



The Communicator

JANUARY | 2020

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)

BORROW MINE

"I said "Jim, maybe you could use my Higher Power." I told him I was sure he wouldn't mind. Jim thanked me and we never spoke of the God thing again."

When I came into AA, I was spiritually bankrupt. Due to years of heavy drinking and a series of life experiences, I was depleted of any belief system. By the time I was 17, I had lost six people in my family to death: my father when I was 8, my sister when I was 9, my mother when I was 14, my grandfather and my step-grandfather when I was 17. I also had a very close friend die when I was 17. As far as I could tell, I didn't think God was loving and on my side in life.

I got sober in 1985 at the Coral Room in Miami. They didn't care about my wonderful theory of evolution; they simply told me to get on my knees and pray. I had this AA friend named Jim with about three years sober, and the two of us would sit and debate the God thing. Now Jim was a scientist and we both had these wonderful theories on evolution. Oh, we had great ideas and thought the God thing was good for you AAers, but we were sure that we would have to find some other resource to keep us sober.

The old-timers in the Coral Room told me that to stay sober, one simply had to find a Higher Power that one could do business with, and it could be the God of my own understanding—or AA itself. They said it's God who keeps us sober and the time might come when the only thing between me and the next drink is this Higher Power.

Fortunately for me, I chose a sponsor who didn't care what I believed in. She simply told me to get on my knees and pray. Which I did with a heart full of fear. Not so much a fear of drinking, but because I was afraid of her, and of not doing what she told me to do! I didn't know how to pray, but there I was, on my knees. So I started... "God"... and then all I could think of was that I needed help, so I added, "Help." From that first scanty prayer, wonderful miracles began to happen in my broken life. And somewhere along the line, I came to believe that there really was a God, and a God personal to me who cared about me just like it describes in our Big Book.

Around that time, I became concerned about my friend Jim, as he did not have a Higher Power yet. The day I announced to him that, "I got it, I think I got the God thing!" he wished me well and the subject was dropped. Weeks later, still genuinely concerned that Jim might drink, I said, "Jim, maybe you could use my Higher Power until you find one of your own." I told him that I wasn't keeping my Higher Power too busy and I was sure he wouldn't mind. Jim thanked me and we never spoke of the God thing again.

Sometime later, I moved away and wondered from time to time how my friend Jim was doing. A few years passed, and I came back to Miami to visit that meeting, and Jim was there. When it came Jim's turn to share, he said, "I had trouble finding a Higher Power my first three years sober, and a good friend loaned me her Higher Power. It works really well for me, and I have not found it necessary to find one of my own."

Wow! I had no idea that Jim had accepted my offer to loan him my Higher Power. He had never mentioned that to me. How interesting it was to learn that Jim was able to stay sober with a Higher Power he borrowed from me.

Since that day, I have tried as best as I can to not consume 100 percent of my Higher Power's time so my dear friend Jim can always borrow him.

If you're having a difficult time finding a Higher Power, look around your meeting room and see who seems to have a really good one. Perhaps they'll let you borrow theirs for a while. ~M.L. Placitas, N.M.

Stories reprinted with permission AA Grapevine: The Int'l. Journal Alcoholics Anonymous
www.aagrapevine.org

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (GSR) MEETING

December 12 2019

District Committee Member (DCM) Report-Summary:

(Meeting Minutes Online: www.greenbayaa.org)

DCM, Matt B. Hello GSRs and District Chairs: This will be my final report as the DCM for District 01. I will be attending the ACM in Three Lakes on December 14th, hopefully with our new DCM in tow. The Agenda for the "Area Committee Meeting" can be found in the December issue of the Now and Then.

It has been an honor to be of service to the District and to AA. There is no doubt that AA saved my life, and that debt can never be repaid. I am looking forward to serving more directly in my home group (Flintville Early Risers) and at the open meeting at Libertas that we still sponsor with literature and membership attendance.

I recently attended the "Old-Timers Panel" that our archivist Bill, with the aid of Bryon, the Area Archives Chair, conducted at the 218 Club. This was a wonderful event and provided a great deal of insight into the growth of AA in the Green Bay Area. I recently attended the 30th annual McHenry Soberfest in Lake Geneva and was able to attend numerous meetings and panels. I always enjoy seeing the enthusiasm and service commitments at these types of events and I know my wife enjoyed the meetings also.

I look forward to our International Conference in Detroit in July of 2020, and hope to see many of you there. Thank you again for your service and for the opportunity to be of service. Matt Buchholz, DCM, District 01.

