



The Communicator

JANUARY | 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)

"REHAB ROMANCE"

She was young, sober and in love—with everyone

All my life, one way or another, there was a guy involved. Whether he was a boyfriend, not a boyfriend, a friend, a hostage—there was a guy. I never had a relationship that lasted more than four months and I could never figure out why. The thought that I could be the problem (not the guy) never crossed my mind. I would become mentally and emotionally attached to men. Without them I was depressed, unhappy and suicidal. I thought I needed them to be happy.

So it was not a surprise that when I came to AA, I needed a boyfriend right away. Before coming into AA, I was at a 28-day inpatient rehab. It was there that I met my new "future husband." He was my type. I was 19 years old at the time, and he was 20. Perfect—someone relatively close to my age would be good for me (my previous men were always older, that's why things never worked out). Prior to going into rehab, I had decided that I would move to Pittsburgh after I completed the 28-day program. My mom's half-sister lived in Pittsburgh and had invited me to live with her. Well, wouldn't you know, my rehab romance was from Pittsburgh too. That had to be a sign he was "the one." To make what could be a very long story short, I'll just say that we ended up talking off and on for a few months and eventually just stopped. I should add that after the first time we stopped talking, I drank.

When I heard about the suggestion, "No dating in the first year," I thought, To hell with that! Didn't people know I needed a boy to be happy? Geez. I was a few months sober and had no idea what I wanted. I was also trying to do so many things at once; in reality, I would not have had time for a boyfriend anyway. However, I still continued to talk to guys and think that every one I met was "the one." I justified it by telling myself I was just "keeping my options open." But I would forget about everything else when a boy was involved. "What you put before your recovery will be the first thing you lose." I remember hearing that and thinking, Wow! Oh, really? But it's the truth, at least in my experience. I had to stop looking for someone all the time. I had to learn that trying to form a relationship on self-will just doesn't work out.

I recently turned 21, and I've been sober since December 19, 2011. Having a little over a year now, I can see why waiting is suggested to newcomers. I came to realize that when I was first getting sober I still had an insane mindset, so my decisions were insane. I don't think I'll ever be completely cured of craziness. However, through working the Steps, I've learned that a date is not a hostage. One date is no longer marriage. A breakup is no longer the end of the world. I have to be happy with myself before I can be happy with anybody else. I know, I know, that's so clichéd, but it's the truth. The program is a process and requires work. I have to put work into my recovery before I can work on forming a successful relationship with another human being.

Life is not always easy. I find, though, that when I'm doing what I need to do and what is best for me, I'm happy. Happiness is all I ever wanted, and I got it. I've learned that everything happens for a reason, and whatever is meant to be will be. I have been on a few dates recently and they were fun. I currently do not have a boyfriend, and yet I'm happy—which to me is a miracle.

—Kaitlyn W., Pittsburgh, Pa..

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

TO KEEP IT YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT AWAY!

Sobriety is a team sport. Helping others or "giving service" is one of the mainstays of recovery. But, is it just a good idea? Research published within the last few years shows that it's more than a good idea, it actually makes a difference.

KEEP COMING BACK

There is also very strong correlation between those who attend AA meetings and those who remain abstinent from alcohol use. "*Alcoholics Anonymous Effectiveness: Faith Meets Science*" Sept 2009

I'm New to This Too

A newcomer gives an even newer guy his number, but who knew he'd actually call?

When I first got sober, I went to an AA meeting every morning at a local clubhouse. OK, the truth is that the meeting started at 12:15 p.m., but that was morning enough for me.

One Sunday I went to the clubhouse for my usual meeting. But there was no 12:15 meeting that day. Another meeting would be starting soon. I was told to stay. So I stayed and was upset to learn that the meeting would be an hour and a half long. I felt tricked. Didn't these people know how busy I was? In all honesty, I had no where else to be, but that didn't stop me from being indignant.

