

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

February, 2014

www.aa-eci.org/newsletter

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Newsletter Staff

EDITOR & LAYOUT Kelly A.
SPEAKER CALENDAR Sarah H.
DISTRICT NOTES Rosemary T.
EVENTS Sarah H.
DISTRIBUTION Bonnie

THE LOVE IN THE ROOMS

It's amazing how regardless of where I'm at, I feel at home when I walk into the rooms. I could be in a different state, and feel like I've always been there. The rooms and the people in them are like my home away from home and my second family.

Before I joined this program, I was looking for love in all the wrong places. I thought alcohol and drugs were all the love I needed. My addiction took the place of everything, it was the one and only thing I loved. I never realized what real love was. When I finally got sober, I didn't know how to act towards people. I never really associated with people. When I did, it was just to get something from them. I always thought that everyone was like that. I thought people did things to get something out of it too.

When I attended my first meeting, everyone was so nice to me. They showed me where everything was and refilled my coffee. They showed me how the meeting went and didn't pressure me to share. I had just lost a baby as a result of my alcohol and drug use. I never felt so at home and cared about. I could tell the people in that room that day really wanted to help.

As a newcomer, I believe that helped me stay in the program. The acceptance, love, and compassion and the desire to help people without getting anything from it is one of my first lessons I learned in this program. I also like that people were comfortable enough to open up and share their problems with each other. I even learned that guys and gals could be friends and help each other without it going any further than that.

The more meetings I went to, the more comfortable I was with the people in the meetings. The friends I have made in this program have done more for me than they will ever know. They have helped me stay sober, and learn a lot about myself.

When I see a newcomer, I try to remember what everyone did for me when I came in the program, and I do what I know helped me. I pass on what was given to me by my friends. I try not to go over board and scare them away.

District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

- DCM** Gary S. (dcm@aa-eci.org)
- Alternate DCM** Mona Lee H.
- Secretary** Steph M. (secretary@aa-eci.org)
- Treasurer** Steve B. (treasurer@aa-eci.org)
- Corrections** Mike K.
- Treatment Facilities** Tim C. & Creighton
(co-chairs) Don D. & Joe M.
- Meeting List** Liza W. & Mona M.
(meeting-list@aa-eci.org)
- Answering Service** Randy G.
(answering-service@aa-eci.org)
- Newsletter** VACANT (newsletter@aa-eci.org)
- Grapevine** Mark G. (grapevine@aa-eci.org)
- PI-CPC** Tom D. (picpc@aa-eci.org)
- Website** Rosemary T. (webmaster@aa-eci.org)
- Archives** 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. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

I have found that people who are comfortable with where they are have the tendency to come back more often.

I have a passion for helping people and I love knowing that I have helped someone stay sober even if it is one day. Who knows, that cup of coffee you bring them or that hug, or just the love and friendliness in the air can help a person decide to stay sober. Even though I've been in the program for a little while, I still like the reassurance that no matter what, I won't be judged. People might make suggestions because they have been thru a similar situation. This helps reminded me that no matter where I'm at, I am not alone.

~Kristen K., Rantoul

NEW MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Freedom Meeting, Danville

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Ridgeview Baptist Church

3838 Vermilion Street, Danville

Closed; Open Speaker last Saturday of the month

Gifford Open Meeting

Tuesdays at 5 pm starting Feb.4th

Gifford Methodist Church

351 West Plumb St. Gifford; use basement entrance

BIG BOOK TRIVIA

January's question:

In the first paragraph on page 16, who was the "poor chap who committed suicide in Bill's house?"

Answer:

Bill C. was a guest for nearly a year. Upon returning home from visiting Fitz M. and others in Maryland, Bill opened the door to the strong smell of the natural gas that had ended the "poor chap's" life.

February's Challenge:

On page XXIX, 2nd paragraph, who was the "man was brought in to be treated for chronic alcoholism...gastric hemorrhage...Pathological mental deterioration."

