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RACINECENTRALOFFICE.ORG

Monthly Reprieve

Volume 18, Issue 6

June 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 6

"An AA group ought never endorse, finance or lend the AA name to any related facility, or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."



June Focus

Sixth Step Prayer

Higher Power, I am ready for Your help in removing from me the defects of character which I now realize are an obstacle to my recovery. Help me to continue being honest with myself and guide me toward spiritual and mental health.

Step 6

"We became willing to ask God to help us remove our defects of character."

Step 6

Step Six of AA's Alcoholics Anonymous Twelve Step program of recovery is all about the removal of what doesn't work in our lives anymore. Since you have completed Step Four and Five you surely have plenty of things that were revealed to you about what you need to get rid of!

So now it's time to allow a Higher Power to cut out these attitudes, beliefs and behaviors at the source. You get to partner up with your Higher Power and make a firm decision to let go of the character defects and flaws that have been ruling your life and seemed to have you hell bent on self destruction.

The sixth step can bring about significant and very noticeable change when it comes to the thought patterns and behavior that have been with us for a long time. It doesn't happen overnight obviously, and there is nothing like perfection when working the twelve steps of AA. **It's about making a commitment and being content with patient improvement.**

When breaking down Step Six I like to focus more on the word "ready" than entirely; nobody is ever entirely ready, especially for the unknown. However the word "ready" is a reminder that we are prepared, open and available. Now we can aim at the very best of all we know or can learn.

In previous steps we discovered how we harmed ourselves and other people by acting out on our character defects. We learned about patterns in behavior and that we are likely to act the same way with the same defects over and over. All of this knowledge helped us to become ready to have these defects of character removed.

So now, at Step Six, we've reached a spiritual state of mind where we are aware of our character defects, sick and tired of them and pretty confident that a higher power of our own understanding will remove what should go.

In Step Six of AA we get to put the anvil down. For many of us recovering addicts carrying around the weight of some pretty heavy shortcomings not only slows us down in the progress of our recovery; it also puts us at risk for relapse.

We've had these defects we're about to let go of for a long time so there's probably a measure of fear about changing-because change means the unknown and the unknown is part of why we drank or used. **It's important to keep a sense of hope and trust in the program and the process of recovery that has worked on even the most deeply rooted character defects.**

Step 6(continued)

Here are some questions to help guide you through Step Six:

What are your fears about doing a sixth step?

What does it mean that a “higher power” can remove them?

What is your responsibility?

Do you believe you can change? Have you changed so far?

Are some of your character defects enjoyable because they give you pleasure?

Are there any defects that you think cannot be removed? Are you willing to have all of them removed- if not why?

How does surrender help with Step 6?

What actions can you take to show that you are entirely ready?

Here's are two great Step Six activities that you can do alone or with your sponsor:

Make a list (which you're already so good at!) of each character defect of yours, including a very brief definition of it. Then list the ways that you act out behaviorally on the defect and the effect it has on yourself and others when you do. Lastly, write about what your life would be like without the behavior and what principle you may be able to apply instead.

Create Affirmations: Take each major character defect and write three to five positive statements about living differently. Repeat these affirmations aloud in the morning and evening (word them in the present tense, as if you've already conquered the defect.) For example if “lying” is the defect you could write: I am now telling the truth in all matters.

Step 6 (continued)

“When a person is capable of enough wiliness and honesty to try repeatedly Step Six on all his faults-without any reservations whatever- has indeed come a long way spiritually...”
(12 &12)

While working on Step Six try not to beat yourself up if you can't conquer every single one of your defects immediately (or even over a longer period of time). You're a work in progress and you should be happy about your success so far. Celebrate each little victory; keep an open mind and a positive attitude through your journey.

Spirit meets us at our point of action, so remember, don't try- DO

ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS

Our Stories

Step Six: Dropping the Rock *by Tim Powers*

TWELVE
STEPS
AND
TWELVE
TRADITIONS

With each Step you take in Alcoholics Anonymous, you are digging deeper within yourself and getting at the root causes that have kept you stuck in your addiction.

The Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous is an excellent example of that point and is often seen as THE Step that separates the men from the boys (or the women from the girls). It is during this step that you must be completely willing and ready to *have the God of your understanding* remove the character defects.

As with every other Step in AA, the Sixth Step will challenge you to go to places within yourself that you may fear. Overcoming an addiction to alcohol (or any addiction for that matter) isn't easy by any stretch of the imagination. It may seem that once you conquer a mountain, a larger one looms on the horizon and a new set of challenges threatens to throw you off course. You may be tempted to try and bypass this Step or try to go through the motions and give a half-hearted effort, but with working the Steps must be all in. Half-measures won't help you truly leave your alcohol addiction behind.

The crux of the Sixth Step of Alcoholics Anonymous is addressing our character defects and having the willingness of the God or Higher Power of our understanding to remove them from our lives. When we look at the word character defects we automatically think the worst of ourselves and feel that once again we have to drag ourselves through the proverbial mud and broadcast to the world all of our faults.

If you are approaching the Sixth Step it may seem like you are putting yourself through another round of personal torment and torture for the sake of a recovery that may be uncertain. However, it is important to understand what character defects truly are and what approach that you can take in order to make the process less daunting.

A simple definition of a character defect is a fault of failure to meet a certain standard. Taking a look at this description of the word, it can easily be seen how the meaning focuses on where a person is flawed and has a specific character trait or traits that need improvement. Perhaps the biggest thing to remember about character defects is that **is does not mean you are a bad person**. It should go without saying, but we as hu-

man being are not perfect creatures, and each and every one of us has defects or flaws that we must contend with throughout our lifetime.

Perhaps a better way to understand the concept of character defects is through changing how we view and define it. Instead of seeing your faults and failings as defects, you should frame it as shortcomings that must be addressed and worked on. By changing the way you view things, it will help build a sense of esteem and character as you continue working your program of recovery. The bottom line reason why you work the Sixth Step is beautifully illustrated in The Twelve Steps and Traditions:

So Step Six – “Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character” – is A.A.’s way of stating the best possible attitude one can take in order to make a beginning on this lifetime job. This does not mean that we expect all our character defects to be lifted out of us as the drive to drink was. A few of them may be, but with most of them we shall have to be content with patient improvement. The words “entirely ready” underline the fact that we want to aim at the very best we know or can learn. (p.65) (excerpt from <https://sobernation.com/the-sixth-step-of-alcoholics-anonymous/>)



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

Alano Racine Nooner Group
Benjamin House Sun 10am downstairs
Benjamin House Thu 6pm Big Book
Benjamin House Sat 7am Downstairs
Benjamin House 7am Upstairs Sunshine
Benjamin House Board
Burlington Sat 10am District 36
Burlington Speak as the Spirit Moves You (693313)
Grove Mon 10am Primary Purpose
Grove Wed 6:30pm Primary Purpose
PayPal Donations
RACO Mon-Fri 12:15pm
Veterans Outreach



Here are the May 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	1189.63	1098.68	692.16								5174.67
Office Sales	175.60	763.85	983.45	622.85	239.40								2785.15
Charge and Debit Card Sales	1350.45	554.05	221.20	192.15	181.05								2498.90
Rent-Groups	335.00	491.00	762.00	523.00	300.00								2411.00
Transfer from Savings													0.00
Fellowship Day													0.00
Gratitude Cans	417.07												417.07
Small donation can (office)	12.16	13.93	26.83	11.78	4.70								69.40
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	3163.11	2448.44	1417.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13356.19

Expense Summary:	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Rent & Water	1030.00	1030.00	1030.00	1030.00	1030.00								5150.00
Electric (Heat & Air)	218.35	335.68	227.78	225.88	188.91								1196.60
Internet/Telephone - Spectrum	170.96	170.96	170.96	170.96	170.96								854.80
AT & T cancellation	116.28	5.00											121.28
Sam's Club Membership													0.00
Office & Maint., Supplies	205.02	5.25	102.92	180.60									493.79
Credit Card Fees	22.85	63.21	20.13	16.65	32.98								155.80
Bank Fees	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00								50.00
Literature & Merchandise	95.20	990.51	1443.70										2529.41
District 17 (donation error)		50.00											50.00
Website													0.00
Wisconsin Sales Tax	472.19												472.19
Liability Insurance				856.00									856.00
Wisconsin Business Tax Registration													0.00
Repair and Maintenance	120.00	120.00	188.25	860.00									1288.25
Total Expenses Month to Month	2460.85	2780.61	3193.74	3352.09	1432.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13220.12

