



# The Communicator

DECEMBER | 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)

## Woody's Gift

Why would a man leave his warm home on Christmas Eve to drive 17 miles in the snow?

I finally came to the end of myself. I knew for certain I no longer had to pretend to look good for anyone. I was completely exhausted and worn out from pretending. I surrendered. Though I didn't know it at the time, this would become the best day of my life.

Looking into the mirror as I sat at the bar ordering my third martini, I experienced what might be called my "moment of truth." For the first time, I was convinced I no longer wanted to go home to my family drunk anymore. I paid for my martini, guzzled it down and left the bar.

I didn't know what to do or where to go. I lived in Loveland, Colorado, but that day I was drinking in Greeley, about 20 miles away. So I decided to drive to nearby Fort Collins to find out if I could get help for my drinking problem. I had heard about AA and I knew I could probably find their phone number in the telephone directory. I located the numbers in the phone book. I dialed and a man answered.

"Blacker's radiator shop," he said. I nervously told him that I must have dialed the wrong number. "What are you looking for?" he replied. I told him I was trying to contact AA. "You've got the right place," he said. We talked and I admitted for the first time in my life that I had a drinking problem and I needed help. The man invited me to his place of business and gave me directions to get there.

After I got to his shop, he locked the door and flipped the "Open" sign over to "Closed." I wondered what I had walked into. He introduced himself as RB and looked me square in the eye and said, "How can I help you?" "I can't quit drinking on my own," I replied. RB sat down and shared his experience, strength and hope with me. He described his association with AA and told me that he had not had a drink in quite a few days. He said he owed his sobriety to AA.

After we talked awhile, he said there were four other men that I should probably talk to if I "was serious about doing something about my drinking." The men's names were Harry, Ken, Rudy and Woody. I shook RB's hand and set out to find Harry. I ended up spending the afternoon with Harry, Ken, Rudy and Woody. They shared their stories with me so I might be better able to decide if I wanted what they had.

Here's what I remember most: These five men stopped everything they were doing that December afternoon to try to help someone they had never met before. They cared. And their caring was something I would come to understand—but not that day. This instant friendship with these men was the beginning of my sobriety. Woody, in particular, took me under his wing. I began to see him every morning for coffee in his little locksmith shop behind his home. I sat in my car every morning waiting for him to come out to open up his place of business, Woody's Lock and Key.

He never once appeared to get irritated or tired of my ranting and confused babbling. I had no idea he had had plenty of experience listening to other drunks. He always impressed me by saying that he had sobriety through AA one day at a time. He said that even though he had the price of a bottle of whiskey in his pocket he no longer wanted it. The craving and terrible obsession for alcohol had been lifted. I certainly wanted what Woody had.

The next meeting of AA in this area was three days away on Christmas Eve back home in Loveland, which was 17 miles south of Fort Collins. Woody was insistent about taking me to this meeting, if I was willing to go. I was very willing and yet, for some reason, I told Woody I would meet him there. We bantered back and forth for some time before Woody finally consented to meet me at the 8 o'clock meeting. I'm sure he thought I would not show up. Drunks like me very seldom tell the truth. But I kept my word.

It was snowing as I walked up the steps and entered the meeting hall for my very first AA meeting. As I entered the room, I immediately saw Woody and felt relieved that I knew at least one person. I couldn't understand why this beautiful little man would leave his family in Fort Collins on a snowy Christmas Eve and drive 17 miles in the dark to a meeting to see if this person he knew nothing about would show up to the AA meeting. I didn't know it that day, but I had had my last drink.

Several years would pass before I understood the depth of caring of Woody and other people in AA. This understanding happened when Woody died. I was new and still too selfish and self-centered to attend his funeral. I owed so much to this man and others in AA, yet I did not attend his funeral. Much later, the day finally arrived when I would kneel at Woody's grave with tears in my eyes. I made my amends. I apologized from the depths of my soul for not saying goodbye.

I'll never forget that December afternoon Woody took me aside and talked to me. This is how sobriety begins, and how AA continues to work, by one alcoholic talking to another. Woody had unselfishly helped me to freedom.-- Richard M. Dillon, Montana

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

## GREEN BAY CENTRAL OFFICE CLOSED DEC 25 - JAN 1

### APPLETON INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017  
 Setup 2:00 pm Doors Open 5:00 pm  
 Dinner 6:00 pm Speakers 7:00 pm  
 Bring a dish to pass  
 St. Pius X  
 500 West Marquette Street  
 Appleton, WI 54911

### NEW YEARS DANCE AT THE 218 CLUB\*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017  
 9:00PM - Midnite  
 218 Club  
 218 South Oneida Street  
 Green Bay, WI 54303  
 \$4.00 recommended donation

