



# The Communicator

SEPTEMBER | 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)

## **"Why Be Organized?"**

*A conversation with the coffee crew reminds this "elder statesman" why AA is set up the way it is*

When we ran out of creamer at our meeting the other day, I heard, as I often have, a couple of members say, "AA ought never be organized!"

Right then, the elder statesman status I aspire toward started leaking red. "Do you know what Bill meant by the word organize?" I asked the members. I just wanted to be helpful so they could understand Tradition Nine. They probably don't even know where that quote comes from, I thought.

Fortunately, I was schooled to just share my experience, strength and hope. So I said, "I learned that when Bill wrote, 'A.A., as such, ought never be organized,' he meant that we do not have membership rules or a way to discipline our members. He wanted the members to run the show." They looked at me and politely said, "Uh-huh," and walked away, giving me a strange look.

So in my daily inventory that night, I looked back at my early memories of the Twelve Traditions. I too had gone through the same familiar stages of thinking huh? to who cares? when I was new. My sponsor suggested that I care, so I finally began studying the Traditions.

But I had to ask myself, how often do I listen nowadays when the Ninth Tradition is read in a meeting? Do I really listen to the words? Well, honestly, hardly ever, which is a shame, since I consider the Traditions to be critical for the Fellowship to survive.

Now comes the salient question: Do I understand Tradition Nine? The long form says: "Each AA group needs the least possible organization," and then goes on to describe the minimal organization that AA as a whole requires. Then, I go to my dictionary. (Yes, a book. I know I'm old, but Bill didn't have a cell phone.) It says of the word organize: "to form into a coherent unity or functioning whole" and "to arrange by systematic planning a united effort." Wow, that's a lot of AA packed into one word. Perfect for Dr. Bob's admonition to keep it simple.

Bill, of course, knew that not every member could attend the General Service Conference or serve on the General Service Board, so a simple structure of electing delegates and trustees to attend was created. This structure allows communication between the AA members to the Conference and back, with the beautiful side benefits of creating a mechanism for local and area services. He even throws in the egalitarian concept of the spirit of rotation. Dang, that Bill could write!

But, ah-ha! It's here that I hear some bashing of the "politics" of AA. I try to suggest that my perception of politics is personalities over principles, rather than our Twelfth Tradition of the opposite. Who provides the meeting schedules, staffs the hotlines, coordinates the institutions work, informs the public and maintains our website, not to mention the many less-well-understood Twelfth Step activities? But then some might say, "What about all those elections with the fancy titles?" Yes, we have service boards and committees, but we try to be directly responsible to the Fellowship as a whole.

Time for more inventory, I tell myself. How well do I remain responsible to AA as a whole? Do I get defensive about our service structure? How well do I help keep politics out of service? How well do I know and communicate AA's Traditions, with their deep meaning? How well do I, as Bill W. writes in the January 1966 Grapevine, "reckon AA in two words ... humility and responsibility"?

Dr. Bob, in his final public address at the first International Convention in Cleveland, said: "Our Twelve Steps, when simmered down to last, resolve themselves into the words 'love' and 'service.'" As in all things AA, I too can make more progress. ~Robert P. Amity, Oregon

## 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

## AREA 74 FALL CONFERENCE\*

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2017

Bring the family  
indoor water park, go-carts, zip-line, laser tag, & video games  
AA and AI-Anon speakers  
Metropolis Resort  
5150 Fairview Drive  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

## BONDUEL-SHAWANO INTER-GROUP

(AA and Alanon)  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017

Gathering - 5:00 p.m. Food - 6:00 p.m. Speakers - 7:00 p.m.  
Sandwiches Provided  
Suggested dish to pass:  
A-L Appetizer/Salads M-Z Desserts  
First Presbyterian Church  
1100 W Presbyterian St  
Shawano, WI 54166

## CHAIRPERSON WORKSHOP

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017  
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Presentation with Q & A  
218 Club  
218 S Oneida St  
Green Bay WI 54303

## WEYAUWEGA INTER-GROUP

SEPTEMBER 30, 2017  
Open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. Speakers at 7:00 p.m.  
Hot Sandwiches and Beverages Provided  
Bring a dish to pass  
First Presbyterian Church  
299 S Pine St, Weyauwega, WI 54983

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

(AA/AI-Anon/ACA)  
OCTOBER 6-8, 2017  
Friday night to Sunday noon  
Cost: \$150 - includes 2 nights/5 meals  
St Norbert Center for Spirituality  
1016 N Broadway Drive  
DePere, WI 54115

## SERVICE AWARENESS WORKSHOP

SATURDAY OCT 21, 2017  
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Learn about the opportunities for service work in  
the District 01 Area  
Presentation with Q & A  
218 Club  
218 S Oneida St, Green Bay WI

## AA RECOVERY - A FAMILY AFFAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017  
Open to All Family Members  
Breakfast Followed by Speakers  
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.  
Sts Edward and Isidore Church  
3667 Flintville Rd  
Suamico, WI 54313

