

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 17, Issue 5

May 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 5

"Each group has but one primary purpose – to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers."



May Focus

Fifth Step Prayer

"Higher Power, My inventory has shown me who I am, yet I ask for Your help in admitting my wrongs to another person and to You. Assure me, and be with me, in this Step, for without this Step I cannot progress in my recovery. With your help, I can do this, and I do it."

Step 5

"Admitted to God, to ourselves and another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

Step Five

Alcoholic Anonymous step five is often called “Confession.” In this step we “admit to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrong.” This step follows a written inventory of our wrongs and it is critical to share this as soon as possible. AA’s twelve step program is built on a foundation of spiritual principals, including surrender, willingness, courage, trust and honesty. Step five strengthens this foundation and reaffirms your commitment to recovery.

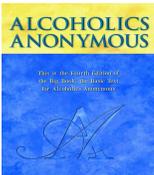
Fear is a natural reaction to confession. Although you may want recovery desperately, confronting the nature of your wrongs and admitting long-held secrets to God and to another human being may be terrifying. If you allow these feelings to stop your progress at step five, you stop moving forward in your recovery and the disease of alcohol addiction will take over once more. Alcoholics Anonymous Step Four has prepared you for step five, and by finding the courage to overcome that fear of rejection or the shame of your confession, you experience honesty on a deeper level than in your first step of admission, and you break the pattern of denial that often plagues those suffering with alcoholism.

Step 5 requires not only that we admit to ourselves the exact nature of our wrongs, but that we embark on an honest self-evaluation of our faults. This part of the fifth step helps to remove your egoism and helps to minimize your fear. This enables you to work on your remaining confessions to God and another human being with honesty, openness and courage.

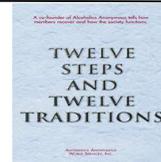
In the third step of AA’s recovery process, you ask a power greater than yourself for honesty, courage and willingness to work on each step of your recovery. The admission of your exact wrongs in the fifth step is part of the spiritual awakening that is the basis of AA’s Twelve Steps. Your willingness to approach God or your Higher Power honestly is critical to your recovery. Building a positive relationship with your Higher Power also carries into your relationships with others and this is essential to recovery.

An alcoholic is rarely able to break the cycle of addiction without help. Part of recovering from alcohol addiction is building your self-esteem so that you realize what you have to share is worth listening to, and that you are worthy of forgiveness and respect. The person you select to share your fifth step confession with should be someone who understands the process of recovery and someone who wants to help you get through it. For this reason many choose to complete step five with a sponsor, or someone from within your AA group who will understand the process of recover and who will be compassionate and respectful of your desire not to share your confidences with anyone else. A sponsor will also help you maintain perspective as to the exact nature of the wrongs you are confessing and will not allow you to slip into denial by blaming others for what you’ve shared.





Step Five



Anonymous

The fifth step of Alcoholics Anonymous as written states:
 “Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.”

When I read this for the first time I thought to myself, boy am I screwed! For one, I thought God had long abandoned me as I had done him and there was no way he was willing to listen to me again! And second, I was horrified at the prospect of telling anyone of the horrid things I had done through the many years of my use.

So how was I going to get through this step? I almost threw in the towel right there and then but I remembered something I once heard when I was young. An old neighbor said to me when I got caught stealing a candy bar “doing the right thing ain’t ever easy but its a hell of a lot easier than the alternatives.” So I got down on my knees before bed and just said “God, I hope you’re listening” and let it all fly. An hour and a half later as I finally stood up I can’t say I felt much better but at least that part was done. The next thing was telling it all to my sponsor, a guy I much wanted to like and accept me. Would he like me after I told him all of this? I was about to find out.

We ended up sitting in his back yard around his fire pit and with fear and trepidation I prepared myself for the worst. It was then the miraculous happened. He said “before we begin with your step, I’m gonna share mine with you!” And he began to tell me of all his wrongs.

As he went on I began to relax and listen and find that he had done some if not most of or close to the things I had and I didn’t feel so alone in my sins anymore!

That day we bonded in a way I never thought possible and for the first time since walking through the doors of Alcoholic Anonymous felt a sense of hope of recovery!

Thank God for that man, this program and a forgiving God of my understanding because they saved my life. Don’t let fear walk you back out to more misery and I wish you all another 24 and the peace I found after the fifth step!



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 (up)
Benjamin House Board
Burlington 12x12 Speak as the Spirit Moves You
Grove Club Mon 4:30p
Grove Club Mon 6p Women's Group
Anonymous PayPal Donations
Twin Lakes Step Study
Wind Lake Thursday night
Veterans Outreach



Here are the April financial listings for Your Central Office!

