



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

August, 2012

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>.

AA Elsewhere

Like most in our community, I have visited Fellowship Circle, the Tolono Closed Group, meetings in Monticello, Rantoul, and Tuscola. I've even ventured as far as Paxton and Mattoon just to get a little sobriety variety. Yet, just like when I contemplate where to go on my next vacation, I'm often amazed when I step back and remember that there's a whole world beyond Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. There are an estimated seven billion souls out there, scattered across roughly one hundred and ninety six countries. It is so easy to be self-absorbed in my own surroundings, and this is as true in Alcoholics Anonymous as it is in any other aspect of my life. So I wanted to know, what is it like elsewhere, anywhere, other than here? Allow me to take you on a journey of AA throughout the world.

To date, the Big Book has been translated into sixty-four different languages and distributed in approximately one hundred and eighty countries. World Service meetings have been held biennially since 1972. They have taken place in New York in the United States; London, England, Helsinki, Finland; San Juan del Rio, Mexico; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Munich, Germany; Cartagena, Columbia; Auckland, New Zealand; Oviedo, Spain; and Malahide, Ireland.

2012 will be the twenty-second year for the National/International Native American Indian Alcoholics Anonymous Convention. This year it will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona. The convention began as a result of a vision experienced by a Paiute Indian man by the name of Earl L. This convention traditionally opens with a tribal flag ceremony, when the name of the tribe is introduced and the flag bearer walks to the center stage. After the introductions are concluded, they post their flags at a designated spot on the convention floor and remain there for the duration of the event.

SwEnglish groups began in Stockholm, Sweden in 2009. These are bilingual meetings that have now spread all over Sweden; some of the meetings alternate languages weekly (one week it features a speaker meeting in English, the next in Swedish), while others read literature side-by-side, sentence-by-sentence in both languages. This format allows everyone to read together, in their native language, and to discuss the meaning of the text and the differences in the translation. One of these meetings is held on Saturday mornings, and is called the "Kick-Ass Big Book Ninjas" meeting! Consequently, AAs have reported that the bilingual formats created by the SwEnglish groups have been an inspiration for other multi-language meetings in countries around the world, including Lithuania, Iceland, Germany, and China.

Also in Sweden, there is a Friday late-night "Rock 'n Roll Young People's" meeting with two short speakers, one sharing in English, the other in Swedish, and open sharing. The theme was always "We are NOT a glum lot" and the meeting was followed by fun and fellowship; a disco

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District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

DCM	John C.
Alternate DCM	Mike G.
Secretary	Kate M.
Treasurer	Steve B.
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Treatment Facilities	Bill B.
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Answering Service	Scott S.
Newsletter	Tammy M.
Grapevine	Andy C.
PI-CPC	Linda B.
Website	Rosemary T.
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.

with DJ or movie night, cards, or games. The original name of this meeting was the "Lighten the #@!!% Up! Young People's Meeting" but the English-speaking meeting list website for Europe refused to list a meeting with swearing symbols in the name, so they would only list "Lighten Up!" until the SwEnglish Group's next group conscience when the meeting was given its current "Rock 'n Roll" name.

There are over three hundred Icelandic AA meetings held in Iceland every week. The National Service AA website there lists its directions to their English speaking meetings as "held in Reykjavik, at Tjarnargata 20 (a street by the pond downtown)". Fortunately, the website has multiple other links to find out more detailed information!

The first AA group in Israel was formed in 1974 in Jerusalem by a visiting Jewish American and several Canadian UN soldiers who were stationed at the Israel-Syrian border. AA is still alive and well in Jerusalem. There are five English meetings, two Hebrew meetings, and one Arabic meeting each week. The Arabic meeting is a new addition to the schedule and is very well attended. At first the meeting was planned for an Arab neighborhood in East Jerusalem, but the group decided to meet in a Jewish neighborhood to ensure anonymity.

The Netherlands has an annual Roundup in Elspeet just like many cities in the states. But the Netherlands AAs also sponsor two concurrent events, the Bike Ride to Elspeet and the Road of Happy Destiny Hike. The bicycling trip is advertised as "the ultimate low budget convention experience!" The hikers will travel from Vierhouten to Elspeet and back. Halfway they will have lunch at Mennorode, the venue for the Roundup itself.

