

# DISTRICT 01 NEWSLETTER

"The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking"

SEPTEMBER 2005

DISTRICT 01 PO BOX 0632 GREEN BAY WI 54305

www.greenbayaa.org

## GSR and District Service Meeting

September 15<sup>th</sup> The Bridge  
Third Thursday 2514 Jenny Lane  
6:30 pm Green Bay

Each member speaks only for herself or himself. In the Home Group, the GSR brings our conscience to the DCM as it is shared among the Groups of our District. Groups draw upon the service of our committees. The Newsletter and Meeting List are distributed. All members are welcome to attend.

Groups who name no G.S.R. should be encouraged to do so.

## District 01 Committee Officers

District Committee Member (DCM)	Kelly J.	469-0501
Alternate DCM	John RS	435-5158
Secretary	Greg S.	265-2944
Treasurer	Dean H.	499-1902
Archives	Pete J.	490-4008
Bridging the Gap/Treatment	Bruce K.	498-9750
Cooperation w/ Professional Community	Bob L.	884-8426
Corrections	Lynn L.	496-5899
Grapevine	Bill L.	498-3759
Hotline	Barb R.	437-6484
Intergroup	Mary K.	837-2707
Newsletter	Marty S.	465-1401
Public Information	Ben W.	491-4104

"These servants must always be in readiness to do for the groups what the groups obviously cannot or should not do for themselves." *The 12 Concepts, p. 23.*

Many members who desire to serve beyond the Home Group find themselves walking through the door of the GSR and District Service Meeting. Generally, they have been sober over a year and recognize the Promises coming into their life. Gratitude has replaced despondency; the desire to give back is growing. When you are ready, please consider serving our Groups. All are welcome.

## Visit our web sight a convenient place to find a meeting

District 01	www.greenbayaa.org
(Our meeting list and past newsletters are posted here)	
Area 74 (North WI + UP)	www.area74.org
(w/ links to Districts 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 20 21 22 23 24)	
Area 75 (South WI)	www.area75.org
AA Grapevine	www.aagrapevine.org
G.S.O. (General Service Office in NY)	www.aa.org
(A list of online meetings is available, upon request, from GSO)	

## A New Group Is Formed

"Our membership ought to include all who suffer from alcoholism. Hence, we may refuse none who wish to recover. Nor ought AA membership ever depend upon money or conformity. Any two or three alcoholics gathered together for sobriety may call themselves an AA group, provided that, as a group, they have no other affiliation." *Tradition Three*

Gather about yourself a few kindred spirits and announce to us that a new Alcoholics Anonymous Group is formed.

You may find a home for your Group anywhere as long as you are self supporting.

These organizations would like to host your group:

218 Club 218 S. Oneida Green Bay 494-9904  
The Bridge 2514 Jenny Ln. Green Bay 465-6878  
Victory Baptist Ch 1545 University Av. Green Bay 437-0511

Register your group nationally by sending your "New Group Form" to GSO in N.Y. Call the District 01 Newsletter and leave your meeting info for inclusion in our meeting list. Welcome!

When called upon, leadership must always give its reasons, and good ones.

## Support our new Group

### Preble Park Presbyterian Church

607 Ravenswood Dr., Green Bay East  
Monday 7:30 pm Non-smoking Open Meeting  
Readings from *Daily Reflections* discussed

Alcoholics, friends, family and anyone concerned about alcoholism is welcome. A smoke break will happen half way through. There is time before and after the meeting for sharing.

Contact: Jeff P. 432-0059 or Mark L. 920-246-6534.

### Step'n Up Group

St. Phillips Catholic Church  
312 Victoria St., Green Bay

Sunday at 7:00 pm Closed  
Big Book Step Study Nonsmoking

Use the Parish Office Door

Contact: Brian H. 884-0151

Comment: Tradition Three, long form

Comment: Paraphrased from *Language of the Heart*, p.33

Comment: *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W., p.36.

Comment: *Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W., p.39.

