



The Communicator

APRIL | 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)

"BOGGED DOWN"

Trying to outrun Step Four made his life worse, but thankfully his sponsor tossed him a rope

I attended my first AA meeting December 1, 1978. Two weeks later, I met a woman at church who was traveling with her evangelist brother. We talked for a week and decided to get married. I thought it had to be God's will since we had met in church. Thirty days later we were separated, and six months later we divorced. Self-will run riot at its finest. At the time, I did not see my part in this; it was all her fault.

I stayed dry for a while. By October of 1982, it had become obvious to me that I would need to make an attempt at Step Four. I had been trying to outrun it. There were two things I had done while drinking that I was not willing to share with anyone until this time. I later found out from going to speaker meetings and talking to people in recovery, that I was not the only person to have done these things.

I finally had to ask a man who often talked about getting honest to be my sponsor. Two weeks later he suggested that I begin the Fourth Step or stay bogged down until I drank again and life became even worse.

I was as thorough as I possibly could be while dealing with my pride and perfectionism. I did not know at the time that in Steps Six and Seven I was beginning to learn about myself and about some of the things I might want to discard with God's help.

I took my Fifth Step with a psychologist. However, afterward I did not feel any different, though I had done the best I could. My sponsor encouraged me to become more active in service work at the district level. When I took his suggestion, I had no idea that would be the beginning of me not thinking about myself so much, and the beginning of me helping others.

After some time, I realized that I did not have to be the center of attention. Or as you folks say, I just had to be one of many. I began subscribing to AA Grapevine in 1979 and I still subscribe today. I have many of Grapevine's books and CDs. Most days in sobriety I like going to a meeting before 8 p.m. But I always have my meeting in print to continue to learn more about myself. This idea began with my Fourth Step.

Our Preamble says that, "Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety." I have a purpose in life today that's important to me because other people thought that idea important enough to carry that message to me when I arrived at the doors of AA. You might say this story is about them.

My wife of 26 years is in the living room right now practicing her flute for the church cantata. I cannot remember the last time she was mad at me. Service work sure pays off in the home, too. Today is my daughter's birthday. She is 26 years old. These are two miracles that happened in my life because of God's goodness.

My stepdaughter was 10 when I married my wife. Last Saturday I fed her son, my grandson, lunch and he was not afraid of me. He just smiled. My stepdaughter is a professor at a college in Chickasha and she talks to me today. Thank you AA and thank you Grapevine.

At the last district meeting, I was elected Grapevine Chairman for the District. It's the best service job in AA for this once fearful man. Thank you AA and thank you Grapevine. I could not have conceived of my life being this way all that time I was running from Step Four.

—Warren G., Woodward, OK

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

Corrections Opportunity

Female volunteers are urgently needed 1 or 2 times a month. See details on Service page.

Unity

* Indicates an online detailed flyer or registration form at www.greenbayaa.org

OPEN SPEAKER MEETING & POT LUCK DINNER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016
Meal 7:30 pm / Meeting 8:00 pm
218 Club
218 S Oneida St
Green Bay WI 54303

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

SOBER BOWLING NIGHT & DESSERTS*

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016
Bowling 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Riviera Lanes
2450 University Ave
Green Bay WI 54302
Bowling \$2.50 per game and \$1.50 for shoes
Dessert/Coffee & Fellowship
9:00 pm - 10:30 pm
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54302
Kimberly 920-370-3581
Kristen 920-309-0390

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

SOBRIETY GATHERING*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016
from 9:00 am - until...
Parish Hall
2936 Freedom Road (Co. Rd. E)
Oneida, WI 54155
Open Event - No Cost
(Donations Appreciated)

9:00 am – BREAKFAST
Panels
Talking Circle
12:00 pm - LUNCH
Panels
Meetings: AA, Alanon, Alateen
EVENING FEAST
Dance Band/DJ/Open Mic
Speaker: AA, Alanon, Alateen
Sobriety Countdown
Closing Prayer
Cleanup

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

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

March 10, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, I attended the Delegate's Workshop and Area 74 Committee Meeting at the Reiter Center in Three Lakes, WI on Saturday March 5th, 2016. I sat in on the Literature Committee discussion. I think 19 other AA members including DCMs and GSRs participated. There were 9 Items for discussion. The majority of the time spent focused on Item A: Consider Developing a plain language version of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Considerable time was also spent discussing Item H: Consider request for revision to the pamphlet "Young People and A.A.". The remaining topics were also discussed and consisted of reviewing continuing progress reports. Since I participated on the Literature Committee, I've focused on those topics here. The background information on all other topics is available in digital form (PDF). If you have any questions about any of the other topics, just ask. Contact your GSR or me and I'll do my best to help. Yours in service, Nate K. DCM (For detailed meeting minutes online go to: www.greenbayaa.org)

Secretary, The February 11, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. ~Theresa D.

Archive, Going well. Nothing new to report. ~Bruce K.

