

# Monthly Reprieve

Volume 12, Issue 1

January 2016

## RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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

### No Managing the Unmanageable

by: Jason A.

Complacency in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous leads to restlessness, irritability and discontent. Those three words were the pinnacle of my journey the last year, where I admittedly skated by with whatever knowledge I gained from my humble beginnings in the program.

When I became restless, irritable and discontented, it led to several dark thoughts within my mind as I tried to make my new journey in Shawano County work; however, it did not work out and I became “dry.”

Through this period, I became complacent in the program, and no amount of human power could have relieved me of myself.

I tried to “manage well,” which resulted in sleepless nights, disconnection from the people in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, and forgot where I came from.

Where I came from was in the Racine Fellowship, where people knew me best, and could see the warning signs from a mile away, actually more than 100 miles away in this case.

Being that far away with diminished faith terrified me to say the least.

Had it not been for a series of phone calls from now-current sponsor and God putting Dennis J. in my path via phone call one night while I was in Shawano, unsure where I would be now.

In the ensuing months, I lived to survive, not to thrive and resulted in losing my job and returning to Racine. When I came back, I never realized just how sick I was, spiritually, mentally and physically.

Months after that August day, it made me realize God was with me while I was in Shawano.

When I needed help after a terrible day, the folks in the Fox Valley fellowship saved my sanity.

When I was left without a roof over my head, someone from Alcoholics Anonymous in Shawano offered a room.

Also, when I had a lonely Thanksgiving night away from friends and family in 2014, I sought refuge at a Green Bay recovery club 30 miles away, where I came to know a man named Kevin V.

Another thing to note was the Fox Valley fellowship welcomed me into

their arms on the night of my seventh sobriety birthday, where I got my coin from my former Appleton home group.

To this day I will always remember the names of Kyle T., Shawn M., Rick V., Nicole K., Jake S., Roger T., Craig S., Alishea S., Rachel M., Jen F. and a slew of other people in Appleton.

Furthermore, when I made the quick decision to return to Racine the same day I lost my job, it was because I hung on too long, and became exhausted attempting to manage my life.

It still is not easy letting go of the people I came to know well up in Fox Valley, Green Bay and Shawano. Now that I am back home in Racine, I find myself at the start of a rejuvenation, but I still have a long way to go in this journey known as life.

One last thought, when I am not complacent, it opens me up to humility, which I lacked up in Shawano. When I have humility, it is much easier to say “I don't know.”

Because how much do I really know about anything?

#### First Concept

*“Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should reside in the collective conscience of our whole Fellowship”.*



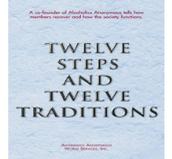
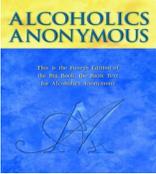
### January Focus

#### Step One

*“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.”*

#### First Tradition

*“Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity”.*



# Our Stories

## Living Step One - One Day At A Time

By: Anonymous

When I started drinking alcohol and using drugs, I felt great. I fit in with others. I felt like I was invincible and I could talk, dance and meet girls. It seemed that almost overnight, I went from church boy, to life of the party.

The problem was - in my inner most core. I knew from my upbringing that the things I was doing were not in line with God's will for my life. Slowly I drifted away from church events, church on Sundays, reading the bible, and prayer because I felt shameful. I didn't like that. My new life of partying and being a free spirit felt much better.

I don't think I ever stopped believing in God, but I would only seek him in times of trouble. Like a get out jail free card. My drinking and drug use ended up getting me in a lot of trouble with the law and eventually landed me in prison.

I missed out on a huge chunk of my children's lives and hurt my loved ones, something fierce, due to the decisions I made.

Upon my release from prison I vowed to never go back to jail again—although I never stopped using. Somehow I was able to scale back a bit and put up a good front for my family and friends. At that time I also started a business that took off like wild fire.

Money was pouring in hand over fist and like any good alcoholic, I gave myself all of the credit. Something was still missing though. I couldn't find it in nice cars, or motorcycles or shiny stuff, or women. Needless to say, my drinking increased again.

In a matter of months I went from drinking for fun, to I had to drink to feel good about myself and have fun. This went on for many years and got worse

and worse. Friends starting dying, my business started failing, my family life was dwindling rapidly. Of course, I never considered the idea that any of this was my fault. I blamed everybody and everything but me. I even started blaming God for my misfortune. I ended up trying church again for a while. And things sort of turned back to normal, but eventually, I went back to my default setting of using and blaming when things weren't going the way I thought they should.

