

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

## NEWSLETTER

December, 2012

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

### Thanks for Allowing Us to Serve our Fellowship in District 12

As I sit here in my home on a Sunday afternoon a few days after our blessed Thanksgiving holiday, I feel a freedom from misery, disaster and apologies as were in my previous past of many Thanksgiving holidays and, for that matter, many other holidays. As I enjoyed a dinner with my family and friends at home and around the rooms of Alcoholics Anonymous, I can recreate each conversation and memory I shared with my families and friends, as it is such a gift to remember today, what I could not remember in the yesteryears of Alcoholism and it is such a blessing to have family and friends around to share these precious moments with!

Today I write this article to say **Thanks** for allowing me a few more years of sobriety by serving as your District Committee Chair (DCM) for the last two years. My Sponsor passed away this year in June (with 44 years of Sobriety, RIP Charles Noland) and one of the first things after the Drunken Fog cleared he highly suggested that I get inside of the circle and triangle of AA and get involved in giving back what was so freely offered and given to me inside of the rooms of AA. This was a suggestion I followed without reservation and by the grace of God I have stayed sober ever since I walked into the doors of Alcoholics Anonymous for my very first time. So I give a lot to the words of "Don't Drink, Go To Meetings, Ask for Help, Read the Big Book, Get a Sponsor, and with an emphasis on "Get Involved!" as I have never seen an involved alcoholic drink!

***In saying Thanks; I owe so much to an awesome Committee of District 12*** who have given so much of their time to meet every 3rd Sunday of the Month and report on our Groups throughout our District from Champaign, Charleston, Farmer City, Mattoon, Rantoul, Oakland, Tilton, Tuscola, Urbana, Mahomet, Paxton, Bondville, Danville, Monticello, and Tolono who all came as GSR's, Officers or Committee Chairs with the ***responsibility statement in their hearts*** of keeping the doors open for the next person who is asking for help! We handle every meeting with all egos aside as we knew that we were there ***to serve not to lead***. All our meetings started and ended within the hours of 2 to 3 pm and we did it without any arguments or leaving with resentments as we all understood our ***code of "Love and Tolerance"***. Personally, I did it as outlined in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous (***Doctor Bob's Nightmare pg 181) for four reasons;***

- 1. Sense of duty.***
- 2. It is a pleasure.***
- 3. Because in so doing, I am paying my debt to the man who took time to pass it on to me.***
- 4. Because every time I do it I take out a little more insurance for myself against a possible slip.***

#### In This Issue

- Feature Article:  
Thanks for  
Allowing Us to  
Serve  
Pages 1-2
- AA Trivia  
Page 2
- Anniversaries  
Page 3
- District Highlights  
Page 3
- December  
Calendar  
of Speaker  
Meetings  
Page 3
- Upcoming Events,  
Forums,  
Assemblies, &  
Conferences  
Page 4

*District 12 Officers and  
Committee Chairs*

DCM	John C.
Alternate DCM	Mike G.
Secretary	Kate M.
Treasurer	Steve B.
Corrections	Mike K.
Treatment Facilities	Bill B.
Meeting List	Mona M.
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 20<sup>th</sup> of each  
month.*

And I truly believe in my heart that the entire committee did it for similar or same reasons that I have outlined above and for that ***I am truly grateful to each and every one of you*** and for the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous who trusted us with the task of keeping with our Traditions and Concepts that keep our Groups together.

God has blessed us all and in closing I will share what a good friend shared with me of "Why We Were Chosen:"

GOD in His wisdom selected this group of men and women to be purveyors of His goodness, in selecting them through whom to bring about this phenomenon He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant. He went instead to the humble, to the sick, to the unfortunate. He went right to the drunkard, the so-called weakling of the world. Well might He have said to us; Unto Your weak and feeble hands I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you have been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to scientist or statesmen, not to wives or mothers, not even to my priests or ministers have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics which I have entrusted to you! It must be used unselfishly, it carries with it gave responsibility. No day can be too long; no demands upon your time can be too urgent; no case be too pitiful; not task too hard; no effort too great. It must be used with tolerance, for I have restricted its application to no race, no creed and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common, ridicule will be your lot; your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs toward spiritual perfection and remember, in the exercise of this power I shall not exact from you beyond your capabilities. You are not selected because of exceptional talents and be careful always, if success attends your efforts not to ascribe to personal superiority that to which you can lay claim only by virtue of my gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the power would have been entrusted to the physician and scientist. If I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for the talk is the easiest used of all talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholar men, the world is filled with better qualified men who would be available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world and

your long experience as a drunkard has made or should make you humbly alert to the cries of the distress that come from the lonely hearts of Alcoholics everywhere! Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of your profession in A.A. - Namely that you are powerless and that it was only with willingness to turn your life and will unto my keeping that relief came to you!

***May God bless each and every one of us and  
may our District stay strong under its new  
servants that we have trusted to continue as  
we were once trusted with!***

***Happy, Prosperous, and most of all Sober  
holidays,***

~John C.

***"God Don't let me think that way!"***

**AA TRIVIA**

*November's question: In 1935, Bill W. was in a hotel lobby debating  
whether he should go into the bar or phone an alcoholic. What was the  
name of that hotel?*

*Answer: The Mayflower Hotel*

December's challenge: First Things First, Live and Let Live, Easy Does It.  
These three mottos are found at the end of which chapter in the Big  
Book?

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

**Election results are in for the next 2 years, beginning January, 2013: Kate M. – DCM, Gary S. – Alternate DCM, Rachel D. – Secretary, Steve B. – Treasurer**

Treatment Facilities: Need female volunteers. Creighton C. has stepped up to co-chair with Tim C., so if you are interested in serving at the Prairie Center get with Creighton, 714-1125, and if you are interested in serving at the Pavilion get with Tim C., 493-3482.

