

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 10, Issue 12

December 2014

RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

3701 Durand Avenue #225 Racine, WI 53403 (262) 554-6611 Hotline: (262) 554-7788 raconeletter@gmail.com

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

Whose Life Are You Living Today?

By: Carly-Anne

Today, as I sit and reflect on my recent experiences in the program, I realize how grateful I am to have recent experiences. One of my fears is that eventually I will tire of reading the book, that I will burn out of excitement for this program. It's insane that this hasn't happened already, not to say that I haven't had lulls – or flat out moments of insanity and break down. But I'm still finding new, I'm still finding areas, I'm still finding. And I am most grateful for this today.

How do you keep your program fresh? How do you find new? For me, it seems that a deep inventory process has helped me discover those "areas" you may hear about around the tables. New "areas," where I experience problems or conflict – new because I haven't experienced the conflict before, or I wasn't aware of them. So maybe I become aware of them on the surface, or maybe I become aware of them beneath the surface through inventory, but they're there. They will probably always be there – new areas. And these areas seem to imply where am I

agnostic today? What areas in my life am I doubting God's presence or power?

You don't have to look further than a nightly inventory, though a practice of deep inventory will help further reveal these areas. If I have resentment or fear, this is typically a good indicator of an area where I am either not relying on a higher power or submitting my life to a higher power. Because typically this means that I believe that I either need to manage a situation or person – that the outcome is otherwise flawed.

Someone told me recently that "if you've been spared, your life is not your own." This quote shook me to my core, so much that I wrote it on my bathroom mirror and have tried to incorporate it into my daily meditation. To me, this quote transcends into each new area that I continue to struggle with in sobriety. Ultimately, I believe that my life is mine. My things are mine. My people are mine. My kids, my house, my job, my reputation – all of it is mine, mine, mine.

This couldn't be further from the

truth. I burned my life down to the ground. Any blessing, any area I could possibly have today I would never have had the opportunity to have before AA. I have been spared from not just an alcoholic death, but an alcoholic's demise. Today, I get to live God's life, and it is only through this that I am able to exist within this world. But I forget that when I start seeing my life and my own. Those more I realize that my life is not my own, that today I live the life God blesses me with – the more I naturally escape the bonds of resentment and fear.

This is not to say that I will not forget this. In fact – I am practically assured that I will – that eventually I will see my life as my own, my things as mine. And that's how I'm pretty confident that this program will stay fresh and that I will get to continue having new experiences in new areas and with new people. And I think that's pretty awesome.

Twelfth Promise

"We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves".



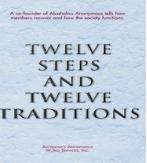
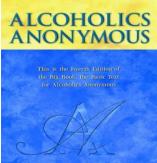
December Focus

Step Twelve

"Having had a spiritual awakening as a result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."

Twelfth Tradition

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities".



Our Stories

The Importance of Sponsorship

By Steve H.

Sponsorship is very important and very meaningful to both the sponsee and the sponsor. I have been fortunate to have had 4 sponsors in my 2 and a half years in the program and i say fortunate because each one of them has shared a piece of there story with me and i could totally relate to each and every one of them. They even put up with me when i didn't want to do the work. But they didn't chase me. They didnt have to either because i was so scared i always came running back with my tail between my legs every time i messed up or stopped calling or anything that had to do with following suggestion.

One of the most important lessons I've learned being someone's sponsee is that if i dont like a suggestion there telling me or something there saying the problem is me. I just don't wanna do it plain and simple and that's ok. I don't have to take suggestion right? Its just a suggestion? Wrong. Not taking suggestion is probably the worst thing i could have done every single time. These people are right. The experience is real and they went through it and ate sharing it with us so it doesn't have to

become part of our story.

I've seen many people screw up there whole sobriety and state of being by not following some simple suggestions. Its not that hard, but we as alcoholics can complicate the shit out of things even simple things. For me its harder to not follow the suggestions because i know the consequences of my actions always suck if I'm doing the opposite of what's suggested.

For example, its easier for me to just pick up the phone and call my sponsor than it is to not call her because ill think about it all day and then i let it ruin my day because i should have just called and told her what was on my brain instead of analyzing it myself.

We come to find out in this program that our brains are actually more vicious than the drugs and liquor. The drugs and the liquor are a side affect of our disease which centers in our brain. We think the solution is in alcohol and in drugs but its in our literature. It took me a long time to realize this and everything takes time but the rewards and promises are endless. If you take the steps suggested and move your feet.

Make friends.

Become a part of. Make time for people before and after meetings.

Talk to a new comer. Raise your hand if you're able to sponsor. You could help mold somebodies life into a beautiful new beginning between them and God.

Remember, you can save anyone, ever, but you can help them realize things and guide them down a very rewarding path. Just remember " without help it is to much for us." These words are so true.

So come on. Go help.



A Daily Reprieve

By: Miranda M

Recovery – Sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly

I was asked to write something for the daily reprieve by a friend who's near and dear to me. God knows that that's what it would take for me to actually write something that will be shared with my recovery brothers and sisters. I am not a writer. I loathe writing.

