



The Communicator

DECEMBER | 2014

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 GIRL FROM THE MIDWEST

By the time I crawled through the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous, I felt like a minority of one. In fact, I had pretty much always felt that way. I was the first child of a loving family with an extended kin network, so where did all of that fear, doubt and insecurity come from? How did the pretty little girl who made all As and sang in the church choir end up as the only woman drunk on a street corner with the guys? Whatever caused it, it was not that I am an African-American or that I am a lesbian.

When I started to drink at age 15 or 16, I drank like an alcoholic; this made me a minority right away since my peers in high school were not particularly interested in booze. It was the 60s, and shortly after I became a teenaged drunk, I gravitated toward as many of the movements of that era as I could, becoming a black militant hippie peacenik gay activist drunk. All the while I was glorying in my uniqueness. I disputed even those who seemed to understand me because I really needed to be one of a kind: I thought it was all I had.

In 1977, at the age of 27, I finally made it to Alcoholics Anonymous. I'd been to quite a few meetings before that in treatment centers, detoxes, and court-ordered circumstances. But it wasn't until 1977, when I ended up with a bottle on a street corner, that it hit me like a hammer that I was at the end of the line. I said a prayer—just a little one, but quite distinct, that came up from someplace deep inside me. It transformed a curse into a cry for help. When I came to, I was in a detox; and after that, I spent almost a year in a halfway house, getting sober. Around Easter 1978, I finally surrendered all the way, letting go of the marijuana and the prescribed "mood elevators," and I began to look for a Higher Power.

One of my sponsors used to tell me, when I was feeling especially put upon by members of my own species, "You've got to have people—that's all there is!" Vulnerable, hurt, and needy, I sincerely doubted this. But God started to show its face in a parade of people brought before me, usually just at the right time. My first sponsor in AA was the only other black woman AA in the area; we were kind of pushed together even though we didn't have much else in common. We did share alcoholism and the desire to stay sober, and that was enough. This woman told me to call her every day at 6:00 p.m. sharp, gave me a Big Book, and said, "Let's get started" and "Let's grow together."

The first person I sponsored in AA was a gay white man from the South; he was also several years younger than I was. His Higher Power whispered in his ear that I should chair a workshop at the annual gay and lesbian AA round-up on the experience of being a gay person who got sober at "straight" meetings; so he signed both of us up as co-chairs. That workshop was standing-room only.

My first partner in sobriety tried to show me how precious I was, just exactly the way I was at that moment. I wasn't ready for it at the time, but I remember the effort and the love with gratitude. Then, fearful and ashamed, when I was sober a little over three years, I went home to face my family, and they welcomed me with shining eyes, love and forgiveness, and lots of hugs.

Somewhere along the line, I'm not sure when, I came to believe that my experiences and who I am have been given to me for the express purpose of passing along a certain message, inside AA and outside of it. As it says in what many call the Promises—what I refer to as "the guarantees" since the book says that they will always materialize if we work for them—"No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others." As one of my AA friends likes to say, "God is good."

Some days, I still feel like a minority of one. I go to meetings where it seems that everyone else is sober a few days or a few years, and where to some my double-digit sobriety makes me look like I have all the answers and don't have difficulties or need to make amends. Alcoholism still occasionally whispers from a small place inside me, planting fear, doubt and insecurity if I do not exercise constant vigilance.

I recently moved back to what I sometimes call "the scene of the crime": the city where I was born and grew up. I feel very sure that I was brought back here for a specific purpose though I may not be given to know what it is. Perhaps it is to live my amends to my family and old friends, clean up my side of the street going back as far as the story goes. Walking through the doors of an AA meeting today, I feel at home, and love the sound of our many different voices coming together at the end of a meeting to pray the Lord's Prayer or the Serenity Prayer. I am grateful today that God's voice is stronger and surer than my occasional negative whispers, comforting me through difficult times, letting me know that I am part of the whole.

—D.E.S., St. Louis, Mo.

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GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

November 13, 2014

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

Dear Friends:

With Thanksgiving coming in only a few weeks it is time to count the blessings our Higher Power has bestowed upon us. As I look back over the past eleven months of being your DCM I have so much to be thankful for. I am truly grateful for the GSRs and Committee Chairs that make District 01 function so well. All these trusted servants who give of their time, talent and treasure to serve our groups deserve our thanks. This time of the year I look back at all the selfless people I have met on this journey called sobriety. We need to thank all the people that have helped us along the way especially our sponsors. We also need to thank the old timers that have passed the wisdom of the program down to us and the newcomer who helps us to remember what it was like. Most of all we need to thank the Power Greater than Ourselves that has restored us to sanity. In closing I pray that each of you have a sober and safe holiday. May you eat too much, laugh too much and remember it all not like the old days. In loving service, Tom Y. DCM District 01

Secretary: The October 9th minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 9th minutes. Motion passed. ~Marty S.

