



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

October, 2012

www.aa-eci.org

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

Soberfest Beginnings

Soberfest got started as a function of the newly formed intergroup in Champaign-Urbana, as a way to better carry the message. There had been an influx of young people to the program, going to college and looking for activities to help them stay sober. About that time, Ron S. moved to Champaign-Urbana from St. Louis, bringing some sobriety with him. Where he'd come from, there had been a Soberfest in the fall, around the same time as the Octoberfests, with all their beer drinking. Soberfest offered a good sober alternative in St. Louis and he wanted the same opportunity for fellowship in Champaign-Urbana.

The first Soberfest in Champaign-Urbana was in 1991, and Dr. Paul Ohliger (Laguna Niguel, CA) was the Saturday night speaker of the two day event. Dr. Paul O. (who passed away in 2000) wrote the story in the 3rd edition of the Big Book called, "Doctor, Alcoholic, Addict." Over the years, the part of the story that says, "Acceptance is the answer to all my problems," has been so often quoted in the fellowship, that his story is now called, "Acceptance is the Answer," in the 4th edition. His wife, Max, was the Alanon speaker that year. He also writes about Max in his story (Maxine passed away in 2001). Dr. Paul O. was purposefully chosen to speak as someone who was a living example and whose story was published in the Big Book.

In 1992, John A. (Norwegian John) gave the AA lead on Saturday; his wife, Karin A. was the Alanon speaker. They were brought in from Laguna Beach, CA. Dick M. and Jim B. (both from Bellevue, NE) and Karen G. (Venice, CA) also spoke at the event.

In 1993, Clancy I. was the main Soberfest speaker, from the Pacific group in California. We had a number of recovering folks in Champaign-Urbana at the time who were "descendants" of Clancy I. Either they were sponsored by Clancy, or their sponsors were sponsored by Clancy. Precious Patti from Chicago also spoke in 1993, and Arbutus O. (Brownwood, TX) gave a powerful Alanon lead.

In early sobriety, Mike H. was asked to run out to the store to get some pop for the Soberfest dance. "How much should I get?" asked Mike. "Three cases," came the reply. Mike looked around at the crowd and said, "Three cases will never last for this crowd!" He had to be reminded, "It's not beer, Mike, it's pop! (We don't drink it like we did beer)".

Jeannie's favorite story is about the year she was Chair of Soberfest, but didn't have the money to attend the banquet. As it got close to dinner time, someone anonymously paid her way into the banquet. "We do the same for others, today," said

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District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

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.

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.

Jeannie. "Pay it forward. Donate an entry fee. Leave a ticket at the desk for a newcomer. Feels good. Soberfest helped teach me that."

We're grateful for all the trusted servants it's taken over the years to put on Soberfest. We still attend the event when we can. Going to Soberfest is like going home.

~ Jeannie and Mike H. (both got sober in Champaign-Urbana; now living in Brookville, IN, near Cinti, OH)

~ with help from Ron S. (who got sober in St. Louis; now living in Indianapolis, IN)

Note: Jeannie, Mike H. & Ron S. are now all active members of Area 23 in Indiana.

"An Unsuspected Inner Resource"

"with few exceptions, our members find that they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource which they presently identify with their own conception of a Power greater than themselves."

~Alcoholics Anonymous, pages 569-570

From my first days in AA, as I struggled for sobriety, I found hope in these words from our founders. I often pondered the phrase: "they have tapped an unsuspected inner resource." How, I asked myself, can I find the Power within myself, since I am so powerless? In time, as the founders promised, it came to me: I have always had the choice between goodness and evil, between unselfishness and selfishness, between serenity and fear. That Power greater than myself is an original gift that I did not recognize until I achieved daily sobriety through living AA's Twelve Steps.

Spirituality is a lot like health. We all have health. We may have good health or poor health, but it's something that we can't avoid having. The same is true of spirituality: every human being is a spiritual being. The question is not whether we "have spirituality" but whether the spirituality we have is a negative one that leads us to isolation and self-destruction, or one that is more positive and life-giving. When we let God in, positive changes occur.

Good unfolds before us in the form of new ideas, new ways, and spiritual

strength to meet all challenges and opportunities.

