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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

Monthly Reprieve

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January 2022

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 1

"Our common welfare should come first; personal progress depends upon AA unity"



January Focus

First Step Prayer

"Higher power, I admit I am powerless. I admit that my life is unmanageable when I try to control it. Please help me this day to understand the true meaning of powerlessness. Remove from me all of my denial."

Step 1

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable."

Step 1

If we are lucky, our journey has taken us to arriving at a **point of surrender**. For some people the road they traveled getting to the first step in AA has been more than enough to convince them that unconditional surrender is the **only option for recovery**.

For a lot of people in recovery, walking into a treatment center or an AA meeting the first time is a major part of “working” step one. **Your simple and humble act of asking for help is effectively an admission of powerlessness and unmanageability in your life.**

Most alcoholics are filled with guilt, shame, remorse, and self-loathing when they come into the rooms of AA. They've also gotten very used to keeping secrets from pretty much everyone, so opening up about the nature and extent of your alcoholic behavior is going against the grain. It may even feel completely unnatural and you probably don't want to do it. But sharing your experience and the unmanageability lifts the burden of lugging them around in secret. Letting go of your secrets frees you up to move forward with a different, better life. For many people, the act of sharing Step One in an AA meeting is the true start of recovery.

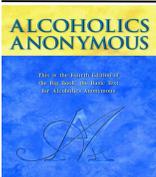
However, ***becoming abstinent from alcohol will also be a requirement for starting to work the first step.*** The first step is all about looking at the effects of alcoholism in your life and for what is needed to be totally abstinent: to find a way to stop the behaviors with a perspective that isn't clouded by alcohol. **If you've been clean for a while, then the first step is about powerlessness over behaviors that make your life unmanageable.**

RESPONSIBILITY & ACCEPTANCE IN AA

For each and every one of the millions of success stories in AA you will hear repeatedly about responsibility. **It is our responsibility to stay involved in sobriety and follow our sponsor's suggestions. It is our responsibility to actively cultivate and grow willingness.** It's important to grasp that you are not “powerless” completely: you do have the power to engage in a program of recovery, the power to choose not to abuse alcohol....but you are powerless over alcohol if you put it in your body.

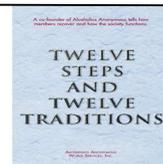
Acceptance comes when we feel a profound sense of hope and peace in coming to terms with our addiction and recovery. We don't dread a future of meeting attendance, sponsor contact and step work; instead we begin to see recovery is a precious gift.

Our experience has proven that doing the steps brings us serenity and the welcome realization that AA is not just a program where sick people get well—it is a way of living that is rewarding in and of itself – **one day at a time.**



Step 1

Dominica A.



Perspectives on Step 1

Powerlessness. I never really liked the feel of that word. I mean, who wants to feel powerless?

But when it comes to Step 1, I've come to know the POWER in it.

Yes, Step 1 was tough for me at first because I did not want to think that my addiction, attitude, and actions caused my life to become unmanageable. To me, that felt a lot like defeat.

But I had hit my rock bottom due to a tidal wave of emotions that sunk my ship. My life was a mess, and I had no idea how to contend with the internal rubble. So, finally, after about a million tears, I humbled myself. I became vulnerable. I realized that I was really powerless over alcohol and my emotional life was out of control.

The good news is that my admission of powerlessness was the springboard to my recovery.

I guess I'd been living in some sort of alternate reality for much of my life. I stuffed my emotions beginning in childhood and let them stay buried because I did not want to feel the pain associated with them.

I leaned on alcohol for years, then replaced booze with a drug called love. Codependency. In my mid-30s, I encountered a traumatic event, the emotional dam broke, and all the feelings I'd stuffed for decades flooded out. A freaking tidal wave of grief, depression, anxiety, fear, and more.

Step 1 made me realize:

- * I'd spent a good part of my life trying to control others so that I would feel safe and secure.
- * My self-will tended to lead me to trouble.
- * I am an alcoholic through and through; my brain is hardwired for addiction.

Step 1 is the foundation for all of the other steps. This is the step where I own my reality. The step I run to when I'm feeling insecure. Angry. Triggered. Alone. I ditch the victim mentality, take a step back and take responsibility for my life and my emotions.

This step reminds me of how miserable my life was when I was in active alcoholism. When things are feeling out of control, I remind myself that "I am powerless over my addiction and I need some help."

I surrender.

Step 1 is my surrendering step. My honesty step. My "Do you not remember the freaking pain you were swimming through in active addiction?" step.

It's the foundation step that cultivates my continued healing, serenity, and joy. The first step might have been my toughest, but I'm so grateful I took it!

