

Illinois Area 21

District 12



## Alcoholics Anonymous

# NEWSLETTER

January, 2013

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

### FEATURED GROUP HISTORY: The Manhattan Group

The first meeting of The Manhattan Group was advertised around the Champaign-Urbana Area with a variety of fliers, a sampling of which still remain in our Home Group files. The message on each of them reads, "**The Manhattan Meeting**; Sunday 8-9 pm; 912 W. Springfield, Urbana; Open; NS; N.Y. Format; Mtg Sec. Jeannie L. XXX-XXXX; Starts Sept. 11, 1994."

The first location was The Campus Crossroads Church near Lincoln and Springfield. Founding group members included Jeannie L., who had attended meetings in Manhattan and wanted to model one after the ones she had attended there, Mike H., Rene K., Christina D., Chris W-H., Beth M-C., Bonnie K., Liz S., Anna M., Mark N., Brian W., Roland L., Greg H., Bob S., Tom B., Tony R., Laurie W., Chuck W., Tom W., Ron S.

The church asked the group to move because they had not realized what language might be used in their building. Apparently some bystanders from the congregation overheard something they considered offensive. The group quickly found a more congenial home at 5<sup>th</sup> and Daniels, McKinley Foundation, up in the back-stage room on the third floor. That was from 1995 until remodeling construction in 2005 forced another move. Our current location is a block farther east at 6<sup>th</sup> and Daniels, in the parlor of the CUCC Church. One of the features of the meeting has been candlelight, and the current facilities allow this attractive atmosphere to continue to function well. We sit in a circle around a coffee table in armchairs and love seats as well as straight-back chairs. With the candlelight it is a very relaxing atmosphere, although there is sometimes competing sound coming from the church space next to us.

The Format follows the original New York Format laid out by the Founding group members. The Secretary begins each meeting with a moment of silence, the Serenity Prayer, the Open Meeting Statement, and the AA Preamble. There is a sign-up sheet for weekly Chairs, who volunteer to speak for ten to fifteen minutes and select a topic for discussion. The assigned Chair for the evening speaks, and then, round robin discussion proceeds to the left of the chair until 8:30pm.

That is followed by the Secretary's break, the passing of the basket, anniversaries, the passing of the sign-up sheet and announcements. Then back to round robin until 8:45pm, when the floor is opened for anyone who wants to speak out of turn. Again at 8:55pm, burning desires are called for before closing at 9pm with the Lord's Prayer. Since we usually only have 10 to 20 people at the meeting, we often hear from most, if not all of the people around the room.

Home Group Members choose service positions for one year of service. These include the Secretary to run the meetings, the Treasurer to deposit and distribute the money collected and the Set-up Person. They serve from July through June. (The GSR and Alternate positions are two-year terms.) The Business meetings are the last Sunday of each month, and disbursements are made at the end of each quarter.

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*District 12 Officers and  
Committee Chairs*

DCM	Kate M.
Alternate DCM	Gary S.
Secretary	Rachel D.
Treasurer	Steve B.
Corrections	Mike K. & Cheryl E.
Treatment Facilities	Tim C. & Creighton
Meeting List	Mona M.
Answering Service	Sam E.
Newsletter	Tammy M.
Grapevine	Andy C.
PI-CPC	Linda B.
Website	Rosemary T.
Archives	Doris A. & Mike W.

*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.*

matter of record that, in 1947, a documentary film entitled, "I Am an Alcoholic," was produced by RKO Pathé. From then on, as Bill would say, the custom just grew.

*(This information was reprinted from the Alcoholics Anonymous World Service website, aa.org.)*

## My Name Is...

### The Origin of the "I am an alcoholic" Introduction

As with the origins of other customs in A.A., this is something of a mystery. However, we came across a Box 4-5-9 article on the subject in the April-May 1987 issue:

"Who was the first to start a meeting or a qualification with the statement, 'I am an alcoholic'? How did the worldwide custom begin? As late co-founder Bill W. used to observe, "Nobody invented A.A., it just grew." And so probably did its classic introduction at meetings.

"Many members ask us these questions," says G.S.O. archivist Frank M. "Unfortunately, only a few of the early-timers are left, and not many of them are able to provide plausible theories. So we can only speculate."

According to an early friend of A.A., the late Henrietta Seiberling, the expression dates back to meetings of A.A.'s forerunner, the Oxford Group Movement, which had its heyday in the early 1930s. Mrs. Seiberling, a nonalcoholic who had sought spiritual help in the Oxford Group meetings, introduced Bill to A.A.'s other founder, Dr. Bob, then struggling to get sober in the Oxford Group.

At small meetings, the members knew one another and didn't need to identify themselves. But in the large, public meetings, where there was 'witnessing' along the lines of an A.A. talk today, personal identification became necessary. Chances are that someone at some time said, 'I am an alcoholic,' but Mrs. Seiberling wasn't sure. Nor did she remember that the phrase was used at early A.A. meetings in Akron before publication of the Big Book. In fact, she said, the word 'alcoholic' was rarely uttered, at least in Akron. People referred to themselves as 'drunks' or 'rum hounds' or 'boozers' or other choice epithets reminiscent of the Temperance Movement that gained adherents during Prohibition.

