



The Communicator

SEPTEMBER | 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)

"WAY TO PARTY"

A party boy kept going until he found himself all alone. That's definitely not the case today

I was always well aware of the disease of alcoholism. I had watched my mother go into detoxes and rehabs. I swore I would never take the same path. By the time I was 15, drugs and alcohol had already stopped working. I had lost all control, and "partying" became a necessity just to feel comfortable. Blacking out had become a regular occurrence. I intentionally got wasted as quickly as possible and stayed loaded every moment of every day. This went on until I was 19. Then one day in 1987, something happened.

I was with my friend Joey on a side road off the Merritt Parkway in Connecticut. He was fresh out of rehab on a relapse and we were partying. To this day I'm not sure why, but he stopped and looked at me and said, "We should probably go to a meeting. I know where one is tomorrow." The irony of this was that I had never thought of myself as being that bad. I knew about AA meetings, but never drew a line to see that I needed to go. I assured him that wouldn't be necessary and encouraged him to keep partying with me.

The next day, I found myself doing things that I swore I wouldn't do again. I was drinking in the woods on my lunch break (where else does a kid drink before legal age?). But no matter how much I drank, I wasn't able to catch a buzz. I remembered what Joey had told me the night before; it held promise. That was the first time I turned over my will to drink. In hindsight, I believe I practiced the first three Steps that afternoon: I can't, he can and (maybe) I'll let him. I felt the weight of the world lift off my shoulders.

I called Joey and he agreed to take me to that meeting. Despite his partying the night before, he was able to coach me on what to expect at my first AA meeting. He told me it would be OK to go to my first meeting loaded (good advice). He also said that the folks there might seem very happy to meet me but wanted nothing from me. He encouraged me to get phone numbers and get a sponsor. I heard the message clearly since he too was a young, struggling alcoholic.

Life got good fast, but by day five, I encountered my first hurdle in sobriety. Joey and my new girlfriend announced they were going to a keg party. This was the exact opposite of what the folks in AA had been telling me in my meetings. After hearing that, I left the house, went to my car and cried my eyes out. I felt so alone. At the time, those two people were my entire support group. And they were now being whisked away from me.

The next morning I woke up frightened and lonely. But I remembered that I had a pocket full of phone numbers. These were my saving grace. I called this guy named Jesse and he answered the phone. He asked all sorts of questions. I remember saying things to him like, "I am fine. I'm too busy," and "I'm really not into that." But his reply was, "Tell me your address. We're coming to get you." That guy saved my life. I didn't let Jesse out of my sight. He introduced me to service, brought me to my first GSR meeting and showed me how to have fun in sobriety. Soon I went to campouts, pig roasts, Young People's conferences, dances, days at the beach—all with my new sober buddies. I began to make friends for life, and I found the people who would later help guide me through many years of sobriety. I got involved and learned to be "part of." These events became a bridge to life. They prepared me to go out into the world with some experience and confidence I had never had.

I continued to grow up in AA and soon found my path toward a career and love ("romance and finance," as I like to say.) But I became busy with work and found it easier to fall away from AA. I moved to New York City and got away from the middle of the boat. I do not recommend this. I began to not feel a part of, and I used work as a poor excuse to not put forth the effort. I spent four years away from AA and despair set in. I did not want to drink; I just didn't want to be.

One day, around year 12, I called some AA friends I truly admired back in Connecticut. One fellow listened carefully and simply asked, "Rob, when was your last meeting?" Clearly this had not crossed my mind. I went back to meetings. I found the Young People's (YPAA) meetings, which became a new place for me to be of service again. I asked to be a greeter, make their coffee and scrub the toilets (it was better than putting away ashtrays). I stood for positions in the YPAA conventions our city hosted. My home group became Never Had a Legal Drink. I still continue to be of service to AA and the YPAA community.

The rewards I've received from being involved with AA and the YPAA community are countless and continually revealed. And the benefits are always surprising. Recently I sat on the host committee for the Eastern Area Convention of Young People in AA (EACYPAA). I had the pleasure of getting to sit at the head table. As I looked into the crowd, I noticed a crew from Pittsburgh wearing the logo of their hometown. Later I approached them to say hello and welcome them. I told them my nephew, Michael, was in a rehab in Pittsburgh and asked if they would mind helping him when he got out. We traded numbers and they took my nephew to his first YPAA meeting. These young AAs helped him feel like he belonged. I had no idea that this EACYPAA commitment would help my family so much. It's nothing short of a miracle.

