



The Communicator

JULY | 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)

"AA: Open 24 Hours"

Online Intergroup has been helping alcoholics for nearly 15 years

Go to any major search engine and type in "online AA meetings." Tens of thousands of results appear. Most, of course, are neither AA meetings nor even AA entities. Fortunately, near the top of all search results is the Online Intergroup (www.aa-intergroup.org). The Online Intergroup's meeting directory includes over 100 listings for online English-language AA meetings, as well as approximately 60 listings for online meetings in 13 other languages. Since many groups offer multiple meetings, or round-the-clock email lists, chat rooms, or discussion forums—and membership is often international—there's always someone to share with online.

The Beginnings of an Online Service

With the advent of a publicly accessible Internet beginning in the mid-1980s, it was perhaps inevitable that AA members would find each other and "gather together." Q-Link, reportedly one of the first online groups but no longer in existence, is said to have had over 200 members by 1986. Lamplighters, an email group with hundreds of subscribers and one of the founding members of the Online Intergroup, recently marked its 20th anniversary.

In 1994, AA members who knew each other only through online communication began discussing participating in the 1995 AA International Convention in San Diego. Many perceived it as a great opportunity to meet face-to-face, solidifying the close friendships they had made online. The Living Cyber Committee was formed to coordinate the hosting of a hospitality suite at the convention. The LCC endeavored to communicate its existence, purpose, and activities to all known online AA groups by email and a web page. Flyers containing information on how to contact the Fellowship online and how to find online AA resources were distributed at the convention. At the convention, three computers were set up in the suite and stayed online continuously, connecting alcoholics around the world. Visitors were given an opportunity to log on to the online Fellowship. Those unable to travel to San Diego were able to "virtually" attend the convention through the suite.

Following the convention, it was decided to dissolve the committee and reform as an intergroup. All online AA groups were invited to send a representative. Today, the Online Intergroup has over three dozen member groups with a combined membership numbering many thousands. (Intergroup membership is not required for a listing in the online meetings directory.)

Online Group Life

For many, online meetings and service supplement regular face-to-face meetings and service. For others, online AA is their primary and sometimes only connection to the Fellowship. Though the two venues are different in obvious ways, over the years, a great amount of energy has been devoted to making the online experience as close as possible to what one finds in a local meeting.

Service in online groups closely mirrors face-to-face groups. There are greeters and readers, chairs and secretaries, treasurers and intergroup reps. One group has over four dozen service workers, conducts marathon chat meetings during holidays, offers temporary online sponsors, has had a monthly drawing for an AA Grapevine subscription going on seven years, and will purchase and mail a Big Book to a member in need anywhere in the world.

The Sounds of Sobriety email group was formed to help those with hearing loss (deaf, deafened, or hard of hearing) find a place to recover from alcoholism. A founder of that group, who has been sober over 40 years, states, "Online, I don't miss out on a lot. I don't have to lip read, and I can reach someone any time if I'm having a bad night or day. I don't need a third person to call someone on the phone—I can email them myself. A lot of meetings are so far away. I don't have the gas for the car, and I can't walk around outside after dark."

A California member says, "When my vision deteriorated into blindness about 10 years ago, I couldn't give back the way I always had. Residing in suburban sprawl, my meeting choices were impaired. I found you online, and I could show up! Through my participation in our Fellowship online, I've made friends globally and through the web I've been able to expand love and encourage dignity among our English-speaking members."

(Open 24 Hours continued on page 4)

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

60TH CHILTON INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017
Doors open 5:15 p.m./ Potluck 6:00 p.m.
Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Good Shepherd Parish Hall
54 East Main Street
Chilton, WI 53014

MEETING OF THE 12 STEP HIGH AA GROUP*

JULY 23-30, 2017
7:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
8:00 a.m. AA and Al-Anon Meetings
Saturday July 29th 8:00 AM Speaker Meeting
EAA Convention Grounds
EAA Nature Center Pavilion Tent #1
Oshkosh, WI 54902