Leadership in A.A.: Ever a Vital Need

# Minutes of June 16<sup>th</sup> GSR and District Service Committee Meeting

## Those in attendance:

Kelly J.	DCM
John R. S.	Alternate DCM
Greg S.	acting Secretary
Bill L.	Grapevine Chair
Pete J.	Archive Chair
Bruce K.	Bridging the Gap Chair
Andy	GSR Steppin' Up Group
Brian H.	Alt GSR Steppin' Up Group
Stacy M.	Alt GSR St. Norbert Women's Group on Thursday
Bob L.	GSR Tuesday 12:30 pm at Bellin
Debbie	GSR Sat Eye Opener
Dean H.	Treasurer
Paul	GSR
Patty	GSR 1:30 pm Friday meeting
Brad	GSR Tuesday Serenity Seekers
Marty S.	Newsletter Chair
Michael V.	Newsletter Committee
Elizabeth F.	GSR New Hope Group
Jeff P.	GSR Monday 8:30 AM Big Book Gp
Stephanie K.	GSR

Kelly advises group in attendance that only GSRs and committee members have a vote.

**Secretary's report** was read by Greg S. and accepted as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Submitted by Dean H. Report was accepted as read.

## AA DISTRICT 01 TREASURER'S REPORT

July 21, 2005

BALANCE AS OF 06-16-05	\$	1166.34
DEPOSITS:	\$	127.35
Saturday Eye Opener Gp	127.35	
CHECKS:	\$	147.00
Marty S. (Newsletter)	40.00	
All City Communications (Hotline)	92.00	
The Bridge (Rent)	15.00	
BALANCE AS OF 06-16-05	\$	1146.69

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED  
DEAN HANSEN, TREASURER

## Committee Reports

**Newsletter:** Marty reported that everything is going well. Marty is advised that The Promise Seeker meeting is on Friday only. He was also notified that the Huber meeting is on Sunday at 6:30. Marty stated that he would like to know about any AA events that are happening. Marty said that he is looking for group names. He wanted every one aware that the Deadline for submission is the 10th of the Month.

**Hotline:** Barb is stepping down at the end of her Term. Barb was not present to report. Dean had the hotline bill.

2 134 calls were received by the Hotline. It was not known how many calls were answered.

**Public Information:** Not present

**Bridging the Gap/Treatment:** Bruce announced that the program needs more female volunteers. The program is going well. They are planning to distribute literature. Dean told Bruce that he has some literature for them. There was some questions about volunteer requirements. Bruce stated that the requirements are simple, volunteers should be responsible and have a minimum of one year sobriety.

**Archives:** Pete stated that the only knew development was a pair of CD's donated by Kelly. The CD's are of Paul S.

**Grapevine:** Bill L. said he needs more Grapevines to distribute.

**CPC:** Al F. has stepped down as chair and the position is now vacant.

**Convention Chair:** Greg stated that there is no new news. The next meeting will be at the Comfort Suites on Sept 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Picnic Chair:** Bob L stated that a co-chair is needed to help him plan.

**Corrections:** Lynn is not present. Bruce however stated that things are going well. He said that Wednesdays are going well, but Sunday meetings are open and need attendance.

## Old Business

Bill made announcement for GSRs to sign up for the Now&Then.

## New Business

John R. S. wanted to remind us that in the guidelines that it limits Members to representing only one meeting as GSR.

Bill made the announcement that the 218 donated soda for the District picnic. He also requested the district to send a thank you note, to the 218 Club. Greg agreed to send a note to the 218 for the soda.

Bob is nominated as the new CPC chair.

Bob is voted in.

There still seems to be some discrepancy about when Barb will be stepping down.

Bill wanted to know which position the current DCM would be rotating down into.

Debbie asked about elections and requirements. It was advised that elections will be held at the District Picnic. The guidelines for positions will come out of the service manual.

## Committee Info

### Summer Family Picnic/ Biannual Election

Sunday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Green Isle Park

2:00 - 7:00 pm

Located at the corner of Green Ave. and East River Dr.

Meat and buns provided. please bring a dish to pass.

**Contact: Bob L.** 920-884-8426 if you would like to help with set-up or take down.

**All members of A.A. in District 01 may vote. All committee chairs are open for election. All are a two-year commitment and begin on January 1, 2006:**

**District Committee Member:** The DCM is the District representative to Area 74. He or she attends area committee meetings and assemblies. The primary job of the DCM is to bring the District's conscience to Area 74 and inform District 01. The DCM chairs the monthly GSR and District 01 Committee Meeting held on the third Thursday of each month.

