

# Monthly Reprieve

Volume 17, Issue 3

March 2021

## 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

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



### Tradition 3

*"The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking."*



### March Focus

#### Third Step Prayer

*"God, I offer myself to Thee-to build with me as Thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of Thy power, Thy love and Thy way of life. May I do Thy will always!"*

*Alcoholics Anonymous pg 63*

### Step 3

*"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand him."*

## Step Three

Some alcoholics initially have a hard time with this step because of conflicting feelings about religion or because they do not believe in God. However, this step isn't meant to be a religious obligation; it's meant to help alcoholics rely on something other than themselves to help them abstain from drinking alcohol. There are several ways recovering alcoholics can use this step to make changes in their lives.

### ***Begin distinguishing between what is in their control and what isn't.***

Alcoholics often cover up feelings of being out of control by attempting to control everything in their lives, including their own drinking. Some alcoholics drink to forget that other painful things in their lives are beyond their control. One way these alcoholics can use Step 3 is to ask themselves if they have control over something that is upsetting them. Learning to let go of things that are beyond their control may help some alcoholics reduce the desire to drink.

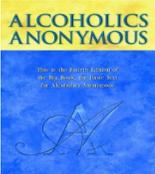
### ***Cultivate a positive attitude.***

The feelings behind alcohol addiction are usually painful; often, alcoholics feel they can't deal with pain, anger or frustration and drink to relieve themselves of these feelings. By learning to turn over these feelings to some sort of higher power, alcoholics may begin feeling more capable of dealing with life's challenges, which can help alleviate the compulsion to drink.

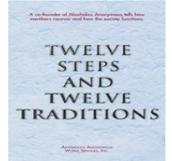
### ***Being more open to guidance.***

Many alcoholics find it difficult to accept help because of their need for control. Alcoholics sometimes spend energy resisting therapists or counselors' suggestions instead of making changes in their lives. Step 3 suggests that the alcoholic should instead be open to help from whatever source it comes because whatever higher power (including the alcoholic's best vision of himself) the alcoholic is working with might be directing the alcoholic towards better behavior.





# Step Three



**Jon K.**

I had been drinking and using drugs since I was 14 years old. At 33, I checked into treatment in an attempt to save my marriage. The 3-4 years prior to that I was in a state of total drunkenness. I was in a haze, pretty much, 24/7.

Treatment introduced me to AA but it didn't take. I was drunk the day after they let me out. I needed to take the edge off. I would go to meetings and stop on the way home just for a couple quick shots. I couldn't let go. My wife was hopeful that maybe, just maybe, I would straighten out. She was exhausted, my young son was an emotional wreck. Somehow, I could hold it together for a month or so but the day would come where I couldn't control it and I was off to the races. My wife has had it, she is done with me.

I have awakened from my last drunk, holed up at the Bluebird Motel. It is a shady and dark place, there is a stainless-steel mirror and the shower head has a constant drip. Fitting for where I have ended up. I am left with just me, there is nowhere to go and nowhere to hide. I have only a few dollars in my wallet and don't really know what to do.

Everything is destroyed. I am not welcomed anywhere and my family is done with me. I am unlovable, filled with hate and rage and have reached a point of loneliness that I believe only an Alcoholic can understand. (The lowest of lows and I hope that I never experience it again.)

I call home and ask if I can come and get some clothes. I am filthy, smelly and extremely hungover. Then something happens. I show up to the house and my mom and dad and my wife are there. I wasn't expecting that and was immediately enraged but my mom intervened. She said: "before you leave, can we please just hold hands and say a prayer?" And we did. I have absolutely no idea what she said but as I left my house, for what I thought would be forever, I felt different.

