



East Central Illinois
District 12
AA Newsletter
May 2008



Tradition Five

Each group has but one primary purpose-to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. Do I ever cop out by saying, "I'm not a group, so this or that Tradition doesn't apply to me"?
2. Am I willing to explain firmly to a newcomer the limitations of AA help, even if he gets mad at me for not giving him a loan?
3. Have I today imposed on any AA member for a special favor or consideration simply because I am a fellow alcoholic?
4. Am I willing to twelfth-step the next newcomer without regard to who or what is in it for me?
5. Do I help my group in every way I can to fulfill our primary purpose?
6. Do I remember that AA old-timers, too, can be alcoholics who still suffer? Do I try both to help them and to learn from them?

District 12
Little Book Store
515 Bonnymeade Dr.
Champaign, IL 61821-3490
217-359-3457

District 12 is HOSTING

THE **2009** AREA 21 SPRING CONFERENCE

**C-U, Rantoul, Monticello, Mattoon,
Charleston, Tuscola,...**

Opportunity to serve Call 217-417-6959

Little Bump in the Road

We have written our 'fearless and thorough' moral inventory of ourselves. We may feel anxious. We have stared truth in the eye and have been granted the courage to act in the face of fear and despair. What do we do now?

The Fifth Step: "We admitted to God, ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs".

There are three clear aspects of this step. First, we go to the God of our understanding transparent as never before. We bring all of what we are at the time to our relationship with God. Maybe for the first time we realize God accepts us just as we are at that very moment. Secondly, we sit with ourselves and realize who and what we are. Until we accept who and what we are, we will not be able to become the person God wants us to be. Self-acceptance and self-forgiveness is ours for the asking. Thirdly, we seek out the other human being who will be the first to be introduced to the real us. This is a cautious endeavor. This is the speed bump that causes us to pause. We don't stop but deliberately proceed down the road. This person is usually our sponsor. He/she is the person who needs to know us, so they can suggest the best course of action to help us become the person we were meant to be by our Creator.

While we may have been honest in our inventory, it is through this interaction with another person that we get feedback that helps us determine the "exact nature" of our wrongs. We find that it may not be our actions that are the crux of the problems we have had, but the attitudes and beliefs that led us to those actions. Unless we understand the underlying beliefs in our alcoholic pattern of behavior, the same attitudes and beliefs will continue to warp our lives and the lives of those about us, even in recovery. Remember, "Some of us tried to hold onto our old ideas and the result was nil until we let go absolutely". Til we know the exact nature of our wrongs and how these patterns were used to protect us, we can't let go; or, develop new and healthier responses to reality.

At this point, we are carrying a lot of baggage. However, we are not carrying the load alone. We are approaching a bridge on the Road of Happy Destiny, with our sponsor and fellow AA's, which will allow us to find ways of discarding the

attitudes, beliefs and behaviors, which caused the wreckage in our lives. Now that we have defined and described our past life, as we lived it in the 'dark world of alcoholism', we are prepared to cross the bridge into a new life of responsibility, reconciliation, action that will bring us to the happiness, joy and freedom which we have been seeking all along. The vision will come into focus. We will see 'a design for living that really works'! - Anonymous

SPEAKER MEETINGS / EVENTS

Saturday 5/10/08

**AS BILL SEES IT Speaker Mike J,
8pm HALL (every 2nd Saturday)**

Monday 5/12/08

Celler Dwellers Speaker 8pm Jim E.

Saturday 5/17/08

**Joy of Living Group "Spring Fling" 2pm til?
Live Music, Bonfire, Cookout**

Robert "Chili" E. 8pm

**Serenity Shack Speaker- 8pm John T.
SHACK (every 3rd Saturday)**

Sunday 5/18/08

District 12 Traditions Panel-10am HALL

**District 12 Business Meeting-2pm HALL
(every 3rd Sunday)**

**Our Area 21 GSC Delegate Hugh
N. reporting on May 2008
conference!!!!**

**2009 SI Area 21 Spring Conf Planning
Mtg.-3pm HALL**

Thursday 5/22/08

**HOW group Speaker "Big" Jim P.
8pm HALL (every 4th Thursday)**

Monday 5/26/08

**Memorial Day Picnic - Ambucs Park
Sandra M. & Jim A.**

Friday 5/30/08 thru 6/2/08

**Annual Rantoul "Frostbite" Campout
Middlefork Forest Preserve**

Sunday 6/8/08

Area 21 Assembly - Danville

**HALL = 718 s. Randolph, Champaign, IL
SHACK = 117 N. Ohio St., Rantoul, IL**

BNA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 2 March/April 2008

The purpose of the BNA newsletter is to help unify our fellowship, provide opportunities for service, and encourage active recovery in our community. We hope to accomplish this by providing comprehensive announcements, informative articles, and submissions from individual members of Alcoholics Anonymous. We believe that by strengthening communication within our fellowship we will be able to more effectively carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