Ever since I was a little girl with the aspirations of keeping a diary, problems arose when I couldn't spell the perfect word I had chosen in my mind to convey the emotions I felt. The entire sentence would need to be changed because I couldn't spell that one word. Frustration rose and my temper flared. You might be asking yourself what does this have to do with alcoholism? In short, everything... I'm not getting my way, things aren't going the way I think they should be, and I should excel at everything I do without practice or asking for help.

These are just a few of the old ideas that I held to be true for most of my life. I need to get my way and things need to be easy so I can be comfortable, if not, I get upset and need to block it out. I am not a writer. I much prefer to speak to you, to show you my emotions and to see your reactions.

How can I convey the hope and joy that I've found in recovery through words? Why would you believe me even if I could convince you?

All I know is that recovery from a hopeless state of mind and body is something that I never in a million years even knew I wanted or needed. It was simple really, just abandon everything you know, or think you know, about yourself, others and God. Can you sense the sarcasm? That's where the sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly really presented itself in my life.

I was able to lesson my grip on some of these old ideas quicker than others. The ideas that still served me I held onto as long as I could but there are emotional consequences for those decisions and they're worse if you're aware that you're making them.

Look to the promises if you're feeling faint in recovery, they DO come true but we have to LIVE this program to keep them.



12th Step Work— The Cornerstone of Recovery

By: Jason A.

When I recently carried the message at an open speaker meeting at Green Bay's 218 Club December 3, it was a reminder of how vital the 12th Step is. In Chapter 7, it states that 'practical experience' shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.

When I was four years into recovery, I realized that carrying the message to another alcoholic is what saved my life, when two men came into my life and asked me to sponsor them.

The experience fulfilled my primary purpose of staying sober and to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. When I sat through one of their fifth steps, it allowed me to feel a part of someone's life on a spiritual basis.

It all happened while I was seeking employment after losing my job of seven years, and then was summoned into the position as the Newsletter Chairperson of Racine Central Office during that time period. The position allowed me to fill my time productively and constructively at least six hours per week, where I used to my God given talents for the good of the program.

Two years later I faced a different circumstance, where I worked with another alcoholic once again as I trudged through my own journey. Simple phone calls on a daily basis, and working an intense fifth step consisting of long hours with this newcomer, is what led me to make sacrifices for the better of the program.

Carrying the message is the cornerstone of the program, and hearing what the newcomer had to say, was a firm reminder of where I once was, and why I should stay in the program. I had the debate inside my head during my fourth year when all other activities failed, and was left with myself, and then had an awakening during my first trial of sponsoring others.

Additionally, it brought a new sense of gratitude to those who came before me, and also the Racine Fellowship.

As I continue with this transition in Shawano, I have gone to any length to seek out the newcomer who needs help, driving 30-45 miles away for a meeting with hope of meeting someone who needs help. Life as I see it is still rather unfamiliar, and continues to be a growing process, even after six years of recovery.

A note to the newcomer, please find a sponsor who has worked all 12 steps, you could be as helpful to the continuity of the program as anyone else. Newcomers have helped me stay sober. And it freed me from the bondage of self, and made me think of others.

Events and Service Notes

RACO Service Opportunities

As 2014 comes to a close, several positions on the RACO Steering Committee will be available in the coming weeks. If you might be interested in one of the many positions (see page 6 for committee positions), please e-mail raconewsletter@gmail.com



Detox Help Needed

Volunteers are needed for detox meetings at St. Lukes Hospital. 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 email raconewsletter@gmail.com or contact Roxann D.

Reprise Mission Statement

The Racine Area Central Office's newsletter, Monthly Reprieve, is published to foster unity and to facilitate communication among A.A. Members, groups and districts within the Racine Area Central Office's service area.

Monthly Reprieve aims to be instrumental in carrying the A.A. Message. This monthly newsletter seeks to publish A.A.-related material, including personal stories of experience, strength and hope. Material published

is under the oversight of the Racine Area Central Office's Steering Committee.

Nothing published in the Reprieve should be thought of as a statement of Racine Area Central Office or A.A. Policy. Finally, the publication shall not constitute endorsement by the newsletter itself, by the Racine Area Central Office, Districts, local groups, or A.A. As a whole.

RACO Volunteer Monthly Report—November

Number of Possible Volunteer Hours: 177

Number of Hours Closed: 0

Number of Hours Open: 177

Volunteer Sobriety Anniversaries (December):

Bruce P. 33 years (12/31/81)

Gilbert M. 21 years (12/10/93)

Dottie M. 4 years (12/5/2010)

Larry P. 4 years (12/30/2010)

David N. 1 years (12/28/2013)

Upcoming Events & Activities

Saturday, Dec. 6th

GAME NIGHT at The Grove
8:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 6th

RACO Candlelight Meeting
Racine Area Central Office
7:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 13th

Open House at Oxford House—
Joe Prott house
1336 Virginia St.
7-10pm

Saturday, Dec. 13th

Grove Club Kids X-mas Party
The Grove Club. 12-3pm

Wednesday, Dec. 24th

Grove Club Alcathon 2014
The Grove Club 9pm-Thurs morn

Wednesday, Dec. 31st

New Years Dance at The Grove
8:30pm-after midnight

(To submit an A.A. related event or activity for a future Reprieve issue, please e-mail raconewsletter@gmail.com with date, time and location).



