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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

Monthly Reprieve

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November 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 11

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films."



November Focus

Eleventh Step Prayer

"Higher power, make me a channel of Thy peace- that where there is hatred, I may bring love – that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness – that where there is discord, I may bring harmony – that where there is error, I may bring truth – that where there is doubt, I may bring faith – that where is despair, I may bring hope – that where there are shadows, I may bring light – that where there is sadness, I may bring joy."

Step 11

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

Step Eleven

STEP 11 OF AA: THE SPIRITUAL PATH OUT OF ADDICTION

Exploring our spiritual path in Step 11 means picking up, leaning into and/or discarding various spiritual practices. AA it's self does not have any official or specifically approved spiritual path. The AA program of recovery offers a set of spiritual principles, and uses a concept referred to as "God" or "higher power" or "power greater than ourselves" for members to use as a path out of active addiction.

Whether you are solid as a rock in your concept of a higher power and your spiritual path, or if your current state of mind holds no answers for you yet, it doesn't matter. Why? Because, at this point on our journey we can embark on a search for a better way to understand our higher power.

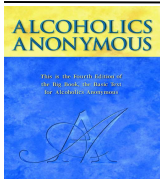
This process allows us room for adventure, humility and faith. We have the option to visit every place that has anything to do with spirituality that's available in our community. Some people love churches, cathedrals, synagogues and even graveyards as places where they feel divinely in tune. Others find that connection in nature, doing something they love, or through volunteering. It is also highly suggested that as you progress in recovery that you enhance your life with the abundant number of books and publications concerned with AA, spirituality and personal growth.

However, a central part of working Step 11 is not letting our own personal spiritual path take us away from the fellowship and practice of AA. Remember that we need the rooms of AA in order to deal with our addiction; our spiritual path, meditation and prayer will enhance the quality of our recovery but **nothing can take the place of AA meetings, service and fellowship**. With the 11th step we are adding to the many ingredients that make up the perfect sobriety pie. Nothing can take the place of the serenity we feel the moment we step into a meeting, or shake the hand of a newcomer.

PRAYER AND MEDITATION: A MINDFUL PLACE OF SERENITY

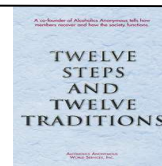
"In AA we have found that the actual good results of prayer are beyond question. They are matters of knowledge and experience. All those who have persisted have found strength not ordinarily their own. They have found wisdom beyond the usual capability. And they have increasingly found a peace of mind which can stand firm in the face of difficult circumstances." – Bill W

This is a spiritual awakening. As part of our spiritual awakening we begin to manifest the three elements of recovery in AA, which involves the body, the mind and the spirit. These 3 elements together make up who and what we are and therefore true healing includes all of these aspects of the self. Just like a three-legged stool, our recovery cannot stay upright and secure unless all three legs are equally strong. So we work on and maintain all of them equally.



Step 11

Dave W.



One of the most strange and wonderful of the AA promises is **Promise 11**.

Promise 11: We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us.

When I was drinking every tiny thing in life seemed like a huge ordeal. No situation ever seemed to go the way I had hoped or planned with anything that had to do with People, Places or Things.

I would run into an instance where some seemingly simple problem would present itself to me and need my attention. No matter which way I tried to handle it, it almost always went south.

I could run into the same situation a thousand times and never have the outcome be what was right or needed.

When I entered AA I found out that my decision making skills when it comes to anything to do with life itself were pretty much non-existent. After many years of being on a sort of auto-pilot form of self-destruction and simply trying to get through the day I had finally made a decision to get sober. This was the first real decision I had made in a long long time.

As I worked through the steps in early recovery more decisions followed. Step 3 being a prime example. About 6 months to a year sober I started to realize I was actually making some good decisions in my life. How I did this in my case was every decision I made was thought through before making it with my AA program in mind. In almost every case using the program as a guide in my new found decision making process allowed me to navigate my life and be a benefit to others.

