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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 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."



February Focus

Second Step Prayer

"Higher power, I know in my heart that only you can restore me to sanity. Heal my spirit and restore in me a clear mind."

Step 2

"We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Step 2

STEP TWO OF AA: A POWER GREATER THAN OURSELVES

All of the words of the 12 steps are very specifically chosen, which is another thing I really love about working with them. The second step doesn't say "We came to believe in a power greater than ourselves" it says "We came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity." That's the beauty—we are invited to begin to think about what our higher power can be.

The emphasis is not on who or what the power is, but on what the power can do for us. The group of AA itself certainly qualifies as a power greater than ourselves (our fellowship is in the millions and always growing) as do the spiritual principles contained in the 12 steps.

The awareness and understanding that we can't recover alone and that we need some kind of help is really the lesson at this point in recovery. The spiritual principles that are the foundation of this step are open mindedness, willingness, faith, trust and humility. It really doesn't matter whether we have any idea of how this power greater than ourselves is going to help, just that we come to believe it is possible.

STEP TWO OF AA IN OUR LIVES

"I have come to believe that by being in the fellowship of AA, with the aid of the 12 steps, that I can walk through the painful times in recovery knowing that an end is near, this too shall pass and there is always light at the end of darkness, as I stay clean and continue to work the steps. But it's important to remember that step two, like all of them, is a process, not an event.

Life and sobriety are kind of like surfing; sometimes there is a lull and gentle waves, other times the crashing ferocity of huge swells! Both require patience, humility, and presence, forgiveness and a faith or trust in something uncontrollable, and much bigger than me." - Jason Wahler

Step 2(continued)

STEP TWO OF AA: QUESTIONS

As part of a recovery process it's really helpful to ask and answer important questions pertaining to step two; questions about insanity, coming to believe, a power greater than ourselves, restoration to sanity and spiritual principles:

Did you make insane decisions as a result of your alcoholism?

Do you have any fears about coming to believe in something greater than yourself?

What does "we came to believe" mean to you?

What experiences have you heard other recovering alcoholics share about their process of coming to believe and have you tried any of them in your recovery/life?

Do you have a problem accepting that there is a power/powers greater than yourself?

What evidence do you have a "higher power" is working in your life?

What are some of the things you consider good examples of sanity?

What changes in your thinking and behavior are necessary for your restoration to sanity?

Why is having a closed mind harmful to your personal recovery?

How are you demonstrating open-mindedness in your life right now?

What fears do you have that are getting in the way of your trust?

What do you need to do to help let go of the fears?

Are you seeking help from your sponsor, going to meetings and reaching out to other recovering alcoholics? If so what are the results?

Step Two—Sanity Restored

By: Ken J.

AA says that alcoholism, and by extension any drug addiction, is fundamentally irrational, a form of insanity characterized by denial. As the The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it, "Few indeed are the practicing alcoholics who have any idea how irrational they are, or seeing their irrationality can bear to face it."

Losing control over drinking or drugs — obsessive use despite the recognition in some small part of your mind that you must stop or die — means that willpower alone cannot restore control because a rational approach to an irrational problem can't work. Once you've lost the ability to regulate drug use, the Big Book says, "probably no human power" can revive it. That's why AA looks to a "Power greater than ourselves" for a solution.

Many addicts find the assertion that they're insane, and AA's reliance on a Higher Power and a spiritual solution, to be a huge obstacle. Calling it a Higher Power instead of God can seem like a distinction without a difference.

Like many, however, my attitude about the diagnosis started to change when one rehab counselor told me AA's definition of insanity, adopted not from any spiritual source, but from Albert Einstein: "It's doing

the same thing over and over and each time expecting a different result.

Like all the times we promised ourselves to have just one or two drinks and woke up the next morning asking through our hangovers, 'How did that happen again?' Like all the times it happened again and again and again, all the months and years we continued to do the same thing, each time expecting a different result."

Even if you accept that addiction is a type of insanity, there's still "the God thing." In



response, the AA literature says that doubt in the existence of God is not a disqualification. Many participants entered the program as agnostics or atheists but were still able to recover. All it takes, AA says, is an open mind.

As The Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions puts it: "First, Alcoholics Anonymous does not

demand that you believe anything. All of its Twelve Steps are but suggestions. Second, to get sober and stay sober, you don't have to swallow all of Step Two right away.... Third, all you really need is an open mind." AA says that if you practice its program, you will develop a Higher Power "of your own understanding" when you complete the 12th Step.

And AA says a Higher Power doesn't have to be God: "You can, if you wish, make AA itself your 'higher power.' Here's a very large group of people who have solved their alcohol problem. In this respect they are certainly a power greater than you... Surely you can have faith in them. You will find many members who have crossed the threshold just this way." In that case, "God" can be an acronym for "group of drunks," or the "good orderly direction" that a sober group of drunks suggests.

Recognizing that there is a power greater than yourself, whatever that power is to you, means accepting the humility necessary to jettison reliance on your willpower as an answer to the insanity of addiction.



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

Editor's Note:

Will have January and February group donations listed in March Reprieve along with the January and February financials. My apologies for not having them included in this issue.



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

Events

The Alano Club – racinealanoclub.com

**** Save the Date ****

Summer Picnic – Pritchard Park Large Pavilion

Saturday, August 12th

11am

The Grove Club – thegroveclub.com

Valentine's Murder Mystery Games

Saturday, February 11th

6:00pm

\$5 per person

The Benjamin House – benjaminhouseracine.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.”

These positions are still available as of the Steering Committee meeting on February 1st, 2023. Please reach out to those looking to do service work – thank you.

The following positions are still needed for the Steering Committee as we start out 2023.

- * Co-Treasurer (3 years sobriety required)
- * Co-Secretary (1 year sobriety required)
- * Co-Chairman (3 years sobriety required)
- * Reprieve writer
- * Webmaster

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 6:00pm 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 Racinealanoclub.com	The Grove Club 1037 Grove Ave. Racine, WI 53405 (262) 634-9656 Thegroveclub.com	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/			

Racine Area Central Office <i>Officers/Steering Committee</i>	
Chairperson	Jeff G.
Co-Chairperson	Open
Secretary	Steve O.
Co-Secretary	Open
Treasurer	John K
Co-Treasurer	Open
Staffing Coordinator	Doreen G
Co-Staffing Coordinator	John B
Newsletter	Open
Co-Newsletter	Open
Hotline Chairperson	Mike
Co-Hotline Chairperson	Open
Literature Chairperson	Christy
Co-Literature Chair	Rachael M
Procurement	Open
Co-Procurement	Open
Webmaster	Open
Co-Webmaster	Open
Advisor	Dave W
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, March 1st, 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/>