



The Communicator

DECEMBER | 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)

"I Heard You Don't Drink"

There's nothing like an anonymity break to ruin a lovely, hot summer beach day

After settling down on my towel, ready to check out the endless parade of guys on this humid, scorching Miami afternoon, I was caught a little off guard. Not by some of the sights on the beach, although there were a few of those too, but by the conversation I was having with a somewhat gregarious acquaintance of mine named Luca. We always say hello when we see each other, but for the most part our conversations are quite superficial—movies, TV shows or new restaurants—just small talk mainly. But on this day, he had something a little more substantial on his mind.

"Hey Cole, how's it going?" said Luca, as he walked up. "I was just talking about you the other day." "Oh really?" I responded, somewhat surprised. "Yeah, I hear you don't drink," he said. I looked at him. "Is that a statement or a question?" I asked. Luca hesitated then said, "Well ..." Feeling a little annoyed, I responded, "No, I don't drink!" "Why not?" he asked. "You used to." "Where did that come from, Luca?" I said. "What do you know about what I used to do? I didn't used to know you." "I remember seeing you out at the bars years ago," he said. "I never had the nerve to talk to you then. Anyway, I'm just asking. My friend Hector saw you and me talking the other day and asked how I knew you. He's in AA and thinks he's seen you at some meetings." "Oh really?" I said, surprised. "That's interesting. Whatever happened to, 'What you hear here, who you see here, let it stay here?'" "What does that mean?" he asked. "Oh, never mind," I said. "What's the big deal, Cole?" he responded. "Is there a problem?" "No," I replied. "No problem. But if I had a drink, there would be a problem cause I'd probably be cussin' you out right now. As for your friend Hector, I don't even want to think about what I would have said to him for violating my privacy. Yes, I was out of control when I drank. I got loud and obnoxious. So no, there's no problem as long as this alcoholic doesn't drink." Luca looked puzzled. "Alcoholic?" he said. "Don't you think that's a bit harsh? I mean, to call yourself an alcoholic, Cole?" "It may be harsh for you," I said, "but for me, it is what it is."

That's where the conversation ended, as Luca became distracted by a group of guys waving and yelling his name. It was the perfect time to exit.

After he left, I sat there on the sand, smirking yet fuming inside. On the one hand, I was a little proud of being so candid and honest about my alcoholism, but also ticked off that a "friend of Bill" had so nonchalantly given up my anonymity. Aren't the rooms supposed to be a safe place to share our experiences as drunks without the fear of being exposed? I take the "anonymous" in AA very seriously.

Alcoholism is still very much a stigma in many professional settings and can be career-limiting for many in the rooms. There have been a few occasions since I got sober when my not drinking raised questions by curious colleagues. In those situations I could still get a little anxious, but after six years of sobriety, I've learned to handle them better. If someone offers me a drink, I simply say, "Thank you, but I don't drink," with the kind of confidence that says, "I don't drink and don't ask me why." Usually that's enough.

However, there was that time when one of my colleagues, Risa, had too much to drink at our company Christmas party. Seated at the table with me and about seven other coworkers, Risa kept digging and whining. "Cole, I don't understand why you don't drink," she said loudly. "Why? Just have a drink with me!"

Finally I said, "Risa, I don't drink because I'd be acting like you are right now, slurring my words, stumbling around the room and yelling across the table." Needless to say, all of my colleagues burst into laughter and Risa quickly got up and left, staying away from that side of the restaurant the rest of the evening.

I've had many situations where my "not drinking" has been questioned, and given the circumstances, I've chosen different responses. "I" is the operative word here. It's not always possible to be forthcoming about being an alcoholic. For friends and family, breaking my anonymity hasn't been an issue. But in business—or even dating—when or if I divulge my alcoholism can be a little tricky. One thing for sure, in order for all of us to feel safe, especially newcomers, anonymity must be respected. It's part of our common welfare.