MINDFULNESS WALK AND BONFIRE

JULY 29, 2017
7:00 p.m. Fellowship, snacks & dessert
8:00 p.m. Mindfulness walk
(15-30 min depending on your pace)
8:45 p.m. Open Bonfire meeting
Barkhausen Waterfowl Preserve
2024 Lakeview Drive
Suamico WI 54173

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

LONG FOR MOORE STOCKBRIDGE INTERGROUP*

AUGUST 19, 2017
Doors Open 5:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Speakers 7:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to pass if you can
St Mary's Seven Dolors
(Parish Basement)
120 Davis Street
Stockbridge, WI 53088

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

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 PICNIC*

SEPTEMBER 9, 2017
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Main dish will be provided
Bring a dish to pass if you can
Colburn Park-North Building
901 South Fisk Street
Green Bay, WI 54304

CENTRAL OFFICE PICNIC

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

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 Dr.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE

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

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

June 8, 2017

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

DCM Report: Welcome Summer!! Update on Spring Conference in Munising on May 19-21. There were 10 attendees from District 01!! It was a great conference and I will give you the highlights. 1) GSB Letter about a lawsuit. 2) GSO Budget Outlook. 3) GSO 2016 Financial Highlights. 4) Member Services & Statistics. I am asking all the GSR's to talk to their group members about our Grapevine & Archives Chair openings. If anyone wants a 140 page power point from our Area Delegate let me know. Thanks, Bruce K. DCM, District 01

Secretary, The May 11, 2017 minutes were reviewed by those present A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.
~Marty S. (Filling in for Theresa D.)

Archives, This chair is vacant.

Bridging the Gap, Absent. ~Christina M.

Corrections-Women, co-Chair. Nothing to report. ~Laurie M.

CPC, Absent. ~Amy G.

District Events, Absent.. ~Missy F., Lloyd Z.

Grapevine, This chair is vacant.

Newsletter, Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Public Information, Absent. ~Paul K.

Webmaster, Nothing new to report. ~Debbie P.

Treasurer's Report, Patrick H. Prepared for the June 8, 2017 Meeting

Starting Balance as of May 1, 2017 \$4,184.66

Deposits

Sisters in Sobriety	22.90
218 Club	148.57
Saturday Morn. Eye Opener	108.89
Brewer Bus (Events)	825.00
Total Deposits:	1,082.46

Expenses

DigiCopy (Newsletter)	124.69
GB Park & Rec. (Events)	115.50
Paul K. (Public Information)	69.00
Total Expenses	\$309.19

Ending Balance May 31, 2017	5,546.29
Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Total Funds Available	\$3,657.93

Subtotal: \$5,267.12

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

Old Business: Discussion was heard about the creation of a Special Needs Chairperson. Bruce K passed out an info sheet. Anyone interested can register as the District's Special Needs Chairperson with the General Service Office. They will provide you with an accessibilities workbook of how to get started as a Special Needs Chair. More special needs information can be found in the A.A. Guideline – Serving Alcoholics with Special Needs. The discussion was tabled until next meeting giving the Groups a chance to respond.

New Business: Bruce K. DCM Update on spring conference 2018: Passed out an information and chairperson sign-up sheet for the upcoming Spring Conference to be hosted by District 01, May 18-20, 2018. Several committee chairpersons are needed to complete the Conference committee structure. They are: Greeter, Program, Decorations / Speaker Gifts / Cake, Entertainment, Flyer / Posters / Signs and Alkathon.

John S. co-editor of our Area 74 newsletter: The GSRs of 650 registered groups receive Now and Then. John distributed to those present the Now and Then Financial Report for January thru December 2016. He asked for feedback about how the Now and Then is affecting District 01 groups.

GSR Reports:

- **Early Birds Group**, James R. Doing OK.
- **Eye Opener Group**, Tamra D. Going well.
- **It's in the Book Group**, Gary M. Going well.
- **Promise Seekers Group**, Tim D. Going OK.
- **Serenity Now Group**, Kelly K. Going fine.
- **Sisters in Sobriety Group**, Violet B. Going well.
- **The Third Tradition Group**, John S. The meeting is going well.
- **Walk With Us Group**, Henrietta D. The Walk with Us meetings are will attended and doing fine.
- **Women in the Present Group**, Jill V., Renae S. Our attendance is around 20-25 women. We are describing the positions in our group.

