



The Communicator

JULY | 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)

FREEDOM IS SWEET

He was way too cool for AA in prison, but the sober guys in the yard had something that got his attention

I grew up in a small town in Georgia. As a child, I thought the whole world drank. My folks drank and everyone we knew did.

I can't tell you when I first started drinking, but they tell me I was in diapers. My ma used to give me a shot of liquor when I was a baby. I can't remember a time when I wasn't drinking. I stole from the liquor cabinet and the fridge and finished unfinished drinks after the adults passed out. I sometimes broke into houses just to get something to drink.

By the time I was 12, and through my teens, my goal in life was to stay loaded. I got more than 20 felonies as a juvenile. I spent a lot of time in juvenile detention, boys' homes and the like. My poor family tried to help but I wouldn't listen to them or anyone else. I was living on the streets between arrests. I remember walking around at night, screaming to the sky, "Why can't I be like other people?" I knew that if I could just act right, I could go home, where I would be able to eat good meals. But I couldn't.

I got married at 17, thinking that would automatically change me and I would become responsible. Well, we all know how that goes. I wasn't responsible enough to keep a hamster fed. I hated my weakness and inability to stop drinking. I literally used to spit at my own face when I looked in the mirror.

That same year, I went to juvenile prison. While I was doing time, my marriage ended. When I got out, I went on a rampage of armed robberies with my newfound convict friends. Of course, we were caught. I was now 18, which meant I was considered an adult in the state of Georgia. I was sentenced to serve between 30 and 45 years. All because I couldn't stop getting loaded.

I stayed drunk in prison as much as possible and was arrested all the time—in prison—for all the same things I got arrested for on the outside. They had AA meetings where I was held, but I was way too bad and cool to attend. I had what the Big Book calls "contempt prior to investigation." But a funny thing happened as I watched those AA guys in prison. I couldn't find anything wrong with them. In fact, I was totally impressed. First, they stayed out of trouble and were released when they were supposed to be released. Also, when they walked through the prison yard—which was a jungle—you'd think they were walking through Central Park. They were freer in that prison than I had ever been in my life.

Altogether, I was locked up almost 17 years. Yet when I was finally released, I went right back to my old tricks. Finally, on March 18, 1990, I woke up on a floor filled with liquor bottles. I felt like I could not take one more step in my skin. I was done. I remembered those AA dudes in prison and I thought, Maybe I should call those AA people. What did I have to lose? So that's what I did. It seems hard to believe, but I haven't been loaded in any way, shape or form since that day. What I found at last in AA was a solution to my problem. The Steps changed my life. In fact, I had no trouble with the First Step at all. I had been aware of my powerlessness since I was a teenager.

The wonderful people in AA made me feel like a human being for the first time in a very long time. Where I came from, nothing was free. The dessert on my tray, even cigarettes, were not free. But in AA, people gave me their time and their love and hope and wanted nothing in return. I could hardly believe it. They were for real, just like those AA guys in the penitentiary who never said a word to me but by their actions, showed me the way out. They saved my life and they don't even know.

I didn't believe in God at first. I didn't believe in anything good, really. But I stayed sober from hanging out in the rooms and working the Steps and I know I am sober today by the grace of God.

In sobriety, I've been able to be a son to my parents. All they ever wanted from me was my trust, and now I can give them that. I am an employed member of society and a lucky guy in a relationship with a beautiful AA girl. Some days I am so happy, I just want to run down the street shouting, "life is good!" I now take AA meetings into the jails and prisons in my area. Yeah, God has a sense of humor. I'm here to say, freedom is sweet. ~Jim H. Zephyr Hills, Florida

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

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Central Office Board Meetings
6:30 p.m. Last Tuesday of the Month
Central Office
1270 Main Street #102
Green Bay, WI 54301
For details: 920-432-2600

ACCESSIBILITY MEETINGS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to bring AA to members who are interested in but cannot attend typical meetings (home-bound, hospitalized, etc.).
This is a unique service opportunity for our District.
Contact: Joe H.
District 01 Accessibility Chairperson
920-569-2053
ACCESSIBILITY@AA.ORG

PRIMARY PURPOSE WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Food, Facts, and Fellowship
Panel Topics: Sponsorship, Home Groups, and Spirituality
Continental breakfast and lunch provided
For more info or to be included in the lunch count
Call Todd V. 920-266-6000
Solutions Recovery Club
621 Evans Street
Oshkosh, WI 54901

CHILTON INTERGROUP

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018
4:00 p.m. Doors Open, 5:00 p.m. Potluck, 6:00 p.m. Speakers
Zion Lutheran Church
1702 Van Buren Street
New Holstein, WI 53061