Bridging the Gap: Bridging the Gap is doing well. Think about doing some service! Men and women are always needed. If interested email: msawyer@att.net. ~Mary S.

District Events Co-Chairs: District 01 will be sponsoring a game day at The Bridge, Saturday Nov. 22nd from 1pm-4pm. The event is open to all in recovery, including family and friends. Please bring a board game or card game you enjoy and a snack to share. Coffee will be available at no charge. Soda is available to purchase in the lobby vending machine.

District 01 will be having the annual Intergroup/Meet N Eat on Saturday Jan 17th at Calvary Lutheran at 1301 S Ridge Rd in Green Bay. Please note that this is a new location. Event will be held in the gym/multipurpose room. Arrangements have been made for the sound system. We are still looking for an AI Anon and AA speaker as well as an Emcee. Plans are under discussion as to what we may offer as a main dish from The District. It will still be a pot luck style dinner. The church doesn't charge for the use of the building, but a free will donation is appreciated. Social time will be from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. Dinner will be at 5:30. Speakers will start at 7pm. Conclusion will be by 9pm.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, it would be greatly appreciated. This is a large event for our community. Many hands makes for light work. Please speak to Josiah P. (920-264-2107 jocamporter@gmail.com) or Jason P. (920-412-3733 key2music1@yahoo.com) if you would like to help. ~Jason P. and Josiah P.

Newsletter: Nothing to report. ~Ronald M.

Webmaster: Absent. Report given by Marty S.

Our web site has been running very smoothly over the last few months. In March we paid for three years of web hosting to Ready Hosting .com. At that time I thought that we were paying for everything that was necessary to keep our website up and running. I was mistaken. In October I had to pay \$21.99 for our .Org domain. I am not going to ask for reimbursing for that charge. At this time our paid up services are as follow:

1. Ready Hosting One Plan Windows Hosting - paid through 4/17/2017
2. Domain Privacy - paid through 4/17/2017
3. .com registration/renewal - which is through 4/17/2017
4. .org domain - which is through 11/21/2015

I would like to request some money to go into our budget for 2015 maintenance on our website. I would like to request: \$21.99 for our .Org domain and \$48.00 for virus protection. So I would like to request \$70.00 to go into our budget for the website. Yours in service, Jack S.

Public Information: I received this letter/request. Contact me if interested: 920-676-2901 paul136@centurytcl.net

Hi, I'm a sportswriter at The New York Times. I am attending next Sunday's Packers game at Lambeau Field, and had the notion of contacting you. There is a particular culture of revelrous alcohol consumption at Packers games, with in one famous instance the team deciding to shut off sales of alcohol at halftime. What I realized, however, is there also surely many sober Packers fans who might perceive this culture as especially challenging on gamedays.

I was wondering if your group holds a meeting at home games at the stadium and if I might speak with somebody about them. I think it would make for a fascinating article that gives readers a slightly different perspective than the typical gameday story, depicting a raucous atmosphere frequently lubricated with alcohol.

I appreciate that this is a sensitive request, and would pledge to work with you guys to make sure my reporting is something you are comfortable with, and to respect the anonymity of anyone who desires it.

Thanks so much. Marc Tracy

~Paul K.

Treasurer's Report: Area 74 District 01 Treasurer's Report prepared for the November 13, 2014 GSR Meeting (below). Motion made and seconded to accept the November 13th Treasurer's Report. Passed. ~Pat H.

GSR Reports

- Walk With Us, Henrietta D. The Secretary did not hear the report.
- Fisherman's Paradise, Ronald M. Nothing to report.
- Eye-Opener, Debbie S. The Secretary did not hear the report.
- It's In The Book, James R. The Secretary did not hear the report.
- Early Birds, Don D. The Secretary did not hear the report.
- Serenity Now, Bob K. The Secretary did not hear the report.
- Road To Recovery, Dean H. The Road to Recovery Group is doing very well.
We are striving to carry the message to newcomers who attend our meeting.
- Flintville Early Risers, Nate K. Going well, developing a workshop at St. Isadore for early March 2015.
- Red Road, Matt H. Going good.
- Letting Go, Donna Y. Everything is going fine.
- Sisters in Sobriety, Donna Y. Nothing to report.