Account Balances
 Checking: \$4,724.33
 Savings: \$3,176.65

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

The Alano Club – racinealanoclub.com

Picnic

Saturday, August 13th

12noon – Pritchard Park Large Pavilion

The Grove Club – thegroveclub.com

Picnic

Saturday, July 16th

11:30am

See website for details and other events

The Benjamin House – benjaminhouseracine.org

46nd ANNUAL SALEM BIG BOOK GROUP OPEN MEETING

FRIDAY JUNE 24TH 2022

SALEM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

25130 85TH ST. SALEM, WI.

THIS YEAR'S SPEAKER IS CHRIS T. FROM GURNEE, IL.

DESSERT AND FELLOWSHIP AT 6:00PM, MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM

THE GROUP WILL BE SUPPLYING DESERTS AND COFFEE



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MIKE D. 262-206-6253 OR TIM S. @
847-417-1454



35th Annual Wolf River – Nicolet AA Camping Trip

August 12th-14th 2022

**Saturday Night Speaker
Jess W. – McHenry**

Where:

**Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure
Resort & Campground
N3494 Hwy 55, White Lake, WI
54491**

- Campsites \$25 Per Site (~6
People) Per Night**
- Cabins from \$90 Per Night**

For more info contact:

**Casey R. @ 847-409-8197 or
Noah W. @ 317-361-0384**

**CALL BEAR PAW AT 715-882-3502
TO RESERVE A CAMPSITE/CABIN
AND MENTION THIS TRIP AS
SITES ARE BLOCKED OFF FOR
OUR GROUP**

**More info and lodging details at
www.bearpawoutdoors.com Call to
reserve as units are on hold!**

Friends/Family are welcome!

**Many great activities - Rafting,
Hiking Trails, Volleyball, Hot
Showers/Bathrooms on site**

**Saturday night open speaker and
bonfire!**

42nd

Green Lake Round-Up

42nd

August 19, 20, 21st, 2022

Green Lake Conference Center – www.glcc.org
 W2511 State Road 23 Green Lake, WI 54941

Open AA Meetings

Friday 8 PM Scott S., PA
 Saturday 8 PM Tina A., CA
 Sunday 10 AM Pete K., WI

Open Al-Anon Meeting

Saturday 6 PM Angie M., WI

Closed AA Meetings**ALKATHONS**

Pillsbury Robley Room: Fri 10 PM – Sat 9 AM
 Sat 10 PM – Sun 9 AM

Sat 10 AM, Famous "Meeting in the Field" (field between the tennis courts and play area)

Closed Al-Anon Meeting

Saturday 10 AM at the "Tea House"

Bring the whole family! There's something for everyone!!

(Camping, biking, swimming, boating, hiking, golf, volleyball, fishing, fellowship...)

Saturday Special Activities

"Amy S." 5K Fun Run/Walk
 Saturday 7:45 AM, race starts at 8 AM
 Register at Pillsbury Hall

Volleyball Games-All day Saturday
 At the sand courts...
 Show up and ask to play!

- Event Registration: \$15.00 per person -

Bill W. tickets available – please reach out to Dianna G. (414) 943-3342

All proceeds are split according to the 7th tradition to carry our AA message (less conference expenses).
 Accommodations are separate from the event registration.

