



Illinois Area 21

District 12

Alcoholics Anonymous

# NEWSLETTER

November, 2013

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

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## I FIND AA EVERYWHERE I TRAVEL

Several years ago, I viewed with great hesitation my first sober business trip as a member of AA. I was only six months sober at the time.

In preparation for my trip to Detroit, I wrote that city's AA central office, and they promptly sent me a meeting directory. Still unsure, I wrote again, advising them of my hotel and requesting a pinpointing of nearby meetings. I received a detailed schedule for the downtown area by return mail, and someone had drawn a map showing routes from my hotel to these meetings.

This helped, but considering how far I'd be from California, my usual meetings, and my sponsor, I decided I'd better write back and ask for some names and telephone numbers. The central office responded by requesting my flight number and time of arrival and saying someone would meet the plane!

Today, I travel all over the world on business with complete comfort, knowing there is AA everywhere. In recent months, I've been on several overseas trips and have been made welcome at meetings in great, bustling cities like Tokyo, Mexico City, London, and Athens, as well as dots on the map like Kao-hsiung (in Taiwan), Manama (the capital of the island nation of Bahrain), San Na'narit (in Thailand), Khartoum (in the Sudan), and Qurnet Chewab (in the troubled mountains north of Beirut, Lebanon).

Meetings have ranged from warm chat with a Loner on a dhow from Chittagong to full-fledged meetings of fifteen or more, complete with steering committees, newcomers, and bleeding deacons. In various locations, the last may more appropriately be known as "bleeding imams," "bleeding abbas," "bleeding canons," or "bleeding effendis," the designation being entirely dependent on the Higher Power in residence in each country.

Petitions to Allah to grant serenity and decisions to turn one's life and will over to the care of Buddha sound at first strange and somehow heretical. "Coffee breaks" for glasses of ice-cold yogurt or tiny cups full of pungent cardamom coffee, rice cakes instead of doughnuts, and being "in the chair" instead of "giving a pitch" offer striking comparisons to AA back home, but symbolically highlight the consistency and adaptability of our program.

Closing a meeting with an Arab friend, hands joined, facing Mecca, while he prays in Aramaic, the ancient language Jesus spoke, emphasizes the common bond each has with his own Higher Power. This is, after all, the fellowship of one drunk sharing with

*District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs*

**DCM** Gary S. ([dcm@aa-eci.org](mailto:dcm@aa-eci.org))

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**Secretary** Silver D. ([secretary@aa-eci.org](mailto:secretary@aa-eci.org))

**Treasurer** Steve B. ([treasurer@aa-eci.org](mailto:treasurer@aa-eci.org))

**Corrections** Mike K.

**Treatment Facilities** Tim C. & Creighton

**Meeting List** Liza W. & Mona M.  
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**PI-CPC** Tom D. ([picpc@aa-eci.org](mailto:picpc@aa-eci.org))

**Website** Rosemary T. ([webmaster@aa-eci.org](mailto:webmaster@aa-eci.org))

**Archives** 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.*

another in Alcoholics Anonymous.

In 1937, before I was born, words were spoken that thirty years later would help me to be born again in this great program. According to *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, Gennie heard his friend Marty say, after attending her first AA meeting, "We aren't alone anymore." From Bill to Dr. Bob through Marty to Gennie through another and another, and one day from a guy named Ken to me, that message is covering the world.

And it's not such a big world after all!

A few weeks ago, I boarded an Asian airliner in Bangkok for a long night flight across Burma, India, and Afghanistan to Teheran. We had Western pilots and a Malay cabin crew, and the beautiful little Chinese stewardess who woke me for breakfast helped with her smile and hot towels to dispel the cold and discomfort of sleeping in a chair all night.

Then she handed me a note, which read: "Hi, I saw you come aboard. I was on layover in Singapore last week and saw you at the meeting. Come on up to the cockpit. I've got some American coffee up here."

It was signed by the captain.

I'm not alone anymore.

~D.C., Newport Beach, CA

(reprinted from *The Grapevine*, 1977)

*Your District 12 Newsletter Committee would like to wish everyone a safe, sober, and happy Thanksgiving.*

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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

Pam Q.	August 26	6 years
Russ S.	October 3	15 years
Rick W.	October 21	10 years
Mike J.	October 23	11 years

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

**BIG BOOK TRIVIA**

*September's question:*  
On page xvii, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, who was the "very first case"?

*Answer:*  
The very first case that Bill and Bob worked on was Eddie R. They were not successful with Eddie. However, at Doctor Bob's funeral in 1950, Eddie R. was there with one year of sobriety.

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*November's Challenge:*  
On page 50, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, who was the "American Statesman"?

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

At the District business meeting held October 19th:

Mike K., Corrections Committee Chair reported that women volunteers are needed to attend the jail meeting beginning November 11. If interested contact him at [corrections@aa-eci.org](mailto:corrections@aa-eci.org) for information on the meeting and procedures for clearance to visit the women's jail.

Creighton C., Treatment Centers Committee Chair reported that women are needed for panels at the both treatment centers (Pavilion and Prairie Center). If interested contact him by phone at 217-348-7121.

In group news, Debbie P., GSR for Looney Tunes (Saturdays, 9 am Unity Center, Urbana) reported that their group is looking for people to give leads. Scott S. is the new GSR for Tuesday Night Newcomers. Sisters in Sobriety (Rantoul) has a new alternate GSR, Kristen K. Liza W. is replacing Kate M. as alternate GSR for the Sunday Women's BBS (Champaign).

