



# The Communicator

APRIL | 2018

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)

## HERE TO HELP

*When he got out of jail, he went straight to AA. Now he helps build a bridge for others*

My first AA meeting was service. He was taking meetings into in the Placer County, California jail. The H&I (hospitals and institutions) volunteers bring in AA meetings every Wednesday night there. I was looking at a sentence of several years in state penitentiary for alcohol and drug-related crimes. Although I didn't think I had a problem with alcohol at the time, I went to their AA meetings just to get out of my cell. I later learned when I got out of jail that there would be meetings every day that I could attend.

At the time though, my thoughts were hopeless. I felt my life was over. Then I was moved to another jail in Avenal, California. I started attending regular meetings of AA in the jail. Each meeting I attended gave me more hope. Then one night I heard my story. It was there I found a God of my understanding and my life began to change.

When I paroled back home to Rocklin, I was told by the court to attend two AA meetings a week and get my card signed. We call it the "Gift Card." I did all that was required of me, including attending AA meetings most every day. In 11 months, I was "off paper."

In the meantime, I had found a sponsor, a man named Theodore. We worked the Steps out of the Big Book. He encouraged me to get into service. He was taking meetings into Folsom Prison every Sunday. After several attempts to be cleared to go in, the warden's secretary informed me that it was not going happen. But I was determined to be of service to the still-suffering alcoholic.

A new program called BTG, short for Bridging the Gap, was starting in my area. I volunteered to help. BTG is a program that connects AA volunteers with inmates or patients in their first 24 hours upon release and gets them to an AA meeting. Essentially, it's a Twelfth Step call. I would be assigned to go with another alcoholic (so we weren't working alone) and we would take a newcomer to a meeting. No background clearance was needed. I had found my service position!

After several months, we established a BTG committee in our local district with more than 30 volunteers. We also worked with our local H&I and Public Information/Cooperation With Professionals committees (PI/CPC) to coordinate efforts. We started at the same county jail facility where I attended my first AA meeting some eight years earlier. Today, the committee serves six treatment facilities and both county jails.

Several years later, I was appointed the Area 7 BTG chair. We held workshops and made presentations in many of the 29 districts up and down the state of California. I also attended my first Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend (BTGWW) in Sacramento, California. It's an annual workshop that brings together BTG service people and treatment and corrections chairs to share their experience, strength and hope. There, I was introduced to a group of AA members who serve BTG across the U.S. and Canada.

This was the big time! These trusted servants have been serving and connecting the still-suffering, confined alcoholic for years. It was here that I learned the meaning of the word "autonomy," because while we all have our own way of doing things, every state and local BTG committee follows local rules and guidelines as to how to carry the message. We are all different and autonomous, yet we all have a "common thread that binds us together" to help the alcoholic.

For the past two years, I have served as your BTGWW coordinator. We met in Minneapolis, Minnesota this past year, with 80 in attendance. Ten members came down from Quebec. It was a blessing to hear from them and see how they do BTG in some of AA's remote communities. Next September, our workshop will be held in Denver. I'd like to thank Theodore for getting me started in service. And I'd like to say thank you to all of the AA volunteers who take meetings into facilities, as well as the AA volunteers who take the newcomers to meetings when they get out. We get to give hope to the hopeless and stay sober doing it.

~Matthew L. Meadow Vista, California

## GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Central Office Board Meetings  
6:30 p.m. Last Tuesday of the Month  
Central Office  
1270 Main St. #102  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
For details: 920-432-2600

## ANNUAL MOOSE AND GOOSE

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018  
Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Pot Luck 6:00 p.m.  
Speakers 7:00 p.m.  
AA Material and Meat Donations needed  
Corrections Literature Fund Raiser  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
349 North Main Street  
Seymour, WI 54165  
Contact Rolland G. 920-722-5417

## THE 218 CLUB ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF\*

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018  
Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 12:00 Noon  
Contest starts at 1:00 p.m.  
Judging at 2:00 p.m.  
Sign up at the 218 Club  
\$4.00 Donation at the Door  
The 218 Club  
218 South Oneida Street  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303

## 13TH ANNUAL SPRING FLING

SATURDAY APRIL 28, 2018  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
2901 13th Street  
Menominee, MI 49858  
Downstairs Fellowship Hall  
Parking Front and Back - Elev in back  
5:00 Fellowship  
6:00 Pot luck (Main Entrée provided)  
7:00 AA & Al-Anon Speakers  
Prizes and Food and Fun and Friends

## 4TH AND 5TH STEP RETREAT\*

MAY 11-13, 2018  
Friday night to Sunday noon  
Cost \$150 - includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals  
Snacks and beverages provided throughout retreat  
St Norbert Center for Spirituality  
1016 North Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115

## AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE\*

MAY 18-20, 2018  
Friday Night - Skit/Speaker  
Saturday - Panels/Banquet/Speaker  
Sunday - Area 74 Meeting/Speaker  
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center  
2040 Airport Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313  
To register for this event online:  
Area 74 2018 Spring Conference Online Registration  
[www.greenbayaa.org/events.html](http://www.greenbayaa.org/events.html)