Bridging the Gap, Bridging the Gap is going well. Nothing new to report. ~Christina M.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, I will be distributing copies of The Communicator which include meeting lists to the Vet Center & the Veterans Outpatient Clinic. A suggestion was made to drop off copies at the ADRC. I will follow up with members of the district committee about this idea. Nate & Jennifer gave me the contact information for Barry Brewer, the CPC for Area 74. I will reach out to him for suggestions and advice. ~Amy G.

Corrections, We are continuing to make calls to the outdated list of correction volunteers' that we were given. Progress has been slow, but we are making headway. We are also working on goals and an agenda to have a Corrections Meeting to gain input, try to lateralize processes and recruit new members. Expect to complete all by next district meeting. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

District Events Co-Chair, Discussions are being held regarding the annual District Picnic. Looking at the possibility of a new venue. Bay Beach was discussed, along with the possibility of having it held on a campground. It was suggested that the "75 Years of AA in Green Bay" theme be carried through to include the picnic. Also, more games should be included in the event. Upcoming panel discussion events that are being considered are Relapse Prevention and Sponsorship, which would be scheduled for next year. ~Kristen C./Kimberly S.

Grapevine, His submitted report stated that there are 4 new subscriptions. ~John P.

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

Public Information, On March 14th, speakers will be at two sessions at the Brown County Mental Health facility. One is at 9:00 am and the other at 5:30 pm. Speakers are needed every other months, i.e., for the months of May, July, September and November. ~Beverly V.

Webmaster, Nothing new to report. ~Debbie P./Sam J.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the 03/10/16 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Starting Balance as of 02//22/2016 \$5,152.62

Deposits

New Hope Groups	100.00
Serenity Now	150.00
Saturday Eye Opener	151.89
Women's Recovery Workshop (Seed \$)	125.00
Women's Recovery Wkp (Proceeds)	62.25
TOTAL DEPOSITS	589.14
SUBTOTAL	5,741.76

Expenses

No Expenses	
Ending Balance March 10, 2016	\$5,741.76
Prudent Reserve	\$1,300.00
Total Funds Available	\$4,441.76

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

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

Old Business: Marian K's report was read regarding the Women's Recovery Workshop. This was the 4th year this event was held.

New Business: Nothing.

GSR Reports:

- **Early Birds, 7:30 am, Sunday, 218 Club,** James R. Going well. No changes.
- **Eye Opener,** Geri L.
- **Flintville Early Risers,** Tom B., Don D. Doing well.
- **Letting Go,** Donna Y. Doing very well.
- **Oneida AA Club,** Matt H. Going well. Nothing new to report.
- **Road to Recovery,** Griffin W. Doing fairly well. They are in the process of looking for a treasurer and an alternate GSR.
- **Serenity Now,** Jennifer A. Going well. Betsy's son to update on memorial svc.
- **Sisters in Sobriety,** Sue C. Going well.
- **Walk with Us,** Henrietta D. The meeting is well attended with approx. 10-20 members. They announce at each meeting that the Central Office is in need of service workers to answer phones and attend to the office.

Dear Grapevine

What statistics?

Today, at an open discussion meeting, here in Florida, I heard someone say that, "According to statistics, 92% of people who come into AA don't succeed." I had heard the same number mentioned in a meeting in Canada previously and it concerns me greatly for many reasons. Here are a few: If I was a newcomer attending an AA meeting for the first time, what would I think when I heard that statement. Would it be wise for me to continue in a program where only 8% succeed? Would I have a heart operation if I was told the chance of living through it was only 8%?

Now let's look at the statement itself. 92% of what people? All the AA people in the program in the world? All AAs in North America? All AAs in a particular city?

And how is "succeeding" defined in this statistic? AAs who come to the program and don't take another drink for 5, 10 or 20 years or a lifetime? Are they counted as failures if they smoke some pot in their 50th year of sobriety? What about relapses? Are you allowed 2 or 3 or none? What about people who aren't truthful when taking surveys? If I'm sober and happy for 25 years before drinking again, are those years wasted?

I think these questions (and a statistician could suggest many more) point out how silly it would be for AA to try to keep sobriety statistics, especially in an anonymous program, and to my knowledge AA and the Grapevine have not attempted to do so. I do, however, realize that the number of registered groups is known and the approximate number of people in AA at a certain time can be roughly estimated.

I don't know where such statistics come from. Could it be the the internet? I am of course aware that certain rehab centers do try to keep stats on their previous clients and maybe that's where some of these "facts" are originating.

I am also cognizant of the unhappy fact that too many people that come to AA don't achieve long term sobriety and that makes me all the more grateful for my gift of sobriety, given to me on a daily basis contingent on the maintenance of my spiritual condition.

Chapter 5 of the Big Book tells me about the people who do not recover but the paragraph begins, "Rarely have we seen a person fail who has thoroughly followed our path." For me that's a promise and provides a lot of hope as long as I understand what "thoroughly" means. And I believe that statement is as true for today's arrivals as it was when the book was written.

—Bob S., Barrie, Ontario

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

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	