



The Communicator

MARCH | 2016

Green Bay Area 74 District 01
newsletter@greenbayaa.org
www.greenbayaa.org
HOTLINE - 920-432-2600

"I am responsible. When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there. And for that: I am responsible."

30th Anniversary Alcoholics Anonymous International Convention-Toronto, Canada (July 1965)

"BELIEVE IT OR NOT"

TRADITION THREE: The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

I've been an active member of AA for 25 years. I'm a satisfied customer and love my sobriety and the AA program. Because of these gifts, I have a full life and am actively engaged with my fellows and with the world around me. I have a meaningful relationship with a Higher Power. I am grateful.

That being said, I've always felt like a minority in AA—not because of anything external (though a case could be made for some of those too), but because of the beliefs I hold. I frequently sit in meetings and hear spiritual or religious beliefs I do not share. This happens to me, more rarely, in AA literature as well. Often these beliefs are stated as if they were somehow AA beliefs, and by extension, that everyone in AA shares them, or should share them.

I've been sober a long time and retain a healthy bit of defiance, so this usually doesn't bother me much. However, I do sometimes think of newcomers to AA who don't have the longevity and experience I have. I want them to know that they too can belong in AA, even if their beliefs don't conform to those of other AA members.

Over the years, I have discovered that it is entirely my responsibility to listen and search for the beliefs that feel genuinely true and helpful to me, regardless of whether they are "approved" by other AA members, or even by AA literature.

Let me give a few examples to illustrate. I often hear in AA meetings that "there is no such thing as a coincidence." I believe that there is such a thing as coincidence and that they happen often. I like coincidences; I think they're fun. I also believe in good luck and bad luck. Placing self-imposed meaning on events has often brought me unnecessary anxiety, resentment, confusion and complication.

Today, I work hard to minimize this tendency and have found that a more neutral approach to events aids me greatly. I reason things out with a sponsor and other trusted friends and I question the meanings that I automatically assign to events. I ask for and welcome other perspectives. I also consider the possibility that an event may have no substantial meaning whatsoever. Perhaps it just is.

Similarly, I hear "everything happens for a reason" and "everything will surely turn out for the best in the end." I may one day find all of these "beliefs" commonly heard in AA to be true, but until then, I consider them none of my business. Instead, I trudge a human and spiritual path that works, one that is personal, solid, real, deep, dependable, long-lasting, growing, authentic and true—for me.

My days of relying on other peoples' beliefs are over. I have to dig deep and have my own. I have learned that I must stand on my own two feet with my Higher Power and that I don't "answer" to anyone in AA, not even my sponsor. These have been important, and sometimes painful, lessons.

As I age in sobriety, I feel a sense of dignity and grace, and a true independence of the human spirit, which is promised in the Big Book. I remain sober and my sanity and serenity levels grow. I take this to be the ultimate authority. Sometimes I still fear being that one person in the room who believes differently—but I muster my courage and share who I am. Then I listen with an open mind. My beliefs continue to grow and change.

And a perquisite of sharing my true self? Inevitably, another AA member will approach me after the meeting and say, "I'm so glad you said what you did. I feel that way too but I didn't think I could say that in a meeting." When I risk telling the truth, I find I am never alone.

May we always remember the Long Form of Tradition Three: "Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation."

The hoop we have to jump through is wider than we think. AA has so much depth. It can contain and sustain all alcoholics who choose to be members.

—I.K., New York, N.Y.

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OUR COMMON WELFARE AA WORKSHOP*

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016
9:00-4:45 pm
Peace Methodist Church
2300 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Kaukauna, WI 54130

ST PATRICK'S DAY DANCE*

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016
9:00 PM - Midnight
218 Club
218 S Oneida St Green Bay
DJ / Dancing – Raffles
Bring a snack
\$4.00 Donation Requested

MOOSE 'N GOOSE*

Corrections Literature Fund Raising Event
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016
5:00 pm Set-up & Social Time
6:00 pm Dinner (bring dish to pass)
7:30 pm Speakers (Open)
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
349 N. Main Street
Seymour, WI 54165
Meat Donations Encouraged
Rolland G. 920-722-5417
Dan L. 715-851-1970

SOUTHERN STYLE BBO DINNER*

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016
Fellowship – 5:00 PM
Dinner – 6:00 PM
Open Speaker
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Ln
Green Bay, WI 54302

5TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 2016
1:00 to 4:00 pm
218 Club
218 S. Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
Bring your chili between 12:30 - 1:00 pm
Please bring chili in a crock pot or slow cooker
Not bringing chili? Please bring a snack or desert!
Soda, water, and coffee available for purchase
50/50 Raffle
Bring \$4 donation or a smile

