

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 17, Issue 1

January 2021

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

Happy New Year !!!

A Special THANK YOU to all who have donated using the Gratitude cans.



Tradition 1

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity."



January Focus

First Step Prayer

*"Dear God,
I admit that I am powerless over my alcoholism. I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it. The true meaning of powerlessness."*

Step 1

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable"

Step One

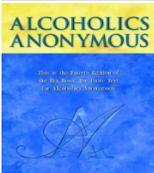
“We admitted we were powerless over alcohol-that our lives had become unmanageable”

If lucky, our journey has taken us to a point of arriving at surrender. For some people, the road they traveled getting to the first step in AA has been more than enough to convince them that unconditional surrender is the only option for recovery.

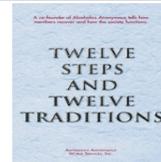
For a lot of people in recovery, walking into a treatment center or an AA meeting the first time is a major part of “working” step one. Your simple and humble act of asking for help is effectively an admission of powerlessness and unmanageability.

Most addicts are filled with guilt, shame, remorse and self-loathing when they come into the rooms of AA. They’ve also gotten used to keeping secrets from pretty much everyone – to open up about the nature and extent of your alcoholic behavior is going completely against the grain. It may even feel unnatural and you probably don’t want to do it. But sharing your experience and the unmanageability lifts the burden of lugging them around in secret. Letting go of your “secrets” frees you up to move forward with a different, better life. For many people, the act of sharing Step One (“I am powerless over alcohol and my life is unmanageable”) in an AA meeting is the true start of Recovery.





Step One



David B.

I had been fired from my job as a food service manager, unable to even remember what had brought about such a calamity. All I knew was that a blackout bender had been involved. The enormity of such a blow to my career didn't sink in until I found out, through an employment agency, that I'd been blackballed in the industry. I learned that I had sent an employee out to purchase a half-gallon of whiskey. I had caused my entire crew of six to become so smashed that our customers had reported us to our superiors. The news spread like wildfire through the upper echelons of our industry, rendering me a laughingstock. I wound up making sandwiches in a coffee shop, a position in which I was unskilled, competing with countermen half my age and twice as adept.

As I bungled my way through each day, my alcoholic anxiety found me shaking badly, unable to concentrate. I was also recognized at the coffee shop by a coworker who I had once supervised. This person knew the details of my previous firing and gleefully spread the word in the coffee shop. Soon, I was again pink-slipped. I was so shattered by the fact that I was unable to hold down the most basic of jobs in food service. I had been fired from more jobs than I cared to remember, every single one the result of drinking, I was in fierce denial about my drinking. My apartment was in shambles, strewn with dirty clothes and broken glass. I was unkempt. I couldn't eat without first settling my stomach with a shot or two. I couldn't hold a pen to write. I was afraid to cross the street because my drinking left me unsteady. I didn't know the day, the date or the year, and would often get lost on the subway. And now that I had been fired again, I felt real fear and uncertainty about my inability to support myself.

I had nowhere to turn and was hitting bottom, though I didn't know that at the time. I can't remember the exact order of my thoughts on that fateful day that I was bounced from the coffee shop. I do remember it was snowing and that I picked up the pay phone receiver in the vestibule of the coffee shop and asked for the number of AA. I recall babbling into the phone, afraid and unsure of what to do next. I really have no idea how I knew to call AA. The person who answered my call helped guide me into the rooms. He became my sponsor and held my hand while I made it over the hump. That was my First Step, my step toward a sober life. Today, 10 years into sobriety, I start each day by taking the First Step again because without it, the only step left for me is my last.

David B.
New York, N.Y

(* Reprinted with permission from January Grapevine)



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

Alano Racine Monday 6pm Coffee Hour
Benjamin House Sunday 10am Stools & Bottles
Benjamin House Board
Beth M
Deb K
Grove Club Wednesday 6:30pm Primary Purpose
Paddock Lake Monday 7pm 12-Step
PayPal Anonymous Donations
Salem Riverwoods Tuesday & Friday 6:30pm
Veterans Outreach

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



NEW BOOK

from A. A. World Services

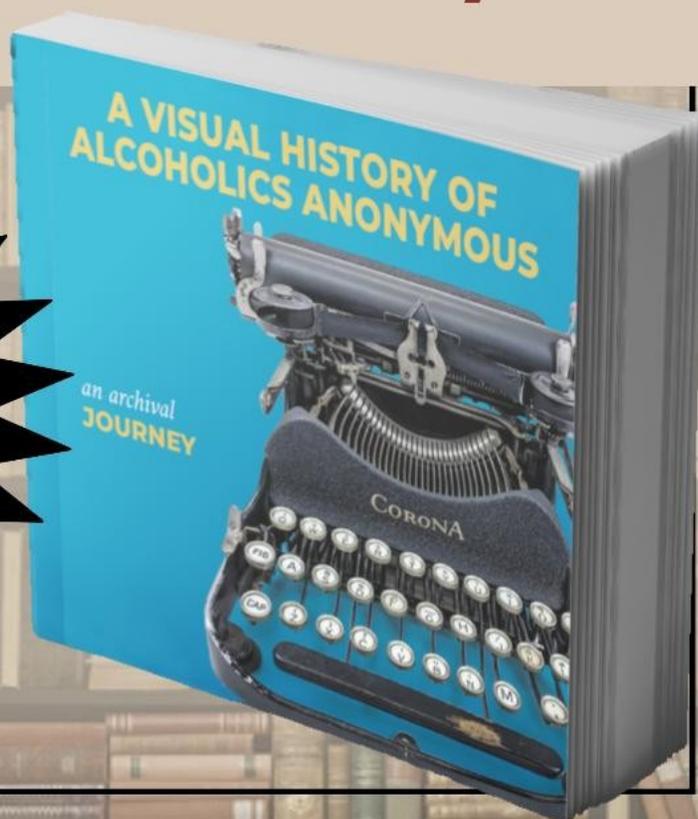
**Stop into RACINE AREA CENTRAL OFFICE
to pre-order before JANUARY 30TH and
SAVE \$1 OFF of your copy today!**