Things started to get so bad, that I literally could not look at myself in the mirror. I felt like my family would be better off without me. I didn't want to live anymore, but I couldn't bring myself to commit suicide. It had been a while since I had prayed and I started praying for God to just take me in my sleep.

That wasn't working and made me mad, so I decided to plan an overdose. I had everything I needed and was set out to die myself in, when one drink into it, something unexplained came over me and I just started crying like a baby.

I went home from the dope house I was at and flushed and poured everything I had down the drains. I remember that night vividly, I didn't sleep a wink and I prayed for hours on end. GOD I NEED YOU!!!! HELP ME!!! The next morning, I did something completely out of my character. I got up and went to an AA meeting at the Grove and spilled my guts and asked for help and got a sponsor right away. I jumped right in. I learned very quickly that I was my problem...not alcohol and drugs or people, places or things. I think for most people, that's a hard pill to swallow. However, for me

it made perfect sense when it was explained to me, alcohol was but a symptom. Oh what a relief.

The next thing that was explained to me was that I needed to come to believe that a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. I was like, "this is easy." "I totally believe in God, check that one off the list". Next was, we made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.

I didn't quite get the, "as we understood Him" part, but "okay, let's do this". I figured everyone knew who God was. The creator of heaven and earth.

Moving forward working the steps and working with others, I found I knew very little about God. Sure I believed in Him, but did I ever fully surrender to Him. Most importantly I learned that there is a huge difference between believing in God and having a personal relationship with Him.

That is what I had been searching for my entire life. It didn't happen overnight, but through an awful lot of ups and downs and ins and outs, I slowly started giving all of it to Him.

My spiritual house started to get in order when I gave Him all of me. When I sit back and think about it, I am absolutely amazed at how much my life has changed since I let God run it, instead of me always trying to be the director.

There are times I catch myself taking it back, but the cool thing is, that I can recognize it quickly and hit my knees, ask for help and give it all right back.

It is in that moment that I can truly know peace and match calamity with serenity.



# Events and Service Notes

## 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).

## 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 Steering Committee also currently has a few open positions available (which can be seen on Page 4 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!

## 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.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

### Fridays in January

Young at Heart

“New Young Peoples Meeting”

The Benjamin House

6:00pm

### Saturday, January 16th

White Elephant gift exchange

The Grove Club

12:00—2:00pm

(Bring a wrapped gift to exchange and/or snacks!).

The Grove Club, Racine, WI

### Saturday, Feb. 6th

RACO Steering Committee Mtg

1st Sat. of every month

Racine Area Central Office

9:30 - 10:30

### Saturday, Feb. 13th

Valentine's Dance

Speaker & Dessert buffet featuring speakers: Eric & Maureen

The Grove Club, Racine, WI

7:00pm

### Saturday, Feb. 28th

Mind, Body & Soul

wellness fair @ The Grove

1:00 - 4:00pm

Know of any upcoming events?

Email [raconewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com)



KEEP  
CALM  
&  
WORK THE  
STEPS



# Help is Everywhere

## District/Club Information

<b>District 17</b>		<b>Racine, Wisconsin</b>
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: <a href="http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/">http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/</a>		
<b>District 7</b>		<b>Kenosha, Wisconsin</b>
Kenosha Alano Club 630 56 <sup>th</sup> St. Kenosha, WI 53140 (262) 654-8246	Outcasts 1310 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. Kenosha, WI 53144	Southport Lighthouse Recovery Club 8017 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha, WI 53143 (262) 653-9800
Kenosha Alano Club Website: <a href="http://kenoshaalanoclub.org">http://kenoshaalanoclub.org</a>		
<b>District 36</b>		Burlington 12 x 12 Club 724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI
<b>West Racine/Kenosha County</b>		
<b>District 6</b>		Walworth County Alano Club 611 E. Walworth St. Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 740-1888
<b>Eastern Walworth County</b>		
<b>District 12</b>		<b>Eastern Lake County, Illinois</b>
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: <a href="http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/">http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/</a>		
Waukegan Hotline: (847) 623-9660		
<b>District 10</b>		Antioch Recovery Club 311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882
<b>Western Lake County</b>		
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 N.
Staffing Coordinator	John B.
Co-Staffing Coordinator	Bruce P.
Newsletter	Kevin B.
Co-Newsletter	Stacy K.
Hotline Chairperson	Mark S.
Co-Hotline Chairperson	Jon K.
Literature Chairperson	Rachel M.
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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