

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 17, Issue 4

April 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 4

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole."



April Focus

Fourth Step Prayer

"Dear God, it is I who have made my life a mess. I have done it, but I cannot undo it. My mistakes are mine, and I will bring a searching and fearless moral inventory. I will write down my wrongs, but I will also include that which is good. I pray for the strength to complete the task."

Step 4

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

Step Four

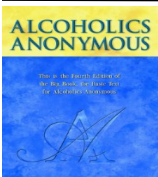
Alcoholics Anonymous step 4 requires a clear and frank understanding of one's self. Through the process of discovering the true nature of personal character, you learn to understand and identify the weaknesses that may have helped contribute to alcoholism. This also leads you to understand personal strengths that may compensate for the weaknesses and focus on those areas that need the most support in order to continue the 12-step program. This step in the process provides a foundation for future steps.

The fourth step of Alcoholics Anonymous requires a very careful personal inventory of character assets. You must make a list of those areas that affect your life and account for the various decisions that have led you to this stage in your life. Many groups provide members with workbooks that include lists of adjectives to assist with the classification process. **It is very important that these discoveries are written down, as writing them creates a concrete form and helps solidify the concepts involved in the mind of the alcoholic.**

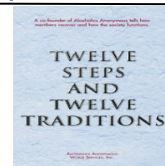
Mental barriers and a lack of personal responsibility can cause major challenges at this stage. **Many of us have spent a long amount of time justifying our behavior and must focus extremely hard on being completely honest with themselves to gain the benefits of step 4.** Time requirements and writing ability may also hamper you. Time requirements may be overcome by devoting a small amount of time each day to the completion of the step 4 worksheet or by rearranging personal schedules to allow a single day or few hours to complete the process in a single attempt. Time spent leading up to this attempt should focus on identifying factors in daily life that may indicate personal character strengths or weaknesses. Writing ability may be removed as a factor by using a computer typing program or asking a friend to assist with taking dictation. If you are unable to confide in a friend, a neutral party such as an AA sponsor or other community member can assist as well.

The information gathered in the fourth step of Alcoholics Anonymous allows you to gain greater insight from the next steps. This information provides a frank assessment of strengths and weaknesses, allowing a sufferer to know exactly which areas should be addressed by the subsequent parts of the entire 12-step process. Through this process, you learn to identify shortcomings and will use these as a list of appeals to a higher power in future steps. The insight gathered here can also be shared in meetings and discussed openly with other recovering alcoholics.





Step Four



Anonymous

“Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.”

Looking back, I find I have always known right from wrong. In my drinking, I used numbness to distort my thinking that what I was doing was right and not wrong. In my thinking wrong was right, which meant I was never wrong, because I was the victim here. When I came to Alcoholics Anonymous my powerlessness was clear.

In steps one through three, I came to believe I was the problem and no longer controlled my life. In Step three God was always there, so I stopped fighting and gave my will and life to God as I understood him. I found I was broken and needed help to continue the steps, which meant I was going to need a sponsor. I started step four with a clear path of what to do. The big book helped and with the guidance of my sponsor I found my part in my actions, and responsibilities of the past.

In writing the 4th step, I saw that the people I hated, were the people I have harmed the most. I found my part of the wreckage, I called my past. I started to see the true right and wrong and started to want to change the way I was presently living. My sponsor walked me through this process piece by piece. Writing and talking, and then writing more.

This was my first look into my maladjustment to the world. Looking in the big book and the way the book talked of the business inventory, I had a clear picture in my head of what to write. At first, I started writing about stealing cookies at four. I then started writing about pain and hurt, and then I started to see my part in the difficulties of my thinking. Lastly, I wrote of praying and thinking of others. This is when my sponsor suggested doing the next step.

Anonymous writer 2015 Quote “don't look at what I have done, but what I have done with it”



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

Benjamin House Sun 10a Stools & Bottles
Benjamin House Mon 6p 12&12
Benjamin House Sat 7a Sunshine (upstairs)
Benjamin House Board
Birthday Club
Burlington Fri 9:30a Big Book
Burlington Sat Women's Group
Burlington Sun 10a 12&12
District 17
Paddock Lake Mon 7p 12-step
PayPal Anonymous Donations
Veterans Outreach



Racine Area Central Office Summary of Income/Expense 2021

Income Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Donations-Groups	859.21	854.32	918.51										2632.04
Office Sales	816.55	214.85	501.65										1533.05
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70	505.95										888.40
Perk-Groups	390.00	450.00	360.00										1199.00
Transfer from Savings	500.00												500.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Floor donations			1285.00										1285.00
Gift Certificate Redeemed													0.00
Graduate Cars	512.96		46.45										559.41
Small donation cart (office)	19.40		67.25										86.65
Big donation box (meeting room)	8.31												8.31
Tri County Conference Literature Sales													0.00
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)			90.00										90.00
Total Income by Month	3244.88	1752.87	3754.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6751.76

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1098.33	1025.19	1030.30										3153.82
Electric (Heat & A/C)	219.21	207.48	154.38										579.07
Telephone - AT & T	138.43	141.82	140.83										421.08
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	138.33	138.13	138.10										414.56
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint. Supplies	79.48												79.48
Credit Card Fees	18.38	32.38	14.73										65.49
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00										30.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70	266.43	577.22										1966.35
Website													0.00
Wisconsin Sales Tax		93.28											93.28
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	120.00										360.00
Total Expenses Month to Month	2934.85	2050.42	2166.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7171.28

Account Balances
 Checking: \$3,467.88
 Savings: \$3,676.12



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
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
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
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

Club Events

Racine Alano Club

Monday, May 31st Memorial Day picnic 12p – 4p

Alano Club 1140 Douglas Avenue

Meat, chips & condiments provided, please bring your favorite dish

Or dessert to share

Suggested donation \$5

Saturday, August 14th Annual Summer Picnic 12p - 5p

Pritchard Park (Large pavilion)

Meat, chips & condiments provided, please bring your favorite dish

Or dessert to share

Speaker at 2p

Grove Club

Saturday, July 17th Annual Summer Picnic 11am

Pritchard Park (Large Pavilion)

Services and Service Opportunities

RACO Volunteers Needed!!

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

March RACO Volunteer Report

Number of Scheduled Store Hours: 204

Number of Hours Closed: 4

Number Hours Open: 200

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 Bookstore

The Racine Area Central Office's bookstore has all of your recovery literature needs (some Spanish versions available). Bookstore is open during normal office hours and debit/credit cards are accepted. Stop in today for your or your groups' literature needs!

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	Open
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, May 5th 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/>