

# District 12 Newsletter

September 2017

## *Tradition Nine*

*AA, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.*



Have a great Labor Day

It Works if you Work it!  
One Day at a Time!  
Let Go and Let God!  
Get a Sponsor don't go  
it alone....

## On the 9th Tradition

Each A.A. Group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large Metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The Trustees of The Alcoholic Foundation are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office in New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, "The A.A. Grapevine." All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

The least possible organization, that's our universal ideal. No fees, no dues, no rules imposed on anybody, one alcoholic bringing recovery to the next; that's the substance of what we most desire, isn't it?

But how shall this simple ideal best be realized? Often a question, that.

We have, for example, the kind of A.A. who is for simplicity. Terrified of anything organized, he tells us that A.A. is getting too complicated. He thinks money only makes trouble, committees only make dissension, elections only make politics, paid workers only make professionals and that clubs only coddle slipees. Says he, let's get back to coffee and cakes by cozy firesides. If any alcoholics stray our way, let's look after them. But that's enough. Simplicity is our answer.

Quite opposed to such halcyon simplicity is the A.A. promotor. Left to himself he would "bang the cannon and twang the lyre" at every crossroad of the world. Millions for drunks, great A.A. hospitals, batteries of paid organizers and publicity experts wielding all the latest paraphernalia of sound and script; such would be our promoters dream. "Yes sir," he would bark "My two year plan calls for one million A.A. members by 1950!"

For one, I'm glad we have both conservatives and enthusiasts. They teach us much. The conservative will surely see to it that the A.A. movement never gets over organized. But the promotor will continue to remind us of our terrific obligation to the newcomer and to those hundreds of thousands of alcoholics still waiting all over the world to hear of A.A.

We shall, naturally, take the firm and safe middle course. A.A. has always violently resisted the idea of any general organization. Yet, paradoxically, we have ever stoutly insisted upon organizing certain special services; mostly those absolutely necessary to effective and plentiful 12th Step work.

If, for instance, an A.A. group elects a secretary or rotating committee, if an area forms an intergroup committee, if we set up a Foundation, a General Office or a Grapevine, then we are organized for service. The A.A. book and pamphlets, our meeting places and clubs, our dinners and regional assemblies--these are services too. Nor can we secure good

hospital connections, properly sponsor new prospects and obtain good public relations just by chance. People have to be appointed to look after these things, sometimes paid people. Special services are performed.

But by none of these special services, has our spiritual or social activity, the great current of A.A. ever been really organized or professionalized. Yet our recovery program has been enormously aided. While important, these service activities, are very small by contrast with our main effort.

As such facts and distinctions become clear, we shall easily lay aside our fears of blighting organization or hazardous wealth. As a movement, we shall remain comfortably poor; for our service expenses are trifling.

With such assurances, we shall without doubt, continue to improve and extend our vital lifelines of special service; to better carry out our A.A. message to others; to make for ourselves a finer greater society, and, God willing, to assure Alcoholics Anonymous a long life and perfect unity.

Bill W.— 1948

Reprinted from the AA Grapevine

## **East Central Regional Forum Springfield, Illinois November 17-19, 2017**

Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to the East Central Regional Forum to be held the weekend of November 17-19, 2017 at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre, in Springfield, Illinois located at 700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1601. Telephone Number: 217.789.1530. Representatives of the General Service Board and members of the General Service Office and Grapevine staff will be present at the Forum to share experience, respond to questions and hear suggestions. It will be a weekend of lively participation for all concerned.

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2017. The Orientation for First-time Attendees is at 6:30 p.m. and the opening session starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. The Forum closes promptly at noon on Sunday, November 19, 2017. There is no registration fee for the Forum. There will be simultaneous translation available from English to Spanish. We want all A.A. members to be able to participate regardless of language.

Forum Registration: You may register for the Regional Forum by filing out the Forum Registration Form and mailing it to G.S.O. or you can register online at: [www.aa.org](http://www.aa.org). All persons registering online must include their full name and postal address. Online Forum registrations must be received at G.S.O. before November 13, 2017 in order to be processed. If you miss the deadline, we welcome on-site registration. It is not necessary to call G.S.O. to pre-register but your advance registration greatly helps our planning.

Hotel Reservations at the Wyndham Springfield City Centre can be reserved by one of the following methods:

- ◆ By phone: 217.789.1530 no later than October 26, 2017. Please use Group Booking Code: 11167027EC to get the special room rate.
- ◆ By internet please go to [http://www.aa.org/pages/en\\_US/regional-and-local-forums](http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/regional-and-local-forums) follow the link by clicking "Online Hotel Reservations."

To get the special room rate, be sure to register for your hotel accommodation no later than October 26, 2017.

