

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 10, Issue 10

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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

Living the Good Life - One Day at a Time

By Christina P.

How many times, in sobriety, have you felt like you were “high on life”? Since I have been sober, this idea of being high on life, has definitely been more frequent. I can’t help but wonder, if it is because I finally have some open, free, space in this convoluted brain of mine to be able to experience something other than distress, worry, and frustration.

It seems like it’s the little things that I get the most enjoyment from. Those things that I never really paid much attention to before seem to be some of my highest moments in my life today. Laughing with friends, and being silly. Singing loud in my car or singing to other people in person or over the phone. Sharing hugs with people, just because, or really squeezing them because they walking through a new or difficult experience sober.

Spending time doing things worth doing, like hanging out with my family, hanging out with friends, spending time with other recovering alcoholics, whether it be at meetings or somewhere outside the club.

Realizing, that today, I get to add to the “stream of life”, as they say in our book. Today, I experience the world with a new perspective that allows me to feel a breeze against my skin, or the light of the sunshine, so bright that I have to close my eyes and feel its warmth. It also allows me to experience people and relationships differently than ever before. I get to try to stand shoulder to shoulder with my fellows now. I get to love others for who they are today. I get to be me and accept myself for who I am today, flaws and all. I feel like it is all coming from a place that has been

rarely accessed before sobriety. The space that was empty before is now being filled with love.

It took me some time to get here, to this new place, this new way of viewing the world around me. In the beginning, I remember someone telling me I was on a pink cloud and they told me to hold onto that feeling, for as long as possible.

That was one suggestion I will never forget, because I wanted to keep that new feeling. I wanted to stay “high” - in a way of living that was pure and full of freedom and excitement. I now try to find ways to get that high on a daily basis. When those “high on life” experiences occur today, I try to remember to live in the moment. Today, instead of drinking poison and breathing in smoke, I drink in moments and breathe in life. Carpe Diem!

Tenth Concept

“Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.”



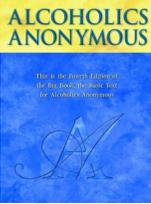
October Focus

Tenth Step

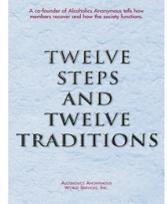
“Continued to take a personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it”

Tenth Tradition

“Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy”



Our Stories



“To have a FELLOWSHIP grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss.”

By Jon K.

Steve H asked me to write a letter for October's Monthly Re-rieve over a month ago, due to Kevin B by Oct 1. The topic - "Fellowship". It is Sunday morning Sept 28 and I am just putting my thoughts together; seventeen years sober and I still cannot seem to overcome that pesky character flaw, procrastination.

I attended Fellowship Day yesterday, at least as much as I could. I was able to go in the morning and listen to a couple of panels and then return later to hear my friend Mark C. share his experience, strength and hope.

Yesterday morning, while asking God to be a part of my life, it dawned on me how important Fellowship day is to me. I reflected on the first year that I attended when it was held at the Caledonia Community Center. I remembered Bob; what a sweet man and I hope he could make it to this one. I remember my sponsor urging me to go and spend the day. I remember being awkward, scared and pissed. I remember Lamar, RIP, and bad hot dogs. I found myself reflecting on others who were there. I remember Doug, Wes, Roxanne, Renee, Theresa, Rick B., Mark C, Darryl M, Danny B. I wonder how those that are no longer active in AA are doing, I pray they are OK. So many faces flashing through my head...Prayer and meditation can

be a real trip sometimes. I am excited to go to Fellowship Day.

I have heard many times in meetings that, "AA will do for us slowly what Alcohol used to do for us quickly."

There is a crest in the road traveling East on Durand Ave at the intersection of Taylor and Durand. I vividly remember an evening about 30 years ago when I was on my way to the Lake Park Saloon to meet some friends. I was filled with excitement and anticipation. My heart was beating a little faster, the radio was cranked, the light has turned red. I couldn't hardly wait to get to the tavern. The excitement seemed to drive me, it was almost overwhelming. I need my ease and comfort. I am excited to go and get drunk.

I am not exactly sure why I have this particular recall, but I do and every time I hit that crest in the road, and the light turns red, I remember it.

My wife's cousin had a 60 year surprise birthday party in Jackson yesterday. During Fellowship day of all days. My understanding wife realized that I did not really want to go to this event. I want to hang out at Fellowship Day, with my friends. Maybe my pouting and carrying on about it swayed her. Another reminder that I am still spiritually sick. We compromised and I was able to attend the surprise, hang out a bit, and then head back to Fellowship day to support my friend. She will

ride home with her sister's family.