**Alternate District Committee Member:** performs the duties of the DCM if he or she is unable.

**Secretary:** records the minutes of the GSR and Committee Service Meeting and presents them to the Newsletter for publication.

**Treasurer:** Maintains District 01 finances.

**Archives:** maintains the District Archives.

**Bridging the Gap/Treatment:** Read 'Bridging the Gap' under **C o m m i t t e e I n f o .**

**Cooperating with the Professional Community:** A contact for District 01 with local professionals.

**Corrections:** A contact for District 01 with the local correctional facilities, manages the A.A. meetings at these facilities, provides them with AA Literature.

**Grapevine:** keeps the District and Groups informed about developments with the AA Grapevine, as well as the various materials the Grapevine prints.

**Hotline:** maintains an updated roster of individuals for the AA Hotline. The hotline is manned 24 hrs a day.

**Newsletter:** Edits and distributes the District 01 Newsletter. Maintains the Meeting and Location list.

**Public Information:** provides the public with information about AA. Read 'Public Information' under **C o m m i t t e e I n f o .**

Further questions may be directed to the Committee Officers listed of page 1 of this newsletter. A.A. is sustained by a loving God as he may express Himself in our group conscience. Become informed. Become active. Your service in this election is vital.

## **Newsletter/Meeting List**

Groups are encouraged to post their activities, news and events in the newsletter. Please call in your group name for inclusion in our meeting list. Help keep our meeting list up to date and call in any changes. **Contact: Marty S.** email: [martyjs@athenet.net](mailto:martyjs@athenet.net) or 465-1401

## **Public Information**

A "P.I. visit" might include an opportunity to carry the message to schools, local businesses, church and civic groups. It could staff an AA Booth at health fairs in our community. Radio and television announcements can be arranged. Displays of AA literature can be placed and maintained in public areas; meeting lists distributed.

Because we are anonymous and do not promote ourselves, many in our community having no direct contact with AA are

uncertain of who we are, what we do and how we do it. Public Information is that connection between AA and the alcoholic 'out there' who is still suffering. Please consider this essential committee when asking yourself, "How can I serve?" **Contact Ben W.** 491-4104 for more information.

## **Corrections**

The A.A.'s that have been supporting the meeting at the Green Bay Correctional Institute are concerned that there are not any new people from the outside attending. The same group of people has supported it for many years. If they cannot attend, the meeting does not occur. New support from the outside is needed so that the meeting will be around for years to come. **Contact: Lynn L.** 496-5899 Call in the evening. **CLEARANCE REQUIRED!**

"Outside" A.A. men are needed for these meetings, as well as for those at the Brown County Jail and Huber Work Release program.

Sam S.'s particular service is to attend and distribute AA literature in our correctional facilities. Every now and then, he'll stop in to your Group seeking soft cover books or a donation to purchase some, but you don't have to wait. **Contact Sam** directly at 920-660-3341.

## **Bridging The Gap/Treatment**

The purpose of the Bridging the Gap is to connect AA members in a treatment or correctional center with Alcoholics Anonymous in our community. **As a temporary contact** you would meet with them, go to their first few meetings, and help them get acquainted and comfortable among new friends, talk about getting a Sponsor and a Home Group. To volunteer **contact: Bruce K.** 498-9750.

## **Hot Line Volunteers Needed**

Our 24-hour Hot Line is in need of men and women volunteers with one year sobriety. Become available to answer questions and offer your experience, strength and hope. You are not tied to the phone and if a call comes at a wrong time, it can be declined. The Hot Line is volunteer friendly. **Give Barb R. a call for more info, 437-6484.**

## **2006 Spring Conference**

# **District 01 is seeking volunteers to serve at the '06 Spring Conference**

District 01 is hosting the upcoming 2006 Spring Conference to be held at Comfort Suites in Green Bay on May 19, 20, 21.

This annual event serves Area 74 (Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan) which we are a part. There are 24 districts in Area 74. About 300 guests are expected to attend. Green Bay hosted the Conference in the late Nineties. Last year it was held in Eau Claire, WI.