It feels good to give back. It's my duty, my primary purpose. Nothing fills my heart as much and allows me to enjoy this life as this. The foundation of my sobriety was laid by the love and support of so many kind folks in AA. I am indebted to them. I vow to repay this debt with the same love and kindness.

~Rob T. New York, N.Y.

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

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)

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)

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

Janet M: 920-869-2278

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

WEYAUWEGA INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2016

5:15 p.m. - Doors Open

6:00 p.m. - Potluck

7:00 p.m. - Speakers

First Presbyterian Church

200 South Pine Street - Weyauwega, WI 54983

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

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

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 - 920-901-9509

Dan P.: DAN.PETERS55@GMAIL.COM - 608-692-6096

Tom R.: NANESTOM@GMAIL.COM - 920-901-4159

DEAR GRAPEVINE, BRIGHTER DAYS;

You guys at Grapevine may have just saved a life. I have 41 years of continuous sobriety and the very best sponsor in the world, but my life is a mess right now. A coveted business venture went awry, my first romantic relationship in over a decade ended, and my dear dog of more than a dozen years had to leave the planet. With no family and almost the same number of dollars, I was feeling hopeless as often as not. Why go on? I started to think. Why not drink?

So thank you for your special issue on relapse (April 2016). It helped me realize how much I have to be grateful for today; and with God's help, tomorrow and the days after will be brighter.

~Anonymous

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GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

August 11, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, Last week on Saturday 8/6/2016 I attended the Area 74 Committee meeting. There I gave a DCM report which included the additional information about the 2018 Spring Conference with the registration fee of \$20 and banquet fee of \$25. Several people were pleased that these two costs are the same as they were in 2015.

The Area Delegate, Derek T., gave a report which included some updated financial information. A.A.W.S/Publishing May sales were up \$87,920 (5.27%) over budget. The board accepted a proposal for trademark and copyright registration of the 'blue people' logo. They also approved the publishing committee's recommendation that a proposal for a new book "Unity in Action: Bill W.s General Service Conference Talks, 1951-1970 be forwarded to trustee's Archives Committee for consideration. He also reported that sales are up, contributions are up, and operating expenses are down. For the first three months net profit was \$369,990 compared against a budgeted loss of \$12,941.

We also approved the Fall Conference Assembly agenda for September 17th. This agenda will include a sharing session near the beginning of the assembly just following approval of the minutes. We discussed possible topics and voted to accept the topic of: What does Area 74 expect from its trusted servants? In addition, the Dates to Remember for the 2017 Area 74 calendar were approved. This includes the timing for next year's Delegates Workshop and Winter Assembly. The Delegates Workshop will be Saturday, March 11th and the Winter Assembly will be Saturday, April 8th. Both events will be held at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes, WI.

An update from an Ad-hoc committee looking into liability insurance at AA events was postponed to the next Area Committee Meeting. When I receive the final minutes from the meeting as well as the finalized Assembly agenda and 2017 Dates to Remember, I'll forward them on to GSRs. Thank you ~Nate K.

Secretary, Marty S. Filling in for Theresa D. for the August meeting. The July 14th minutes were reviewed by those present. These changes are noted:

*Delete: Don D. under GSR's, fourth line down

*In the first line of the Secretary Report the correct date is June 9th

*Delete: The District is responsible for the hot line, not the Central Office. second line down under New Business

*Under District Events Co-Chairs, Kristen C./Kimberly S. forth line down, the correct date is January 28, 2017.

With these changes a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the July 14th minutes. ~Marty S.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, The Never on Sunday meeting has received its first copies of the Grapevine subscription. One copy will be circulated among the members of the meeting. The other copy has been delivered to the waiting room at the Bellin Cancer Center. Other meetings are looking into the double subscription option. This helps spread the message while also helping the Grapevine, that had recently reported low subscription numbers. Any questions please let me know. Thanks, ~Amy G.

Corrections, How do we resolve a shortfall of funds for Corrections literature? After a discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to increase the Corrections budget from \$150 to \$600 for the rest of 2016.

