

Monthly Reprieve



Volume 12, Issue 6

June 2016

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

The Benjamin House Celebrates 25 Years!

(The following was written 25 years ago, Author unknown)

RTC/Benjamin House is a no-smoking facility for Alcoholic Anonymous and Al-Anon groups.

Racine Transitional Care, In (RTC) formerly ran two halfway houses for recovering alcoholics. When the organization dissolved in 1990, the search began for the appropriate recipient(s) for its remaining assets. One building was donated as a shelter for battered women, and the other building was sold.

The RTC board decided to use the remaining funds to start the first no-smoking AA meeting facility that they knew of. Beside the fact that other area AA facilities were becoming overcrowded, it was expected that a smoke-free atmosphere would be a welcome feature for many recovering alcoholics and their families.

The search for a building to

house their ideas ended in January of 1992, when they purchased an old schoolhouse at 4848 Highway H in Caledonia, WI. The schoolhouse belonged to the estate of Reverend Benjamin Cosey, and had been known as the Community Baptist Church from 1964-1986. Because of Reverend Cosey's life-long commitment to "being a friend to man", the new AA facility was dubbed the RTC/Benjamin House to honor him.

The former church build was in need of extensive repairs in order to bring to code as a public building. The renovations are ongoing and very expensive. Much volunteer time and effort has gone into readying this facility, and some contributions have been received. Although the building is not yet completed, meetings have begun to take place.

There is a lot of excitement in

the community over the RTC/Benjamin House—a facility that time has come.

It is, and hopefully will continue to be, a comfortable haven where recovering alcoholics and their families can find support and fellowship in a totally smoke-free environment.

Submitted by Deb K

Note: As hoped, the Benjamin House continues to thrive as a meeting place for AA/Al-Anon. Dates to remember are June 26, they will be having their annual membership drive and July 30 will be a "Day in the Country". All are welcome, or plan on attending one of over 25 meetings held weekly.

Sixth Concept

"The Conference recognizes that the chief initiative in most world service matters should be exercised by trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board".



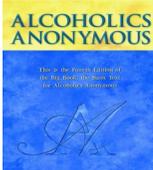
June Focus

Step Six

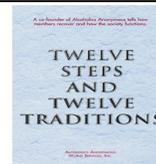
"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character"

Sixth Tradition

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility, lest problems of money, property or prestige divert us from our primary purpose"



Our Stories



The Solution Was Always The Same

By: *Dave N.*

I was 38 years old when I arrived at the doors of AA. The previous twenty-five years of drinking had yielded a cost that was finally too much for me to continue to pay. My drinking, and all the attendant alcoholic thinking and actions that came along with it, had brought me to a place of unimaginable pain, desperation, hopelessness, and an absolute conviction that my life up to that point had amounted to nothing and was spinning into an abyss, a place from which I could not return.

I had spent the morning and early afternoon on the day I quit drinking in a bar on Taylor Ave after getting drunk the previous night and having a fight with my girlfriend, not surprisingly, about my drinking. My girlfriend at the time was in recovery and trying hard to stay sober. She never pushed the whole recovery bit on me, but would leave her Big Book out where it could easily be seen. She went to meetings on a regular basis and worked with other alcoholics when the opportunity presented itself. She struggled from time to time, but never resorted to picking up the booze or the drugs.

One day she was asked by one of the guys I worked with if she could help him with his drinking and she agreed. She told him she would take him to a meeting and introduce him to some other men in AA who could help him. She also gave him a meeting schedule and told him that if he needed a ride to a meeting she would be happy to help him out with that, too. For the next several weeks she would pick my friend up and give him a ride to the meetings, nothing more, and nothing less. My insecurity and insane jealousy convinced

me that her kindness and helpfulness for this other alcoholic was merely a ruse for some other sinister behavior.

Over those few weeks my jealousy boiled and seethed inside me until I could no longer contain it and I confronted her. In a drunken state I had accused her of infidelity and said horrible things about her and my friend. I left the house angry and drunk and went to the bar. When I returned home I confronted her again and asked why she was helping this other guy when she could plainly see that I, her boyfriend, desperately needed help too. The answer I received was simple and straightforward, "Because you didn't ask" Drunk and sobbing I asked for help. Within minutes I was on the phone and talking with another alcoholic. That day I went to my first AA meeting.

I had tried many times in the past to stop drinking on my own, never with any success, and never for more than a day or two, and didn't hold out much hope that this time would fare any differently. I found though, that the longer I stayed around other sober people, not only did I make some good, well intentioned friends, I found that the obsession to drink began to ebb and before long I had strung together a couple of months without a drink. I began to feel better physically and my mind began to clear, a new world was opening up for me and I began to feel hope, an emotion that for many years previous seemed impossible. I went to meetings three times a day, every day, I began to read the literature, I got a sponsor, I began to immerse myself in the AA way of life. There was one aspect of all this that I

questioned, and struggled with; a relationship with God. Don't get me wrong, I prayed, I worked with other alcoholics, I worked the steps, but there was a certain arrogance on my part, in that I came to believe in God, but my dependence on him was superficial at best. Outwardly I thanked and praised him, but inwardly I was taking credit for all the success I was having in AA and my life. There was no true dependence. AA had led me to a God of my understanding, a God that had delivered me from the obsession to drink, and yet my ego and pride refused to allow that power into any other area of my life. I was still running the show, still carrying God around in my back pocket like a "get out of jail free" card. This way of thinking and acting had its price.

Around eight years sober a situation took place in my life that shook me to the core. I found myself feeling profound pain and loss, hopelessness, and a loss of direction, not unlike that I felt when I first stopped drinking. The day came when I found myself seriously considering a drink to ease the pain. I was terrified and felt utterly alone. I fell to my knees and begged God for help with all the sincerity of a dying man and like before he was there. The pain was still there, but the obsession to drink had vanished.

Since that day I have invited God into my life every day. Working the steps and my participation in AA and my life has taken on a whole new dimension as a result. Thank God for AA.



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 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
- ✓ 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.

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.

Special Needs/Accessibility Committee: Contact: Carly R (chair)
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.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Fridays in June

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

Saturday, June 4th

Bingo Night at the Grove Club
8:00pm start. \$1 per card
Bring a snack to share!

June 11th & 25th & July 9

Grove Club Picnic Planning
11:00am @ The Grove Club

Saturday June 25th

Grove Club Bicycle Ride
Come meet w/ Bike at Grove
11:45am

Saturday, July 9th

Grove Club Membership Meeting
Elections at Noon for Secretary,
Activities, and President

Saturday, July 16th

* *Save the Date* *
The Grove Club Picnic
Pritchard Park, Racine, WI

*Know of any upcoming events?
Email raconewsletter@gmail.com*



Help is Everywhere

District/Club Information

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|---|---|--|
| 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 | Soutport Lighthouse Recovery Club 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 | Roxann D. |
| Co-Chairperson | Toni M. |
| 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 | Jason A. |
| 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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