NEW RELEASE FEBRUARY 2021

A Visual History of Alcoholics Anonymous: An Archival Journey

**Take a Visual Walk
through AA History!**

**Originally intended as a
souvenir book for the
2020 International
Conference in Detroit.**



Here are the December 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	656.11	978.02	435.00	1159.72	366.48	869.04	11675.62
Office Sales	1358.40	590.05	392.35			270.05	275.15	141.90	263.40	527.40	667.40	298.05	4784.15
Charge and Debit Card Sales	149.35	469.70	93.55			212.25	256.00	234.45	520.69	328.75	63.10	283.70	2611.54
Rent-Groups	490.00	527.00	534.00			110.00	530.00	462.00	500.00	547.00	565.00	512.00	4767.00
Transfer from Savings				1000.00						500.00			1500.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gift Certificate Redeemed													0.00
Gratitude Cans	100.91	43.15	89.65			9.14							242.85
Small donation can (office)	9.85	10.80	5.05			18.67	18.85	21.15	12.25	24.85	14.11	25.65	161.23
Big donation box (meeting room)													0.00
Larry Pfeiffer Memorial (Gerald Green)			40.00										40.00
Returned check reimbursement													0.00
Tri County Conference Literature Sales													0.00
WE Energies Refund			327.79										327.79
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)						180.00							180.00
Total Income by Month	3090.51	2781.40	2177.39	1693.39	3021.62	1474.67	1738.11	1827.52	1731.34	3087.72	1678.07	1988.44	26290.18

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1030.00	1254.66	1030.00	1030.00		2060.00	1030.00	1131.75	1030.00	1030.00	1152.75	1030.00	12809.36
Electric (Heat & Air)	241.62	239.22	233.00	171.10	123.98	70.49	126.67	260.16	192.45	154.59	136.11	153.07	2102.46
Telephone - AT & T	132.18	131.07	131.36	131.36	131.08	131.05	131.05	131.25	141.27	137.08	139.09	138.40	1606.24
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	141.54	140.93	140.93	141.38		141.38	141.38	138.15	138.15	138.23	138.33	138.33	1538.73
Sam's Club Membership											47.48		47.48
Office & Maint. - Supplies	212.96	278.96	808.58		36.68	104.99	62.98	73.49	19.56	123.26	337.57	31.58	2090.63
Credit Card Fees	13.53	32.47	21.35	12.15	27.75	8.95	14.86	33.37	15.74	21.70	33.88	11.90	247.65
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	120.00
Literature & Merchandise	296.45	817.80	659.10	622.20		90.35	259.44	100.00		322.73	114.01		3282.06
Website			89.00			147.87							236.87
Wisconsin Sales Tax	118.51			138.31			12.97			70.55			340.34
State of WI (tax registration 2014 penalty)			150.00										150.00
Liability Insurance				745.00									745.00
Newsletter													0.00
Returned check penalty									12.00		12.00		24.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00	80.00	313.00			120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	1353.00
Total Expenses Month to Month	2316.79	3025.33	3353.32	3314.50	329.49	2785.08	1909.35	1996.17	1679.17	2128.14	2241.22	1633.28	26693.84

Account Balances
 Checking: \$1612.52
 Savings: \$4,175.94



Services and Service Opportunities

RACO Volunteers Needed!!

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

December RACO Volunteer Report

Number of Scheduled Store Hours: 196

Number of Hours Closed: 13

Number Hours Open: 183

Call RACO at (262) 554-6611 or e-mail us to volunteer and we will get you trained by Ted V.!

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		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		

Racine Area Central Office <i>Officers/Steering Committee</i>	
Chairperson	Jon K
Co-Chairperson	Geoff G
Secretary	Jola B.
Co-Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Tom M
Co-Treasurer	Mike S
Staffing Coordinator	Ted V
Co-Staffing Coordinator	Open
Newsletter	Chris J
Co-Newsletter	Open
Hotline Chairperson	Chris W
Co-Hotline Chairperson	Open
Literature Chairperson	Austin P
Co-Literature Chair	Rachael M
Procurement	Open
Co-Procurement	Open
Webmaster	Dave W
Co-Webmaster	Rebecca B
Advisor	Toni M
Advisor	Pam L
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

Your Racine Area Central Office has numerous openings on the steering committee. Please put Wednesday, February 3rd, 6:30pm on your calendar and attend the next Steering Committee meeting at the RACO office, 3701 Durand Avenue, Racine, 53405.

Please note that Western Union money grams are no longer accepted by our bank. Thanks to all who have used this method in the past and thank you for understanding and using a different means of donating.

Your story could be what the next recovering alcoholic needs to hear! Please submit your personal story of strength, hope & faith for publication in one of our newsletters!

If interested in getting on the 12th step hotline phone list or to volunteer, please go to the website or click the following link:

<https://racinecentraloffice.org/24-hour-hotline/>

If you know of someone who would like to receive a monthly e-version of the Reprieve, please e-mail request to RACONewsletter@gmail.com

<https://racinecentraloffice.org/>