

Illinois Area 21

District 12



Alcoholics Anonymous

NEWSLETTER

January 2015

www.aa-eci.org/newsletter



In This Issue

- Twelve Steps,
Twelve Months,
One Day at a
Time
- AA Comes to East
Central IL
Page 2
- Big Book Trivia
Page 2
- Anniversaries
Page 2
- District Highlights
Page 3
- Conference
Approved
Literature What
it means
Page 3
- Upcoming Events
& Notices
Pages 4



Newsletter Staff

EDITOR &
LAYOUT Martin B.
SPEAKER
CALENDAR Sarah H.
DISTRICT
NOTES Rosemary T.
EVENTS Sarah H.
DISTRIBUTION Stan M.

District 12 lost a trusted servant, outgoing DCM, Gary S, 61, of Urbana died at 11:10 p.m. Dec. 22, 2014. Gary has moved onto the next and last step, that of eternal sobriety.

TWELVE STEPS, TWELVE MONTHS, ONE DAY AT A TIME

I've been taught that working the steps is a daily experience. Meetings I attend often deal with taking action and sharing the experience, the results of those actions. As time passes I hear many different stories about how one or other of us do steps, what sponsors do, and how many times my fellow alcoholics repeat these suggestions.

Over time I've found that step meetings have become an important part of my step work. Come January I get to hear and share on the first step. Have any new memories from my past come back, any new insights since one year ago? I get to repeat this, looking at each step with folks I didn't know a year ago, and with those with time repeating basic truths I want and need to be reminded of.

So I get to leave the meeting with something I forgot, always something. And I get to take this with me into the day, and the next, and in a week I get to do it again-- always something new, something different.

Twelve months have come and gone a few times now. With each this medicine for complacency serves me well, my aid for continued remission of active alcoholism. So how often do I get to work the steps-- a day at a time, becoming a week, a month, a year. Come January I get to do it again, the right medicine for staying on our path. Before long I get to revisit step two, revisit growing contact with the loving God in my life. To whoever came up with this plan,

Thank you.

Anonymous, Urbana, IL

District 12 Officers and Committee Chairs

DCM Mona Lee H. (dcm@aa-eci.org)

Alt. DCM Michael G. (alt-dcm@aa-eci.org)

Secretary Katrina R. (secretary@aa-eci.org)

Treasurer Chad S. (treasurer@aa-eci.org)

Corrections Mike K. (corrections@aa-eci.org)

Treatment Facilities Don D. & Joe M.
(treatment-centers@aa-eci.org)

Meeting List Liza W. & Mona M.
(meeting-list@aa-eci.org)

Answering Service Randy G.
(answering-service@aa-eci.org)

Newsletter VACANT

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. (archives@aa-eci.org)

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.A. Comes To East Central Illinois, Part I

The journey begins in September of 1939 after Doherty S of Indianapolis read "Alcoholics and God" by Morris Markey, in the September 30th, 1939 issue of *Liberty Magazine*. Doherty had been struggling to stay dry since 1938. In an attempt to learn more about the book Alcoholics Anonymous he wrote to *Liberty Magazine*. His letter was answered and he received the address for The Alcoholic Foundation in New York.

In September 1940 Irwin M. came to Indianapolis from Cleveland and the first meeting of A. A. in Indianapolis occurred October of 1940. From there A. A. spread to Bloomington, Indiana in 1945 then to both Terre Haute, Indiana, Paxton, Illinois and Danville, Illinois in 1946.

Danville's first meeting was officially established in September 1946 with three members. The first letter from the Danville Group to The Alcoholic Foundation was dated November 6, 1946. *We have four members in Danville, Illinois now. We have been holding meetings weekly for 6 weeks. We would like to have our group on the list as a working group.* The meetings were held at the YMCA, Saturday Night 8 pm with a woman's meeting in an adjoining room. By August 1947 the group had grown to 21 and by 1949 Danville had a second group. In the mid-fifties Danville had 3 groups and a total recorded membership of 50.

Continued on page 4

ANNIVERSARIES

To submit an anniversary to the newsletter, please email newsletter@aa-eci.org.

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

BIG BOOK TRIVIA

December's Challenge:

Pages 138-139, who was the "Executive of a bank who was undoubtedly alcoholic"?

Answer:

Clarence S. Author of the Home Brewmiester in the First, Second and Third Edition and early AA Pioneer in Cleveland.

January Challenge:

What Story Was deleted after the First Printing of the Big Book.
(hint: it was the last story)

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

At the District Business meeting December 14 ...

Alternate DCM-elect Michael G. reported on the Dec. 7 Area Assembly. The Area Committee chairs for 2015-2016 are: Treatment Centers: John L. (Jacksonville); Corrections: David G. (St. Louis); GSR Workshop: Steve O. (Decatur); Public Info: Rose H. (Coffeen); CPC: Pat K. (Bunker Hill); Literature: Dick B. (Springfield); Grapevine: Michael G. (Danville); Area Archivist: Carl M. (Edwardsville); Webmaster: Todd S. (Butler). With the election of a new Area Treasurer, the address for mailing contributions to Area 21 has changed. It is now P.O. Box 9168, Peoria, IL 61614-9168. The Spring 2015 Area Assembly will be held in conjunction with the Area Spring Conference March 27-29 in Mt. Vernon. Events and registration information can be found on the District website calendar www.aa-eci.org/calendar under the month of March 2015.

Treasurer Steve B. reported that the District received \$510 in group contributions and \$60 in group contributions for the Corrections fund and had expenses of \$112 (answering service and newsletter expense).

