

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 12, Issue 9

September 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

Moment of Clarity

by: Michelle S.

My moment of clarity came the morning after a day that was just like any other day. It was a Friday night, September 23, 2005 and it was going to be just like every other Friday night (so I thought). I was going to stop at the bar for a couple of drinks; it was Friday so of course that was the plan, what else would anybody do? Little did I know my life was about to change and take on an entire different way of living and meaning.

I had become a daily drinker, limiting my number of drinks as best I could. My home life was in only what I can describe today as DARK. Inside I felt empty. I thought that was the way life was. I tried to control and manipulate everything and everyone. I thought if I could just control and keep everyone around me happy I'd be ok.

Needless to say it was NOT working out well. It seemed that everything was closing in on me. My job was horrible, my kids really had no rules or boundaries set for them.

At the time my 2 sons were 17yrs old and 16yrs old and my daughter was 13yrs old. I was in an awful, sick relationship. I had been married &

divorced twice and engaged in between. I was a liar, a cheater and a thief! At the time I would have told you I was none of those things, that I was a nice person and only wanted everyone to be happy. I was delusional to say the least. Wow, I really thought I had been controlling & managing well...

So that most magnificent night came; I partied like a rock star, got in a domestic altercation, ran around town like a raging lunatic and finally awoke on a small couch! The moment of clarity had come. The voice was clear as it said to me, "what are you doing with your life?" I get chills even now thinking about it. Right then and there I knew something had to change.

I had no idea what though? It took 2 days to physically be able to get out of bed. I called a hotline and was directed to alcoholic's anonymous. I had no idea what they did there or if I was an alcoholic but I went to a meeting anyways. I was very confused. I truly did not think anyone could live a life without alcohol. It seemed unimaginable. But I was told to just keep coming back...

Today I view life very differently. Life situations can be sad, happy, lonely, fulfilling, difficult, easy, joyous, tragic, chaotic and sane; but I don't have to drink over any of it! Life situations still continue to happen, but I am no longer a victim to any of it and I am not the one creating anymore drama. Amazing!

12 steps have changed my life; 12 steps have produced a complete psychic change; 12 steps have taught me that without help life is too much for me. I am always right where I'm supposed to be and so is everyone else. What a relief! I am free! I am never alone today, God is right here, right Now. I don't have to run anywhere; I can just stay. Miracles are all around me, everywhere I look I can see them when I just open my heart and mind and remain available. I pray that I may never forget that moment of clarity...

Ninth Concept

"Service leadership at all levels is indispensable for future functioning and safety. Primary World Service Leadership must necessarily be assumed by its trustees"



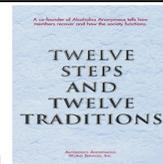
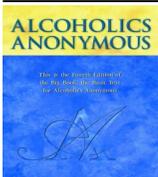
September Focus

Step Nine

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

Ninth Tradition

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



Our Stories

Multiple Infractions

By: Alex A.

Multiple felon, repeat state prison recidivist, insatiable drunken junkie, self-ish thief, inconsiderate hypersensitive liar. These are all very flattering labels I've used for myself, and I know that I'm not the only one. Although I identify with these characteristics, I've learned that these defects aren't what defines me any-more. Based on these ideas, I've also come to learn that there is a big difference between Self-Degradation and Humility.

I came into the rooms of AA armed only with obscured facts about myself, all generally having something to do with being a parasite of the human race. There wasn't much to go on other than admitting that the majority of my adult life had been a series of very poor choices. After a few months in the program, most of the blaming and outward resentment fell away and gave birth to this idea that I was a bad person. Blaming others for my circumstances and resenting them for it became irrational. It was clear after my 5th step that I was the only one to blame.

Next came the recurrent affirmations of me saying to myself that I was *still* a lunatic and that I *am* scum, I *am* nuts, I *am* crazy. This belief was voiced in meetings and fellowship circles ad nauseum. Even after a couple years of sobriety, this notion never left, and there seemed to be something wrong with that. I thought I was supposed to be getting better! One day, I was

sitting in a 1st step meeting with a couple brand new alcoholics and I heard these ideas shared by someone else while they were describing their own flaws. It then occurred to me "*Where is the hope in that?*" I realized then that I had been a self-defeatist operating under the guise of expressing humility.

In sobriety, I do think that being hard on myself was important (I am only speaking from my experience here). It helped me smash all of my old ideas that I had in thinking that I had everything figured out when I clearly didn't even have a clue who I really was. It helped me very much in chipping away at a false ego that I had built up over years of chemical abuse. I thought my inflated ego protected me, and maybe it did, but that ego might've been necessary at the time only because I had invariably placed myself in harm's way every day. But I'm almost 5 years into sobriety now. If I am working or have worked AA's 12 steps, and have found a semblance of spiritual awakening, then



wouldn't it make sense that I have a better sense of self-worth by now?

To say that *I am a bad person* is self-pity and could also be seen as self-resentment. To say that I suffer from the human condition and am prone to mis-takes is a form of humility. I am constantly reminded that I have always done the best I could with what I had. In some instances I've never strived for change.

Consequently, I held on to all of my defects and suffered (and caused suffering) with that choice. For me, I know that if I decide not to include God in building my character and improving my behavior (steps 6 & 7), then I know that I will remain defective. My daily infraction is when I don't acknowledge a Higher Power as part of my day. It happens more often than I care to admit. When God is excluded from my life, then I shouldn't really be surprised when I fall into self-remorse and think of myself to be a jerk or a loser. When God is a part of my daily life then I am capable of making human errors and I remember to pray for the courage to change, ask for wisdom on how to proceed, and feel the comfort of serenity in life's terms. I am not perfect, but I constantly try to shoot for progress with my HP.



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.

RACO Volunteers Needed!!

The Racine Area Central Office has unfortunately had to close its doors during some daytime hours over the past few weeks due to a shortage of volunteers to staff the desk. If you or someone you sponsor has an interest in getting trained to staff the desk and be of service, please call RACO at (262) 554-6611 and we will get you in touch with John B.—RACO's Staffing Coordinator. No one who needs the services of RACO should ever be turned away due to a shortage of volunteers! Be of service to your central office today! :-)

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 at-

tend 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.

Do you know of any upcoming AA events or service opportunities that should be added to the Monthly Reprieve? Just email raconewsletter@gmail.com with event information and we'll add it to next month's newsletter!

Upcoming Events & Activities

Fridays in September

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

Saturday, September 10th

Bingo at the Grove Club
Grove Club, Racine, WI
7:00pm start

Saturday, September 17th

Sock-Hop at the Grove Club
Prize for "Best Dressed"!
8:00pm start

Sunday, October 2nd

Family After Noon Gathering
(Free movie, kids bring blankets to lay on. Free popcorn!)
The Grove Club, Racine, WI
2:30pm start

Saturday, October 22nd

Kids pumpkin carving
The Grove Club, Racine, WI
12-3pm
(Pumpkins provided but please sign-up at Grove Club)

Saturday, October 29th

Halloween Dance at the Grove Club
Prizes for best costumes!
8pm start time

Email raconewsletter@gmail.com to have any AA events added!



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	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
West Racine/Kenosha County		724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI
District 6		Walworth County Alano Club
Eastern Walworth County		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
Western Lake County		311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882
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	VACANT
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	

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