



# The Communicator

SEPTEMBER | 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)

## BOYISH CHARM

*At 21, his innocent face had only gotten him so far. But this night, standing in the cold, he saw hope*

We stand outside in the cold Northeast Ohio December night. The other two guys with me don't seem to be bothered by the painfully low temperature. It's as if the conditions of the environment don't define their reality, or their response to it. They stand facing one another, humbly acknowledging a profound accomplishment: three years without a drink.

As for me, I hurt from the cold, my insulation of intoxication having been stripped away over the 10 days since I last had a drink. A recent self-inflicted third-degree burn from a cigarette stings on my right forearm. It seemed to be the only way I could express the depth of loathing and disgust I felt for this withered life. On the bright side, the scabbed lacerations on the backs of my thighs get a momentary reprieve after the abuse of sitting on one of the folding aluminum chairs in the AA meeting that let out only minutes ago. The cuts are from my last debauch, only a week and a half prior, when I was fleeing the police. They had handcuffed me before I ran, not after. Panicked, I had flung my body over wire fences, puncturing the soft undersides of my thighs on the spiny fence-top. This is my life: a frantic flight from reality and the consequences of my drinking.

But now, a little after 9 o'clock on a Wednesday night, I stand here in the single-digit temperature, with nowhere left to run. I gaze in awe at the resolute commitment to sobriety demonstrated by my two new companions. Danny is sober three years now. Tom has sponsored Danny since he first came into AA at age 15. Tom has watched over him with an understated but unconditional love for the past six years. I watch as Tom passes him a three-year coin. The impromptu ceremony unfolds outside the old community center building in downtown Akron, the smell of boiled hot dogs still wafting through the night air. A little over an hour earlier, we were served large batches of low-grade franks to go with muddy coffee and plastic-wrapped sweets. Anyone could come for the coffee and hotdogs, but we had to stay for the duration of the meeting to get them.

In my mind, the meeting had stretched on endlessly, hijacking my entire evening (as if I had anything better to do). My would-be sponsor had told me to arrive an hour early, shake hands and fill my belly. I had passed with disdain on the offer of hotdogs, suddenly overly cautious about my health, despite years of poisoning myself with alcohol and drugs.

While the others eat, I gaze around the room at the deeply lined faces, some black, some white and nearly all weathered from lives of hard work and even harder drinking. Apparently, these people went about sobriety with the same hardness: no punches pulled, no games and no nonsense.

Upon a cursory inspection of this motley fellowship, I am sure that I, a self-styled bohemian and intellectual, do not belong. And yet it is this very fellowship that would demonstrate again and again the unity underlying our varied differences, drawing me out of the hell of isolation every time one of them would take my hand, look me in the eye, and proclaim, "Welcome."

With its walls and floor lined with weathered green ceramic tiles, tonight's meeting place looks more like an old-fashioned sanitarium than a community center, and its occupants during the meeting look like they belong in just such a place. Their bodies resemble worn dishrags, yet they possess an inner vitality that I lack. I am only 21 years old. I am accustomed to being told what an innocent face I have. Boyish charm has gotten me out of many a jam, but at this point, inner demoralization is starting to show. These broken-down boyish features teeter on the brink of collapsing into the emptiness behind them. "We're here because we're not all there," people joke time and again in rooms like this one. The punchline finally hit home.

But here I see demonstrated an altogether different type of bodily constitution, one that is the opposite of my own. These people live from the inside out, they connect to one another through an inner resource to which I do not yet have access. Only now, out of utter desperation, do I begin to admit my own need for those resources and that connection. I sit there, a begrudging beggar at this feast of recovery, with its menu of boiled hotdogs.

But now the meeting is over. The faces have all gone home, and I stand in the cold with Tom and Danny. I look upon Danny's three years with awe and wonder, as something I cannot grasp, not with all my intelligence and self-will. Here is not only physical sobriety, but a functional life that has meaning, purpose and integrity. I feel light years away from the possibility of that life, and yet here it is, right within an arm's reach. *Continued on page 2:*

## OPEN SPEAKER MEETING (weekly)

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 P.M.

