



The Communicator

AUGUST | 2017

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)

"Untangled"

Full of shame and remorse, she just wanted everyone to go away. Turns out all she needed was a loving hand

I crawled my way into my first meeting of AA. I was off the street and defeated utterly. I was 24 years old. I looked terrible and smelled even worse. I was jittery, lost and had an attitude of defiance that hid a wall of shame that was 10 feet thick and 100 feet tall. I was dressed highly inappropriately as well. Years later, friends who saw me that first day said I was wearing the tube top of justice and the hot pants of freedom.

I judged everyone I saw immediately and harshly just to beat them to the punch. I thought if I hated you first, then somehow I would be the winner. My bravado was the only survival skill I had left. I sat in the back of the room with my head down for a week on what some members referred to as "death row." I was arrogant and judgmental, but too scared to leave and too afraid to go back out on the streets.

I hated everyone in my life. And I found I hated women most of all, those clear-eyed, perfect, perfumed, clean women. If they discovered who I was, where I'd been, what I had done, the rejection would kill me.

One woman in particular bugged me most. She was all of five feet tall with a quiet calm that rattled me. I was curious about her because she was so kind and spoke with such compassion and confidence. But because she was the lady that I knew I could never be, I had no choice but to hate her.

One day, after a week of slithering in and slipping out the back door, coming in late and leaving early, that diminutive giant of a woman walked across the room as I sat slumped in a chair. She bent down and got in my face, not aggressively, but with a voice of love I had never heard before. With quiet assurance she simply stated, "Honey, I'm gonna brush your hair."

Without my permission, she pulled the chair away from the wall, stood behind me and touched me with a gentleness I had never known. As she brushed out my tangled, dirty hair, I realized I had no defense to this random act of kindness. I did something I thought I would never do. I began to cry. When the tears came, I let them fall. I had no box to put that amount of emotion in.

Years of shame, remorse and darkness poured from me that day. With each tear that fell, I could feel a chunk of the wall I had built hitting the floor. I will never forget that day or the feelings that came alive in me to heal my hurts.

That woman took a chance and loved a stranger. I know God whispered to her to love the unlovable. Although we may make judgments, we never let that stop us from extending the loving hand of AA to those in need of help. For me, on that beautiful day, that hand was holding a brush. --"Shoeless" M. Austin, Texas

RUNNING THE UNIVERSE

I was the general manager of the universe. At least that was my self-proclaimed title. I didn't realize that was what I was acting like, but everyone else did. If you didn't take my advice I'd get really upset and some form of my wrath would descend upon you. And all that time I was being so nice (I thought). I'd be all sweet and light but would turn on you in a heartbeat. That was my alcoholism. That was me prior to September 8, 1994.

I've been humbled many times in sobriety. I once lost a job because I had not provided the proper paperwork (in the medical profession, that's illegal). I've been told, "Rozanne, it's not called Rozanne Anonymous, stop trying to change everything to be about you." I've had sponsees come and go, teaching me about the magic of AA: It's not about me.

How am I carrying the message to other alcoholics? Am I doing everything I can? Does the woman sitting beside me at work have a problem? Can I be an example of the Big Book to her?

Today, 20 years after giving up that general manager position, I am still continually reminded that I must give it away to keep it. I must remember, every day, that my main purpose in life is to stay sober and help others.

Life is good. The other day, I was having lunch with a coworker and she asked me how I could be so happy all the time? I pointed to the heavens. I said nothing. I just pointed and smiled. --Anonymous

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

AA SPEAKER MEETING-OPEN TO EVERYONE

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 8:00 p.m.
218 Club
218 South Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

AA SPEAKER MEETING & POTLUCK

1ST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
6:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to pass if you can
Genesis Club
1213 Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54914

30TH ANNUAL WOLF RIVER-NICOLET AA CAMPING TRIP*

AUGUST 11-13, 2017
Friends/Family are welcome! Many great activities
Campsite Meetings, Rafting, Hiking Trails, Volleyball
Saturday Night Open Speaker and Bonfire
Susan W. - Grayslake, IL
Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort & Campground
N3494 Hwy 55
White Lake, WI 54491

TACO DINNER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 2017
Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Open speaker to follow
All Are Welcome!
Bring a dish to pass if you can
Donations appreciated but not required
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54311

EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY WORKSHOP*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017
9:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Potluck Lunch 11:45 a.m.
Hot beef sandwiches
Bring a dish to pass if you can
2617 Club
1578 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point, WI 54481

"WHAT IS A HOME GROUP"

Presented by Bob M. and Sara P.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Presentation with Q & A
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
349 N Main Street
Seymour, WI 54165

LONG FOR MOORE STOCKBRIDGE INTERGROUP*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017
Doors Open 5:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Speakers 7:00 p.m.
Please bring a dish to pass
St Mary's Seven Dolours Parish Basement
120 Davis Street
Stockbridge, WI 53088

218 SUMMER PICNIC*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 2017
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Hamburgers and Brats will be served
Bring a dish to pass if you can
Murphy Park Pavillion
1627 Dousman Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

DISTRICT 01 SUMMER & CENTRAL OFFICE PICNIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017
Bring a dish to pass if you cans
11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Bay Beach Amusement Park
1313 Bay Beach Road
Green Bay, WI 54303

HOLIDAY GRATITUDE MEETING

(closed)
SEPTEMBER 4, 2017
10:00 a.m.
218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE*

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2017
Bring the family
indoor water park, go-carts, zip-line, laser tag, & video games
AA and Al-Anon speakers
Metropolis Resort
5150 Fairview Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54701

4TH AND 5TH STEP FALL RETREAT*

(AA/Al-Anon/ACA)
OCTOBER 6-8, 2017
Friday night to Sunday noon
Cost: \$150 - includes 2 nights/5 meals
St Norbert Center for Spirituality
1016 N Broadway Drive
DePere, WI 54115

AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE

MAY 18-20, 2018
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
2040 Airport Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

July 13, 2017

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

DCM Report: A “save the date” letter is being distributed regarding the Area 74 Spring Conference in 2018. I am asking all the GSR’s to talk to their group members about our Grapevine Chair and Archive Chair openings. GSO CPC update. Safety yellow sheet. Thanks, Bruce K. DCM, District 01

Secretary, The July 2017 minutes were reviewed by those present A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.
~Theresa D.

Bridging the Gap, Bridging the Gap, Christina M. Bridging the Gap is doing well. Due to work conflict, I will not be at this month’s district meeting. The same goes for August’s district meeting. I will look forward to being back in September! I am still in need for volunteers to help me out in this line of service. It’s an easy way to give back. Please spread the word. Yours In Service,
~Christina M.

Corrections-Men, co-Chair. There is an ongoing need for men to conduct the jail meetings. ~Sean S.

Delegate-Area 74: He attended the General Service Conference in New York representing Area 74 this past April. Derek was a part of many assemblies discussing a variety of topics. He provided a handout which listed those items which were approved by the 67th General Service Conference as well as a handout listing items which did not result in conference advisory actions. The financial health of AA was discussed at the Conference, noting that the overall contributions are up by 10%. Also, much discussion at the Conference concerned the legal action that is being taken by AA regarding the sale of the original manuscript for the Big Book. Also, the Grapevine publication is finally making a profit. The 7th tradition collections are up by 11%, 81% of which is provided by the individual groups. The issue of safety within the AA meeting was also a topic for discussion at the conference. AA does produce Public Service Announcements (PSA’s), which are now going to played via YouTube. ~Derek T.

District Events, The bus to the Brewer’s game on June 8th was very successful. The Mindfulness Walk and Bonfire is coming up on July 29th. See Newsletter for details. ~Missy F., Lloyd Z.

Newsletter, Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Public Information, Is in the process of contacting local radio stations. ~Paul K.

Webmaster, Nothing new to report. ~Debbie P.

Treasurer's Report, Patrick H. Prepared for the July 13, 2017 Meeting

Starting Balance as of June 1, 2017 \$4,957.93

Deposits		Expenses		Ending Balance June 30, 2017	4,862.58
Pulaski Monday Night	70.00	Bruce K. (DCM)	165.35	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Total Deposits:	70.00	Total Expenses	\$165.35	Total Funds Available	\$3,562.58
Subtotal:	\$5,027.93				

A motion was made and seconded to accept the July 2017 Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed.

