



The Communicator

NOVEMBER | 2016

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)

"A BENEVOLENT GUARDIAN"

They showed him love though he was still drunk. It was their primary purpose

When I got to this Fellowship, I knew nothing about it whatever. I only knew I hurt and I wanted to stop hurting—but without stopping drinking. After all, alcohol was the solution to my problems. It made life bearable. But for some reason I stumbled into a meeting and heard AAs tell their stories. They didn't look like drunks, but they certainly talked like drunks. I felt at home—without having any idea why I felt that way.

I know now, of course. It was because these people had obviously been where I was, had thought what I was thinking, and had felt what I was feeling. I belonged there as I had never belonged anywhere in my life. I was told to keep coming back, so I did (in those days I wasn't asked to come back anywhere very often). I went to a group that met only once a week and occasionally I would honor it with my presence. I had no intention whatsoever of stopping my drinking. I would drink, get more depressed, and invariably phone the central office—about 2:00 a.m. I remember the hour only because that's when the bars closed. Someone would talk with me while I told my long, woeful drunken stories. Of course, I wouldn't tell the little group I attended that I was drinking constantly. Why bother them with little details like that?

I was constantly in a fog, but one night I was driving aimlessly around, extremely drunk and depressed, when it suddenly popped into my head that "my" group was meeting at that very time. It had been in progress for half an hour. I staggered in, blind drunk. Nobody was very surprised. The meeting continued while I sat drunker than a skunk. After the meeting they took me out to coffee. One night during the meeting, a "hard core" member said, "There are people sitting right here who are coming to this meeting and drinking all week." He looked straight at me. I almost went through the floor. (Note: That man later became my sponsor.) It was after that meeting that I learned about the Third Tradition. Other members of the group said to me privately, "Marion, you want to get sober, don't you?" I said, "Yes." They said, "Then you are a member of this group if you say you are and nobody can throw you out." They quoted the Third Tradition. I said "Put me down as a member," and so I became a member of Alcoholics Anonymous—permanently.

But I kept drinking. Nobody ever said I had to be sober to be a member. I wasn't. I continued to phone the central office, and several times it sent Twelfth-Steppers to see me. Strangely enough, it was members of my group who kept making these Twelfth Step calls. Why did they have to come when I called for help? I still didn't want the group to know I was drinking. On one of these calls, three people from my group arrived at my apartment (they knew the challenge I presented). I told them to take my bottles. It took all three with arms loaded to carry away my liquor. (I always wanted to have enough to serve my guests. Of course, I never had guests.) That night I took my last drink. Several months into my sobriety, I found out that my group had made a project of answering the night phone for the central office: it was these members who'd been listening to my long and woeful drunken tales. They knew all the time—everything! I was aghast. It was bad enough that they had picked me up and taken me to meetings, taken me out to coffee, befriended me in every way possible, and finally convinced me, beyond doubt, that I was suffering from a progressive and fatal disease. To think that they had been listening to my monologues through the wee hours of the morning added insult to injury. Unquestionably, that group had been conspiring against me to get me sober. I felt it had violated my privacy and somehow infringed on my constitutional rights. I was most unhappy that they knew me from top to bottom. I hadn't wanted to be known. I was afraid that if they knew me they wouldn't like me. It took a long while before I understood they both knew me and liked me, and that I was OK just as I was.

Then one day I really heard the Fifth Tradition. It jumped out and hit me like a bombshell: "Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers." It sounded like a bugle call. It marched right off the page, and I thought, Dummy, that group wasn't meddling in your affairs or infringing on your privacy. It was, and is, a spiritual entity carrying out its primary purpose. Don't you see? Of course. I see now. This single primary purpose stands as a benevolent guardian over every group, everywhere.

~Marion D. Albuquerque, N.M. Grapevine, May 1994

Stories reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine: The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous
www.aagrapevine.org

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT FOR DETAILS

920-432-2600

Typical Shifts: Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm; 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm, and Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: 1270 Main St. #102 Green Bay, WI 54302

DISTRICT 01 MEETING

NOVEMBER 10TH, 2016

6:30 p.m.

Central Office

1270 Main St.

Green Bay, WI 54302

All AA members are Welcome

DOOR COUNTY OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

Held every 2nd Sunday at 7:00PM

Followed by Dessert and Coffee

St Paul's Lutheran Church

W4167 Juddville Rd

Fish Creek, WI 54212

CENTRAL OFFICE GRATITUDE CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 12, 2016

3:00 p.m. - ?

