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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

# Monthly Reprieve

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September 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



### Tradition 9

*"AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."*



### September Focus

#### Ninth Step Prayer

*"I pray for the right attitude to make my amends, being ever mindful not to harm others in the process. I ask for your guidance in making indirect amends, growing in spiritual progress."*

### Step 9

*"Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do would injure them or others."*

## Step Nine

### What Is the Purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous Step 9?

The purpose of Step 9 of Alcoholics Anonymous is to take action and apologize to those you have harmed with your drinking. This step will provide you with peace of mind, relief and liberation from the chains of regret.

The Alcoholics Anonymous “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” book states:

“The readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine.”

### How Do You Complete Alcoholics Anonymous Step 9?

- \* Use good judgment.
- \* Have a careful sense of timing.
- \* Be courageous and cautious.

### How to Select People to Make Amends With?

Working with your sponsor, acknowledge the different categories of people to whom you should make amends:

- \* Those you should approach as soon as you are confident in your sobriety.
- \* Those you can only make partial amends with since further disclosure may cause more harm than good.
- \* Those you shouldn't take action with.
- \* Those you can't make direct contact with because of the nature of the situation.

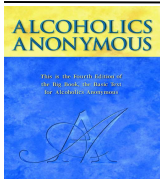
### What Are Some Tips for Completing Step 9?

Take your time. Use your best judgment in disclosing your defects. You don't have to reveal them all at once, nor should you. People may take/need some time to process and understand your admissions. Don't say anything that will harm others. It defeats the purpose of making amends if what you say will cause further pain and suffering. Don't mistake carefulness for avoidance. Practice good timing when making amends but don't use that as an excuse to delay reconciliation.

### What Are Some Myths About This Step?

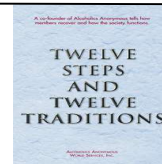
You have to disclose every detail of your mistakes. Full disclosure may harm the one with whom you are making amends, or quite often, other people. It won't make you feel any better to increase the burden of another.





# Step Nine

Dave W.



**“Make direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.”**

A little background will be helpful for context. I grew up in your typical dysfunctional alcoholic family. My father, who was a practicing alcoholic his whole life, was divorced by my mother when I was in 8th grade. I rarely saw him (which was only at family gatherings when he was invited) but when I did, he seemed hell bent on singling me out of my siblings for verbal, emotional, and mental abuse every time I saw him during my adult life. By the time I was 30, I truly hated the man and it only got worse with every new encounter.

It turned into an unknown resentment that grew into a lifelong slowly burning hatred. I wanted nothing to do with the man. He was the cause of all my and my family's problems. Life could have been so much better for everyone if he would have quit drinking.

***“I will never be like him.”*** (well if you are reading this you now know, I am my father's son and turned out exactly like him)

So of course when I did my 4th step I had a laundry list of ways this alcoholic person and parent had done me wrong and ruined my life. But during my 5th step, something happened. The beautiful soul I did my 5th step with helped me realize some very important things. I was reminded that You are an adult now, maybe it is time to stop blaming your parents for all the bad decisions you made in life. Of course, what I was not expecting was that I would learn that the real problem was me and my role in my relationship with my father ( in addition to all the other people I had resentments against in step 4). The suggestion was made that with this newfound knowledge, to think about reaching out to him and try to repair this relationship. An example was given by them of just such a case in their recovery.



Dave W.

Fast forward to a few months later in early September when I receive a call from my older sister telling me dad is in the hospital and that I should maybe call him as it is possibly the end for him. So I took it as a sign that it was now or never. I made the call (it turns out I was the only one other than her out of his 5 children to do so) only to be told with a laugh that there was a misunderstanding, he was old and had health problems, but was definitely not dying.

Regardless, everything happens for a reason in my recovery, so I did take the opportunity to actually talk to him since he was in a hospital (so he was somewhat sober and more lucid than usual, as I do not think I had ever seen or talked to the man completely sober). I explained to him that my life had been completely out of control from drinking and that I was an Alcoholic and now in AA and working in recovery and had been sober for some time (about a year at that time, he had been in treatment more times than I can count, so he was aware of AA). I then made my amends to him for all the ways I had harmed him and my role in our relationship. I was careful to **ONLY** talk about my part in this and my role in our bad relationship as the goal of this step in my eyes is to try to let the wounds of my past heal, not rip them open again - "except when to do so would injure them or others".

