



# The Communicator

AUGUST | 2015

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)

## **"MY CROOKED STEPS"**

*A sober woman keeps a reminder of what it used to be like*

At the ranch where I live, there is a set of crooked steps in my front yard. Though crooked, they are stable and secure and strong. I often use the dogwood tree next to the steps as a railing.

This morning as I retrieved my newspaper, I had a spiritual experience. I had just turned on my coffee pot and put my daily meditation books on the table just before I headed out for the paper.

On my way to the paper box, I gathered a large bowl of bird seed for my little feathered friends. On the path from my modest house, I sprinkled the seeds and put seeds into one of the one of the feeders. Then I stepped down the six crooked steps towards the paper. I held onto the small but strong and blossoming dogwood. The pain crunched through my arthritic joints and hands as I held tightly. With the newspaper in hand, I came back up the bottom step and then stopped "dead in my tracks" as gratitude hit me.

I once had a very different and sick life before AA and sobriety. There seemed to be no promise of good to come. Life was drunken and dark. I had grown up in an alcoholic family and when I was 18 years old, I married for the first time and quickly had two children. Until I was 31 years old, my life was busy as I worked hard at my job, trying to be a good wife, raising my children, and trying to make it all perfect.

I had no ambition for much more education or a better career—just worked for a good paycheck that I brought in for what turned out to be 31 years at a big corporation. I realized something seemed to be missing in my life, but didn't know what and didn't stop to try to analyze it.

One rainy Saturday afternoon when I had just turned 31 years old, I received a phone call from out-of-state and my mother had committed suicide due to her alcoholism. She never had benefit of any treatment or AA so she made that "supreme sacrifice."

My sister and I were both devastated. We realized she had some problems but didn't understand alcoholism at that time. She had been a wonderful, loving and teaching mother when she wasn't drinking. It was then that I turned to the bottle and at the time thought it alleviated the pain of my mother's death and the beginning of the unraveling of my first marriage.

I received a DUI in a short time. I began to go to psychiatric hospitals and went to a few AA meetings but didn't stay longer than about a year. A big part of that one year was a loving but tough sponsor, who took me through the Steps, but when she died in a tragic house fire due to her negligence in her smoking, I grabbed for the bottle again.

The drinking worsened but I was able to hold on to my job and marriage for a little longer. My first husband and I divorced after 19 years marriage. I stayed single for 2 years and then remarried. This marriage lasted 26 years until his death. However, it too was filled with my alcoholism, arguments about my drinking and more trips to treatment.

As much as I loved my family, I could not and would not stop drinking for very long. On June 10, 1992 (AA's birthday), my family committed me through the courts to another psychiatric hospital and I was there for a few months. Then after a couple of other "small slips," I got sober in AA in October of that year.

I learned through the Steps, the spiritual principles and sponsorship that the obsession to drink would stop if trusted in God and AA. I was 52 years old and reborn into a life of sobriety, happiness and contentment.

I realize today that's it's OK to have crooked steps and the physical steps on the bank of my house are still there as I do NOT want them to be replaced by new smooth and perfect concrete ones. Before this spiritual experience, I thought they should be replaced as the roots from a large tree had made them imperfect—just as my life was crooked when I was drinking booze. The crooked steps are a good reminder of what it used to be like.

—Joyce M., Marietta, Ga.

Stories reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine:

The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

**Donate your AA Grapevines to Green Bay Central Office Archives-Editions Dated from 2010 to 2015**

## 218 SUMMER PICNIC\*

SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2015  
11:00 AM – 4:00 PM  
Murphy Park Pavilion  
1627 Dousman  
Green Bay, WI 54303

## SOBRIETY GATHERING PARISH HALL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015  
8:30 - till

No Fee (Donations) Meals Provided  
AA, Alanon, Alateen Meetings  
BREAKFAST-LUNCH-FEAST  
DJ/LIVE BAND

2936 Freedom Road (County Road E)  
Oneida, WI 54155  
westmartin@new.rr.com  
Wes M 920-544-9709  
REGISTRATIONS:

Wes Martin, 1219 Chief Hill Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313

## DISTRICT 01 SUMMER PICNIC\*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015  
11:30am-4:30pm  
Perkins Park Pavilion  
600 N Fisk St  
Green Bay, WI 54303

District will provide main dish, please bring a dish to pass if you are able. Soda, coffee and water available. Volleyball, board games and card games, playground for children.  
Suggested donation \$5

Jason P. 920-412-3733 or Josiah P. 920-264-2107

## AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE\*

September 18-20, 2015  
"Happy, Joyous & Free"

Hotel Mead & Conference Center  
451 East Grand Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

## BONDUEL SHAWANO INTERGROUP\*

Saturday, September 19, 2015  
Fellowship 5:00pm, Dinner 6:00pm  
AA & Al-Anon Speakers 7:15  
First Presbyterian Church  
100 W. Presbyterian Street  
Shawano, WI 54166



"That's what I like about Fred - he knows when to quit."