Secretary, Theresa D. The November, 2019 minutes were reviewed by those present. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes.

Accessibilities, Joe H. Nothing to report.

Archives, Bill D. He does have copies in a CD format from the recordings of the speakers from the recent "Old-timer's Panel" held at the 218 Club.

Bridging the Gap, Marian K. (Via Email) Everything is going very well.

Cooperation with the Professional Community, Bruce K. No report available.

Corrections - Men, Adam B. Things are going well, and they are finishing out the year strong.

Corrections - Women, Theresa D. Things are going well, but as usual they need more volunteers for the Huber jail meetings. A Corrections display will again be set up at the upcoming Intergroup in January to solicit more volunteers. Copies of the Volunteers Applications were provided to the GSRs to hand out at their meetings.

District Events Co-Chairs, Tamra D. and Lloyd Z. Has been working with Lauren P., (new Events Co-Chair) in organizing the upcoming Intergroup to be held on Jan. 25, 2020. They do have the speakers lines up. The event could use donated baskets for the silent auction. Lloyd is organizing a pizza and bowling party at Ashwaubenon Lanes to be held on Sunday, Dec. 29th (Packers vs. Lions, away)

Grapevine, No report available.

Newsletter, Ronald M. No report available.

Public Information Chair, Pat. T.C. No report available.

Webmaster, Sam J. (Via email) Nothing new to report.

Treasurer's Report, Patrick H. Prepared for the December, 2019 meeting.

Starting balance: \$7,519.21

Saturday Eye Opener	81.08
Sisters in Sobriety	39.45
Old-Timers Panel	42.00
<u>Total Deposits:</u>	<u>162.53</u>

Subtotal: \$7,681.74

Expenses:	
DigiCopy	173.70
Matt B. (DCM)	274.96
<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>448.66</u>

Ending balance 11/30/19	7,233.08
Prudent Reserve:	-1,300.00
<u>Total Funds Available:</u>	<u>\$5,933.08</u>

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the November, 2019 Treasurer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS: District Elections/Chairs Open. Bill D. was nominated for and accepted the DCM position for District 01. The vote was unanimous. THANK YOU, BILL !!! Denzil B. was nominated for and accepted the Archives Chair. THANK YOU, Denzil !!! The following open positions still remain: Alt-DCM, Treasurer, Newsletter, PI, CPC, Grapevine and Accessibilities.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GSR Reports:

- Road to Recovery meeting is going well.
- Women in the Present, Renae S. Meetings continue to have good attendance. Many of the group recently went caroling at a local nursing home.
- Early Birds, Kathy B. There was a good turnout for the Christmas cookie event at the Jackie Nitschke Center. The event was followed by a meeting.
- Eye Opener/St. Matt's, William W. Meetings are going well with many new regulars. He is trying to get more volunteers to help out at the Central Office.
- Walk With Us, Robert J. The meetings are going well. He was able to get volunteers to help out with the upcoming Intergroup event.
- Coming Events were read by Lloyd Z. from The Communicator.
- Flintville Early Risers, Sean S. The group is in the process of organizing a Spirituality event to be held at Green Lake on March 21, 2020.

More Than Enough

Fresh clothes, holding your head up, saying hi to neighbors, a warm cup of coffee...it's the little things

This morning I was awakened by a dream of embarrassment and fear, and it got me to thinking about self-respect and faith, as well as their opposites, and what life in the Twelve Steps has meant for me.

Before AA I had very little personal promise or much hope of ever changing what I thought was an ongoing spiral into what I called "badland." I was convinced that I was inherently worthless. I had so often disappointed my loved ones and myself that I felt I wasn't really worth having any kind of a loving God. Now I know that isn't true.

Eventually through the program, I was able to rise and shine and get ahold of my self-respect. I can now be grateful to a loving God that what I had was just a bad dream left over from my old life. He thankfully has replaced that with a new vision. It's nice to hold your head up after you haven't for a long time.

Today little things are such a blessing: Throwing on fresh clothes, walking out my door, saying a quick hi to the neighbors, enjoying a cup of coffee. Just appreciating the outdoors and fresh air is really more than enough.

The relief of not having to reach for a drink to keep the bogeyman away, letting go of the need to be powerful to cover up all my insecurities—it's all priceless. That old way of doing things is finally over. I am so thankful that the God of my understanding has the ball now. My job is to try not to take it back.

After 31 years, I think I'm finally getting the hang of this thing. ~Judy H. Claremont, Calif.