DarJune Cafe

1301 South Broadway

Green Bay, WI 54304

"Items needed for Silent Auction"

Jason P. 920-412-3733 or Don D. 920-366-4880

NAVARINO AA POST THANKSGIVING FEED

DECEMBER 2, 2016

Dinner 6:30 -- Speaker 7:30

Please bring side dish or dessert to pass

Moose & Goose Planning to follow!!

Ascension Lutheran Church

W6106 Navarino Road

Shiocton, WI 54170

NOVEMBER INTERGROUP*

NOVEMBER 12, 2016

5:00 p.m. Doors Open

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Please bring salad or dessert to pass

St Paul's Church

410 Wallace Street

Combined Locks, WI 54113

APPLETON AA INTERGROUP

DECEMBER 10, 2016

Registration & Coffee - 5:00 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m. Speakers - 7:00 p.m.

Please bring a large dish to pass

Meat and buns will be provided

Door Prizes from Appleton Area Groups

St. Pius X Church

500 W. Marquette St.

Appleton WI 54911

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*

(WICYPAA XXIV)

JANUARY 13-15, 2017

"Sunlight of the Spirit"

Crown Plaza Milwaukee Airport

6401 South 13th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53221

www.wicypaa.org

DEAR GRAPEVINE, *REAL-TIME RECOVERY*

In "For the Birds" (February 2009 Grapevine) Carol A. wrote about staying sober in Guatemala using online resources.

I am a member of the Twelve Step Committee of Online Intergroup of AA (www.aa-intergroup.org [3]). We have been around since about 2000, and have helped thousands of alcoholics. Our group consists of many from around the world. I have seen many AA loners get involved in our committee and bolster their own sobriety.

I wanted to remind people in situations like Carol's that this is real Twelfth Step work: a realtime way to help alcoholics who are looking for help. We can help people find their way to AA and provide a bit of a support group if needed.

-- Mark E. Flower Mound, Texas

Dear Grapevine reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine: The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous

www.aagrapevine.org

Heard at Open Meetings

I've never "sworn off" drinking--I'm just not drinking today.

During the last three years my friends and my life in AA have become one. If you keep the cork in the bottle you can't have any trouble with booze.

I'm not at this meeting to learn how to stop drinking, I've done that dozens of times. What I want to know is how you stop from starting it! When I was trying to 'drink like other people,' the whole point of my experience was that I never could. I always drank like a drunk.

I tell everybody I meet that I'm an AA--it gives me protection. Every barkeep in the neighborhood knows I'm an alcoholic. Not one of them would serve me a drink if I begged for it.

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

October 13, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Dear Friends, Last month I attended the Area 74 Fall conference in Turtle Lake, WI. It included the Area Assembly on Saturday and the Area Committee Meeting on Sunday morning. It was great to see more members of District 01 at the event. If it was your first time attending such an event I hope you enjoyed yourselves while seeing how the structure and service of Area 74 works.

The Assembly opened with a Sharing Session available to all AAs with the topic: "What does Area 74 expect from its trusted servants?" The minutes from that are available and I've forwarded them to GSRs.

There was also a lengthy discussion at the Assembly about a contribution of \$2886.44 from WICYPAA; Wisconsin Conference of Young People in Alcoholic Anonymous. The Area did vote to return the donation; with the reasoning primarily being the large sum taking the Area well beyond its prudent reserve.

The Delegate also gave a report that included more information about the financial status of GSO. June 2016 AAWS sales were up 4.34% over budget. Net sales 2016 YTD, through June 30 are up \$345,600 over budget, or 5.4%. Contributions were \$257,200, or 8%, ahead of budget. Total operating expenses were \$609,600 or 7.4% less than budget. Net profit for the first 6 months of 2016 was \$305,900 compared with a budgeted loss of \$897,711.

The new Corrections video, A New Freedom is still available to view on www.aa.org. The board approved the Publishing Committee's recommendation that the price of the video be \$10.

At the Area Committee Meeting there was a discussion on the need for liability insurance coverage for Area 74 AA events. The Ad Hoc committee submitted a report concluding that Area 74 does not need liability insurance at this time and referred the Area, Districts, and Groups to the advice GSO has provided to groups that have inquired... "...while some groups cooperate with the facility where they meet by purchasing a "rider" in the facility's liability insurance policy. Other groups may wish to get their own policy." The Area Committee voted to accept this recommendation. ~Nate K.

Secretary, The September 8, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. ~Theresa D.

Bridging the Gap, Nothing new. ~Christina M.

