



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

## NEWSLETTER

December, 2011

[www.aa-eci.org](http://www.aa-eci.org)

*To help the environment and Newsletter costs, please consider printing your own copy.  
Visit <http://www.aa-eci.org/newsletter.php>.*

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### 2012 – A New Age for the Newsletter

Greetings Newsletter readers. As you may or may not know, earlier this year, the District 12 Newsletter had almost lost hope of surviving, and was about to be led to the great recycle heap in the sky. When the flame burned only so dimly, other members rushed in to take the torch from the weary and carry on a tradition, as so often happens in Alcoholics Anonymous. In this particular instance, it was Tammy M. who saved the day, and, if you're reading this December issue, it is she who is owed a debt of gratitude.

Recently, another half dozen or so joined the ranks, myself included. Together, we hope to reinvent this vehicle of communication, and once again make the District Newsletter a sought after piece of literature, chock full of material that is factual, timely, pertinent, and relevant. The Newsletter is, and should be, a recognizable voice in our community.

The Newsletter Committee makes every effort to maintain an accurate calendar of events happening in our area, as well as recognizing anniversaries of members who wish to be noted. More importantly, however, this paper is designed for you, the individual, to have a voice. Many people have said, "I want to write something but I don't know what to write about." So here are some suggestions:

- ◆ If you're a founding member of your group, or it's just been around for a long time, write about its history and any hardships it's had to overcome along the way.
- ◆ Write an article about your recovery for the issue of your anniversary month.
- ◆ What was the easiest step for you? The hardest? Why?
- ◆ Tell us about meetings you've attended in other states and/or other countries. How were they the same? How were they different?
- ◆ Explain why a certain slogan or saying in AA is your favorite.
- ◆ How did you come to choose your home group? How did you choose your sponsor - or did s/he choose you?
- ◆ If you've had a spiritual experience, when and what was it?
- ◆ What has the program given you that you never had before?

This is, by no means, an exhaustive list, and we encourage you to submit fresh ideas

*continued on page 2*

*District 12 Officers and  
Committee Chairs*

DCM	John C.
Alternate DCM	Melanie G.
Secretary	Kate M.
Treasurer	Steve B.
Corrections	Jay S.
Treatment Facilities	Bill B.
Meeting List	Mona M.
Answering Service	Scott S.
Newsletter	Tammy M.
Grapevine	Andy C.
PI-CPC	Linda B.
Website	Joe P.
Archives	Doris A.

*District 12 holds its meetings on the  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month at 2pm in  
the Fellowship Circle Hall at 718 South  
Randolph, Champaign.*

*If you would like to submit something  
for publication, or just send  
comments or questions to the  
Committee, please email  
[newsletter@aa-eci.org](mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org). Deadline for  
submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup>  
of each month.*

of your own. We can also print crossword puzzles, cartoons, and black and white drawings or line art. We only ask that material be AA or recovery related. There are no limits on creativity!

You will also notice new feature item additions (such as Speaker CD Spotlight and Recovery in Film & Print) in upcoming Newsletters, denoted with a "new item!" icon, and we want to know what you think. Love it? Hate it? Does it seem trivial or of the utmost importance? We may write some of it, organize it, format it, and distribute it, but, ultimately, the District Newsletter is YOURS.

In loving service, *Kelly A.*

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***On behalf of the Newsletter Committee,  
District 12, and all Officers and Committee Chairs,  
we wish you a very safe and happy holiday season!***

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**Resumes for Trustees Election, due January 1, 2012**

Two new Class B (alcoholic) trustees, from the West Central and Western Canada regions, will be nominated at the General Service Conference in April 2012. Resumes must be received at G.S.O. no later than January 1, 2012, and must be submitted *by area delegates* U.S./Canada, only. (For District 12 in Area 21, our delegate is Fariba M. Resumes can be given to John C., our DCM, to then be passed on to Fariba.) In seeking applications for vacancies in Alcoholics Anonymous, the Fellowship is committed to creating a large file of qualified applicants that reflect the inclusiveness and diversity of A.A. itself. Please submit your candidates' resumes to the secretary, trustees' Committee on Nominating, G.S.O.

A sound A.A. background is a basic qualification for Class B trustees. Ten years of continuous sobriety is desirable, but not mandatory. Candidates should be active in both local and area A.A. affairs and, because trustees serve the entire Fellowship, they require the background and willingness to make decisions on matters of broad policy that affect A.A. as a whole.

Trustees are expected to attend: three quarterly board weekends, with meetings running from Saturday morning through Monday noon; a quarterly meeting combined with the General Service Conference (seven days) in April; and any special meetings of the board. Regional trustees also serve in rotation for attendance at Regional Forums other than in their own regions. In addition, regional trustees are usually asked to serve two years on either the A.A.W.S. or Grapevine Corporate Boards. Trustees serve on committees of the General Service Board and may also serve on trustees' subcommittees or corporate board subcommittees, whose work often involves conference calls. They are often invited to participate in regional or area activities, such as service conferences, area assemblies, etc. Trusteeship is for four years. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this time commitment with their family and employer. Trustees are reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses.

**AA TRIVIA**

*From November:*

What famous person is mentioned in Chapter 9 of The Big Book?

*Answer:* Henry Ford (see page 124)

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*December's Multiple Choice Challenge:*

Where must our defense against the first drink come from?

- A. The steps
- B. The Big Book
- C. A higher power
- D. Chocolate

## DISTRICT 12 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A facility has been secured for the June 2012 Area Assembly by the committee.

GSRs continue to get feedback from groups on District forming a men's and a women's retreat.

Remember it is your responsibility to be sure your groups' information is up to date with GSO. Groups, don't forget about making allocations to District for the end of the year.