"The Anonymous People"

This documentary is a film about real people in long term recovery.

To find out more about the film, the filmmaker, and the movement, and to view "The Anonymous People" trailer, visit: manyfaces1voice.org/#the-film

To purchase tickets to bring the film to Urbana – Champaign to the CU Art Cinema on March 10, 2014, go to <https://gathr.us/screening/6973> to sign up /

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Linda B.	December 7	5 years
Judy S.	December 12	33 years
Terry S.	December 12	33 years
Ty G.	December 26	2 years
Jason P.	January 2	1 year
Silver D.	January 9	2 years
Doris B.	January 21	26 years
Kristen S.	January 22	9 years

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

Let me know!

Is your group planning a special event that you absolutely want to get into the newsletter? Email Sarah H at beewrites@ymail.com!

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

At the District Business Meeting January 19th:

It was reported that Mona Lee H. (Alternate DCM) has tentatively scheduled GSR training workshop for April in Mattoon. Those who are GSRs, alternate GSRs or thinking about becoming one are encouraged to attend.

The 2014 District budget was approved with the following adjustments: Meeting List printing expense was reduced from \$600 to \$500 to reflect the cost savings by changing printers, but to allow the possibilities of more than more than 4 printings a year. The P.O. Box rent expense was increased to \$78 from \$62 to reflect the Post Office's price increase, and District 12 travel budget for conferences was increased from \$500 to \$1000. The District also approved disbursements in the amount of \$500 to Area 21 and \$500 to the GSO.

The Meeting List committee reported that new lists will be printed at the end of the month, updating the May 2013 list.

The Newsletter committee reported that it is still looking for a chair. The person will coordinate production of the newsletter and report monthly at the District meeting. If interested, email the newsletter at newsletter@aa-eci.org, the website at webmaster@aa-eci.org or contact Gary S., DCM at dcm@aa-eci.org, or speak to Kelly A., Newsletter editor, or Rosemary T.

Randy G., Answering Service Committee Chair, reported that the nights of January 5-6 the service received some calls asking if meetings were cancelled. After some discussion it was agreed that he would contact individual groups if he gets a call from the service. However, any group canceling a meeting may contact the Website Committee Chair at webmaster@aa-eci.org before the time of the meeting to have the information posted on the website home page.

In Group News, Mike K. is the new GSR for Joy of Living.

The next District Business meeting will be Sunday, February 16th at 2pm

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Sunday, February 2nd, 12pm

SWAT, Speaker: Navara P.
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Saturday, February 8th, 8pm

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

Saturday, February 8th, 10am

Attitude of Gratitude, Speaker: TBA
2055 E. Harrison, Charleston

Monday, February 10th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Mary E.
602 W. Green, Urbana

Saturday, February 15th, 6:30pm

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

Wednesday, February 19th, 7:30pm

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

Saturday, February 22nd, 6pm

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign
(NOTE: Winner of the Annual Working with Others Award to be announced February 15th.)

Saturday, February 22nd, 5pm

Shoulder to Shoulder, Speaker: Todd F.
First Christian Church, Mattoon

Sunday, February 23rd, 8pm

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

Monday, February 24th, 8pm

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

Thursday, February 27th, 7pm

HOW Group, Speaker: Kelly C.
718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Friday, February 28th, 8pm

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

Audio Taping at Your Speaker Meeting – We Want Your Story to be Heard!

Howard H. & Sarah H. are teaming up to assure that your story is recorded. To that end, it will be helpful if your group would line up your speaker no later than the 20th of the month before, and to contact Howard H. at (217)(377-5207) so he can assure that either he, Sarah, or another volunteer will be there to record the speaker; the speaker can be listed in that month's newsletter; and the recording can be burned to CD, courtesy of Howard's dedication - so they are accessible (with your permission) to others who can benefit from your experience strength, and hope. For more information, call Howard at (217)(377-5207) or Sarah H. at (708-601-4424) or write to her at beewrites@ymail.com.

