



# The Communicator

AUGUST | 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)

## **"A TOUGH CLIMB"**

*Filled with resentment and lots of prayer, a Missouri mom trudges to her daughter's birthday and is met with an unexpected gift*

I had been in the program a number of years, but I still had a particular resentment for my son-in-law. He was a drinker and a smoker, and I didn't think he was a nice man. I had asked my daughter before Christmas what gift she wanted. She told me that she would like for me and Jeff, her husband, to get along.

In AA I learned to pray for people I didn't like, even when I didn't want to. I had been praying for him: "God bless the jerk." But now I really had to pray sincerely. I started saying the Eleventh-Step prayer. I prayed that he would receive the same things I wished for my daughter, including compassion, understanding and peace.

My daughter's birthday falls in January. She invited me to her home for her birthday party. She lived in the country, about 25 miles out of town, in a trailer park located in a very poor area. I really hated going out there because I was the kind of mother-in-law who disliked everything my son-in-law did. I would sit in the corner feeling very hostile and finding fault with everything he did.

The day I went to their home for the birthday, we had a snowstorm. I couldn't drive up their hill, so I parked and started to climb this quarter-mile-long hill with cake in one hand and gift in the other. About five inches of snow covered the ground. I had come straight from work and it was a difficult climb. Suddenly, I noticed two men walking down the hill toward me. "Hey, Mom," one called. It was my son. With him was Jeff, my son-in-law. They had come to help me up the hill. It was a very steep hill and I was sliding and falling in the snow. All of a sudden, we started acting silly and throwing snowballs. One of them would pull me and one would push me and we were laughing so hard I was out of breath. By the time we got to their trailer, I wasn't angry. We were laughing and joking. For the first time, I felt comfortable in their home. Jeff grilled steaks outside on their little porch. We had a nice time.

On the way home I thought, first, about how this prayer stuff really does work and second, I realized I played a part in my hostile relationship with Jeff. I had contributed to the anger and fear. I had carried anger and resentment with me every time I walked through their door. I brought it with me. No matter what was going on between my daughter and Jeff, I was the one carrying all this garbage with me. I had been praying for him: "God bless the jerk." I was the kind of mother-in-law who disliked everything my son-in-law did.

I knew then that I had to make amends. So one day, I walked up to Jeff and said I was wrong. I apologized for adding fuel to the fire and asked whether there was something I could do to make things right.

He gave me a suggestion. I had been bringing food and clothes and toys over every time I visited. As he saw it, I had been taking over his job of providing for his family and taking away some of his dignity. By admitting my part, we were both able to find healing.

About a year later, Jeff was working on a roofing project when he took a bad fall. He became paralyzed from the neck down. I was so thankful that I had made amends before his accident because if I had waited, it would have been an apology brought about by pity. I don't think he would have accepted it.

He survived for five years after the fall. During that time, we got closer. We were never buddy-buddy, but we could look each other in the eye with respect. We had many talks about religion and our Higher Powers. He was so afraid of dying and I was able to tell him about the God of my understanding that I had come to know through AA.

Jeff never stopped drinking or smoking. But I had learned how to love someone I had once hated. I could see healing on both sides. When he died I was there, in the corner, sending him all the love and peace I could. In AA, I was given the knowledge and desire to pass on what I had been given. I was so grateful to send it to him.

~L.A.; St. Louis, MO

Stories reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine: The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous  
www.aagrapevine.org

***"Last Call! Please volunteer."***

**GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**CONTACT FOR DETAILS**  
Eric S. 920-785-4096 (call/txt)

**Typical Shifts: Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm, and Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

Location: 1270 Main St. #102 Green Bay, WI 54302

## 2016 ILLINOIS STATE CONFERENCE\* & EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

"Our Real Purpose..."

AUGUST 12-14TH, 2016

AA & Al-Anon Speakers - Literature - Archives

Workshops - Alcahons - Panels - Dance

Fellowship - Fun!

Pheasant Run Resort

4051 East Main Street

St. Charles, IL, 60174

## 218 SUMMER PICNIC\*

SATURDAY AUGUST 20, 2016

Hamburgers and Brats will be served - Bring a dish to pass

Activities and games for all ages !!!

Murphy Park Pavillion

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1627 Dousman Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

## OSHKOSH INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2016

5:00 p.m. Doors Open

6:00 p.m. - Potluck

7:00 p.m. - Speakers

St. John's Episcopal Church

1513 Pinewood Lane

New London, WI 54961

## LABOR DAY HOLIDAY GRATITUDE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 5, 2016

10:00 a.m.

218 Club

218 South Oneida Street

Green Bay, WI 54304

## DISTRICT 01 PICNIC - CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!\*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

12:00 - 4:00 p.m. (Rain or Shine)

Open To All!

Main Dish Will Be Provided

Please Bring a Dish to Pass

Soda, Coffee, and Water Available

Water Balloon Volleyball, Pie in Face Game,

Minute to Win It, Kickball, and More!

Colburn Park (North Building, Enter At Fisk St.)

