

Upcoming Events

Gratitude in Action

Friday, November 18th

Southside Church of Christ
4114 S. 7th St. - Terre Haute
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Speaker: Wayne B., 7:00 p.m.

This is an open speaker meeting held in cooperation with the regularly scheduled "Young at Heart" meeting.

Saturday, November 19th

Girl Scout Council Building
1100 Girl Scout Lane - Terre Haute
Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

Workshops start at 9:00 a.m. and end at or before 6:00 p.m.

Bring a Snack to Share /Lunch Provided

Saturday Topics:

Home Group & Sponsorship
Emotional Sobriety
It's a Small World After All
Ask-it-Basket
And MORE

For Tickets (\$15) or More Information:

Marcy B. 812-241-6357
Sue F. 812-243-2042
Nan G. 812-403-4858

email: GIA.2011@live.com (Please allow 48 hours for reply)

"God will constantly disclose more to you and to us."

The 51st Annual Tri-State Convention

November 4-6 2011 in Mt Vernon IL

AA Speakers: Robert H. from Evansville, IN, Clement C. from St. Louis, MO, Sterling W. from Charleston, SC, and Sister Ruth from Anderson, IN

AI-Anon Speaker: Lyri M. from Belleville, IL

Registration \$25, Banquet \$25. Send check or money order by October 28, payable to 2011 Tri-State Convention at 2011 Tri-State Convention, P.O. Box 132, Carmi, IL 62821.

For more information, call Joe K. 812-589-5353, Christy B. 618-384-0068, or Joe F. 618-246-3613.

Hotel Information: Holiday Inn, 222 Potomac Blvd., Mt. Vernon, IL 62864, 800-243-7171 or 618-244-7100. Be sure to mention the Tri-State Convention for discount rate of \$79.00 (includes breakfast buffet).

Southern IL Area 21 Assembly

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 & 14th
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

East Central Region Forum! GSO & Grapevine ~ROAD SHOW~

November 11-13, 2011
Friday 7pm - 10pm, Saturday 9am – 9:45pm,
Sunday 9am – Noon

At the Holiday Inn Dayton Mall
31 Prestige Plaza Drive,
Miamisburg, OH 45342
937-434-8030

- FREE REGISTRATION (register online at www.aa.org)
- Put on by the A.A. General Service Board
- "Open" to A.A. members or to anyone interested in A.A.
- To enhance communication and participation among A.A. members, the General Service Board, and staff and directors from the General Service Office Staff and the A.A. Grapevine.
- A meeting place to ask questions and spark new ideas to help carry the A.A. message of hope to the still-suffering alcoholic.
- To provide unique opportunities for A.A. members throughout the East Central Region to share their experience, strength and hope.
- Hosted by the 14 Areas in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, & Michigan.
- It's an Open Sharing Session about A.A.!

Want to be of Service? Contact Hank S. 937-291-3820



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous NEWSLETTER

November, 2011
www.aa-eci.org

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SOBERFEST – The Results are in!

Greeting my friends from Soberfest. This year was our 20th year of this grand celebration. At 7am on September 23rd the Soberfest volunteers showed up at the Urbana Civic Center to prepare for another magical event. The doors opened at 9am and the decorating people had the place looking like a place for kings and queens. The registration table was full of smiling, happy, recovering people waiting to greet their special guests. The food committee had big pots of fresh coffee, and, of course, donuts and lots of fruit. Dave and Doris B., our hosts, looked sharp and were ready to go. Our first speaker started at 10am, and amazed us with her story of heartache and happiness. At noon we all went out to lunch, and started again at 1pm. The next speaker, an amazing woman from Ohio, had us in tears with sorrow, and then with gratitude. The Alanon delegate chaired the Alanon speaker, another wonderful woman who is a long time friend of ours. At 4pm the panel started speaking, two Alanons and two AA's, we heard many of our local heroes tell us of their joy and struggle. At 5:30pm it was time to put the feed bag on. Bill B. and Gail G. got our yummy food from Hickory River, there was more than enough, and our wonderful Alanons made and served yummy desserts. After dinner the Raffle committee gave away two flat screen TVs and a Blu-ray player. Our good friend Eugene B. led our sobriety countdown. At 7:30pm our main speaker wowed us with laughter and amazement. After, many people stayed after to clean up. We had a ball. Who says our area doesn't know how to throw one heck of a party? Next year, again we put on our glass slippers the last Saturday in September, and celebrate. Our highlight speakers next year are Sandy B, from California and Don M, from Kentucky. Want to help? Talk to Bill B., Larry S., or Jack H. For now, this is your retired soberfest chairmen, saying thank you for your support, hope to see you next year.

~Your trusted servant Mark G, [alias Ralph Kramden]

Other Comments:

"I felt great admiration for the courage of the speakers sharing their stories and had an understanding of the fear and despair that alcohol gives to many of us. I was comforted with feelings of hopefulness and their explanation of how going to meetings, studying our text and working the steps have immensely affected their lives." *Brandi J.*

"Will I ever know peace?" "No" "why?" "You've been blessed with divine dissatisfaction...your searching will bring so many people home..." amazing. Burns B. told a story about when Bill W. was miserable and a clergyman came to talk to him. In the end, his searching really has. *Andy C.*

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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 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm in the Fellowship Circle Hall at 718 South Randolph, Champaign.