Financial Reports

Group Donations

GROUP	Oct	YTD	GROUP	Oct	YTD
Anonymous Donations	20.90	177.15	Covenant Beginners Thursday 6:45pm		30.00
YTD Memorial Donations		1,365.00	Convenant By The Book Thursday 8:00pm		30.00
Misc Donations		25.25	Covenant Combined		300.00
Alanon - New Beginnings		50.00	Fox River Group - Waterford		114.00
Alano 7:00am Daily Reflections		50.00	Grove Sunday 10:00am		100.00
Alano 10:00am Sunday		50.00	Grove Sunday 7:30 Speaker Meeting	74.00	174.00
Alano 8:00pm Sunday Big Book		50.00	Grove Friday 10:00am 12X12		125.00
Alano 6:00pm Monday Coffee Hour		179.40	Grove Friday 5:30pm Big Book		100.00
Alano 8:00pm Wednesday		50.25	Grove Saturday 10:00am		100.00
Alano Friday Night Candlelight		50.00	Grove Saturday 7:00pm		60.00
Benj. House - No Meeting Specified		44.00	Kenosha Alano (no specifics)		7.00
Benjamin House - People, Places & Things	31.10	41.10	Kenosha Big Book Study - Monday 4:30pm		440.00
Benj. House Sunday 8:00am AA/Alanon		233.00	Kenosha Courage to Change (Aurora)		125.00
Benj. House 10:00am Sunday Dwnstrs	22.00	207.00	Kenosha Grass Roots - Saturday 10:00am		250.00
Benj. House 10:00am Sunday Newcomers		73.00	Kenosha Here and Now	50.00	50.00
Benj. House 10:00am Monday		12.00	Kenosha St. Mary's Lutheran Sunday Grp		50.00
Benj. House 6:00pm Monday 12X12	17.00	158.25	Kenosha Thursday Night South Side / BB		25.00
Benj. House 6:00pm Monday Women's		3.00	Outkasts		50.00
Benj. House 7:30pm Monday		52.00	Paddock Lake 12 Step, Monday 7:00pm	72.00	144.00
Benj. House Tuesday 10:00am		78.05	Paddock Lake Tuesday Came to Believe		20.00
Benj. House Tuesday 6:00pm AA/Alanon		50.75	Paddock Lake Miracle on 75th, Wednesday		70.00
Benj. House Wednesday 6:00pm ISM'S	22.50	104.50	Pleasant Prairie Good Shepherd 12X12		117.00
Benj. House Thursday 10:00am		47.00	Racine Transitional Care	50.00	500.00
Benj. House Thursday 1:00pm AA/Alanon		50.00	RACO Monday 7:30pm New Pair of Glasses		20.00
Benj. House Thursday 6:00pm Big Book		57.25	RACO Wednesday 7:00pm Big Book		25.00
Benj. House Friday 10:00am		51.95	Salem Big Book Friday 8:00pm United Meth		40.00
Benj. House Friday 7:30pm		65.00	St. Andrew's Fireside Group		30.00
Benj. House Sat. 7am Cellar Dwellers	11.00	118.00	Twin Lakes Sunday 8:00pm (Calv Cong)		100.00
Benj. House Saturday 7am Upstairs		157.00	Union Grove Visiting Vets Group 75		100.00
Benj. House Saturday 6:30pm		18.00	Untion Grove United Church of Christ Wed		20.00
Birthday Club (Holly L—20 yrs)	20.00	20.00			
Other YTD Birthday Club		75.00	DONATION TOTALS	390.50	7,078.90

Treasurer's Report

Expenses	Oct	YTD	Income	Oct	YTD
Monthly Rent & Utilities	1,811.54	18,095.11	All Donations	401.85	7,599.70
Misc. Office Expenses	191.95	1,491.33	All Sales	1,406.55	21,721.80
Literature & Merchandise	0.00	7,528.93	Rent—Groups	310.00	5,950.00
Quarterly Office Expenses	335.31	1,826.28	Misc Adjustments	(70.00)	(683.50)
EXPENSE TOTALS	2,338.80	28,941.65	INCOME TOTALS	2,048.40	34,588.00
			GAIN / (LOSS)	(290.40)	5,646.35

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
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	Steve H.
Hotline Chairperson	Mark S.
Co-Hotline Chairperson	Jon K.
Literature Chairperson	Rachel S.
Co-Literature Chair	VACANT
Procurement	Jenny L.
Webmaster	Courtney L.
Co-Webmaster	Brian K.
Advisor	Dawn S.
3701 Durand Avenue #225	
Racine, WI 53403	
(262) 554-6611	
24-Hour Hotline: (262) 554-7788	

**Interested in receiving the Monthly Newsletter through e-mail?
Become a subscriber today by sending an e-mail to raconewsletter@gmail.com**