



The Communicator

DECEMBER | 2015

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)

"THE BIG THREE!"

She was excited to get her 30 days, but how was she ever going to face the upcoming holiday season?

On October 14, 1987, I fell to my knees in my pigpen and said, "God help me." I had never said it before with such desperation. Around 4:00 a.m., I called AA's hotline. Two women came to my home and told me about alcoholism and let me know that God does love me. Oh, how I needed to hear that.

After I had cleaned myself up and slept a bit, the women took me to my first meeting at 10:00 a.m. at a treatment/mental ward facility. It was a small meeting with just them and about nine patients. The patients were dressed in cotton pajamas and wore robes without belts. When I heard "How It Works" read for the first time, I immediately knew it was the truth. The patients began to talk and again I heard more truth. They told me I was sick, but that I was going to get well. They told me I was in the right place, doing the right thing. But I was saying to myself, What's wrong with this picture? They're locked up in here, and they are telling me that I'm going to be OK! It was the truth that was getting to me. I was no different than they were.

I started going to two or three meetings a day after that. I knew that wherever this journey took me, it was going to be a better place than where I had been. I found hope that there really was a better way to live. I took my 24-hour chip the next day. I had no idea how long 24 hours was. It's a long time for a drunk to go without a drink.

At the end of my drinking, I would drink, black out, and then continue to drink until I passed out. I'd wake up with a full drink on my night table and then take it to the kitchen and pour it down the sink. Next, I would look for the bottle to see how much I had drunk. Later, I'd look for the bottle to see how much I had left to start the next day. This was just in case I needed to stop and replenish on my way home from work. Just when had I become a daily drinker? I finally realized I was a "maintenance" drinker.

Soon I was getting my 30-day chip and it was already November. Suddenly, I became overwhelmed when I realized that the three biggest holidays that always tore me up emotionally were heading my way: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve! Members around me began to talk about getting involved in service work. They began planning marathon meetings. So I could go to meetings for 24 solid hours that day? I finally had a place to go on the holidays where I would not feel alone and I could feel safe.

Thanksgiving was now upon me. So I cooked a turkey and headed to my local clubhouse for the entire day and night. Most meetings were on the topic of gratitude. I was still uncomfortable with that topic, to say the least, but I listened to those old-timers no matter what. By the end of the marathon meetings, I was grateful to be still sober and headed toward my 60-day chip through a vale of tears. One holiday down and two to go.

Christmas was now coming like a freight train. My anxiety lessened as I again heard about marathon meetings for all day Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Oh boy, was I happy. I would go to the clubhouse again. This time I stepped in to chair meetings, to clean up after the potluck, and to make one pot of coffee after another. Giving of myself was new for me. I had been such a taker for so long. One big change I made about Christmas was that I quit spending money I didn't have on people I didn't like anyway. Even though many hearts in those meetings were crying inside, it was so great to hear all the laughter. I began to enjoy it. However, I only laughed at the crazy stories of other people and was not quite ready to laugh at myself yet. All I knew was that there was no turning back for me. Now there was only one more holiday to go.

Unhealthy relationships were all I knew. Any single person has the painful longing to have a date on New Year's Eve, right? Now they were talking about a sober dance with the marathon meetings. I told myself I could go, but I was not going to dance. I couldn't imagine letting anyone touch me. After 90 days, I had just worked up to some hugs at the meetings, but not from just anyone. So I chaired many meetings and cleaned up after the potluck. Finally, I was smiling more than I was crying in the meetings.

After each holiday, reality would set in as news came in the next week about our fallen comrades. I would scream inside saying, Oh, no! How could this happen? I learned right away that length of sobriety is no guarantee, that all I have is a daily reprieve contingent upon my spiritual maintenance.

I learned so much that first holiday season. From Thanksgiving, I learned about gratitude and that every day can be Thanksgiving. From Christmas, I learned about giving and that the holiday did not come wrapped up with a bow. And from New Year's Eve, I learned about "one day at a time." So I say this season, with love in my heart, stay close to AA, be grateful and give of yourselves. It worked for me.

—Patt S., Yuma, Ariz.

