



# The Communicator

NOVEMBER | 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)

## **"LET'S GET A DIVORCE!"**

*A newcomer is having trouble relating to his wife now that he's sober. She just smiles.*

So I made one year, and they weren't lying! Everything was better, just like they said it would be in meeting after meeting. Some of the fear dropped away, the paranoia—I could actually see a cop without having my bowels contract—and I figured if I made another year, I'd try getting involved with the human race again, maybe try answering the phone, going out into the yard. That sort of thing. (I mean, I was sick!)

After the year, I slid for another six months, making meetings, getting cocky, and it was right about then—with a year and six months—that I decided to get a divorce.

Just like that. No reason. I have a beautiful wife. She loves me and I love her. She stuck by me through some stuff that ... well, we all know about those days, don't we? But I decided to get a divorce, decided to make a change. I was sober, so why didn't I just go ahead and fix my whole life up and make it all new? (At least, I think that's what I was thinking—if I was thinking at all.)

My wife was surprisingly pleasant. "You're out of your gourd," she said, smiling not unkindly. The same smile she'd used when I rediscovered sex, came home with a 160-pound Great Dane and 26 chickens, learned to practice scream therapy, and bought a six-foot plant that I named Igor—all of which decisive actions were part of my recovery process. She gave me that same smile. "You wouldn't last 20 minutes without me." "Seriously," I said. "I think we should split the blanket. We're living together because of the drunk thing." (I'd met her during my drinking days.) "We should try it another way sober." For a long time, she studied me—about the way a cobra looks at a bird just before striking. "There's nobody else, is there?" "Well, no. Raquel Welch, maybe, but other than that, no." I shook my head. "And I don't think she's available." "So what's all this about a divorce?" Again the sharp look. "Don't you love me?" I nodded. "Yup. More than ever. I just think we should make sure we aren't staying married because of the drunk thing."

Well, hell, nobody says you have to be smart to be a drunk, right? So I went right ahead and talked myself into a pit—just like in the old days. When I got done, she gave me that look again, smiled, and said, "All right. Let's try an experiment. We'll stay in the same house—to save money—but we won't talk, won't do anything with each other. Just like we were divorced. All right?"

For the record: I made more than 20 minutes. She was wrong there. I made a lot more than a mere 20 minutes. I made it almost a full day. There are parts of that day I'd like to forget, because I don't think it's good for your sobriety to dwell on things that are unpleasant. That night for supper, for instance, I ate a television dinner that was made in 1943. By the Germans. In revenge. (How do they get the potatoes like that?) Then I went down to wash clothes in a washer designed by a maniac. I swear the damn thing growled at me, and it was just a miracle that I got out of the basement alive—it jumped at me during the spin cycle.

But the worst thing was all that stuff that happened during the day that I wanted to talk to somebody about—not just anybody, but a program person. I mean, we're different, and seemingly ordinary things are different for us. Like, a flat tire to a nonalcoholic is just that, a flat tire. A flat tire to a drunk can mean anything from the air leaking out of the tire to a major change in life structure and philosophical leanings, depending on the moon, the phase of sobriety, and whether or not the spare is also flat. Things would happen like that, and I'd turn to tell my wife, my Al-Anon, the one who'd ridden the river with me. And now I couldn't talk to her. That was the worst. Not having that other program person around, the other person who would understand, and the more I thought about it, the more I realized that she was right. I was out of my gourd.

I cracked about eleven that night. I'd been working on the tire (yes, the spare was flat, too, and I'd spent all day just getting a goddamn tire changed), and I finally got the thing fixed, and I rushed in the house, and there she sat, with that same smile on her face, and I looked at her for a full minute, the whole day's steam building up in me ... "The hell with it!" I cried. And I glommed onto a cup of coffee and sat down across the table from her. "See, it was like this. The tire was flat and the spare was down, too, and I had to get the spare fixed, then run the regular tire over to get that fixed, and I didn't drink ..."