If you have any questions about this Regional Forum, feel free to Email: [regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:regionalforums@aa.org)  
We are looking forward to seeing you in Springfield

Sincerely yours,

Steve S.,  
Regional Forums Coordinator  
Email:[regionalforums@aa.org](mailto:regionalforums@aa.org)

Terry Bedient  
General Service Board Chairperson

# **EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALENDAR IN A NUT SHELL!**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Saturday Sep 16th</b>	Fall Election Assembly Hosted by District 12 Lord of Life Lutheran Church, La Fox, IL All GSR's and anyone interested in Area Service should attend
<b>Saturday Oct 14th</b>	Fall Committee Meeting Lord of Life Lutheran Church, La Fox, IL All GSR's and anyone interested in Area Service should attend
<b>Saturday Nov 4th</b>	Northern Illinois Area 20 Big Book Conference 1st United Methodist Church, 801 N. Sycamore, Hinkley, IL 60520 Register on line at <a href="http://www.bbc2017.aadistrict71.org">www.bbc2017.aadistrict71.org</a>
<b>Weekend Nov 10th- 12th</b>	National Corrections Conference Doubletree Hotel 1973 Craigshire St. Louis MO 63146 Conference Chair: John S. 314-413-5939 Hotel Phone—314-434-0100
<b>Weekend Nov 17th- 19th</b>	East Central Regional Forum Wyndham Springfield City Centre, 700 E. Adams Street, Springfield, IL 62701 You can register online at: <a href="http://www.aa.org">www.aa.org</a> Hotel Phone—217.789.1530
<b>Saturday Dec 9th</b>	Winter Assembly Hosted by District 11 Lord of Life Lutheran Church, La Fox, IL All GSR's and anyone interested in Area Service should attend

## **District 12 Business/GSR Meeting.**

**3rd Sunday of Every Month**

**3:00 pm Concepts/GSR Meeting**

**3:30 pm Traditions Meeting**

**4:00 pm Business/GSR Meeting**

**Vista West Medical Center, 2615 Washington St, Waukegan, IL**

## Help Needed for Vista West Psyc Ward Meeting

**Meetings are Tuesday Evening & Sunday Morning**

Come to the Vista West Cafeteria at 7:00pm, Tuesday to find out the times and procedures for the Sunday meeting

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 12 STEP WORK

**Sponsor Panel:** ATP 1 st & 3rd Saturday 12:45-2pm

**Back to Basics:** ATP 2nd & 4th Saturday 12:45-2pm

**Drug Court:** 1:30pm Wednesday Court 204

**Mental Health Court:** 9:00am Monday Court 220

**Veterans Court:** 9:00am Friday Court 201

**Detox:** ATP 7:30pm Wednesday, 2:00pm & 7:00pm Sunday

**For Info Contact:** Frank M. @ 224-730-3045

### VOLUNTEERS WE NEED A COMMITMENT!!!

#### Lake County Work Release

Tuesday and/or Thursday

Once or twice a month 7:15 pm

**Both men and women needed**

**For more info contact: Les 847-336-3275**

## Want to be Published

Send your Traditions articles to

Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com

Deadline for the October issue is

September 21th

### A.A. Contacts

General Service Office:

<http://www.aa.org>

Northern Illinois Area 20:

<http://www.aa-nia.org>

District 12 Website:

<http://www.aadistrict12.com>

District 12 Answering Service:

847-623-9660

Northern Illinois Area 20 - District 12: P.O. Box 8882 - Waukegan, IL 60079-8882

**Newsletter Submissions should be sent to Dist12.Newsletter@gmail.com**

**District 12 Officers (Confidential – this information is for A.A. Use only)**

If you are interested in one of the positions listed as OPEN, please contact an officer.

Position	Chair	Phone	Email	Alternate	Phone	Email
DCM	Paul P.	847-849-3928	paulperini@att.net	Pete O.	224-381-9992	peter.ochoa73@yahoo.com
Secretary	Tracie J.	847-847-9201	tracie_jahnke@yahoo.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Treasurer	Jackie S	224-247-8963	spencerbox@comcast.net	Karen F.	847-609-7354	k.finkel@comcast.net
Answering Service	Steve N	847-623-5076	stephenrordstrom@gmail.com	Mike C.	847-942-2339	michaelcorder2016@gmail.com
Archive	Tom B.	847-363-4363	tomhat609@gmail.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Bridging the Gap	Ray L.	847-917-6442	r.leeper@sbcglobal.net	<b>OPEN</b>		
Corrections	Frank M.	224-730-3045	aboutme615@gmail.com	Les M.	847-336-3275	
CPC / Treatment	Dick M.	847-404-3713	dick71308@ameritech.net	<b>OPEN</b>		
Directory	Tyra H.	224-281-3369	tyrasaldana2@gmail.com	<b>OPEN</b>		
Grapevine	Laura J.	847-533-0895	laurajohnson3623@comcast.net	Mary P.	847-309-2306	mgk6perk@gmail.com
Literature	John M..		Contact thru District 12 Website	<b>OPEN</b>		
Newsletter	Mike H.	847-848-4855	dist12.newsletter@gmail.com	Jackie R.	224-610-6646	jacquelinea1241@gmail.com
Public Information	Francis K.	847-505-2555		<b>OPEN</b>		
Special Events	Cortney T.	847-508-5638	cortney.t0516@gmail.com	Kristina K.	224-456-1225	mykrazyemail@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Danny K.	224-440-2024	kratovild@gmail.com	John P.	773-540-5164	john.jay.p@gmail.com