

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

November, 2012

www.aa-eci.org

FEATURED GROUP HISTORY: The Oasis Group

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In the past few months District 12's Archives Committee has been working on collecting individual group histories. Some groups have found this an enjoyable way to learn about how it got started and about changes over time. It is also an important part of building historical information about AA in our community. The following is a brief history of The Oasis Group that was thoughtfully provided by John M., Bill P. and Tim J.

The Oasis group was started sometime in 2002 to serve recovering alcoholics on campus. Like most new meetings it took a bit of time to take off. Founders and original members include Bill P., Tom E. (aka "little Tom"), Rod, Robert R., Spencer B., Tim J. and John M. Bill secured the meeting space at St. Andrew's Lutheran Campus Center. Rod and Tim wrote the format. From the start it has been a closed, twice a week noon meeting, although the days moved around some in the beginning. At one point Mike D. added a third meeting on Sunday at 6pm, which lasted maybe year. Initially Oasis used a "round robin" format, but this has changed over the years.

Humorously, some of the members originally wanted to name the meeting "The Young and the Restless Group," but Rod warned that this name had the capability to cause controversy and was changed to the Noon Oasis Group. Oasis was chosen with the concept that the meeting provided an oasis in the midst of the hustle and bustle of campus.

Oasis has always met at the same location, normally in the small "sun" room on the 1st floor, with occasional forays into a meeting room in the basement. A 50-minute meeting on Tuesday and Fridays was thoughtfully picked to accommodate student class schedules, and has worked well for those on a regular lunch hour from their jobs.

Ten years later the group continues to offer an "oasis" on campus during the day, attracting students, university staff and people from the community. For the past several years it has been a general discussion meeting with a reading from The Daily Reflection. Every so often members continue their fellowship by meeting for lunch across the street at the Newman Center.

The Archive Committee would appreciate having your group complete a brief "group history" form and providing additional narrative history if you would like. Let us know if you would like your group's history featured in the news letter. Contact Doris A at 714-4425 or dorisandrechak@yahoo.com.

*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 20th of each
month.*

When is Breaking Your Anonymity Not an Anonymity Break?

Q. "We have a member who moved here from somewhere else and he is using his last name in meetings."

A. A.A. co-founder Bill W. wrote in *The Language of the Heart* (p. 15) that "It should be the privilege of each individual A.A. to cloak himself with as much personal anonymity as he desires. His fellow A.A.s should respect his wishes and help guard whatever status he wants to assume."

In fact, the author of an article in the February 1969 Grapevine magazine attributed the following to A.A.'s other co-founder, Dr. Bob, regarding personal anonymity and the Eleventh Tradition: "Since our Tradition on anonymity designates the exact level where the line should be held, it must be obvious to everyone who can read and understand the English language that to maintain anonymity at any other level is definitely a violation of this Tradition. The A.A. who hides his identity from his fellow A.A. by using only a given name violates the Tradition just as much as the A.A. who permits his name to appear in the press in connection with matters pertaining to A.A. The former is maintaining his anonymity *above* the level of press, radio, and films, and the latter is maintaining his anonymity *below* the level of press, radio, and films." (*Dr. Bob and the Good Oldtimers*, pp. 264-65)

Q. "I saw an ad in the paper for an A.A. group. It told where the group was meeting and everything. Shouldn't you contact that group about breaking their anonymity at the public level?"

A. "Suppose a sick alcoholic never has the good fortune to meet an A.A. How is such a person going to find us? The search will be difficult if the local group thinks it should be anonymous, too. The (Eleventh) Tradition is talking about '*personal* anonymity,' remember? Alcoholics will not be attracted to A.A. if they don't know that it exists...." ("The Twelve Traditions Illustrated")

~Excerpt from Box 459, Fall 2012

Quote of the Month: One Fellowship – Many Faiths

As a society we must never become so vain as to suppose that we are authors and inventors of a new religion. We will humbly reflect that every one of AA's principles has been borrowed from ancient sources.

~Grapevine, January 1980, p. 11

AA TRIVIA

October's question: What magazine broke the first big news story about Alcoholics Anonymous?

Answer: *The Saturday Evening Post*

November's challenge: 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?



The 500 pound telephone.

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Correction to last month's results from Area officer elections are Paula is Area Alternate Delegate, and Becky is Area Delegate.

District has created names submitted for the groups to send in their vote via their GSR's on the following potential officers for district. The following names are submitted and the District accepted to allow your groups to vote for the person and the position your group feels they best suit.

Open positions are DCM and Alt DCM and names submitted to date are; Kate M., Jeff H., and Gary S. For Treasurer we have; Steve B. The Secretary position is open with no candidates as of date.

Please bring your vote to our November 18th meeting and any other names or candidates who can be nominated from the floor.

Secretary duties: take notes during district meetings, type written report, send electronic copy to District 12 email list, make paper copies at Kinko's (cost is reimbursed), and maintain District 12 email list.

Treatment Facilities: Tim C. is a new co-chair.

Corrections: Need women volunteers, call Mike K. at 418-6404.

Archives: Still needs volunteers. Time to contribute should only be a couple of hours of commitment. Please contact Doris A. at 714-4425. GSRs, get your group history forms in.

Meeting Lists: Should be updated for November.

Website: Waiting on development of new code.

