

District 12 Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2015

HTTP://WWW.AA-ECI.ORG

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February Speakers

February 1, 2015 12:00

1714 W. Springfield
Speaker: Bobby S.

February 3, 2015 7:30

Westminster Presby-
terian Church
Speaker: Maureen M.

February 14, 2015 8:00

1714 W. Springfield
Speaker: Heather T.
(Tolono)

February 26, 2015 7:00

1714 W. Springfield
Speaker: Oz

Anniversaries

Linda B	Dec 7	6 yrs
Bekkah S	Jan 8	6 yrs
Silber D	Jan 9	3 yrs

A.A. Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs

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WHEN AND WHY AA BEGAN COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In 1942, members from San Francisco brought the first AA meeting into San Quentin Prison at the request of Warden Clinton T. Duffy. This example led to AA's cooperation with court systems, including direct communications with judges and parole and probation officials. The sole purpose of this Twelfth Step work, then and now, was to carry AA's message to the still-suffering alcoholic. To fulfill that purpose, AAs have learned how to share AA information within court systems.

Probation and parole officers, as well as judges, often require people involved in alcohol-related offenses to attend AA meetings. Some AA members find it difficult to accept this "outside" policy in light of our Third Tradition, "The only requirement for

AA membership is a desire to stop drinking." Perhaps it's helpful to remember that our Traditions apply to us, and aren't affected by the regulations established by outside institutions—we cooperate without affiliating. By adhering to all Twelve Traditions, many groups welcome each newcomer regardless of how they got to the meeting.

In recent years, a larger number of "safe driving" programs have been set up for drivers in trouble with the law because of some episode related to drinking. These programs have many different names—such as Alcohol Safety Action Project (ASAP), Driving While Intoxicated (D.W.I.), Driving Under the Influence (D.U.I.), and the like. Many AA committees that cooperate with these programs offer attendees a chance to learn about AA, and some are now members of AA as a result.

From Page 89 of the Big Book, *Alcoholics Anonymous*: "Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail.... You can help when no one else can.... Because of your own drinking experience you can be uniquely useful to other alcoholics. So cooperate; never criticize. To be helpful is our only aim"

Therefore, as long as carrying the message helps those of us already in AA maintain our own sobriety, this kind of message-carrying is a success. Our responsibility is to make the seed of AA freely available. What the sufferer does with it is not our responsibility. Only one "statistic" interests us in AA—the next person who may need our help.

Continued on page 3

A.A. Comes to East Central Illinois

The September 12, 1947 Daily Illini ran a page 2 announcement that an open meeting of A. A. was to be held at the Champaign City Hall auditorium on September 15, 1947. To an audience of 60, speakers from Danville, Paxton and Gib-

son City shared about A.A. (There is a conflict here between the September 17, 1947 Daily Illini and the January 1947 Grapevine. The Grapevine article indicates that members of Chicago, Indianapolis and Danville spoke with and made no

mention of Gibson City or Paxton). The Champaign-Urbana Group was to be .3 local members of A. A. .. *continued on page 2*

A.A. Comes to East Central Illinois



The circle and triangle was adopted in 1955

“The group was founded about 10 years ago. Another point of interest during this 4 ½ years there has been 147 people who have attended at least 1 meeting- yet the group has not increased

Continued from page 1

By October 1947 Champaign-Urbana A. A. had secured a Post Office Box and meetings were being held regularly, although no permanent location for meetings had been located. Meetings in Champaign-Urbana continued but had begun to struggle for over a decade with attendance rarely breaking 15. In November of 1957 Nolan H. wrote to the General Services Office in New York for assistance.

I was talking with one of our A.A. boys tonite and its subject came up about “What can our group do to carry the message in this locality?”

Champaign-Urbana is a community of approx. 70,000 people. Four and

one-half years ago when I attended my first meeting they had a regular attendance of 12 to 15. Today we still have from 10 to 15 at our meetings. From the standpoint of sobriety I am the oldest member- 4 ½ wonderful years without a drink. The group was founded about 10 years ago. Another point of interest- during this 4 ½ years there has been 147 people who have attended at least 1 meeting - yet the group has not increased.

GSO’s records show that attendance had jumped to 39 in 1958.

A group from Mattoon first contacted the Alcoholic Foundation on December 14, 1948 via a correspondence. The correspondence reads:

We are very desirous of

starting a group here in Mattoon, Illinois and would appreciate you sending us some literature, pamphlets, etc. to distribute to prospective members. Also we would like to have a secretary’s guide listing the various groups if available. Up to the present we have attended meetings at the Charleston, Illinois group but now wish to start our own to eliminate the winter driving hazard. Our group, to start, will be four in member and the period of sobriety ranges from two months to approximately three years.

GSO Archives shows that membership grew to 10 by 1951 and held steady at between 13 ~ 15 for the rest of the fifties.

There are no early records of meetings in Charleston

Martin B, Champaign IL
Next month Monticello

Big Book Trivia

What Story Was deleted from after the First Printing ? The Lone Endeavor was rushed in as the last chapter of the Big Book in 1939. On the bus trip from Los Angles to AA in New York the author relapsed and the story was removed before the 1941 Printing. He did find his way back to AA.

February Question What page is the original form of the AA preamble found. Hint it is one of the Roman Numeral numbered pages .

Extra Credit: What page does Bill state “Of Alcoholics that came to AA and really tried 50% got sober at once and remained that way.”