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

(AA/AL-ANON)  
OCTOBER 2-4, 2015  
Friday night to Sunday noon  
St Norbert Center for Spirituality  
(People of all spiritual beliefs welcome)  
Cost: \$140 – includes 2 nights/5 meals  
(Snacks and beverages provided throughout retreat)  
Send \$40 deposit to:  
Step Retreats  
PO Box 574  
Green Bay, WI 54305  
Judy G. 920-737-2330

## EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM\*

November 13-15, 2015  
*This forum occurs every tenth year for our five state region of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio*  
Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel  
16401 South 13th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

## 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

## Donate

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

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

AA AREA 74 TREASURER  
PO Box 84 Paradise, MI 49768  
[www.area74.org](http://www.area74.org)

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

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

July 9, 2015

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

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

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, We are now in the middle of summer and we are only a few months away from picking our new district trusted servants. I hope you consider bringing your service to the district level. Nomination forms can be found on the district website. <http://www.greenbayaa.org/PDF/service/NominationForm2015.pdf>

In mid-August I will be attending the Area 74 committee meeting in Three Lakes. At this meeting we will be planning the agenda for the assembly held at the 2014 Fall Conference in Wisconsin Rapids. If your group has an item they would like to have on the assembly agenda please contact me prior to August 8th. At the fall conference the GSRs will have the opportunity to vote for the new Delegate and other Area 74 officers. I strongly recommend attending the Fall Conference. You will meet a lot of AAs dedicated to service and have a lot of fun as well. I look forward to seeing you there.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone for their hard work serving your groups and the district. In loving service. Thomas Younger, DCM

**Secretary**, The June 11th minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the June 11th minutes. The motion passed. ~Marty S.

**Bridging the Gap**, Mary S. Absent. Report given by Tom Y. Things going well.

**Webmaster**, Jack S. Last month I received a message from one of my AA Facebook friends informing me that one of the fliers on our events page would not open. After taking a look at the page I was able to fix the problem very easily. Because of that message I am asking for help with our website. I am looking for several individuals willing to check one page of our website at least weekly to keep our website accurate. If there are any mistakes or links that do not work you would report it to me. This is a very simple and would take little of your time. But it would be a great help. As always please let me know if there is anything you would like me to change or add to our website. Yours in sobriety and service.

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

**Grapevine**, Barbara S. Please consider a subscription for the Grapevine for your group. Passed issues are kept at the Central Office in the Archives for everyone to read. The District 01's current subscription can be found there. Binders to hold the issues will be purchased as needed. A motion was made by Tom Y. to purchase a year's subscription of La Viña which would be kept at the Central Office. With some discussion the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**Corrections**, Tim T. We are still in need of women to volunteer for the Wednesday night jail meetings, from 6 pm to 7 pm at the Curry Lane jail. A new group of volunteers just received training from the jail staff. Before then, we were allowed to bring in untrained volunteers with supervision from trained volunteers, obtaining approval from jail staff on a case by case basis.

**District Events Co-Chairs**, Jason P. and Josiah P. Absent

**Central Office**, Betsy N. We are in definite need of volunteers for the office on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Betsy passed out flyers announcing an Ice Cream Social, July 25th from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the Calvary Lutheran Church, 1301 So. Ridge Rd, Green Bay. The A A speakers at 5:30 will be Matt B. and Jennifer A. Call Josiah at 264-2107 with questions.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community**, Amy G. Distributed flyers/newsletters to the clinic on Ashland and an outpatient clinic. Took past issues of the newsletter to some laundromats. Paul K. said that someone is posting a meeting list at the University Market. He suggested getting more use from our newsletters by placing past issues in public places.

**Public Information Chair**, Paul K. Purchased a public service announcement tape and it is currently playing in our area.

**Archives**, Bruce K. Absent.

**Treasurer's Report**, Dean H. Area 74 District 01 Treasurer's Report

Prepared for the July 9, 2015 GSR Meeting

Starting Balance as of June 11

Deposits	Expenses
Early Birds 225.00	Color Master (Newsletters) 151.75
Letting Go 18.00	City of Green Bay (Advertising) 42.00
Walk With Us 100.00	City of Green Bay (Summer Picnic) 52.75
Total Deposits+343.00	Total Expenses -246.50
Subtotal \$4,453.91	Ending Balance July 9 \$4,207.41
	Prudent Reserve -\$1,300.00
	Total Funds Available \$2,907.41

Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Passed.