## AN EVENING OF "GOD TALK" WITH FATHER BILL PRESENTATION & GROUP DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018  
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Admission is Free  
Donations will be accepted to the 4th & 5th Step Retreat Scholarship Fund  
Reservation Contact Information:  
5THSTEPRETREAT@GMAIL.COM or  
Therese H. 920-336-3023 Tim S. 920-360-3869  
St. Norbert Center for Spirituality  
Killian Room  
1016 North Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115

## 23RD ANNUAL CORRECTIONS CONFERENCE\*

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018  
Goodman Community Center  
149 Waubesa Street  
Madison, WI 53704

## AA GRAPEVINE WORKSHOP\*

SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018  
1:00 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Panels include Speakers  
Question & Answer Time  
Also Grapevine Reps from District 01 and Local Meetings  
218 Club  
218 South Oneida Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

## 2ND ANNUAL BREWER BUS TRIP

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018  
Milwaukee Brewers vs St Louis Cardinals  
Miller Park Stadium Start at 1:00 p.m.  
Bus Departure: 9:30 a.m.  
Bus Return: 6:30 p.m.  
De Pere Park & Ride  
Lawrence Dr, De Pere, WI 54115  
Ticket \$50 per person  
Ticket price includes:  
Food, Bus Ride and Brewer Ticket  
Lloyd 920-713-0769

## 31ST ANNUAL WOLF RIVER CAMPING TRIP\*

AUGUST 10-12, 2018  
Meetings, Rafting, Hiking and more  
Saturday Night Open Speaker and Bonfire  
Make your reservation online  
[www.bearpawoutdoors.com](http://www.bearpawoutdoors.com)  
Justine B. 847-445-6195  
[sobercamp30@gmail.com](mailto:sobercamp30@gmail.com)  
Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort and Campground  
N3494 Wisconsin Hwy 55  
White Lake WI 54491

## AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE\*

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018  
Plaza Hotel & Suites  
201 North 17th Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
For more information: Area 74 Events  
[www.area74.org](http://www.area74.org)

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

March 8, 2018

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

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

**DCM Report:** With the Delegates Workshop fast approaching, I have forwarded the agenda to district members for review. It is my goal to disseminate assembly items electronically to allow for timely responses prior to workshop and assembly. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Henrietta for accepting the Alt-DCM position and thank all group and district officers for their continued service. I will be forwarding the District Guidelines for review, as it is important to be aware of our guidelines and duties. Yours in service, Matthew B., DCM District 1

**Secretary,** The February 2018 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed. ~Theresa D.

**Accessibilities,** Joe H. Nothing new to report.

**Archives,** Bill D. Nothing new to report.

**Bridging the Gap,** Marian K. Envelopes were purchased with a pre-paid embossed stamp are available to all those on the Bridging the Gap Committee as the jail is no longer accepting regular stamps. Please contact me should you need some of these envelopes.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Amy G. Nothing new to report.

**Corrections - Men,** Adam B. Handouts referencing an upcoming Corrections Conference in June and one seeking men to act as sponsors within the jail on a one-on-one basis, were circulated.

**Corrections - Women,** Theresa D. Nothing new to report.

**District Events Co-Chair,** Tamra D.

1. We have 10 online registrations currently and 23 paper registrations
2. Preliminary Program submitted
3. Our Alanon rep has agreed to 3 panels and also volunteered to lead a yoga session both mornings
4. Will offer guided meditation session both mornings. Mike A has agreed to do
5. Panel coordinator is still looking for 1 person to fill the AA and Anonymity panel.
6. Hospitality still has 3 slots to fill. Early and late Saturday and also Sunday morning. the committee voted to accept the donations of water and coffee from Paul's Pantry.
7. Eau Claire sent us 120 more plastic name badges and 400 lanyards – a big saving on the budget
8. Welcome packets will contain Welcome letter, magnet, program, map of venue, visitor information-to save time and costs it was suggested to let the participants make their own name tag after they check in – table set up with supplies
9. Hospitality slots still need to be filled are Sat 6:30 am – 10 am and 8-12 pm and Sunday 6:30- 10 am
10. Decorations will use the cupcakes as a center piece also saving us some money
11. Wes from Oneida will be providing an Oneida Prayer/Blessing to open the conference on Friday night
12. Intergroup had a profit of \$129.38

**Grapevine,** Mary. B. I have been continuing to put a write-up about the Grapevine in the District 01 newsletter, The Communicator every month. I call my article, "Heard It Through The Grapevine". I am ready for the Spring Conference in May. Also, I have been working with Patrick to set up a Grapevine Workshop at the 218 Club, on a Sunday in June (hopefully June 3rd). I have speakers for the event including, Area 74 Delegate, Sara P, and Area 74 Grapevine Chairperson, Derek T. I also have past Area 75 Grapevine Chairperson, Dave D. from Fond du Lac. The workshop would be held from 1pm to 4pm. I have been working on an Agenda for the event.

**Webmaster,** Debbie P. Please get any updates for the website emailed to webmaster by 7 PM Sunday night. Website is updated weekly on Sunday.

