



# The Communicator

JUNE | 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)

## **"Troublemaker"**

*How a ministry student turned into an alcoholic bad boy, then found spirituality in AA*

I knew I was done drinking, but I kept on running into a roadblock that seemed insurmountable. I had been attending a Big Book study. When we got to the place in the book where it told me I needed a spiritual solution to my drinking problem, my heart just sank. I had been raised in a mainstream religion but never felt that it made any difference in my life.

After grade school, my family decided that I should be sent away to boarding school to study for the ministry. I respected my parents and was willing to go along with what they thought was right for me. So my life became a sequence of chapel in the morning, classwork, studying, chapel in the evening, a little socializing and then bed.

The course work was strenuous but interesting. I was doing good work until I got to religion class. The deeper we got into religious subjects, the less sense it made to me. So I would ask questions to try to get it straight in my mind.

I soon found that questions were not welcome in religion class. My instructors didn't seem to have answers for my questions. They soon grew irritated with me. The fact that I was a troublemaker made its way to the president of the school.

So at 16, I found myself sitting in front of the president's big wooden desk. He and I discussed my beliefs, or rather my lack of belief. It turned out the president didn't have answers to my religious questions either. Just the same, he was really irritated with me. He not so politely told me not to come back if I felt the way I did.

I remember feeling a great sense of relief as I walked out of his office and vowed to never darken the doorsteps of a church again. As I might have expected, my parents weren't pleased with my decision not to return to boarding school. I had to threaten to run away to avoid getting sent back. So it was public high school for me for my senior year.

It didn't take long for me to fall in with a bad crowd. After attending an all-boys school of 300, I was now attending a coed school of about 2,000, half of whom were girls. It felt like I had been let out of jail. Fun was now my curriculum. The coursework was considerably easier. I found I could usually pass my classes without actually attending very many of them. This was great because my partying was occupying most of my time. I was able to graduate on time, but just barely. I worked and partied for a year. Then, when I was about to be drafted, I joined the Navy. I thought that I could drink with the best, but my stint in the Navy really honed my skills. It was wartime and a certain amount of drunken stupidity was acceptable and even expected.

I left the Navy without a plan of what I was going to do with the rest of my life. So I worked construction and partied hard. I didn't believe in anything and only lived for today.

Now I'm glad that I couldn't see the future at that time, with the many detoxes and treatment programs to come. I sacrificed everyone and everything to alcohol. By the time I was 39, I had run out of plans and excuses. I was so depressed, I was suicidal. I couldn't go on. I was going to have to get sober or kill myself, one or the other.

One day, I hit my knees and cried out to a God I did not know for mercy. I don't know if you can make a deal with God, but I promised that if he would remove my obsession to drink that I would do my best in AA to lead a better life. Here's the really weird part: When I got back up off my knees, I knew that I was not going to drink again. I didn't know how that was going to happen, but I was sure.

On my second day of sobriety, I got a sponsor. After about a month, I started in on my Fourth Step. My sponsor and I worked the rest of the Steps. I started being of service to my group and eventually sponsored other guys.

So what was different about me now? At the same Big Book study group that showed me I needed a spiritual solution to my problem, we came to the place in the Big Book where it asked: Do you believe, or are you willing to believe in a power greater than yourself? And with that one sentence, I was a part of AA and safe at last.

AA never required that I believe in a specific god or doctrine, just that I place myself into the care of God. My spiritual quest was to be my own. I came to AA to quit drinking, but also found a whole new way of life. --Art H. Mount Prospect, Illinois

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.

Please bring a dish to pass

Genesis Club

1213 Appleton Street  
Appleton, WI 54914

## BREWER BUS TRIP (DISTRICT 01)\*

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017

Cost \$55 per person

DEPARTURE: 9:00 a.m. / RETURN: 6:30 p.m.

Festival Foods

1001 Main Avenue

De Pere, WI 54115

Details: Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760

## “PRACTICE THESE PRINCIPLES”

### TRADITIONS WORKSHOP #3

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 2017

Panel Discussion with Q & A

Potluck - Bring a dish to pass

12:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Meal 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Alano Club

711 McClellan Street

Wausau, WI 54403

## DR. BOB'S ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 11, 2017

Celebrate AA's 82nd Birthday

“It's a Hot Diggity Dog Cookout”

Potluck Picnic - Bring a dish to pass

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Marathon Park Picnic Shelter #2

1201 Stewart Avenue

Wausau, WI 54401

## SEYMOUR A.A. INTERGROUP\*

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2017

Hot sandwiches provided / Bring a dish to pass

Doors open 4:30 p.m./Dinner 6:00 p.m.

AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

349 North Main St

Seymour, WI 54165

## 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

## 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

## EMOTIONAL SOBRIETY WORKSHOP\*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2017

9:30 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Potluck Lunch 11:45 a.m.

Hot beef sandwiches

(Please bring a dish to pass)

The 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

Murphy Park Pavillion

1627 Dousman Street

Green Bay, WI 54303

*~Dedicated Men and Women Are Needed to Help in Jails~*

Are you looking for a rewarding way to do service work?

Join us in bringing men's and women's AA meetings into the Green Bay Corrections Facilities

*YOU MUST BE OFF PROBATION or PAROLE - TRAINING & BACKGROUND CHECK PROVIDED*

Sean S. SSMITH1205@GMAIL.COM

- Details -

Laurie M. LAURIEANN74@AOL.COM

920-445-9594

920-336-7698

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

May 11, 2017

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

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

DCM, Bruce K. Hope everyone is doing well. Looking forward to the Spring Conference in Munising on May 19-21. Please try to attend. There are a few items I would like to suggest we complete by Jan. 2018:

- 1) A committee started consisting of AA Group Grapevine chairs. Meet monthly.
- 2) Mission Statement for district bylaws. What is our purpose?
- 3) A DCM in place for the next 2 years.
- 4) Increase GSR attendees at the District meeting by 30%.