4TH & 5TH STEP SPRING RETREAT*

APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016
AA and Al-Anon
St. Norbert Center for Spirituality
1016 N. Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
Cost: \$140 – includes lodging, meals, & snacks
Limited Scholarships Available
April 15, 2016 deadline
Judy G. 920-737-2330
Send \$40 deposit to:
Step Retreats PO Box 574
Green Bay, WI 54305

AREA 74 2016 SPRING CONFERENCE*

MAY 20-22, 2016
Friday Night-Ice Cream Social
Saturday Night-Banquet, Speaker, and Dance
Sunday-Morning Speaker
AmericInn
3009 Lakeshore Dr
Ashland, WI 54806
Phone: 715.682.9950
Registration & Banquet \$41
Registration only \$18
Rooms are \$107 plus tax, per night, double occupancy
Contact: Sheryl @ Crazy_bear63@yahoo.com

Donate

GREEN BAY AREA
CENTRAL OFFICE
1270 Main St. Suite 102
Green Bay, WI 54302
(920) 432-2600
www.aagreenbay.com

AA AREA 74 TREASURER
PO Box 84 Paradise, MI 49768
www.area74.org

AA DISTRICT 01
TREASURER
PO Box 632 Green Bay, WI 54305

AA GENERAL SERVICE
OFFICE (GSO)
Grand Central Station
PO Box 459 New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org

Service

FEMALES & MALES NEEDED
BROWN COUNTY JAIL MEETINGS
Wednesday night jail meetings, 6:00 to 7:00 pm
3030 Curry Lane
Green Bay, WI 54311
pre-authorization needed and training provided
Please contact:
Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men)
Laurie M. 920-336-7698 (Women)
corrections@greenbayaa.org

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE
& HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm or 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Betsy N. 920-362-9397
1270 Main St. #102, Green Bay, WI 54302

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

February 11, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, Last month we came together to celebrate 75 years of Alcoholics Anonymous in Green Bay. I personally was impressed with the numbers in attendance. I know the Area Committee members in attendance, including the Delegate and Chairperson, enjoyed their time here. I want to thank those who contributed their time and energy into making the intergroup successful. Next month we look forward to the Delegate's Workshop. It takes place in Three Lakes, WI on March 5th. As one of the area DCM's, I will be participating in one of the committees (Literature). Other committees include Archives, Corrections, Cooperation with Professional Community (CPC), Grapevine, Public Information, and Treatment. The Delegate workshop is open to all members of AA. If you're at all interested in learning more about the overall structure and service of AA, this is a great place to do it. Yours in service, Nate K. DCM

Secretary, The January 14, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. ~Theresa D.

Bridging the Gap, Bridging the Gap is going well. I am not seeing a whole lot of requests coming from the inside right now. ~Christina M.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, AA meeting lists and copies of The Communicator will be distributed to the Vet Center on Ashland Ave., and the Veteran's Outpatient Clinic on University Ave. She will be reaching out to the administrators at the Bellin Cancer Center to see if they would be interested in having an AA liaison/contact person for those making inquiries. She has seen Al-Anon literature there and will inquire as to place AA literature there as well. ~Amy G.

Corrections, Brian Laurent, Green Bay Police Superintendent, has been contacted. He forwarded a list of 145 names of people who have done jail work in the past. He wants the list updated with only current AA members who are attending one of the five weekly meetings. He wants to re-certify any AA member who hasn't been reviewed within the last year and a half. We took the list and are in the process of contacting everyone on it. So far many of the numbers have been disconnected or are no longer in service. Expect to complete within the next month. Brian also provided the current meeting schedule. There are 2 meetings for men and 1 for women at the Curry Lane location and 1 meeting for each, men and women at the Huber Work Release Center. We made an initial proposal to the committee to organize a Corrections Workshop sometime this Spring. The agenda would deal with the status of the current meetings, ideas to improve the program and best practices. In addition it would be an informative meeting to recruit new participants. More details will be forthcoming. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

District Events Co-Chair, Despite losing half the crowd to the Packer playoff game, the Intergroup Conference 2016 - "Celebrating 75 Years of AA in Green Bay, was self-supporting. It was noted that if the 250 expected attendance was reached, the church would not have been able to accommodate a crowd of that size. Thank goodness we had Katie's 2 roasters of cheesy potatoes and Tom's HUGE pan of lasagna -- and so many meatballs -- 3 big crock pots and every one of them were gone! Selling the remaining ham and buns helped the event reach its final numbers. Jennifer A. brought any leftovers to St. John's homeless shelter. Kristen supplied a handout which itemized all expenses. ~Kristen C./Kimberly S.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	183
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,074.47
TOTAL DONATIONS:	\$ 1,133.71
PROFIT:	\$ 59.24

