

Faithful Fiver Pledge:

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette
Eugene, Oregon 97401

- I pledge \$5 per month to support EVI and service work in my community.
- I'm feeling grateful, I can send _____ per month.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution: Monthly.
- Four times a year (\$15 each)
- Once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

When you acknowledge my contribution, please list me as (first name, Initial, or nickname):

GET THE
NEWS!

“Faithful Fivers” are people who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. As a Fiver, we list your nickname on a board in the office, with a red dot marking each contribution so you can keep track of your commitment. (We don't monitor your participation, and we send you a newsletter whether or not you remember your pledge.) You can contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly, and if you check the receipt box on this form and you are on our mailing list, we will send you a receipt at the end of the year. (If you want a receipt, but would like to save EVI postage by picking up the News at the Office, or the EVI Business Meeting, fill out your nickname and address, but write “no news” next to your address.)



Twelve Concepts for World Service: Concept II

Concept II states: “The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its World affairs.” Tradition 2 states: “Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.” The Concept and the Tradition both shape the way in which the General Service Conference attends to the practical aspects of A. A. administration.

Although ultimate authority for A.A. affairs rests in the group conscience, some form of delegation of actual service responsibility has always been necessary to ensure effective action. In the early days, the Akron and New York groups delegated operational authority to Bill and Bob. Bill, in turn, established the Alcoholic Foundation (1938), composed of a board of alcoholic and nonalcoholic trustees whom he selected. Over the next few years the board assumed responsibility for publishing the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous and The Grapevine, managing donations from groups, and publicity. Between 1938 and 1955, when the General Service Conference of Alcoholics Anonymous was established, *active authority* was vested in the trustees, and *ultimate authority* in the founders, Bill and Bob. After 1955, the Conference was given ultimate sanction in matters of large importance to the Fellowship, with the exception of the Twelve Traditions and Article 12 of the Conference Charter. Any alteration to these must be approved in writing by two-thirds of registered groups in the United States and Canada.

Article 12 of the Conference Charter is worth perusing. Under the heading of *General Warranties of the Conference*, it reads:

“In all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. tradition, taking great care that the Conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others; that all important decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and, whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy, that though the conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.”

To the average member of Alcoholics Anonymous, it may appear that the General Service Conference does relatively little, at least in proportion to the amount of effort that goes into it. Change often seems to move at a snail's pace. Any alteration in the AA service structure must be broached at one annual Assembly, presented by the Delegates at Area assemblies, and voted upon in New York a year later. Innovations with considerable support frequently fail to obtain the required two-thirds majority of votes.



August 2005

Contents:

Twelve Concepts for World Service: Concept II	1
AA Meeting Changes	2
Intergroup News	3
July EVI Business Meeting Minutes	3
Contributions to EVI	4
Indulgence Peddlers of the Third Millenium	4
Calendar and Events	5
Service Opportunities	5
People	6
Fairly Good	6
Echoes in the Valley	7
Rule 62	7

AA Meetings:

New

Changed

Cancelled

Please remember to let us know if your group changes its schedule. To submit a change, please notify the EVI office. Thanks!

Continued from page 1 (Twelve Concepts for World Service)

On the whole, recovering alcoholics are a conservative lot in the generic sense of being people cautious about change. We've made our share of bad decisions in our lives, and have learned the wisdom of 'wait and see.' Our delegates are people with many years of sobriety and a history of increasingly responsible service work. If they were ever likely to be swayed by some malcontent squeaky wheel demanding immediate, sweeping changes, those days are long past.

An episode from a recent General Services conference illustrates how the structure works. When the Fourth Edition of the Big Book was being prepared, the Trustees made an editorial decision to revise the punctuation in Dr. Bob's nightmare. Some members objected, and instructed their Area Delegate to introduce a motion to restore the original punctuation. This motion was then referred to Area Assemblies. In the Oregon Area, the February assembly is devoted partly to committee deliberations on upcoming motions. As a GSR, I was assigned to the Literature Committee, where we discussed the punctuation motion and made a recommendation to the Oregon Area Delegate. Such recommendations are not a mandate for voting in a particular way. As our Representative, our Area delegate is expected to take into consideration any new information that surfaces at an assembly, and modify his vote if he believes it is in the best interests of A.A.