Let's try to discuss in new business if time allows. Thanks, Bruce K., DCM District 01

**Secretary**, The April 13, 2017 minutes were reviewed by those present A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.  
~Theresa D.

**Bridging the Gap**, I am sorry I could not make it to this evening's district meeting. I had a banquet to attend. Everything is still going fine. Lately, I haven't had any bridging the gap requests. I was busy assigning people to letter writing in the beginning of my term. I just want to encourage people that are going into the jail meetings to let the inmates know that Bridging the Gap is available to them. I know I encourage it when I go into the jail. ~Christina M.

**Corrections-Women**, co-Chair. A training session took place last week. One attended. There is a **DESPERATE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS** to conduct the women's jail meetings. ~Laurie M.

**District Events**, A bus to the Brewer's game on June 8th was discussed. There are 48 seats available -- there are approximately 10 seats remaining. With regard to the issue regarding bingo on the bus, it was pointed out there that cash is not involved, only prizes awarded. Bring a chair for a tailgate party in the parking lot prior to the game. ~Missy F., Lloyd Z.

**Newsletter**, Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

**Public Information**, Is in the process of distributing newly-purchased pamphlets. ~Paul K.

**Webmaster**, Nothing new to report. Everything is going well. ~Debbie P.

**Treasurer's Report**, Patrick H. Prepared for the May 11, 2017 Meeting

Starting Balance as of 4/1/2017 \$4,658.68

Deposits	Expenses	Ending Balance April 30, 2017	
Sisters in Sobriety 22.90	Newsletter (2-months) 232.72	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Flintville Early Risers 180.00	CPC - Pamphlets 98.40	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$2,884.66</b>
Letting Go 22.59	Brewer's Bus 976.30		
Brewer Bus 605.00	<b>Total Expenses \$1,307.42</b>		
<b>Total Deposits: 833.40</b>			
Subtotal: \$5,492.08			

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

**Old Business:** Matt B. again stressed the need for GSRs to keep informing their groups about the AA website -- it should be used to access The Communicator Newsletter, the meeting list, future events and much more via the "Links" page. It was suggested that when handing a newcomer a meeting list, it be emphasized that it can be found on the AA website.

Deb P., Webmaster, added that more people than we realize do access the website -- we do get a lot of traffic.

The standing of our District 01 as not having a status, such as that of a not-for-profit was again discussed. It doesn't make sense to change our status given that we don't own or sell anything. A motion was made, seconded and passed that we no longer pursue this avenue.

**New Business:** Bruce K., DCM, is looking for feedback regarding completing a Mission Statement for District 01. Also the question was posed as to how do we increase GSR attendance at the monthly District meetings. Also, would like to see each AA group have a Grapevine chairperson who would attend monthly meetings.

The advantages of having more GSR's attending the Central Office monthly meetings was also discussed. That meeting is the last Tuesday of the month.

James H, the Area Treatment Chair, would like to discuss the topic of "special needs" concerns in our treatment centers. This topic was tabled until the meeting in June.

## *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*

## GSR Reports:

- **Early Birds**, James R. Going well.
- **Fishermen's Paradise**, Andrew C. This was Andrew's first meeting as the new GSR for the group, replacing Tim S.
- **Flintville Early Risers**, Matt B. At their business meeting, the group was in favor of the pamphlet "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare". The group questioned the appropriateness of having bingo/prizes on the bus trip.
- **Letting Go**, Donna Y. Doing well, continues to grow.
- **Promise Seekers**, Tim D. The Promise Seekers group is still growing and active. They have reached a group conscience of yes to having the GSO print a pamphlet about "Safety and A.A." We typically have attendance of 24-30. A year ago the average attendance was 8-12.
- **Road to Recovery**, Tim J. All is going well.
- **Serenity Now**, Theresa D. The group held a business meeting and contributions were made to our usual entities. Robert agreed to coordinate our supplying of a Wednesday night speaker to our scheduled slot at the 218 Club. The group voted on and agreed to purchase a Brewer ticket for the upcoming bus trip and did provide it to a member of our group.
- **Sisters in Sobriety**, Sue C. Going well.
- **St. Matthew's**, Tamra D. Doing well.
- **The Third Tradition Group**, John S. New Group starting out, going well.
- **Walk with Us**, Henrietta D. The meetings are well attended and doing fine. Last month we were able to donate \$100 to the New York office of Alcoholics Anonymous. This month we voted to donate \$100 to the AA Green Bay Central Office. With regard to the brochure "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare" the vote was 12 yes and 5 no.
- **Women in the Present**, Jill V. Going great ... lots of newcomers. They voted no with regard to the pamphlet "Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare."

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## *"Heard at a Meeting"*

Remind yourself at least once each day that you are, and always will be, an alcoholic.

Humility is willingness to be taught.

If you think of taking a drink, visualize the pain of the ending, not the pleasure of the beginning.

For us any sober day is a successful day.

Alcoholism doesn't come in bottles, it comes in people.

The program is worked for ourselves but not by ourselves.

When I look at a new prospect I say to myself, *'If you don't take a drink, feller, you'll be where I am, and if I do take a drink, I'll be where you are, in no time flat'.*

More than half of prayer is listening.

The bottle was bigger than you, right? Okay, then you need something bigger than you to fight it with.

An alcoholic is a man with two feet firmly planted in mid-air.

All my alcoholic life I was looking for someone who wouldn't deceive me or let me down. This is where I found Him.

*Heard at a Meeting* 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
Secretary Theresa D. 920-490-7889 Hotline Tom M. 920-562-2689	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters Debbie P. 920-676-7585	webmaster@greenbayaa.org