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	426.78									3058.80
Office Sales	816.55	214.65	501.85	854.45									2387.30
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70	505.35	167.80									1055.40
Rent-Groups	380.00	450.00	380.00	530.00									1720.00
Transfer from Savings	500.00												500.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Floor donations			1265.00	20.00									1285.00
Pepsi soda machine refund				37.84									37.84
Gratitude Cans	512.96		46.45										559.41
Small donation can (office)	19.40		67.25	27.94									114.59
Big donation box (meeting room)	8.01												8.01
Tri County Conference Literature Sales													0.00
District 38 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)			90.00										90.00
Total Income by Month	3244.88	1752.67	3754.21	2064.59	0.00	10816.35							

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1096.30	1025.18	1030.00	1030.00									4181.48
Electric (Heat & Air)	216.21	207.48	154.38	141.00									719.07
Telephone - AT & T	138.40	141.62	140.63	140.63									561.28
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	136.33	139.10	139.10	139.10									555.63
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint., Supplies	76.48			927.00									1003.48
Credit Card Fees	16.38	32.38	14.73	20.58									84.05
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00									40.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70	269.40	577.22	767.44									2756.76
Website													0.00
Wisconsin Sales Tax		93.26											93.26
Liability Insurance				799.00									799.00
Returned check (Moneygram) fee		12.00											12.00
Newsletter													0.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00	120.00	702.15									1062.15
Total Expenses Month to Month	2934.80	2050.42	2186.06	4695.86	0.00	11868.16							

Account Balances

Checking: \$1,041.45

Savings: \$3,676.18

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

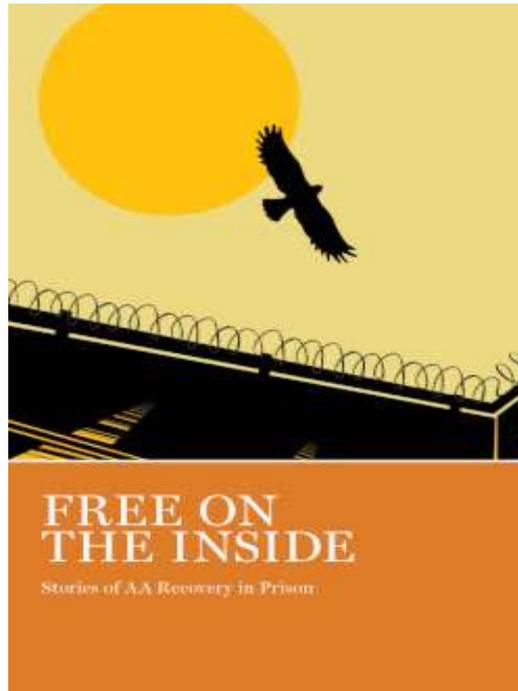
7429 W. Greenfield Avenue
West Allis, WI 53214
(414) 771-9119
Website: <http://www.aamilwaukee.com>

LaCrosse Intergroup

Box 1212
LaCrosse, WI
(800) 886-0695

ANNOUNCING A NEW BOOK FROM GRAPEVINE!

FREE ON THE INSIDE Just published!



Free on the Inside features 50+ powerful stories by sober members of Alcoholics Anonymous who have experienced AA in prison—while either currently serving, formerly incarcerated, or as outside AA members carrying the message inside.

Carrying the message of recovery into institutions has long been a critically important aspect of service in AA. Chapters include: finding AA in prison, staying sober inside, women helping one another, working the Twelve Steps, sponsorship and carrying the AA message into prisons.

Free on the Inside is a great resource for alcoholics looking for recovery in prison and for those who want to help them.

To order for only \$11.50, simply click here now.

<https://store.aagrapevine.org/free-on-the-inside?PK=M14PAG3>

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)

**District 36
Area 75
Map**

AA Workshop

**May 22, 2021
11 AM - 2 PM**

Join District 36

Riverwood Community Church
6919 McHenry Street
Burlington, WI 53105

- ❑ **Door Prizes: 1 Year subscription to the Grapevine, AA Comes to Age, and Individual Grapevine**
 - ❑ **Panel Discussion - AA Group**
 - ❑ **Skit - We are not a glum lot**
 - ❑ **GSR Information Work Session**
 - ❑ **Lunch will be provided**



Join us via Zoom:
Zoom ID: 473-495-369
Password: 994797



??Questions??
Email: publicinformation36@gmail.com
Phone: 262-672-0219

Services and Service Opportunities

RACO Volunteers Needed!!

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

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, June 2nd 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/>