



The Communicator

DECEMBER | 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)

THE BEST GIFT

"How an old makeshift tree on brown butcher paper reminded him of the most important things in life"

I've been feeling a little off the beam this holiday. I hit a little bit of depression because I don't have money this year to buy any gifts. I took two guys into a detox yesterday and they both called drinking the "best feeling in the world." I remember that. If I don't have a better feeling than that when I'm sober, I'm vulnerable to going back out to that old "best feeling in the world."

What makes it a better feeling to be sober? Well, there's a meeting topic for you! For me, gratitude is part of the answer. Gratitude is maybe the most underrated and least appreciated of my AA tools. It's what reconnects me to a source of power and strength greater than my own.

I was pretty worn down yesterday, even before taking these guys to the detox. It's that time of year. I'm tired from dealing with the holiday stress and family tensions. I have no money and can't afford gifts.

So I went deep inside my program. I realized that I had been assuming I was doing the right things and doing them well enough to get me through. But assuming is not asking. It's like telling my sponsor what I did afterward, instead of asking him in the moment what to do. If I want a real relationship with God, my sponsor, myself or any other human being, it has to be an interactive relationship. Not informing everyone later about my self-will-powered story of what I did.

Those two guys yesterday knew to call me to take them to the detox. That made me connect to the source and be a channel in order to help somebody else. I then had the love and strength in me to spend a moment listening to them and their situations and try to help, or at least let them know somebody cares. In turn, it helped me see that I need to slow down and take the time to truly love the people I'm with. Not just buy them gifts, but spend time with them. Treat each of them as the most important thing in my universe (after sobriety, of course).

And what do you know? In our attic, I ran across an old Christmas tree from back when we had no money to buy a tree. Instead, we got a long piece of brown butcher paper and some crayons and drew a big tree. The family spent hours together figuring out how to draw the pine branches, with shade and textures. Then we decided how to decorate it and put the finished "tree" up on the wall. It shone brighter than any tree we could have ever bought—because we all spent the time together to make it.

This year, my youngest said she wanted a bicycle, so I got my old bike from behind the house and repaired the gearshift and kickstand, oiled it up and had her try it out. All the gears and both brakes work just fine, and she's happy with that gift from me. My 18-year-old has been playing guitar this year. And out of the blue, a friend said he had an old amp and asked if I wanted it. The amp had two channels, one for a microphone, and one with a jack for a guitar. I plugged in a mic and the guitar and put my daughter in front of it. She loved it. It was a great present. (She has the voice of an angel, by the way.)

My wife loves a nice bath, and our bathtub has mold breaking through the caulk. So I stripped the old caulk, scrubbed the grout down, recaulked and cleaned the entire tub. She's happy as a clam in a brand new shell.

Our other daughter lives in Las Vegas with her husband and our granddaughter. We went to visit them and took our daughters.

The holiday spirit is beginning to make big chinks in my armor of self-sufficiency and fear of financial insecurity. Recently, I performed with a group at a nursing home/physical rehab. The highlight for me was when several of us went out on the floor during the "Tennessee Waltz" and danced with people who have been put away from society and abandoned and forgotten, just like I was when I was drinking. Their smiles were so bright they lit up the room and our hearts.

Now I just need to figure out what I can bring my mother and brother this afternoon at her nursing home. I guess the real present is that I get to be there—sober—to really be there and be loving and appreciative of who they are. And hopefully be a channel for love and peace. ~D.C. Dave Springfield, Virginia

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

Unity

* *Indicates an online detailed flyer or registration form at www.greenbayaa.org*

OPEN SPEAKER MEETING (weekly)

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 P.M.

The 218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

DISTRICT 01 MEETING (monthly)

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

6:30 p.m.

All Alcoholics Anonymous members are Welcome
Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office
1270 Main Street #102
Green Bay, WI 54301

CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETINGS (monthly)

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

6:30 p.m.

(CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office
1270 Main Street #102
Green Bay, WI 54301
For details: (920) 432-2600

CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018

10:00 a.m.

The 218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

NEW YEARS EVE DANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2018

9:00 p.m. - Midnight

DJ - Door Prizes

\$4.00 Suggested Donation at Door

Ring in the New Year with all of your friends

The 218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

NEW YEARS GRATITUDE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2019

10:00 a.m.