Area 74 District 01 Treasurer's Report

Prepared for the November 13, 2014 GSR Meeting

Starting Balance as of 10/09/2014 \$2,343.45

Expenses	
US Postal Serv-Stmp Env	\$6.20
The Bridge - rent	\$15.00
City of Green Bay-Bus Ads	\$42.00
3rd Annual Woman's Recovery	\$125.00
Total Expenses-	-\$188.20

Deposits:	
October 9, 2014 7th Tradition	\$20.00
218 Club	\$140.41
Total Deposits+	+160.41

Ending Balance November 12, 2014	\$2,315.66
(\$1,300.00 for prudent reserve)	\$1,300.00
Total Funds Available to spend	\$1,015.66

Old Business

- AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE 2015, Kimberly S. Conference Chair, Update.
Received 8 registrations for Spring Conference.
Received \$100 from the Road to Recovery Group for the Bill W. fund.
\$1161 currently in checkbook.
Revised the flyer by deleting Alateen panels. The Alateen conference is 2 weeks after the Spring Conference and they couldn't support people for the panels.
Young person panels topics: Young women in AA, Social media and Anonymity, Identifying with older AA members, Balancing alcoholism and other addictions.
Terry L. is the new Chairperson for cake, decorations and speaker gifts.
Greeter Chair - seeking shirts to ID them as greeters.
Suggestion to walk people to their destination, not just point.
Al-anon Main speaker - Missy P.
Hospitality - Call Kimberly if your group would like to host a three hour slot. Kimberly will call you with your assigned time slot.

New Business

- Marty S. made a motion: That the GSR and Committee Chair Meeting be held at the Green Bay Central Office the 2nd Thursday of the month. It was seconded and opened for discussion. Marty S. read the following:
I attended the Green Bay Central Office Board Meeting on October 28th and it is clear to me that we are about to let go of this service for our District.
Bill W. said that it is up to the autonomous groups in the vicinity to organize and support the services they need. As a selfless servant, I give selfless service freely. I don't want it to be wasted, or taken advantage of.
The Office shouldn't continue because it has been with us for several years or to honor the founder. It is not a commitment of the groups. We are not bound by any rule or law to keep a Central Office. It can be let go for any reason a substantial consensus is reached. In our case it is the Central Office board's decision.
Bill crafted our Fellowship this way to help us keep a simple unity. We are not burdened by what we no longer need and all our service goes to the alcoholic who still suffers.
The Traditions protect us from ourselves.
The service of the Central office is different than that given by the Bridge and the 218 Club. The clubs support the need for a convenient, safe place to meet and host recovery events.
As I walked through their doors I found the experience, strength and hope I needed to stay sober. The Clubs were my place to go when I did my 90 in 90.
The Central Office supports the practical, daily activity generated by our Home Groups and Meetings and Events on a "one day at a time" basis. It combines our orders to save the cost of shipping and provides a place to receive it. It offers a no rent facility for our use.
Currently the Central Office is barely self-supporting. It requires donations from the groups and has to strain to list volunteers willing to take a shift. How many of us have come to be grateful to our conveniently located office that is open during usual business hours and staffed by selflessly given free service?
The Central Office Board has voted recently to keep the door open though one member said that he would not again vote this way. It seemed to me a last effort of the Board to keep the door open.
I asked the Merchandise Chair for some perspective of what goes through the Office. He said, "A reasonable estimate would be: AA literature averages \$400 - \$500 a month, sales of chips or medallions is around \$100 a month, Al-Anon literature is about \$300 - \$500 a month and the free literature picked up by visitors is about \$200 a year. Using the conservative estimate that comes to \$11,000 a year through the door.
Will the Clubs begin purchasing literature for us to keep on hand? I think not. It would be a distraction from their stated purpose. They provide literature for their own use. Groups will again begin to pool their literature orders and some will drive to get it.
Having our District meeting at the Central Office will give it the visibility asked for and show our support.
The Central Office strives to make more efficient use of our own service freely given. Hopefully, we will come to appreciate its convenience and gather around it as the central focus for the practical matters of recovery. This becomes easier as the Central Office supports itself. Thank you. Marty S.
After a brief discussion the motion was tabled till the next meeting on December 11th.

