



The Communicator

NOVEMBER | 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)

DEAR HP:

When I walked in the doors of AA, I heard a lot of talk about praying. People told me to get on my knees in the morning and at night and say the Third Step Prayer, the Seventh Step Prayer, the Lord's Prayer and the Serenity Prayer. They told me to pray about this and that and to put them in my prayers, adding that they would put me in theirs. And of course, people told me to pray for those I resented or disliked.

I heard all this talk about prayer with very little working knowledge. The only prayer I did say was Grace, before dinner. But I'd also scream and curse at God because I blamed him for all my problems. And let's not forget all the wet and dry drunk rants and raves that I yelled out to the trees, chairs or any object in my path. I was filled with fear, anger and frustration that life was not on my terms. But I could no longer drink or scream these feelings away.

I had a shaky start with a new Higher Power and with Step Two. I had to discard my old punishing fire-and-brimstone Higher Power. I had to replace it with a loving and tolerant one. I still didn't believe my new HP cared about me. So I was told just to "believe that I believed."

When I moved on to Step Three, it was time to hit my knees. There I was, on my knees and elbows on the bed saying the Third Step prayer. It really felt weird for about a month. It was just words at first, but I kept saying the prayer until it didn't feel weird any more. And when I was upset or wanted a drink, I would repeat the Serenity Prayer over and over, sometimes out loud and sometimes just in my mind. Somehow it seemed to help.

When I felt on shaky ground, I'd ask my HP for help to get me to meetings. I'd ask for help when I thought the world would fall in on me. I was starting to believe my new HP did love and care for me. Then I walked Step Five; I never saw it coming. When it came time to tell God my Fourth Step I didn't know what was going on in my head. I thought God knew everything, so I didn't have to tell him. Then someone pointed out why telling God my Fourth Step shouldn't be a big deal. Man, that caught me in a lie to myself. Well, I did that part of the Fifth Step, for which I'm so grateful. At first I thought my new HP would leave me when I told him what I had done, but I was wrong. Praying to my HP for forgiveness was the most personal thing I've ever done.

I must have said the Serenity Prayer about a million times before I realized that it was telling me how to deal with life's problems (I'm a little slow.) What part of the problem or situation did I need to accept? And what parts did I need to change? The only part I can change is my actions, so I needed to pray for the courage to change them. I also prayed for help accepting other people, places and things. The wisdom part comes with time. Time also taught me to look at the other prayers for guidance—and I have. Wow! What wisdom I found in the prayers. They're guidelines to help me to accept life on life's terms.

I had five years sober when I went back to school and worked the Steps and all of the program to the best of my ability. Still, I had no good job, no good place to live and no hope. I had hit rock bottom in sobriety. So I sat down and wrote my HP a letter. I opened my soul and heart like never before. As tears hit the paper, I kept writing. I wrote until I was empty—until there was nothing left inside. I got an envelope, addressed it to God and took it to a mailbox. As I put my letter in the mailbox the tears fell from my face, and I let go. After the letter was dropped, my life slowly got better, and my faith and relationship with my HP really grew. I hope to always grow toward my HP and to learn more about prayer every day.

—Jeff H., Sturgeon, Mo.

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www.aagrapevine.org

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out."

~Tradition Eleven~

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

October 9, 2014

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

Dear Friends:

In District 01 we currently have 89 meetings a week. Of those we have 39 registered groups. GSRs were tasked with asking their groups to volunteer to host a workshop. The 3rd Annual Women's Recovery Workshop is scheduled for February 7, 2015.

Flintville has volunteered to put on a workshop on Carrying the Message. The date and topic has not been finalized yet.

The district picnic occurred September 13th at Perkins Park in Green Bay. A good time was had by all.

Planning for the 2015 Spring Conference is coming along. Conference Chair Kimberly S. has been having planning meetings at the Radisson hotel familiarizing volunteers with the layout. Groups are needed to man hospitality. The theme for the 2015 Conference is Strength, Courage & Wisdom. It is taken from the idea that it takes Strength to walk into the doors of AA, Courage to continue on the path of AA, and Wisdom to maintain gratitude in AA. If you or your group would like to help with the 2015 Spring Conference please contact Kimberly S. at kimmvschuyler@gmail.com or 920.592.9337. In loving service,

Tom Y. DCM District 01

Secretary: The September 11th minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the September 11th minutes. Motion passed. ~Marty S.