District 01 Committee Contact Information

District 01 Chairperson	dcmdistrict01@greenbayaa.org	Archives	archives@greenbayaa.org
Matt B. 920-217-6864		Bill D. 920-621-1258	
Alternate District Chairperson	altDCM@greenbayaa.org	Bridging the Gap	bridging@greenbayaa.org
Henrietta D. 920-530-3297		Marian K. 920-366-5950	
Newsletter	newsletter@greenbayaa.org	Public Info	PI@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Pat TC 920-301-3436	
Corrections Chairperson	corrections@greenbayaa.org	Grapevine	grapevine@greenbayaa.org
Adam B. 920-680-9496 (Men)		Coop with Prof. Comm.	cpc@greenbayaa.org
Theresa D. 920-490-7889 (Women)		Bruce K.	
Meetings List	meetinglist@greenbayaa.org	Events	events@greenbayaa.org
Ronald M. 920-593-2915		Lloyd Z. 920-713-0760	
Treasurer	treasurer@greenbayaa.org	Tamera D. 920-321-4910	
Patrick H. 920-819-5284		Webmasters	webmaster@greenbayaa.org
Secretary	secretary@greenbayaa.org	Sam J.. 920-362-4832	
Theresa D. 920-490-7889		Accessibility	accessibility@greenbayaa.org
Hotline			
Tom M. 920-562-2689			

Unity

OPEN SPEAKER MEETING (weekly)

WEDNESDAYS 8:00 P.M.
The 218 Club
218 S. Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

DISTRICT 01 MEETING (monthly)

2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
6:30 p.m.

All Alcoholics Anonymous members are Welcome
Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office
1270 Main Street #102
Green Bay, WI 54301

CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD MEETINGS (monthly)

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
6:00 p.m.

(CENTRAL OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)
Alcoholics Anonymous Central Office
1270 Main Street #102
Green Bay, WI 54301
For details: 920-432-2600

DISTRICT 01 GREEN BAY INTERGROUP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020
Social 4:30 p.m.
Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Speakers start at 7:00 p.m.

Meal entrée provided. Please bring dish to pass.
Silent Auction and Door Prizes (no 50/50 raffle)

Free-will donation

We need your help and your donations

Contact Lauren P 920-905-9793 or Tamra D 920-321-4910
Redeemer Lutheran Church
210 S Oneida Street
Green Bay, WI 54303

4TH AND 5TH STEP SPRING RETREAT*

MARCH 20-22, 2020

Friday night to Sunday noon

\$175 - includes 2 nights/5 meals

(Snacks and beverages provided throughout retreat)

St Norbert Center for Spirituality
1016 N Broadway, De Pere, WI 54115

Registration deadline: March 6, 2020

Send \$75 deposit to:

Step Retreats

PO Box 574

Green Bay, WI 54305

Questions? Call Judy G. 920-737-2330

What's Best for the Group

~C.B., Bend, Ore.

A member in Oregon shares her thoughts about one of our most important Traditions

After seven years in AA, I finely feel like I'm starting to acquire a working knowledge of this vital principle, Tradition One. This Tradition makes clear that the welfare of the group should come before any one member. The group comes before me, before you, before the old-timer, and yes, even before the newcomer. Who knew? Not me.

Even though I thought I had been practicing the First Tradition for a while now, I was actually only understanding it in my head. The principle was not yet in my heart. Because I knew the AA literature and could even recite the long form, I was following the technicalities of the Tradition—the “letter of the law,” rather than the spirit of the principle. Over time, I found I was never truly able to practice any of the other Traditions until this particular principle really had sunk into my heart.

I'll give an example. I voted at my home group that the secretary position only have a 90-day sobriety requirement. Why? Because service keeps us sober, and the newcomer could benefit most from getting into service. Seems logical, no?

Then for years following that group conscience decision, whenever our group had an election and there were two members standing for the same position, I would always, always vote for the person who I thought needed a service position the most. I would support the person who I believed could benefit the most from the position, rather than the person who I thought could be of the most benefit to the group as a whole, the person who was the most qualified.

As a result, more often than not it was the whole group that suffered when we voted that way, when we elected someone who might not be qualified.

Today I see that when the AA group isn't strong, we lose effectiveness. I learned that we are able to help more people when we have an effective meeting.

So once again, more has been revealed to me. Today I will vote for someone who I feel has a strong working knowledge of the Twelve Traditions, the one who is best qualified and who I think will be the most responsible and reliable for the job. Because ultimately, that is the way everyone else will best be served—including the newcomer.