**Old Business:** Agenda topics for the Delegate Workshop and a handout regarding District Guidelines was reviewed.

**New Business:** In response to the District 01 Guidelines that were circulated via email, a motion was made, seconded and approved that the suggested sobriety requirement to be a Chairperson at the District level be changed to two years from three years. A list of GSRs whose mailing addresses were questionable, was circulated in a hard copy. The original request was made by Area 74, Gerri Foxfire, via email.

### "HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE"

The AA Grapevine March 2018 issue has a special section focusing on "AA and Families". Members share how both AA and alcoholism have touched their families. The Grapevine is packed with great stories, jokes and more.

A yearly subscription is \$28.97. You can order yours by going to [aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) or by calling 1-800-631-6025.

A subscription also makes a great gift for a sponsee or a sponsor.

Mary B – District 01 Grapevine Chair, [rosivr49@new.rr.com](mailto:rosivr49@new.rr.com)

**Treasurer's Report**, Patrick H. Prepared for the March 2018 Meeting  
Starting Balance as of 2/1/2018 \$4,633.39

Deposits		Expenses	Ending Balance February 28, 2018	5,304.94
Intergroup (Events)	579.03	Patrick H.	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Women in the Present	102.52	(Treasurer, stamps)	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$4,004.94</b>
Total Deposits:	681.55	Total Expenses:		\$10.00
Subtotal:	\$5,314.94			

A motion was made and seconded to accept the February 2018 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

**GSR REPORTS**

- Bob's Meeting, Amy P. Amy is their new GSR. This meeting is well attended and most meetings are full.
- DC/DC Divine Center, Gary M. The meeting is going very well.
- Early Birds, Kathy B. Meetings is going very well. Members from this group have been able to fill all of the time slots for Registration on Friday evening for the upcoming Spring Conference.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. The meetings are going well.
- Promise Seekers, Tim D. Promise Seekers continues to be a lively meeting. We will continue our budget deliberations at our service meeting on Fri. 3-9-2018.
- Serenity Now, Kelly K. Meetings are still very well attended
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going great.
- Spiritual Awakening, Jennifer A. The Spiritual Awakening Group has agreed to man the hospitality room at the Spring Conference during the supper hours on Saturday. We are providing a turkey.
- St. Matthew's, Tamra D. Everything is going well.
- Walk with Us, Anne Marie K. The meeting is going strong.
- Women in the Present, Renae S. Finalized their 2017 budget and checks distributed. They are working on a 12-question handout regarding compiling their group inventory that they hope to hand out in April.

**PASS THE LIFE JACKET**

My entire support team, my fellowship, my sponsor, everyone was back in Niagara. Bridging the Gap was the life jacket I needed.

In early sobriety, when I had about five months, I found myself struggling with an eating disorder. It very quickly took a serious toll on my physical health and I had to leave my sober living group home in Niagara to go to the hospital all the way up in Ottawa.

One of the first things that was on my mind was, How am I going to get to a meeting when I'm confined to this hospital bed? I need AA in my life.

My entire support team, my fellowship, my sponsor, everyone was back in Niagara. I felt lost in a city with no support for my alcoholism. Somehow, somehow, I knew I needed to find another alcoholic in the city to talk to.

So I got the idea to call Ottawa AA Intergroup. After a couple of phone calls, a volunteer called back with a phone number from someone from the local Bridging the Gap program. I was able to connect with a member in Ottawa who happened to know other women in the community. They said that since I could not get out and get to a meeting, they would come and put on a meeting right there in my hospital room!

The gratitude I felt for these women putting on a meeting for me is beyond words. Being new to sobriety and knowing that AA was there for me was so important to me. Bridging the Gap was the life jacket I needed while I worked to keep from drowning in my eating disorder.

I'm happy to say that I've made strides in treatment. I could not have done it without the fellowship of AA and my Higher Power, who I believe sent me the women from Bridging the Gap.

I now get to go out on passes on the weekend. Because I've made connections here in Ottawa, I feel comfortable attending AA meetings here with my new friends who I met through Bridging the Gap until I can get back to my home in Niagara.

~Sarah M. Niagara, Ontario, Canada

Stories reprinted with permission AA Grapevine: The Int'l. Journal Alcoholics Anonymous  
www.aagrapevine.org

**District 01 Committee Contact Information**

District 01 Chairperson	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	archives@greenbayaa.org
Matt B. 920-217-6864		Bill D. 920-621-1258	
Alternate District Chairperson	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap	bridging@greenbayaa.org
Henrietta D. 920-530-3297		Marian K. 920-366-5950	
Newsletter	newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info	PI@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Corrections Chairperson	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Mary B. 920-771-0124	
Adam B. 920-680-9496 (Men)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Theresa D. 920-490-7889 (Women)		Amy G. 920-857-6162	
Meeting List Changes	meetinglist@greenbayaa.org	Events	events@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760	
Treasurer	treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Tamera D. 920-321-4910	
Patrick H. 920-819-5284		Webmasters	webmaster@greenbayaa.org
Secretary	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Debbie P. 920-676-7585	
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Accessibility	
Hotline		Joe H. 920-569-2053	