



# East Central Illinois AA District 12 Newsletter

October 2007



## District 12 Service

Anybody reading this already knows that I am having problems getting this newsletter out on time (or at all). I apologize to all who have been disappointed in the newsletter. I am writing this in hopes of making a CHANGE for the better.

☺ I NEED HELP!!! ☺

I need to recruit LOTS of people from all over District 12 to make contributions. I know I sure do better with smaller short term commitments. Here are some of them:

- District 12 Monthly Update
- Step of the Month
- Tradition of the Month
- Concept of the Month
- Calendar Updates
- Service OPPORTUNITY Alerts
- “Your group’s name here”(history, etc.)
- AA Conference/Event Report (let us know how it was, what you learned, etc.)
- Funny AA stuff (cartoons, jokes, etc.)

If you find, hear or run across a great story to do with a Step, Tradition, or Concept, or anything AA shoot it to me in an e-mail : newsletter @eci-org or just hand it to me when you see me. I have scanner issues also ☺ - Julie N.

## AREA 21 ASSEMBLY

Hosted by District 6 East Peoria  
12/02/07

All District 12 GSR’s are encouraged to attend. Arrange to ride with others planning to attend, at the **District 12 meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>**

Most of us have heard the motto, “Don’t leave before the miracle happens”. We go to meetings. We get a sponsor. We follow suggestions regarding the 12 Steps. We wait for the miracle. And we wait. All that happens is that life goes on.

We experience some relief from our terrible compulsion to drink. We begin to put the pieces of our lives back together. Through practice, we become useful members of our groups, our families, our communities. We have a spiritual awakening that allows us to see, think and feel differently about ourselves, others, and God. We keep going to meetings because we were told not to leave before the miracle happens.

What miracle are we waiting for? We are waiting for a life free of frustration, disappointment, pain and sorrow. We are waiting for a life of serenity, reward for our effort, security and good feelings. Yet, life keeps happening. Finances are strained. Family members get sick, die or leave us. We think “When is the miracle going to happen?”

If you didn’t drink today, the miracle has already happened. If you are an alcoholic and didn’t drink today, it is only by the grace of God. It is now time to celebrate this miracle. How? We go to meetings to stay sober and help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. We practice the principles of AA in all our affairs on daily basis. We accept life as it comes, sometimes with joy and sometimes with sadness. We live the lives God gives us to the best of our ability.

Ages ago, it was reported that “the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk!” These were called miracles. If an alcoholic doesn’t drink today, it is no less a miracle. Look around you in AA. Do you see all the miracles? You are one of them, if you didn’t drink today. It is still, truly, the Age of Miracles. Celebrate your sober life! Love and serve others. Allow others to love and serve you. –anonymous

**\*\*\*\*ATTENTION\*\*\*\***

**C-U IS HOSTING  
THE 2009 AREA SPRING CONFERENCE  
FIRST MEETING NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 2PM A  
718 S. RANDOLPH, CHAMPAIGN**

## Truly Happy & Free

I began with one mtg-emptying ash trays & making coffee, which I chose to be my home group, then was

sec. for 2 yrs., keeping notes at bus. mtg.-rain or shine, even thru strain of ending a relationship. My 1<sup>st</sup> sponsor drove me to that meeting & she was treas. She met with me weekly for 18 mos. sobriety & instilled in me a sense of accountability & then responsibility to be of service to AA.

At 2 yrs. Sober, I did AA orientation & Bridge the Gap, I made an enduring close relationship with a fellow AA there & got to share my experience, strength, and hope of how AA saved my life. The mtg. was rescheduled at 4 yrs. Sober. I also worked on the PI/CPC committee early in sobriety – I studied the Traditions & guidelines for this committee. The committee met in the old Alano Club-the one that burned down-& through much havoc & personality disputes, I was unable to put principles before personalities & resigned.

Today I sponsor and regularly attend & serve as sec. & treas. my home group, the same group I got sober with 12 yrs. ago.

These experiences have shown me that no matter what is going on in me, these commitments have kept me connected to AA & helped me stay responsible. They have given me long term relationships with some sober AA members, helped me remember where I've been, & shown me what can get me in trouble. I have learned there is a much greater cause than how I feel about something.

Sometimes I have stayed in a position longer than I should have simply because I thought it shouldn't be left vacant & sometimes I have to let go & let it remain vacant.

One thing I do know: nothing happens in God's world by accident. When the time allows, I think of what I should be doing to carry the message somewhere else.

Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out from AA, I am responsible to be there. I owe AA so much, & I will never be done paying off this debt of gratitude.

I would also like to mention the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Mtg of the General Service Conference of AA final report. Our GSR brought this back from Area Assembly. Although I've only made a small dent in reading its contents, I have found the most spiritual reading, reaching my heart, that I have found in a long time.

This is an example:

“AA is not a parking garage where we get sober, find a comfortable spot in that garage to sit, relax and idle,

waving some encouragement to the occasional passerby, offering a little fellowship, while avoiding sharing the uncomfortable facts about our shared disease, fearing the opinions of others (with that old defect of “people pleasing”), while stuck in our own section & level. Perhaps I sometimes forget for the moment that we have a primary purpose, as a Fellowship and as individuals, to help one another.....Am I forgetting my responsibility, passing it off on to others, those in service positions, or even outside professionals, while I sit in the garage waving, patting those I can reach on the head, instead of honestly sharing with them about my alcoholism & how it played me? “Who will speak our word to them” if we don't?”

Finally, whether in a formal service position or not, what am I doing today to carry the message & to help carry the load to ensure that AA will always be there? I know I cannot only pray, attend mtgs, & meet with my sponsor. I need to carry this message in many forums, if I want to be truly happy & free. -anonymous

## Traditions Checklist

*From the AA Grapevine*

### Tradition Eleven

Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

1. Do I sometimes promote AA so fanatically that I make it seem unattractive?
2. Am I always careful to keep the confidences reposed in me as an AA member?
3. Am I careful about throwing AA names around-even within the Fellowship?
4. Am I ashamed of being a recovered, or recovering, alcoholic?
5. What would AA be like if we were not guided by the ideas in Tradition Eleven? Where would I be?
6. Is my AA sobriety attractive enough that a sick drunk would want such a quality for himself?

## Ham on Wry

AT AN ELEVENTH STEP MEETING the speaker was sharing about his acquired habit of praying constantly throughout the day, when a grizzled old-timer muttered, "Why not just do it once, and mean it?" [January 1996](#) Vol. 52 No. 8

Copyright ©1944-2007 The AA Grapevine, Inc.  
All rights reserved. Reprints by permission only



"And now let's hear from Hal Swinton, who will tell us all about AA!"

## SPEAKER MEETINGS / EVENTS

RANTOUL – Games / Pizza night 6:30 - ?  
 RANTOUL – *Tony C.* – November 17<sup>th</sup> 8pm  
 H.O.W. – *Bill S.* – November 30<sup>th</sup> 8pm , this is  
 also the for the H.O.W. group anniversary  
 celebration 6pm, food & fellowship before the  
 speaker.  
 RANTOUL – Decorate the Shack 6pm-? 11/30

## THANKSGIVING

718 S. Randolph, Champaign

Fellowship Circle will be celebrating this holiday with a feast. Details are yet to be announced. Gil, our DCM, has volunteered to oversee the goings on.... The Hall will be open Thursday thru Sunday from 6:30am to Midnight—as long as the time slots are covered by volunteers. Sign up sheets/posters will be posted at Fellowship Circle.

You can you spare an hour or two to make sure the coffee is made & the doors are open for AA's who need/want the fellowship during this often difficult season.

Good example of GRATITUDE PUT INTO ACTION maybe?



"They won't tell me who they are, but they say you called for help."

## *Anonymity Preserved*

Some time ago, the Canyon Club in Laguna Beach, Calif., which housed most of the meetings in that city, was destroyed by fire. The groups were temporarily without a meeting place.

One AA family stepped into the breach by starting a meeting in its home, a three-level structure on the side of a hill, with a long and steep outside staircase extending from the street to the main floor.

On the occasion of my first visit there, I was uncertain as to which house on the road was the right one--until I noticed a neat sign fastened to the post at the foot of the stairway. It read, simply: "**THESE ARE THE STEPS WE TOOK.**"

[November 1968](#)

Vol. 25 No. 6

Copyright ©1944-2007 The AA Grapevine, Inc.

All rights reserved. Reprints by permission only.

## *Distilled Spirits*

The AA program is not about religion, but it does involve a relationship--the one between my Higher Power and I. All good relationships are based on strong communication, both parties involved verbally with one another. **Step Eleven** affords me the opportunity to do my end of the sharing with the Higher Power, and the rooms of AA are where he gets the chance to share back with me.

Copyright ©1944-2007 The AA Grapevine, Inc.

All rights reserved. Reprints by permission only.