



Illinois Area 21

District 12

# Alcoholics Anonymous

## NEWSLETTER

July, 2012

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

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

### Excerpt from 62<sup>nd</sup> General Conference Report as presented at the Area Assembly

Presented by Fariba M., Delegate Panel 61, Area 21, Southern Illinois

*(The newsletter staff has only reprinted highlights of Fariba's original 18 page report. You may ask your GSR to get the full report for your group or e-mail the newsletter at [newsletter@aa-eci.org](mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org). ". . . . . ." denotes text that has been deleted here.)*

The 62nd general service conference was April 22-28 2012 in Rye New York. The theme of this year's conference was Anonymity: Our Spiritual Responsibility in the Digital age.

The conference is really a year round process but once a year there is a meeting where representatives from US and Canada come together to make decisions that guide the groups and impact AA as a whole.

The week is filled with committee meetings, workshops, presentations, area highlights, sharing sessions, committee reports and trustee elections. Sessions run from morning to evening. In fact the schedule is so full that at the end of the conference I realized I had never left the hotel for the entire 7 days. Each delegate serves on a committee which meets for two days early during the conference (I was on the public information committee) and then bring their recommendation to the whole conference for discussion and voting later in the week. A committee recommendation needs a 2/3 majority vote from the conference for it to pass.

The agenda items for the conference come from individual AA members, groups, area assemblies, trustees, board members or Staff. So if you have an idea for an agenda item you can discuss it with your group and bring it to district and area. But ideas can be submitted directly as well.

As a second year delegate I felt so much more comfortable this year since last year practically every aspect of the conference was new and different.

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#### The make up of the conference:

70.5% - 93 Delegates

Function: Represent AA groups in fulfilling the ultimate responsibility for AA's World Services. Traditionally, Delegates constitute at least two-thirds of the voting membership.

18.9% - 25 Trustees, A.A.W.S. Directors, GV Directors

Function: Responsible for policy and implementation.

10.6% - 14 General Service Office and Grapevine Staff

Function: Carry out policies of and report to General Service Board and Conference.

Every Conference member has not only a vote but a voice; not only a right but a responsibility to express his or her views.

#### In This Issue

- Excerpt from Area 21 Assembly Conference Report Pages 1-3
- AA Trivia Page 3
- Anniversaries Page 3
- July calendar of speaker meetings Page 3
- Upcoming events, forums, assemblies, & conferences Page 4

<i>District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs</i>	
DCM	John C.
Alternate DCM	Mike 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	Rosemary T.
Archives	Doris A.
<i>District 12 holds its meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm in the Fellowship Circle Hall at 718 South Randolph, Champaign.</i>	
<i>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.</i>	

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This year I was emotional on and off realizing that it his was my last time participating in the conference. Also, the process allows everyone to participate and share. I felt impatient at times especially when people’s views are different from mine or when they were longwinded which luckily could never be too too long due to the trustee time keepers and clock. People get 2 minutes at the microphone.

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Sunday morning (4/22/12) 1728 AA meeting

One thing that happens during the conference week is the 1728 open AA meeting. (1728 =12x12x12). This meeting is intended for Class A (nonalcoholic) trustees to attend and learn. I heard this year that Class A trustees have to get service sponsors so they can learn more about AA. The topic at this meeting was tradition 7 and concept 7.

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There was sharing around why only 42% of groups make contribution. Is it related to the groups having GSRs? Are GSRs and DCMs getting information back to the groups? It is our job to educate the groups on what G.S.O. does. There is a 9 page service document that lists all the services are provided called “Services Provided by G.S.O./A.A.W.S.” on AA.org under AA literature, Service material. Please share this information with your groups!

A buck in a basket is an old saying and has become tradition. Newcomers see members putting a dollar in the basket and follow suit. Can we come up with a new saying? A suggestion was, “Put a \$1 in for you and \$1 for the alcoholic who is still suffering.” It is about service to those who haven’t found us yet. It is also about feeling a part of, feeling a connection by contributing.

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Opening session Sunday morning

The conference started with a roll call by Phyllis H – where she called each of the 135 members of the conference, trustees, class A and B, delegates, staff and directors. We each had to stand up and say present. This is a moving experience.

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Two members from the General Service Board of India were attending as observers. Immediately after roll call, a motion was brought to the floor related to the Grapevine trustees committee.

