



Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

April 2014

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POWERLESSNESS

One of the first things I realized in the early days of recovery was that my notions about what I could and could not control were seriously flawed. I believed that if I wanted something I should be able to figure out how to get it. If I failed to get what I wanted it was because I hadn't been skillful enough in my efforts. I believed that I should be able to make others appreciate that my way was the best way, either through reason or sheer persistence. If I failed it indicated I had made a tactical error. The idea that there were aspects of my life that I simply couldn't control did not occur to me.

Until everything fell apart, until I faced catastrophic failure on all fronts (career, finances, and relationships) and felt as though I no longer had control over anything. I knew at that moment that my ideas no longer worked, and I was willing to listen to anyone who could offer an alternative.

I started, as we all do, with the admission that I was powerless over alcohol. For me that was easy – from my first beer at 14, alcohol and drugs had been my solution. Even when I stopped for a time, I always knew I would start again. At some point I gave up trying to stop because I knew I couldn't.

When I was urged to examine powerlessness in other aspects of my life and to draw on God's power instead of my own, I had more than a few misgivings. What about free will? What about self-determination? Slowly I came to see that I can control my actions and my reactions, but that's about it. I can work toward an objective, but I can't control the result. When it comes to other people, I can suggest a course of action but I can't require it.

My present understanding of powerlessness and control is the result of several years of trial and error. What I have found is that if I do my part to the best of my ability and keep my side of the street reasonably clean, I get what I need. I've discovered that my way isn't the only way and it's not necessarily the best way. I still see —room for improvement in the people around me, but I try to keep those opinions to myself. And I no longer live with the constant anxiety that comes from trying to control everything and everyone.

Do I still stumble over my desire to take control? I wouldn't be human if I didn't. On a good day I recognize what I'm doing and step back. On other days I have to get pretty wound up before I realize I need to relax and take my hands off the steering wheel.

~Jon C., "The Message", Jefferson District Newsletter, Charlottesville, Virginia, June 2011

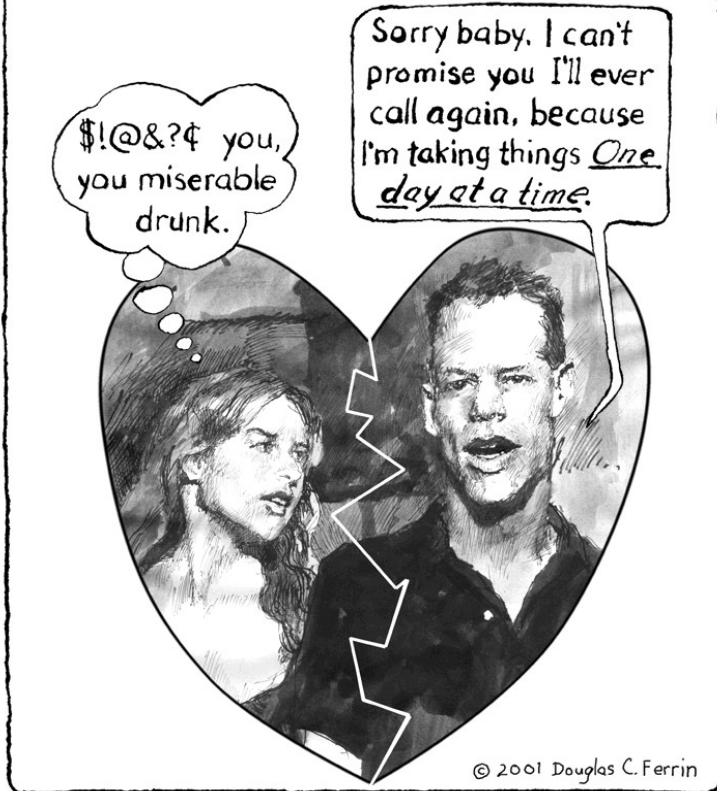
District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

- 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.

DON'T ABUSE THE SLOGANS AND SAYINGS. EXAMPLE #1



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@gmail.com.

BIG BOOK TRIVIA

March's question:

On page 156, 3rd paragraph, who and what was the "head nurse they called and the local hospital she worked at?"

Answer:

Mrs. Hall, Admissions Nurse at Akron City Hospital.

April's Challenge:

On page 163, 3rd paragraph, who was the "Chief Psychiatrist of a large public hospital?"

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Jeff P.	January 24	2 years
Zelda W.	March 8	9 years
Don D.	March 11	1 year
Erich H.	March 11	10 years
Jeremy E.	March 15	1 year
Bill B.	March 19	5 years
Jeff E.	March 21	5 years
Lynne F.	March 23	5 years
Jeff E.	March 21	24 years
Deana C.	March 28	1 year

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

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

At the District 12 Business Meeting March 16 ...

DCM Gary S. reported that the March Area Assembly in Vandalia was canceled due to bad weather. The next Area Assembly will be Sunday, June 8 in Springfield at the ANSAR Shrine Center.