The next District meeting will be Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

### *A Note from the Editor:*

Greetings District 12 Newsletter readers. As you may or may not already know, we are always on the lookout for fresh new ideas and articles for each issue. Whether you are a seasoned writer, or it's your first try at putting pen to paper, we want to hear from you!

People often ask me what they should write about. Well, newsletters around the world offer these suggestions: the steps, home groups, sponsorship, spirituality, funny anecdotes, gratitude, or coming to believe.

Personally, I say write what you know and feel. We all have our tales of tragedy and triumph, both before and after we got sober. Take a look around at your life, what is it you would like to share with others? If you are new to sobriety, what is it you want and need from your fellowship?

Writing is a gift of expression to all of us. So often we felt unheard and unseen in our alcoholism. Find your voice in the District 12 Newsletter. We can't wait to hear from you!

*Sincerely Yours, ~Kelly A.*

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Sunday, November 3rd, 12pm*

SWAT, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Saturday, November 9th, 8pm*

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Andy W.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Saturday, November 9th, 10am*

Attitude of Gratitude, Speaker: Bob H.

2055 E. Harrison, Charleston

*Monday, November 11th, 8pm*

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: TBA

602 W. Green, Urbana

*Saturday, November 16th, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: TBA

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Tuesday, November 19th, 8:00pm*

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: Pam Q.

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

*Wednesday, November 20th, 7:30pm*

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

*Saturday, November 23rd, 6pm*

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Saturday, November 23rd, 5pm*

Shoulder to Shoulder Group, Speaker: TBA

First Christian Church, 16th & Wabash, Mattoon

*Sunday, November 24th, 8pm*

Grapevine Group, Speaker: TBA

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

*Monday, November 25th, 8pm*

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

*Thursday, November 28th, 7pm*

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

*Friday, November 29th, 8pm*

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th, Charleston

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NEW MEETING! "NO EXCUSES"**

Closed AA meeting

Starting Friday November 1, 2013

12:00pm – 1:00pm

At THE SHACK IN RANTOUL – in the back room

Format: ½ study and ½ discussion of all Alcoholics Anonymous approved literature

### **KANKAKEE AREA MINI CONFERENCE**

**November 9**

*"Unity – The Heart of AA"*

*The Civic Auditorium*

*(Next to Governor Small Memorial Park)*

*803 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Kankakee, IL 60901*

All Day Event!

Raffles, 50/50, Split the Pot, Silent Auction

AA Speaker - Tim H., Louisville, KY

AI Anon Speaker - Larry F., Kankakee, IL

Tickets: \$10.00

Registration: 8:00am

Program Begins: 9:00am

Contact Information:

Brian B. (815) 954-9759

Amy Jo P. (815) 614-9181

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE HALL**

**November 28**

Fellowship Circle

718 S. Randolph Street, Champaign

The Hall will be open Thanksgiving Day Thursday November 28, 2013 from the first meeting (6:30am) through the end of the last meeting Friday (8pm).

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Hall for people to volunteer to watch the Hall between meetings, but all the regular meetings will be held those two days.

There will a Thanksgiving potluck on Thursday November 28, 2013 around 2 pm. Turkey will be provided; people are encouraged to bring sides or dessert.

### **HALLOWEEN PARTY**

**November 2**

*633 E. Bodman Street*

*Bement, IL 61813*

*6:00pm to ?*

Good Music, Good Food, Good Fun!

Donations will be accepted. All proceeds\* go to the new AA\* meeting for operating expenses.

Halloween costumes are optional. Please bring a covered dish to share. Call Steve H at 217-714-5441 for more information.

\*Proceeds go towards the new Open AA meeting on Wednesday evenings at 8:00pm at the Bement Methodist Church, 249 North Piatt Street, Bement, IL.

The first meeting is Wednesday October 23, 2013 at 8:00pm in the basement of the church. Please come support the new meeting. Everyone and all ages are welcome.

*For more information please call Steve H. at 217-714-5441.*

### **EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL FORUM**

**November 15-17**

*Hilton Fort Wayne, Grand Wayne Convention Center  
1020 South Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802-3005*

Forums provide an extraordinary opportunity for sharing experience and exchanging information among A.A. members interested in service, local trusted servants, and the General Service Board, A.A.W.S. and Grapevine. Staff from both the GSO and the Grapevine will be present. It will be a weekend of lively participation for all concerned.

Registration begins at 2:00pm on Friday, November 15, 2013. The Orientation for First-time Attendees is at 6:45pm and the opening session starts at 7:00pm on Friday. The Forum closes at noon on Sunday, November 17, 2013. There is no registration fee for the Forum. There will be simultaneous translation available from English to Spanish. We want all A.A. members to be able to participate regardless of language.

Forum Registration: You may register for the Regional Forum by filing out the Forum Registration Form and mailing it to G.S.O. or you can register online at [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). All persons registering online must include their full name and postal address. Online Forum registrations must be received at G.S.O. before November 11, 2013 in order to be processed. If you miss the deadline, we welcome on-site registration. It is not necessary to call G.S.O. to pre-register; advance registration simply helps our planning.

Hotel Reservations at the Hilton Fort Wayne at the Grand Wayne Convention Center can be made by one of the following methods:

By phone: Call (260) 420-1100 use Group Code: ECR to get the special room rate no later than November 1, 2013.

Single / Double Room: \$104.00 plus tax

This is a non-smoking facility

By internet, please go to the hotels website to 'online hotel reservations'

In order to get the special room rate, be sure to register for your hotel accommodation no later than November 1, 2013.

If you have any questions about this Regional Forum, feel free to email: [regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:regionalforums@aa.org)