I celebrate myself today. I am alive. I am growing. I am willing to do all I am able to do, to be the best of who I am.

~ Jill K., Paxton

AA TRIVIA

September's question: What was the name of Dr. Bob's dog?

Answer: Roger

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Judy O.	September 2	12 years
David W.	September 5	13 years
Charletta L.	September 8	25 years
Creighton C.	September 9	26 years
Jutta R.	September 14	3 years
Ed K.	September 17	4 years
Lynelle L.	September 20	2 years

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

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Last Area Assembly was September 9th in Taylorville. Area officer elections were held and Mike G. (our alternate DCM) was elected Area treasurer. Fariba M. became Area chair, Becky is alternate chair, and Paula is Area delegate.

District 12 elections for DCM, Alternate DCM, Treasurer and Secretary will be held at the November District meeting. GSRs, please bring names for nominating slate to October District meeting. The current nomination committee includes John C., Mike G., Kate M., Bill B. and Gary S. We will finalize the slate in October for GSRs to take back to groups. In November, we will vote on new officers from the existing slate plus any additional nominations from the floor. The next District term runs from January 2013 through December 2014.

DCM duties: facilitate monthly District 12 meetings, organize, report back to Area, serve as link between GSRs (i.e., groups) and Area, and acquaint GSRs with Box 459 and AA service manual. Need background in AA service work and recommended 4-5 years of sobriety.

Alternate DCM duties: attend Area meetings, assist with gathering group contact info, represent GSRs who cannot attend the meeting, and perform other duties as assigned

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.

Treasurer duties: take group disbursements, reimburse expenses (e.g., secretary's report), write checks, balance checkbook, separate Corrections balance from District, and give monthly report.

Treatment Facilities: Looking for a female to help as co-chair, representing the meetings at the Prairie Center and need female help on Tuesday nights at 8:00. Treatment Facilities chair duties: organize committee, be contact person if someone can't make it, and find alternate volunteers as needed. Contact Rodney at 898-7012 for more information.

Corrections has recently rotated chair persons to co-chairs Mike K. at 418-6404 and Cheryl E.

The Archive Committee needs help with a variety of activities that range from helping to organize the archive materials to identifying "old timers" in the district who are willing to provide an oral history. You decide how much time you can offer, whether just an afternoon or a few hours each month. Please contact Doris A at 217 714-4425 or dorisandrechak@yahoo.com

Other committee chair positions and committees to volunteer your talents to include:

Meeting Lists – Mona at 778-2635,
Website – Rosemary T. (rosemary081211@gmail.com),
Newsletter – Tammy at 390-9551,
Answering Service – Scott 313-587-2856,
Grapevine – Andy at 493-8296, and
PI-CPC (Public Information and Cooperation with the Professional Community).

John C. has expressed interest in chairing PI-CPC when he steps down from DCM. Lots of help is needed to keep each of these committees running smoothly.

Meetings: 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 at 718 S. Randolph, Champaign, closed mtg. The Thursday night 7pm meeting at the House is folding. The S.O.S. Bondville meeting is looking to boost home group members on Fridays at 8pm.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

2012 NIA BIG BOOK CONFERENCE: "Willing to Go to Any Length" October 20

University St. Mary of the Lake
1000 E. Maple Street, Mundelein, IL 60060
Keynote Speaker: Nancy G., Madison, WI
Registration opens at 8 am., Conference Begins at 9 am.
Conference Registration: \$8, Lunch \$7 (on or before Oct. 1);
After Oct. 1: \$20 conference and lunch
Send Check payable to BBC-IL to P.O. 854, Libertyville, IL, 60048,
with names of persons attending and email address. Overnight
rooms at the monastery starting at \$48
Call R.G. Arnold at 847-970-4936
For registration questions contact: jvan222@gmail.com
For questions on conference program, contact Nate M. 224-558-
9865 or Marie V. 847-793-1347

C-U ISCPAA BID PROUDLY PRESENTS: Barn Dance or Bust!!