The 218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

FLINTVILLE SPIRITUALITY MEETING*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 2019

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Pizza lunch included

Please join us for this A.A. discussion and sharing
St. Edward & Isadore Church (South Entrance)
3667 Flintville Road
Suamico, WI 54313

DISTRICT 1 INTERGROUP

SATURDAY JANUARY 19 2019

4:30 Fellowship 5:30 Dinner

6:30 Speaker

Bring a dish to pass
Silent auction / 50-50 Raffle
Redeemer Lutheran Church
210 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

WOMEN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP* SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND SELF-ESTEEM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019

12:00 to 4:00 PM

The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, 54311

4TH AND 5TH STEP SPRING RETREAT*

MARCH 8-10, 2019

Friday night to Sunday noon

\$150 - includes 2 nights/5 meals

Registration deadline is... Feb 22, 2019

Questions? Call 920-737-2330

St Norbert Center for Spirituality
1016 N Broadway, De Pere, WI 54115

ANNUAL MOOSE AND GOOSE* CORRECTIONS LITERATURE FUND RAISER

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH, 2019

5:00 PM Set up & social time

6:00 PM Dinner (Bring a dish to pass)

7:30 PM Speakers

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
349 N Main Street
Seymour, WI 54165

AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE

MAY 17-19, 2019

Hosted by District 02

Save the Date - See District 02 Website for more information

Liberty Hall and Conference Center

800 Eisenhower Dr.

Kimberly, WI 54136

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE

It is time for our AA community members to help save the Green Bay Area Central Office (GBACO) from closing.

The GBACO is suffering from the lack of individual and group volunteers who aid in its daily operations. We are also suffering from a decline in financial support.

Please Act Today:

Green Bay Area Central Office Board of Directors meeting:

Last Tuesday of every month

6:30 p.m.

1270 Main Street, Suite102

Green Bay, WI 54301

(920) 432-2600

Service

CORRECTIONS OPPORTUNITY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CARRY THE A.A. MESSAGE BEHIND BARS

Discover How Rewarding 12th Step Work Can Be

MALE CORRECTIONS: Adam B. (920) 680-9496

FEMALE CORRECTIONS: Theresa D. (920) 490-7889

CORRECTIONS@GREENBAYAA.ORG

WWW.GREENBAYAA.ORG/SERVICE.HTML

ACCESSIBILITIES

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO BRING THE A.A. MESSAGE TO THE HOMEBOUND, HOSPITALIZED, ETC.

(typically due to illness or old age)

ACCESSIBILITY CHAIR: Joe H. (920) 569-2053

ACCESSIBILITY@GREENBAYAA.ORG

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

November 8, 2018

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

DCM Report: Hello GSRs and Committee Chairs. First I apologize for missing last month's district meeting as there were items I had wished to bring forward for new business. I did however recently attend the Area Assembly in Three Lakes and have several items to report to you. All items on the agenda were reviewed and the results were as follows:

The 2019 budget proposal was reviewed and approved. Proposed budget can be found in October "Now and Then"

- Motion to move the "Now and Then" to primarily electronic passed.
- Still in need of Archivist and co-chair for "Now and Then".
- Gary S. has stepped up to fill finance committee member position.
- Terry has stepped up to fill Structures and Guidelines member position.
- Date for Delegates report has been approved - June 22, 2019 and will also include optional Area Committee Meeting.
- Motion to accept YPAA donations was approved.
- Resubmitted motion to provide ASL interpreters at Area events, as needed, was approved.

It was a pretty amazing assembly with significant unanimity on all issues after careful review and all minority opinions being voiced. As a reminder assemblies are for GSRs to provide their voice on these issues and our district was one of many with no GSR attendance. Group participation and donations are less than 25% in our district and I would like us to explore how we might increase our numbers within our district. Our delegate has also requested we consider making anniversary donations with one dollar per year of sobriety to our area to help meet our budget goals. Please give some consideration to the above items and we can discuss these in our next district meeting. Yours in service. Matt B., DCM

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

Accessibilities, Joe H. Discussion re an ASL interpreter. Additional budget allocations were tabled until the next meeting. Matt B. added that Area 74 will be responsible for providing ASL interpreters for Conferences.

Archives, Bill D. Is thinking about doing an event in Spring which would center upon bringing in some "Old-timers" to talk about what it was like when AA was starting up in our community and/or what it was like during their early days of sobering up in Green Bay.

Bridging the Gap, Bridging the Gap continues to work well. We have received and answered 43 applications so far this year. The committee continues to be dedicated to their service work.

Central Office Coordinator to the District, Pat T. C. No report available.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, Vacancy-No report available.

Corrections - Men, Adam B. No report available.

Corrections - Women, Theresa D. Five new volunteers have taken the Safety Training Course at the Brown County Jail. Welcome aboard new volunteers!

District Events Co-Chairs, Tamra D. and Lloyd Z. The upcoming Intergroup to be held on January 18, 2019 was discussed. A sign-up sheet handout was supplied to GSRs to bring to their meetings in order to get people to volunteer for various positions for this event such as room set up/clean-up, greeters, kitchen help, and AV/music support. There will also be a silent auction (donations needed) and a 50/50 raffle.

Grapevine, Mary B. No report available.

Newsletter, Ronald M. No report available.

