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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

# Monthly Reprieve

Volume 18, Issue 2

February 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 2

*"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority – a Loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern."*



### February Focus

#### Second Step Prayer

*"I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity. I humbly ask that you remove all twisted thought and addictive behavior from me this day. Heal my spirit and restore me in a clear mind."*

### Step 2

*"Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."*

## Step 2

### **What Is the Purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous Step 2?**

This step gives you hope. You are not alone, and something higher than you can help you conquer your addiction and despair.

### **How Do You Complete This Step?**

The second step is about keeping an open mind. This is the beginning of the end, in a way. You will end your old life and begin your fresh one, committed to faith – faith in whatever you choose.

The second step is about keeping an open mind. As the prior step was about letting go of pride, this step is about letting go of preconceived notions about what AA is and how it works, and making room for change.

No matter what you believe in, this is the step in which you become open to the idea that faith in a higher power will help you attain soundness of mind. The Alcoholics Anonymous “Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions” book states:

Step 2 is the rallying point for us all. Whether agnostic, atheist, or former believer, we stand together on this Step.

### **What Are Some Tips for Completing Step 2?**

Keep an open mind: Set yourself up for success. Be open to the idea of looking outside yourself for help and support, and you’ll be able to better conceive of the idea of recovery.

Maintain humility: Accept that you can’t conquer your addiction alone

## DO YOU BELIEVE?

Much has been written, discussed, debated, scrutinized, contemplated, argued, and questioned over the idea of belief. What does it really mean to believe in something? To buy into an idea or a theory, to go all in on some kind of belief? I am not sure of what the true answer is, but this is my experience in believing and then "coming to" a belief in a power greater than myself.

It's dark, I'm shaking, I am lonely beyond description, I am at a total loss for answers. Why can't I just quit and leave it alone? My life is an absolute disaster, the guilt, shame, anger, disgust, it is unbearable. I need to have a drink so I can maybe eat something, maybe just enough to calm my nerves, NO, not today, I am done, maybe those know-it-alls in AA are actually right, maybe, just maybe they can actually help. There is nowhere else to go, maybe, *I hope*, maybe they can help.

It is now day two without a drink, I have been to a couple AA meetings, I was given some phone numbers and a business card with the hotline number with instruction to call, anytime, day or night. Somehow, I have made it for one whole day. I have decided that if I see that guy tonight that yelled at me at the meeting last night, I will ask him to be my sponsor.

That guy said yes, let's talk for a few minutes. He asked me a few questions and gave me my first assignment. He said: "Get a Daily Reflections book, get up in the morning, read it, and ask for help. Pray..., eat something. Anything, a bowl of cereal and a banana. Take a shower and when you are done, wipe away the steam and look at yourself, in the eyes, and tell yourself that you believe that you will be OK. Do this and I will see you at the meeting tomorrow."

Day three, I have slept through the night. I am hungry, so I eat. I haven't gotten the reflections book yet, but I do something I haven't done since I was a young boy, I got on my knees, on the side of the bed, and asked for help. I took a shower and I wiped away the steam from the stainless-steel mirror in the fleabag hotel that I was in and told myself that I believed..... that I *hoped*.... that I would be OK. By 10:00 am I needed to drink... I pulled out that hotline card, put a quarter in the payphone, and made a call. I will never know who the gentleman was on the other side of that call, but it saved me until 12:00 when I could get to the meeting at RACO where I bought the daily reflection book and white knuckled it through that meeting. Everything is a blur, I can't concentrate, my head hurts.

I make it to the meeting that night and really try to listen, to comprehend whatever language all these people are speaking. My head pounds, it is surreal, I am in a fog. I meet with that sponsor for a few minutes after the meeting. He reminds me that I have not had a drink for a whole day, on a day when I had to drink, and that I should just say "thank you" as I go to sleep. I am exhausted. I think to myself, this is not going to be easy, this sucks, but I have somehow made it through a whole other day without a drink.

Day four, day five, day six, seven, 30 , 60,,,every day, I got up, asked for help, read the meditation, tried to comprehend, ate breakfast, took a shower, wiped the mirror, looked at myself, in the eye, and told myself that I believed, *hoped*, that I would be OK. Rushing from meeting to meeting, meeting with my sponsor, trying to sleep, I am exhausted... always, and almost every day at some point I am plagued by the need to drink. I am in constant misery, the thoughts are unbearable and come out of nowhere for no real reason, I make phone calls to the hotline and to the numbers I have gathered at the meetings. I just buy time between meetings. And each day, somehow, I make it without a drink. I am hooked, I have begun to believe.

My sponsor would point out regularly that if I just keep doing these things that my life will change. He would say, "just keep going Jon, don't stop, each day without a drink for guys like us is a miracle"

The realities of my nightmare life are dogging me. They stalk me constantly. How did it ever get this bad? With my sponsors help I begin to see the insanity of my life. It is, without question, a shitshow. Relationships destroyed; blown up.

Then we started to discuss the insanity that precedes the first drink. It was easy for me to identify with this. It is as real as the sunrise for me at that exact point because I had been experiencing the power of this insanity every day since I arrived at AA. The racing thoughts, the lingering thirst for

a drink, the horrors of my behavior. Yea, I am without a doubt insane when it comes to alcohol. I have now accepted this, I don't like it, but it is working, one day at a time, I am not drinking.