Meeting List: Please make your own copies of the mailing list (if your group can afford it) until the updated meeting list is out.

Newsletter: Need a new chair ASAP for the newsletter committee. Call Tammy M. at 390-9551.

Answering Service: There is room for more volunteers on the answering service call list. Contact Sam E. at 493-5659.

Corrections: Always looking for volunteers, call Mike K. 418-6404.

PI-CPC: Correction from last month, Linda B. will continue to be the chairperson and John C. will work with her on the committee.

Grapevine: No news.

Website: Still working on things behind the scenes.

Archives: Get archives materials to Doris A. 714-4425, or Mike W. Get group histories together, especially from old timers; even anything about District, Area, Alano Club, etc.

The Friday Night Fellowship is trying to gather history and would like to plan an anniversary party. Call Rachel D. with any information, personal stories, anything, at 974-5432. There will be a speaker in December.

Meetings: New - Common Solution Group - Tues., 10am, 12&12 study and Thurs., 10am, Open Discussion. Located at Mattoon Common Grounds, 1612 Charleston Ave., Mattoon, IL 61938.

New - Rigorously Honest Group – Wed., 8:30pm, at House and New Hope Group – Sun. 12:00noon at House at 718 S. Randolph, Champaign, closed meetings. The Thursday night 7pm meeting at the House is folding.

NEW ADDRESS FOR AREA TREASURER:  
Area 21 (SIA21), P. O. Box 1182, Danville, IL 61834-1182

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

Laura S.	November 6	14 years
Lisa W.	November 7	15 years
Teri T.	November 8	1 year
Chad H.	November 11	9 years
Kathy S.	November 13	5 years
Patrick H.	November 14	6 years
Marta C.	November 17	5 years
Larry Y.	November 17	1 year
Shelby	November 17	5 years
Shirley S.	November 17	27 years
Mike K.	November 18	5 years
Eric G.	November 18	19 years
Mindy E.	November 19	19 years
Billie C.	November 21	1 year
Steph	November 25	1 year
Rita F.	November 26	7 years
Julie C.	November 27	7 years

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

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Sunday, December 2nd, 12pm*

SWAT Potluck & Speaker: Fred B. (from Kankakee)  
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Saturday, December 8th, 8pm*

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

*Saturday, December 15th, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Terri D.  
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Wednesday, December 19th, 7:30pm*

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA  
Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

*Saturday, December 22nd, 6pm*

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

*Monday, December 24th, 8pm*

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

*Friday, December 28th, 8pm*

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

*Sunday, December 30th, 8pm*

Grapevine Group, Speaker: Neil W.  
Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Fellowship Circle will have the Hall open for Christmas

718 S. Randolph, Champaign

12/24 from the first meeting – 12/25 past the last meeting

For as long as people are at the building to keep it open.

Bring snacks to share.

There are lots of games to play, or bring your own.

### New Year's Eve Dance Monday, December 31st, 8pm

At the Serenity Shack in Rantoul  
117 N. Ohio St.

A fun-filled evening with a DJ, Karaoke and dancing.

Please bring a snack to share.

### Some More of "The Usual Suspects" Men's Retreat February 1-3

*With Burns B. – Louisville, KY and John A. – Dallas, TX  
Inspiration Center in Walworth, WI*

Registration starts at 2:00pm Friday

First Meeting at or about 3:00pm

\$160.00 registration covers 2 nights lodging and 5 meals and retreat master expenses

4 to 5 men to a room; if you would like to room together, send registration forms in same envelope

Mail non-cancelable registration (name, address, city, state, zip, phone, email) with non-refundable check or money order to:

Rick Freund, Treasurer 3709 W. Saint Paul Ave., McHenry, IL 60050-5623

Refreundmail@yahoo.com

For more info contact:

Joe H. (815) 728-1281

George H. (262) 521-2419

### LITTLE BOOK STORE NOTICE

Dear Fellow Members:

The decision has been made concerning our trip to Florida this year.

The final day the actual Book Store will be December 5, 2012.

We are sorry for the indecisiveness concerning our departure date this year.

We plan to be returning the first week in May of 2013.

Please feel free contact Leon 217-377-8950

His hours of service work will be from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Weekdays. He will have a supply of literature and coins.

We wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thanks For your business during the 2012 year!

Best Regards, TJ & Joan L.

### Ugly Christmas Sweater Rave December 14th, 6pm-12am

At the Hall, 718 South Randolph, Champaign

Hosted by C-U ISCYPAA BID

Open speaker 7pm – Tim H. (quad cities)

Rave 8-11:30pm

\$7 at the door for a night of dancing,

2 glow sticks, and a C-U ISCYPAA wristband!!!

Prizes for ugliest Christmas sweaters!!!

### The Journey Continues ....2012 Conference & Alcathon "A Big Book Study" Supported By District 19

**Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27**

*Northfield Inn, Springfield IL*

Registration begins at 3pm, Study starts at 7pm  
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!

#### Registration Fees:

Conference and Sat. Night Banquet: \$45

Conference Only: \$20

#### Featured Big Book

##### Presenters:

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

##### Featured Saturday

Night Speaker:  
Butch M. – Ontario,  
Canada

##### Featured Sunday

Speaker:  
Laurie H. – Oaklawn  
Big Book Group

Saturday and Sunday morning meditation meeting with Pat R. (Decatur, IL) and Dave V. (Springfield, IL).

#### Special Hotel Room Rate for Conference Attendees:

**\$79.00 plus tax**

www.northfieldinn.com

Phone 217-523-7900

Fax 217-523-4666

#### Conference Contacts:

Randy L and Dee L. (ral24lew@gmail.com) 217-638-0158

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