A possible AA tag line for AA was mentioned: “If you think you have a problem with Alcohol, contact AA. It works.”

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Public Service Announcement

- They are still accepting submissions for Young people’s videos
- Many of the PSAs are on the AA.org website
- Many of the AA PSAs are on Youtube
- When PSAs are first created GSO runs them centrally for a year. Beyond that the responsibility to get them shown falls on the local Areas’ public information committees. Also, stations are no longer legally required to play PSAs which puts the burden on the local PI committees to be more vigilant in working with local stations to get the PSAs shown.

Tengo Esperanza!!

One thing that I got to be a part of from start to finish as delegate was the creation of the Spanish PSA “Tengo Esperanza” which means, “I have hope”. An agenda item from our committee last year was to create the Spanish PSA. This year the PSA was created and we got to view it. It depicted a female Hispanic alcoholic going to an AA meeting which was very well received especially due to the stigma around female alcoholics seeking help. This PSA was one of the highlights of the conference and very well received by all.

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FaceBook

First was whether AA should have an information only page on FaceBook with no ability for interaction. This was a tough agenda item. Much much discussion took place about this in the committee. People had exact opposite view points on this.

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Tradition 11

Second tough agenda item for my committee was whether the language of tradition 11 should be updated to include current media.

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Workshop – topic: safety in AA

1. How can we make our Home Group a welcoming and accessible place?
2. How can sponsorship aid in keeping our A.A. meetings safe?
3. In keeping with Traditions, how would/does my group address matters that may arise, such as: Conduct that disrupts the meeting, illegal activity, inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable new members (“13 stepping”), Emergencies (injury/accident/etc.)

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Saturday 4/28/2012 11:00

Those who could took a trip to Stepping Stones, the home of Bill and Lois in their later years. During this trip I got it that Bill was our founder! I felt a personal connection with him for the first time. I was especially touched to see his writings and the place where he sat to write our books.

In the chapter There Is a Solution, the Big Book talks about: We are people who normally would not mix. But there exists among us a fellowship, a friendliness and a an understanding which is indescribably wonderful. We are like the passengers of a great liner the moment after rescue from shipwreck when camaraderie, joyousness and democracy pervade the vessel... The tremendous fact for every one of us is that we have discovered a common solution. This was one more experience of sharing a common solution for me.

I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your delegate.

**AA TRIVIA**

June's question: The one millionth copy of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous was given to whom?

Answer: Richard Nixon (source – [www.cybriety.org](http://www.cybriety.org))

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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Tyrone S.	June 1	3 years
Gary P.	June 1	4 years
Gene C.	June 1	24 years
Kathy C.	June 2	24 years
Steve B.	June 9	6 years
Jimmy W.	June 11	26 years
Robin H.	June 12	20 years
Kent W.	June 12	13 years
Tadd O.	June 19	6 years
Bill S.	June 25	18 years

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

**SPEAKER MEETINGS**

*Monday, July 9th, 8pm*

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

*Saturday, July 14th 8pm*

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

*Tuesday, July 17th, 8pm*

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: Ron O.  
104 E. Vine, Tolono

*Wednesday, July 18th, 7:30pm*

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

*Saturday, July 21st 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Rich R.  
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Monday, July 23rd, 8pm*

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

*Thursday, July 26th, 7pm*

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

*Friday, July 27th, 8pm*

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

*Saturday, July 28th, 6pm*

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

*Sunday, July 29th, 8pm*

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

## 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

### 4th of July Celebration at Fellowship Circle

Fellowship Circle is having their annual 4th of July cookout. Bring a side dish and join us Wednesday, July 4th for food and fellowship.

The cookout starts after the Noon meetings at 1:30pm.

All 12 steppers and their families are invited.



### Tuesday Night Newcomers' Meeting Annual Summer Picnic & Speaker Meeting July 28th, 3-8pm

*Ambucs Park Pavilion, East University Avenue, Urbana*

The pavilion will be open at 3 p.m. Serving will begin at 4:30. There will be a raffle at 6:30, followed by a speaker meeting at 7 pm, featuring Tara M. from Champaign.

Pork chops, hotdogs, burgers, drinks and table service will be provided.

Bring a side dish to share if you wish. Everyone's welcome ... hope to see you there!

### 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](http://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](http://aa.org) or [aug12regforum@gmail.com](mailto:aug12regforum@gmail.com)

or call G.S.O. at 212-870-3400