We all have our beloved slogans. In Turkey, members are fond of repeating: "Ben bir gün AA bir saat verirsen, AA beni 23 verecek." Which translates as, "If I give AA an hour a day, AA will give me 23 back."

According to the website for Jakarta, Indonesia, if there is not a meeting scheduled on a day that you need one, their fellowship will arrange a special meeting for you.

AA TRIVIA

July's question: What was the original cost of a Big Book in 1939?

Answer: The original cost of a Big Book was \$3.50

August's challenge: Which one of our co-founders had tattoos, Bill or Dr. Bob?

Now that's service!

If you happen to be in downtown Moscow on a Friday night, you can attend their English speaking Daily Reflections and Meditation meeting. After the meeting opens, all members sit in silent meditation for the first ten minutes.

HEARD IN A MEETING

"Show me an alcoholic who's Big Book is falling apart and I'll show you an alcoholic who isn't."
~Earl T., Buhl, Idaho

(reprinted from The Grapevine, May, 2001)

The Franconia Intergroup of Bavaria has been sponsoring an annual roundup for twenty-one years that takes place in the Bavarian Alps, about 1,706 feet above sea level.

In many groups in Africa, they hold celebrations for anniversaries at the AA member's home group. Although this concept isn't unique to Africa, what is interesting is that they do not call them anniversaries or birthdays, they call them Thanksgivings.

A world of one can benefit us at times, especially in moments of prayer and meditation. Remember, though, what's just outside our own door, our own state lines and continental borders. For I believe we truly are all connected, through AA, through God, through the universe, through time and space itself.

~Kelly A., Champaign

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Need for women to carry the message to the womens' jail on Monday nights at seven o'clock. Need a year of sobriety and a clearance. Just one Monday night meeting a month is required, but you can go every Monday if you like. For more info, call Judy O. at 217-637-8591.

Officer elections in District 12 will be soon approaching in the coming months. Step up and share your talents to invest in your recovery and enjoy the benefits of service work.

The Archives committee is meeting regularly and is going to be working diligently to improve our records and record keeping. To participate on the archives committee call Doris A. at 714-4425. Also to provide group history that they are collecting, you can call Doris or call Terry M. at 384-1852.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Serenity Shack, Party at the Paxton Swimming Pool, 573 S. Fall St., Paxton, IL, August 17th, 7pm-9pm, you may bring your own floaties, toys and snacks, donations requested, 379-4272.

Canoe Trip, Saturday, August 25th, meet at the Serenity Shack at Noon.

SPONSORSHIP WORKSHOP, hosted by District 17, Saturday August 25, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Boyton Street Community Center

501 West Boyton Street, Marion, Illinois

Clayton and Laura V. from Sikestown, MO, will conduct the workshop.

No cost to attend; lunch will be provided.

For more information, call Jack W. (618) 751-9882

Skit Night and Pot Luck at Serenity Shack, 117 N Ohio St, Rantoul, 7th of September 2012 at 7pm, hot dogs served and bring dish to share.

The Rend Lake Campout will be held at Coy & Wilma's Campground at Sesser IL on 7-9 Sept. 2012. It does cost \$15 per night per campsite. Electric, water & showers are available. For more info, call Mary 314-630-6393 or Rhonda 618-977-0186.

The SIA 21 Area Assembly will be held on 2 Dec 2012 in Bloomington IL & hosted by Dist 10. More information to come....

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Mark G.	July 1	22 years
Cindy N.	July 5	25 years
Tony C.	July 6	6 years
Tom (Tex) T.	July 6	20 years
Paul G.	July 7	5 years
Jim A.	July 17	33 years
Jason R.	July 18	2 years
Larry S.	July 23	15 years
Mick L.	July 28	6 years

All anniversaries are published after they have passed in the following month's newsletter.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Saturday, August 11th 8pm

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Dan D.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Monday, August 13th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: TBA

602 W. Green Street, Urbana

Wednesday, August 15th, 7:30pm

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Saturday, August 18th, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Pete S.

