

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 17, Issue 7

July 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 7

"Every AA group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."



July Focus

Seventh Step Prayer

"My creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad. I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows. Grant me strength, as I go out from here, to do your bidding."

Step 7

"Humbly ask him to remove my shortcomings."

Step Seven

“Pride and arrogance are the exact things keeping many of us sick for far too long!”

The spiritual principle linked to Step 7 is humility. Humility is defined as a freedom from pride or arrogance: the quality or state of being humble. By definition, humility is the very thing many alcoholics and addicts have been missing throughout the entirety of their addiction.

We practice humility throughout the steps. First, by admitting our powerlessness over the drink, handing our will over to a Power greater than ourselves, looking deeply into our past and understanding our part in the resentments we held so close and sharing these indiscretions with another. All of these are important pre-cursors to our biggest test in humility – asking our Higher Power to remove these defects of character revealed to us through diligent work.

For many of us, this can be difficult. These traits are the very essence of who we are up to this point in our lives. However, if we are willing to move forward with trusting our Higher Power, we are promised that we will lose interest in selfish things and gain an interest in more healthy outlets. This promise furthers the idea we will become free from the bondage of self, allowing us to focus our efforts on others and creating a better life for everyone involved.

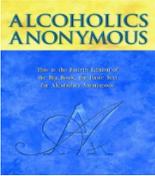
We must understand as we take this step, all of our character defects will not miraculously disappear overnight; however, we are making the conscious decision to humble ourselves to our Higher Power and ask for guidance in becoming the person we would like to be. As we travel through sobriety, Step 7 is one we might need to revisit as new defects of character appear, or old ones resurface. Whatever the case may be, we must continue to practice humility by asking our Higher Power for help and guidance.

If we find we have done Step 7 thoroughly and are willing to allow our Higher Power to aid us in removing our character defects, the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous gives us a prayer we can use:

*“My Creator, I am now willing that you should have all of me, good and bad.
I pray that you now remove from me every single defect of character
which stands in the way of my usefulness to you and my fellows.
Grant me strength, as I go out from here to do your bidding.”*

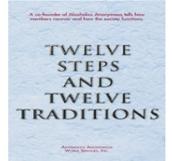
If we can ask this with all sincerity and willingness, we find ourselves ready to begin Step 8.





Step Seven

Anonymous



Humility is a trait that few alcoholics have familiarity with. We are usually either feeling humiliation or superiority, two-sides of the egocentric self.

Humility, or being right-sized, was an experience that felt foreign to me when I first began to experience it. My black and white thinking only allowed me to be below everyone or above everyone. To stand and admit to others and myself that I was simply human with varied traits felt scary.

But after completing a thorough fourth and fifth step, I recognized the futility of living with my defects and thinking. It was only after becoming rightsized that I was able to humbly approach my higher power and ask for my selfish and harmful shortcomings to be removed. Of course, this also requires me giving permission to my higher power to remove them entirely which is another scary step. What will life look like without being able to tell white lies? Or not being able to slack off at work? Or no longer gossiping or silently judging? If my higher power completely removes certain defects, how will I get what I want?

This is when you circle back to the thorough work you've done in steps 1-5. My thinking, attitudes, values and behaviors have gotten me this far. Sometimes they benefited me but often they hurt me and others. If my higher power can remove my obsession and compulsion to use drugs and alcohol, am I willing to believe that it can remove other harmful patterns from my life? Step 7 is the answer to those questions of willingness and uncertainty. I am willing and humbly ask to be transformed into whoever my higher power would have me be.

This doesn't mean that I become someone else, lose my identity, don't get to make decisions for myself or anything like that. It simply means that my higher power can step in and mold me into the kind of person to be of maximum service to the people around me, whatever that looks like. Character defects are ultimately based in self-centered fear, and while harmful, are not something to shame yourself over. In my experience, completing a seventh step means becoming free to be more of my true self and authentically connect with others while trusting that outcome will be ok.



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

Alano (Racine) 7a Daily Reflections
Benjamin House Sun 10a Newcomers
Benjamin House Mon 6p 12&12
Benjamin House Sat 7a Downstairs
Benjamin House Sat 7a Upstairs
Benjamin House Sat 10a How it works
Benjamin House Board
Burlington 12&12 Thu 7p Women's Group
Burlington 12&12 Sun 10a
Grove Club Fri 5:30p
Kansasville/Paddock Lake 12 Step Group#046585
Veterans Outreach



Here are the June 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	1423.33	815.00							5297.15
Office Sales	816.55	214.65	501.85	854.45	490.25	810.20							3687.75
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70	505.35	167.60	400.70	285.86							1741.76
Rent-Groups	360.00	450.00	360.00	530.00	670.00	385.00							2775.00
Transfer from Savings	500.00				500.00								1000.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Floor donations			1265.00	20.00									1285.00
Pepsi soda machine refund				37.84									37.84
Gratitude Cans	512.98		48.45			112.00							671.41
Small donation can (office)	19.40		67.25	27.94	12.51	6.06							133.16
Big donation box (meeting room)	8.01												8.01
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)			90.00		60.00	30.00							180.00
Total income by Month	3244.88	1752.67	3754.21	2064.59	3556.81	2443.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18817.08

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	1030.00	1030.00							6241.48
Electric (Heat & Air)	216.21	207.48	154.38	141.00	185.77	160.67							1065.51
Telephone - AT & T	138.40	141.62	140.83	140.83	140.97	140.91							843.16
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	138.33	139.10	139.10	139.10	140.97	140.97							837.57
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint. Supplies	76.48			927.00	127.80	51.08							1182.36
Credit Card Fees	16.38	32.38	14.73	20.56	33.28	18.95							136.28
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00							60.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70	289.40	577.22	787.44	62.50	283.14							3102.40
Website						165.87							165.87
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	120.00	120.00							1302.15
Total Expenses Month to Month	2934.80	2050.42	2186.06	4696.88	1851.29	2121.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15841.04

Account Balances
 Checking: \$2,733.02
 Savings: \$3,176.29

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

Grove Club

Saturday, July 17th Annual Summer Picnic - 11am
Pritchard Park (Large Pavilion)

Benjamin House

Saturday, July 24th Annual Day in the Country
9a – 9p
Benjamin House

Burlington 12&12

Sunday, August 8th Annual Summer Picnic - Noon
Riverview Park

Racine Alano Club

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

Kenosha Alano Club

Sunday, August 15th Annual Summer Picnic - Noon
Washington Park Kenosha

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



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, August 4th, 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/>