At the following General Assembly in New York, the motion passed, and A.A. World Services was instructed to restore the original punctuation. The example sounds trivial, but the underlying principle - that all of decisions of the Trustees and editorial boards are subject to Conference review - is not.

The inner workings of A.A. are quite transparent and accessible. Our Area Delegate gives detailed reports at quarterly assemblies, and also gives presentations locally. Every registered group with a GSR receives a copy of the annual Conference report, a weighty tome with much in it of value to people who value their sobriety.

Bruce L., our current Delegate, will be in Eugene on August 28 to give a post-conference report. This is a great opportunity for communicating with "our active voice". See you here at the EVI office, from 1-3 pm on the last Sunday in August.

Martha S., Eugene, Oregon

Echoes in the Valley

Echoes in the Valley is a collection of wit and wisdom heard at area meetings. While not always original, they represent local shares by your fellow recovering alcoholics. Quotes are credited to the speaker with permission - otherwise they are anonymous.

Please submit contributions to this department. People say clever things all over town - not just in meetings your newsletter editor attends.

Things go better for me when God is in the equation. I don't do many hideous things when God is involved.

(George , Wednesday Night Men's)

Resentments are a sort of roulette wheel. When a number comes up, you get to relive it. (Anonymous, Downtown A.M.)

A fanatsy is a sort of internal lie. (Anonymous, Downtown A.M.)

If I take away the solution (alcohol) and don't deal with the problem, I don't have much to look forward to in life.

(Anonymous, Downtown A.M.)

I used my artistic fantasy world to justify being a loser.

(Anonymous, Downtown A.M.)

No one takes you out for coffee when everything's going well.

(Bob, Sober Awakening)

Some mornings I feel like a can that hasn't been opened. If I take the can to a meeting, generally someone opens it. (Bruzz, Sober Awakening)

I've had spiritual awakenings, but I keep dozing off.

(Georgine, Sober Awakening)

I take things very literally- I consider this as the "room for improvement". (Jake, Downtown A.M.)

The trouble with perfectionism is, you're constantly trying to meet multiple mutually contradictory standards. (Martha, Downtown A.M.)

Some Unusual Group Names:

- Big Book Worms Group, Chicago
- Bughouse Square Group, Chicago
- Dangerous Men's Sports, Culver City, CA
- Bulletproof Group, St. Petersburg, FL

Rule 62:

Sure I had a drinking problem, but I looked at it more as a drinking opportunity.

Alcoholics' Anthem: "I Was Always on My Mind."

A man falls down a deep ravine. As he falls, he desperately grabs hold of a sapling, which breaks his fall. "If there's anybody up there listening," he shouts, "please help me!" With that, the clouds part, and a ray of light falls on him. A deep voice booms out, "Let go, my son, and I will bear you up." The man thinks for a moment, then asks, "Anybody else up there?"

Some people move when they see the light. Alcoholics move when they feel the heat.



People:

OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Roger B. (461-6125; cell 868-5982)

ACTIVITIES

Sylvia (485-3482, cell 913-7115),

Vincent (606-1296)

ANSWERING SERVICE

Joe H. (232-1267), Dave W. (653-1788)

ARCHIVIST

Johanna (302-9086)

CPC

Nadine P. (683-5730)

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: Martha S. (687-9569),

Greg W. (349-0294)

Website: Karla B. (744-0509),

Lisa A. (343-5848)

Meeting Directories: Denna (344-7996),

Odessa Q. (513-1913)

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Chair: Donna B. (463-1300)

Co-Chair: Donna M.

