

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

November 2014

www.aa-eci.org/newsletter



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EVENTS Sarah H.
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TRY

To those who are far from perfection, but who make an effort, there come miraculous rewards.

In every single chapter of AA Big Book, we can find the simple but all-important word “try.” What a fantastically simple requirement for all of us, newcomers and old-timers alike.

The thought finally came to me that all I really had to do was try. We do not set the goal of spiritual perfection, but we are offered a way of spiritual growth if we are willing to try.

And so we might well ask the newcomer who wants what we have: “Are you willing to try our suggested program? Will you try to surrender and to believe that a Higher Power can and will restore you to sanity? Will you try to turn your will and your life over to the care of God as you understand Him? Will you try a stab at self-honesty and then try to seek God’s help in removing your shortcomings and character defects? Will you try to make amends and practice a daily inventory? Will you try to improve your conscious contact with God and to learn His will for you? And finally, now that you have received so much just for the trying, will you try to carry this message and practice these principles in all your affairs?”

For those who have tried, the rewards are truly miraculous and immeasurable. For the alcoholic, the first reward is the ability, however impossible it may seem at first, to stay away from one drink one day at a time. The ability to do this, which we could never do alone, is granted through God’s grace, which, I am convinced, is showered upon any alcoholic coming to AA with a willingness to try.

The other miracles are too numerous to list, for they may range all the way from sobriety to serenity –and beyond! Initially, many of us arrive at AA as willing as only the dying can be, and with this attitude, born of self-preservation, we try to stop drinking one day at a time. But when we go on from there, trying to make the Twelve Steps a part of our everyday lives, the simple but beautiful trying ceases to be a struggle and becomes our daily privilege, bringing new and unexpected blessings.

This simple word has come to mean so much to me that I now begin each day with a prayer of thanks that God has given me another day to try again, regardless of how much I may have faltered the day before.

It’s as though God were speaking to each one of us, asking, “Will you try it my way?”

~Ed C., Union City, NJ Reprinted from the Grapevine, 1977

District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

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- Alternate DCM** Mona Lee H.
- Secretary** Katrina R. (secretary@aa-eci.org)
- Treasurer** Steve B. (treasurer@aa-eci.org)
- Corrections** Mike K.
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- 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 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. Deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

A MAN, A DOG, & A GUN

I work as a rider, always away from town and looking after cattle. And a trip to town meant a drunk. But this time it was too much.

In spite of the shakes and the dry heaves, I managed to get my .45 Colt six-shooter down. I took it out to the barn. Sick as I was, I knew death would be sweet. I had given up. The remorse and the depressed feeling I just can't explain, but you readers will know.

My old dog, the best friend I ever had, went along at my heels. Now, this dog was what's called a stock dog, and better with cattle than any cowboy you could hire. A registered blue heeler. As I sat in back of the barn, my dog was looking me right in the eye. He knew when I was drunk and sick; he had seen it many times. My wife never liked a dog, so I thought, "Old boy, you are going to die with me, 'cause when I go you will be adopted out to someone who won't feed and take care of you."

I put my arm around my dog's head, kissed him goodbye. I held that heavy .45 close to his head and, oh God forgive me, I shot him at one-foot range. He never knew what hit him. Then I was sick.

I couldn't turn that .45 on myself after seeing my faithful dog dead at my feet. I chickened out right then, threw that six-shooter in the barn, and buried my dog with remorse that no man ever had before. I started over to the happy house to get me a bottle.

As I went through my house, I saw that our newspaper had come. I opened to the want ads through habit, and the number for AA jumped out at me. I called the number, and a kind man came to see this sot. We rapped, I took an interest, and now I'm a full-fledged AA member.

This sobriety is a new life for me and my family. I go to every meeting I can. After the death of my dog, I cannot even think of that insanity of alcohol, thanks to God and AA. Gang, it works!

~Don B., Byron, Wyoming Reprinted from The Grapevine, 1977

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Russ	October 3	16 years
Grace H.	October 3	1 year
Cheri P.	October 6	8 years
Coby S.	October 17	7 years
Aubry	October ?	1 year
Paula P.	October 29	35 years
Kelly A.	October 31	11 years

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

BIG BOOK TRIVIA

October's question:

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

Answer:

The Preamble first appeared in the Grapevine in 1947, and was written by Tom Y., the Grapevine Editor at that time.

November's Challenge:

The 5 millionth copy of the Big Book was presented to Ruth Hock in 1985. Who was she?

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The Newsletter Committee is happy to announce that we have filled the position of Newsletter Chair.

We welcome Sarah H. to the Newsletter Team!

During this transition, while we allow Sarah time to get her bearings in learning the responsibilities of being the District Chairperson, we do not have District Highlights from the month of October available at this time.

Be sure to check back in December's edition to see all the District Highlights from November. Thanks!

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 by the 21st of the month prior to the newsletter publication.



"I don't think you can add 'liquor store' as a dependent."

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Sunday, November 2nd, 12pm

SWAT, Speaker: Billy S.

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

Saturday, November 8th, 8pm

As Bill Sees It, Speaker: Amy C.

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

Monday, November 10th, 8pm

Cellar Dwellers, Speaker: Blaine E.

602 W. Green, Urbana

Friday, November 14th, 7:30pm

Friday Night Fellowship, Speaker: Erich H.

Episcopal Church, State & University, Champaign

Saturday, November 15th, 6:30pm

Bottoms Up, Speaker: Cathy G.

Serenity Shack, 117 N. Ohio Street, Rantoul

Tuesday, November 18th, 8:00pm

Tolono Closed Group, Speaker: TBA

104 E. Vine, Tolono

Wednesday, November 19th, 7:30pm

Nuts and Bolts, Speaker: TBA

Camel Club, 508 E. Fairchild, Danville

Saturday, November 22nd, 6pm

Working with Others, Speaker: Denise D.

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

Monday, November 24th, 8pm

Monday Meeting, Speaker: TBA

109 E. Van Allen, Tuscola

Thursday, November 27th, 7pm

H.O.W. Group, Speaker: TBA

Fellowship Corner

1714 Springfield Avenue, Champaign

Friday, November 28th, 8pm

Friday Night Meeting, Speaker: Special – Panel on Spirituality – Four guest speakers, including Tamara K.

Madison & 7th, Charleston

Sunday, November 30th, 8pm

Grapevine Group, Speaker: TBA

Prairie Center, 122 W. Hill Street, Champaign

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/>