As the meeting was about to begin, an older man entered the room. This man was black and blue all over. He introduced himself and told us he had gotten drunk and fallen the night before. This was his first meeting.

At the end of the long meeting, everyone was writing their phone numbers on a piece of paper for the newcomer. I was told to put mine down too. I did so under protest. I was too new myself to help anyone. I was told I had more time than he did so I had something to share.

A few weeks went by and late one night the phone rang. The phone was on my boyfriend's side of the bed. He answered it and I didn't even sit up until I heard him say, "I'll get him." I immediately panicked. No one calls in the middle of the night. I took the phone into the other room and answered the call. It was that newcomer.

Over the previous weeks, I had learned his name and when he told me who it was, I thought, What do you want? He told me he was alone and it was late (which I knew) and that he wanted to drink. I asked if he had liquor there and he said he had a bottle of wine. I was wide awake now, banging my head, wondering what I was supposed to say.

I said all I could think to say. "Who else have you called?" I asked. He said he had tried my number first. I thought, Boy, are you starting at the bottom of the barrel. "What do I do?" he asked. "Pray and go to bed," I shouted out. He said he would and I hung up.

I got back in bed. "What was that about?" my boyfriend asked. I told him about the newcomer on the phone, what he said and what I told him. My boyfriend was a "normie" and not in the program. "Was that enough?" he asked, then rolled over and went back to sleep.

I, however, was wide awake. I got up, took the phone in the other room and started digging through all the small scraps of paper with phone numbers I had collected until I found the newcomer's number. I dialed and he answered. I just started talking. "Listen, I'm new to this too and I have no idea what to tell you," I said. "So promise me you won't drink tonight and I promise you I will call you first thing in the morning." He agreed and I got off the phone and went back to bed.

The next morning, true to my word, I called him. He told me that after our first conversation he had gotten off the phone and started to open the bottle. When he answered my second call he had just poured a glass. He said that after we talked, he poured the wine down the drain, said his prayer and went to bed. I felt a chill run up my spine. I knew for the first time why this program works. One drunk to another, one conversation at a time. The newcomer and I stayed sober that night and many more until he passed away a few years ago. We never grew to be great friends, but he always had a place in my heart.

I have taken many other late night calls. The panic always comes up, but I know now to be there for the suffering alcoholic.

—TB-D., Houston, Texas



"Thanks for asking me to come back, but I've been to three meetings and I think I'm okay now."

District 01 Committee Contact Information

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Alternate District Chairperson altDCM@greenbayaa.org
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Sam J. 920-362-4832

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA*

WICYPAA XXIII
JANUARY 8TH - 10TH, 2016
Madison Marriott West
1313 John Q Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI 53562
Registration Form Available
Speakers, panels, and fellowship for
anyone who remains young at heart
with room to grow.

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016
7:00 pm
(6 pm doors open for fellowship potluck)
First Congregational Church
724 E. South River Street
Appleton, WI 54915

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2016
8:00 pm
Peace United Methodist
2300 Wisconsin Avenue
Kaukauna, WI 54130

GREEN BAY INTERGROUP (DISTRICT 01)*

75 YEARS of AA in Green Bay!
SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015
4:30 fellowship, 5:30 dinner, 6:30 program
Calvary Lutheran Church
1301 S. Ridge Road
Green Bay, WI 54303

OPEN AA MEETING

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2016
8:00 pm
Ascension Lutheran Church
W6106 Navarino Rd
Shiocton, WI 54170

GENERAL SERVICE REP. WORKSHOP

JANUARY 30, 2016
Emmanuel United Church of Christ
1306 Michigan St
Oshkosh, WI 54902
12:30 - 4:00 pm
Char V. (920) 450-6313

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

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016
10:00 am
St. Elizabeth Hospital
Helen Fowler Conference Center
1506 South Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54915

FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP

Seeking Conscious Contact Through Prayer & Meditation
Step 11

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016

12:00 - 4:00 pm
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54311
Free on-site child care
Snacks and refreshments included
Phyllis 920-609-0668 or Marian 920-366-5950

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

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 GENERAL SERVICE
OFFICE (GSO)

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

AA DISTRICT 01
TREASURER

PO Box 632 Green Bay, WI 54305

Service

FEMALES 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:

Tim T.

