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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

Monthly Reprieve

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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 3

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."



March Focus

Third Step Prayer

"God, I offer myself to thee – to build with me and to do with me as thou wilt. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do thy will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of thy power, thy love and thy way of life. May I do thy will always!"

Step 3

"Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand him."

Step 3

In step three of AA you are making a decision: it's that simple. You make decisions all day everyday, right? Making a decision to turn your will over to God or a "Higher Power" can be just like putting on a new pair of glasses and seeing everything more clearly.

STEP THREE OF AA: TURN IT OVER

When we've taken steps one and two we have learned and accepted that our lives are unmanageable, we are alcoholics and a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity.

What if we were to surrender the manageability part? We can surrender a lifetime of self-will run amok by making the decision to turn it all over to a Higher Power and allow someone and something to care for us. We can stop wearing ourselves out trying to make and force everything to happen as if we were in charge of everything in the world.

Recovery is a spiritual process and step three is when the doors of hope, faith and trust are opened allowing us to once again take a deep breath feel and the serenity: a gift of sobriety. The essence of step three is turning over your will, getting out of the way, and being restored to reality, honesty, balance and peace of mind.

STEP THREE OF AA: SEEKING KNOWLEDGE

When working on step three we take a look at how acting on self-will means behaving with the exclusion of any consideration for others, focusing only on what we want and ignoring the needs and feelings of others. While we were busy pursuing these impulses, we mostly left a path of destruction behind us, and we definitely lost touch with our conscience and a Higher Power.

Step 3 (continued)

However, while working the third step we begin to focus our attention on seeking knowledge of a Higher Power's will for us. Making a decision to turn our lives and will over can't do anything unless we take the actions necessary to turn it over. Simply making a decision without following it up with action is meaningless. For example, you can make a decision to go to a meeting, but if you don't leave your home for the rest of the day, it won't happen, will it?

In AA there are many helpful recovery tools that have worked many times over at maintaining sobriety and a connection with a Higher Power. There's actually a very effective and simple prayer adapted from a prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr and known as the "Serenity Prayer," which can help you as you are seeking knowledge and make your decision to turn it over on a daily basis:

"God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference."

With the "Serenity Prayer" you can learn to accept with serenity the current reality of your condition and that although you cannot control the choices and actions of others, you can decide how you will act in each situation. You may not be able to change some things in your life, but you can make a decision to change your willingness to surrender, trust and seek knowledge.

***Third Step Hope -
Deciding to Turn My Will and Life Over to G.O.D.***
By: Rachelle V.

After 2 1/2 years of sobriety, I reached an emotional bottom. I had not found a spiritual experience sufficient to recover from alcoholism.

I was in constant torment in my mind, blaming my husband for not helping me with my newborn and the household chores and feeling generally negative about life. All I did was cry and complain about my problems to anyone who would listen. I held most meetings hostage with my litany of woes.

I was attending 5 to 7 meetings a week, so I figured I was working a good program. I felt so sorry for myself that I decided maybe I should just start drinking again because I was just as miserable in sobriety as I had been drinking. In one last attempt to give this 12 step program a chance, I hit as many meetings as I could, even going back to attending Alanon meetings, in the hope of encountering a ray of hope.

In attending the Wednesday night Alanon meeting, which incidentally was the first meeting I had attended 5 years prior, when I had first come to Alanon looking for help with my co-dependency, I found my ray of hope. Her name was Carol. She talked in a very simple and direct way about the power of the steps and how they had changed her life. She was a teacher and I related to her because I was a teacher and I responded very well to the intellectual approach. I remember asking her very directly in the middle of the meeting, "Are you telling me in no uncertain terms that these steps have given you a spiritual experi-

ence and a completely new way of life?" She looked me right in the eye and confirmed that right now she had complete peace and could be completely in this moment. She could be in this meeting right now and not think about anything else but being present in this meeting. I so envied that! Even though I was in that meeting I was thinking of all of the chaos outside of that meeting that was waiting to swallow me up. I got her number and decided to "interview her" to be my next sponsor.