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*

Steppers

The heart of the Online Intergroup is its 12th Step Committee—affectionately called “Steppers.” The members come from all over the world, and they answer the 400 to 700 requests that arrive each month from often still suffering alcoholics. They answer quickly, usually within minutes, and they answer plentifully—each request usually receives at least three or four individual responses. Their Alternate Committee Chairperson reports, “Because of the diversity of our members, we can respond in Afrikaans, Dutch, English, German, Hindi, French, Marathi, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili. And we know how to find the online translation programs if other languages are needed.”

Steppers count their successes the same way everyone else does. If they stay sober helping alcoholics, they win. Whether the person writing in actually makes it is often a mystery. But not always. A London, England member recently heard from Jim in Thailand. “This is my second day sober ... need people to talk to.” Four or five of us responded with meeting locations. Jim wrote back saying the meetings seemed to be hours away but he would go on Friday. That was Wednesday. I wrote back suggesting online meetings. He agreed to try those but “felt very alone.” On Friday, he wrote again. He’d gone to two meetings and “it was a great step for me. I met a very nice group of people who have given me a lot of support.”

That was it, for five months. Then our member received the following email:

Hey, G_, this is J_. I have been sober for almost five months now. I have a sponsor and am working the Steps. I get to face-to-face meetings two or three times a week (they are about an hour to 90 minutes away), and I do online AA stuff as well. You were my first contact in AA, you wrote emails to me personally before I could get to a meeting, you gave me hope in those first few days. Your positive attitude and love kept me going. I am so grateful for your time and effort. Your messages gave me strength to make a call, the call got me on the bus to the meeting. And here I am, sober for today. God bless you. J. (alcoholic in Thailand)

And sometimes, they not only write back, they come back and serve. Another committee member in Vermont offers the following:

“Even when I realized that I needed help to stop drinking, I could not bring myself to walk into a meeting of AA. I was too afraid to see someone I knew, and too afraid to show my face and admit that I was an alcoholic. I sought out AA online. I knew I needed to talk to someone, but I was still too ashamed to go to a meeting. I cannot explain what a profound experience this was. AAs from all over the world began emailing me, sharing their experience and offering suggestions. There was one woman in particular whom I spent several days corresponding with. I asked her countless questions, explained my fears, and generally unloaded on her. She responded from her own experience every time, and her most frequent suggestion was that I go to an actual meeting and talk to people face-to-face. She finally wore me down, and I attended my first AA meeting at the end of the week.”

Informing the Fellowship

From the creation of the Online Intergroup, its officers, as well as individual group members, have sought to inform others of its existence and to emphasize the fact that “online AA” wasn’t a different kind of AA; it was simply a different means of carrying the message. It became apparent that a special committee was needed to reach out to the rest of the Fellowship. “When the Unity Committee was formed, its mission was narrowly focused,” says their current chairperson. “The primary task was to establish a relationship with the New York General Service Office, and through that office with AA service worldwide. Because online AA entities didn’t have—and still don’t—a place in the General Service structure.”

Incorporated into the committee was the position of GSO Liaison and we recall that, “over the years, having a liaison has allowed the Online Intergroup to build a relationship between online AA and a key AA service office. It’s created an ongoing dialogue about the online groups, the services performed by the intergroup, especially its 12th Step work, and our evolving structure. The position has provided a point of contact to help clarify listings in AA World Services’ service material as well as providing periodic updates for the AA Grapevine.”

See You in Atlanta in 2015

Thanks to the dedicated service of the Convention Committee members, the Online Intergroup has had a hospitality suite at the three International Conventions since 1995. “This is a challenging yet very rewarding experience,” states the committee’s chairperson. “We get to meet and spend time with many of those we’ve been working with for five years, and we bring online to the rest of the world in the hospitality suite.” Plans are forming for Atlanta in 2015. You’re invited.

~Members of Online Intergroup, Morristown, New Jersey

March 2012: Open 24 Hours Reprinted with permission AA Grapevine: The Int’l. Journal Alcoholics Anonymous
www.aagrapevine.org

District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson Bruce K. 920-495-7250	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	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	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
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