

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 16, Issue 9

September 2020

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

****The Oxford House both men's and women's**
both have openings**

DID YOU KNOW...

Your Racine Area Central Office has numerous Openings on the steering committee. **PLEASE** consider volunteering for one of these positions:co-chairperson, secretary and co-secretary, co-staffing cha' RACO is also in dire need of volunteers for the bookstore for Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.Through volunteers RACO Is able to open, if you expect the bookstore to be open come join the volunteers



Tradition 9

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."



September Focus

Ninth Step Prayer

"I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for your guidance in making indirect amends. Growing in spiritual progress."

Step 9

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

Morning Meditation/Night Reflection

Morning Meditation

On awakening let us think about the 24 hours ahead. We consider our plans for the day. Before we begin, we ask GOD to direct our thinking, especially that it be divorced from self-pity, dishonest or self seeking motives. Under these conditions we can employ our mental faculties with assurance, for after all GOD gave us brains to use. Our thought life will be placed on a much higher plane when our thinking is cleared of wrong motives.

In thinking about our day we may face indecision. We may not be able to determine which course to take. Here we ask GOD for inspiration, an intuitive thought or a decision. We relax and take it easy. We do not struggle. We are often surprised how the right answers will come to us after we have tried this for a while. What used to be the hunch or the occasional inspiration gradually becomes a working part of the mind. Being still inexperienced and having just made conscious contact with GOD, it is not probable that we are going to be inspired at all times. We might pay for this presumption in all sorts of absurd actions and ideas. Nevertheless, we find that our thinking will, as time passes, be more and more on the plane of inspiration. We come to RELY on it.

We usually conclude the period of meditation with a prayer that we be shown through the day what our next step is to be, that we be given whatever we need to take care of such problems. We ask especially for freedom from self-will, and be careful to make no request for ourselves only. We may ask for ourselves, however if others will be helped. We are careful never to pray for our own selfish ends. Many of us have wasted a lot of time doing that and it doesn't work. You can easily see why.

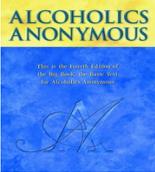
If circumstances warrant, we ask our wives or friends to join us in morning meditation. If we belong to a religious denomination which requires a definite morning devotion, we attend to that also. If not members of religious bodies, we sometimes select and memorize a few set prayers which emphasize the principles we have been discussing. There are many helpful books also. Suggestions about these may be obtained from one's priest, minister, or rabbi. Be quick to see where religious people are right. Make use of what they offer.

As we go through the day we pause, when agitated or doubtful, and ask for the right thought or action. We constantly remind ourselves we are no longer running the show, humbly saying to ourselves many times each day "Thy Will be Done." We are then in much less danger of excitement, fear, anger, worry, self-pity, or foolish decisions. We become much more efficient. We do not tire so easily, for we are not burning up energy foolishly as we did when we were trying to arrange life to suit ourselves.

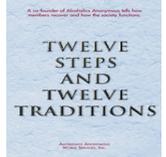
Night Time Reflections

1. Was I resentful?
2. Was I dishonest?
3. Did I promptly admit when I was wrong today?
4. Do I owe an apology?
5. Did I say or do something today out of fear?
6. Have I kept something to myself which should be discussed with another person at once?
7. Did I think today of what I can do for others?
8. Was I kind and loving towards all?
9. Did I reach out to someone in recovery today to see how they were doing?
10. Did I take time to connect with my higher power through prayer and meditation.





Our Stories



Step 8: Making Amends

Step 8

Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

For the Alcoholics Anonymous member, the list usually begins with friends and family that have harmed by a long and tumultuous drinking career. But as recovery continues - and the fog begins to lift - many others are usually added to the list as the process continues.

Like taking most of the 12 steps, this one is not necessarily a one-time event. It is a process that continues to unfold as more is revealed.

Many AA-Anon members, however, are sometimes surprised to learn that the first person on their list is the alcoholic! As they begin to put the focus on themselves in the AA-Anon program and do their own inventory, many discover they owe amends to the alcoholic in their lives if for no other reason, blaming him/her for all the family's problems.

Making the list is one thing. Become willing to actually make amends to those harmed is another. It can be a very humbling, but growing experience, to actually admit wrong-doing, especially to the person harmed. But the process can relieve those trying to recover from so much guilt!

Here are the experiences of some visitors to this site who have worked the 12 steps:

Step 8: Becoming Willing

Step 8 is simply a "list" of people we have harmed. I was told that if I had done my 4th step inventory, that much of this list had been covered.