Of course, I talked to my sponsor later, and he told me that I'd simply gone through the Great Big Divorce Hassle—apparently common with recovering drunks who decide they should remake their whole lives to conform to the bliss of their newfound sobriety. Everybody does it. But revenge is sweet, nonetheless. Al-Anons always win, of course, but this time I got at least a little even. I made her sit all night listening to me tell her about my day—the washer, the television dinner, the tire. All of it. And I didn't even notice the smile.

—G. P., Elbert, Colo

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

## 3RD ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF\*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2015

12:30 - 4:00 pm

St. Matthew's Parish  
130 Saint Matthew Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301

Proceeds for the Jail and Prison Programs

## GENESIS CLUB'S OPEN AA SPEAKER AND POTLUCK

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015

6:00 pm

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

## AA GROUP FORUM\*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2015

10 am - 2:30 pm

Group Discussion/Panel/Forum  
Crossroads Community Church  
520 S Oakland Ave  
Green Bay, WI 54303

Refreshments and Lunch Provided

Sponsored by:

Flintville Early Risers  
Sunday Morning 730 Early Birds  
Road to Recovery  
District 01

## EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM\*

NOVEMBER 13-15, 2015

*This forum occurs every tenth year for our five state region of Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio*

Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport Hotel  
16401 South 13th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53221

## CENTRAL OFFICE GRATITUDE CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

3:00 pm - Until ?

Speaker at 7:00 pm

DarJune Cafe

1301 S. Broadway  
Green Bay, WI, 54304

Silent auction ...donations needed.

Please drop donations of at DarJune

All are welcome

Don: 920-366-4880 or Josiah 920-264-2107

## SHERWOOD INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Town of Harrison Hall

W5298 Hwy 114

Menasha, WI 54952

5:00 pm doors open, 6:00 pm dinner,

7:15 open speaker meeting

# Donate

## GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE

1270 Main St. Suite 102  
Green Bay, WI 54302  
(920) 432-2600  
[www.aagreenbay.com](http://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](http://www.area74.org)

## AA GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE (GSO)

Grand Central Station  
PO Box 459 New York, NY 10163  
(212) 870-3400  
[www.aa.org](http://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](mailto:corrections@greenbayaa.org)

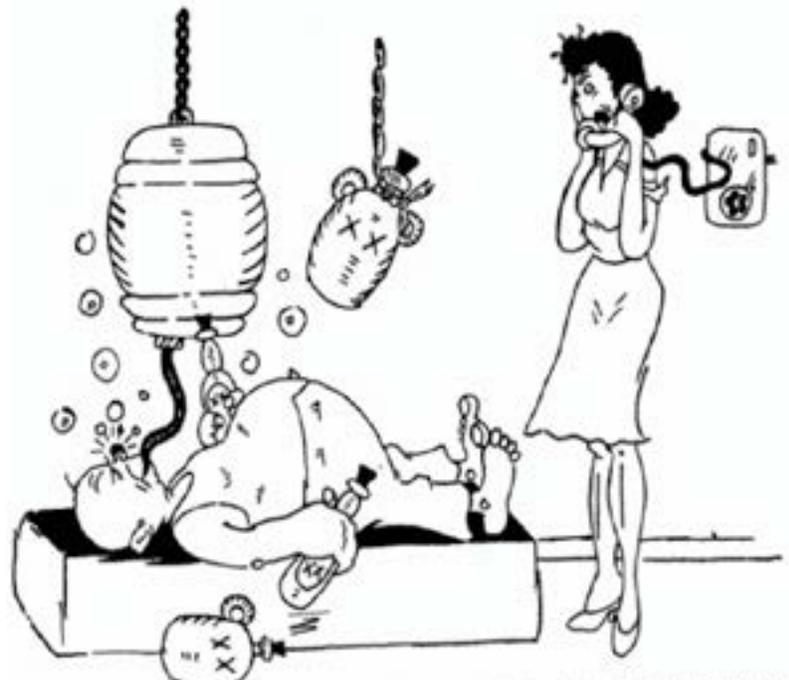
## GREEN BAY AREA CENTRAL OFFICE & HOTLINE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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



Hello! Is this Alcoholics Anonymous? Well, will you please come and talk with my husband? I'm afraid drinking is beginning to interfere with his life."

