



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

January, 2012

www.aa-eci.org

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Visit <http://www.aa-eci.org/newsletter.php>.*



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A Wonderful Serving Year – Come Visit Us

I want to take the time to thank each and every one in our **District 12 committee** for all the hard work and time they put into 2011 and to welcome all new faces and volunteers into District for 2012.

As we complete a year of service we have found ourselves a “Step” ahead of others throughout our AA communities in an abundance of volunteers who served in our committees. We are grateful to our committee **Chairs and Volunteers** who gave so much of their time to build and offer a helping hand to others. Also, to all our **GSRs and Alternates** who represented their home groups with their time and continuous support of our District and to the **Officers** who worked so hard in keeping us “somewhat” organized in our reporting efforts and following in the Steps and Traditions that have been so freely passed on to us.

Our year has been without turmoil, without arguments, without interruptions but more so with “**Acceptance**” in our code of “**Love and Tolerance**” and always avoiding resentments, which is outlined as our number one offender! With this attitude we were able to conduct our business as **Recovering Alcoholics** enjoying **God’s** gift of **Sobriety** in a mature and professional surrounding and even finish a majority of our 12 meetings in 2011 in one hour or thereabout! It was a great feeling to leave a District meeting feeling better than when we arrived. As sobriety is not entirely a time or period of life, but a state of Mind and Heart. It is not wholly a matter of walking, talking, and speaking clearly, without the influence of alcohol, but it is a temper of will, a quality of the imagination and vigor of emotion which we have earned and demonstrated in our monthly meetings and throughout our lives.

I want to thank all the Groups who have contributed to our District in 2011 as we remain financially solvent at par with prudent reserve, but to continue in our 2012 efforts and to be able to continue in our budgetary goals, we continue to need your support, please give accordingly and put District in your disbursements and allocations for 2012!

Thank you Kate M., Melanie G., Steve B., Jay S., Mike H., Bill B., Rodney R., Mona M., Tammy M., Scott S., Andy C., Linda B., Joe P., Erich H., Ray McD., for your hard work as officers and committee chairs, a special thanks to Whitney for her help and continued support during the transition of our financials to our new treasurer,

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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 something for publication, or just send comments or questions to the Committee, please email newsletter@aa-eci.org. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

Mike G (past DCM District 9) in transitioning to our district and to Ernie (RIP) for helping me transition into DCM.

This has been a year of many changes for many people and I have to remember to be **Grateful and be Thankful for the Gift of Sobriety** that **God** has given so freely to me and has blessed each and every one of us with.

I pray that all who read this have enjoyed their Christmas holidays and I want to take this opportunity to wish our AA community a sober and serene New Year!

God Has Blessed Us!

John C., District 12 DCM

Like A Ship At Sea

Reprinted from The Grapevine, Volume 7, Issue 5, October, 1950

In search for a daily "operating schedule" which would help to make the tenth step habitual and as pleasant as possible, the writer hit upon the following analogy and found it helpful.

On a ship's bridge, at sea, the navigator is charged with keeping his ship on her course. When he is piloting near islands, shoals and coastal waters, he must constantly take sights or bearings of rocks, light-houses, mountain peaks and other reference points that appear on his chart. The compass bearings of these objects from his ship enable him to mark his progress on the chart and to steer a safe course.

The point of the analogy is that the navigator constantly regards each of the menacing objects in the sea around him as aids to the safe passage of his vessel. As long as he notes the bearing of each one it cannot harm him.

The "sighting" or experiencing of fear, resentment, self-pity, anger and self-righteousness doesn't mean that the ship is off her course at all. Each is a menace to be expected and encountered every day of a normal busy life. If,

however, the watch on the bridge is habitually alert, the menace can be an aid to safe passage.

Frank M., Piedmont, California

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.

AA TRIVIA

From December:

Where must our defense against the first drink come from?

Answer: C. A higher power (see Big Book page 43)

January's Challenge:

Where was Bill when he read the ominous epitaph on an old tombstone?

DISTRICT 12 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Alternate DCM position is up for grabs as Melanie is having schedule conflicts. Mike, who joined us from District 9, has been slated for nomination. If you wish to nominate yourself or another District 12 member please come to the next District 12 meeting or send the information with your GSR to make the nomination for you.

Meeting List – District 12 meeting lists will be distributed with updates at the beginning of January, 2012.

Grapevine – District 12 members' orders have increased with at least 5 new subscriptions toward helping Area 21 reach its goal. GRAPEVINE is at 800-631-6025 or www.aagrapevine.org.

The Civic Center in Urbana has been secured for the June 2012 Area Assembly by the committee. There will be a speaker at the Saturday 8pm meeting on June 16th and the Assembly will be held June 17th.

Groups also discuss whether or not you'd like Area Assemblies in the future to be held in a central location. These are like a quarterly Area business meeting. Would having it in a central location save on costs and increase attendance?

