

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

## NEWSLETTER

October 2014

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



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## AA'S STAIRWAY TO FREEDOM

When I first became aware that I was trapped in a pit of my own design, I began to stubbornly fight and struggle to climb out by myself, on my own power. It was like crawling up a flight of stairs with chains and anchors dragging behind me. Each grueling step is harder than the one before. I swear, I strain, I use all the strength inside of me and then suddenly, I see a handle of sorts. I look at it longingly and reach with every ounce of energy I have left. I fail to notice the sign next to the handle that clearly reads, "Flush Here". I grip it desperately in order to pull myself up just a little higher, dragging my burdens behind me, and suddenly the handle moves, the stairs collapse beneath me, and I slide back down into my miry pit.

AA and the people in the rooms are a "few" steps ahead of me, offering a helping hand as I climb out of my pit ONE STEP AT A TIME. If I ignore their helping hands out of pride or shame or my glorious independence (that has done so much for me up until this point) and try to climb out of this lonely grave on my own then I will only make it so far before growing weary, and reaching for that "handle" rather than reaching for the generous helping hands so clearly available to me, I once again find myself right back where I began—only I find I am trapped in a far deeper pit than I was prior to this latest trip down the "slippery slide of misery".

While I now realize that I was wondrously gifted at digging my pit deeper and deeper all by myself—even decorating it, and foolishly making myself believe it was a suitable home—I have finally surrendered to the fact that I will never get out of it alone. Without God, without the AA members that have gone before me, I am doomed to repeat this living hell until it finally claims my life, and I give up the fight to escape. I choose surrender. I choose acceptance. I choose to both ask for—and gratefully accept— all the help I can get. I choose to do whatever it takes to get out of this pit, and then help as many others as I possibly can to break out of their own prisons. I thank God for AA, and for the love compassion, understanding, humor and acceptance I have found inside the rooms. I am thankful to say, that one day at a time, I will never be the same.

~Rae P., New York

*reprinted from "Background Notes", District 0490 Newsletter of Central New York, Area 47, Volume 5, Issue #3*

*District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs*

- DCM** Gary S. ([dcm@aa-eci.org](mailto:dcm@aa-eci.org))
- Alternate DCM** Mona Lee H.
- Secretary** Katrina R. ([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** Don D. & Joe M.
- Meeting List** Liza W. & Mona M. ([meeting-list@aa-eci.org](mailto:meeting-list@aa-eci.org))
- Answering Service** Randy G. ([answering-service@aa-eci.org](mailto:answering-service@aa-eci.org))
- Newsletter** VACANT ([newsletter@aa-eci.org](mailto:newsletter@aa-eci.org))
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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** Mike W.

*District 12 holds its meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 2pm in the New Fellowship Corner at 1714 Springfield Avenue, 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.*

**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 H.	September 1	29 years
Dan T.	September 5	1 year
Creighton C.	September 9	28 years
Jay T.	September 11	2 years
John D.	September 11	9 years
John M.	September 14	17 years
Ann W.	September 20	3 years
Kaitlyn B.	September 26	4 years
Pam Q.	September 27	7 years
Mike C.	September 29	13 years

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

Imagination.

Inspiration.

Creativity.

If you are experiencing any or all of these three things, then you should be submitting your brilliant and thought provoking article to the newsletter committee. Then you'll get to see it, right here, next month!

District 12, Area 21 call for submissions always open. "There are no requirements" for writing articles. They can be anything from a couple of lines to several paragraphs and can be on any topic relating to AA. Here are some ideas for articles:

- If you're a founding member of your group, or it's just been around for a long time, write about its history and any hardships it's had to overcome along the way.
- Write an article about your recovery for the issue of your anniversary month.
- What was the easiest step for you? The hardest? Why?
- Tell us about meetings you've attended in other states and/or other countries. How were they the same? How were they different?
- Explain why a certain slogan or saying in AA is your favorite.
- How did you come to choose your home group? How did you choose your sponsor - or did s/he choose you?
- If you've had a spiritual experience, when and what was it?
- What has the program given you that you never had before?
- Tell us about the service work you've done and how it enriched your recovery.

**BIG BOOK TRIVIA**

*September's question:*

There was a book about alcoholism written by a doctor in 1930 that Bill relied heavily on as source material when writing the original Big Book manuscript. What was it?

*Answer:*

"The Common Sense of Drinking" by Richard R. Peabody

*October's Challenge:*

This month's question isn't about the Big Book, its about The Grapevine! Who wrote AA's Preamble?

## DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

*At the District Business Meeting September 21:*

Alternate DCM Mona Lee H. reported on the results of the Area officer elections held at the Assembly September 7. Becky B. is the new Area chair; the Area delegate elect is Paula E.; Alternate Delegate is Tom K.; Area Treasurer Dick S.; Area Registrar is Bobby D; and the Area Secretary is Pat W.

Treasurer Steve B reported that the district received in August \$529.60 in income in the form of group disbursements and restitution and had \$440.48 in expenses.

### Committee Reports

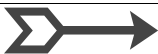
The Newsletter Committee reported that Stan M. has joined the committee to handle pickup and distribution. The Website committee reported that three new meetings have been added to the online version of the list: Champaign: A Vision for You, Monday, 6:30pm Windsor Road Christian Church, 2501 W. Windsor Road, Room 400; Gifford; Gifford Open Meeting, Tuesday 5:00pm Plumb Road Methodist Church; Tuscola; Fourth Dimension Young People's Meeting, Thursday, 7pm, Tuscola UCC Church 114 W. Pembroke (West Door)

### GSR Reports

The S.W.A.T. speaker for October (October 5) will be Leo S. from Springfield. The Women's Sunday BB Study Meeting will have its quarterly potluck and traditions meeting October 26 at 12:30pm.

The next district meeting will be Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Fellowship Corner.

The solution to "TBA"



To ensure your group's speaker is not anonymously referred to as "TBA," call or text Sarah H. at 708-601-4424 or email info to [beewrites@ymail.com](mailto:beewrites@ymail.com) by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month prior to the newsletter publication.

## SPEAKER MEETINGS

*Sunday, October 5th, 12pm*

SWAT, Speaker: Leo S. (Springfield)

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

*Friday, October 10th, 7:30pm*

Friday Night Fellowship, Speaker: Ray M.

Episcopal Church, State & University, Champaign

*Saturday, October 11th, 8pm*

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Elliot B.

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

*Monday, October 13th, 8pm*

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Blaine E.

602 W. Green, Urbana

*Wednesday, October 15th, 7:30pm*

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

*Saturday, October 18th, 6:30pm*

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Navara

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

*Saturday, October 25th, 6pm*

Working with Others, Speaker: TBA

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

*Sunday, October 26th, 8pm*

Grapevine Group, Speaker: TBA

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

*Monday, October 27th, 8pm*

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

*Thursday, October 30th, 7pm*

HOW Group, Speaker: TBA

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

*Friday, October 31st, 8pm*

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: TBA

Madison & 7th, Charleston

*Note:*

UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING SPEAKER MEETINGS IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT #12 (East Central Illinois District 12 AA) WEBSITE AT: <http://aa-eci.org/calendar/>