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(Jon K.'s story continued)

So I made my first of many calls from a payphone. I did not call AA, I didn't want to go there, I didn't like what they had to say. I instead called the minister of the little church that my wife and son had been attending. He agreed to meet me at a greasy spoon for lunch. I didn't really know this man and on my way there I was second guessing whether I was going to even go, but something steered me to that little restaurant. This man saved my life with his honesty and his time. He asked me what I wanted, and I told him "I'm an addict and alcoholic, I can't stop. I can't get ahead of it, I don't know, . "maybe you can teach me how to pray or something"

This is where my life began to change. He told me: "Well, I can do that, and I can certainly pray for you, but let me tell you a story". When he was an associate pastor at a very large church in Minneapolis, it was his job to minister to the members of the congregation that were hospitalized. While doing this he met a man who was dying from numerous complications from chronic alcoholism. On his death bed the pastor asked him if he had any last words or any unresolved issues to talk about. This guy tells the pastor that he only had 1 regret, he wished he would have given AA a real chance. That they knew what they were talking about.

That pastor turned to me, looked me square in the eye and said point blank. "You don't need me, you need Alcoholics Anonymous. I will pray for you and I hope you stay in touch. Go do what they tell you to do."

So I show up to Alcoholics Anonymous, beaten, hopeless and scared.

The land of riddles and codes, I don't understand any of it. Charlie Brown squawking, foreign language double talk. I get a sponsor and we begin the process. I don't even like the guy. He asks me what my beliefs are. Where do I stand on the whole "god" idea? I remember going into a dialogue where he let me ramble for a few minutes and then he told me to stop. He then told me that he really didn't care and that AA doesn't care. He began to share the process of the spiritual program of recovery. He outlined that AA's twelve steps are designed for us to collectively find a power that will solve our problem. Together, we stay sober a day at a time and continually look for that solution, that power outside of ourselves. A God "as we understood him" He went on to share that all I need is enough willingness to take the spiritual actions of the program. If done, without drinking in between, I would inevitably find this power.

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(Jon K.'s story continued)

I have come to experience this power, this spiritual higher power, in the working of the twelve steps. My will and life....my thoughts and actions.... I turn over to the collective experience of the sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous. I ask God to be a part of my life and I do what AA tells me to do. It is really that simple.

The problem is, and always will be me. I am plagued with selfishness, self-centeredness - it is without question the root of all of my problems. I still often lack the ability to see where I am being selfish. Better yet, sometimes I just want what I want when I want it.

The solution is always the same. All that is required is willingness. Am I willing to be completely transparent? to seek out different ideas?. To share the plan? ALWAYS?, I haven't met one of us yet that can honestly give a resounding yes to that question. I have, however, been surrounded by an army of like-minded people who are operating under the overall spiritual principals of Alcoholics Anonymous

The simple truth is that there is no way of perfecting step 3, but to continually practice it is 100% achievable. For example, if I am confused or stressed over something, anything, I can hit my knees and say the third step prayer and sit back and hope for all the pieces to fall into place. Or, I can do that and then follow it up with total transparency with the collective power in AA and actually get some direction.

For me it all goes back to that minister, a man of God, and his ability to be truthful. Without knowing it he actually completely defined the third step. I need to give my all to the AA program. As an alcoholic, I need Alcoholics Anonymous. I need to turn my life over to our spiritual program...."the power, God as we understood him". So, I practice. I ask God to be a part of my day and stay active in the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, all of it, 12 steps, 12 traditions and 12 concepts. Through the practice I get to see where my selfishness, self-centeredness has crept back in and where improvement is needed. It is truly an amazing way to live and most importantly, I am sober one more whole day without a drink.

It works, it really does.

Love and service,

Jon K

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

Barb W.

Benjamin House Sunday 7am Upstairs  
Benjamin House Sunday 10am Stools & Bottles  
Benjamin House Monday 6pm 12&12  
Benjamin House Board  
Burlington Sunday 10am 12&12  
Burlington Cathe Ctr Thursday 6pm Women  
District 7  
Kenosha Friday Night Happy Hour  
Sunday 10am Newcomers Group  
Veterans Outreach



*Here are the February financial listings for Your Central Office!*

Racine Area Central Office Summary of Income/Expense 2021

<b>Income Summary:</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Donations-Groups	859.21	854.32											1713.53
Office Sales	818.55	214.65											1031.20
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70											382.45
Rent-Groups	380.00	450.00											830.00
Transfer from Savings	500.00												500.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gift Certificate Redeemed													0.00
Gratitude Cans	512.96												512.96
Small donation can (office)	19.40												19.40
Big donation box (meeting room)	8.01												8.01
Tri County Conference Literature Sales													0.00
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
<b>Total Income by Month</b>	<b>3244.88</b>	<b>1752.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4997.55</b>									