901 South Fisk Street

Green Bay, WI 54304

## AREA 74 2016 FALL CONFERENCE\*

"Our Spiritual Way of Life"

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016

Ice Cream Social; Four Entree Buffet

Twelve Step Skit & Caboodle; Live Dance Band

AA Service & Spiritual Speakers

St. Ann's Center

320 Pine Street South

Turtle Lake, WI 54889

## SOBRIETY GATHERING\*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

from 9:00 a.m. - until...

Parish Hall

2936 Freedom Road (Co. Rd. E)

Oneida, WI 54155

(Donations Appreciated)

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9:00 a.m. - BREAKFAST

12:00 p.m. - LUNCH

Panels, Meetings and Speakers: AA, Al-Anon & Alateen

EVENING FEAST

Dance Band/DJ/Open Mic

NO FEE OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Confirm for planning purposes by phone or email

Wes M: 920-544-9709 ([westmartin@new.rr.com](mailto:westmartin@new.rr.com))

Gary: 920-362-0206; Paul N: 920-370-3317

Janet M: 920-869-2278

## AREA 75 2016 FALL CONFERENCE\*

OCTOBER 21 - 23, 2016

Hosted by District 3

AA, AlAnon, AlaTeen Speakers, Panels and more

Holiday Inn

4601 Calumet Avenue

Manitowoc, WI 54220

discount lodging rates code - "AA1"

Registration: [WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM)

Conference Registration: \$18

Saturday Buffet: \$23 (optional)

Sunday Breakfast Buffet: \$12 (optional)

Cookie S. Minnetonka, MN - Bud S. Manchester, NH

Vern H. Kerrville, TX - Bill F. Marietta, OH

For information:

Marv S.: [MARVSCHULER@MSN.COM](mailto:MARVSCHULER@MSN.COM) - 920-901-9509

Dan P.: [DAN.PETERS55@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DAN.PETERS55@GMAIL.COM) - 608-692-6096

Tom R.: [NANESTOM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NANESTOM@GMAIL.COM) - 920-901-4159

## THE BRIDGE FALL FELLOWSHIP BBO DINNER\*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

5:00 p.m. Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Southern Style Dinner

Open Speaker to Follow

Everyone Welcome! Please feel free to bring a dish to pass

(but not required)

The Bridge

2514 Jenny Lane

Green Bay, WI 54302

## 4TH AND 5TH STEP FALL RETREAT\*

OCTOBER 14TH - 16TH, 2016

(Friday Night to Sunday Noon)

This retreat setting is designed to provide a safe, non-denominational, trusting environment for participants to learn and grow in "working recovery".

St. Norbert Abbey

1016 North Broadway

De Pere, WI 54115

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

July 14, 2016

## District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: [www.greenbayaa.org](http://www.greenbayaa.org))

**District 01 DCM Report:** Dear Friends, Last month we had a visit from our Area 74 delegate, Derek. He made the long drive to simply share his time and story with us at an open speaker meeting. I want to thank both him for coming such a long distance and our district events chairs Kimberly and Kristen for putting together the event. It was well attended and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next month there is an Area Committee Meeting in Three Lakes on August 6th. I plan to attend this and give a brief update on our 2018 Spring Conference bid. I'll also report back here on the other Area Committee items at a future meeting.

I also plan to attend the Area Fall Conference in Turtle Lake, WI from September 16th -18th. If you plan to go, hopefully you've already booked your room, as I heard last week that blocks of rooms at both hotels are already fully booked.

Lastly, the District picnic is fast approaching. If you are at all interested in serving the district, please see Kimberly or Kristen for an opportunity to help. Thank you ~Nate K.

**Secretary,** The June 9, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. ~Theresa D.

**Bridging the Gap,** Sorry, I will not be able to attend the next 3 district meetings due to work conflict. Bridging the Gap is doing well. I have hopes to construct a volunteer list for our groups to pass around at their meetings. I have hopes to get some new letter writers because I am often asking the same people to write letters. I will also describe Bridging the Gap so people are aware of what it is on this form once I have it completed. I hope to have it done by the next district meeting. Yours in Service ~ Christina M.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Copies of The Communicator continue to be distributed to the Vet Center, the Veteran's Outpatient Clinic and the Bellin Cancer Center. My home group, the Never On Sunday meeting, doesn't have a GSR so I will pass on the need for volunteers at the central office as well as for the hotline. I will continue to communicate the idea of individual meeting's purchasing a subscription to The Grapevine for distribution to a location of the meetings choosing. Any questions please let me know. Thanks, ~Amy G.

**Corrections,** New volunteer training will take place on July 14th, 5:30 to 8:30 pm at the Curry Lane Facility. Women volunteers are needed for the Tuesday night 6:30 meeting at the Huber Work Release Center and the Wednesday night at 6:00 meeting at the Curry Lane Jail. Interested women, should have a minimum of a year of sobriety, an active sponsor, and step work experience. If interested contact Laurie Metzger at [LaurieAnn74@Aol.com](mailto:LaurieAnn74@Aol.com) or 920-336-7698 for an application. The application involves a background check and upon that approval, a security training class will be scheduled. This is an awesome opportunity to fulfill a desperate need and feel extremely grateful and uplifted at the same time. It is extending the work that Bill started in most basic way. It was also suggested that each group could consider having a "Corrections Chair" in order that more members would be encouraged to go into the jails. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

**District Events Co-Chair,** Please remind your groups about attending the Mindfulness Walk and Open Bonfire meeting on Saturday, July 30, 2016 at Barkhausen.