Corrections, The next training and orientation program will be held on Tuesday, October 25th from 8 AM to Noon. Currently there are 5 women applicants waiting for the background check to be completed, and 1 person with an approved background check. The women are fairly evenly divided between wanting to participate in the Tuesday Huber or the Wednesday Night Curry Lane meeting. Still looking for dedicated women for both meetings. Women can contact Laurie M. at 920-336-7698 or Sean S. at 920-445-9594 for details and applications. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

Newsletter, Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Webmaster, The fee for the domain registration is due in November 2016 while the contract with the current hosting provider for www.greenbayaa.org is up in March 2017. Research is being done towards moving to a new provider - one which will improve performance and save approximately \$200 over three years. Progress on new site goes well.

We also received various inquiries regarding our website last month - requests asking to post events and requests for more information. ~Debbie P./Sam J.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 13, 2016 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

STARTING BALANCE as of 09/1/2016 \$5,172.29

Deposits

Zero Deposits \$0.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS \$0.00

SUBTOTAL 5,172.29

Expenses

Color Master (Newsletter printing) 169.00

District Picnic 177.24

TOTAL EXPENSES 346.24

ENDING BALANCE Sept. 30, 2016 4,826.05

PRUDENT RESERVE 1,300.00

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE 3,526.05

Green Bay Area 74 - District 01

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.

New Business:

A suggestion was made as to the possibility of relocating the monthly District 01 meeting back to the Bridge. Responses to that included that there is a rental fee of \$25 to use the Bridge facilities, as well keeping in mind that the Central Office is a part of the AA community. With regard to the maintenance of anonymity at the meeting level, it was agreed upon that each group is responsible for addressing any issues that may arise pertaining to this. It has been the past policy of the District not to be involved in policing individual groups. The co-Chair position for District events has been accepted by Missy F. Thank you Missy!!! The PI chair is vacant as Jack M. is no longer in that position.

It was also determined that all Chairs and GSR's will be receiving a copy of the Minutes, via email, before the next scheduled meeting.

Old Business: The AA hotline was again discussed. Don D., President, Central Office attended. He expressed regret that Eric, who has been responsible for the AA Hotline, could not attend due to illness. Don also indicated that they are trying to get a new Hotline chairperson, and that Eric may know of someone willing to do so. The need for corroboration and unity between the District and the Central Office was again emphasized. There is a need to see the hotline list to see which persons are listed to take the Tier 1 calls and who are the names on the Tier 2 list. Jennifer A. indicated that at one time she had volunteers to help with the hotline, but did not have any folders, containing the hotline guidelines, to provide them. Problems with the transferring of the phone lines, especially on weekends, was discussed. Bruce K. advised that there is a software program that will forward the lines when no one is in the Central office. One such program is called "Freedom Voice" with a monthly charge of approximately \$10-15. Patrick H. inquired as to the possibility of using a cell phone number that would have call forward. Don D. said he could follow-up with TWC. Donna Y. suggested the possibility of checking into remote activation. A weak link in the hotline that still remains is the inability to have enough volunteers to man the Central Office desk. Individuals who are interested in volunteering should contact Marty S., who is at the Central Office on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., or Dennis H., who is at the Central Office on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It was mentioned that this information should be reflected in The Communicator.

Reimbursement and financial aid to a GSR to attend a conference or assembly was discussed. It was determined that each individual group should take the financial responsibility to ensure that their GSR attend. Scholarships for this expense should not be a line item, but can be addressed in the future on a case-by-case basis should the need arise for those GSR's coming from a small group. A handout containing contact information for AA Groups in District 01 was circulated in the hopes that it can be updated.

GSR Reports:

- Letting Go, Donna Y. Going well. Nothing new.
- Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Going well.
- Women in the Present, Jill V. Renae S. Good attendance. They are in the process of organizing their officer. Renae went to the conference and thanks the District for financial support.
- Wed. Night Speaker Mtg., Lane M. Is going well.
- Road to Recovery, Griffin W. Going well. They had lost their secretary but already have a replacement.
- St. Matt's Eye Opener, Tamra D. Going well. They are planning on having a business meeting in a couple of weeks.
- Walk with Us, Henrietta D. As GSR, she attended the Area 74 Conference in Turtle Lake. She found the new GSR/DCM Orientation to be very informative and encouraged her to learn more about GSR service work.
- Early Birds, 7:30 am, Sunday, 218 Club, Tim D. Attendance is growing, but they are lacking officers.
- Fishermen's Paradise, Tim S. Going good.

~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

District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson Nate K. 608-217-7315	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives Bruce K. 920-495-7250	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	PI@greenbayaa.org
Corrections Chairperson Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men) Laurie M. 920-336-7698 (Women)	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine John P. 740-274-6358	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 Kristen C. 920-309-0390	events@greenbayaa.org
Secretary Theresa D. 920-490-7889	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters Debbie P. 920-676-7585 Sam J. 920-362-4832	webmaster@greenbayaa.org