The second part of the 8th step is to become "willing" to make the amends necessary. I didn't actually have to "do" anything in the way of amends just yet. This perspective relieved a little of the fear I had regarding making the list. I was advised to ask my higher power to guide me through this step as I had all the others.

My sponsor asked me to look at my behavior whether drinking or not. Was I kind, tolerant and considerate of others, or was I mean spirited, impatient and selfish? What were my motives when dealing with family members, friends, co-workers etc. Was I hell-bent on getting only what I wanted and not concerned with what was "right"? Oh, and let's not forget the self-pity that I poured out on those from whom I was sure to extract sympathy.

Upon looking at the 8th step in this light, the list grew by leaps and bounds. I now not only had a list of those whom I had resentments but a list that included those I may have given resentments and caused harm. Promises made but not kept. Telling that "homeless" (surely lazy, drug-addicted alcoholic) to "GET A JOB"! There is no way of knowing exactly how many people I hurt through my insensitivity.

Some of these amends would be direct. Humbling but not impossible. Others through changing my attitude and behavior by not perpetrating the old sick self-serving behavior on friends, family or strangers.

If I work this step to the best of my ability, the promise of living a life free of isolation from my fellow man and God will come to be. My sobriety is "the" priority! I must be willing to go to any length to get it. So far it's working, so I think I'll just keep coming back!

Magic

Step 8: Step Toward Maturity

Making a list of the persons I have harmed is difficult because I would have to admit to being wrong. It's hard for me to be wrong because I have had to work miracles, endure all things and pull things together for so long.

Making a list will help me to examine my behavior and take away the excuses. Just as I have maybe been able to point out all the inappropriate behaviors of others, I have to face my own. That's a great step toward maturity.



Thank You to the Following Groups for Your continued support to Your Central Office!

Barb & Pete Weber
Benjamin House Sun 7 a.m. Upstairs
Benjamin House Mon 6 p.m. 12x12
Benjamin House Thurs 10 a.m.
Benjamin House Stools and Bottles Sun 10 a.m.
Benjamin House Board
Covenant Beginners Meeting Thurs 6:45 p.m.
Covenant By The Book Thurs 5:30 p.m.
Grove Club Sat. 10 a.m.
Kenosha Friday Night Happy Hour #718657
Paypal donations
St. Benedicts Abbey

***Thank You again for all of your continued support.
Teamwork makes the dream work***



Here is the July financial listings for Your Central Office!

Racine Area Central Office Summary of Income/Expense 2020

Income Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Donations-Groups	982.00	1140.70	695.00	693.39	3021.62	674.56	658.11	978.02					8843.40
Office Sales	1356.40	590.05	392.35			270.05	275.15	141.90					3027.90
Charge and Debit Card Sales	149.35	469.70	93.55			212.25	256.00	234.45					1415.30
Rent-Groups	490.00	527.00	534.00			110.00	530.00	452.00					2643.00
Transfer from Savings				1000.00									1000.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gift Certificate Redeemed						9.14							0.00
Gratitude Cans	100.91	43.15	89.85										242.85
Small donation can (office)	9.85	10.80	5.05			16.67	16.85	21.15					84.37
Big donation box (meeting room)													0.00
Larry Pfeiffer Memorial (Gerald Green)			40.00										40.00
Tri County Conference Literature Sales													0.00
WE Energies Refund			327.79										327.79
District 36 Hotline (bill split)						180.00							0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)													180.00
Total Income by Month	3090.51	2781.40	2177.39	1693.39	3021.62	1474.67	1736.11	1827.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17804.61

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1030.00	1254.86	1030.00	1030.00		2060.00	1030.00	1131.75					8566.61
Electric (Heat & Air)	241.62	239.22	233.00	171.10	123.98	70.49	126.67	260.16					1466.24
Telephone - AT & T	132.18	131.07	131.36	131.36	131.08	131.05	131.05	131.25					1050.40
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	141.54	140.93	140.93	141.38		141.38	141.38	138.15					985.69
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint. Supplies	212.96	278.98	808.58		36.68	104.99	62.98						1505.17
Credit Card Fees	13.53	32.47	21.35	12.15	27.75	8.95	14.86	33.37					164.43
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00					80.00
Bank Fees													2845.34
Literature & Merchandise	296.45	817.80	659.10	622.20		90.35	259.44	100.00					236.67
Website			89.00			147.87							269.79
Wisconsin Sales Tax	118.51			138.31			12.97						150.00
State of WI (tax registration 2014 penalty)			150.00										745.00
Liability Insurance				745.00									0.00
Newsletter	120.00	120.00	80.00	313.00			120.00	120.00					873.00
Repair and Maintenance													0.00
Total Expenses Month to Month	2316.79	3025.33	3353.32	3314.50	329.49	2765.08	1909.35	1924.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18936.54

