



# The Communicator

OCTOBER | 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)

## **"MY SEARCH"**

*After five years of faking it, a young member, with the help of her sponsor, gets honest about her beliefs*

*I came to my first AA meeting by accident, sort of. I was there to support a best friend in high school who was sober. I had been dabbling in drinking with some pain but I wasn't at my bottom—yet.*

*At that first meeting, the seed was planted when an AA member said, "It's not how often you drink or how much you drink. It's what happens when you drink." In response, I told myself that I was only a weekend binge drinker and was only 16. But a few months later, I hit an emotional bottom with painful repercussions. I knew exactly where to go because this time I was ready. I had lived that member's foreshadowing statement.*

*I came to AA desperate and incredibly green to anything Twelve Step-related. I took all suggestions, no questions asked. When spirituality arose, I did what was suggested to me and conceived my own Higher Power to the best of my ability. I used the group itself as my Higher Power for quite some time, along with my deceased great-grandmother and nature.*

*Someone suggested I pray and develop conscious contact with my Higher Power. But I never felt a genuine connection to this idea, though my ears perked up when fellow members talked about God. I hoped I could take what they were doing and incorporate that into my spiritual repertoire.*

*For five years, I tried "fake it till you make it." My impression was that if I didn't have a Higher Power, I would drink again. The fear of that notion kept me earnestly and enviously searching for what everyone else seemed to already have. I didn't tell anyone I was struggling to come to some understanding of a Higher Power. I didn't ask anyone whether I could stay sober without a conception of one. Also, I had a wonderful sponsor who believed, and I felt that because I didn't, I had failed.*

*Then the day came when a fellow member and friend was open about his atheism. I was intrigued and honestly awestruck that it was acceptable to be both sober and atheist. That day was the beginning of an alternate route of spirituality for me. I learned that the best thing I could do was to continue to search, question and investigate. Eventually I came to the realization that I'm an agnostic and have been my entire life. I needed to be true to myself because I was feeling increasingly different in a room full of people who I needed to feel connected to.*

*The Fellowship around me embraced me wholeheartedly. My sponsor then stopped suggesting prayer and saying things like, "Let Go and let God." We started together figuring out what spiritual tools would work best for me. In meetings, I began speaking openly about my view and letting others know that it's OK to honestly let people know where you're at spiritually. We all need to be open-minded to others' ideas. We need to be honest and willing to change.*

*I've met opposition for my beliefs. I've also had people have the utmost gratitude to know they're not alone and that we can stay sober regardless of what we believe or don't believe. I've sponsored Buddhists, Christians, agnostics and those who are in the process of discovering. I still have a sponsor who believes in God. For me, the beauty of sobriety is that I can learn from everyone and anyone.*

*I've had the pleasure of helping like-minded AA members start a group—the first in our area—that my friend the atheist calls We Agnostics. It's a meeting where people can express themselves freely. We just had our one-year anniversary. It's amazing to see the growth the group has had and to feel the growth it has provided me. I have the gift of getting sober young and the pleasure of helping others be true to themselves. I couldn't ask for anything more.*

~Cara A., St. Peters, MO

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

**"Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Volunteers Needed."**

## **GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**CONTACT FOR DETAILS**  
Eric S. 920-785-4096 (call/txt)

**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

## 4TH AND 5TH STEP FALL RETREAT\*

OCTOBER 14TH - 16TH, 2016

(Friday Night to Sunday Noon)

This retreat setting is designed to provide a safe, non-denominational, trusting environment for participants to learn and grow in "working recovery".

St. Norbert Abbey  
1016 North Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115

## AREA 75 2016 FALL CONFERENCE\*

OCTOBER 21 - 23, 2016

Hosted by District 3

AA, AlAnon, AlaTeen Speakers, Panels and more

Holiday Inn  
4601 Calumet Avenue  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

discount lodging rates code - "AA1"

Registration: [WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM)

Conference Registration: \$18

Saturday Buffet: \$23 (optional)

Sunday Breakfast Buffet: \$12 (optional)

Cookie S. Minnetonka, MN - Bud S. Manchester, NH

Vern H. Kerrville, TX - Bill F. Marietta, OH

For information:

Marv S.: [MARVSCHULER@MSN.COM](mailto:MARVSCHULER@MSN.COM) - 920-901-9509

Dan P.: [DAN.PETERS55@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DAN.PETERS55@GMAIL.COM) - 608-692-6096

Tom R.: [NANESTOM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NANESTOM@GMAIL.COM) - 920-901-4159

## KAUKAUNA INTERGROUP\*

OCTOBER 22, 2016

5:00 p.m. - Registration & Fellowship:

6:00 p.m. - Dinner

Please bring side dish or dessert to pass

St Katharine Drexel  
119 West 7th Street  
Kaukauna, WI 54130

## NAVARINO SPAGHETTI FEED\*

OCTOBER 28, 2016

Please bring side dish or dessert to pass

Ascension Lutheran Church  
W6106 Navarino Road  
Shiocton, WI 54170

## HALLOWEEN DANCE\*

OCTOBER 29, 2016

9:00 p.m. - Midnight

DJ & Dancing - Costume Contest

50/50 Raffle - Bring a snack

\$4.00 Donation at the Door

218 Club

218 South Oneida Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

## WAUPACA INTERGROUP\*

NOVEMBER 5, 2016

5:00 p.m. Fellowship

6:00 p.m. Dinner

Please bring side dish or dessert to pass

Three Wisconsin speakers follow dinner

Faith Community Church

N2541 County Road K

Waupaca, WI 54981

## 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

## 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

## 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](http://www.wicypaa.org)

### DEAR GRAPEVINE, *RENT, LIGHTS, BOOKS*

When I first got to AA, there was a room, with lights and coffee and pamphlets. There was even a Big Book for me. Those things were there because those who came before me saw the importance of our Seventh Tradition. Our meetings are not guaranteed. They're a product of members who give of their time, their talents—and yes, their funds.

We've all had those times when we didn't have a dollar or two in our pocket. But there are those of us who don't contribute even when we can. No one expects those who are struggling to contribute. But if you come in with a large, pricey coffee in your hand, you may want to take a moment to think about the man or woman who is coming to their first meeting. We don't want them to show up and we're not here.

~Randy W., Mobile, AL

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

[www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

## GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

September 8, 2016

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

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

**District 01 DCM Report:** Dear Friends, I have nothing new to report on from Area 74. I will be attending the Fall Conference in Turtle Lake, WI from September 16th-18th. I will take part in the Assembly and Area Committee Meeting and will report on them at a future district meeting. Thank you ~Nate K.

**Secretary,** The August 11, 2016 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. ~Theresa D.

**Bridging the Gap,** Greetings --I do apologize for missing my monthly report last month! It sure has been a busy summer for me! Bridging the Gap is doing well. I am stopping down at the Central Office about every two weeks right now. I should be physically at the next district meeting in October. I am looking forward to it! I am still looking for new volunteers! If anyone would like to be a letter writer to someone that is incarcerated, please feel free to use my contact information in the newsletter! I am good at giving each person a fast response. I am still working on formatting a sign-up form for GSR's to bring to their groups! The more people that sign up, the merrier. These lists should be seen after October's district meeting. ~Christina M.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Copies of The Communicator and meeting lists continue to be distributed to the Vet Center on Ashland Ave, the Veterans Outpatient Clinic on University Ave and the Bellin Cancer Center on Commanche Ave. A copy of The Grapevine, sponsored by the Never on Sunday meeting, continues to be distributed to the waiting room at the Bellin Cancer Center also. I will remind fellow members of the recovery community of the option to purchase two copies with one copy to be distributed to a meeting and the other copy to be distributed to the location of the meetings' choice. Any questions please let me know. Thanks, ~Amy G.

**Corrections,** In response to the flyers passed out at the various meetings last month, there are several applicants and they are waiting for the next training session. The Lt is checking to see how soon this can be arranged. Also, one of the Curry Lane Women expressed an interest in conducting a daytime meeting which they are also willing to consider based upon meeting room availability. Once the next group gets trained, that could become an actuality. Still looking for more interested volunteers.

Ten years ago, Sid B, a long time dedicated jail volunteer identified an acute need for Corrections Literature. She approached her regular meeting groups and requested assistance. Two groups, through a Group Conscience, the Thursday Night Women's Meeting at the Abbey and the Saturday Morning Eye Opener at St. Matt's, passed a can around at each meeting. Sometimes there is a need to temporarily divert the money for other causes. An example would be that all the money collected during July at the Abbey meeting went to help fund the GSR's expenses to travel to the District Conference in September. This is done through a Group Conscience. A third group, the Serenity Now group which meets at Calvary, votes quarterly at their business meeting to make up any shortfall.

All of the money is collected by Judy G. and she in turn purchases the books in bulk to obtain free shipping. This entails coordinating with the Central Office book purchases. If books are needed between purchase orders, someone drive to the Appleton AA office and purchases them at a discount and then delivers them to the jail. Judy is in constant contact with the Brown County Chaplin to keep both jails (Curry Lane and the Huber Center) well stocked. This involves numerous trips to Curry Lane to ensure that all inmates have the opportunity for reading material without undue wait. These books are given out to the inmates by the Chaplin, per written request to read, study, underline and/or take notes in them -- and then to take them home -- for their new life. The Huber meeting groups give out Big Books and 12 x 12's at the meetings if the inmate does not have their own personal copy.