AA & AL-ANON OPEN MEETINGS AT THE EAA CONVENTION

JULY 22 - 29, 2018
Sponsored by the 12 Step High Group
Meetings held daily
Greeting and Fellowship 7:00 a.m. Meeting 8:00 a.m.
EAA Nature Center - within the EAA Convention Grounds
3000 Poberezny Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

31ST ANNUAL WOLF RIVER CAMPING TRIP*

AUGUST 10-12, 2018
Meetings, Rafting, Hiking and more
Saturday Night Open Speaker and Bonfire
Make your reservation online
WWW.BEARPAWOUTDOORS.COM
Justine B. 847-445-6195
SOBERCAMP30@GMAIL.COM
Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort and Campground
N3494 Wisconsin Hwy 55
White Lake, WI 54491

AN EVENING OF "GOD TALK" WITH FATHER BILL PRESENTATION & GROUP DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Admission is Free
Reservation Contact Information:
5THSTEPRETREAT@GMAIL.COM or
Therese H. 920-336-3023 Tim S. 920-360-3869
St. Norbert Center for Spirituality
Killian Room
1016 North Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

ANNUAL 218 SUMMER PICNIC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Brats and burgers provided - Bring a dish to pass
Come join us!
Pavilion at Murphy Park
1627 Dousman Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

"IT'S IN THE BOOK"

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY GRATITUDE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018
(Closed - Discussion Meeting)
10:00 a.m.
The 218 Club
218 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE*

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 2018
Plaza Hotel & Suites
201 N 17th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
For more information: Area 74 Events
WWW.AREA74.ORG

BONDUEL-SHAWANO INTERGROUP

SEPTEMBER 22, 2018
5:00pm Social
6:00pm Dinner (Please bring a dish to pass)
7:00pm Speakers
First Presbyterian Church
100 W Presbyterian Street
Shawano, WI 54166

THE BRIDGE FELLOWSHIP CHILI DINNER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018
5:00 p.m. Fellowship
6:00 p.m. Chili Dinner with all the Fixings
Open Speakers to Follow
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54311

4TH AND 5TH STEP FALL RETREAT*

OCTOBER 12-14, 2018
Time: Friday night to Sunday noon
Cost: \$150 - includes 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, and refreshments
Registration deadline: September 28, 2018
St Norbert Center for Spirituality
1016 N Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

June 14, 2018

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

DCM Report: Hello district chairs and GSRs: Well we have survived hosting the Spring Conference and all indications are that it was a wonderful success. I would like to acknowledge all who contributed and the conference committee for all the planning and follow-thru. I enjoyed myself attending and have heard a great deal of praise for the overall experience. Regretfully the only negative comments were in regards to my miscue for opening the dinner on Saturday. I am hoping to have a financial report from the committee at our meeting and will pass this on to the area as soon as I am able to.

For those who were unable to attend the conference on Saturday and hear the delegates report, I will forward a copy. Also at the conference there was much discussion of the "Now and Then" that it was determined to have an additional area committee meeting before the next conference. I will forward the date and time to the district once it is confirmed so that all who wish may attend. The items still awaiting resolution are as follows.

1. Tabled motion from Dist. 02 on making the Now & Then Co-Editors 2 year rotational positions.
 2. Tabled Motion form CPC. To change the Now & Then newsletter to a primarily electronic distribution.
 3. Tabled Motion from PI to direct the Area 74 Webmaster to publish the Now & Then Newsletter in the password secure area of the Area 74 website.
 4. Motion from Treatment/Accessibilities committee to provide ASL sign language interpreter for all Area 74 Service events.
- We will need to take these topics back to our groups for discussion and feedback. ~Yours in service, Matthew B., DCM District 1

Secretary, Theresa D. The May 2018 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Accessibilities, Joe H. Nothing new to report.

Archives, Bill D. No report available.

Bridging the Gap, Marian K. Bridging the Gap is running smoothly especially since the Chaplain is willing to mail letters from inmates that don't have the money to buy stamps. This has really made a difference in the program.

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

Corrections - Men, Adam B. He attended the June 2nd Corrections Conference in Madison which went really well. Adam indicated that AA members are needed to correspond with requests sent to the GSO and provided a pamphlet in that regard. New volunteers were recruited at the recent Moose and Goose corrections event.

Corrections - Women, Theresa D. Four new women volunteers submitted applications as a result of the Moose and Goose and have been sent to the main jail for approval.

District Events Co-Chairs, Tamra D. and Lloyd Z. The success of the recent Spring Conference was discussed and a breakdown of expenditures and receipts was provided. The Conference realized a profit of approximately \$1,777.00.