LITERATURE

Tim A. (726-8558), Aaron B. (914-1687)

OUTREACH

Lee F. (302-1408), Angela D. (683-6551)

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI): Open

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Larry W. (513-5262)

HOSPITALS

Chair: Steve S. (914-9258), Todd (302-6377)

COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES (CTF)

Kaycee (520-5635)

CORRECTIONS

Chair: Bob L. (689-6960)

H&I COORDINATORS:

Lane County Jail: Annie O. (342-4690)

C.C.C. (Women's): Paula L. (689-6458)

C.C.C. (Men's): Tim G. (484-1938)

Alma Work Camp: Lee H. (689-0570)

Pathways: Doug R. (461-3872)

Serbu Detention: Tatiana E. (510-9031)

Carlton House: Robert S. (684-9439)

W.F.T.-Friday Night: Teffany (746-1438)

W.F.T.-Book Study: Mindy S. (954-2048)

Serenity Lane:

Speaker: Phillip S. (342-2180)

B.T.G.: Gus P. (463-1691)

Sat. Cindy D. (988-0183), Jason (912-8217)

Saturday Night Live: Hank A. (484-6259)

Johnson Unit: Jill (302-1311)

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Bob T. (342-1588)

Co-Chair: Open

Secretary: Cress B. (913-1791)

Treasurer: Bob E. (747-2246)

Vice Treasurer: Brad (968-3599)

At-Large: Deb B. (302-4839)

At-Large: Ken L. (747-8270)

At-Large: Lori P. (343-2515)

At-Large: Frank K. 345-7131

BOOKKEEPER: Elizabeth R.

continued from page 4 (Indulgences)

Alcoholics Anonymous isn't like that. You can't pay AA to give you the stamp of approval. We don't lobby the court system to send sinners to our doors. The steps members are asked to undertake in order to be readmitted to communion- not just with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, but with the whole human race- provide spiritual enrichment for all concerned, and physical enrichment for no one. These steps require a profound sense of one's shortcomings coupled with a lot of discipline to modify behavior, qualities which the indulgence-peddlers are loath to emphasize.

You can't buy a piece of paper that will save your soul, and you can't buy a piece of paper that will ensure your sobriety. The latter, as much as the former, is a gift from your Higher Power, freely bestowed but only recognized and received when we have admitted our powerlessness, acknowledged and repented of our shortcomings, and become entirely open to the Divine in our lives.

Martha S.

Eugene, OR

Fairly Good

Some people in my home group swear by the Oregon Country Fair. Maybe it's a sign of my age, but my nostalgia runs more to the Lane County Fair, coming up in August. I can remember being taken there when I was four or five years old and being fascinated by all the exhibits, especially the giant vegetables. As an adult, living on a farm, I submitted lots of entries and encouraged my young daughter to do the same. When I relapsed, all that stopped. Two years sober, I decided to celebrate by entering everything I possibly could, affirming that I had rejoined the human race, affirming that I could take pleasure in being a part of something, even if I didn't get that blue ribbon of excellence. In fact, the only blue ribbon I got that year was for some ginko nuts, the only entry in the "Nuts -Other" category. This year I'll have paintings, quilts, several sweaters knit in A.A. meetings, and cookies, the rejects of which I take to EVI. I'll go and admire all the wealth of talent, creativity and industry that Lane County has to offer, and be proud to be a part of it- as all of us can be, if only we suit up, show up, and use our skills to finish what we start

Martha S.

Eugene, OR

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2005

6:30 Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer. A quorum was present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Literature and shipping charges : Price changes became effective July 1, 2005.

All publications are going up by \$1.00, except the Big Book. Shipping for purchases under \$200 is 10% of purchase. There is no shipping charge for orders over \$200.

A spaghetti feed fund-raiser for WACYPAA is coming up.

OLD BUSINESS

Ted was elected EVI co-chair. A pamphlet was ordered from New York that describes our service positions.

NEW BUSINESS

Activities Committee

The Speaker Meeting is low on help, and the Activities Committee is losing money. The committees proposed combining these events. Comments centered on the need for a proposal and on taking the idea to the groups. Discussion was tabled.

Jessica was elected Co-Chair of Activities.

6:55 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities Committee: There is \$200 in the bank, but the dance is more than that, and they fall short each month by \$80. The July 4 picnic cost \$200. Bob said the \$100 budgeted by EVI is in the budget.