Over latte's at Wilson's Coffee shop, and notebook in hand, I asked her if she was to sponsor me, precisely how she would do it and what she would require of me. She explained the commitment that she would make to me and that she would expect in return.

She laid down the terms and I agreed as I was desperate to do something, anything to get well. I had a new baby girl and did not want to ever put her in danger from my alcoholism. I had a marriage I desperately wanted to end or save. I really didn't know what to do anymore. All I knew was that I had reached the jumping off place in sobriety. I couldn't go on, yet, I couldn't go back. My life and sobriety were on the line and I was quite literally putting my life into the hands of this woman.

I would say that this experience of making a decision to work with Carol was Step 3 in action for me. I decided to put my life into someone else's care. I committed to work the rest of the steps with her, all the way through Step 12, so help me God! I was going to give

this program my all and find out if it really worked.

I aligned my will with her will for me. I followed directions. I attended the meetings she required of me. I met with her weekly. I completed the assignments. I put more effort into my step work with her and less into attending meetings.

I stopped trying to solve my problems by talking about them. I didn't make any decisions unless I ran them past her. She gave me G.O.D. - Good Orderly Direction. I finally decided that I had a better chance of someone other than me running my life. It felt good to know that I did not have to make the decisions anymore! I put my trust in her and decided that if things didn't work out, I could blame her. But, my life (thoughts and emotions) got better! I let a complete stranger run my life and I was getting better? Wow. Yes, I was that desperate. Desperate enough to make a decision to commit my life into someone else's hands.

This third step experience has enabled me to have many more third step experiences. Allowing another human in and having it turn out wonderfully has allowed me to let God in. Who knows what will happen now if I now align my will more perfectly with my Creator?!



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

Anonymous
Alano Racine 6pm Coffee Hour
Benjamin House Wed 6pm ISM's
Benjamin House Fri 6pm Young at Heart
Benjamin House (open topic)
Benjamin House Board
Burlington 12&12 (Mark P)
Burlington 12&12 Fri 9:30am Big Book
Burlington 12&12 Sat Women's Group
Burlington 12&12 Sun 10am 12&12
Grove Fri 10am
Grove Sat 10am
Grove 10am Sober on Sunday
PayPal Donations
RACO 12:15pm Mon-Sat
Veteran's Outreach



Here are the February 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	1112.17	1102.05											2214.22
Office Sales	175.60	763.85											939.45
Charge and Debit Card Sales	1350.45	554.05											1904.50
Rent-Groups	335.00	491.00											826.00
Transfer from Savings													0.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gratitude Cans	417.07												417.07
Small donation can (office)	12.16	13.93											26.09
Big donation box (meeting room)													0.00
District 36 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
District 17 Hotline (bill split)													0.00
Total Income by Month	3402.45	2924.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6327.33

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1030.00	1030.00											2060.00
Electric (Heat & Air)	218.35	335.68											554.03
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	170.96	170.96											341.92
AT & T cancellation	116.28	5.00											121.28
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint. Supplies	205.02	5.25											210.27
Credit Card Fees	22.65	63.21											86.06
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00											20.00
Literature & Merchandise	95.20	990.51											1085.71
District 17 (donation error)		50.00											50.00
Website													0.00
Wisconsin Sales Tax	472.19												472.19
Liability Insurance													0.00
Wisconsin Business Tax Registration													0.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00											240.00
Total Expenses Month to Month	2460.65	2780.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5241.46

Account Balances
Checking: \$6,604.24
Savings: \$3,176.57

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 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

Events

Tri-County Annual Conference

Saturday, March 19th

Racine Memorial Hall

(Next page has registration information)

The Alano Club

Saturday, March 26th

8:30am - 10am

Breakfast - \$5 per plate, families welcome!

Picnic

Saturday, August 13th

12noon – Pritchard Park Large Pavilion

The Grove Club

Picnic

Saturday, July 16th

11:30am

See website for details and other events

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) 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 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	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	Open
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, April 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 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/>