Grapevine, Mary B. No report available.

Newsletter, Ronald M. Nothing to report.

Webmaster, Debbie P. & Sam J. She and Sam J. are in the process of re-designing our website and is reviewing other District websites for ideas.

Old Business: None

New Business: Recap of conference budget report; discussion of the "Now and Then" items from assembly; discussion of accessibility recommendations from Area Committee; handout from Area 74 re insufficient contacts for District 01 Groups.

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

Starting Balance as of 5/1/2018 \$4,584.7

Deposits		Expenses		Ending Balance April 30, 2018	5,081.99
218 Club	111.61	Tim K. (PI)	69.00	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Brewer's Bus	650.00	Patrick H. (Treasurer)	10.00		
Walk With Us	100.00	Mary B. (Grapevine)	19.00	Total Funds Available	\$3,781.99
<u>Total Deposits:</u>	<u>861.61</u>	DigiCopy (Newsletter)	234.74		
Subtotal:	\$5,446.33	<u>Adam B. (Corrections)</u>	<u>31.60</u>		
		Total Expenses:	\$364.34		

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

GSR REPORTS

- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going great.
- Women in the Present, C.J.D. Their group is in the process of discussing the answers the members provided from the group inventory questions
- Early Birds, Kathy B. The meeting is going good.
- Spiritual Awakening, Jennifer A. Meeting is going great.
- DC/DC Divine Center, Gary M. The meeting is going very well. The Memorial Day cookout was a success -- well attended with about 60 people.
- Serenity Now, Sue H. Meetings are going well.
- Bob's Meeting, Amy P. Good attendance -- meetings are going well.
- Never on Sunday, Bruce K. Meetings are going good and are well attended.
- Fishermen's Paradise, David S. He is the new GSR. The group is small making it easy to share.
- Promise Seekers, Tim D.
- We have reached a group conscience regarding the tabled motions from the 2018 Area 74 Spring Assembly:
 1. We are in favor of the "Now & Then" Co-Editors follow a 2 year rotation *
 2. We agree that the "Now & Then" be distributed electronically. The option and mechanism for someone to receive a paper copy should be included in the motion.
 3. We are NOT in favor of publishing the "Now & Then" in a password secure area of the Area 74 website. We this should be studied in greater depth and possibly combined with item 2 above
 4. We are NOT in favor of providing an A.S.L. (American Sign Language) Interpreter at any or all Area 74 Assemblies and Conferences as written in this motion. We would be in favor of providing this service only if this service was specifically requested for that particular event.*This motion needs further review to take into consideration of the background and skills necessary to carry out the position.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. Going fine.

Mary in Folsom

I'm one of the lucky AA members who get to go into Folsom Prison to participate in an AA meeting with the prisoners. I get to go once a month and it's the highlight of my month.

The meeting takes place in a "Level 4" facility. Level 4 is for prisoners who are considered the most dangerous, and yet I never feel afraid in there. The guys I've come to know are men who are growing and living their lives to the best of their abilities under very trying circumstances. They are not the gangsters they might have once been. Many of them were sentenced many years ago for crimes they committed when they were teenagers. I don't know what crimes they are incarcerated for, and I don't want to know. I know who they are now and that's enough for me.

During these prison meetings, we have tackled difficult problems, such as how does one make amends to the family of someone you killed or someone whose death you were involved in? Then there are questions about living in prison, such as, how does one live a life relatively free of resentments, when every day you are confronted by irrational demands and provocation? Or, how does one resist temptation when drugs or alcohol are available almost daily, and when the culture behind the walls says that something is wrong with you if you are sober?

In the years I've been going into Folsom, I have lost friends to stabbings, relocation and sometimes even promotion to Level 3 prisons. I miss each and every one of the guys I've come to know. These guys also get to know me.

I was never in prison, or even in jail. I don't have to have those same experiences to relate with alcoholism. Yet, I've learned how to stay sober and find joy in life. It doesn't matter where I am. My internal life matters in sobriety. When I walk into a meeting at Folsom, the guys who know me know I love and accept them as they are. What they don't know is how much I carry them with me all month. I've come to love and respect the journeys they have to walk.

I've often wondered how they stay sober in there with all the temptation and boredom they have to face. But then, they ask me how I can stay sober out here with all the temptation and distractions I have.

I am reminded once again that the program of AA and its Steps and Traditions are all an internal journey. And how lucky we are to be on this road. ~Mary Grass Valley, California

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	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	accessibility@greenbayaa.org
Tom M. 920-562-2689		Joe H. 920-569-2053	