Webmaster, Debbie P. & Sam J. She is looking to step down from her position by the end of this year. Sam has agreed to work with the new Webmaster and take on more duties in keeping the site up and running. Still researching other hosting companies.

Treasurer's Report, Patrick H. Prepared for the November 2018 Meeting

Starting Balance as of 9/1/2018 \$7,017.59

Deposits			
Golf Outing (Events)	60.00	Expenses	
Friends of Bill	150.00	Golf trip events	239.99
218 Club	161.34	U.S. Postal Office	92.00
Letting Go	20.00	DigiCopy (Newsletter)	250.56
Saturday Eye Opener	83.86	Central Office (Annual Hotline)	600.00
<u>Sisters in Sobriety</u>	<u>27.94</u>	<u>Corrections</u>	<u>130.00</u>
Total Deposits:	\$503.00	Total Expenses:	\$1,312.55
Subtotal:	\$7,520.73	Ending Balance October 31, 2018	\$6,208.18
		<u>Prudent Reserve</u>	<u>-1,300.00</u>
		Total Funds Available	\$4,908.18

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

Old Business:

Discussions re Budget for 2019 and ASL Interpreter were discussed. The budget for Corrections/Bridging the Gap was increased to \$500. The budget for P.O. Box rental was increased to \$95. All other budgets remained the same. The budget for Accessibilities was tabled until the next meeting. The budget for the Newsletter was addressed and the option to go to electronic delivery was discussed.

New Business:

Open chair positions were discussed: Grapevine, CPC, PI and Webmaster. Discussions re the budgets for the Newsletter and for Accessibilities was tabled until the next meeting.

GSR Reports:

- Promise Seekers, Tim D. Meetings are going great. They will be holding their elections next week.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. The group had to hold a group conscious -- a male individual showed up for the meeting and they voted to let him stay.
- Women in the Present, Renae S.
 1. Made a list of fun activities/outings and passed out to the group for individuals to indicate their top 2 favorites. We will tally the results at this month's business meeting and announce the event in December.
 2. Revised wording for 'Crosstalk' in the opening format.
 3. We will be holding elections for position chairs at December meeting (7 openings)
 4. Meetings have been very well attended. We had 25-30 individuals at a meeting last month.
 5. Entrance location to St. Norbert Abbey has changed. Easiest access is off of Webster St (you will need to walk around the building if you come in off Riverside Dr). An updated address and room number will be submitted to Ron to correct in the meeting list for Ron to correct in the meeting list for District 01.
- Road to Recovery, Gwen J. The business meeting went well.
- Early Birds, Kathy B. Attendance is good. To have a business meeting.
- Flintville Early Risers, Sean S. Attendance has been good, steady. The group is putting together a panel forum on prayer and meditation scheduled for a time, day, and place that is yet to be determined. More details to follow.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. They have been having really good meetings with many women present.

A WORD FROM MY SPONSOR

In the early years of my sobriety, I had to make a number of sudden trips from Wisconsin to Washington, D.C., to help my elderly father who had a number of surgeries and medical problems.

I did not have AA contacts in Washington, and on one visit I somehow forgot to pack my Big Book. I still remember how isolated, scared and lonely I felt. I could probably have recited the "How It Works" portion of the Big Book we read at meetings ... but I needed to hear it. I debated calling the central office in Washington to ask for someone there to read it to me. But I was shy and wasn't sure that was anything they would do.

Now remember, this was long before cell phones, back when you paid a lot of money for long-distance calls. In my family, we made them only in the evenings, on weekends and during emergencies.

In the end, I made a daytime collect call to my sponsor. I asked her to read it to me. I got to witness the "intuitively knowing" thing our book mentions. When she answered the phone, she simply said, "Just a minute." She got her Big Book and read to me. No questions, no fuss, no bother, and that was only the beginning of the miracle.

We all know that the first word of Step One is "We." And even though it's not written, it's understood that "We" is at the beginning of each of the other 11 Steps. But when my sponsor read the Twelve Steps part to me, she said the word "We" all 12 times. Hearing her voice was, to this day, one of the most healing and unifying experiences of my life.

I believe the Fellowship of AA is a spiritual entity in and of itself. I have developed a practice, which I offer to any of you who find it appealing. I find a quiet space, open my Big Book to the page with the Twelve Steps, and I slowly read them, inserting the word "We" at the beginning of each Step. Thanks to my sponsor, I have done this periodically for 20 years now. It has become a practice that never fails to deepen my connection with the Fellowship and always generates an awakening of my spirit.

~Betty L. Fitchburg, Wisconsin

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		Tim K. 920-737-1959	
Corrections Chairperson	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Adam B. 920-680-9496 (Men)		Mary B. 920-771-0124	
Theresa D. 920-490-7889 (Women)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Meetings List	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	accessibility@greenbayaa.org
Hotline		Joe H. 920-569-2053	
Tom M. 920-562-2689			