Account Balances
 Checking: \$1,686.41
 Savings: \$2,597.88



Upcoming Events: Submitted Flyers

Hello Fellow Travelers ... We have some exciting updates for you regarding the:

The Unity and Service Conference September 5 and 6, 2020

The conference that is all about how A.A. members have utilized A.A.'s 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts in their lives ... which will include the entire weekend being interpreted for ASL!

**You will need to register to attend, you can
[SIGN UP HERE!](#)**

- We already have 600+ signed up, with a capacity for 1000! (So, if you haven't already registered, you might want to do so soon. I know we often wait till the last minute, but we encourage you not to do that this time).
- We have a change in presenters for our "Traditions in Relationships" workshop – we welcome Alex & Melissa L. from Rochester, NY.
- We are 2 weeks away and counting down ... until we 'zee you in the zoom' room.

We will email you the ID and Password prior to the conference.

This is an A.A. activity of the Love and Service A.A. Group in Pleasant Hill, CA, and any contributions in excess of the prudent reserve will be distributed to A.A. service entities.

Included with a \$25 contribution is a download of the entire audio of the conference; with a \$40 contribution you get the download *and* we will mail you our pin Logo.



Virtual 5th Annual Unity & Service Conference

of Concord, California

"Applying our 12 Traditions & 12 Concepts to Real Life"



Labor Day Weekend - All Times PDT



ASL Interpreted For The Deaf

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

8:45 am

Welcome!
Serenity Prayer & Kickoff

9:00 am

Memoirs of a Judge that Nudged
Rogelio Flores, Santa Barbara, CA
Retired Judge & Past Class A Trustee

Contempt Prior to Investigation?
The 12 Concepts -
"A Spiritual Experience"
Jennifer D., Wilmington, NC

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette Before Each Main Speaker

10:30 am

Service Panels
Panel 1 - **Young People**
Panel 2 - **Bridging the Gap**
Panel 3 - **Corrections (H & I)**
Q&A

Service Panels
Panel 1 - **Public Info & Cooperation with Professionals**
Panel 2 - **Intergroup/Hotline**
Panel 3 - **General Service**
Panel 4 - **Sponsorship**
Q&A

12:00 pm

Break

12:30 pm

Finance & Romance in AA's Digital Age
Jennifer D., Wilmington, NC

Anonymity and Outside Issues: Rights vs. Responsibilities
Roger W., Vine Grove, KY

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette Before Each Main Speaker

2:00 pm

The Three Legacies and Relationships
Chuck & Beth H., Cary, NC
10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette from an Al-Anon Speaker
This 2 Hour and 15-Minute Session Includes a 15-Minute Break at 3 pm Before Concluding at 4:15 pm

Ask It Basket with Speakers
Rogelio, Jennifer, Don, Roger, Chuck & Beth

3:00 pm

Break

Close with Responsibility Statement

4:30 pm

Unity vs. Conformity in the Home Group
Don L., Bellingham, WA

10-Minute Tradition or Concept Vignette to Open

6:00 pm

Close with Responsibility Statement

Online Event!

Space is Limited.....

Pre-Register Today!



Registration Link & Contact Info: Unityandserviceconference.org

925.222.5639

The Unique Conference about A.A. Traditions and Concepts

Are you Interested in hearing people share their experience with A.A.'s Traditions and Concepts?

Navigating this unique time in our History/Present/Future with these 2 great Legacy's.

Register now for the Virtual (Online) Conference **September 5 - 6, 2020 ... Our Fifth year!**

We would *greatly* appreciate your support if you could:

- 1) Get the word out by forwarding this email to those you sponsor or others that might be interested.
- 2) Include the flyer in newsletters, post it on websites, or announce it at meetings you attend. (The flyer can be downloaded from the website: UnityAndServiceConference.org)
- 3) Come and attend the Conference yourself! It's a 'click' away to register.

This is an A.A. activity of the Love and Service A.A. Group in Pleasant Hill, CA, and any contributions in excess of the prudent reserve will be distributed to A.A. service entities.