<b>Expense Summary:</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1096.30	1025.18											2121.48
Electric (Heat & Air)	216.21	207.48											423.69
Telephone - AT & T	138.40	141.62											280.02
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	138.33	139.10											277.43
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint., Supplies	76.48												76.48
Credit Card Fees	16.38	32.38											48.76
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00											20.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70												1122.70
Website													0.00
Wisconsin Sales Tax		93.26											93.26
State of WI (tax registration 2014 penalty)													0.00
Liability Insurance													0.00
Returned check (Moneygram) fee		12.00											12.00
Newsletter													0.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00											240.00
<b>Total Expenses Month to Month</b>	<b>2934.80</b>	<b>1761.02</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4715.82</b>									

Account Balances  
 Checking: \$2,524.43  
 Savings: \$3,676.06



**A.A. RESOURCES LOCATED IN AREA 75 - SOUTHERN WISCONSIN**

The following are the telephone numbers and addresses of the four local central offices and one intergroup located in southern Wisconsin.

**Madison Area Intergroup Central Office (MAICO)**

2000 Engel St, Suite 104  
Madison, WI 53713  
(608) 222-8989  
Fax: (608) 663-9097  
E-mail us at [info@aamadisonwi.org](mailto:info@aamadisonwi.org)  
Website: <http://www.aamadisonwi.org/>

**Racine Area Central Office (RACO)**

3701 Durand Avenue, #225 LL-B  
Racine WI 53045  
(262) 554-6611  
E-mail: [racostaff@racinecentraloffice.org](mailto:racostaff@racinecentraloffice.org)  
Website: <http://www.racinecentraloffice.org>

**Winnebago land Central Office - Fond du Lac**

P.O. Box 572  
280 North Main Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-0572  
(920) 922-7512  
E-mail us at [winnebagolandco@gmail.com](mailto:winnebagolandco@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://www.fonddulacaa.org/>

**Milwaukee Central Office**

7429 W. Greenfield Avenue  
West Allis, WI 53214  
(414) 771-9119  
Website: <http://www.aamilwaukee.com>

**LaCrosse Intergroup**

Box 1212  
LaCrosse, WI  
(800) 886-0695



# Services and Service Opportunities

**RACO Volunteers Needed!!**

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

## **February RACO Volunteer Report**

Number of Scheduled Store Hours: 180

Number of Hours Closed: 8

Number Hours Open: 172

**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](http://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](mailto: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

<b>District 17</b>		<b>Racine, Wisconsin</b>
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: <a href="http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/">http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/</a>		
<b>District 7</b>		<b>Kenosha, Wisconsin</b>
Kenosha Alano Club 630 56 <sup>th</sup> St. Kenosha, WI 53140 (262) 654-8246	Outcasts 1310 63 <sup>rd</sup> St. Kenosha, WI 53144	Southport Lighthouse Recovery Club 8017 Sheridan Rd. Kenosha, WI 53143 (262) 653-9800
Kenosha Alano Club Website: <a href="http://kenoshaalanoclub.org">http://kenoshaalanoclub.org</a>		
<b>District 36</b>		<b>Burlington 12 x 12 Club</b>
<b>West Racine/Kenosha County</b>		724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI
<b>District 6</b>		<b>Walworth County Alano Club</b>
<b>Eastern Walworth County</b>		611 E. Walworth St. Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 740-1888
<b>District 12</b>		<b>Eastern Lake County, Illinois</b>
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: <a href="http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/">http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/</a>		
Waukegan Hotline: (847) 623-9660		
<b>District 10</b>		<b>Antioch Recovery Club</b>
<b>Western Lake County</b>		311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882
Antioch Recovery Club: <a href="http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/">http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/</a>		
Antioch Hotline: (847) 395-5988		

<b>Racine Area Central Office</b> <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](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com)**

***Your Racine Area Central Office has numerous openings on the steering committee. Please put Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:RACONewsletter@gmail.com)***

***<https://racinecentraloffice.org/>***