Archivists: Johanna reported that new material is now in the display case.

Diverter: Everything is going OK.

Communications:

Website: The meeting information on the website has been updated.

Meeting Directory: We have received 350 directories, and we are expecting more.

Women's Bedrock Speaker Meeting now meets at 843 Monroe.

Newsletter: The July newsletter is in print. The DCM from District 19 contributed an article. Martha needs unusual, insightful, humorous sayings heard at meetings.

H&I: Co-chair is open for CTF, Hospitals and Corrections committees. There will be a workshop on CTF, and Bill from CTF South is coming. H&I needs a notetaker.

Literature: Tim mentioned there was a literature booth at Summerfest that collected \$192 in book sales. A literature order will be placed this week.

Office Coordinator: Roger called for volunteers for four hour shifts to help guide folks to meetings. The Steering Committee approved renting a carpet cleaner, and the carpet will be cleaned on Sunday. Posters of the 12 steps and 12 traditions are available.

Outreach: Gus gave the reported that they have divided up the list of groups who have not been sending a representative to the Business Meeting. Outreach is starting to visit these groups. They will recruit another home group for help.

Speaker Meeting: Donna reported that attendance is down. They need coffee help, a baby sitter, raffle help, co-chair and chair. The Committee has a prudent reserve and that may be used to purchase audio equipment.

Treasurer's Report: June ended with \$482 in Prudent Reserve. Bob gave a six month comparison to last year: Income is at 90%, group contributions are at 109%, personal at 43%, literature at 96%, and Alanon sales are at 82%. Bob also discussed the accounting improvements he is working on and the job descriptions that are also in the works.

CPC: Doug is building membership. CPC currently has about 5 new members.

CPC meets the third Monday of the month at 6:30. They will be branching out to the professional community. They also had a CPC workshop with Angel as guest speaker.

7:40 Meeting closed with the serenity prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Cress B. – EVI Secretary (abridged by Newsletter chair)

Intergroup:

EVI Office

1259 Willamette Street

Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and much more.

Save the site with a Bookmark

or Favorite and check back often.

(The squiggle in the in the address is found on the keyboard to the left of the exclamation point.)

EVI News

Emerald Valley Intergroup's newsletter for the A.A. community in Lane County

EVI News is a monthly newsletter of the Emerald Valley Intergroup. It is about, by and for the members of Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does the publication of any article, event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions include: Quotations from A.A. books or pamphlets, which are reprinted with permission of A.A. World Services, Inc.) EVI News is produced to support communication within the fellowship; please respect the anonymity of any A.A. member mentioned herein. EVI News reserves the right to edit any submissions for clarity, length, language, and editorial policy. Contributions gratefully accepted for consideration for publication.

Submissions are due by the last Monday of each month. To submit an article or event information, mail or deliver the information to the EVI office c/o EVI Newsletter. Contributions may also be submitted by e-mail to: EVInews@comcast.net. **Please include a contact phone number.** Communication Committee (Newsletter & Web Site, Meeting Book) meetings are held at 6 pm the first Friday of each month at the EVI office.

Contributions:

July, 2005

Group Contributions (month/yt)