I leave Jackson at 5:20 pm to make it to Racine by 6:30. I am alone in my wife's car. I have the radio cranked. I am thinking about how lucky I am to have the friends that I have today. I think for a minute how ridiculous it is that I am leaving a birthday party to hear my friend talk, I have heard his story a thousand times. What is going on here?. I begin to think about the people that I saw in the morning. I am wondering who will be there tonight.

My heart starts to beat a little faster as I exit the freeway. I hope I can make it on time. I am driven by excitement to go to an Alcoholics Anonymous event. I can't hardly wait.

I walk into the room and there they are. My people, my friends, the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. I do not feel awkward, scared or pissed. I am immediately at ease. I have found my ease and comfort.

Yes, Alcoholics Anonymous has done for me slowly what alcohol used to do for me quickly. The fellowship of AA has grown up about me in a way that is only understood by those who have experienced it.

“This is an experience you must not miss.”



Maintaining Peace Amidst the Chaos

By: Carly R.

I was asked recently by a “normy” friend, “how did you learn to find peace in a world filled with chaos.” This is not the first time I’ve been asked something along these lines – and I am sure that many of you reading this may be able to relate with the phenomena of the outside world perceiving the internal changes induced by thorough twelve-step work. The fact is, that prior to AA I was a very angry and (some may say) hostile person. It’s possible that this hasn’t left completely – it’s possible. I’m certainly not calling down to you from the mountaintop, wrapping my monk robes tightly, constantly vibing on some inner peace and hippy-love wavelength. However, there must have been some kind of dramatic change (a psychic change, if you will) in my approach to the world, as it seems to have been noticed by a few bystanders.

Without getting into outside issues, I will divulge only that I was quite the political activist in a former life. I have fought on political campaigns, lost, and spent days in bed afterwards completely broken, completely lost, completely immersed in a sense of injustice and bitterness. I have often taken the outside world very much to heart (a generous understatement, if you will). This is something that I still struggle with. I still seem unable to engage in it (meaning the world of politics) completely. I avoid news programs and leave conversations that feel like brick walls, but I’ve been trying to incorporate this back into my life (current events – not the brick walls). My struggle now is not to be too affected by the world, but to allow a little of the affectedness back into my heart.

I desire to continue feeling this driving momentum to change the world, but to balance this with a heart of acceptance. (Geez – serenity prayer much, eh?) This idea that it is not for me to judge what is right or wrong seems rather revolutionary in the outside world, though it’s something we discuss around the tables ad infinitum. There seems to be quite a bit of badness in this world, but unfortunately (or fortunately or just simply) I am finding more and more that this badness is necessary for our existence on this earth, to live this human experience. We need the big bad (and, yes, the Buffy enthusiasts that happen to be reading the RACO newsletter can go all-a-flutter at the Spike reference). We need to fight against it, we need to grow because of it, we need to learn to live and open ourselves in spite of it – to learn to love in spite of it. We need to learn to open ourselves up to pain, trusting that we are on the path we are supposed to be, having perfectly intended identity shaping experiences through all of it.

Yes – as you may be suspecting – this may have something to do with God. How do I find peace in a world filled with chaos? God, I suppose, would be the shortest answer. Faith is the peace, faith is the comfort amongst the pain, the lesson in the trial, the light at the end of the tunnel. When we say that we apply these principles in all our affairs, does that simply mean that we bring God with us in all of it? In our relationships, at work, on the picket line – everywhere? I think that it might. But, as I am finding more and more, it’s possible that I am wrong. And, somehow, I’ve found some peace even in that.

Excerpts from the Big Book (that could very well save your life)...

- Each day, somewhere in the world, recovery begins when one alcoholic talks with another alcoholic, sharing experience, strength and hope (pg. xxii)
- Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics”. (89)
- My friend suggested what then seemed a novel idea. He said, “why don’t you choose your own conception of God?” (12)
- When I stopped living in the problem and began living in the answer, the problem went away (417)



Events and Service Notes

RACO prepares to move!

BIG NEWS EVERYONE! Racine Area Central Office will be moving in the coming weeks—but not too far! RACO will be relocating to a new space within the Elmwood Plaza complex! The move should happen in early October and we will be downsizing the current store inventory with a huge sale, taking place during Fellowship Day! The move is designed to better serve the Area 75 recovery community with a more practical meeting/store-space for our needs. More details to follow!



Upcoming Events & Activities

Sunday, October 4th
GAME NIGHT
 The Grove Club
 8:30pm

Sunday, October 12th
SERVICE FAIR
 Racine Area Central Office
 12:00-3:00

Saturday, October 18th
ACOUSTIC CAFÉ
 The Grove Club
 8:30pm

Saturday, October 25th
HALLOWEEN DANCE
 The Grove Club
 8:30pm

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

Reprive Mission Statement

The Racine Area Central Office's newsletter, Monthly Reprive, 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 Reprive 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 Reprive 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

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.