### AA IN GREEN BAY 77 YEARS STRONG!\*

#### DISTRICT 1 ANNUAL AA INTERGROUP CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018  
 4:30 p.m. Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program  
 Redeemer Lutheran Church  
 210 South Oneida  
 Green Bay, WI 54303  
 The main dish will be provided - Please bring a dish to pass  
 Friends and Family are welcome  
 Volunteers needed: Please contact:  
 Laurie M. 920-336-7698 - Cathy R. 920-619-0971  
 Tamra D. 920-321-4910

### 6TH ANNUAL WOMAN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP

*"The Ins and Outs of Sponsorship"*  
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018  
 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 Refreshments Provided  
 Panel Discussions, Speakers, Handouts, and Comradery  
 The Bridge  
 2514 Jenny Lane  
 Green Bay, WI 54303  
 Tamera R 920-222-1415  
 Laurie M 920-336-7698

### MOVIE NIGHT AND WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2018  
 Movie at 7:00PM  
 Gift Exchange to Follow  
 (gently used thrift store treasure or \$10 max if purchased new)  
 Bring your favorite holiday snack  
 (coffee popcorn and cider provided)  
 Contact Jill V., Eric S. or Tracy R. with questions  
 Green Bay Central Office  
 1270 Main St  
 Green Bay, WI 54301

### 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

### HOLIDAY GRATITUDE MEETING (CLOSED)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017  
 10:00 AM  
 218 Club  
 218 South Oneida Street  
 Green Bay, WI 54303

### 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)

### AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE\*

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018  
 Plaza Hotel & Suites  
 201 North 17th Ave  
 Wausau, WI 54401  
 For more information: District 08 Website  
[www.aawausauwi.org](http://www.aawausauwi.org)

### *"Heard It Through The Grapevine"*

The Grapevine has another new book available:  
 "Voices of Women in AA" which can be purchased for \$11.50 each  
[aagrapevine.org](http://aagrapevine.org) or 1-800-631-6025.

The Grapevine catalog has many items that make great gifts for a Sponsor or Sponsee. There are books, CDs, calendars, co-founder's memorial issues, Serenity Prayer and the Grapevine is AA's monthly magazine also known as our "Meeting in Print."

All available through the contacts above.  
 Mary B – District 01 Grapevine Chair, [rosivr49@new.rr.com](mailto:rosivr49@new.rr.com)

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

November 9, 2017

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

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

**DCM Report:** Hi all. Election day! Should be a good group. Assembly:

- 1) Balanced budget discussion
- 2) Now and Then become a rotating position. Vote was no.
- 3) Now and Then is going to look at cost savings.

Thanks, Yours in service, Bruce K., DCM District 01

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

**Archives,** Everything is going well. ~ Bill D.

**Assessibilities,** Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), service animals must be harnessed, leashed or tethered unless these devices interfere with the service animal's work or the individual's disability using these devices. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal or other effective controls. Only two questions can be asked of the person who has the service animal:

- 1) Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability and/or
- 2) What work or task has the dog been trained to perform.

One cannot ask about the individual's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask for a demonstration regarding its ability to perform the work or task. ~Joe H.

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

**Grapevine,** Now have two people on my committee; Bill D and Lauren P. Lauren says she plans to attend the District Meetings starting in December to learn more. As far as Group Grapevine Reps and Subscriptions: Sunday morning "Early Birds" in front room say they plan to take a vote on whether to get a Grapevine Subscription or not. GSR Tim of the Friday morning "Promise Seekers" says they have two subscriptions of the Grapevine magazine. The Monday evening "It's in the Book" Group has a GV subscription. The Saturday morning "Flintville Early Risers" Group have a newly elected GvR. ~Mary B.

**Newsletter,** Everything is going well. ~Ronald M.

**Webmaster,** Everything is going well. Annual fee for Site Backup and Recovery was paid. The site averaging 150,000 hits a month. October had over 160,000. ~Debbie P.

**Treasurer's Report,** Patrick H. Prepared for the November 2017 Meeting

Starting Balance as of 10/1/2017      \$5,776.83

Deposits		Expenses		Ending Balance October 31, 2017	
Letting Go	24.00	Jennifer A. (alt-DCM)	155.07	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Sisters in Sobriety	25.58	U.S. Postal Service	86.00	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$4,359.86</b>
District Workshop Profits	32.50	(P.O. Box rental)			
Saturday Eye Opener	238.90	DigiCopy (Newsletter)	124.69		
<b>Total Deposits:</b>	<b>320.98</b>	Jennifer A. (Events)	72.19		
Subtotal:	\$6,097.81	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$437.95</b>		

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

**Old Business:** Just a reminder to GSR's to take a bucket with them to pass around for the month of November, which is gratitude month.

**New Business:** Jill V. circulated a flyer for an upcoming event at the Central Office. On December 16th they will be hosting a Movie Night and White Elephant Gift Exchange. The movie starts at 7:00 p.m. with the gift exchange to follow. Bring a holiday snack to share! Popcorn, coffee and cider will be provided.