If you would like to submit a story, article, or event, please email newsletter@aa-eci.org. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Regarding Andy's comment: "What a message!! For me, and others I've talked with, it was a moment of clarity." *Scott S.*

"Burns B. from KY had us laughing in the first 60 seconds of his speaking. His comments on conditional love in our lives and our need for approval hit home with me." *Tammy M.*

"Beth G. from OH blew me away. She had everyone in tears. She lost 2 children in her disease. Her story really touched me." *Katy F.*

Rose E. was the best. *Jim F.*

I enjoyed the general AA message and people's camaraderie, as well as the 1st speaker. *Dennis K.*

I particularly liked speakers 1 and 2, Rose E. and Beth G., and enjoyed the fellowship of the day. *Sharon K.*

The Pavilion made it available for people from their treatment center to attend. It was very rewarding. *Steph M.*

More on Soberfest: Why Do Service Work?

Nothing can help heal the sense of not belonging faster than service work. Today I feel a strong sense of community. That wasn't always the case. My default setting is isolation and nothing can make me crazier than my exclusive company (and that of my disease) for an extended period of time.

Service work is my insurance policy, so besides regular meeting attendance, I have a monthly commitment at a treatment center, I've been on a committee or two and I make it known that I'm available to help if I can.

This summer Paula P. called to ask if I'd be hostess to Beth G., one of the Soberfest speakers. I agreed, and Paula e-mailed me Beth's airline itinerary, address and phone number. The plan was to give Beth a call so

we wouldn't be total strangers when we met at Willard Airport. I saw she was coming from Cleveland, Ohio and thought, "NO WAY!" and then, "I wonder if she knew Pete."

Pete was one of the finest men I've ever known – a generous, loving, funny man who wouldn't even tell a GREAT joke if he thought it might hurt someone's feelings. He was married to my sister Kathy for five years when he died in 2008. He was sober for twenty-four years and had a host of sponsees and friends who rallied around him (and Kathy) when his cancer was discovered in the fall of 2007. They took meetings to him, brought food, sat with him, mowed the lawn, cleaned leaves from the gutters and helped however they could. They did it because they loved him.

Beth informed me that not only had she known Pete, they'd been friends since his early days in AA. She also knew Pete's daughters, his long-divorced first wife and my sister! Whew! Beth said that Pete was still very much missed and still quoted at meetings. One of Pete's favorite sayings was, "Don't quit 5 minutes before the miracle happens."

If you attended Soberfest and heard Beth speak, you know what a livewire she is! The weekend passed quickly with good talk, laughter and new friends. I never expected to have such a good time and the Beth - Pete connection made it even better.

Who knows what the next opportunity for service will bring? *Peggy B., Champaign, IL*



WHY AREN'T YOU WRITING?

Everyone knows that AA harbors some of the most intelligent and talented people on earth! We know that writers abound in the rooms. So why not show off your stuff? The Newsletter Committee is always looking for fresh ideas, stories, and articles to print. If you've always dreamed of being published, why not begin with your District Newsletter? To submit a piece for review, send an email to newsletter@aa-eci.org.

DISTRICT 12 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

We were delighted to have Fariba M., our Area Delegate, join our meeting. See your GSR to check out the 2011 Final Report of the 61st Annual Meeting of The General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous.

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

Groups - don't forget about making allocations to District.

Treatment Facilities - Volunteers (especially women) are needed to help out at treatment centers. Call Bill B. 621-9269 or Rodney R. 898-7012

Corrections - Discussed supporting the Danville jail and prison.

Meeting List - After November 5th, the 6:00pm Saturday meeting at the Recovery Room in Mattoon will be cancelled.

Grapevine - Help Area 21 reach goal of 100 new Grapevine subscriptions. GRAPEVINE is at 800-631-6025 or www.aagrapevine.org

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

ANNIVERSARIES

September (sorry we missed these in the October edition!)

Judy O.	September 2	8 years
Tim P.	September 25	20 years
Doug E.	September 27	18 years

October

Mike M.	October 4	19 years
Dennis O.	October 5	11 years
Jill K.	October 14	10 years
Paula P.	October 29	32 years
Kelly A.	October 31	8 years

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

AA TRIVIA

From October:

What happened to the personal stories that were edited out of previous editions of *Alcoholics Anonymous (The Big Book)*?

Answer: These stories have been reprinted in the book, *Experience, Strength, and Hope*, published in 2003 by AA World Services, Inc.

November's Challenge:

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

SPEAKER MEETINGS & OTHER EVENTS

Saturday, November 12th, 8pm

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

Monday, November 14th, 8pm

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

Saturday, November 19th, 6:30pm

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

Thursday, November 24th, 8pm

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: Peggy B.
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Friday, November 25th, 8pm

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

Saturday, November 26th, 6pm

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

Sunday, November 27th, 8pm

Grapevine Group, Speaker: Jason E.
Prairie Center, 122 West Hill Street, Champaign

Monday, November 28th, 8pm

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