Treatment Facilities - Volunteers (especially women) are needed to help out at treatment centers. Call Bill B. 621-9269 or Rodney R. 898-7012. There are 24 out of 39 rotating slots filled. Help provide a full rotation and be rewarded with service work.

Corrections - Service opportunities at the Danville jail and a new men's meeting at the downtown Urbana jail at 2:00 on Wednesdays. Contact Jay S. at 417-6837 or Jeff R. 418-8234 for more information.

Grapevine - Help Area 21 reach goal of 100 new Grapevine subscriptions. GRAPEVINE is at 800-631-6025 or [www.aagrapevine.org](http://www.aagrapevine.org)

Meeting List - Look for more Danville meetings added for January's meeting list update. Be sure to contact Mona or Andy to assure that your Danville group meeting is included! Contact information is on the meeting list.

The Area 21 address on the meeting list is incorrect and should be: mail group donations to Southern IL Area 21 Treasurer, Fred Ronnow, P.O. Box 414, Taylorville, IL 62568-0414. Include your group service #, name, area, and district.

### **New Meetings and Changes to Existing Meetings:**

New - Thursdays at 8pm, Traditional Closed AA meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Crescent Avenue in Champaign one block South of Kirby Avenue.

New - Sundays at 12:30pm, Women's Big Book closed discussion at Grace Lutheran Church at the corner of Prospect and Springfield in Champaign.

HOW group meetings on Mondays, Wednesday, and Thursday will be changing to 7pm starting in January, 2012.

The Tuesday Oakland meeting, New Beginnings, is changing to 7pm.

The Tuesday Phoenix Women's Big Book Study is changing to 8pm and enter through Presby Hall.

The Tolono closed group will have an open meeting every 3rd Tuesday every other month falling on 1/17/12, 3/20/12, 5/15/12, 7/17/12, 9/18/12, and 11/20/12. Please make note.

## ANNIVERSARIES

Ray M.	November 1st	33 years
Rich W.	November 11th	3 years
Kathy M.	November 13th	4 years
Patrick H.	November 14th	5 years
Shirley S.	November 17th	26 years
Peggy B.	November 18th	28 years
Heather T.	November 19th	11 years
Marta C.	November 19th	4 years
Julie C.	November 27th	6 years

To submit an anniversary to the newsletter, please email [newsletter@aa-eci.org](mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org). (Be sure to get consent!)

**Correction to November edition: Judy O. had 11 years on September 2nd, not 8 as we had printed.**

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Sunday, December 4th, 12pm*

SWAT Group, Speaker: Kristen F.  
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign  
*(see larger advertisement on page 4)*

*Saturday, December 10th, 8pm*

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Cindy N.  
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Monday, December 12th, 8pm*

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: TBA  
602 W. Green Street, Urbana

*Friday, December 16th, 7:30pm*

Friday Night Fellowship, Speaker: TBA  
State & University, Champaign  
*(see larger advertisement on page 4)*

*Saturday, December 17th, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Mike F.  
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Saturday, December 24th, 6pm*

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA  
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Sunday, December 25th, 8pm*

Grapevine Group, Speaker: Grant H.  
Prairie Center, 122 West Hill Street, Champaign

*Monday, December 26th, 8pm*

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA  
109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

*Friday, December 30th, 8pm*

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA  
Madison & 7th Avenues, Charleston

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Women's Retreat in Henry, IL, Friday, Jan. 27 - Sunday Jan. 29**

*King's House of Retreat  
900 Richard Street  
Henry, IL 61537  
(Henry is about 2 hours from Champaign,  
take I-74 W to I-39 N to IL-18 W)*

*\$130 per person  
Retreat begins 7AM Friday and  
ends 1PM Sunday*

*To reserve your spot, send a \$30 deposit ASAP to  
King's House of Retreat.*

For more information contact a member of Sisters in  
Sobriety, the AA Women's Group in Rantoul.

### **Southern IL Area 21 Assembly in Quincy**

*Sunday, December 4 at 9:00 a.m. – Assembly Meeting*  
Quincy Senior and Family Resource Center  
639 York Street, Quincy, IL  
Registration Begins at 7:30 a.m. – \$4  
Buffet Lunch Available – \$10

*Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 8:00 p.m. – Speaker  
Meeting Night*

Blessing Hospital  
14th & Broadway Campus, Lower Level  
Parking Lot on Vermont & 14<sup>th</sup>  
Enter Main Entrance and watch for signs  
Speaker: Dean S. – Springfield, IL

*Lodging*

Microtel Inn and Suites  
200 South 3rd Street  
(217) 222-5620  
Cost: \$80.10 – Double  
\$60.00 – Single  
Mention Area 21 Assembly for special rates.

### **ISCYPAA Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Saturday, December 17th, Time TBA**

Bring out your ugly!! That sweater that sweet Aunt  
Mary got you, or someone gave you as a gag gift,  
or just a good old ugly you picked out yourself. Put  
it on and show it off, who will have the worst  
sweater of all?

718 South Randolph Street (The Hall), Champaign

### **SWAT Potluck, Speaker Meeting, and Holiday Party, Sunday, December 4th, 12PM**

SWAT has quarterly potluck speaker meetings,  
and our December meeting is by far the biggest  
and best!!

We will decorate the Hall with plenty of holiday  
cheer, the food table will be overflowing with  
goodies, and the SWAT members will be  
overflowing with love!

### **Gratitude Dinner Saturday, December 10th, 6PM**

Camel Club  
508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Bring a dish to share

### **Friday Night Fellowship Holiday Speaker Meeting, Friday, December 16th, 7:30PM**

With snacks and a sobriety countdown!  
Episcopal Church, corner of State and University  
Avenues, Champaign