District 12 meeting notes 4-20-2008

Open:

- serenity prayer
- long form 12 traditions
- introductions, recognize visitors
 - Pat, Jim

•Committee Reports

- Traditions workshop* - Jim A (unofficial rep)
 - no announcement for mtg, no one w/ key to open, small group had coffee together
- Secretary* - Erich (stunt doubling for Karima)
 - Thank Amy R for helping last week.
- Treasurer* - John O
 - started with \$5301.47
 - ended with \$5043.23 (\$1443.23 over prudent reserve)
 - income \$360, expenses \$618.24
- Corrections* - Jason
 - Lots of people volunteering and showing up
 - looking for contacts for other counties (not Champaign), too much focus here

- slightly low on books, but literature is good
- between donations and budget doing ok for this month, probably low next

•Treatment Facilities - No rep

- Mtg List/Answering service* - Paul (for kevin)
 - Answering service doing well, nothing major
 - meeting list -- new one is available. changes incorporated, but forgot to update "current date"
 - has been distributed, more available as needed
 - will provide an electronic copy for website

•Newsletter - Julie N

- Needs more folks to help.
 - needs money for printing
 - spotlight on home groups pt 1 went well, 4 contributed. more contributions please!
 - especially the new groups!
 - should be a couple of paragraphs, not tons of room, just a blurb
 - working with Matt on getting it to Matt in the right format.
- Grapevine* - Doug B.
 - No Rep
- PI-CPC* - Toby
 - got literature from previous rep
 - Toby would like to abdicate, since he feels he "bit off more than he can chew"
 - Looking for new rep
 - job is give out literature for schools, libraries, etc not covered by another committee (no corrections or treatment)
 - Materials etc are ready and available for next person
 - please pass the word to home groups
 - thanks to Toby for filling in
- Literature* - TJ
 - sales were average
 - new catalog available next month
 - see report
- Website* - Matt
 - added stuff to ease transition @ rotation time
 - events database has an entry point (no nerdery required)
 - admin account for editing
 - news functionality
 - rotation in Jan
- Archives* - Stan
 - No Rep - report via Gil
 - getting pictures of meeting sites
 - getting cds for library
 - going pretty well
- 2008 Area Assembly* - Melanie G
 - dates set
 - picked a hotel (St Mary's Road and 1st St)
 - contract next week
 - budgeting
 - 4-27 (2pm) mtg for budget in Hall
 - 5-18 mtg in garage, w/ theme, topics (for panels and workshops) et (3 pm)
 - policy reps from area will be present also
 - reps from area were present at last mtg
 - now have several new chairs (hospitality, program director, etc)
- will need LOTS of help when as time draws near
- GSR Reports**
 - Tues Night Newcomers - Tony
 - Doing well, steady attendance
- Shoulder to Shoulder, Mattoon - Kendra
 - attendance up, 100 people at spk mtg (1st sat of the month)
 - Jeff J is the May speaker
 - pizza afterwards
 - May 30th recovery day!
 - church isn't loaning van for rides anymore
- HOW - Creighton
 - spkr this month (4-24) Carol W
 - attendance good
- Joy of Living - Julie N
 - spring fling on 5-18
 - pot-luck (maybe provide meat)
 - 2nd annual - at Jeff H's house
 - otherwise pretty good
- Noon Bird - Jason
 - Going well, next biz mtg 4-26
- Manhattan Group - Bob
 - need ppl for chairing
 - need someone for treasurer
 - low attendance, but still decent
- Great Fact Group - Leigh
 - nothing much to report
 - self supporting
 - next biz mtg 4-23
 - steady attendance 10-15 ppl
- Los responsables - Hector
 - sort of low right now
 - Wont change to bi-lingual, providing a service for people underrepresented
 - keeping doors open, paying rent
- Flames -
 - now a group
 - regular attendance up
- Kurt trying to make it grp, starting a biz mtg, lots of interest
 - May 2nd biz meeting (will be 1st Fri. of the

month)

•SWAT - Erich H

- Attendance great
- looking to disburse AGAIN!
- Memorial day picnic
- spkr (Ian G)

•**Old Business**

- Traditions panel
 - low attendance, possible conflicting with the Saturday traditions meeting
- Alcathon
 - responses from 6 groups, all are in favor
 - now going to write an article for the newsletter, call for planning committee
 - still working out when would be a good time for it.
 - talk to Dan D if you want to participate

•**New Business**

- Rotations coming in Jan, start thinking about replacements for committees.
 - Regime change starts at district.
 - Promote to your groups!
 - many chairs coming up.
 - open for all rotations
 - do we want a whole group change, or phase it in
 - probably want to do it sooner than Dec!

•**Adjourn**

•**Other notes:**

- please get notes to Matt and Julie about events
- send flyers to Gil for printing!