The 218 Club  
218 S Oneida Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

## DISTRICT 01 MEETING (monthly)

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

6:30 p.m.

All Alcoholics Anonymous members are Welcome  
Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office  
1270 Main Street #102  
Green Bay, WI 54301

## CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETINGS (monthly)

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

6:30 p.m.

(CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)

Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office  
1270 Main Street #102  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
For details: (920) 432-2600

## 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](http://WWW.AREA74.ORG)

## "HOW TO CHAIR A MEETING" CHAIRPERSON WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Get tips & tricks from experienced chairpersons  
218 Club  
218 S Oneida Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303

## BONDUEL-SHAWANO INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2018

5:00 p.m. Social

6:00 p.m. Dinner (Please bring a dish to pass)

7:00 p.m. Speakers

First Presbyterian Church  
100 W Presbyterian Street  
Shawano, WI 54166

## DISTRICT 01 OUTING SCRAMBLE\*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

10:00 a.m. Tee Off

\$30 Per Person include 9 holes of golf, cart and cookout  
Contact Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760 or [TALLWOLF744@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TALLWOLF744@GMAIL.COM)  
Village Greens  
302 Riverdale Drive  
Green Bay, WI 54313

## WEYAUWEGA INTERGROUP

SEPTEMBER 29, 2018

5:00 p.m. Social, 6:00p.m. Dinner (Please bring a dish to pass)

7:00 p.m. Speakers

First Presbyterian Church  
200 S Pine Street  
Weyauwega, WI 54983

## 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

## KAUKAUNA INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

5:00 p.m. Social, 6:00 p.m. Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Speakers

(Please bring a dish to pass)

St. Katherine Drexel  
119 W. 7th Street  
Kaukauna, WI

## AA WOMEN TO WOMEN MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018

(Women's Closed Meeting)

9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 - Registration will close at the first 200

Call Joy S. 262-215-7513 or Karlyn P. 414-975-6701

The Pass It On Club  
6229 W. Forest Home Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53220

*Continued from page 1:*

The two friends stand close together, Tom straightening out Danny's collar, as he will one day do for me. Amazing, how such simple gestures, the fixing of a collar or a gentle squeeze of a hand or shoulder, can mean so much, almost as if Tom were gently kneading sobriety into us with those old gnarled hands of his.

At 10 days sober, however, the true significance of this scene eludes me. I stand stupefied, and perhaps a little annoyed at being made to endure any discomfort not immediately leading to gratification. And yet there is something I cannot deny or ignore: their connection to one another is somehow gaining them access to a power greater than themselves. They stand in grace, a great love that shelters and warms them in the cold.

I stand teetering on the threshold of this new power, love and way of life, still clinging to the unique scraps of myself, remaining a stranger to grace. Lucky for me, I stay long enough tonight, gazing upon this unfolding scene, to catch a glimpse of real hope and to find the seed of willingness that will gain me access to this same power, as I join these two men, my new friends, my new family.  
~Zachary F. Santa Fe, New Mexico

# GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

August 9, 2018

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

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

**DCM Report:** Hello district chairs and GSRs: On August 11th I will be heading to the Area Committee Meeting in Three Lakes. The area now has additional items for discussion, as we will be considering date changes to the 2019 service schedule. While our district voted to approve the date change, our area was against it. Since the date change was approved we will be discussing how to adjust our service schedule to accommodate the new date. Also, it appears there will be discussion once again to censure the board of directors for allowing this conflict to occur. This of course is in addition to the table motions listed below. Please feel free to join me in what is sure to be a stimulating discussion.

1. Tabled motion from Dist. 02 on making the Now & Then Co-Editors 2 year rotational positions.
2. Tabled Motion from 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. Tabled Motion from Treatment/Accessibilities committee to provide ASL sign language interpreter for all Area 74 Service events.