District Events Co-Chairs: We are looking for another location for our annual District Intergroup in January 2015.

Another Game Day is planned for Saturday, November 22nd at The Bridge from Noon to 4:00 pm. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Bring a treat to help the event along. It is family friendly. All are welcome.

The Picnic was at Perkins Park on September 13, 2014. Jason P. was not able to attend but was pivotal in setting up the whole event. I arrived at 10:30 am to meet with the park attendant and gain access to the pavilion and start setting up. I also received a park permit receipt for \$100. Prior to setting up I went to Webster Avenue Market to pick up the soda, water, chips and ice. I paid with a check that was signed by Pat H. (District 01 Treasurer) on a previous day. The total came to \$78.52. Steve G. arrived at the pavilion shortly after 10:30 and we began setting up. Arron B. brought the sloppy joes and buns from the Blackstone, which was paid prior to the event. The total was \$225. The event lasted until about 4 o'clock pm when we started cleaning up. We had to be out by 4:30 pm.

As far as the actual event it was a great time. I got to see newcomers, mid-timers, and old-timers co-mingling together in Fellowship. Patrick H. brought a volleyball net, which we set up and enjoyed immensely. We managed to keep the pavilion relatively clean and the cleaning we did have to do was easy considering the amount of people that stayed and helped. At the end of the event I totaled up the donations and we received \$186.72. We were not self-supporting, but if our goal was to help newcomers, to Fellowship and carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous it was a major success. I want to thank the District 01 for giving me the opportunity to serve and carry the message. I would also like to give a special thanks to Steve G., Carrie M, and Arron B. for helping with the setup and driving to make sure we had our supplies and food. As well as Paul K. for helping with support and some good hints and tips. The extra food was donated to the Oxford House. The cost of the Picnic was \$216.80. ~Jason P. and Josiah P.

Bridging the Gap, Mary S. Doing well.

Grapevine, CJ D. Absent

Corrections, Tim T. Absent

Newsletter, Ronald M. Absent

Archives, Bruce K. Encourage your groups to stop down and see the Archives at the Central Office. I participate in a monthly conference call with the District Archives Chairs in Area 74.

Webmaster, Jack S. Absent. Report given by Marty S. I am sorry that I need to miss this month's meeting. My son needs me to be in Milwaukee at the time of this month's meeting. The website is up to date. As I get information I update the website. Please tell your members to check the events page weekly because it will be up-to-date with most recent events. I do need more information on the upcoming Spring Conference including a flyer. Please have someone from the committee email me whatever information they have at this time. The title of this month's Grapevine is "Those Good Old Slogans". Keeping with that theme I have added a Slogans and Quotes of Alcoholics Anonymous page to our website.

Respectfully submitted. Jack S. Webmaster District 01

Cooperation with the Professional Community, Amy G.

Public Information, Paul K. & Marian K. The PI Chair includes all members of our home group. Packaging up literature and distributing it around town. Bought a ton of Literature. Looking for AA speakers. Great strides.

Treasurer's Report, Pat H. Area 74 District 01 Treasurer's Report (page 3) prepared for the October 09, 2014 GSR Meeting. Motion made and seconded to accept the October 9th Treasurer's Report. Passed.