Financial Reports

Group Donations

| GROUP | August | YTD | GROUP | August | YTD |
|--|--------|--------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Anonymous Donations | 40.05 | 104.35 | Benj. House Saturday 7am Upstairs | 19.00 | 157.00 |
| In Memory of Ron L. | 715.00 | 715.00 | Benj. House Saturday 6:30pm | 2.00 | 18.00 |
| Other YTD Memorial Donations | | 605.00 | Birthday Club (Laurel S—16 yrs) | | 16.00 |
| From Wendy (7/10/14) | | 20.00 | Birthday Club (Pauline V—26 yrs) | 26.00 | 26.00 |
| From Phyllis (7/22/14) | | 5.25 | Birthday Club (MaryLou K--33 yrs) | 33.00 | 33.00 |
| Alanon - New Beginnings | | 50.00 | Covenant Combined | | 300.00 |
| Alano 7:00am Daily Reflections | 50.00 | 50.00 | Fox River Group - Waterford | | 114.00 |
| Alano 10:00am Sunday | | 50.00 | Grove Sunday 10:00am | | 100.00 |
| 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 | | 20.00 | Grove Saturday 7:00pm | | 60.00 |
| Benj. House - No Meeting Specified | 11.00 | 44.00 | Kenosha Alano (no specifics) | | 7.00 |
| Benjamin House - People, Places & Things | | 10.00 | Kenosha Big Book Study - Monday 4:30pm | 240.00 | 440.00 |
| Benj. House Sunday 8:00am AA/Alanon | 31.50 | 207.00 | Kenosha Grass Roots - Saturday 10:00am | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Sunday Dwnstrs | 36.00 | 161.00 | Kenosha St. Mary's Lutheran Sunday Grp | | 50.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Sunday Newcomers | | 73.00 | Kenosha Thursday Night South Side / BB | | 25.00 |
| Benj. House 10:00am Monday | | 12.00 | Outcasts | | 50.00 |
| Benj. House 6:00pm Monday 12X12 | 24.00 | 126.00 | Paddock Lake 12 Step, Monday 7:00pm | | 72.00 |
| Benj. House 6:00pm Monday Women's | | 3.00 | Paddock Lake Tuesday Came to Believe | | 10.00 |
| Benj. House 7:30pm Monday | 23.00 | 52.00 | Paddock Lake Miracle on 75th, Wednesday | 40.00 | 70.00 |
| Benj. House Tuesday 10:00am | | 78.05 | Pleasant Prairie Good Shepherd 12X12 | | 85.00 |
| Benj. House Tuesday 6:00pm AA/Alanon | | 50.75 | Racine Transitional Care | 50.00 | 400.00 |
| Benj. House Wednesday 6:00pm ISM'S | | 62.00 | RACO Monday 7:30pm New Pair of Glasses | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 10:00am | | 47.00 | RACO Wednesday 7:00pm Big Book | | 25.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 1:00pm AA/Alanon | 10.00 | 40.00 | Salem Big Book Friday 8:00pm United Meth | | 40.00 |
| Benj. House Thursday 6:00pm Big Book | | 57.25 | St. Andrew's Fireside Group | | 30.00 |
| Benj. House Friday 10:00am | | 51.95 | Union Grove Visiting Vets Group 75 | 50.00 | 100.00 |
| Benj. House Friday 7:30pm | | 65.00 | Union Grove United Church of Christ Wed | | 20.00 |
| Benj. House Sat. 7am Cellar Dwellers | | 96.00 | | | |
| | | | DONATION TOTALS | 1,670.55 | 5,978.25 |

Treasurer's Report

| Expenses | August | YTD | Income | August | YTD |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Monthly Rent & Utilities | 1,816.21 | 14,516.67 | All Donations | 1,670.55 | 6,270.45 |
| Misc. Office Expenses | 196.62 | 1,186.44 | All Sales | 1,139.45 | 16,360.75 |
| Literature & Merchandise | 381.87 | 7,428.45 | Rent—Groups | 770.00 | 4,940.00 |
| Quarterly Office Expenses | 25.00 | 1,455.97 | Misc Adjustments | (40.00) | (543.50) |
| EXPENSE TOTALS | 2,419.70 | 24,587.53 | INCOME TOTALS | 3,540.00 | 27,027.70 |
| | | | GAIN / (LOSS) | 1,120.30 | 2,440.17 |

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 | Jon K. |
| Literature Chairperson | Mary 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 | |

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