The issue of having a service dog or other animal at an AA meeting was discussed. Mike K. indicated that he had experienced difficulty at the 218 Club with regard to his service dog. Tracy K. stressed the importance of the need for individuals to be educated about service animals and stated that the Dept. of Justice will be sending a letter to the 218 Club and to the District Office with regard to this. Preliminary thoughts from the District were that the 218 Club is a privately owned building and that the owner should be contacted, and that each individual AA group/meeting operates autonomously. Patrick H., the president of the 218 Club, indicated that this situation is in the process of being discussed at the Board level and he is certain they can work it out -- and to attend the next 218 Board meeting next month. Bruce K. advised that we should table further discussion on this matter pending further investigation, but in the past, the District Board has always followed the tradition that each group is autonomous.

Elections were held! Matt B. was nominated for, accepted, and was voted in as our new DCM. Thank you, Matt! Jill V. was nominated for, accepted, and was voted in as our new Alt-DCM. Thank you Jill! Marian K. was nominated for, accepted and was voted in as the new Bridging the Gap Chair. Thank you Marian! Adam B. was nominated for, accepted and was voted in as the new Chair for Men's Corrections. Thank you, Adam! All other Chair positions remain the same.

Chair position still open include Women's Corrections and Public Information.

## GSR Reports:

- Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Their event, "AA Recovery - A Family Affair" went very well with large attendance. Sean is going to be their new GSR.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. The group is continuing to grow -- has tripled in size.
- Promise Seekers, Tim D. Everything is going great. A business meeting will be held tomorrow, on Friday. Officers will be elected.
- Serenity Now, Kelly K. Everything is fine. An upcoming business meeting is planned.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Well attended, going great.
- Walk with Us, Henrietta D. The meetings are well attended and doing fine.
- Women in the Present, Jill V. Going good. They decided that even if the group is larger than 20 if they will not split off to smaller groups. Renae S. has been elect-ed as the new GSR.

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## Not Too Young

*"Alcoholism doesn't discriminate, so why do people in meetings?"*

There are as many ways to make others welcome in meetings as there are to make them feel separate. I used to say to myself that I was different from the people in the program because I was too young. Because I was too young, the Steps didn't apply to me, people didn't understand me, and I would have to keep drinking until the number of years I'd been drinking reached a competitive level.

It did not occur to me that I wasn't going to live long enough to prove my point. The fatal nature of alcoholism hadn't penetrated my denial yet. I have heard numerous times over the years comments in meetings like the following: "I'm glad to see so many young people here today." "I'm glad you got in here before it got too bad." "You young people are lucky you were spared the years of hell I had to go through." "You were smart to stop so soon." And sometimes I have heard a doubtful "If you stay ..." accompanied by a lifting of eyebrows.

Yesterday, a man repeated my age when I got sober to a man he sponsors. Both of them laughed. I respect that man. He says many helpful things at meetings. He works with others. I really was surprised.

Be assured, no matter what age a person is, if they're attending meetings, working with a sponsor, staying sober and trying to help others, they have reached the same jumping off point as anyone else in the program. Since when can you look at a person's appearance and know the history of their life? There are no half members or pet members in AA. There are people who have consumed more alcohol by age sixteen than others who are sixty and vice versa. Who cares? We get to AA when we get there, usually because we have to in one way or another. We all have to surrender. It's hard for all of us to humbly ask god and the group for help.

Please don't forget that some of us are very sick and feel challenged to prove we can drink as much as the next guy, even when we're sober! Our requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. I too have judged on appearances. That is dangerous, especially in AA, where feeling different can be fatal. I ask god to help me talk heart-to-heart to the new members as well as the old, and keep me from saying or doing something that might make someone else think they don't belong in recovery. Help me to always remember that there is no age limit for an alcoholic death and the tremendous suffering which surrounds us and spreads out on all sides. For any one of us to get sober before we die is a miracle and a blessing.

Who's to say that we didn't sober up a day, two days, before that final overdose or fatal car crash? Who's to say that some of us didn't get sober a week before the emotional pain got so great that we could see no way out at all and successfully committed suicide? What do we know about the future? We only know it would be bleak. I would not want somebody to think I did not welcome them as a full member of AA the very moment they reached out for help. When I look at another alcoholic, that's all I want to see, another alcoholic. --Amber M. Florence, Kentucky

## District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	archives@greenbayaa.org
Bruce K. 920-495-7250		Bill D. 920-621-1258	
Alternate District Chairperson	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap	bridging@greenbayaa.org
Jennifer A. 920-265-9053		Public Info	PI@greenbayaa.org
Newsletter	newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Paul K. 920-676-2901	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Corrections Chairperson	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Mary B. 920-771-0124	
Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes	meetinglist@greenbayaa.org	Amy G. 920-857-6162	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Events	events@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer	treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760	
Patrick H. 920-819-5284		Tamera D. 920-321-4910	
Secretary	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters	webmaster@greenbayaa.org
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Debbie P. 920-676-7585	
Hotline		Accessibility	
Tom M. 920-562-2689		Joe H. 920-569-2053	