## AA IN GREEN BAY 77 YEARS STRONG!

### DISTRICT 1 ANNUAL AA INTERGROUP CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018  
4:30 p.m. Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Program  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
210 South Oneida  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
The main dish will be provided - Please bring a dish to pass  
Friends and Family are welcome  
Volunteers needed: Please contact:  
Laurie M. 920-336-7698 - Cathy R. 920-619-0971  
Tamra D. 920-321-4910

## 6TH ANNUAL WOMAN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP

*"The Ins and Outs of Sponsorship"*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018  
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Refreshments Provided  
Panel Discussions, Speakers, Handouts, and Comradery  
The Bridge  
2514 Jenny Lane  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
Tamera R 920-222-1415  
Laurie M 920-336-7698

## AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE

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

## RESOURCES ONLINE

"Keep Recovery in Your Head"

- Alcoholics Anonymous World Org: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org)
- Recovery Short Stories (print/audio): [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)
- AA Speakers Online/Download: [www.aaspeakers.org](http://www.aaspeakers.org)
- Adult and Teenage Family & Friends of Alcoholic: [www.al-anon.alateen.org](http://www.al-anon.alateen.org)
- Historical Resources of Alcoholics Anonymous: [www.silkworth.net](http://www.silkworth.net)

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

August 10, 2017

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

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

**DCM Report:** Well, I had some questions come up about why we can't attract new District Chairs. I know it has been rough this last year with people moving and personal issues that has resulted in resignations. My initial response was shit happens. After reading other district meeting minutes and hearing from the other DCM's in Area 74 I realized that we are not alone. We are also blessed because someone always seems to turn up at the right time. Some districts have 3-4 positions open including the DCM. I would continue to urge GSR's and District 01 chairs to recruit people and more than that, mentor them. A lot of us have experience in service work that needs to be passed on. That said I am suggesting that the District host a panel discussion about what do we, as GSR'S and District Chairs, do in our roles? What lead us to service work? What are the rewards? I am so glad to be involved with the people in district 01 and I can tell you that we have a great turnout at meetings and a lot of involvement in the AA community. You guys are awesome.. Thanks, Bruce K. DCM, District 01

**Secretary,** The July 2017 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes after noting that the date of the Central Office/District 01 picnic is September 9th, not the 8th. The motion passed. ~Theresa D.

**Bridging the Gap,** Unfortunately due to work, I cannot make it to this month's district meeting! Bridging the Gap is still doing good. I'm still in need for volunteers. It's easy service and a good way to be involved. I will look forward to seeing you all at September's district meeting! Yours In Service, ~Christina M.

**Corrections-Men,** co-Chair. here is an ongoing need for men to conduct the jail meetings. ~Sean S.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Passed out pamphlets. ~ Amy G.

**District Events,** Lloyd indicated that they have many prizes left over from the Brewer Bus trip, and he will contact Missy F. to get them to use for the picnic in September at Bay Beach. ~Lloyd Z.

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

**Public Information,** It is going well with regard to his contacting local radio stations. Is getting PSA's from New York. ~Paul K.

**Webmaster,** Nothing new to report. ~Debbie P.

**Treasurer's Report,** Patrick H. Prepared for the August 10, 2017 Meeting

Starting Balance as of 7/1/2017 \$4,862.58

Deposits	Expenses	Ending Balance July 30, 2017	
Serenity Now 225.00	DigiCopy (Newsletter) 249.38	Prudent Reserve	-1,300.00
Sisters in Sobriety 28.63	<b>Total Expenses \$249.38</b>	<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$4,321.33</b>
Brewer Bus 550.00			
Flintville Early Risers 180.00			
Letting Go 24.50			
<b>Total Deposits: 1,008.13</b>			
Subtotal: \$5,870.71			

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

**Old Business:** The District 01/Central Office picnic at Bay Beach was discussed. A handout was supplied which listed those items and duties that each group will be responsible for at that event. Renae S. volunteered to make an AA sign we can put outside of the pavilion. Debbie P. offered to assist with some of the soda/water. Henrietta D. offered the use of her truck the morning of the event.

**New Business:** Mary B. was nominated for and accepted the Chair for the Grapevine. Thank you, Mary !! Tamra D. was nominated for and accepted the co-Chair position for District Events. Thank you, Tamra !! Tamra indicated she is going to need help with the upcoming Spring Conference.

Tim J. noted that last year his group performed a skit and would be willing to do so again this Spring. Tamra to contact the Radisson. Jennifer A. volunteered to organize a panel discussion about the function of District 01 and how it fits into the larger AA community, the role of GSR'S and District Chairs, etc. She indicated she would like to hold it at the 218 Club in the very near future. [Subsequent to this, Jennifer did a post on "Recovery Friends" -- Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. to discuss the service structure of AA. Lunch will be provided]

## *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*

## THREE MUSKETEERS

I had my last drink in the spring of 1987 at boarding school in Massachusetts. I was 16. A couple of months later, in August, I went to my first AA meeting in Mamaroneck, New York.