Unity

* Indicates an online detailed flyer or registration form at www.greenbayaa.org

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015

7:00 pm

New London United Methodist Church
709 West Pine Street
New London, WI 54961

OPEN AA SPEAKER AND POTLUCK

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

6:00 pm

Genesis Club
1213 Appleton Street
Appleton, WI 54911
Bring a dish to pass

APPLETON AREA AA INTERGROUP*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2015

Registration 5:00 pm; Dinner 6:00 pm; Speakers 7:00 pm

St. Pius X Church
500 West Marquette Street
Appleton, WI 54911

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2015

Doors Open 6:00 pm

First Congregational United Church of Christ
724 East South River Street
Appleton, WI 54915

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 2015

8:00 pm

Peace United Methodist
2300 East Wisconsin Avenue
Kaukauna, WI 54130

OPEN AA MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2015

8:00 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church
W6106 Navarino Rd
Shiocton, WI 54170

OPEN AA SPEAKER MEETING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

10:00 am

St. Elizabeth Hospital
Helen Fowler Conference Center
1506 South Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Resources Online

“Keep Recovery in Your Head”

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

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

IN AA*

WICYPAA XXIII

JANUARY 8TH - 10TH, 2016

Madison Marriott West

1313 John Q Hammons Drive

Middleton, WI 53562

Registration Form Available

Speakers, panels, and fellowship for anyone who remains young at heart with room to grow.

GREEN BAY INTERGROUP (DISTRICT 01)*

75 YEARS of AA in Green Bay!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2015

4:30 fellowship, 5:30 dinner, 6:30 program

Calvary Lutheran Church

1301 S. Ridge Road

Green Bay WI 54303

FOURTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RECOVERY WORKSHOP

Seeking Conscious Contact Through Prayer & Meditation

Step 11

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016

12:00 - 4:00 pm

The Bridge

2514 Jenny Lane

Green Bay, WI 54311

Free on-site child care

Snacks and refreshments included

Phyllis 920-609-0668 or Marian 920-366-5950

Donate

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE

1270 Main St. Suite 102
Green Bay, WI 54302
(920) 432-2600
www.aagreenbay.com

AA DISTRICT 01 TREASURER

PO Box 632 Green Bay, WI 54305

AA AREA 74 TREASURER

PO Box 84 Paradise, MI 49768
www.area74.org

AA GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

Grand Central Station
PO Box 459 New York, NY 10163
(212) 870-3400
www.aa.org

Service

FEMALES NEEDED: BROWN COUNTY JAIL MEETINGS

Wednesday night jail meetings, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

3030 Curry Lane

Green Bay, WI 54311

pre-authorization needed and training provided

Please contact:

Tim T.

920-227-3156

corrections@greenbayaa.org

GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE & HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mon-Fri: 10:00 am - 1:30 pm or 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Betsy N. 920-362-9397

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

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

November 12, 2015

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

District 01 DCM Report: Saturday November 7th several groups in our district came together to put on a workshop on the AA group. I am very proud of how the groups in our district are able to work with each other and carry the message. Special thanks goes out to Crossroads Community Church and Pastor John for showing us such warm hospitality. It was the best meal I have ever eaten at an AA event.

Last month we had our district elections. Thanks to all who have stepped forward to be our trusted servants for the next two years. It seems like only yesterday I became your DCM, now I am down to my last month. I can only pray that our new leaders receive as much love and support as I have received over the past two years. We are truly blessed to live in a community with such a strong AA tradition. In loving service, Thomas Younger, DCM

Secretary, The October 15th minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed. ~Marty S.

Bridging the Gap, Mary S. Keeping up with BTG. Thanks for all the help in the past years. New things in the works.

Webmaster, Jack S. Nothing new.

Newsletter, Ronald M. Going well. Nothing to report.

Grapevine, Barbara S. Absent.

Corrections, Tim T. Good Shape. Seeking women for the Brown County Jail, Curry Lane meetings.

District Events Co-Chairs, Kimberly S. and Kristen C. Working on the January 16th District 01 Intergroup at Calvary Lutheran Church. We will have a special cake to remember that AA is 75 years in Green Bay.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, Amy G. Placing meeting reminders at the VA Center on Ashland and the Outpatient Clinic.

Archives, Bruce K. Have been getting book donations including Third Edition Big Books. If you have an idea where to place them, they are available at the Central Office.