Newsletter: Always room on the committee for ideas and help with typing articles. **The chair position is available.** With the amazing involvement of the committee, there is mainly only organization, coordination, communication, and some typing involved (Some articles, Anniversaries and District Highlights). Even that amount of typing could be portioned out with a couple more volunteers on the amazing committee. District attendance is highly recommended but co-chair positions could make that easier.

Answering Service: Sam E. will be the new chairperson.

Grapevine: NEW 'Young & Sober' a collection of Grapevine stories, written by A.A. members who got sober in their teens, 20s and 30s, present the joys and challenges of getting sober at an early age. Order online at aagrapevine.org.

PI-CPC: John C. will be the new chairperson.

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!)

Dennis O.	October 5	12 years
Casey H.	October 8	9 years
Ariel R.	October 11	3 years
Jill K.	October 14	11 years
Jean H.	October 15	9 years
Annie S.	October 16	1 year
Pat S.	October 30	26 years
Kelly A.	October 31	9 years

Missed anniversary from last month:

Jaclyn S.	September 25	1 year
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All anniversaries are published after they have passed in the following month's newsletter.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Saturday, November 10th, 8pm

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

Sunday, November 11th, 12pm

SWAT Special Extra Speaker Meeting: Diane W. (30+ years)
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Thursday, November 15th, 7pm

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

Saturday, November 17th, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Linda Z.
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Tuesday, November 20th, 8pm

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: Dan K. (from Monticello)
104 E. Vine, Tolono (Speaker meetings are open)

Wednesday, November 21st, 7:30pm

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

Saturday, November 24th, 6pm

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

Sunday, November 25th, 8pm

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

Monday, November 26th, 8pm

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

Friday, November 30th, 8pm

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kankakee Area Mini-Conference "Into Action" Saturday, November 3

Civic Auditorium
803 S. 8th Street
Kankakee, IL 60901
(next to Governor Small Memorial Park)

8:00 am registration
9:00 am program begins
4:00 pm program ends

AA speaker: Lyle P. – Atlanta, GA
AI-Anon Speaker: Dolores O – Oak Lawn, IL

Plus other speakers, Sobriety Countdown, Door Prizes,
Fund Raisers

Tickets: \$10 (includes lunch, coffee, and refreshments)

For more info contact:
Lisa M. (815) 791-3896 or Kimberly Y. (815) 212-6244

A Blueprint For Recovery ~The AA Big Book~ District 11 cordially invites you to the 26th Annual Fall Mini-Conference Saturday, November 10

Wahlert High School
2005 Kane Street
Dubuque, IA

Registration begins at 9:00 am.
\$3.00 entrance, \$6.00 banquet
Bring dessert or side dish to share.

Panels sponsored by District 11, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin

10:30 am.: Speaker – Ericka M. (Cedar Rapids, IA)

11:45 am.: Lunch (sponsored by Alateen)

Afternoon speaker: Marla M. (Cedar Rapids, IA)

6:00 pm.: Banquet

Evening Speaker: Mike M. (Cedar Rapids, IA)

Raffle following the speaker

Great Food, Fun and Prizes!

For more information contact:
Marc R. (Co-Chair) 563-543-3218
Joe G. (Co-Chair) 563-584-9600

SIA Area Assembly Hosted by District 10 December 2

Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 99 Hall
Veterans Pkwy & East Oakland Ave.
406 Eldorado Rd. Bloomington, IL

Registration begins at 7:30 am
Assembly begins at 9 am
Registration is \$3.00, Lunch is \$7.00

Rooms are available at Eastland Suites Hotel
1801 Eastland Dr. for \$89.00 if reserved before 11-10-12

Saturday night, Dec. 1st – potluck dinner hosted
by District 10 at 7:00pm
followed by a speaker meeting hosted by
the "How Group" at 8:00pm,
in the Cedar Lake Fellowship Hall, 401 East Empire St.,
Bloomington, IL

23rd Annual McHenry's Soberfest "We Have a Way Out" November 16-18

Grand Geneva Resort
Lake Geneva, WI

AA Conference – Banquet – Dance – Alcahons
Panels – Step Workshop – Literature – Archives – Meditation
Room

AI Anon Speakers

Judy K. – Reno, NV
Dawn C. – Chicago, IL
Alateen Speaker
Sara H. – McHenry, IL

AA Speakers

Jennifer K. – Plano, TX
Nancy N. – Tujunga, CA
Peter M. – Union, NJ
Jack C. – Hagerstown, MD

Registration Required:
www.soberfest.com

	AA/AIAnon	Alateen
Complete Conference w/Sat. night banquet	\$60	----
Conference only (including sessions and dance)	\$27	\$20
Saturday Night Pizza Party w/Conference	----	\$45

On site registration opens at 2:00 pm., Friday, November 16, 2012

For additional information contact:

AA – Michael K. (815) 477-1869 or Alan C. (847) 428-8264
AI-Anon: Judy M. (815) 353-9722 Alateen: Nancy O. (847) 226-2611



NOTICE

The Little Book Store
will be OPEN through November and
most of December.

We will send notice of our last day of
business later in December.
We will reopen April 15, 2013.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year!
Thanks for your business during 2012!

Don't forget to stock up!
Call ahead at 217-377-5840
Store Hours: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm seven days a week.
Sincerely, TJ & Joan Lund