Volunteers are needed for our district to have a smooth running event.

Areas of service include:

**Program** - determines the topics of the panels, and finds the speaker for Saturday night.

**Hospitality** - sets up the hospitality room.

**Flyers** - makes flyers and signs to direct traffic.

**Greeters** - welcome people to the event.

**Decorations** - decorate the banquet hall.

**Registration** - handles the registration and hands out the packets.

**Alkathon** - chairs the Alkathon meetings. Friday and Saturday have Alkathons from ten pm till six am.

**Entertainment** - procures the DJ and handles the skit for Friday night.

**Al-Anon** - organize the Al-Anon portion of the conference.

The events scheduled are:

**Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> Evening** - Skit, Ice Cream Social.

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>** - Panels, Banquet, Speaker, Dance.

**Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> Morning** - Breakfast, Closing Meeting, DCM Report.

If you already have experience, please come forward to assist us who are helping for the first time. The more people in District 01 to get involved the better.

**Please contact:**

**Greg S.** 265-2944 [gzsatore@excite.com](mailto:gzsatore@excite.com)

**Lynn L.** 496-5899 [mllade@msn.com](mailto:mllade@msn.com)

## Why Do We Need a Conference?

We may not need a General Service Conference to ensure our own recovery. We do need it to ensure the recovery of the alcoholic who still stumbles in the darkness one short block from this room. We need it to ensure the recovery of a child being born tonight, destined for alcoholism. We need it to provide, in keeping with our Twelfth Step, a permanent haven for all alcoholics who, in the ages ahead, can find in A.A. that rebirth that brought us back to life.

"We need it because we, more than all others, are conscious of the **devastating effect of the human urge for power and prestige** which we must ensure can never invade A.A. We need it to ensure A.A. against government, while insulating it against anarchy; we need it to protect A.A. against disintegration while preventing overintegration. We need it so that Alcoholics Anonymous, and Alcoholics Anonymous alone, is the ultimate repository of its Twelve Steps, its Twelve Traditions, and all of its services.

"We need it to ensure that changes within A.A. come only as a response to the needs and the wants of all A.A., and not of any few. We need it to ensure that the doors of the halls of A.A. never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to ensure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks of anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is."

Excerpt from: *The A.A. Service Manual combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service*, by Bill W., 03 - 04 Edition, page S-19, with permission.

Study the Traditions. Become familiar with the Concepts and find out for yourself that A.A. continually needs a well informed, active membership. If you find yourself with good suggestions, or are afraid that A.A. is not being guided by a loving God that expresses Himself through our group conscious, then your selfless service is needed. Please help with this conference or become informed and attend.

Marty S., Editor

What doesn't kill you  
makes you stronger.

## Example of Group Contributions to AA Service Entities

Distribution of funds from groups that support three service entities as suggested by a motion during our December 11<sup>th</sup> 04 GSR and District Service Meeting until District funds provide for a stable prudent reserve.

### District 01 address:

Dean H., Treasurer  
PO Box 0632  
Green Bay, WI 54305  
Payable to: District 01 Treasurer

### GSO address:

G.S.O.  
Grand Central Station  
P.O. Box 459  
New York, NY 10163  
Payable to: General Fund

### Area 74 address:

Tiffany Crandall  
317 Summit Ave # 3  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
Payable to: Area 74 Treasurer



Whatever your present degree of prosperity, share a portion of it with others.

## Corrections

### Meetings within walls.

A call for men and women to attend with a special need for men now.

#### Brown County Jail

3030 Curry Ln. Green Bay

Wednesday 6:00 pm Men  
Wednesday 6:00 pm Women

#### Brown County Work Release, Huber

125 So. Adams St. Green Bay

Wednesday 8:00 pm Men  
Wednesday 8:00 pm Women  
Sunday 6:30 pm Men and Women

A call for women to attend.

#### Sanger B. Powers

N 375 County Rd. U, Oneida

Tuesday 6:30 pm Men

#### Green Bay Correctional Institution

2833 Riverside Dr. Green Bay

Monday 2:00 pm Men

### CLEARANCE REQUIRED!

Contact: Lynn L. 496-5899

Needed Information Includes

Name • Address • Phone  
Social Security Number

## Newsletter/Meeting List

Opinions expressed herein are individual. Each member speaks only for herself or himself; not A.A. as a whole.