## 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

October 15, 2015

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

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

**District 01 DCM Report:** It is hard to believe that it has been two years since I was chosen to serve as your DCM. It is now time to choose new trusted servants to lead our district going forward. It has truly been a pleasure to serve the district. I am sure our new leaders will continue to lead the district forward. I truly thank those that have stepped forward so far. For the positions that do not have candidates I hope that people will step up and serve. It is time to step out of your comfort zone and grow in your service. You will find the rewards in new friendships and personal growth will far out way the work involved. In loving service, Thomas Younger, DCM

**Secretary,** The September 10th 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. Absent.

**Webmaster,** Jack S. Absent. His report was read by Marty S.

Dear Friends, because we have moved our district meeting to the 3rd Thursday this next month I will not be able to make the meeting because of another commitment. Please read my attached report to the group. As I stated last month Sam and Deb P. have been helping me keep our web site running properly. They have both filled out nominations paper for the Web Site chair position. Because of the amount of work required with this position it is my recommendation to have a shared chair position. Both Sam and Deb have agreed to become Web Site Co- Chairs. It is my hope that you will allow this to happen.

**Newsletter,** Ronald M. Going well.

**Grapevine,** Barbara S. OK.

**Corrections,** Tim T. Corrections will have Co-chairs, one for Men in Corrections and one for Women in Corrections. Things are going well.

**District Events Co-Chairs,** Jason P. and Josiah P. Dear Friends, hope this finds you all well. Summer is officially behind us and the chill of fall is in the air. As we feel this, it reminds us that the chill of winter isn't far behind, and winter reminds us that it is time for our Annual District 01 Intergroup/Meet N Eat. Plans are underway for this important function, the last function before our time as District Event Co-Chairs draws to a close. A contract has been signed with Calvary Lutheran Church on South Ridge Rd. to use the multi-purpose room on Saturday, January 16th. Again, there will be no charge for the use of the facility, but we would certainly recommend a donation to the church for their generosity.

Lane has agreed to be our Emcee for the evening. I have spoken to Lisa G, District Representative from Al Anon to put the request out for a speaker from the Al Anon community. We would welcome any suggestions as to an AA speaker who has not spoken in the recent past.

We have spoken to a member of AA who is employed by Sysco Food Services. We will be able to purchase food and supplies for the function at a significant discount. We are planning a trip to their warehouse in Jackson Wisconsin to get ideas as to what will be available. We will certainly look forward to the gracious help of many volunteers in many areas including registration/greeters, kitchen helpers, set up and clean up. Looking forward to the Holiday Season ahead, in particular November as Gratitude Month. What are you grateful for today? Yours in Sobriety,

**Cooperation with the Professional Community,** Amy G. Going well.

**Archives,** Bruce K. Set-up a display at the Central Office from the donated AA archives material. A lot of 3rd edition Big Books left over. Corrections will take them if we will donate. Also a lot of Hazeldon and other AA reference books, not approved by World services are included. Donate?

**Public Information Chair,** Paul K. There are public service announcements being broadcast by radio in our area. The announcements are downloaded from <http://www.aa.org> and sent by email to local radio broadcast stations.