Pre-Registration:

Make checks payable to:
"Green Lake Round-Up"

Mail payment and registration form to:
Green Lake Round-Up
P.O. Box 684
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Event Contacts:

Dianna G. (414) 943-3342
 Scott M. (414) 444-8713
greenlakeroundupwi@gmail.com

Event sponsored by:
"Monday Night Action Group"- Mondays 7:30 PM
 Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 W156N8131 Pilgrim Rd. - Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

On-site registration Friday

3 PM to 5 PM

Country Store

On-site registration Friday & Saturday

6 PM to 8 PM

Pillsbury Hall

Note: We will not send confirmations prior to the Round-Up. Pre-registrations can be picked up at the On-site registration locations.

Pre-registration helps us with up front expenditures we incur. Please mail it in NOW!

..... *Detach along line and mail in bottom portion.*

Green Lake Round-Up registration form. One Person per Form please!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

(Registration is \$15 per person) Enclosed \$ _____

Phone: _____

Willing to be of service? (circle one): *Alkathons*

Clean-Up Greeting Registration Set-Up Misc.

Please print your name (with city and state)
 as you'd like it to appear on your name tag.

Applies only to those pre-registered.

Name: _____

City, State _____

August 19, 20, 21st, 2022

Green Lake Conference Center – www.glcc.org
W2511 State Road 23 Green Lake, WI 54941

On-Site Accommodations

- **On-site camping and lodging:** Green Lake Conference Center manages all on-site accommodations.
Call 1 (920) 294-3323, website www.glcc.org
- **Directions:** From Milwaukee, take US 41 North to Fond du Lac, exit West on Hwy 23 to Green Lake Conference Center (a few miles west of the village of Green Lake, WI).

Off-Site Accommodations

Off-Site campgrounds:

- Green Lake Campground, W2360 Hwy 23.....(920) 294-3542 0.3 miles
- Hattie Sherwood Campground, S. Lawson Drive.....(920) 229-1828 1.5 miles

Off-Site Hotels/Motels near the conference center:

- Dartford Inn, N6264 Lawson Drive, Green Lake, WI.....(920) 290-1671 .dartfordinn.com
- Keipe Hotel, 536 Mill Street, Green Lake, WI..... (920) 294-6484
- Mc Connell Inn, 497 South Lawson Drive, Green Lake, WI.....(920) 294-6430 .mcconnellinn.com
- Bay View Motel & Resort, 439 Lake Street, Green Lake, WI.....(920) 294-6504 .bayviewgreenlake.com
- Cobblestone Suites, 2 Westgate Drive, Ripon, WI.....(920) 748-5500 .staycobblestone.com
- Ripon Welcome Inn and Suites, 240 East Fond Du Lac Street, Ripon, WI....(920) 748-2821
www.riponwelcomeinn.com
- **There are other establishments for camping and lodging in the area...**

Marina

(off-site boat and slip rentals)

- Action Marina boat rentals, 485 Park Drive, Green Lake, WI.....(920) 745-2600 · actionmarina.com

AA WORKS

Come & Get It!

2022 AREA 75 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

of Alcoholics Anonymous

November 4—6
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells
Hosted by District 20



Register online!



**Bring
the family!**
\$109/nt Room Rate
includes resort access
for all guests!

Area 75 Assembly & Elections	AA Speakers	ALKATHONS	Ice Cream Social	Al-Anon Speaker
	Standing Committee Meetings	AA & Al-Anon Panels		
		Banquet Buffet	Entertainment	

First 100 registrants are entered to win a set of Conference recordings!

Registration Form

One Person Per Form, Please Print

Circle one: AA Al-Anon Alateen

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Accessibility and/or dietary accommodation needs _____

Please Check Desired

Pre-Registration	\$20.00	
Sat. Night Italian Buffet*	\$32.00	
Sunday Plated Breakfast*	\$15.00	
Select one: <input type="checkbox"/> Cheesy Scramble <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit Platter		
Donation	\$	
Total Enclosed	\$	
*See menus on reverse. Must Register to attend. Onsite Registration fee is \$25.		
Make Checks Payable To:	Area 75 Conference Treasurer PO Box 8322 Madison, WI 53708	
Or Register Online:	www.eventbrite.com Enter: 2022 Area 75 Annual Conference	

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 June 1st, 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	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	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, July 6th, 6:00pm 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/>