



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

September, 2012

www.aa-eci.org

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

The East Central "Additional" Regional Forum

I attended the forum, which was held August 10-12, 2012 in Mt. Vernon, IL.

The AA East Central region is comprised of states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin. I believe that a regional forum is held every 2 years. The next one will be held in Ft. Wayne, IN in November 2013.

The Saturday sessions began with presentations by the Grapevine Director, Albin Zezula, Grapevine board member, George Martin, and La Vina Editor, Irene Donoso. Their presentations centered around the financial state of the magazines, their content, and the ability to reach their proposed readership.

Both magazines lack the subscriptions to be self-supporting. AAWS has been providing additional funds to allow the publications to continue. A survey of members last year showed support for the continuing publication of "our meeting in print" with AAWS subsidizing the shortfall. The financial issue was considered at the 2012 GSO Conference and will be on the agenda again at the 2013 conference. Please see the conference report for more information.

A couple of members at the presentation complained the Grapevine content had become "vanilla" or "plain." They didn't clarify what they meant, but they stated that they would not continue their subscriptions. Others praised the magazine for its work and how it can be used to spread the message. The feedback for La Vina was all positive from a readership perspective. Apparently even though the Latino population is large in the U.S and Canada there are not a lot of Spanish speaking meetings. Being able to read stories about people from their own culture and in their own language is much appreciated by this segment of our membership.

The morning session was also used for presentations from our current and past Area 21 Delegates. The topics included Spiritual Anonymity, Attracting more participation in Service, Service is the Secret, Anonymity on the Internet, How does an item get in the General Service agenda, and Self Support – What it means. It appears from the discussions following these presentations that Anonymity on the Internet is a growing concern for many in the program. Please be very careful how you use the Internet to communicate about the program and with others in it. Once something is on the Internet, it's going to stay out there. If someone's name is attached to it, it could very well break their anonymity.

Saturday afternoon consisted of presentations by the AAWS Director, George Martin, and the GSO General Manager Phyllis Halliday. They discussed the structure of the GSO Conference, how it works, and GSO operations. They also provided data concerning Tradition 7:



In This Issue

- Feature Article:
Regional Forum
Report
Pages 1-2
- Forum Feedback
Page 2
- AA Trivia
Page 2
- District Highlights
Page 3
- Anniversaries
Page 3
- September
calendar
of speaker
meetings
Page 3
- Upcoming events,
forums,
assemblies, &
conferences
Pages 3-4



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.

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cost of service per member per year	\$7.04	\$6.46	\$6.29	\$6.32
Cost of service per group per year	\$157.21	\$142.64	\$137.45	\$137.01
Number of members reported	1,342,380	1,358,879	1,373,681	1,384,699
Number of groups reported	60,093	61,581	62,873	63,845
Percentage of groups contributing	44.1%	44.3%	44.9%	42.4%
Contributions per member per year	\$4.69	\$4.50	\$4.54	\$4.47
Contributions per group per year	\$107.55	\$102.24	\$99.24	\$96.95
Literature contribution to service per year	\$2.35	\$1.96	\$1.75	\$1.85

What this data basically means is that AA is not fully self-supporting. I believe that the full financial disclosures are included with the annual GSO conference report.

The afternoon session concluded with a past delegate presenting a workshop on "Carrying the AA message in the Rural Communities." The evening session consisted of 2 sets of workshops. The first group of topics included: The Grapevine/La Vina Representative – A Wonderful Service Opportunity, Welcoming the Newcomer to AA, Tradition One - Our Common Welfare, The Home Group – The Heartbeat of AA, and Sponsorship Pass It On. The second set of workshops included: AA Grapevine Today, Tradition Five – Our Primary Purpose, Rotation in AA: Principles before Personalities, AA in Prison – Carrying the Message behind the Walls, and The GSR – Linking the Group to AA as a Whole.

There was also several general, and topic specific, sharing sessions held throughout the day. As Saturday's activities began at 9am and ended about 9:45pm, it was a very long day. There was no thoughts of drinking for this alcoholic on Saturday... there was so much AA around me there wasn't room for anything else!