**Treasurer's Report,** Dean H. (A motion was made and seconded to accept the 9/10/2015 Treasurer's Report. Passed)

Area 74, District 01, Treasurer's Report

Prepared for the October 15, 2015 GSR

Starting Balance as of 9/10/2015 \$ 5,514.92

Deposits

Letting Go (Women's Group) \$18.00

Early Birds \$74.00

Pulaski Monday Night Group \$61.00

District 01 Picnic - Donations \$258.85

Total Deposits \$411.85

Subtotal \$5,926.77

Expenses

Newcomers (PI Expense) \$75.00

City of Green Bay (Advertising - PI) \$42.00

PO BOX - Annual Fee \$80.00

Total Expenses \$197.00

Ending Balance October 15, 2015 \$5,729.77

Prudent Reserve \$1,300.00

Total Funds Available \$4,429.77

## \*Old Business

- Nate K. announced to us the upcoming Workshop, “What is an AA Group?” and had a flyer available to help get the word out. ([www.greenbayaa.org/PDF/Events/Group\\_workshop2015.pdf](http://www.greenbayaa.org/PDF/Events/Group_workshop2015.pdf))
- Elections for the Chair of standing committees for the next two year service cycle were held. The results were as follows:
  - District 01 DCM (District Committee Member)-nominated were Nate K., declined, and Kimberly S., declined and Howard S., accepted. Howard introduced himself to all present. A motion was made for Howard S. to serve as DCM. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
  - Alternate DCM-Nate K. began mid-term and has accepted the nomination for the next service cycle. A motion was made for Nate K. to be Alternate DCM. The motion passed unanimously with gratitude.
  - Secretary-No nominations were heard. The Secretary position will be open January 2016.
  - Treasurer-Dean H. began service mid-term and has accepted nomination for Treasurer for the next cycle. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.
  - Archives-Bruce K. is currently serving as District Archives Chair and has accepted a nomination for the next cycle. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.
  - Bridging The Gap-No nominations were heard. Bridging the Gap Chair will be open January 2016.
  - Corrections-Shawn S. was nominated as Chair for Men in Correction and Lauri was nominated as Chair for Women in Correction. Neither was present. The motion to accept the nomination was tabled till November 12th.
  - District Events-Kristen and Kimberly S. were nominated as Co-chairs for District 01 events. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.
  - Grapevine No nominations were heard. The chair will be open beginning January 2016.
  - Newsletter-Ronald M. has served two years and accepted nomination as editor of The Communicator for another cycle. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.
  - Public Information-Beverly V. accepted the nomination for P I chair. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.
  - Website-Debbie accepted the nomination to be our next Webmaster. She was not present. The motion to accept was tabled till November 12th.
  - Cooperation with the Professional Community-Amy G. is currently serving as CPC Chair and accepted the nomination to serve another term. A motion was made, seconded and passed with gratitude.

## New Business

- Marian K. brought a motion to us; that \$125 seed money from District 01 funds be made available to AA: Women to Women Workshop Committee. In our discussion, Marian noted that attendance and interest is growing for this all women event. The motion was made, seconded and passed with a unanimous vote. Registration is required to attend. Flyer at the Central Office and on our website. <http://www.greenbayaa.org/PDF/Events/Women2WomenFall2015.pdf>
- Tom Y. reminded us to attend if possible the October 17th Fall Assembly. This meeting is for GSR's and DCM's. Here is where we guide our Fellowship. We'll discuss the Area 74's 2016 Budget due in December.
- District 01 2016 Budget will be planned in our November meeting
- A motion was made to reimburse the Central Office \$600 for the Hotline expenses from November 2015 thru October 2016.

## GSR Reports

- Early Birds**, Christina M. Going well.
- Letting Go**, Donna R. Our group continues to grow. Going well.
- It's in the Book**, James R. Going well.
- Road to Recovery**, Griffin W. Doing well.
- Serenity Now**, Jennifer A. Things are going well.
- Eye Opener**, Geri L. Going well.
- Flintville Early Risers**, Nate K. Going well.
- Walk with Us**, Henrietta D. Going well.
- Women in the Present**, Marian K. Going well.
- Sisters in Sobriety**, Sue C. Going well.

Adjourned at 7:45 pm by a motion made, seconded and passed. The meeting was closed with The Our Father.

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