

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

## NEWSLETTER

September, 2013

[www.aa-eci.org](http://www.aa-eci.org)

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## AA'S THIRD STEP PRAYER HELPS TO RELIEVE BONDAGE OF SELF

Located on page 63 of the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" is a prayer known as AA's Third Step Prayer. Although this prayer is only 63 words in length, those words carry a lot of significance for recovering alcoholics all over the world.

Alcoholics Anonymous' Third Step Prayer begins with the words "God, I offer myself to thee". These words have special relevance in regard to AA's Third Step. The third of AA's 12 Steps is about making a decision to turn one's will and life over to the care of God, as he is understood.

Defining what is and is not God's will is not always readily apparent. We are humans and often try to exert our own will. For those who are members of AA, by reading and reciting the Third Step Prayer, it can help to shed insight into living Step Three.

The second sentence of the Alcoholics Anonymous Third Step Prayer is very powerful. "Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do Thy will"

While I have been a member of Alcoholics Anonymous for more than 12 years, it wasn't until two years ago, that I began to embrace the Third Step Prayer, particularly the second sentence. At the time, I had recently experienced a relationship break up with a woman who had previously been a high school girlfriend. Our relationship reignited after seeing each other at a reunion and we spent several subsequent months dating.

Immediately upon our break up, I increased the number of AA meetings I was attending and became a regular attendee of a meeting that closed with Alcoholics Anonymous' Third Step Prayer, in place of The Lord's Prayer, which is most often used to close AA meetings in the West Hartford, Connecticut area.

Interestingly, members at that meeting remain seated while reciting the prayer. Personally, I prefer that format, as opposed to standing in a circle, holding hands. That is the usual method of closing meetings in my area.

*District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs*

<b>DCM</b>	Gary S. ( <a href="mailto:dcm@aa-eci.org">dcm@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Alternate DCM</b>	Mona Lee H.
<b>Secretary</b>	VACANT ( <a href="mailto:secretary@aa-eci.org">secretary@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Treasurer</b>	Steve B. ( <a href="mailto:treasurer@aa-eci.org">treasurer@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Corrections</b>	Mike K.
<b>Treatment Facilities</b>	Tim C. & Creighton
<b>Meeting List</b>	Mona M.
<b>Answering Service</b>	Sam E. ( <a href="mailto:answering-service@aa-eci.org">answering-service@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Newsletter</b>	VACANT ( <a href="mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org">newsletter@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Grapevine</b>	Mark G.
<b>PI-CPC</b>	Tom D. ( <a href="mailto:picpc@aa-eci.org">picpc@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Website</b>	Rosemary T. ( <a href="mailto:webmaster@aa-eci.org">webmaster@aa-eci.org</a> )
<b>Archives</b>	Doris A. & Mike W.

*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](mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org). Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.*

Prior to attending that meeting, I had seen the Third Step Prayer in the Big Book and had read it aloud at meetings, but never really contemplated it. By reciting and thinking about the words in the prayer, it helped to provide awareness of better ways of dealing with situations.

Another saying that I have heard many variations on at AA meetings is "Don't stay in your own brain, it's a bad neighborhood". This saying refers to some peoples' tendency to dwell on issues, which almost always magnifies them.

By constantly dwelling on issues, one holds oneself in a sense of bondage. By accepting God's will and reaching out and helping others, the sense of bondage can be relieved.

The message that I derive from Alcoholics Anonymous' Third Step Prayer is one of hope. By offering oneself to God and trying to live his will instead of one's own, it often has positive results. In the third sentence of the Alcoholics Anonymous Third Step Prayer, it asks for difficulties to be taken away, but it also states that victory over them may help one to help others.

Currently, I am on Step Two of Alcoholics Anonymous' 12 Steps. The first time I did The Steps, more than a decade ago, I did them too quickly and never touched upon the Third Step Prayer. This time, I definitely see the Third Step as being one of the most important Steps and the Third Step Prayer figures prominently in my own Third Step agenda.