GSR Reports

- **Letting Go:** Our group is continuing to grow. This month the Treasurer sent our first contributions to GSO in New York, District 01, Area 74 and to the Green Bay Central Office. ~Donna Y.
- **Sisters in Sobriety:** Working on guidelines for our group and supporting the Women's Workshop for February 7th, 2015. ~Donna Y.
- **Flintville Early Risers:** Going well, planning a work shop and carrying the message. ~Nate K.
- **New Hope:** Going well. We are organizing and developing our group. Will have another business meeting next month. ~John C.
- **Early Birds:** The newcomer's packet is almost done. ~Don D.
- **Women in the Present:** The Women in the Present Group request \$125 seed money from the District Treasury for the Third Annual Women in Recovery Workshop on February 7, 2015. It will be held at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 120 S. Henry St., Green Bay from Noon to 4:00 pm. The topic of the workshop will be Steps 6 & 7 with panels of speakers, a PowerPoint presentation, and "hands on activities." Babysitting will be available on site. Contact: Marian K. 366-5950, Donna Y. 680-8636, or Phyllis W. 609-0668 for more information about workshop. ~Marian K.
- **Never On Sunday:** Going well. ~Al E.
- **Serenity Now:** Nothing to report. ~Bob K.
- **Carry the Message:** We are doing our best to revive and keep our meeting going. We are interested in volunteers to open and chair the meeting when the regular attendees are not able to be there and also to come and share your experience, strength, and hope! ~Katie S.
- **Red Road:** Nothing to report. ~Matt H.

Old Business

• AREA 74 SPRING CONFERENCE 2015, Kimberly S. Conference Chair The Conference is 7 months out. Please take a flyer for yourself and some for your group to help get the word out. We received a donation of water and paper products. Our next organizational meeting will be on Sunday, October 26th at 4:00 pm at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 2040 Airport Drive, Green Bay. Ask in the lobby for the meeting location. I request that all who are able contribute what they can to the Bill W. fund. The conference policy is to turn no one away for lack of money. Twenty dollars is the registration fee for one person. For more information about this fund contact Kimberly S.: 920-592-9337 or kimmyschuyler@gmail.com

New Business

• Marian K., A motion was made and seconded to provide \$125 seed money for the Third Annual Women in Recovery Workshop. The motion unanimously passed. It was suggested that a flyer be made to help get the word out and that it be published in the Now and Then (Area 74 newsletter).

• Don D., Vice President of the Central Office gave notice of an upcoming meeting to be held at the Green Bay Central Office, 1270 Main St. #102, October 8th at 6:30 pm. All are welcome. He passed out a list of the 27 AA Groups who declared support for the Central Office as it was being organized along with a copy of A.A. Guidelines - Central or Intergroup Offices. "The purpose of the guidelines is to assist in reaching an informed group conscience." Don D. offered to present a 5 minute talk to any group concerning the Central Office and where it is heading. Contact Don D. at 920 366-4880 or dondegeneffe@yahoo.com. Our Central Office is patterned after the Fond du Lac Winnebago Central Office and the Milwaukee Central Office. He said that our Central Office is a resource for all the groups. The door will be opened by appointment if an after office hour event is requested. The office can accommodate 30 people. We are here to serve those in our area. The Green Bay Central Office serves you.

• Nate K., GSR, Flintville Early Risers brought a question from their last business meeting. "Should the Back to Basics meeting at 6:30 pm at the Central Office on Wednesday be listed on the District 01 meeting list as it uses the book Back to Basics by Wally P. for their format which is not AA approved literature?" Two opinions were voiced; it should not be considered a meeting because it does not use AA approved literature, and, each group is autonomous and shall decide for itself the meeting format. No clear consensus followed.

Area 74 District 01 Treasurer's Report

Prepared for the October 9, 2014 GSR Meeting

Starting Balance as of 09/12/2014 \$2,537.55

Expenses

Blackstone-Picnic	\$225.00	
Webster Avenue Market	\$78.52	
City of Green Bay-Bus Ads	\$42.00	
US Postal Service-PO Box Rent	\$78.00	
Color Master - Newsletters	\$143.50	
The Bridge - rent	\$15.00	
Total Expenses-		-\$582.02

Deposits:

September 11, 2014 7th Tradition	\$16.00	
Picnic	\$186.72	
It's in the Book	\$60.00	
Promise Seekers	\$50.00	
Never on Sunday	\$50.00	
Letting Go	\$25.00	
Total Deposits+		+387.72

Ending Balance October 8, 2014	\$2,343.25	
(\$1,300.00 for prudent reserve)	\$1,300.00	
Total Funds Available to spend		\$1,043.25



"Which promise was this again?"