Newsletter, Going well. Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 02/11/16 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Starting Balance as of 01/14/2016	\$5,013.34
Deposits	
Never on Sunday	75.00
218 Club	161.75
Early Birds	59.00
<u>Intergroup Conference</u>	<u>1,137.00</u>
TOTAL DEPOSITS	1,432.75
SUBTOTAL	6,446.09

Ending Balance February 11, 2016	\$5,152.62
Prudent Reserve	\$1,300.00
Total Funds Available	3,852.62

Expenses	
Tom Y, DCM expense	50.00
Color Master (Dec. 2015 Printing)	169.00
Intergroup (petty cash)	100.00
Intergroup (decorations)	99.67
Intergroup (sound system)	100.00
Intergroup (misc. supplies)	649.80
<u>Intergroup (rent)</u>	<u>125.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,293.47

Resources Online

"Keep Recovery in Your Head"

- Alcoholics Anonymous World Org: www.aa.org
- Recovery Short Stories (print/audio): www.aagrapevine.org
- AA Speakers Online/Download: www.aaspeakers.org
- Adult and Teenage Family & Friends of Alcoholic: www.al-anon.alateen.org
- Historical Resources of Alcoholics Anonymous: www.silkworth.net

Webmaster, ~ Debbie P./Sam J. AA website is being updated and reconfigured.

- Site information is up to date
- Reorganized code to make updates easier
- Minor cosmetic changes
- Improved how the page displays on mobile devices (New !!)
- *** Visitor Statistics for the month of January, 2016 *** Amazing !!!
- 8,448 unique visits to <http://www.greenbayaa.org>
- 50,518 pages viewed or links clicked
- The Meetings page was the most frequently visited, followed by Events
- Financial: A payment of \$16.95 is due on 11/13/2016. This is an annual fee which covers site backups and recoveries

Old Business: Intergroup Conference report given by Kristen C. See District Events Report, below. James R reported on the GSR Workshop. The importance of having a local GSR workshop was discussed.

New Business: A handout was provided regarding the upcoming Moose N Goose to be held on April 9, 2016. They are in need of new committee members. They meet on the last Friday of each month, namely Feb. 26 and March 25 at the Navarino 8:00 p.m. open meeting. Ascension Lutheran Church. Corner of Hwy. 156 and McDonald Road.

A handout was provided for the upcoming Area 74 Delegate’s Workshop which will be held on March 5, 2016 in Three Lakes, Wisconsin.

A discussion was held regarding the potential for an open forum/panel discussion type event that would provide information to AA members pertaining to service work within jails and institutions. Chairpersons for Bridging the Gap, Corrections and District Events would coordinate this event.

GSR Reports:

- Letting Go**, Donna Y. Continues to grow! Doing very well.
- Early Birds**, 7:30 am, Sunday, 218 Club, James R. Well attended. Going well.
- Road to Recovery**, Griffin W. Going well. They no longer have a treasurer and are in the process of seeking a new one.
- Serenity Now**, Jennifer A. Absent.
- Eye Opener**, Geri L. Going strong.
- Flintville Early Risers**, Tom B. Doing well. Had their first business meeting last wk.
- Walk with Us**, Henrietta D. The meeting continues to be well attended every week with approx. 10-20 members. They have voted to give a \$100 donation to The Bridge to help with the cost of flooring.
- Women in the Present**, Marian K. Absent.
- Sisters in Sobriety**, Sue C. Going well.

Dear Grapevine

Dialing Step Two:
 I always considered myself an introvert and a loner. I found out that this was just a rationalization for the life I had accepted.

When I got sober, my sponsor told me to call two alcoholics each day. It was like a death sentence. It turned out to be a death sentence for my obsession to drink. It was one of the hardest things for me to do. It also seems to be the hardest thing to get others to do.

Over time, making phone calls helped me to feel comfortable in my own skin. By calling others when I am doing good, it becomes habit. I learned to pick up the phone instead of the bottle. And I don’t have to do it alone.

AA started when one alcoholic called another alcoholic. I practice Step Two every time I pick up the phone. —Jeff T.
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District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	archives@greenbayaa.org
Nate K. 608-217-7315		Bruce K. 920-495-7250	
Alternate District Chairperson	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap	Bridging@greenbayaa.org
Jennifer A. 920-265-9053		Christina M. 920-445-3887	
Newsletter	Newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info	PI@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Beverly V. 920-857-3053	
Corrections Chairperson	Corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men)		John P. 740-274-6358	
Laurie M. 920-336-7698 (Women)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes	MeetingList@greenbayaa.org	Amy G.	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Events	events@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer	Treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Kimberly S. 920-370-3581	
Dean H. 920-592-9337		Kristen C. 920-309-0390	
Secretary	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters	webmaster@greenbayaa.org
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Debbie P. 920-676-7585	
		Sam J. 920-362-4832	