Again - thank you for your time, support, consideration, and participation.

Sincerely,

The Unity & Service Conference Committee

Services and Service Opportunities

RACO Volunteers Needed!!

We can help fill your volunteer positions by listing them with us

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 Ted V.—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! :-)

Kenosha / Racine Oxford Houses

Are you in early recovery or know someone who is? The Oxford House concept, which emphasizes that "together we can democratically run a clean and sober house" is helpful to gaining the strength and support to achieve longterm sobriety.

With separate houses for both men and women, there are Oxford Houses in both Kenosha as well as Racine—providing the support and accountability to help in early recovery. For more information, or to request an interview, please call (262) 800-3840 or visit www.oxfordhouse.org for a history, vacancies, locations and applications. Let the Oxford House help you or someone you love get a jumpstart into a happy and healthy life of clean and sober living today!

RACO Steering Committee Meetings

The Racine Area Central Office's 'Steering Committee' meets on the first **WEDNESDAY** of every month at RACO (6:30pm). The steering committee invites anyone who may be interested in Area 75 and District 17 events and happenings.

Please note the NEW day/time of the Steering Committee meetings—as they used to be held on Saturday mornings! 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 for information on available positions and position requirements. We look forward to seeing you at the next Committee meeting!

Volunteer Positions

Come join us in the fellowship.

Looking for volunteers to help in the following areas:

People Interested in doing 12 Step Work and working with those "Young in Sobriety"-8pm at 12&12 Club 724 Pine St Burlington

Staffing Volunteers @ RACO- please contact Ted V @262-909-4320



Best Practices For a Digital 7th Tradition

Online meeting spaces make it difficult to “pass the basket.” Some groups have set up digital contribution accounts with services like Venmo, PayPal, Google Pay, etc. to deal with this problem. Now might be a good time to review an essential piece of AA literature, “Self-Support: Where Money and Spirituality Mix.”

Each group is autonomous and might consider taking a group conscience on whether digital contributions are an option, and which platform (or mix of platforms) best suits their groups’ needs.

Why collect 7th Tradition for an online meeting?

Our regular meeting locations still have operating expenses...

Our meetings facilities may rely on our regular rent to help pay their rent, utilities, and employees. Meeting supplies will still be needed when our meetings reopen – coffee, paper products, literature, refreshments. And after an extended closure, we may experience a large influx of people who are motivated to re-join the fellowship in person. Central Office and the General Service Office still have operating expenses such as... Websites – which we may now rely on more than ever!

Phone lines, rent and insurance on office space, Utility and other ongoing expenses Paid Special Workers who deserve our continued support. Their compensation is crucial to their ability to serve us. Our Districts and Areas and H&I still have expenses...

Regular expenses to support the work of committees and events that will take place when the crisis has passed are still there. Web services support for groups expenses for venues for events that have been cancelled may still need to be met, since any income from the event won’t be there to support the pre-payment of reservations, cancellation fees, etc. The expense of re-arranging for venues to reschedule events is very real. Let’s continue to support these folks during the crisis.

Teamwork makes the dream work

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	Southport Lighthouse Recovery Club 8017 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha, WI 53143 (262) 653-9800	
Kenosha Alano Club Website: http://kenoshaalanoclub.org			
District 36		West Racine/Kenosha County	
		Burlington 12 x 12 Club 724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI	
District 6		Eastern Walworth County	
		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		Western Lake County	
		Antioch Recovery Club 311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882	
Antioch Recovery Club: http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/			
Antioch Hotline: (847) 395-5988			

Racine Area Central Office <i>Officers/Steering Committee</i>	
Chairperson	Jon K
Co-Chairperson	Open
Secretary	Open
Co-Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Tom M
Co-Treasurer	Mike S
Staffing Coordinator	Ted V
Co-Staffing Coordinator	Open
Newsletter	Jon L
Co-Newsletter	Chris J
Hotline Chairperson	Jake T
Co-Hotline Chairperson	Chris W
Literature Chairperson	Austin P
Co-Literature Chair	Rachel M
Procurement	Open
Co-Procurement	Eric E.
Webmaster	Dave W
Co-Webmaster	Rebecca B
Advisor	Toni M
Advisor	Roxanne D
Advisor	Pam L
3701 Durand Avenue #225B	
Racine, WI 53403	
(262) 554-6611	
24-Hour Hotline: (262) 554-7788	

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