Public Information Chair, Paul K. Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report, Dean H. (A motion was made & seconded to accept the Area 74, District 01, Treasurer's Report. Passed)

Prepared for the November 12, 2015 GSR Meeting

Starting Balance as of 10/15/2015	5,729.77
Deposits	
Flintville Early Risers	180.00
Serenity Now	150.00
Saturday Eye Opener	281.36
Total Deposits	611.36
Subtotal	6,341.13
Expenses	
Color Master (October Printing)	151.75
Color Master (November Printing)	151.75
Grapevine (Subscription)	22.00
Women's Recovery Group (Seed Money)	125.00
GB Central Office (Hotline Cost for 2015)	600.00
Tom Y (DCM Expense - Fall Conference)	150.00
City of Green Bay (PI-Advertising Oct-Nov)	84.00
Total Expenses	1,284.50
Ending Balance November 12, 2015	5,056.63
Prudent Reserve	1,300.00
Total Funds Available	3,756.63



"According to the American Medical Association I'm NOT a loazy drink--
I'm BCK!"

***Old Business**

- A A Group Forum, November 7th Crossroads Community Church Went well. A thank you is sent to Pastor John of Crossroads Community Church. Attendance was between 60 and 75 people.
- Elections for the Chair of standing committees for District 01, January 2016 through December 2017:
 - Secretary Theresa D. accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded that Theresa D. be Secretary for District 01. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
 - Grapevine John P. accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded that John P. be Grapevine Chair. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
 - Corrections Co-Chair Lori M. and Sean S. accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded that Lori M. and Sean S. be Co-chair of Corrections. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
 - Webmaster Sam and Debbie accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded that Sam and Debbie be our Webmaster. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
 - Bridging the Gap for Women Christina M. accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded that Christina M. chair this outreach service for women. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
 - Bridging the Gap for Men This Chair is open.
 - Alternate DCM Nate K. is unable to fulfill this service and withdrew his name from nomination.
 - Alternate DCM Jennifer A. accepted the nomination. A motion was made and passed that Jennifer be Alternate DCM. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
- 2016 Budget planning Tom Y. noted that on the back of the meeting agenda there is a table with the District 01 Chairs, the 2015 budget and space for the 2015 actual expenses and a proposed 2016 budget. This will become the worksheet of the 2016 budget. Please email (treasurer@greenbayaa.org) or call District 01 Treasurer, Dean H. (920-697-1090) by December 7th with the 2015 committee expenses and proposed 2016 committee budget. Thank you.

New Business

•The December 10th District meeting is informal. Little business will occur and it becomes an opportunity for servants, coming and going, to be grateful for those who give freely for two years. Please bring a treat to pass and experience to share. All are welcome. Check out service on the District level..

GSR Reports

Early Birds, Christina M. Our group is well attended. We are in the process of forming a committee that reaches out to the newcomers and to people we haven't seen in a while.
It's in the Book, James R. Going well.
Road to Recovery, Griffin W. Doing well, wanting to have consistent business meetings.
Serenity Now, Jennifer A. Things are going splendidly.
Eye Opener, Geri L. Going well.
Sisters in Sobriety, Sue C. Going well.

<u>District 01 Committee Contact Information</u>			
District 01 Chairperson Tom Y. 920-471-3502	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives Bruce K.	archives@greenbayaa.org
Alternate District Chairperson Gary K. 920-362-0206	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap Mary S. 920-217-3550	Bridging@greenbayaa.org
Newsletter Keely J. 920-412-1217	newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info Paul K. 920-676-2901	PI@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Marian K. 920-366-5950	
Corrections Chairperson Tim T. 920-227-3156	Corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine Coop with Prof. Comm. (CPC)	grapevine@greenbayaa.org cpc@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes Ronald M. 920-593-2915	MeetingList@greenbayaa.org	Amy G.	events@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer Dean H. 920-592-9337	Treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Jason P. 920-412-3733	
Secretary Marty S. 920-465-1401	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Josiah P. 920-264-2107	
		Webmaster Jack S. 414-477-3843	webmaster@greenbayaa.org



"Down to sixty... my good, I've lost a hundred pounds!"



"I ought to go to an AA meeting tonight, but I can't—my wife's sick."