2015 Area 74 Spring Conference* ***STRENGTH, COURAGE & WISDOM***

May 15-17, 2015 • Green Bay, WI
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
2040 Airport Dr. • Green Bay, WI
Rooms: \$99 single/double. \$109 triple/quad (all rooms include breakfast)
Reservations call (920) 494-7300 (provide conference name to receive above rate)

- ***Friday Night:** Meet & Greet activity, followed by a "No Huddle" meeting featuring six brave members who have agreed to speak for 10 minutes on an unknown subject pulled out of a hat! Stick around for an original skit!
- ***Saturday:** Panels and Speakers from Alcoholics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous Young Person, and Al-Anon. Evening Banquet.
- ***Sunday Morning:** Area 74 Committee meeting & spiritual message from our main speaker.

ONE FORM PER PERSON Please check: AA Al-Anon Registration ONLY: \$20.00 Banquet: ADD \$25.00 TOTAL: \$ _____

Full Name (print clearly): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email: _____

Name to appear on your badge: _____

Mail Registration Form and Check - Addressed: 2015 Area 74 Spring Conference - PO Box 12092, Green Bay, WI 54307
Checks payable to "2015 AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE"

Deadlines for banquet submission: May 6, 2015

Questions? Contact: Kimberly (920) 592-9337 kimmyschuyler@gmail.com

Unity

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

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN AA

(WICYPAA)

JANUARY 9-11, 2015

The Plaza Hotel and Suites
1202 W. Clairemont Ave
Eau Claire, WI

Conference Info & Registration: www.wicypaa.org
Hotel reservations (715) 834-3181

Service

Green Bay Area Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office

Central Office Volunteers Needed:

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

Saturday: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Terry H. at (920) 432-2600

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

2015 Area 74 Spring Conference

Kimberly S. (920) 592-9337

Groups s Individual Volunteers Needed

Bridging the Gap*

1270 Main Street #102

Green Bay, WI 54302

bridging@greenbayaa.org

www.greenbayaa.org/service.html

Introduce newly released inmates to AA

Volunteers with minimum one-year sobriety & sponsor

Volunteers Needed Serving Brown County Jail*

Help Carry the Message Behind Bars!

Corrections Volunteers Urgently Needed

For Authorization Forms

Contact: Tim T. (920) 227-3156 or tetoepel@aol.com

Donate

GREEN BAY AREA AA CENTRAL OFFICE

PO Box 1791 Green Bay, WI
54305

(920) 432-2600

www.aagreenbay.com

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

AA DISTRICT 01 TREASURER

PO Box 632 Green Bay, WI 54305

4TH & 5TH STEP SPRING RETREAT*

MARCH 27-29, 2015

AA and Al-Anon

St. Norbert Center for Spirituality

1016 N. Broadway, De Pere, WI 54115

Cost: \$140 – includes lodging, meals, & snacks

Therese (920) 336-3023 or (920) 639-0360

Tim S. timsiebers@yahoo.com

DISTRICT 01 INTERGROUP*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2015

Calvary Lutheran Church

1301 S Ridge Rd Green Bay, WI 54303

Open Speaker Meeting

Fellowship 4:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm / Speakers 7:00 – 9:00pm

AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE*

MAY 15-17, 2015

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center

2040 Airport Drive

Kimberly S. (920) 592-9337

2015 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS*

JULY 2-5, 2015 - Atlanta, Georgia

With the theme "80 Years – Happy, Joyous and Free."

Pre-registration deadline: May 12, 2015

Pre-registration fee: \$100

For more information: www.aa.org

The Man at the 218 Club



For months I sat at the 218 Club (Green Bay, WI) curious about the photo of a man prominently displayed on the wall opposite the iconic photos of Bill W. and Dr. Bob. Responses to my inquiries about his identity were at best vague, "I think his name is Dr. Kelly." With a partial name and curiosity to learn more I dug deeper. AAs attending Fisherman's Paradise Tuesday night meeting said they not only know about Dr. Kelly but are also acquainted with his family. However, it was our Area 74 archivist, Bruce K., who provided concrete answers about the distinguished gentleman whose framed photo hangs without nameplate or description. Dr. W.W. Kelly provided a legacy from which thousands of us benefit today. Bruce K. writes:

After digging around for 2 months I found a history of AA in Green Bay hand written by Paul S. from 218 Club (now deceased). Paul started in AA in 1946. "Dr. W.W. Kelly and a Green Bay businessman named Frank Neu learned about AA in April 1941. It was so small that they had to go to Chicago to get information. He and Dr. Kelly started the task of building an AA chapter in Green Bay. Surprisingly neither of them was alcoholic. They just wanted to help. The first member of the group came on July 3, 1941. It took until Feb. 1943 to get 3 members. Paul talked about how Dr. Kelly got him into St. Mary's hospital for detox in 1946. They gave them 5 days for \$27.50. If they slipped no returns."