As we are working the steps my sponsor points out that I have already begun to work the second step into my life without even realizing it. You see the first step is all about surrender and the second step is really nothing more than a willingness to try to do what we do, one day at a time, without a drink. He pointed out that I have already begun to believe that something, a power, could make me be OK. The proof is evident, ask for help, surround yourself with like-minded people, do what we do, and you no longer will have to drink. He simply pointed out that there is an unwavering power right here in Alcoholics Anonymous, it exists in the spirit of the twelve-step process, and it is already taking a presence in your life. He asked: "Can you explain to me how it is that when you must drink now, you somehow get through the day without?" There is in fact a power outside of ourselves, available to all who are just like us, right here. All we have to do is believe, pray and take some actions.

I thank God today for that sponsor. For leading me to the simplicity of this step which can seem so complicated.

For me it is this simple:

I accept my alcoholic insanity. I am an alcoholic whether I accept this or not and that is never going to change. With this acceptance I ask for help, I pray even though I do not completely understand, and I believe that I can be OK if I do the things that we do. The spirit (God) that exists in Alcoholics Anonymous is indeed unwavering. It is real and it is powerful.

"I have become "sold" on the ideas contained in our book. I have read our book through, and though perhaps I may have scoffed, I have remained to pray."  
*The end of the Doctors Opinion.*

I have come to believe

Today I woke up, took a few minutes to read the daily reflection, and although quite cold out, I took my dog for a walk. I thought about the meditation today which had to do with those who have lost or rejected their faith and the difficulty they may have in our program as they think that their faith has failed them. This really wasn't my experience but I did pray for those that may be struggling in this area. I *hope* that they stay long enough, stick to the AA program and have their faith resurrected. I *hope* that they will believe.

Jon K

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

Benjamin House Sun 10am Downstairs  
Benjamin House Sun 10am Newcomers  
Benjamin House Mon 6pm 12&12  
Benjamin House Tue 6pm AA/Alanon  
Benjamin House Tue 10am Board  
Benjamin House Wed 6pm ISMs  
Benjamin House Thu 6pm Big Book  
Benjamin House 7am Upstairs Sunshine  
Benjamin House Board  
Burlington 12 & 12 Mon Nooners  
Burlington 12 & 12 Tue 8pm  
Burlington Thu 7pm Women's Group  
Burlington Sun 10am 12 & 12  
Burlington 12 & 12 Serenity Meadows  
Fox River Group - Waterford  
Grove Tue 8pm Plan of Action  
Kansasville Friday Riverwood  
PayPal Donations  
RACO 12:15pm Mon-Sat  
Vets in Recovery Group



## *Here are the January financial listings for Your Central Office!*

Racine Area Central Office Summary of Income/Expense 2021

<b>Income Summary:</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Donations-Groups	1112.17												1112.17
Office Sales	175.80												175.80
Charge and Debit Card Sales	1350.45												1350.45
Rent-Groups	335.00												335.00
Transfer from Savings													0.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gratitude Cans	839.28												839.28
Small donation can (office)	12.16												12.16
Big donation box (meeting room)													0.00
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
<b>Total Income by Month</b>	3624.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3624.66

<b>Expense Summary:</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1030.00												1030.00
Electric (Heat & Air)	218.35												218.35
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	170.98												170.98
AT & T cancellation	116.28												0.00
Sam's Club Membership													205.02
Office & Maint. Supplies	205.02												22.85
Credit Card Fees	22.85												10.00
Bank Fees	10.00												0.00
Literature & Merchandise													0.00
Website													472.19
Wisconsin Sales Tax	472.19												0.00
Liability Insurance													0.00
Wisconsin Business Tax Registration													120.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00												2365.65
<b>Total Expenses Month to Month</b>	2365.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2249.37

Account Balances  
 Checking: \$6,376.91  
 Savings: \$3,176.54



**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 [winnebagolandco@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Events

### Tri-County Annual Conference

**Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Racine Memorial Hall

(Next page has registration information)

### The Grove Club

**Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> Noon - 4pm**

Group Service Workshop

For Questions/Information please reach out to Rebecca B.



## 38th ANNUAL

A.A., AL-ANON, ALATEEN

TRI-COUNTY SPRING CONFERENCE

ACCEPTANCE IS THE ANSWER

March 19, 2022  
Racine Memorial Hall  
72 7th St.  
Racine WI. 53403

REGISTRATION OPENS AT..... 8:00AM..... KICK OFF..... 9:00AM

A.A. SPEAKER..... REY H. .... 7:30P.M.

AL-ANON AND A.A. PANELS AT..... 10:30A.M.

BANQUET AT..... 6:00P.M.  
DANCE TO FOLLOW

AL-ANON SPEAKER..... TERRI H. ....

ALL DAY ALCATHON..... 10:30AM TO 6:50 P.M.

CHILI LUNCH AT NOON..... COST: \$1.00 PER BOWL

DAY SESSION..... COST: \$ 1.00 SUGGESTED DONATION

50/50 RAFFLES..... PRIZE RAFFLES.....

FELLOWSHIP.....

DANCE AT 8:30..... \$5.00 AT THE DOOR

BANQUET..... \$22.00  
DANCE INCLUDED

REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 12, 2022

PLEASE CUT AND SEND DINNER WITH REGISTRATION FEE.....  
ONLY ONE FORM PER PERSON.....

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TRI-COUNTY CONFERENCE  
MAIL TO: PAM LAMB 1415 1/2 ARTHUR AVE. RACINE, WI. 53405

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE# \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE CHECK ONE: A.A. \_\_\_\_\_ ALA-NON \_\_\_\_\_ ALATEEN \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 March 2nd, 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)

Talk with your sponsor, sponsees, home groups and others you know in the fellowship who might be interested in this important (and fun) 12<sup>th</sup> 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](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 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: <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	Geoff G.
Co-Chairperson	Open
Secretary	Simon L.
Co-Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Doreen
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](mailto:raconewsletter@gmail.com)**

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