told me not to give up. I cherish those people. However, others focused on my shortcomings and assassinated my character by gossip and negativity toward me.

I hear many people in meetings regarding the 6th and 7th steps confess that this is an area that they still practice regularly and enjoy participating in. What is often overlooked is the fact that this behavior completely contradicts the purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.

We are a group of men and women who help each other overcome our problems regarding alcoholism. We all know that alcohol-

ism is about more than excessive drinking.

Our thoughts and actions are why we drank. When we criticize another and humiliate them within the circle of their peers we are beating them down emotionally instead of supporting and encouraging. We are alienating them from the only group they felt they ever belonged to. We are driving them away from their safe place.



Without Alcoholics Anonymous those people may die from their alcoholism. We alcoholics are a sensitive bunch. Let's not make it harder on each other by chastising each other for mistakes and poor decisions. Let's encourage each other and support one another in the struggle to battle alcoholism.

I may not agree with actions my peers take. They may not be actions I would choose to participate in. However, I have no right to beat someone down emotionally

because they are not at the level of growth that I would prefer. That is not reaching out the hand of AA to the next suffering alcoholic.

Character assassination may be one of the defects of character people still find pleasure in and are quick to dismiss, but the fact is it alienates people and drives them away. It drives them away from a place that may save their life. I encourage you to please think about the possible outcome before gossip and hurtful words leave your mouth. Let's support each other. After all, it is a 'support group'.

*(Note: The views and opinions expressed in ALL article submissions are solely those of the contributor and not directly related to RACO or any affiliated A.A. entity or institution)*

### **I Am Responsible**

***When anyone, anywhere,  
reaches out for help,  
I want the hand of A.A.  
always to be there***

***And for that:  
I Am Responsible***



# Events and Service Notes

*When Anyone, Anywhere Reaches Out For Help,  
I Want The Hand Of A.A. Always To Be There ...*

Are you an AA member with the desire to carry the message to the still suffering alcoholic? Your service is needed by the District 17 Special Needs/Accessibility Committee. No prior knowledge is needed, and there are tons of ways in which your service is needed. Be on the lookout for the volunteer signups like the one below circulating at the meetings, or bring this form to *your* meeting/group, or contact the Carly R at [racinespecialneeds@gmail.com](mailto:racinespecialneeds@gmail.com) for other ways to contribute.

**Whom We Serve:**

- ✓ Physically disabled
- ✓ Deaf & hearing impaired
- ✓ Blind & visually impaired
- ✓ Learning or reading impaired
- ✓ Seniors and homebound
- ✓ Language barrier
- ✓ Single parents requiring childcare.
- ✓ Encourage Big Book tape study meetings in each district.
- ✓ Encourage groups to provide childcare.
- ✓ Update special-needs information on Where & When's.
- ✓ Bring meetings into the home, hospital, or long-term care facilities; encourage

**How We Serve:**

- ✓ Provide interpreters for meetings and events.
- ✓ Provide Braille A.A. literature and programs for special events.
- ✓ Assist the physically disabled at events; provide rides in special cases.
- ✓ Encourage wheelchair-accessible meetings and events.
- ✓ districts and groups to support regular meetings in special-needs facilities.
- ✓ Provide literature and hold workshops on special needs.
- ✓ Explore other special needs; work with GSO and other districts & areas.

**Special Needs/Accessibility Committee: Contact: Carly R (chair)**  
[racinespecialneeds@gmail.com](mailto:racinespecialneeds@gmail.com)

*And For That, I Am Responsible !*

## District 17 Corrections

For those looking to jumpstart their involvement in service work, District 17 is in need of help in carrying the message to those in the Corrections system. There are many positions that fall under the heading of Corrections service work—Corrections Correspondence Service, Pre-release Contact Program, and AA meetings on the inside, to name a few. For those interested in getting involved—please contact Steve N. (Area 75 District 17 Corrections Committee Chair) at (262) 939-9676 or [nova221sgn@wi.rr.com](mailto:nova221sgn@wi.rr.com).

## Upcoming Events & Activities

**Fridays in August**

Young at Heart  
“New Young Peoples Meeting”  
The Benjamin House  
6:00pm

**August 14th-16th**

Green Lake Round-Up  
Green Lake, WI

**Saturday, August 22nd**

Dist. 36 Fun & Fellowship Day!  
Christ Lutheran Church  
Paddock Lake, WI  
11am-3pm

**Saturday, Sept. 5th**

Game Night  
The Grove Club  
Racine, WI  
8:30 start-time

**Sunday, September 13th**

Bears vs. Packers viewing  
The Grove Club  
Racine, WI  
12:00 kick-off

*Please send upcoming event notices  
to [raconewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com).*