District 01 sponsors this newsletter and meeting list. It is distributed at the GSR and District Service Meeting each month.

Past issues of the newsletter and current meeting list are available on our website: [www.greenbayaa.org](http://www.greenbayaa.org)

The deadline is September 10<sup>th</sup> for the October issue.

Please indicate if your submission is for the newsletter, the meeting list or both. Send to:  
District 01 Newsletter, PO Box 0632, Green Bay, WI 54305  
Leave a message: Marty S. 465-1401  
Email: [martyjs@athenet.net](mailto:martyjs@athenet.net)

The 218 Club's Monday 5:30 pm

### Road To Recovery Group is hosting a picnic

on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>

at the N. E. W. Zoo Pavilion,  
4418 Reforestation Rd.

Festivities start at 11 am  
and continue till 8 pm.  
We will be eating at 1 pm.

Burgers, Brats, and Hotdogs provided.  
Please bring dish to pass.

**Families are welcome!!**  
Please join us for the day.

**Contact: Mark H. 469-3458 or  
Dave C. 336-4691**

Take Hwy. 41-141 North from Green Bay to Exit #176 (County B/ Suamico/Sunset Beach Road). Turn left on County Trunk B and go about 4 miles then turn right on County Trunk IR. The Reforestation Camp (and NEW Zoo) is straight ahead on Reforestation Road/County IR.

**Humility is a teacher of itself.  
If you cannot practice it,  
you cannot learn it.**

## Working with others

Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. This is our *twelfth suggestion*: Carry this message to other alcoholics! You can help when no one else can. You can secure their confidence when others fail. Remember they are very ill.

Life will take on new meaning. To watch people recover, to see them help others, to watch loneliness vanish, to see a fellowship grow up about you, to have a host of friends - this is an experience you must not miss. . . . **Frequent contact with newcomers and with each other is the bright spot of our lives.**

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, PAGE 89

## CONCEPT IX

Good service leaders, together with sound and appropriate methods of choosing them, are at all levels indispensable for our future functioning and safety. The primary world service leadership once exercised by the founders of A.A. must necessarily be assumed by the Trustees of the General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous.

### Concepts Checklist

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone "because it would be good for them?"
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

No matter how carefully we design our service structure of principles and relationships, no matter how well we apportion authority and responsibility, the operating results of our structure can be no better than the personal performance of those who must man it and make it work. Good leadership cannot function well in a poorly designed structure. But weak leadership can hardly function at all, even in the best of structures. But once we have created a basically sound structure, that job is finished, except for occasional refinements.

**Good leadership can be here today  
and gone tomorrow.**

With *leadership* we shall have a continuous problem. Good leadership can be here today and gone tomorrow. Furnishing our service structure with able and willing workers has to be a continuous activity. It is therefore a problem that in its very nature cannot be permanently solved. **We must continuously find the right people for our many service tasks. . . .**

First let's remember that the base for our service structure rests on the dedication and ability of several thousand General Service Representatives (G.S.R.'s), several hundred area Committee Members, and nearly a hundred Delegates. These are the direct agents of the A.A. groups; these are the indispensable linkage between our Fellowship and its world service; these are the primary representatives of A.A.'s group conscience. **Without their support and activity we could not operate permanently at all.**

When making their choices of G.S.R.'s, the A.A. groups should therefore have such facts well in mind. It ought to be remembered *that it is only the G. S. R.'s* who, in Group Assembly meetings (or in caucus) can name Committee

**Comment:** *The Spirituality of Imperfection*, by E. Kurtz and K. Ketcham, p. 185.

Members and finally name the Delegates. Hence great care needs to be taken by the groups as they choose these Representatives. **Hit-or-miss methods should be avoided.** Groups who name no G.S.R.'s should be encouraged to do so. In this area a degree of weakness tends to persist. **The needed improvement seems to be a matter of increased care, responsibility, and education.**

**Personal ambitions will have to be cast aside, feuds and controversy forgotten.**

As the G. S. R.'s meet in their Assemblies to name Delegates, an even greater degree of care and dedication will be required. Personal ambitions will have to be cast aside, feuds and controversy forgotten. "Who are the best qualified people that we can name?" This should be the thought of all. . .