<u>District 01 Committee Contact Information</u>			
District 01 Chairperson	<a href="mailto:dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org">dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org</a>	Archives	<a href="mailto:archives@greenbayaa.org">archives@greenbayaa.org</a>
Tom Y. 920-471-3502		Bruce K.	
Alternate District Chairperson	<a href="mailto:altDCM@greenbayaa.org">altDCM@greenbayaa.org</a>	Bridging the Gap	<a href="mailto:Bridging@greenbayaa.org">Bridging@greenbayaa.org</a>
Gary K. 920-362-0206		Mary S. 920-217-3550	
Newsletter	<a href="mailto:newsletter@greenbayaa.org">newsletter@greenbayaa.org</a>	Public Info	<a href="mailto:PI@greenbayaa.org">PI@greenbayaa.org</a>
Keely J. 920-412-1217		Paul K. 920-676-2901	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Marian K. 920-366-5950	
Corrections Chairperson	<a href="mailto:Corrections@greenbayaa.org">Corrections@greenbayaa.org</a>	Grapevine	<a href="mailto:grapevine@greenbayaa.org">grapevine@greenbayaa.org</a>
Tim T. 920-227-3156		Coop with Prof. Comm. (CPC)	<a href="mailto:cpc@greenbayaa.org">cpc@greenbayaa.org</a>
Meeting List Changes	<a href="mailto:MeetingList@greenbayaa.org">MeetingList@greenbayaa.org</a>	Amy G.	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Events	<a href="mailto:events@greenbayaa.org">events@greenbayaa.org</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@greenbayaa.org">Treasurer@greenbayaa.org</a>	Jason P. 920-412-3733	
Dean H. 920-592-9337		Josiah P. 920-264-2107	
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@greenbayaa.org">secretary@greenbayaa.org</a>	Webmaster	<a href="mailto:webmaster@greenbayaa.org">webmaster@greenbayaa.org</a>
Marty S. 920-465-1401		Jack S. 414-477-3843	

## **GSR Reports**

Early Birds, Don D. Well attended.

First Things First, Don D. Going good.

Eye Opener, Geri L. Going fine.

It's in the Book, James R. Good.

Letting Go, Bonnie M. Continue to grow.

Serenity Now, Jennifer A. All things are going well.

Flintville Early Risers, Nate K. Going well.

Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going well.

Walk With Us, Henrietta D. Our meeting continues to be well attended every week with approximately 15-20 members.

## **Old Business**

\* Nomination process for District 01 chair positions for the next rotating cycle, January 1st 2016 through December 31st 2018. Nominations will be accepted from August 13th to the day of the elections, October 11th. It is suggested that the servant being nominated for a chair position have two years of sobriety and be present to accept the nomination at the GSR and Committee Chair meeting (August 13th, September 10th, October 8th and November 12th). Elections will be held November 12th. Forms can be picked up at the Central Office or downloaded from our website: <http://www.greenbayaa.org/PDF/service/NominationForm2015.pdf> Tom Y. made nomination forms available to those present.

## **New Business**

\* **Letter received from Derek T., Area 74 Dear Dean and the 2015 Area 74 Spring Conference Committee.**

This letter is to let you know that we have received the proceeds check in the amount of \$1156.88. These monies are used under the direction of the voting body of Area 74 to defray expenses, including: delegate attendance at the General Service Conference and Area 74 functions, Area 74 Officer and Committee Chair expenses, publishing of Now & Then, (the newsletter of Area 74), seed monies for Area 74 Conferences, efforts to carry the message of recovery to the still-suffering alcoholic through the Area 74 standing committees.

We appreciate your contribution. Please feel free to contact anyone with questions or group concerns. Contact the Area 74 Registrar with Group/GSR changes to insure that we are all kept better informed. Yours in service, Derek T., Area 74 Treasurer

\* **Group vs meeting designation on the meeting list and group registration.**

Nate K. began a discussion by asking those present if a "Registered Group" designation (registered with the General Service Office in New York) be added to our meeting list. The question was raised in his home group. "People would know which groups are registered," he said, "Groups don't need to register but it is suggested as the group becomes listed at the national level and is available to be found for those looking for a meeting.

Don D. and Tom Y. suggested a workshop. Would any group be willing to sponsor a workshop to explore the difference between a group and a meeting? Please bring this back to your groups for discussion.

A related question was asked, "How does a new group get on the meeting list or make info changes?" Send a telephone or email request to The Communicator editor, Ronald M., 920-593-2915 or [newsletter@greenbayaa.org](mailto:newsletter@greenbayaa.org) with the information. It's that easy. (Pass the same information to Jack S, Webmaster, at 920-662-1690 or [webmaster@greenbayaa.org](mailto:webmaster@greenbayaa.org) for the online meeting list.)

\* **A Call for Stories.**

Tom Y. brought this request for stories from the General Service Office. In response to the 2015 General Service Conference recommendations the trustee's Literature committee is seeking stories from AA members for the following:

-**AA for the Woman** This pamphlet to be revised by gathering current sharing from women in the military, single mothers, and women of diverse backgrounds.

-**AA and the Gay/Lesbian Alcoholic** This pamphlet to be revised to include a wider range of AA recovery experience from gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered or gender nonconforming, especially regarding being a newcomer and sponsorship. The title of the pamphlet will also be revised to reflect this broader scope.

-**AA recovery experience from members with mental health issues, and from those who sponsor such members**, for inclusion in AA literature on this topic.

Manuscripts should be 500-800 words, doubled spaced, in 12-point font. Please include your complete name, address and email/phone information. The anonymity of all authors will be observed, whether or not their story is selected for publication. Please email your sharing to: [Literature@aa.org](mailto:Literature@aa.org) and put "A.A. for the Women" in the subject line of the message. Or, you may mail it to Literature Coordinator, General Service Office, Box 459, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163. The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2015.

Adjourned at 7:35 pm by a motion made, seconded and passed. The meeting was closed with The Our Father.