In 1994 General Services Conference voted to discontinue its use

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A.A. Cooperating with Court, D.W.I. and Similar Programs

Excerpts reprinted with permission from A.A. World Services

WHICH AA TRADITIONS GUIDE US IN COOPERATING WITH THESE PROGRAMS?

All of them, but these have been specially mentioned:

One—Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon A.A. unity.

Two—For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern. Three—The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.

Five—Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Six—An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Ten—Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.

Eleven—Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films.

Twelve—Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

WHAT ARE SOME COMMON PROBLEMS AND HOW ARE THEY SOLVED?

A. Getting A.A. members involved.

Many A.A. members are not aware that this kind of Twelfth Step work is available and that they can participate in it.

In some locales, this service is coordinated by the Committee on Cooperation With the Professional Community (C.P.C.). Often ongoing Twelfth Step work within the court system leads to a sub-committee connected to the district or central office/intergroup. It's important to include enough A.A. members to cover A.A. commitments in the court system without detracting from other service work.

Usually, it is up to members of these committees to share this experience with other A.A.s, so that more A.A.s understand how to take part in this kind of Twelfth Step work.

B. Misunderstanding of these programs by A.A.s, and by the offenders.

Some A.A. members are upset when they hear about this Twelfth Step service. For instance:

1. When such a program first starts, a small A.A. group may have more newcomers than regular members at its meetings. Some members feel their group is being "invaded."

This can usually be solved by setting up a meeting with the judge and members of several nearby groups, asking the judge to spread the newcomers around among several "open" meetings.

One option, when many newcomers under court order turn up at a meeting, is for the members to divide into small discussion groups, with a few regulars sitting with each set of newcomers.

In any case, it is probably a good idea for the judge to refer people to "open" A.A. meetings, in the event that some of those referred do not believe themselves to be alcoholics. Often, providing the court with a list of "open" meetings will avoid referrals to "closed" meetings.

2. Some members have the mistaken impression that such programs "affiliate" A.A. with outside enterprises, or constitute "endorsement" by A.A. of a court or D.W.I. program. However, A.A.'s cooperation with these programs no more constitutes "affiliation" or "endorsement" than do A.A. meetings held in hospitals and prisons.

A.A. members involved in court classes, or meetings about A.A., explain that these are not regular A.A. meetings. It is pointed out that A.A. is self-supporting, so A.A. groups do not accept rent-free meeting rooms or literature furnished by any non-A.A. source, and are totally independent of a court or other enterprise. It is shown that A.A. groups do not force attendance, or keep attendance records. Courts can do these things as they are not bound by the A.A. Traditions.

This Complete Guideline Can Be read online at http://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/mg-05_coopwithcourt.pdf

The purpose of this Guideline is
To assist in reaching an **informed**
Group conscience.

"WHICH AA TRADITIONS GUIDE US IN COOPERATING WITH THESE PROGRAMS?"

All of them, but These specifically have been Mentioned One, Two, Five, Six, Ten, Eleven and Twelve"

Notes from the Editor: Hi everyone. As you can see there are some changes happening. New look and some new topics. I have been writing to GSO Archives and scanning both Grapevine and local newspapers looking as to how A.A.'s message of hope arrived in the District. Working through different A.A. publications for GSO Guidelines and bits of A.A.'s history thrown in. Please share and ask questions. The Newsletters ALWAYS needs local contributions of How A.A. works in your life. This is YOUR Newsletter PLEASE don't be shy and share. Martin B. Newsletter Editor

District Highlights

DCM Report

Alternate DCM Michael G., in the absence of DCM Mona Lee H. chaired the meeting. He emphasized that in his experience, the 5th and 12th Traditions should guide the District's activities. He asked committee chairs to determine their budget requests for the coming year and to provide justification for the number by the next District meeting.

Current committee chairs were re-ratified for the next two years and the following persons were appointed: Russ S. for PICPC, and Martin B. for Newsletter. There remain two vacant chairs: Answering Service and Grapevine.

Treasurer's Report

Chad S. reported that, in the last 30 days the District received \$835 in group donations, \$175.56 in Corrections literature donations, and had \$283.99 in expenses. The resulting cash balance, (Total income – expenses - prudent reserve - Corrections literature fund) is \$777.10.

Committee Reports

Corrections Committee Chair Mike K. reported that it had purchased A.A. literature at cost through the Bloomington Normal intergroup and saved \$206.

Treatment Centers Committee Chair Don D. reported that he is arranging to meet with personnel from both treatment centers to clarify the activities and purpose of A.A. Orientation and Bridge the Gap panels.

GSR Reports

Terri M. reported that a new meeting for secularists, agnostics and those searching for a Higher Power, called Many Paths, will begin on Thursday, January 29 at 6 pm in Urbana at the Unitarian Universalist Center at 309 W. Green Street.

Ruben L. reported that a new Big Book Study at the Camel Club in Danville is being held on Thursdays at 6:30 and that the Monday night meeting now at 508 E. Fairchild was moving to the Camel Club beginning on February 2.

The next District Business meeting will be on Sunday, February 15 at 2 pm.

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)
- VACANT Answering Service (answering-service@aa-eci.org)
- Newsletter Martin B (newsletter@aa-eci.org)
- VACANT Grapevine . (grapevine@aa-eci.org)
- PI-CPC Russ S. (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 Ave, 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.

Volunteer opportunities available for ANSWERING SERVICE Chair, GRAPEVINE Chair, and gathering NEWSLETTER Activities. Volunteers are always welcome for Treatment Center Work