**Secretary,** Marty S. (for Theresa D.) The July 2018 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

**Accessibilities,** Joe H. Information from a DCM in Milwaukee relating ASL interpreters Our District held a group conscience and we said, "We will pay up to \$50 for a District Meeting and/or District Event where we need an interpreter depending on the state of our treasury." We went from month to month, and it all seemed to work out. The ASL's have to sign a agreement with the state before they can be certified to be able to sign at any meetings or functions. They are sworn to anonymity.

**Archives,** Bill D. No report available.

**Bridging the Gap,** Marian K. Bridging the Gap is going well and I will be requesting additional funding for more envelopes.

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Amy G. No report available.

**Corrections - Men,** Adam B. Going well. They are looking into an App to help coordinate the scheduling of the jail meetings. It was suggested that Google Calendar be used for this purpose.

**Corrections - Women,** Theresa D. No report available.

**District Events Co-Chairs,** Tamra D. and Lloyd Z. Our next District 01 Intergroup is scheduled for Wednesday, December 19th 2018. The facility at Redeemer Lutheran Church will be reserved for this event. The 2nd Annual Central Office & District 01 Picnic was announced. "Food, Fun and Fellowship!" will be Saturday, September 8th 2018 from 11:30 – 4:30pm. Find us at Bay Beach Amusement Park, Pavilion #6.

**Grapevine,** Mary B. No report available.

**Newsletter,** Ronald M. No report available.

**Webmaster,** Debbie P. & Sam J. Debbie P. and Sam J. are in the process of re-designing our website and looking at various firewall protection systems/providers.

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

Starting Balance as of 7/1/2018 \$5,206.71

Deposits	Expenses	Ending Balance July 31, 2018	
Area 74 Spring Conf.	887.17	Lloyd Z. (Brewer Bus)	132.10
Brewer's Bus Trip	400.00	Total Expenses:	\$132.10
Letting Go	16.50		
Saturday Eye Opener	51.46		
Sisters In Sobriety	27.15		
Total Deposits:	1,382.28		
Subtotal:	\$6,588.99		

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

## Discussion Topic "NAVIGATING TOUGH TIMES"

Lucy B. (Swannanoa, North Carolina), the writer of "The Best I Can Do" [Grapevine September 2018] fell in love with a fellow member in sobriety and they eventually married. They built a sober life together, including doing service and attending the same home group. When a serious illness took her partner down, her whole world changed. She had to use every tool she had learned in AA to stay sober and navigate the pain and sadness. Prayer, meetings, sharing and asking for help saved her. And especially, doing service for others.

Have you been through tragedy or tough times in sobriety? Was it difficult to reach out for help? What are some things that helped you most? Was prayer helpful? Literature? Fellowship? Your sponsor? What are some of the ways you used prayer? Have you had a close friend or family member who has gone through a hard time? How have you been able to help them?

## GSR Reports:

- \*Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Meetings are going well. Many women attending.
- \*Women in the Present, Renae S. Still in the process of reviewing all the answers to our inventory questions.
  - Will be offering a Big Book to newcomers or women who do not have one
  - The first week of every quarter will be a topic on sponsorship or service work
  - Created responsibilities for the Greeter/Welcome positions
  - 15-20 individuals in attendance
- \*Early Birds, Kathy B. They will be having a service meeting. The meetings are going good.
- \*Spiritual Awakening, Jennifer A. The following are the issues discussed and conclusions resulting from the Spiritual
- \*Awakening Group business meeting.
  - \* Our group prefers an electronic newsletter from the Area with a paper option to be sent to the location of the meeting (AA Clubhouse). We are against a secured site for the Now And Then.
  - \* Our group is agreeable to a two year term for the Newsletter Chairs as long as there are no term limits.
  - \* Our group agrees to ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters BY REQUEST ONLY for any Area conference. As a matter of fact, our members unanimously disagree with the necessity of even having a Special Needs Chairperson/ position, stating that groups, even non groups, have filled in on a local level to meet the needs of anyone requiring special help such as child care, giving rides, bringing meetings to homebound members, hospital visits, etc.
  - \* Our group is interested in putting together a panel discussing the topic: "What does the GSO do?" We are looking to join with another group to sponsor the panel discussion.
  - \* Our next business meeting is scheduled for October 31.
- \*DC/DC Divine Center, Gary M. Going well. They will be having their 8th Annual Labor Day Picnic. Bring a dish to pass!
- \*Promise Seekers, Tim D. Everything is going great. They will be having a group inventory.
- \*Letting Go, Donna Y. The meetings are going great.
- \*Serenity Now. Sue H., Alt-GSR, The meetings are going well. Large attendance.
- \*B.O.B. Meeting, Amy P. About 20 people have made it their home group and we started using the App, Group Me, to communicate. All is well..