*~Thomas M., Hartford, Connecticut*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Janet K.	July 29	1 year
Gary R.	August 12	1 year
Rosemary T.	August 12	2 years
Kate M.	August 26	5 years
Pam H.	September 1	28 years

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

**BIG BOOK TRIVIA**

August's question:

On page 179, who was "The friend at whose home Dr. Bob woke up"?

Answer: Lilly. She was Dr Bob's receptionist in his medical practice in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and her husband's name was Everett.

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September's Challenge:

On pages 174-175, which one of "the local sanitariums" did Dr. Bob commit himself to?

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

At the August District 12 meeting, DCM Gary S. reported that the GSR School scheduled for October in Mattoon has been postponed. District 6 and 10 are hosting one, but it is September 28, the same day as Soberfest.

Erin Y. tendered her resignation as District Secretary. An election for Secretary will be held at the next District meeting, September 15. Persons interested in running for the position should check the notice on the district website [www.aa-eci.org/committees-and-service](http://www.aa-eci.org/committees-and-service) and attend the Sept. 15 meeting.

The Treatment Centers Committee reported that there is a service opportunity for a woman for the first Sundays of every month at the Prairie Center. Anyone interested should contact Creighton C. at [treatment-centers@aa-eci.org](mailto:treatment-centers@aa-eci.org).

The Archives Committee is looking for old timers to interview and people to interview to create oral histories of the district. Anyone interested should contact Mike W. at [archives@aa-eci.org](mailto:archives@aa-eci.org).

The Website Committee reported the site is again operational and current. There is a new calendar of speaker meetings and events [www.aa-eci.org/calendar](http://www.aa-eci.org/calendar). The District Newsletter can also be accessed on line at [www.aa-eci.org/newsletter](http://www.aa-eci.org/newsletter) and the current meeting list can be viewed and downloaded at the home page [www.aa-eci.org](http://www.aa-eci.org).

The noon meeting at 120 S. Neil has ended. The Defense Against the First Drink meeting in Charleston (Closed, Thurs. & Sat. 7 pm 412 14th Street) celebrated its 7th month and will be included in the next edition of the meeting list.

## SOBERFEST 2013 September 28

Urbana Civic Center  
108 E. Water Street  
Urbana, IL

Doors Open / Registration 9:00 am

### Schedule:

10:00 am Veronica V. (Cambridge, England) - 13 years sobriety  
11:00 am Lunch Break (off-location)  
1:00 pm Butch M. (Ontario, Canada) - 24 years sobriety  
2:30 pm Marie H. (Loda, IL) - 17 years AI-Anon  
4:00 ISCPAA Panel  
5:30 pm Catered Buffet by Hickory River Barbeque  
7:00 pm Patti O. (Laguna Niguel, CA) - 38 years sobriety  
8:30-10:30 pm Dancing With a DJ after the final speaker  
After 8 pm admission to dance without a Soberfest ticket is \$5.

Big Book Trivia - Grand Prize Raffle - Door Prizes - Snacks & Refreshments

**\$20 - Advance sales only; no tickets sold at the door.**

To purchase a ticket see: Bill B., Mick L., Janet K.,  
Jack H., Larry S. or John C.

Or mail check (made out to Soberfest) with your name, full address, phone or email to:

Soberfest, P.O. Box 287, Paxton, IL 60957.

Orders received after September 7, 2013 will be filled if tickets are still available.

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Monday, September 9th, 8pm*

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Bob S.

602 W. Green, Urbana

*Saturday, September 14th, 8pm*

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Kevin G.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Tuesday, September 17th, 8pm*

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: Mike E.