I was surprised when he started to open up and talk about his role in our relationship. He said he knew he was a hopeless alcoholic, a drunk, and a horrible father (all his words). We talked with each other for longer than we had probably ever done in our our life as father and son. When the phone call ended I felt the immediate relief of a lifetime of pent-up anger and resentment finally leave me. (This was completely unexpected) The difference of how I felt is beyond words.

A few months passed and I received a call out of the blue on my birthday. It was my father calling to wish me a happy birthday for the first time in my life. He asked if I was still sober and in AA. When I told him yes, he said something to me I had never heard him say. "I am proud of you." By the end of the year, he was gone.

Every year since then around this time I remember my father and our conversations which were a direct result of trying to work this step to the best of my ability.

I took the advice of someone in AA I trusted regarding this step and it could have gone either way in this case. The moral of the story for me is, you never know what can happen when you work any of the 12 steps. Sometimes nothing happens, sometimes it is enough to simply try and do your best to simply try and work it, and sometimes when you are not looking for it, a miracle happens.



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

Anonymous Donations  
Benjamin House Sun 10a Newcomers  
Benjamin House Mon 6p 12&12  
Benjamin House Sat 7a Upstairs  
Benjamin House Board  
Burlington Sun 10am 12&12  
Burlington Speak as the Spirit Moves you  
Salem Friday Big Book  
Twin Lakes Calgary Congregational Church  
Veterans Outreach



## Here are the August 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	426.76	1423.35	815.00	672.92	399.00					6369.07
Office Sales	816.55	214.65	501.65	854.45	490.25	810.20	674.50	543.45					4905.70
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70	505.35	167.60	400.70	285.66	401.90	208.70					2352.36
Rent-Groups	380.00	450.00	360.00	530.00	670.00	385.00	365.00	699.75					3839.75
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	512.96		46.45			112.00							671.41
Small donation can (office)	19.40		67.25	27.94	12.51	6.06	17.89	17.78					168.81
Big donation box (meeting room)	6.01												6.01
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)			90.00		60.00	30.00		60.00					240.00
<b>Total Income by Month</b>	<b>3244.68</b>	<b>1752.67</b>	<b>3754.21</b>	<b>2064.59</b>	<b>3556.81</b>	<b>2443.92</b>	<b>2132.21</b>	<b>1928.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20877.95</b>

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	1030.00	1030.00					8301.48
Electric (Heat & Air)	216.21	207.48	154.38	141.00	185.77	160.67	146.24	191.33					1403.08
Telephone - AT & T	138.40	141.62	140.63	140.63	140.97	140.91	140.91	139.73					1123.80
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	138.33	139.10	139.10	139.10	140.97	140.97	140.97	140.97					1119.51
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint., Supplies	76.48			927.00	127.80	51.08	9.50	91.88					1283.74
Credit Card Fees	16.38	32.38	14.73	20.56	33.28	18.95	14.38						150.66
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00					80.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70	269.40	577.22	787.44	62.50	283.14	846.67	1190.30					5139.37
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	80.00	120.00					1502.15
<b>Total Expenses Month to Month</b>	<b>2934.80</b>	<b>2050.42</b>	<b>2186.06</b>	<b>4696.88</b>	<b>1851.29</b>	<b>2121.59</b>	<b>2418.67</b>	<b>2914.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>21173.92</b>

Account Balances  
 Checking: \$2,505.71  
 Savings: \$3,175.40

**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 [winnebagoilandco@gmail.com](mailto:winnebagoilandco@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, September 6th Labor Day Picnic - 12p - 4p**

Alano Club

Grilled burgers and brats provided, please bring your favorite dish

Or dessert to share



# 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](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 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: <a href="http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/">http://www.benjaminhouseracine.org/</a>			
District 7		Kenosha, Wisconsin	
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>			
District 36		Burlington 12 x 12 Club 724 N. Pine St. Burlington, WI	
West Racine/Kenosha County			
District 6		Walworth County Alano Club 611 E. Walworth St. Delavan, WI 53115 (262) 740-1888	
Eastern Walworth County			
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: <a href="http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/">http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/</a>			
Waukegan Hotline: (847) 623-9660			
District 10		Antioch Recovery Club 311 E Depot St.; Suite C Antioch, IL 60002 (847) 838-1882	
Western Lake County			
Antioch Recovery Club: <a href="http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/">http://www.antiochrecoveryclub.org/</a>			
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](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com)**

***Your Racine Area Central Office has numerous openings on the steering committee. Please put Wednesday, October 6th, 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/>***