When I returned to boarding school in September, I met Pam, a fellow student also new in recovery. We started a new AA meeting in Northfield, Massachusetts. One day, a nearby girls' boarding school sent a car full of girls to the meeting, and the next thing we knew, a young people's AA group was flourishing in a remote town with a population of only 1,000 people.

Soon Pam and I met a guy named Scott, who lived nearby in Greenfield. Scott had the exact same sobriety date as me. Like me, he had also lost his mother to cancer as a young boy. Our unique similarities comforted me in the way that only bizarre Higher Power coincidences can. And thus we three began our journey—Scotty, Pammer and Nealer—the Three Musketeers.

It's now 30 years later, and all three of us are still sober! I thought it was important to share our story with others in recovery, since the main obstacle to getting sober young is despair that a sober life will be boring.

I knew with certainty I couldn't turn 21 without drinking (which I did), get married without drinking a champagne wedding toast (which I did, thanks to sparkling cider), and make it through my father's death without drinking (which I did last year). But far from merely surviving, I found that sobriety has been a wild adventure.

In our first year, Pam and Scott and I hit concerts together (Phish and The Grateful Dead!), AA meetings, diners and Bill W.'s birthplace in Vermont. We finished boarding school, graduated college and are now in our mid-40s (yikes!). I've performed standup comedy across the country, practiced law, quit practicing law, written a novel, gone helicopter skiing and traveled across Europe. I currently teach tennis!

If you're young and new to AA, I hope you find a pack of sober friends to run with. Me and Scott and Pam were ragged and scared, but we clung to each other until we got through our first year—sober. After that, our recovery gained momentum and we each found our own way.

AA has not made me immune to the pains of life, but it's given me a resiliency and spiritual tools to always bounce back. It keeps me in the game. How I play the game is a choice that my Higher Power and I make together each and every day. ~Neal F. New York

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Dear Tanya

When I came into AA, I was filled with such immense guilt and remorse, the first thing I wanted to do was run out and make amends to everyone I had hurt. I wanted them to forgive me right away so that I'd feel better. Fortunately, I took the advice of my sponsor and others in the program and focused on my recovery first. The Steps are perfectly in order for a reason.

When the time came to make my amends, I wanted them to be sincere and from the heart. I wanted to make sure I wasn't making them for my own selfish reasons. One person on my list was a police officer with whom I had countless run-ins. I always considered him a "bad guy" and I had strong resentments toward him. I got my strength up and wrote him a letter explaining where I was at now in recovery and that I owed him a sincere apology. But before I sent it, I told my sponsor I was sure that he was just going to laugh with the other officers about my letter. But I mailed it anyway, because it was the right thing to do.

A few weeks later I got a letter in the mail from the police department. I was worried it was something really bad. To my amazement, it was a letter from the officer. He explained how happy he was to hear that I had gotten my life back. It was written from the heart. He said he and the other officers used to go back to the station and lament over my destructive behavior. They had always wished I could get it together. They used to root for me. He wanted me to know that I was forgiven, and that he and the other officers, doctors, nurses, and EMTs knew that they were dealing with someone who just needed help. They cared that I got better. He wished me continued success.

I can't explain how moved I was by his letter. It meant so much to me. This Ninth Step amend completely changed my perspective about authority figures and gave me a whole new respect. I have shared his letter with many others. I hope he knows that he is touching and changing lives.

~Tanya B. Plover, Wisconsin

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### **District 01 Committee Contact Information**

District 01 Chairperson	<a href="mailto:dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org">dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org</a>	Archives	<a href="mailto:archives@greenbayaa.org">archives@greenbayaa.org</a>
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Alternate District Chairperson	<a href="mailto:altDCM@greenbayaa.org">altDCM@greenbayaa.org</a>	Christina M. 920-445-3887	
Jennifer A. 920-265-9053		Public Info	<a href="mailto:PI@greenbayaa.org">PI@greenbayaa.org</a>
Newsletter	<a href="mailto:newsletter@greenbayaa.org">newsletter@greenbayaa.org</a>	Paul K. 920-676-2901	
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Grapevine	<a href="mailto:grapevine@greenbayaa.org">grapevine@greenbayaa.org</a>
Corrections Chairperson	<a href="mailto:corrections@greenbayaa.org">corrections@greenbayaa.org</a>	Coop with Prof. Comm.	<a href="mailto:cpc@greenbayaa.org">cpc@greenbayaa.org</a>
Sean S. 920-468-9283 (Men)		Amy G. 920-857-6162	
Meeting List Changes	<a href="mailto:meetinglist@greenbayaa.org">meetinglist@greenbayaa.org</a>	Events	<a href="mailto:events@greenbayaa.org">events@greenbayaa.org</a>
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760	
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