104 E. Vine, Tolono (speaker meetings are open)

*Wednesday, September 18th, 7:30pm*

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

*Saturday, September 21st, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: TBA

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Monday, September 23rd, 8pm*

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

*Thursday, September 26th, 7pm*

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: Gary R.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Friday, September 27th, 8pm*

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th, Charleston

*Saturday, September 28th, 6pm*

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Saturday, September 28th, 5pm*

Shoulder to Shoulder Group, Speaker: TBA

First Christian Church, 16th & Wabash, Mattoon

*Sunday, September 29th, 8pm*

Grapevine Group, Speaker: TBA

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Area 21 Fall Assembly (hosted by District 6) September 8

*Tazwell Woodford County Headstart  
233 Leadley Avenue  
East Peoria, IL 61611*

Registration Opens at 7:30 am  
Assembly Begins at 9:00 am  
Registration \$5  
Lunch \$10

#### Saturday Night Speaker Meeting:

September 7, 2013 8:00 pm  
Mike F. (Past Delegate Panel 53, Area 38)  
Hilltop Group  
155 North Western Ave. Peoria, IL 61614

#### Lodging:

Reservations Open until August 16, 2013

#### Sleep In Peoria

4244 Brandywine Drive, Peoria, IL 61614  
Phone (309) 682-3322; Fax (309) 682-3031  
\$69.99/night + 12% tax, up to 4 persons/room

#### Super 8 Peoria

1816 W. War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614  
Phone 309-688-8074; Fax 309-688-8284  
\$65/night + 12% tax, up to 4 persons/room

For more info contact:

Dick S. (309) 253-4654 spence25000@gmail.com  
Jerry B. (309) 231-9873  
John W. (309) 232-0839

### 17th Annual National Archives Workshop "Our Past and Beyond" September 12-15

*Hilton Hotel  
700 East Adams, Springfield, IL  
217-789-1530*

*Conference Rate: \$102 plus tax/night*

Speakers, Presentations, Workshops and Panels  
Big Book History Presentation – Don B.

#### Registration:

Conference only: \$35  
Conference and Banquet: \$75  
Saturday Night Banquet and Keynote Presentation: \$40

For more information contact:

Johnnie H.: (309) 712-2190 johnnie092401@aol.com  
Connie S. (618) 304-7557

[www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com](http://www.aanationalarchivesworkshop.com)

*The planning committee would greatly appreciate financial contributions for the hospitality room (which does not operate on workshop funds).*

*Please send any financial donations to:*

*National Archives Workshop  
4352 Bohm School Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025*

### BNAA STAMPEDE "SOBRIETY IS FUN!" September 20-22

*Howard Virgin Park  
Leroy, IL*

Pot luck dinner Friday, meetings, lunch Saturday, along with fishing, horseshoe & bags tournaments, dinner Saturday night, music, fellowship, sobriety countdown, 50/50 drawing and more!

#### Speakers:

FRIDAY:	8pm	Mike S. (Bloomington, AA)
SATURDAY:	9am	TBA
	1:30pm	Paula M. (Bloomington, Al-Anon)
	8pm	TBA
SUNDAY:	9am	TBA

Please RSVP by September 15<sup>th</sup>

Registration Fee: \$15

Saturday Dinner: \$10

Questions? Contact Mark O. at 309-660-4208

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bridging the Gap Workshop Weekend September 6-8

*Hyatt Regency Schaumburg  
1800 E. Golf Road  
Schaumburg, IL 60173*

The weekend will consist of presentations and discussions on BTG topics of interest such as Starting a BTG Committee, Creating a Volunteer List, and Making Presentations to Facilities. AAs from across the US and Canada will attend, sharing their experience on BTG topics.

<b>FRIDAY:</b>	3:00-7:00pm	Registration and Hospitality Gathering
	7:00-8:30pm	Speaker
	8:30-10:00pm	Attendee Introductions, National Topics
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	9:00AM-12:00pm	GSO Update, Professional Panels
	1:30-5:00pm	Topic Presentations
	7:00-8:30pm	Speaker
	8:30-10:00pm	National BTG Topics Workshop
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	9:00am-12:00pm	Ask-It Basket, Business Meeting, Wrap-Up

For reservations call 847-605-1234 refer to BTG workshop for special rate, \$93 + tax.

Online <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NIAbridgethegap2013>.

Pre-Registration: \$35. On-Site Registration: \$40. Day Pass: \$25.

Make registration checks payable to BTGWW c/o Diane A., 12070 Hierba Place, San Diego, CA, 92128.