Committee Reports:

Corrections Chair Mike K. reported that the committee will soon be placing a large literature order and encouraged individuals to donate their Grapevines for distribution in the jails. Treatment Facilities Chair Don D. reported that volunteers were still needed for the Sunday morning panel at the Prairie Center (male for 1st Sunday, female for 1st Sundays, and a female for 4th Sunday; at least 1 year of sobriety and have worked the 12 steps). The committee was asking for a 3 month committee to encourage more participation in this service work, although anyone wishing to serve for more than 3 months may do so. Archives Committee chair Mike W. reported the donation by Terri M. of a binder of material related to meetings the district. Martin B., the new Newsletter editor, has volunteered to also serve as committee chair. Russ S. has volunteered to serve as new PI-CPC chair. Both appointments will be ratified at next month's meeting.

GSR Reports:

Jake T., GSR for Shipwreck, the new Sunday night meeting at Fellowship Corner reported that attendance is about 15-20. Tyler M. is the new GSR for Working With Others. Bill B. reported that S.W.A.T. had elected new officers; Patrick H. will be new GSR.

The next district business meeting will be Sunday, January 18th at 2pm at Fellowship Corner. At that meeting, newly elected officers begin their terms, committee chairs will be appointed by the DCM and District budget for 2015 will be proposed and approved.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

Speaker information for January was not received before publication date

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/>

"Conference-approved" — What It Means to You

The term "Conference-approved" describes written or audiovisual material approved by the Conference for publication by G.S.O. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with A.A. principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the A.A. Fellowship. ***The term has no relation to material not published by G.S.O. It does not imply Conference disapproval of other material about A.A. A great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others, and A.A. does not try to tell any individual member what he or she may or may not read.***

Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid A.A. experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of A.A.s from all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production.

How To Tell What Is and What Is Not Conference-Approved

Look for the statement on books, pamphlets and audiovisual materials:

"This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature"

Not All "A.A. Literature" Is Conference-Approved

Central offices and intergroups do write and distribute pamphlets or booklets that are not Conference-approved. If such pieces meet the needs of the local membership, they may be legitimately classified as "A.A. literature." There is no conflict between A.A. World Services, Inc. (A.A.W.S. – publishers of Conference-approved literature), and central offices or intergroups – rather they complement each other. The Conference does not *disapprove* of such material. G.S.O. does develop some literature that does not have to be approved by the General Service Conference, such as Service Material, Guidelines and bulletins.

Reprinted with permission of A.A.W.S.

http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-29_en.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS & NOTICES

AREA MEETING & EVENTS NOTES

St. Joseph, Tuesday Evenings

7pm

7pm at St. Joseph Prince of Peace Church, 802 E. Douglas St., St. Joseph, IL ... We are a fairly new group - bring your energy!

Thursday Night Open Step Study

8pm

Held at Community UCC church, 805 South 6th Street(6th & Daniel) in Champaign begins a new 'through the steps' cycle beginning Thursday January 8th! Bring yourself, bring a sponsee, bring your sponsor!

"Shipwrecked"

Sundays, 6pm, Fellowship Corner

This is a new "young people's" meeting at Fellowship Corner, starting Sunday, November 9th. "Young defined" as "room to grow".

"Secular" AA? New Meeting Forming

"A Higher Power of OUR Understanding"

Interested in forming a more 'secular' AA meeting? call Gil at (217) (721-5511) or email dcmg@ureach.com

Wednesday Night Step Study

7pm

We alternate reading steps & stories using the 12 and 12 and "Experience, Strength, and Hope"! Difficulty Hearing? Difficulty Sharing? Good Hearing? Love Sharing? Long term or short term sobriety— we share our experience, strength and hope – and want you to join us! FMI contact Dan T. at 650-269-6045

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2101 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign

Sunday, Women's Closed Big Book Study

12pm

Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign

This closed women's meeting now offers child supervision during the meeting.

Tuesday Women's Step Study Meeting

7:30pm

Westminster Church, Champaign

This meeting now hosts a Speaker meeting the first Tuesday of the month followed by a potluck, please bring a dish to share. January 6th speaker: Doris B.

CALL FOR BRIDGE THE GAP VOLUNTEERS

Share Your Experience, Strength and Hope - Volunteer to Help With Bridge the Gap!

Volunteers needed for 'Bridging the Gap' - the transition from treatment to after treatment!

Tuesdays at 6:00pm at the Pavilion. Please contact: Don D. at (217) 419-6924 or Joe C. (217) 722-4551 to volunteer or for more information.

AA Comes to East Central Illinois continued

The first correspondence that the Alcoholic Foundation received from Paxton, Illinois is a letter dated November 29, 1946 from D.R. S. *I wish to report that we have an A.A. Group here in Paxton and would like to have our group listed and also receive any inquires you may have from this territory. I became a member of A.A. at the Indiana Home in Indianapolis in June.* The original correspondence showed a membership of 3 and in 1947 and 1948 GSO records show that Paxton was a loner (only one member). The Paxton Group grew slowly and by 1950 the group wrote to the Alcoholic Foundation: *We wish to change the name of our group on your records: from Paxton Group to the Paxton-Rantoul Group. This change is made because many in our group are residents of Rantoul and the Chanute Air Base at Rantoul.* July 8, 1963 the original group founder D.R.S wrote to the Alcoholic Foundation: *I feel it is my duty to now inform you that the "Paxton" Group is no longer in existence. There are no members in Paxton. However, members of Rantoul are still meeting, so all that is necessary is to drop the name "Paxton."*

Martin B. Champaign, IL

Next Month Champaign-Urbana, Mattoon and Monticello