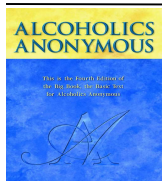
Any new situation in my life is now met with a quick look at how I have handled other similar situations in recovery in the past and simply applying what worked.

I can see this promise coming true in my case almost every day. As many times a day I am presented with situations that used to baffle me and lead to bad choices or hurt feelings or worse.

Today I handle the frequent situations that arrive in a manner that represents my program, often without even thinking about it. Step 11 is one of those promises that is easy for me to forget about after a while in the program.

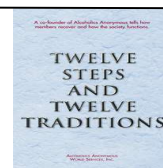
That is why when November rolls around I like to reflect on this promise and how true it is in my recovery.





Step 11

Mike S.



Being an avid baseball fan, I went to a lot of Milwaukee Brewers games during the 2021 season. This included traveling to San Francisco for a four-game series against the Giants at the end of August. During my flight to San Francisco, a flight attendant suggested I visit Muir Woods in nearby Mill Valley. It definitely turned out to be well worth the time and effort to go there. My sponsor also told me about the coast redwoods located there and said I should make a point to go see them.

Though the use of prayer and meditation, we remain grounded and learn how to become better at living life on life's terms. As a result, life will take on new meaning.

On Tuesday, August 31, 2021, I set out to visit Muir Woods National Monument. My trip started with a 14 mile Uber ride from my hotel to Mill Valley. I was dropped off about two miles from the park's entrance. I then walked and hiked along paths and trails, mostly the Dipsea trail, arriving at the park's entrance one hour and a half later. By walking, a person is able to see more and it gave me the chance to be alone with my thoughts and better connect with the God of my understanding. My goal was to walk among coast redwoods, some of the tallest living things on earth. On that day, I stood and walked under the grove's tallest tree which is over 258 feet tall – or the height of a 23-story building. In this ancient forest, I was told that many of the coast redwoods living in Muir Woods are over 600 years old. Stated differently, many of these trees began growing in the early 1400's, or about 100 years before Columbus discovered the Americas.

Arriving at the park just before 10am, I decided to hike one hour into and one hour back out. This had me choosing Canopy View trail. Words cannot give this magnificent place justice, nor can pictures other than the ones taken by my own eyes describe what I experienced that day. At one point along the trail, as I was thanking the God of my understanding for bringing me back to the tables of Alcoholics Anonymous, there was a period of time when everything around me stopped. There was no wind or any breeze present among the redwoods. The birds stopped flying and chirping. Other wildlife stopped moving in the forest and the world around me was completely quiet. So much so, that I could not even hear my heartbeat or feel myself breathing. This lasted for what seemed like a minute or two. I had wondered if I was about to die or if I already had. Instead of being scared, I was completely at peace with the world at that moment.

Another characteristic of redwood trees is that they have shallow roots. A redwood's roots grow only 10 to 13 feet deep and spread nearly 100 feet wide. The roots of several trees are intertwined and grow together. In doing so, they grow much stronger together than if they were alone. During times of strong winds and severe weather, the redwoods are able to thrive and hold each other up. In much the same manner, members of A.A. practicing the 12 steps, support each other picking them up during difficult times. We share our experience, strength and hope with each other and tell how we got through tough times without drinking. This too helps others grow in the program.

As I walked among the redwoods, it was easy for me to breathe in deeply and reflect that "to know God, is to know peace".

My visit to Muir Woods puts things in perspective for me. It was very easy for me to connect with my Higher Power because while on vacation I am free of the stress and responsibilities found in everyday life. Because we are here for such a short time, I practice humility as often as I can. The definition of humility that I like is from C.S. Lewis. "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."