--Rodney D. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA

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

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR DETAILS
920-432-2600

Typical Shifts: Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm, and Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: 1270 Main St. #102 Green Bay, WI 54302

APPLETON AA INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2016

Registration & Coffee - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Speakers - 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a large dish to pass

Meat and buns will be provided

Door Prizes from Appleton Area Groups

St. Pius X Church

500 W. Marquette St.

Appleton WI 54911

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*

(WICYPAA XXIV)

JANUARY 13-15, 2017

“Sunlight of the Spirit”

Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport

6401 South 13th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53221

www.wicypaa.org

GREEN BAY AA INTERGROUP*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017

Doors open 4:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Speakers 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a dish to pass

Redeemer Lutheran Church

210 South Oneida Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

DOOR COUNTY OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Dessert & Coffee

St Paul's Lutheran Church

W4167 Juddville Road

Fish Creek, WI 54212

218 CLUB NEW YEARS DANCE*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2016

9:00 p.m. - Midnight

DJ-Dancing-Bring a snack

Bring in the New Year with your friends!!

218 Club

218 South Oneida Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

5TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP*

Making Amends in Your Steps to Recovery Step 9

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017

12:00-4:00 p.m.

Snacks & Refreshments included

Please Bring a Dessert or Snack For The Refreshment Table

Free Child Care

The Bridge

2514 Jenny Lane

Green Bay, WI 54302

Tamra R. 920-222-1415

Laurie 920-366-7698

218 CLUB HOLIDAY GRATITUDE MEETINGS

(Closed Discussion Meetings)

CHRISTMAS DAY - 12/25/2016 10:00 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - 1/1/2017 10:00 a.m.

218 Club

218 South Oneida Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

Dear Grapevine, ***THE “YETS” WERE LOUDER***

I was in denial for a long time. I first attempted to get sober because I kept getting in trouble. I would hear the “yets” that were spoken of in the rooms, convinced that they would never happen to me. Over the years as my alcoholism progressed, every yet happened to me. Today, I am grateful for those yets. In retrospect, I never drank just one drink; my motto was “just one more.” As I was kneeling asking for help with a cold mug in my hand very early in the day, my journey truly began. I felt so empty inside, had nothing left to lose, and couldn't stand to look at myself or be in my own skin. ~Via i-say AAGrapevine.org

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

HEARD AT MEETINGS....

“Service work in AA is like a football game: 20,000 spectators

--who might benefit from a little exercise--
are watching 22 players badly in need of rest.”

Joe S., Kerrville, Texas

HEARD AT MEETINGS....

“Although I try, I do not always walk the way I talk. But today I am grateful--and so are others--that I don't walk the way I think!”

Jamie C. Gaylord, Michigan

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

November 10, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends: At the end of last month I attended the final Area 74 Assembly of 2016. I will report on it at a future meeting after I receive the minutes. As November is typically what is considered gratitude month and with Thanksgiving approaching, I'm reminded of what I'm thankful for. I've served as your DCM for almost one year and am very grateful for the GSRs and Committee Chairs that have worked to continue to make it possible for our District to carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous. I'm thankful for members of AA that serve at the Area level; those who I've met at assemblies and conferences, have become friends with, and who I've learned from. I've learned that for me, participating in service allows me to grow individually and develop relationships with others in ways I could not do on my own. Thank you for allowing me to serve.
~Nate K.

Secretary, The October 13, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.
~Theresa D.

Bridging the Gap, Nothing new. ~Christina M.

Corrections, Training was held and we added 1 woman to the "Approved to Do Jail Meetings" rostra. I am currently working with the Lt. Laurent to get a night time training session so two more women can get approved. Details to follow next month. Still looking for Compassionate Women to join our ranks. Please contact Laurie M at 920-336-7698 or LaurieAnn74@aol.com for full details. Applicants need at least a year of continuous sobriety, step work with an active sponsor, and the ability to commit to a rotating schedule either on Tuesday Wednesday night.

All is well on the men's side of corrections. There were three men that attended the Safety Training on October 25th and the AA meetings at the jails have been well attended. We are still in need of more volunteers, so if this can be brought up at the meetings or in the groups that would be appreciated.

As far as the budget is concerned, since the cost of the literature and materials in under control I do not see a need to increase the budget from \$150 for 2017. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

District Events, Missy indicated that help is needed with the planning of the Intergroup function to be held on January 28, 2017 at Redeemer Lutheran Church (behind the 218 Club). She is in need of both an AA and an Alanon speaker. Items for a silent auction are also needed. Missy will prepare a handout sheet that will list those areas in which she needs help so that the GSR's can take it back to their meetings. She will also coordinate with the District website so that a flyer will be posted.