The Sunday sessions went from 9am-12pm and included a presentation by the current East Central Regional Trustee. It also included a general sharing session and sharing session for First-time forum attendees. The forum ended with presentations from past trustees. Get this...of the 200+ people that attended the event half of them were newbies! GSO and the Regional folks were very impressed by this turnout.

The forum was a real reminder of how much work it takes to carry the message at the district, state, and national levels. Too many of us think only of our meetings.

There is so much service work available at all levels of AA. Please talk with your groups about helping to carry the message beyond the group level. When anyone anywhere reaches out for help I want the hand of AA always to be there, for that I am responsible. I hope to see you in Ft. Wayne!

~Michael G.

Forum Feedback

August 11, 2012. Well, today has been really informative. I've met people from WI, MI, IN, MO, NY and northern IL. The GSO people have described what they do (which confuses me even more) but with only 80 people on staff. I think there are more directors and trustees than office people. God love them! They never have a slow day.

~Gary S.

AA TRIVIA

August's question: Which one of our co-founders had tattoos, Bill or Dr. Bob?

Answer: Dr. Bob

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

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

There is a new Sunday meeting at noon at the HOUSE at 718 S. Randolph in Champaign, starting 9/2/12.

There is a new Wednesday 8:30pm evening meeting at the HOUSE at 718 S. Randolph in Champaign, starting 8/29/12. The group name is Rigorous Honesty and it is a closed meeting.

Meeting lists will be updated in November. Home groups please make copies for your members, as our numbers of copies have already run out once. The Tuesday night Phoenix women's meeting has folded.

Bring your old Grapevines to the Hall at 718 S. Randolph instead of throwing them out, so they may be passed on to those less fortunate.

The Archives committee is looking for new members to help with gathering and organizing District 12 histories.

The Corrections committee is looking for women to help with the jail meetings.

The Newsletter committee is looking for someone interested in being the chair person next year.

Officer elections are coming up and we have needs in many of our different committees. Please join us at the next District meeting and bring a sponsee to get invested in your own recovery with service work.

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS

September SWATluck and Annual Fish & Alligator Fry, September 2
SPEAKER: PATRICK H. FROM RANTOUL

In conjunction with SWATLUCK, this is the annual FISH & ALLIGATOR FRY, courtesy of Jimmy and Michael!!

Skit Night and Pot Luck at Serenity Shack, 117 N Ohio St, Rantoul, September 7th at 7pm, hot dogs served and bring dish to share.

The Rend Lake Campout will be held at Coy & Wilma's Campground at Sesser IL on September 7-9. It does cost \$15 per night per campsite. Electric, water & showers are available. For more info, call Mary 314-630-6393 or Rhonda 618-977-0186.

ICYPAA (International Conference of Young People in Alcoholics Anonymous) Saint Louis Conference September 13-16. The Millennium Hotel, Saint Louis, MO. Rates: \$85 (standard) or \$95 (superior) per night + tax (single-quad). Call 1-800-32-7353 – mention "ICYPAA" for conference rate. Registration at conference will be \$35. You must register online at icypaahost.org to receive registration confirmation and a receipt.

33rd Annual Women in Recovery Luncheon. Today Is A Gift...Host: Share Clean Air. Saturday, October 13, 10am to 3:30pm, Alexander's Steak House, Peoria, IL. Speaker: Bobbi P., Share Clean Air 50/50 Raffle, Auction, Gifts, and Fun for All! Tickets: \$15 (available until Monday, October 8). Call 309-682-20008, 309-868-2632, 309-688-7968.

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 8pm., Saturday 9am, 1pm, & 8pm, Sunday 10am. 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Rosemary T.	August 12	1 year
Caroline D.	August 15	1 year
Mary M.	August 15	22 years
Erin S.	August 25	4 years
Kate M.	August 26	4 years

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

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Sunday, September 2nd, 12pm

SWAT, Speaker: Patrick H.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign (*more details about this event in left column on this page*)

Saturday, September 8th, 8pm

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Cathy McD.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Monday, September 10th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: TBA

602 W. Green Street, Urbana

Saturday, September 15th, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Charletta L.