Old Business: Discussion was had regarding the Central Office picnic and the District 01 picnic being scheduled on the same day – Sept. 8, 2017. GSR’s are to return to their groups and take a vote as to if members would like the picnics combined, or to have to separate picnics at different times of the day. The combined picnic would be held at the Bay Beach Amusement Park. If combined, the costs/expenses as well as the profits would be shared equally between the two groups.

New Business: Missy F. provided “Save the Date” handouts for the GSRs to bring to their groups. In the upcoming weeks, those individuals who have volunteered to help in this event will have a short meeting.

GSR Reports:

- **Sisters in Sobriety, Violet B. Going well.**
- **Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Eveyrthing is fine.**
- **Women in the Present, Jill V. Going great.**
- **Road to Recovery, Tim J. Going fine.**
- **Letting Go, Donna Y. Going well.**
- **Promise Seekers, Tim D. Everything is going well.**
- **Walk with Us, Henrietta D. The meetings are well attended and doing fine.**
- **St. Matthew’s, Tamra D. Doing well.**
- **Came to Believe, Griffin W. Going good.**

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.

*Second Thursday Monthly , Green Bay Area Central Office
1270 Main St. #102, Green Bay, WI 54302*

LUNCH & SERVICE

When she took out her sandwich, he got to see what a special worker she was

Several years before I stopped drinking for good, I wanted to learn about the program I heard could fix alcoholics. After looking up the address of the local AA office in the phone book, I decided to pay them a visit. Their office was located in a downtown building I was familiar with, so I got in my car, took a few swigs from my bottle and was on my way.

The office door simply said "AA". Inside there was a tiny lady sitting at a corner desk typing. I asked her for information about AA. She got up and showed me the literature displays and explained how to use the directory to find an AA meeting. I shuffled around for a while, glanced at a few pamphlets and then asked her why anyone would ever go to AA.

"Wait a minute," she said. She immediately stopped what she was doing at her desk, put her work away, cleared off an area, brought out a sandwich and started eating. Pointing to a chair, she said, "I'm taking my lunch break now. Why don't you have a seat." I thought she was a little off her rocker. Then she started telling me her story and how AA had saved her life.

I had no idea at the time, but that's Tradition Eight. This kind, wonderful, non-professional alcoholic service worker was experienced enough to separate her professional work from her Twelfth Step work.

She never knew it until much later, but the short time I spent with this lady was the reason I developed the courage to come into AA years later. I don't remember the details of her story, but I remember the feeling of hope and recovery she gave me that day.

So whenever I think about this Tradition, I'll always remember the gift of grace I was given by a lady I'd never met, sitting in a place I'd never been, who was practicing not only the Traditions but the principles of AA to the fullest. --Alex M. Louisville, Kentucky

THE ENDLESS GLASS OF WINE

Close call at a nearby eatery

I was standing beside the counter at a local restaurant with my laminated claim number in hand. I glanced around the room and noticed that several of the other waiting patrons were holding onto wine glasses in addition to their claim numbers. My attention was drawn to the server behind the counter who asked one of the customers, "Would you like to upgrade to the endless glass for \$7?"

An endless glass? Really? How come I didn't know about this place when I was drinking? Suddenly, it seemed that everyone around me was sipping on wine. I could see red and white liquid flowing everywhere. On top of it, I heard the server behind the counter ask the next person if they would like cabernet or merlot. Cabernet sauvignon used to be my favorite! I can still recall the scent of the complex pungent tannins. I began to imagine savoring the peppery, full-bodied black-cherry liquid.

My mind then began to conjure up a story of what it would have been like to know about this restaurant back then. Why, it's just a few blocks from my home! I could have walked over and consumed glass after endless glass. I could have even walked back home with nary a concern of being picked up for a DUI.

But tonight, because I have three years of sobriety, I snapped out of it. I remembered what it was like when alcohol took over my brain. How infuriating it was when my words came out slurred. How worry would set in later about how I'd made a fool of myself. I remembered how hard I worked during my drinking years to act "as if" I was sober. It was exhausting.

Standing here at the counter, waiting for my meal, I realized what a blessing it was that I'm in AA. Instead of feeling self-pity because I can't drink like others, I looked around the room at everyone enjoying their wine and became deeply, reverently grateful for my sobriety. My desire to drink has been replaced with freedom. --Jean C. Edina, Minnesota

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