The Area 21 Spring Conference is canceled at this time. The purpose of the conference is to go over topics to then be discussed at G.S.O. Groups please discuss if there is interest in restoring this conference to life and report to District 12 at the next meeting.

Areas with service work opportunities: Alternate DCM, Treatment Facilities, Corrections, Newsletter, and PI-CPC.

Come to District 12 the 3rd Sunday at 2pm at the Hall at 718 S. Randolph to find out more. Next month's meeting is January 15th, 2012.

SPEAKER TAPE/CD SPOTLIGHT

Speaker: Lila R. of Santa Monica, CA

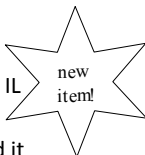
At: 33rd AA Women's Convention, Chicago, IL

When: February 15th, 1997

Why: This is my favorite of all time!!"ve heard it over and over, and it still makes me weep with gratitude.~Kelly A.

Favorite Quote: "We aren't supposed to pray for things for ourselves, what a bunch of crap! I'm not asking for a new Mercedes, I'm asking for help!"

Submit YOUR favorite speaker tape or CD to newsletter@aa-eci.org!



ANNIVERSARIES

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

Ferd	December 6	27 years
Linda B.	December 7	3 years
Jim E.	December 12	17 years
Chris J.	December 16	2 years
Rodney R.	December 17	14 years
Tyler M.	December 21	3 years
Ruth D.	December 22	16 years
Matt J.	December 27	2 years

Missed anniversary from December edition:

Navara P.	November 27th	5 years
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SPEAKER MEETINGS

Monday, January 9th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Gill T.
602 W. Green Street, Urbana

Saturday, January 14th, 8pm

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

Saturday, January 21st, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Marion V.
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Monday, January 23rd, 8pm

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

Thursday, January 26th, 7pm

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

Friday, January 27th, 8pm

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

Saturday, January 28th, 6pm

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

Sunday, January 29th, 8pm

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Retreat in Henry, IL

Friday, January 27 - Sunday January 29

Nazareth House Retreat Center

P.O. Box 165

Henry, IL 61537

(Henry is about 2 hours from Champaign-Urbana, take I-74 W to I-39 N to IL-18 W)

\$130 per person

Retreat begins 7PM Friday and ends 1PM Sunday

To reserve your spot, send a \$30 deposit ASAP to Nazareth House Retreat Center and register online at www.nazarethretreathouse.org.

For more information about Nazareth House, call 309-364-3084.

For more information about the retreat, contact Jill K. at 217-781-0172 or email at jillybeaner57@yahoo.com.

(THE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RETREAT HAS BEEN CORRECTED SINCE THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER.)

AA District 12 GSRs Take Note!

Fellowship Circle Meeting

For all Groups and Members

Sunday, January 29th, 1:30PM, The Hall

This meeting is important for AA District 12 GSRs to attend, and any other group which meets at any building at 718 S. Randolph Street, Champaign, IL.

Fellowship Circle will be passing out new keys and getting things ready for the locks to be switched over on March 1st. One set of keys to the door and to the closet will be issued to each group. Paid up members will get numbered keys to the door. Closet keys will be issued to certain individuals the board approves as the need arises. Also, an election of Fellowship Circle Trustees with nominations from the floor will occur.

The Journey Continues ... 2012 Conference & Alcahthon "A Big Book Study"

Supported By District 19

Friday, January 27 - Sunday, January 29

Strengthen Your Sobriety by joining us for a journey into a Big Book Study.

Don B. and James L. return to enrich our knowledge of the Big Book! Join us for round the clock AA meetings and Our Famous Hospitality Room!

Northfield Inn

3280 Northfield Drive

Springfield, IL 62702

Registration begins at 3 PM, Study starts at 7 PM

Registration Fees:

Conference and Sat. Night Banquet: \$45

Conference Only: \$20

**Special Hotel Room Rate for
Conference Attendees: \$79.00 plus tax**

www.northfieldinn.com

Phone 217-523-7900

Fax 217-523-4666

**Featured Big Book
Presenters:**

Don B., Frankfurt, IL
James L., Evanston, IL

**Featured Saturday
Night Speaker:**

Fred A., Lamont
Oaks Group

**Featured
Sunday Speaker:**

Colleen Y.,
Louisville, KY

Tentative Event Schedule

Friday, January 27th

3 PM Registration Begins

7-10 PM Big Book Study (with short breaks)

Saturday, January 28th

9:00-11:30 AM Big Book Study

11:30-1 PM Lunch

1-5 PM Big Book Study

5-6 PM Break

6-7 PM Banquet

7-9 PM Sobriety Countdown & Featured Speaker Fred A.

Sunday, January 29th

9 - ?? AM Big Book Study

10:30 AM Featured Speaker Colleen Y.

Alcahthons – Round the Clock AA meetings

Hospitality Room: Open Friday 3PM and Saturday & Sunday 6AM

For More Information - Conference Contacts:

Randy L. & Dee L. ral24@att.net 217-638-0158

Liz B. sobersister@gmail.com 217-698-6474