#### **LEADERSHIP IN A.A.: EVER A VITAL NEED**

No society can function well without able leadership in all its levels, and A.A. can be no exception. . . .

. . . Fortunately our Society is blessed with any amount of real leadership - the active people of today and the potential leaders of tomorrow as each new generation of able members swarms in. We have an abundance of men and women whose dedication, stability, vision, and special skills make them capable of dealing with every possible service assignment. **We have only to seek these folks out and trust them to serve us.**

Somewhere in our literature there is a statement to this effect: "Our leaders do not drive by mandate, they lead by example." In effect we are saying to them, "Act for us, but don't boss us."

A leader in A.A. service is therefore a man (or woman) who can personally put principles, plans, and policies into such dedicated and effective action that the rest of us want to back him up and help him with his job. **When a leader power-drives us badly, we rebel; but when he too meekly becomes an order-taker and he exercises no judgment of his own - well, he really isn't a leader at all.**

**Together the G.S.R.'s are A.A.'s group conscience**

Good leadership originates plans, policies, and ideas for the improvement of our Fellowship and its services. But in new and important matters, it will nevertheless consult widely before taking decisions and actions. Good leadership will also remember that a fine plan or idea can come from anybody, anywhere. Consequently, good leadership will often discard its own cherished plans for others that are better, and it will give credit to the source.

Good leadership never passes the buck. Once assured that it has, or can, obtain sufficient general backing, it freely takes decisions and puts them into action forthwith, provided of course that such actions be within the framework of its defined authority and responsibility. . . .

**When called upon, leadership must always give its reasons, and good ones.**

. . . Compromise comes hard to us "all-or-nothing" drunks. Nevertheless we must never lose sight of the fact that progress is nearly always characterized by a *series of improving compromises*. We cannot, however, compromise always. **Now and then it is truly necessary to stick flat-footed to one's conviction about an issue until it is settled.** These are situations for keen timing and careful discrimination as to which course to take.

. . . If an idea looks like a good bet, we try it on experimentally when that is possible. Later we revalue the situation and ask whether our estimate is working out.

. . . As a matter of fact, all of A.A.'s Twelve Traditions were at first questions of estimate and vision for the future. Years ago for example we slowly evolved an idea about A.A. being self-supporting. There had been trouble here and there about outside gifts. Then still more trouble developed. Consequently we began to devise a policy of "no outside gifts." We began to suspect that large sums of this kind would tend to make us irresponsible and could divert us from our primary aim. Finally we saw that for the long pull, outside money could really ruin us. At this point, what had been just an idea or general policy crystallized firmly into an A.A. tradition. We saw that we must sacrifice the quick, nearby advantage for long-term safety.

**Every sponsor is a leader.**

We went through this same process on anonymity. A few public breaks had looked good. But finally the vision came that many such breaks eventually could raise havoc among us. **So it went: first a tentative idea, then an experimental policy, then a firm policy, and finally a deep conviction - a vision for tomorrow.**

. . . **Every sponsor is a leader.** The stakes are about as big as they could be. **A human life and usually the happiness of a whole family hang in the balance.** What the sponsor does and says, how well he estimates the reactions of his prospects, how well he times and makes his presentation, how well he handles criticisms, and how well he leads his prospect on by personal spiritual example - **these qualities of leadership can make all the difference, often the difference between life and death.**

We thank God that Alcoholics Anonymous is blessed with so much leadership in all of its affairs.

Excerpts from, "The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service," by Bill W., 2003-04 edition, p. 36-42, and "Concepts Checklist," SM F-91, with permission.

#### **A.A. was not the final word**

"But as for the A.A. therapy itself, that could be practiced in any fashion that the group wished to practice it, and the same went for every individual. We took the position that A.A. was not the final word on treatment; that it might be only the first word. For us, it became perfectly safe to tell people they could experiment with our therapy in any way they liked." Bill W.