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Thursday, August 23rd, 7pm

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Saturday, August 25th, 6pm

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Sunday, August 26th, 8pm

Grapevine Group, Speaker: Kelly C.

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

Monday, August 27th, 8pm

Monday Meeting, Speaker: Lisa W.

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

Friday, August 31st, 8pm

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th Avenues, Charleston

UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 Illinois State Conference Hosted by Area 21 & District 19 August 24-26

"Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital Age"

Highlights Include:

Saturday Morning Meditation Meeting, Sunday Morning Gratitude Meeting, Panel Discussions, Friday Night Karaoke, Alcahons, World Famous Hospitality Room

*Hilton Hotel
700 E. Adams
Springfield, Illinois
217-789-1530*

Room Rate \$99.00

Conference & Banquet \$55.00

Conference Only \$20.00

Saturday Night Ice Cream Social \$5.00

Send check or money order payable to: Illinois State Conference, P.O. Box 9186, Springfield, IL 62791-9186

Speakers: Jack C. (Hagerstown, MD), David F. (Springfield, IL), Phyllis H. (GSO General Manager), Pam R. (Regional Trustee), Kemia S. (Springfield, IL) Al-Anon Speaker

For more information:

Leo S. 217-546-0156, Mary D. 217-753-8366, or
sobersister@gmail.com

CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SOBERFEST Saturday, September 29

*Urbana Civic Center – 108 E. Water St., Urbana, IL
9:00am doors open/registration*

10am: Mindy E., Mattoon, IL (18 years sobriety)

11am-1pm: Lunch

1pm: Don M., Louisville, KY (31 years sobriety)

2:30pm: Eleanor M., Champaign, IL (20 years
Al-Anon)

4pm: Panel "Overcoming Fear"

5:30-7pm: Buffet by Hickory River BBQ

7pm: Grand Raffle

7:30pm: Sandy B., Tampa, FL (47 years sobriety)

Tickets \$20, Mail ticket order and payment to
Soberfest, P.O. Box 88, Paxton, IL 60957
Or to register online using a credit card:
www.illinois-soberfest.com

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR AGAIN THIS YEAR

East Central Region Additional Forum August 10-12

Friday, 7pm to 10pm
Saturday, 9am to 9:45pm
Sunday, 9am to noon

*Holiday Inn and Conference Center
Mt. Vernon, Illinois
222 Potomac Blvd. (I-57 & I-64)*

Room Rate \$79.00 + tax (reservation code AAW)
618-244-7100

Regional Forums are **Free**

Come Meet your General Service Office staff
Grapevine Staff

Trustees and other "Special Workers"

WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS AND SHARING!!

For more information:

aa.org or aug12regforum@gmail.com
or call G.S.O. at 212-870-3400

September SWATluck and Annual Fish & Alligator Fry September 2

The Sunday SWAT meeting invites you to join us for our quarterly potluck and speaker meeting at the Hall at 718 South Randolph Street, Champaign.

SPEAKER: PATRICK H. FROM RANTOUL

ALSO, in conjunction with SWATLUCK, this is the annual FISH FRY,
courtesy of Jimmy and Michael!!

*Fun, Food, & Fellowship! Join us, bring a friend, bring a sponsor or
sponsee, and please bring a dish to share!!!!*

AREA 21 ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY DISTRICT 11 September 9

Taylorville Memorial Hospital
201 East Pleasant Street
Taylorville, IL

Registration 8-9AM
Assembly 9-3PM

\$7.00 for Assembly - \$8.00 for lunch

Saturday Night Speaker Meeting 8pm

Saturday Night Live Group

First Presbyterian Church

116 E. Franklin

HOTELS:

29 West Motel, 709 West Springfield, 217-824-2216
Gas Light Inn, 1420 West Spresser Street., 217-824-4941
Super 8, 400 Abes Way, 217-287-7211

CONTACT ROD K. 217-521-4139

CONTACT RAY K. 217-825-3353