District 20 (north of Peoria) is becoming active again after 14 years. As for General Service Office business, a proposal will be made at the upcoming General Service Conference (GSC) for the Literature Committee to reapply to trademark for the AA triangle logo. The trademark expired in 1993 and now it can be used by anyone without permission. The Blue Card change defeated last year at the GSC (to change the Open Meeting statement to restrict those sharing at Open Meetings to alcoholics) will be resubmitted this year.

Alternate DCM Mona Lee H. reported that this District will hold its GSR Training Session on Saturday, May 31 at the First Christian Church in Mattoon, time TBA. She encouraged all committee chairs to attend or send a representative so that GSRs could learn more about service opportunities and bring that information back to their groups.

Committee Reports: The Archives Committee (Mike W., chair) and Answering Service Committee (Randy G., chair) have service opportunities. If you are interested in helping document the history of the District and its meetings, contact Mike. If you are interested in getting on the list to answer 12 Step Calls or take people to meetings, contact Randy (rlgenau@gmail.com).

The Meeting List Committee (Liza W. and Mona M., co-chairs) reported that a limited run of new meeting lists will be printed in April because two new meetings will have met the 6 month requirement for publication on the meeting list). However, a large printing will not be done until the meetings that used to meet at Fellowship Circle House and currently meet at the Hall find new locations. Up to date meeting lists, however, are available on the District Website homepage (www.aa-eci.org) for PDF download or viewing in large print format.

GSR Reports: the Manhattan Meeting (Sunday, 8 pm, UCCC Church, 6th & Daniel, Champaign) and the Friday Night Fellowship (Friday, 7:30 pm, Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church, State & University, Champaign) are looking for new home group members.

The next District Business meeting will be Sunday, April 20th at 2 pm.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Sunday, April 6th, 12pm

SWAT, Speaker: Erika S.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Saturday, April 12th, 8pm

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: John P.

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Saturday, March 8th, 10am

Attitude of Gratitude, Speaker: TBA

2055 E. Harrison, Charleston

Monday, April 14th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Randy G.

602 W. Green, Urbana

Saturday, April 19th, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Gary W.

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Wednesday, April 16th, 7:30pm

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Thursday, April 24th, 7pm

HOW Group, Speaker: TBA

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Friday, April 25th, 8pm

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th, Charleston

Saturday, April 26th, 6pm

Working with Others, Speaker: Jared

718 S. Randolph Street (hall), Champaign

Saturday, April 26th, 5pm

Shoulder to Shoulder, Speaker: TBA

First Christian Church, Mattoon

Sunday, April 27th, 8pm

Grapevine Group, Speaker: TBA

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

Monday, April 28th, 8pm

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE HALL: FAREWELL ALCATHON April 11-12

*"Through these doors walk some of the
finest people"*

Friday, 10pm through Saturday, 9pm at 718
South Randolph, Champaign

Meetings round the clock*; continuous
speakers; Saturday morning breakfast
Grand Finale Speaker "As Bill Sees It" Speaker

Volunteer sign up sheets are at The Hall
Food and Coffee Donations Welcome
FMI contact Andy C. 217-493-8296

*(scheduled meetings held at their regular
time)

CARRY THE MESSAGE! Service Opportunities Available Now

*Volunteers are needed to help provide a general
orientation of the 12 Step Program for the
transition from rehab to daily recovery at The
Pavillion (809 W. Church, Champaign) and The
Prairie Center (122 W. Hill Street, Champaign).*

A woman volunteer is specifically needed for the
10:00 a.m. meeting the 2nd Sunday of the month
at The Prairie Center. The Prairie Center requires
the volunteer to have at least 1 year of sobriety,
and to have taken ('worked') all 12 steps.

To sign up or for more information, contact:
Don D. 217-419-6924 or email:
dd71469@gmail.com
Joe C. 217-722-4551

GENERAL SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING April 13

*Erin's Pavillion, Southwind Park
4965 South Second Street
Springfield, IL*

Registration: 8:30am
Class: 9:00am - 12:00pm
Lunch and Fellowship: 12:00pm - 1:00pm

* Thinking about becoming a GSR?
* Just Becoming a GSR?
* Been a GSR for awhile, but never really
learned what it was all about?

Come see what you've been missing! All costs
covered by District 19!

To reserve a seat, call Brian P. at 217-622-4607

ILLINOIS AREA 21 ASSEMBLY hosted by Springfield District 19 June 8

*Ansar Shrine Center
630 South 6th Street
Springfield, IL*

Registration: 7:30am
Program: 9:00am

Costs: Assembly \$6.00 Luncheon \$10.00

Pre-Assembly Event: Ansar Shrine Center June 7, 2014
Saturday Night: Potluck, 6:30pm - Speaker, 7:30pm

Lodging:
Route 66 Hotel - St. Joseph & South 6th Street
217-529-6626

Please mention "SIA 21" when making reservations for a
rate of \$59.00 + tax

For additional information contact: Leo S. 217-652-8370
or Gary W 217-553-9737