920-227-3156

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

December 10, 2015

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, It is hard to believe I am coming to the end of my term as your DCM. I have truly been blessed to be able to serve the district over the past two years. This position has given me many opportunities to carry the message. I have also experienced the joy of meeting many new friends and spending time with old ones serving the district at the area level. I am truly grateful for all the hard working trusted servants in District 01 that have made our district a place that fulfills the primary purpose of carrying the message to all those still suffering. I know going forward our new trusted servants will continue to make our district stronger. I pray that each and every one of you have a happy and sober Christmas and a wonderful new year. In loving service, Thomas Younger, DCM

Secretary, The November 12, 2015 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed. ~Marty S.

Bridging the Gap, Mary S. In the process of handing over the position to the new Bridging the Gap (BTG) chairperson, Christina M.

Webmaster, Jack S. Jack indicated that Deb and Sam will be the new webmaster co-chairs.

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

Grapevine, Barbara S. Absent.

Corrections, Tim T. Absent.

District Events Co-Chairs, Kimberly S. and Kristen C. Josiah P. Dear District 01 friends and Committee Chairs, I have enjoyed working with many of you for the past 2 years, or maybe as many as the past 4 years. It is with personal regret that I am resigning the remainder of my term as District Events Co-Chair. A situation has developed which makes me feel it prudent and a spiritually healthier decision to step away from service. May you all have a blessed and peaceful holiday season.

Yours in Sobriety, Jason P

Kimberly S. indicated that she and Kristen C. are working with Jason in the transition of this chair.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, Amy G. Hoping to intersect with the VA Center on Ashland Avenue.

Archives, Bruce K. The boxes of recovery related books left at the Central Office have been donated to the Jackie Nitschke Center

Public Information Chair, Paul K. The contract for the busses is up. He will be meeting with Beverly before the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. (A motion was made & seconded to accept the Area 74, District 01, Treasurer's Report. Passed)

Prepared for the December 10, 2015 GSR Meeting	
Starting Balance as of 11/12/2015	5,056.63
Deposits	
218 Club	178.68
Total Deposits	178.68
Subtotal	5,235.31
Expenses	
Jack S. (Website Backups)	16.95
Total Expenses	16.95
Ending Balance December 10, 2015	5,218.36
Prudent Reserve	1,300.00
Total Funds Available	3,918.36

*Old Business

•Tom Y indicated that Howard S., who was to be the incoming DCM is not able to accept the position due to job responsibilities. Nate K has reconsidered and will accept the nomination. A motion was made, seconded and accepted to appoint Nate K. as the incoming DCM.

*New Business

•2016 Budget planning. Planning chart was submitted which reflects the allocated budget for fiscal year 2015, the 2015 actual amount spent and the projected 2016 budget. Discussion were had as to the increase in the budget for Special Events, from \$300.00 in 2015 to \$2,000.00 in 2016. In the past, special events were paid for from a separate account "prudent reserve", but in 2016 the events will not be.

Kimberly S. stated that the upcoming 2016 Intergroup function to be held on Jan. 16th at Calvary Lutheran, is going to be quite special, celebrating 75 years of AA in Green Bay. Also included in the \$2,000 budget are 3 workshops at approx. \$200 each.

*GSR Reports

Early Birds, Christina M. Well attended.

Letting Go, Donna R. Nothing much new.

It's in the Book, James R. Everything is going well.

Road to Recovery, Griffin W. Going well. They are going to have a business meeting to decide if they will use only AA approved literature.

Serenity Now, Jennifer A. Going well. Positive feedback from group regarding the new meeting format.

Flintville Early Risers, Nate K. Doing well.