Also, Missy informed the group that Kristen C. is not longer able to fulfill the position of Co-Chair for District events. She nominated Lloyd Z., who accepted and was approved by unanimous vote. ~Missy F.

Newsletter, Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Webmaster, Research has been completed regarding contracting with a new provider. A presentation will be made at the December district meeting to present our findings to the group and finalize our choice. The 2017 budget for website will also be presented at that time. ~Debbie P./Sam J

Treasurer's Report, Patrick H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the November 10, 2016 Meeting Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

STARTING BALANCE AS OF 09/1/2016 \$4,826.05

DEPOSITS

EARLY BIRDS	67.00
SAT. MORNING EYE OPENER	211.50
SISTERS IN SOBRIETY	24.24
LETTING GO	23.00
THE 218 CLUB	143.09
TOTAL DEPOSITS:	468.83

EXPENSES

COLORMASTER (NEWSLETTER)	169.00
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE	82.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	251.00
ENDING BALANCE SEPT. 30, 2016	5,043.88
PRUDENT RESERVE	1,300.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	3,743.88

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*

New Business:

- Paul K. offered to resume the position of P.I. Chair. His nomination was approved by unanimous vote.
- Lloyd Z. was nominated for the position of Co-Chair, District Events and was approved by unanimous vote. THANK YOU PAUL AND LLOYD!!!!
- After discussion, it was decided that the District 01 email list will remain within the District. Those wishing to access Central Office minutes via email to them can contact the Central Office and provide their email address. Central Office minutes and announcements are also available via their website.
- Discussions regarding the 2017 District 01 budget were tabled until the Dec. meeting.
- A situation where a certain meeting has called itself open, when in fact it is not, was brought to the table. Bruce K. reminded us that the policy of District 01 was and is not to be involved in the policing of individual groups -- we do not interfere.
- GSR's were encouraged to let their groups know about the District 01 website as it has been redesigned and has quite a bit of pertinent information on it.

Old Business: None

GSR Reports:

- Early Birds, 7:30 am, Sunday, 218 Club, James R. Going well.
- Fishermen's Paradise, Tim S. Going good.
- Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Going well.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. Going well. The group is continuing to grow.
- Promise Seekers, Tim D. Going good. Continues to grow.
- Road to Recovery, Griffin W. Positions filled for secretary and treasurer.
- Serenity Now, Kelly K. Their group is continuing to assist the Wed. night speaker meeting at the 218 Club the 2nd Wed. of every month.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going great.
- St. Matt's Eye Opener, Tamra D. Going well.
- Walk with Us, Henrietta D. Going well.
- Wed. Night Speaker Mtg., Lane M. Is going well.
- Women in the Present, Jill V. Renae S. Attendance is steady. They have elected a chairperson to coordinate the business meetings.

NO COST

The 5th Annual WOMEN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP "Making Amends in Your Steps to Recovery" Step 9

Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 12:00 to 4:00 PM

HOSTED BY: Women in the Present, Letting Go, & Sisters in Sobriety AA Groups

The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54302

An Open Meeting during which panels of group members facilitate active participation and discussions on recovery issues pertinent to women. Free on-site Child Care available. Snacks and Refreshments included.

QUESTIONS? Contact: Tamra R at (920) 222 - 1415 or Laurie at (920) 366 - 7698



District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson Nate K. 608-217-7315	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives Bruce K. 920-495-7250	archives@greenbayaa.org
Alternate District Chairperson Jennifer A. 920-265-9053	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap Christina M. 920-445-3887	bridging@greenbayaa.org
Newsletter Ronald M. 920-593-2915	newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info Paul K. 920-676-2901	PI@greenbayaa.org
Corrections Chairperson Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men) Laurie M. 920-336-7698 (Women)	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine John P. 740-274-6358	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes Ronald M. 920-593-2915	meetinglist@greenbayaa.org	Coop with Prof. Comm. Amy G. 920-857-6162	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer Patrick H. 920-819-5284	treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Events Missy F. 920-562-7296 Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760	events@greenbayaa.org
Secretary Theresa D. 920-490-7889	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters Debbie P. 920-676-7585 Sam J. 920-362-4832	webmaster@greenbayaa.org