The books supplied are the Big Book, the 12 x 12, Daily Reflections, Sober Living and two workbooks: Step 1-3 and Steps 4-7 from a Program for You. Grapevines are also donated and given to the library. Any Corrections Volunteer needing additional books for jail meetings can contact Judy G. at [lazy44@hotmail.com](mailto:lazy44@hotmail.com).

This program has worked so flawlessly that the new representatives were not aware of its existence. In true AA tradition, they put their heads down, executed the service and have never drawn attention to seek praise for the work they are doing. Sid B., Judy G. and Tim T. have spent many, many hours getting books into the hands of inmates without lengthy waiting periods, which is the final goal -- the heart of our mission. ~Sean S./Laurie M.

**District Events Co-Chair,** Reminders of the upcoming District picnic this coming Saturday and the need for a new co-Chair was discussed. ~Kristen C./Kimberly S.

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

**Webmaster,** Maintenance of the website is going well ~ Debbie P./Sam J.

*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.*

**Treasurer's Report, Dean H.** A motion was made and seconded to accept the 09/08/16 Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

STARTING BALANCE as of 08/11/2016 \$5,546.29

Deposits		Expenses	
Zero Deposits	\$0.00	Color Master (Newsletter printing)	169.00
TOTAL DEPOSITS	\$0.00	Renae S. (Conference expense)	130.00
SUBTOTAL	5,546.29	Newcomers (PI advertising expense)	75.00
		TOTAL EXPENSES	374.00
		ENDING BALANCE Sept. 8, 2016	5,172.29
		PRUDENT RESERVE	1,300.00
		TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	3,872.29

**New Business:**

- \*The Treasurer's position will be filled by Patrick H. (218 Club President), who has agreed to fill in as interim Treasurer. Thank you, Patrick.
- \*The Corrections funding budget has been increased.
- \*The need for a new Events co-Chair was discussed.

**Old Business:** The GSR/Chairperson Email list is in the process of being updated and will be distributed upon completion. The AA hotline was discussed. Bruce K to intersect with Eric to get more information. The need for corroboration between the District and the Central Office was emphasized. Bruce K. volunteered to attend the Central office monthly meeting to act as a liaison between the two groups. It would be beneficial if a member from their group would attend the District meetings. There is a need to see the hotline list. A weak link in the hotline is the inability to have enough volunteers to man the Central Office desk.

**GSR Reports:**

- Flintville Early Risers, Matt B. Going well.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. Going well. Their numbers are growing.
- Road to Recovery, Griffin W. Going well.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going great.
- St. Matt's Eye Opener, Tamra D. Going strong.
- Wed. Night Speaker Mtg., Lane M. Attendance is better. There are more speakers. Is going well.
- Women in the Present, Jill V. Renae S. Great attendance. There has been a spring cleaning going on with new officers. Putting together "newcomer packets"

*~Dedicated Men and Women Are Needed 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

**HEARD AT A MEETING**

\*After a recent meeting, one man was sharing with another the news of his recent job promotion. "I've got a big pair of shoes to fill," he said. The other replied, "The job will probably work out better if you just wear your own shoes." ~Tim G., Seattle, WA

\*At a meeting where the topic was guilt: "Guilt is getting caught with your mind in the cookie jar. Each day we're faced with a thousand opportunities to feel guilty. Serenity is not taking any of them." ~Ed L. Wrightwood, CA

*Heard at at Meeting* reprinted with permission from AA Grapevine: The International Journal of Alcoholics Anonymous www.aagrapevine.org

**District 01 Committee Contact Information**

District 01 Chairperson	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	archives@greenbayaa.org
Nate K. 608-217-7315		Bruce K. 920-495-7250	
Alternate District Chairperson	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap	Bridging@greenbayaa.org
Jennifer A. 920-265-9053		Christina M. 920-445-3887	
Newsletter	Newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info	PI@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Jack M.	
Corrections Chairperson	Corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men)		John P. 740-274-6358	
Laurie M. 920-336-7698 (Women)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes	MeetingList@greenbayaa.org	Amy G. 920-857-6162	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Events	events@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer	Treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Kimberly S. 920-370-3581	
Dean H. 920-592-9337		Kristen C. 920-309-0390	
Secretary	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Webmasters	webmaster@greenbayaa.org
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Debbie P. 920-676-7585	
		Sam J. 920-362-4832	