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE WOLF'S DEN? 7

We've just been through one of the hottest and humid months we've seen around here in a number of years. It's the ninth month of the year and it's time to study the ninth step of our program. It's time for things in our program to heat up too! Step nine reads . . . "Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others."

Good judgment, a careful sense of timing, courage and prudence are the qualities we need when working this vital step. (12 & 12, p.83) This step will take a great deal of time since as alcoholics, we have harmed many people, some without even realizing it.

The most important amend is the one you must make to yourself. Before you can ask forgiveness from another, you must learn to forgive yourself. You are now ready to begin the task of making amends to those you have wronged. The closest to home amends can be the most emotional and the most difficult. We seem to hurt the ones we love the most! An honest and forthright discussion with our immediate family is the key to allowing those affected to hear you finally admit what you've done and by your asking for their forgiveness. You have begun the healing process for all concerned. In my case, my father merely stated, "We'll see." That meant that I'd have to show him that I've really quit drinking and I take the program of Alcoholics Anonymous seriously. It will take time to heal the wounds and I know my parents are my biggest fans and pray that I've begun to change my life. Time heals all wounds, so to say!

There are those whom we've wronged that require a great deal of courage and humility to approach when working this step. A good example would be an ex-wife or ex-husband. A significant other is also one that comes to mind. When drunk or well on the way, we may have used cruel words that had been hurtful or demeaning and caused them emotional distress. We may have hurt their self-esteem, trampled on their dreams or just plain ignored their needs for love and understanding. As we grow in this program, those emotions return and we begin to know how to express them openly and freely.

The amends that require prudence are the obvious ones: having an affair with a friend's wife or husband or if our act was criminal. It would be prudent not to bring out in the open something to cause anger among family or friends, when it would be better left alone. It doesn't make any sense to again cause harm. "Let go and let God"!

One of our founders says it eloquently when he writes, "The readiness to take the full consequences of our past acts, and to take responsibility for the well-being of others at the same time, is the very spirit of Step Nine." (As Bill Sees It, p. 145)

Pray as you ponder this step and know that God will put people in your path as you grow and allow you the opportunity to make those amends.

Happy sobriety anniversary to those celebrating one this month and as always, "Happy Birthday" to all those born this month! The birthstone for September is the sapphire.

### "Quotable Quotes"

From *Heart Thoughts*, by Louise L. Hay

"Guilt never makes anyone feel better, nor does it change a situation. Stop feeling guilty. Let yourself out of prison."

From *Humorous Quotations*, by Helena Rubenstein

"LISTEN . . . Say less than more. If you want to be smart, play stupid."

From *Life's Little Instruction Book*

"Learn to listen. Opportunities sometimes knock very softly."

"Never deprive someone of Hope. It may be all that they have."

"Don't use time or words carelessly. Neither can be retrieved."

"Always stop and buy whatever kids' are selling on their table in the front yard."

Michael V. 'Gray Wolf'

We must find some sort of spiritual basis for living, else we die.

Comment: Bill W., personal correspondence.

## Bill W., 75, Dies; Cofounder Of Alcoholics Anonymous

New York Times News Service

(excerpts from Bill's obituary)

. . . "At his bedside was his wife, Lois, who had remained by him during his years as a "falling down" drunk and who later had worked at his side to aid other alcoholics. She is a founder of the Al-Anon and Al-Ateen groups, which deal with the fears and insecurity suffered by spouses and children of problem drinkers."

. . . "In fathering the doctrine that members should not reveal their A.A. affiliation at the public level, Bill W. had explained that "anonymity isn't just something to save us from alcoholic shame and stigma; it's deeper purpose is to keep those fool egos of ours from running hog wild after money and fame at A. A.'s expense."

. . . "In those Roaring Twenties," he remembered, "I was drinking to dream great dreams of greater power." His wife became increasingly concerned, but he assured her that, "men of genius conceive their best projects when drunk."

. . . "Numbing doses of bath tub gin, bootleg whiskey, and New Jersey applejack became Bill W.'s panacea for all his problems."

. . . "Mr. Wilson recalled then what Ebby T. had told him: "You admit you are licked; you get honest with yourself . . . you pray to whatever God you think there is, even as an experiment. Bill W. found himself crying out: "If there is a God let him show himself. I am ready to do anything, anything."