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Tuesday, September 18th, 8:00pm

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: Ferd

104 E. Vine, Tolono

Wednesday, September 19th, 7:30pm

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Saturday, September 22nd, 6pm

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Monday, September 24th, 8pm

Monday Meeting, Speaker: John (from Charleston)

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

Thursday, September 27th, 7pm

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: Stan H.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Friday, September 28th, 8pm

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th Avenues, Charleston

Sunday, September 30th, 8pm

Grapevine Group, Speaker: Pam Q.

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bloom in Normal 2012 Illinois State AFG Convention Friday, September 28 - Sunday, September 30

Marriot Hotel & Convention Center
201 Broadway Street, Normal, IL 61761

Reserve rooms at 1-888-236-2427

Must mention "Illinois State AFG Convention" in order to receive special rate.

\$104 plus tax per room, up to 4 people per room.
Rooms must be reserved by September 7, 2012

Friday:

4 p.m. Registration Begins
7 p.m. Al-Anon Speaker – Shaun H. Hudson, IL
A.A. Speaker – TBA

Saturday:

1 p.m. A.A. Speaker – Mike F. Bloomington, IL
3 p.m. Alateen Speaker – TBA
6:30 p.m. Al-Anon Speaker – Larcine G. Los Angeles, CA
Alateen Speaker – TBA

Sunday:

10 a.m. Al-Anon Speaker Liz M. Arlington Heights, IL
Breakout Meetings, Workshops, Hospitality Room, AA
Participation, Basket Raffle, Quilt Raffle

Registration Fees:

Al-Anon or AA Members - \$25
Walk In – After September 10th - \$30
Alateen \$10*
Saturday Night Banquet - \$35

Make checks payable to 2012 IL State AFG Convention. Mail to:
2012 IL State AFG Convention, P.O. Box 737, Normal, IL 61761.
Include the name, address, phone, email, and status (AA/Al-Anon/
Alateen) of each person registering.

*All Alateens will provide a copy of a signed, notarized parental
permission/medical care form as part of their registration process.
Alateens must bring the original signed, notarized form to the
convention.

For more information contact:
Kathy H. (309) 828-9682
Shaun H. (309) 726-1381

Cellar Dwellers Picnic Sunday, September 16

Located in Crystal Lake Park.

Purpose - to raise ISCPAA awareness.

Come to the North Woods Pavilion, 3 – 8pm. All food, drinks,
condiments and plates provided. Covered dishes and desserts
welcome.

SPEAKER: Coby S.

Monticello Thursday Meeting Potluck Saturday, October 6

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

AREA 21 ASSEMBLY HOSTED BY DISTRICT 11 September 9

Taylorville Memorial Hospital
201 East Pleasant Street
Taylorville, IL

Registration 8-9AM
Assembly 9-3PM
\$7.00 for Assembly - \$8.00 for lunch

Saturday Night Speaker Meeting 8pm
Saturday Night Live Group
First Presbyterian Church
116 E. Franklin

HOTELS:

29 West Motel, 709 West Springfield, 217-824-2216
Gas Light Inn, 1420 West Spresser Street., 217-824-4941
Super 8, 400 Abes Way, 217-287-7211

CONTACT ROD K. 217-521-4139
CONTACT RAY K. 217-825-3353

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

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR AGAIN THIS YEAR

GSR School Saturday, September 15

2511 S. Veterans Dr.
Christ's Church in Effingham, IL
10:00AM-2:00PM
No Registration Fee

1st Hour ~ Information

2nd Hour ~ Many talks about different service positions from people that have held them! Our Area Delegate will be in the house as well as our Area Chair and past delegates!

3rd Hour ~ Lunch Menu is pulled pork bbq sandwiches, potato salad, creamy cole slaw and dessert! May smuggle Gondolas from Avanti's in Normal!

4th Hour ~ Q & A

Materials provided ...
GSR school packet from Ohio's GSR school and pamphlets
Contributions will be accepted to offset costs!
RSVP...Please so we know how many
people to feed and material to have available...by Sept. 10th!

Contact District 13 DCM, Gail B. @ (618) 283-5364 or (618) 704-4671