—Doug R., Grand Island, Neb.

www.aagrapevine.org/cartoon-winners

Recovery

"FAN THE FLAMES"

In the mountains of Idaho, a woman gets a warm Thanksgiving reminder of the fire that came back in her life

I'm sitting by a campfire at the base of Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains. It's fall, and Thanksgiving will be here soon. As I sit and watch the flames, I contemplate this sobriety I have, AA, and the happiness and gratitude I feel. There's contentment in the air. The flames remind me of what it takes to build a solid, sober life.

First, there's the cold ground: burn-out, death, total defeat, desolation ... and for some of us, the shivers of the DTs. Then, when we walk into the rooms of AA, we ask for help and say, "Please, can someone light my fire?" Someone offers us kindling, a Big Book to help us feel a tiny spark of life. After a few weeks of meetings and sponsorship and reading the literature, we begin to feel a flame ... Ah, something to cling to!

As each day passes and our sobriety builds, we start doing service work which fuels our own flame. Before we know it, months pass, then a year, and another, and we find ourselves carrying a nice, solid fire of sobriety in our gut. We keep it going by "keep coming back" to meetings and trying to stay humble. We add more logs through service and working with newcomers. All the while we remain teachable by accepting new kindling to fan the flames in the form of new information we hear at meetings.

Now my sobriety is like an inner fire ... it's the foundation from which I act, love, work and give. It creates warmth and security. I can now offer kindling to newcomers to help them build their own fire.

This Thanksgiving I am overflowing with gratitude for having been dead enough to get to the rooms of AA, and that someone there had a match to light my fire and teach me how to live sober. I carry a burning desire to live this program today. I'm so thankful for our co-founders Bill W. and Dr. Bob and the flame they carried, which was passed on to me, and will continue long after I'm gone. I wish my fellows a blessed Thanksgiving ... and another log to place on the fire ... enough to warm a whole room.

—Brenda M., Boise, Idaho

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www.aagrapevine.org

Send your short story about recovery to *The Communicator*: newsletter@greenbayaa.org

GAME DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2014
1:00 - 4:00 PM
The Bridge
2514 Jenny Lane
Green Bay, WI 54302

Bring favorite board games. Bring a snack to pass. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Family friendly environment. All are welcome.
Contact: Josiah P. (920) 264-2107

CENTRAL OFFICE GRATITUDE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2014
6:00 PM - Until...
Darjune Café

1301 S. Broadway (Corner of 9th and Broadway).
Green Bay, WI 54304

Come join us for a night of dancing, fellowship, fun & karaoke.
There will be a silent auction.

Donate items for the silent auction by dropping them off at Central Office (1270 Main St. Suite 102, Green Bay) or contact Bruce K.
(920) 498-9750

Food is available at Darjune's Cafe

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.wicipaa.org
Hotel reservations (715) 834-3181

THIRD ANNUAL WOMEN IN RECOVERY WORKSHOP*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015
Noon - 4:00 PM

Our Savior Lutheran Church
120 S. Henry St., Green Bay, WI 54302

The topic of the workshop will be Steps 6 & 7 with panels of speakers, presentations, and hands-on activities. Snacks and beverages provided.

Babysitting available on site.

For more info:

Marian K. 366-5950, Donna Y. 680-8636, or Phyllis W. 609-0668

4TH & 5TH STEP SPRING RETREAT*

MARCH 27-29, 2015

AA and AI-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

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

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

Committee Chairs & 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 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

District 01 Committee Contact Information

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 CJ D. 920-221-5443	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Meeting List Changes Ronald M. 920-593-2915	MeetingList@greenbayaa.org	Coop with Prof. Comm. (CPC) Amy G.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Treasurer Pat H. 920-362-1241	Treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Events Jason P. 920-412-3733	events@greenbayaa.org
Secretary Marty S. 920-465-1401	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Josiah P. 920-264-2107	
		Webmaster Jack S. 414-477-3843	webmaster@greenbayaa.org