"Suddenly," he related, "the room lit up with a great white light. I was caught up into an ecstasy which there are no words to describe. It seemed . . . that a wind not of air but of spirit was blowing. And then it burst upon me that I was a freeman."

Recovering slowly, and fired with enthusiasm, Mr. Wilson envisioned a chain reaction among drunks, one carrying the message of recovery to the next."

. . . Through Oxford Group channels that night, he (Bill W.) gained an introduction to Dr. Smith, a surgeon and fellow Vermonter who had vainly sought medical cures and religious help for his compulsive drinking.

Bill W. discussed with the doctor his former drinking pattern and his eventual release from compulsion.

"Bill was the first living human with whom I had ever talked who intelligently discussed my problem from actual experience." Dr. Bob, as he became known, said later, "He talked my language."

# CALENDAR

## August

27<sup>th</sup> Sat **New London Intergroup**, United Methodist Church, 709 Pine St. New London, WI Potluck at 6:00 pm. Speakers at 7:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass. **Contact: Jack R. 920-982-4229**

## September

1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Thur - Sun **ICYPA 48** The 48<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Young People In Alcoholics Anonymous New Orleans, LA. "Raise the Bottom" Log on for complete conference itinerary and pre-registration: [www.icypaa48.org](http://www.icypaa48.org)

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat **Road To Recovery Group Picnic** N. E. W. Zoo Pavilion, 4418 Reforestation Rd. Festivities start at 11 am and continue till 8 pm. We will be eating at 1 pm. Burgers, Brats, and Hotdogs provided. Please bring dish to pass. Families are welcome!! Please join us for the day.

9, 10, 11<sup>th</sup> Fri, Sat, Sun **Area 74, 2005 Fall Conference** WITC, 1000 College Dr., Rice Lake, WI "I am Responsible" A.A. & Al-anon Speakers and Panels • Alkathon • Friday Night Call-up. Meeting and Skit • Saturday night Banquet • Sunday Morning Fellowship and Speaker • Hospitality Room and special room rates for Fall Conference at Microtel, 2771 Decker Dr., Ph: 888-202-4223. Registration \$15, Saturday Lunch \$10, Banquet \$15, Sunday Rolls & Coffee \$3. Mail by Aug 9<sup>th</sup> to: District 23 Fall Conference, PO Box 83, Rice Lake, WI 54868 For agenda and more info: [www.area74.org](http://www.area74.org), link on 'Dist 23' **Contact: Steve S. 715-469-3220 or Mark K. 715-822-3134**

11<sup>th</sup> Sun **District 01 Family Summer Picnic/ Biannual Election of Committee Chairpersons**, Green Isle Park, Allouez. Located at the corner of Green Ave. and East River Dr. 2:00 - 7:00 pm. **Bring your vote, your family and a friend.** Potluck, please bring a dish to pass. Meat and buns provided.. **Contact: Bob L. 920-884-8426**

17<sup>th</sup> Sat **Bonduel/Shawano Intergroup**, St Paul's Lutheran School, 240 E. Green Bay St. Bonduel, WI. **We're Back!** Dinner At 6:00 pm. GSR Meeting at 6:45. Speakers at 7:15. Bar-B-Q and turkey sandwiches provided. Bring a dish to pass. Bring a friend. Good food, good fellowship. See you there!!

## October

29<sup>th</sup> Sat **Kaukauna Intergroup**, St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish, 119 West 7<sup>th</sup> St., Kaukauna

**Comment:** From: The Chronicle, District 09 Newsletter Aug 2005

**God Pays Well**

**Comment:** Info Confirmed 05/15/05 by Jack R.

## November

26<sup>th</sup> Sat **Peshtigo Intergroup**, Henry Drees Community Center, 600 Pine St., Peshtigo

**Comment:** From: The Chronicle, District 09 Newsletter Aug 2005

**Comment:** *Between-Us*, June 2005 [Check web site](#)

**Remember that you are unique just like everyone else. Practice tolerance.**

### MY LORD GOD,

*I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my peril alone.+++*

**Comment:** Received flyer by mail.

*Thoughts in Solitude -- Thomas Merton*

# H O W ?

Honest Open-minded Willing