# Racine Area Central Office FINANCIALS

| Donation Detail                          | July          |
|--|---------------|
| Anonymous donations                      | 16.00         |
| Alano 7am Daily Reflections(Racine)      | 75.00         |
| Benjamin House RTC Benj House Board      | 50.00         |
| Benjamin House, 8AM Sunday AA/Alanon     | 24.00         |
| Benjamin House, 10:00 a.m. Sun. Dwnstrs  | 10.00         |
| Benjamin House, 6PM Monday, 12x12        | 17.00         |
| Benjamin House, 6PM Tuesday AA/Alanon    | 18.00         |
| Benjamin House Wednesday 6PM ISM'S       | 11.00         |
| Benjamin House Thursday 6PM Big Book     | 18.00         |
| Benjamin House Saturday 10AM Big Book    | 14.00         |
| Grove Wed 4:30 p.m.                      | 35.00         |
| Kenosha St. Mary's Lutheran Sunday Group | 50.00         |
| Salem Big Book, Fri. 8:00 p.m.UnitedMeth | 50.00         |
| Visting Vets Grp 75 Union Grove          | 75.00         |
| <b>Total Donations</b>                   | <b>463.00</b> |

## Additional RACO Notes



### RACO Steering Committee Meetings



The Racine Area Central Office's 'Steering Committee' meets on the first Saturday of every month at RACO. The Steering Committee invites anyone who may be interested in Area 75 and District 17 events and happenings.

The Committee also currently has a few open positions available (which can be seen on Page 6 of the this edition of The Reprive). Check it out!

If you or someone you know might

be interested in sitting-in on a Committee meeting or possibly filling an open position, please join us for a monthly meeting or email [raconewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com) for information on available positions and position requirements.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Committee meeting!



# Help is Everywhere

## District/Club Information

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>District 17</b>  |   | <b>Racine, Wisconsin</b>  |
| Racine Alano Club<br>1140 Douglas Ave.<br>Racine, WI 53404<br>(262) 634-9902                                  | The Grove Club<br>1037 Grove Ave.<br>Racine, WI 53405<br>(262) 634-9656                   | Benjamin House<br>4848 Highway H<br>Franksville, WI 53126<br>(262) 886-9611 |
| Benjamin House Website: <a href="http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/">http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/</a> |   |   |
| <b>District 7</b>   |   | <b>Kenosha, Wisconsin</b>   |
| Kenosha Alano Club<br>630 56 <sup>th</sup> St.<br>Kenosha, WI 53140<br>(262) 654-8246                         | Outcasts<br>1310 63 <sup>rd</sup> St.<br>Kenosha, WI 53144                                | Club Breakaway<br>8017 Sheridan Rd.<br>Kenosha, WI 53143<br>(262) 653-9800  |
| Kenosha Alano Club Website: <a href="http://kenoshaalanoclub.org">http://kenoshaalanoclub.org</a>             |   |   |
| <b>District 36</b>  |   | <b>Burlington 12 x 12 Club</b>  |
| <b>West Racine/Kenosha County</b>   |   | 724 N. Pine St.<br>Burlington, WI   |
| <b>District 6</b>   |   | <b>Walworth County Alano Club</b>   |
| <b>Eastern Walworth County</b>  |   | 611 E. Walworth St.<br>Delavan, WI 53115<br>(262) 740-1888                  |
| <b>District 12</b>  |   | <b>Eastern Lake County, Illinois</b>  |
| Alano Club of Waukegan<br>2419 Washington St.<br>Waukegan, IL 60085<br>(847) 662-9640                         | Zion-Benton Alano Club<br>228 Sheridan Rd.<br>Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096<br>(847) 746-9842 |   |
| Alano Club of Waukegan Website: <a href="http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/">http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/</a>     |   |   |
| Waukegan Hotline: (847) 623-9660  |   |   |
| <b>District 10</b>  |   | <b>Antioch Recovery Club</b>  |
| <b>Western Lake County</b>  |   | 311 E Depot St.; Suite C<br>Antioch, IL 60002<br>(847) 838-1882             |
| Antioch Recovery Club: <a href="http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/">http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/</a>  |   |   |
| 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                     | Roxann D.   |
| Co-Chairperson                  | VACANT      |
| Secretary                       | Courtney K. |
| Co-Secretary                    | VACANT      |
| Treasurer                       | Pam L.      |
| Co-Treasurer                    | Jessica H.  |
| Staffing Coordinator            | John B.     |
| Co-Staffing Coordinator         | Bruce P.    |
| Newsletter                      | Kevin B.    |
| Co-Newsletter                   | VACANT      |
| Hotline Chairperson             | Mark S.     |
| Co-Hotline Chairperson          | Jon K.      |
| Literature Chairperson          | Rachel S.   |
| Co-Literature Chair             | Deb K.      |
| Procurement                     | Steve K.    |
| Webmaster                       | Courtney L. |
| Co-Webmaster                    | Brian K.    |
| Advisor                         | Darrel S.   |
| 3701 Durand Avenue #225B        |             |
| Racine, WI 53403                |             |
| (262) 554-6611                  |             |
| 24-Hour Hotline: (262) 554-7788 |             |

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