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

Benjamin House Sun 10am Newcomers
Benjamin House Mon 6pm 12x12
Benjamin House Fri 6pm Young at Heart
Benjamin House Sat 7am Upstairs Sunshine
Benjamin House Board
Bill Ludwig Memorial
Burlington Thu 7pm Women's Group
Burlington Serenity Meadows
District 7 workshop
Grove Club Wed 4:30pm 12&12
Grove Club Fri 4:30pm
Grove Club Sat 10am
Grove Club Sat 8am Design for Living
Grove Club Sun 10am Sober on Sunday
How it Works
Kenosha Fri Hope Group
Paypal anonymous
Salem Fri Big Book
Todd Cline
Veterans Outreach



Here are the October 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	872.92	399.00	1220.20	1833.06			9222.33
Office Sales	816.55	214.65	501.65	854.45	490.25	810.20	874.50	543.45	183.40	389.25			5478.35
Charge and Debit Card Sales	148.75	233.70	505.35	167.60	400.70	285.66	401.90	208.70	420.20	252.80			3025.36
Rent-Groups	380.00	450.00	360.00	530.00	670.00	385.00	365.00	699.75	415.00	563.50			4818.25
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		48.45			112.00							671.41
Small donation can (office)	19.40		67.25	27.94	12.51	6.06	17.89	17.78	26.65	15.82			211.48
Big donation box (meeting room)	8.01												8.01
District 38 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)			90.00		60.00	30.00		60.00		60.00			300.00
Total Income by Month	3244.88	1752.67	3754.21	2064.59	3556.81	2443.92	2132.21	1928.66	2265.65	2914.43	0.00	0.00	26058.03

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	1030.00	1030.00			10361.48
Electric (Heat & Air)	216.21	207.48	154.38	141.00	185.77	160.67	146.24	191.33	185.26	181.23			1769.57
Telephone - AT & T	138.40	141.82	140.63	140.63	140.97	140.91	140.91	136.73	139.22	140.04			1403.06
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	138.33	139.10	139.10	139.10	140.97	140.97	140.97	140.97	140.97	140.97			1401.45
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	37.36	15.42	18.66			222.10
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			100.00
Literature & Merchandise	1122.70	269.40	577.22	787.44	82.50	283.14	846.67	1190.30	761.12	251.10			6151.59
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
Wisconsin Business Tax Registration									10.00				10.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00	120.00	702.15	120.00	120.00	80.00	120.00	120.00	120.00			1742.15
Total Expenses Month to Month	2934.80	2050.42	2186.06	4696.88	1851.29	2121.59	2418.67	2951.57	2411.89	1892.00	0.00	0.00	25515.27

Account Balances
 Checking: \$1,572.66
 Savings: \$3,176.46

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

Saturday, December 26th 70th Anniversary Celebration 12p - 4p

Eagles Club of Racine – 319 Hamilton Street, Racine

* See Club members for ticket, sit-down dinner

Area 75 Conference

Friday-Sunday, November 12th – 14

(click on link below)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-area-75-conference-tickets-132868598555>

32nd Annual McHenry's Soberfest

Friday-Sunday, November 19th - 21st

Grand Geneva Resort

Lake Geneva, WI

(click on link below)

<https://www.soberfest.org/>

RACO Steering Committee Positions Needed!!

“Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all of our affairs.”

The following positions are set to be elected at the next Steering Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 1st at 6:30pm.

- * Treasurer (5 years sobriety required)
- * Co-Treasurer (3 years sobriety required)
- * Chairman (3 years sobriety required)
- * Co-Chairman (3 years sobriety required)
- * Staffing Coordinator (1 year sobriety required)

(Responsible for volunteers who are working in the bookstore when it is open)

Talk with your sponsor, sponsees, home groups and others you know in the fellowship who might be interested in this important (and fun) 12th step work. The Steering Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Central Office (RACO).

Please consider donating your faith, hope and strength to the group as we continue to try and help the next suffering alcoholic one day at a time!



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.!

October Scheduled Hours for Bookstore: 193 Open Hours: 180

31 Incoming Hotline calls, 25 outgoing calls

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 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: http://alanoclubwaukegan.com/			
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: 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, December 1st, 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/>