Intergroup date is Saturday, January 28, 2016 at Redeemer Lutheran Church gym. No cleaning deposit required this year. Please alert groups this event is moved back to the church gym next to the 218 Club.

Planning continues for the District Picnic on Saturday, Sep. 10, 2016 at Colburn Park beginning at 12noon. In honor of the District celebrating 75 years of AA in Green Bay, we have lots of fun activities planned. ~Kristen C./Kimberly S.

**Newsletter,** Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

**Webmaster,** Maintenance of the website is going well. 75% of the hits on the website are coming from mobile devices and tablets. ~Debbie P./Sam J.

**Treasurer's Report,** Dean H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 06/09/16 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed. Starting Balance as of 07/14/2016 \$5,222.13

Deposits		Expenses	
Letting Go	24.50	ColorMaster (Newsletter printing w/inserts)	169.00
Sisters in Sobriety	26.94	Kimberly S. (Delegate Speaker Event)	93.93
Early Birds	72.00	TOTAL EXPENSES:	262.93
Flintville Early Risers	180.00	ENDING BALANCE 7/14/16	5,350.64
Delegate Speaker Event-Donations	88.00	Prudent Reserve	\$1,300.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	391.44	Total Funds Available	\$4,050.64
SUBTOTAL	5,613.57		

*Green Bay Area 74 - District 01*

*General Service Representatives (GSRs)*

*It is critical to the vitality of our members that you, an alternate, or group member periodically attend monthly district meetings.*

## New Business:

\*A discussion regarding the status of the AA hotline was held. The District is responsible for the hot line, not the Central Office. It was suggested that Eric and/or Don (Central Office President) should attend our next meeting to explain the current status. Questions raised include:

If no one is at the Central Office, how are the calls handled?

Who has the list for AA members taking calls over the weekend? The possibility of hiring an answering service was discussed. This issue was tabled for the next business meeting in the hopes we would have someone from Central Office attend the next meeting.

Another topic for discussion is whether a GSR should be reimbursed for attending a Conference, as that GSR is voting for that group. In the past it has been up to the individual groups. Perhaps the District should pay for those GSRs whose group does not have the funds to reimburse them. That topic was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

The open position for Public Information (P.I.) was again announced. was nominated for, and accepted that position. Many thanks, Jack!!

**Old Business:** None.

## GSR Reports:

- **Letting Go**, Donna Y. They are proud of the donations that have been able to make -- are the largest in their history -- due to an increase in attendance, and due to recent money issues of the desperate need for contributions to the GSO.
- **Early Birds**, 7:30 am, Sunday, 218 Club, James R. "Swell"
- **Serenity Now**, Jennifer A. Recently had a business meeting. It was decided that the group would assist the 218 Wednesday Night Speaker Meeting by taking the 2nd Wednesday of every month. More donations to the GSO could be aided by circulation of the GSO flyer which included a pre-addressed envelope for convenience.
- **Flintville Early Risers**, Tom B. Going well. There is a picnic scheduled for August 13th.
- **Walk with Us**, Henrietta D. The meeting continues to be well attended with approximately 15-20 members. They voted and sent \$150.00 to the General Service Board in New York on June 30, 2016.
- **Sisters in Sobriety**, Sue C. Going great.
- **It's in the Book**, Gary M. Nothing new to report.
- **Women in the Present**, Jill V. Renae S. The group will purchase a subscription to the Grapevine. The group will decide where this will be placed. There is a need for a more organized business meeting. Meeting is well attended.
- **Wed. Night Speaker Mtg.**, Lane M. Attendance is better. There are more speakers. Is going well.

## DEAR GRAPEVINE, PRINCIPLES BEFORE PEDESTALS;

Too often in our AA groups, we treat certain members like they're not AA members. Instead, we treat them as if they're rock stars. It's a kind of hero worship. And sadly, the AA member who is placed on the pedestal starts to enjoy his or her lofty position.

At a recent roundup, I heard a speaker who is much admired make a racist comment. Instead of being shocked, the audience responded with laughter. I wonder if they would have responded that way if he were a newcomer.

I recently came across a quote from Bill W.'s last message, which I believe gets to the heart of the matter:

"If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say, the 'Concept of Anonymity.' ... On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level, anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use AA for sick and selfish purposes."

Sick and selfish purposes ... those are strong words from our co-founder. I wonder if he was writing about ego. I say "principles before pedestals." I think if we remember that we're all just AA members—trusted servants—we could cut down on the hero worship that seems to be permeating our society. —John D., St. Cloud, MN

Stories reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine: The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## District 01 Committee Contact Information

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