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

Anonymous Donations
Benjamin House Sun 8am AA/Alanon
Benjamin House Sun 10am Downstairs
Benjamin House Mon 6pm 12&12
Benjamin House Tue 6p AA/Alanon
Benjamin House Tue 10am Board
Benjamin House Wed 6pm ISMs
Benjamin House 7am Upstairs Sunshine
Benjamin House Board
The Grove Love & Tolerance Group
The Grove Wed 6:30pm Primary Purpose
Kenosha 1st Presbyterian Church Thu pm
Kenosha St. Mary's Lutheran 12&12 Sun pm
PayPal donations
RACO 12:15pm Mon-Sat
Twin Lakes Step Study (693318)
Wind Lake Thursday Night (698955)



Here are the December 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 | 1423.35 | 815.00 | 672.92 | 369.00 | 1220.20 | 1633.06 | 3081.50 | 866.53 | 13170.36 |
| Office Sales | 816.55 | 214.65 | 501.65 | 854.45 | 490.25 | 810.20 | 674.50 | 543.45 | 183.40 | 389.25 | 378.60 | 539.00 | 6393.95 |
| 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 | 86.35 | 640.31 | 3732.02 |
| Rent-Groups | 380.00 | 450.00 | 380.00 | 530.00 | 670.00 | 385.00 | 365.00 | 699.75 | 415.00 | 563.50 | 377.00 | 649.00 | 5844.25 |
| 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 | | 46.45 | | | 112.00 | | | | | | 507.53 | 1178.94 |
| Small donation can (office) | 19.40 | | 67.25 | 27.94 | 12.51 | 6.06 | 17.89 | 17.76 | 26.85 | 15.82 | 5.53 | 27.95 | 244.96 |
| Big donation box (meeting room) | 8.01 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3.44 |
| District 38 Hotline (bill split) | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.00 |
| District 17 Hotline (bill split) | | | 90.00 | | 60.00 | 30.00 | | 60.00 | | 60.00 | | 60.00 | 360.00 |
| Total Income by Month | 3244.88 | 1752.67 | 3754.21 | 2064.59 | 3556.61 | 2443.92 | 2132.21 | 1926.68 | 2265.65 | 2914.43 | 3906.98 | 3293.76 | 33258.77 |

| 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 | 1030.00 | 1030.00 | 12421.48 |
| Electric (Heat & Air) | 216.21 | 207.48 | 154.38 | 141.00 | 185.77 | 160.67 | 146.24 | 191.33 | 185.26 | 181.23 | 123.67 | 194.66 | 2067.92 |
| Telephone - AT & T | 136.40 | 141.62 | 140.63 | 140.63 | 140.97 | 140.91 | 140.91 | 139.73 | 139.22 | 140.04 | 139.09 | 163.55 | 1705.70 |
| Internet/Telephone - Spectrum | 138.33 | 139.10 | 139.10 | 139.10 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 140.97 | 272.44 | 1814.86 |
| Sam's Club Membership | | | | | | | | | | | 47.48 | | 47.48 |
| Office & Maint., Supplies | 76.48 | | | 927.00 | 127.80 | 51.08 | 9.50 | 91.88 | | | 335.06 | 66.68 | 1665.48 |
| Credit Card Fees | 16.38 | 32.38 | 14.73 | 20.56 | 33.28 | 18.95 | 14.38 | 37.38 | 15.42 | 18.66 | 34.23 | 10.94 | 267.27 |
| Bank Fees | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 120.00 |
| Literature & Merchandise | 1122.70 | 269.40 | 577.22 | 787.44 | 62.50 | 283.14 | 846.67 | 1190.30 | 761.12 | 251.10 | 137.92 | 535.58 | 6825.09 |
| 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 | 120.00 | 120.00 | 1982.15 |
| Total Expenses Month to Month | 2934.80 | 2050.42 | 2186.06 | 4696.68 | 1851.29 | 2121.59 | 2418.67 | 2951.57 | 2411.99 | 1892.00 | 2118.42 | 2403.67 | 30037.56 |

Account Balances
 Checking: \$5,434.31
 Savings: \$3,176.52

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, January 15th 12p - 2p
White Elephant Gift Exchange

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.”

These positions are still available as of the Steering Committee meeting on January 5th, 2022. Please reach out to those looking to do service work – thank you.

The following positions are still needed for the Steering Committee moving forward in 2022.

- * Treasurer (5 years sobriety required)
- * Co-Treasurer (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!

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 the RACO office.



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 | Geoff G. |
| Co-Chairperson | Open |
| Secretary | Simon L. |
| Co-Secretary | Open |
| Treasurer | Open |
| Co-Treasurer | Open |
| Staffing Coordinator | Open |
| Co-Staffing Coordinator | Open |
| Newsletter | Chris J |
| Co-Newsletter | Open |
| Hotline Chairperson | Chris W |
| Co-Hotline Chairperson | Mike |
| 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 | Tom M. |
| Advisor | Jon K |
| 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, February 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/>