Jim B's farm, 1010 N. County Rd. 1525 E., Camargo, IL 61919
October 20, 4pm-9pm
Activities include, but are not limited to:
Dance, bonfire, hayrack ride, cake walk, kumbaya and ghost stories
DJ: Marky Mark, denim and flannel welcome, bring a dish if you
wish, meat provided.
Speaker: Jay R.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Monday, October 8th, 8pm
Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: TBA
602 W. Green Street, Urbana

Saturday, October 13th, 8pm
As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Lou D.
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Wednesday, October 17th, 7:30pm
Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA
Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Saturday, October 20th, 6:30pm
Bottoms Up, Speakers: John and Sue T.
Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Monday, October 22nd, 8pm
Monday Meeting, Speaker: John C.
109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

Thursday, October 25th, 7pm
H.O.W. Group, Speaker: Suzette F.
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Friday, October 26th, 8pm
Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA
Madison & 7th Avenues, Charleston

Saturday, October 27th, 6pm
Working with Others, Speaker: TBA
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Sunday, October 28th, 8pm
Grapevine Group, Speaker: Cheri P.
Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monticello Thursday Meeting Potluck Saturday, October 6

At the park north of town, Emily of Monticello is speaking.

33rd Annual Women in Recovery Luncheon Saturday, October 13

Today Is A Gift...

Host: Share Clean Air AA Group

10:00 am. to 3:30 pm.

Alexander's Steak House, Peoria, IL
(at the foot of Alexander Street)

Speaker: Bobbi P., Share Clean Air Group of AA

50/50 Raffle, Auction, Gifts, and Fun for All!

Tickets: \$15 (available until Monday, October 8)

Call 309-688-7968, 309-682-2008, 309-868-2632

6th Annual K.I.S.S. Campout October 19 - 21

Friends and Families of Bill W. Joining Together for a Weekend of Friends, Fellowship and Fun!!

Held at the World Shooting Complex, Sparta, IL
The largest campground in Illinois with 1,00 sites (each with full hookup)

Meeting Schedule:

Friday 8 pm.

Saturday 9 am., 1 pm., & 8 pm.

Sunday 10 am.

Group Conscience following the Sunday meeting for all those who would like to attend.

For more information call Ted (618) 317-4282,
Hayes & Nancy (618) 295-3435 or Rhonda (618) 317-7988

Our Common Journey with Common Solution Group are teaming up for a Halloween Chili Cookoff Saturday, October 27

at 6pm

Speaker: TBA

*Mattoon Common Grounds
1612 Charleston Ave.
Mattoon, IL 61938*

Unlock the Future SIA 21 Corrections Conference October 13

9:00am – 12:00noon

Mother of Dolours Parish Center
705 W. St. Clair St., Vandalia, IL

Free registration, continental breakfast starts at 8:00am

Come enjoy Speakers and Panels

Hosted by District 13

For more information, contact Dave M. at

618-297-4546

INCYPAA 2012 Join Together on "The Road of Happy Destiny" Indiana Convention of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous Fort Wayne, IN October 19 - 21

Marriott Hotel

305 E. Washington Ctr. Rd.
Fort Wayne, IN (260) 484-0411

\$89 Room Rate

(to secure the rate, book by 9/26 and mention INCYPAA for the discounted rate)

Questions? Contact:

Lindsay F. (260) 705-2404 lfrey0614@gmail.com

Dominic A. (989) 323-7504 adams1dl@gmail.com

Registration Fees:

Before October 1st - \$15

After October 1st - \$20

Sunday Banquet - \$25

Send check (payable to INCYPAA 2012) with registration fees to: INCYPAA 2012 P.O. Box 5348 Fort Wayne, IN 46895.

Include your name, address, phone, email, sobriety date, and affiliation (Al-Anon, AA, Alateen) and if you would like to volunteer or chair a meeting at the conference.

35th Annual AA Serenity Retreat October 19-21

*Quincy University Retreat Center at the Old Seminary
Quincy University North Campus
1800 College Avenue, Quincy, IL*

Retreat Director: Tim H., Louisville, KY

Friday night meal, 3 meals Saturday and Sunday provided.

Bring snacks and or soft drinks for treats table.

\$100 double, \$120 single.

Call Dick B. 217-415-9333 for reservations and more information.