## Old Business:

Discussion of Now and Then items from assembly. No new information was presented for this issue.

## New Business:

Discussion of accessibility recommendations from area committee. GSRs please talk to the groups to get feedback for this issue. Accessibility to AA events is more than hearing impaired. It includes making meetings and events wheelchair accessible, giving rides to shut-ins and assisted living members. What money would the groups and/or District 01 offer to the Accessibility budget? \$50 is an amount given by other Districts and groups to help with this service.

Discussion of proposed date change for 2019 General Service Conference. Matt B. read from a report that the dates of the General Service Conference will be changed. District 01 is opposed but will make local date changes as necessary.

The CPC Chair is vacant. Matt B. received a resignation from Amy G.

### "Heard It Through The Grapevine"

The AA Grapevine's September 2018 issue has a special section focusing on "Young and Sober" Read stories by members who got sober in their teens, 20's and 30's.

You can order your Grapevine Subscription by going to [AAGRAPEVINE.ORG](http://AAGRAPEVINE.ORG) or by calling 1-800-631-6025.

The Group Grapevine Representative is an important service position. If your group does not have a GVR perhaps *you* can be the Group GVR. Contact me to find out what it's all about.

Mary B – District 01 Grapevine Chair at [ROSLVR49@NEW.RR.COM](mailto:ROSLVR49@NEW.RR.COM)

## 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>
Matt B. 920-217-6864		Bill D. 920-621-1258	
Alternate District Chairperson	<a href="mailto:altDCM@greenbayaa.org">altDCM@greenbayaa.org</a>	Bridging the Gap	<a href="mailto:bridging@greenbayaa.org">bridging@greenbayaa.org</a>
Henrietta D. 920-530-3297		Marian K. 920-366-5950	
Newsletter	<a href="mailto:newsletter@greenbayaa.org">newsletter@greenbayaa.org</a>	Public Info	<a href="mailto:PI@greenbayaa.org">PI@greenbayaa.org</a>
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Tim K. 920-737-1959	
Corrections Chairperson	<a href="mailto:corrections@greenbayaa.org">corrections@greenbayaa.org</a>	Grapevine	<a href="mailto:grapevine@greenbayaa.org">grapevine@greenbayaa.org</a>
Adam B. 920-680-9496 (Men)		Mary B. 920-771-0124	
Theresa D. 920-490-7889 (Women)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	<a href="mailto:cpc@greenbayaa.org">cpc@greenbayaa.org</a>
Meetings List	<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	
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@greenbayaa.org">treasurer@greenbayaa.org</a>	Tamera D. 920-321-4910	
Patrick H. 920-819-5284		Webmasters	<a href="mailto:webmaster@greenbayaa.org">webmaster@greenbayaa.org</a>
Secretary	<a href="mailto:secretary@greenbayaa.org">secretary@greenbayaa.org</a>	Debbie P. 920-676-7585	
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Accessibility	<a href="mailto:accessibility@greenbayaa.org">accessibility@greenbayaa.org</a>
Hotline		Joe H. 920-569-2053	
Tom M. 920-562-2689			