We have completed two flyers, one for Men and one for Women to recruit more interested candidates. The dates and times of the current meetings and the requirements are listed along with contact information. They will be available thru the GSR or contact: Laurie - LAURIEANN74@AOL.COM; Sean - SSMITH1205@GMAIL.COM or 920-445-9594. It is our goal to increase the number of meetings offered in each of the two locations, the Huber Work Release Center and the Curry Lane Jail.

New Volunteer Training took place on July 14, 2016 at the Corrections Center. It is with a grateful heart that I can announce 3 men and 1 woman went thru the orientation and are now eligible for jail meetings. Congratulations to all of you ~Sean S./Laurie M.

District Events Co-Chair, Barkhausen final report. Attendance was 75 people. Due to complications by Barkhausen the District has a credit for \$126.00 for 2017. Kristen & Kimberly have the documentation.

Rental of venue \$126

Supplies \$90.25

Total expenses \$216.25

Donations \$63.00

Total cost to District = \$153.25

District 01 Picnic plans are going well! ~Kristen C./Kimberly S.

Newsletter, The newsletter is going well. Ron asked if it would be a benefit to our groups to maintain a GSR email list. Is there an interest to gather a list and maintain it? It could help to get the District info to our groups promptly. ~Ronald M.

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.

Webmaster, Developing a rough draft for our new website format and looking for ideas. ~ Debbie P./Sam J.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 08/11/16 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

STARTING BALANCE as of 07/14/2016 \$5,222.13

Deposits		Expenses	
218 Club	141.90	Color Master (Newsletter printing)	169.00
Serenity Now	250.00	Kimberly S. (Barkhausen Event supplies)	90.25
Donations (Barkhausen Event)	63.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	259.25
TOTAL DEPOSITS	454.90		
SUBTOTAL	5,805.54	ENDING BALANCE August 11, 2016	5,546.29
		PRUDENT RESERVE	1,300.00
		TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	4,246.29

New Business:

*Hot line discussion: Eric S. clarified that the Central Office maintains the Hot Line and receives \$600 for Hot Line support from District 01 by a motion passed October 15, 2015; that volunteers are needed to staff the Central Office during open hours and the Hot Line during closed office hours.

Training for staffing the Central Office is Tuesday, 10:00 thru 1:00pm and Thursday 1:30 thru 4:00 pm. Please call ahead. Volunteers are needed to answer the Hot Line when the Central Office is closed. The Hot line is answered by a recovering alcoholic at the Central Office: Monday thru Friday, 10:00 am till 5:00 pm. These times are: Monday thru Friday, 5:00 pm till 10:00 am. The weekend Hot Line hours are Saturday 10:00 am thru Monday 10:00 am. Most volunteers come from groups that, as a group service, schedule themselves for a month or the year by coordinating with the Hotline Representative. This is recommended.

Reimbursement of GSR Travel expenses by District 01. During a brief discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed that if a GSR and/or Alternate GSR choose to travel to the Assembly to represent their group yet do not have Group funds, this Group could make a request for consideration of funding during our monthly GSR and Committee Chair meeting.

Group Corrections co-chair, Sean S. - Sean asked to put the discussion on hold.

Old Business: None.

GSR Reports:

- Eye Opener, Tamra D. Going well. Our group had a new GSR.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going great.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. Going well.
- Walk With Us, Henrietta D. The meeting continues to be well attended with approximately 15-20 members. We received a receipt for the \$150 donation our group sent to the General Service Office.
- Promise Seekers, Tim D. Doing very well. Average 26-32 members. We have begun a two year subscription to The Grapevine.
- Women in the Present, Jill V. Going well.
- Serenity Now, Kristen C. Going OK
- Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Going well.

~Dedicated Men and Women Are Needed Help in Jails~

Are you looking for a rewarding way to do service work?

Join us in bringing men's and women's AA meetings into the Green Bay Corrections Facilities

YOU MUST BE OFF-PROBATION/PAROLE - TRAINING - BACKGROUND CHECK

Sean S. SSMITH1205@GMAIL.COM
920-445-9594

Details:

Laurie M. LAURIEANN74@AOL.COM
920-336-7698

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