An early New York A.A. first heard the expression as 'I am an alcoholic and my name is...' According to his recollection, that was after World War II, in 1945 or 1946. And it is a

#### AA TRIVIA

*December's question: First Things First, Live and  
Let Live, Easy Does It.*

*These three mottoes are found at the end of which  
chapter in the Big Book?*

*Answer: Chapter Nine, The Family Afterward*

January's challenge: What was the name of Dr.  
Bob's wife?

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**The Newsletter Committee would like to wish everyone a safe and  
happy New Year!**

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## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The ISCYPAA Bid Committee is requesting support for bidding on a conference to be hosted in Champaign.

The G.S.O. is discussing adding the internet to Tradition 11.

Treatment Facilities: Need female volunteers. If you are interested in serving at the Prairie Center, call Creighton C. at 714-1125, and if you are interested in serving at the Pavilion call Tim C. at 493-3482.

Newsletter: Always service opportunities. Please submit your anniversaries by the 20<sup>th</sup> for the previous month. We are always interested in receiving fresh ideas for articles.

Grapevine: The Grapevine is accepting new stories about fun in sobriety.

Meeting List: NEW MEETING LISTS ARE OUT.

Meetings must be existing or non-existing for 6 months for the change to take place in the meeting list:

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 at 718 S. Randolph, Champaign, is folding.

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

Kyle G.	December 2	1 year
Brandi W.-C.	December 3	2 years

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

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Friday, January 12th, 8pm*

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

*Tuesday, January 15th, 8pm*

Tolono Closed Group,: Mona M.  
104 E. Vine, Tolono (speaker meetings are open)

*Wednesday, January 16th, 7:30pm*

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

*Saturday, January 19th, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Chris J.  
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Thursday, January 24th, 7pm*

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

*Friday, January 25th, 8pm*

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

*Saturday, January 26th, 6pm*

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

*Sunday, January 27th, 8pm*

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

*Monday, January 28th, 8pm*

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS(continued on next page)

### **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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Heart to Heart Women's Retreat February 8-10

*Inspiration Center in Walworth, WI*

With

Deb. H (AA) – New Orleans, LA

Judy K. (AFG) – Las Vegas, NV

Registration Begins 4:00 pm

First Meeting at 7:00 pm

\$160.00 per person (includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals and retreat master expenses).

4 to 5 women to a room; if you would like to room together, please register together (send forms in same envelope. Mail non-cancelable registration check or money order with names of attendees, address, city, state, zip, phone (home and work), email, if you want vegetarian meals and what name you want on your badge to:

Bonnie Swetland, Treasurer  
728 Washington Street  
Woodstock, IL 60098

For more information contact:  
Debbie H. (815) 728-1281  
Suzie H. (815) 690-9724

### 2013 Southern Illinois Area 21 Spring Conference March 1-3

**"The General Service Conference  
Takes Its Inventory – Our Solution in Action."  
12 Steps and Traditions of AA**

*Sheraton Four Points Conference Center  
319 Fountains Parkway  
Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
(12 miles from downtown St. Louis)  
1-888-627-8246*

\$89 per night per person (up to 4 persons per room)

Speakers • AA Steps and Traditions Meetings  
Al-Anon Meetings • Archive Displays  
Hospitality Room • Coffee  
Fellowship • Fun

For more information call:  
Connie S. 618-304-7557  
Paula E. 618-910-0047

### 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](http://www.northfieldinn.com)

Phone 217-523-7900

Fax 217-523-4666

**Conference Contacts:**

Randy L and Dee L. ([ral24lew@gmail.com](mailto:ral24lew@gmail.com)) 217-638-0158

Liz B. ([sobersister@gmail.com](mailto:sobersister@gmail.com)) 217-698-6474

### Southern Illinois Area 21 Assembly Sunday, March 10

Hosted by District 16

At the Floral Hall

Wayne County Fairgrounds,

Fairfield IL

U.S. Route 45 (Main Street)

Registration begins at 7:30am

Complimentary fruit and

donuts

Assembly begins at 9:00 am

Registration - \$5

Lunch - \$10

Rooms have been made available at Briarwood Inn \$79.50 + tax – mention A.A. to get the rate (618) 842-3667 (fax (618) 842-9531) And at the Budget Inn - \$48 + tax (618) 842-2191 (fax (618) 842-9531)

*Saturday, March 9* First United Methodist Church (Corner of Delaware St. & U.S. Route 45), Dessert Table (7:30 pm) & Speaker Meeting (8:00 pm) – Bernie R. from Mt. Vernon

**For more information or directions call "Slim"  
(618) 516-1395 or John (618) 599-1615**