As Bill Sees It .00

Attitude Adjustment .00/636.60

Blue River Sunday .00

Brown Bag Group .00/75.00

Caduceaus .00/152.00

Cottage Grove Al-Anon .00/50.00

Cottage Grove Gratitude .00

Cottage Grove Noon .00/60.00

Cottage Grove S. Valley .00/27.50

Downtown AM Group 195.94/1192.62

Drop the Rock .00/184.39

Early Firehouse Group .00/75.00

Freedom of Choice .00/98.00

Friday Night BB Study .00

Friday Night Men's .00/300.00

Friday Nite Young People .00

From The Heart .00/120.00

Gratitude Group .00/67.20

Host of Friends .00/75.00

How It Works .00/62.00

Language of the Heart .00

Last Chance Study Group 50.00/100.00

McKenzie River Group .00

Mohawk Brown Bag .00

Monday Mens Stag 5.00/5.00

New Freedom .00/60.00

Pass it On 18.00/48.00

Physical Awakening .00/140.00

Recovery By The Steps .00

Recover by Big Book .00/30.00

Rush Hour Group .00

Saturday Morning Steps 146.85/406.38

Search For Serenity 96.00/413.00

Serenity at Noon .00

Serenity Seekers .00

Sober Awakenings .00/637.63

Springfield Study Group .00/35.00

Stairway to Sobriety .00/150.00

Sunday Sunshine .00/50.00

Thurs. Men's Book Study .00/100.00

Tues Night Young People .00/187.76

Tuesday How it Works /138.00

Try God Group .00/995.37

Tuesday Sponsorship Group .00/50.00

Veneta Gratitude 95.35/142.92

Wed How it Works .00

Wednesday Men's Noon .00/70.00

Wed. Night Men's Stag .00/430.00

Women's Bedrock .00/50.00

Women's Courage to Change 72.50/72.50

Women's How it Works 5.00/35.00

Women's Road to Recovery .00/195.00

Total Contributions Group

month/yt 729.64/8950.03

Individual Contributions

Faithful Fiver 85.00/670.00

Anonymous 58.45/396.85

Total Contributions Individual

143.45/1066.85

Indulgence Peddlers of the Third Millenium

Not long ago I rented the recent film *Luther*, which gives a good reconstruction of life in Europe in the mid sixteenth century. Early in the film, a young Martin Luther travels to Rome on business. He is appalled by the churchmen peddling indulgences in the streets there, selling slips of paper purporting to guarantee forgiveness of sins.

Today we smile and wonder how anyone could have been so naive as to suppose that salvation could be bought for cash. Aware only of what the practice of providing indulgences had become under a notably corrupt Church administration, we fail to understand the original purpose of indulgences, and thus, I believe, also fail to recognize a similar trend in our own society.

In Medieval times, civil and ecclesiastical law were not separate. When a person sinned- when he had violated some Church law, which may or may not have also been an offense against society and the state- he was excommunicated until he had repented and performed assigned penitential acts. An indulgence remitted the penitential acts and restored the sinner to full communion. It was granted on a case by case basis with the understanding that the person so indulged would make a substantial financial contribution. Thus the practice bore some resemblance to paying a fine rather than going to prison in a modern judicial system. It was not intended as a license to sin, or as a means of raising revenue, and it was assumed that the sinner would exhibit genuine contrition before the question of indulgence ever came up.

Unfortunately, turning sin into a revenue source for Church or State is a slippery slope, because there is inevitably a conflict of interest involved. As long as sin generates revenue, those dependent on that revenue will avoid anything that is really effective at curbing socially destructive processes. At the same time, whether through denial or through hypocrisy, they will enthusiastically support ineffective, counterproductive measures.

I thought of this the other day while working with a young woman who had turned to AA after getting her third DUI. She'd been through two diversion programs and had immediately resumed drinking upon 'graduation.' She'd paid substantial fines to the State and a premium to the insurance company. She was then directed into a treatment program with an extremely high failure rate with the promise that if she paid them a good chunk of money and complied with their worthless directives, she could be restored into "full communion" with the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. This sounded to me a lot like selling indulgences- like collecting fees for the sake of collecting fees, without caring much whether the client actually reformed.

continued on page 6

August Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee, 6:30 pm
- Tue District 20, 6:30 pm, 418 A St. Myron M. (345-582)
- Tue District 33, 7:00-8:00 pm, Alan U. (741-2617)
- Wed District 19, 5:30 pm, Sandy V. (485-4827)
- Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00 pm, Vicki (688-5042)
- Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00 pm
- 2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting, 6:30 pm
- Wed District 6, 6:30 pm, Tim A. (726-8558)
- Sat Answering/Diverter, 10:00 am, Joe (232-1267)
- Sat EVI Speaker Meeting, 7:30 pm, 2801 W. 18th
- Sun Activities, 5:00 pm, EVI office, Sylvia (485-3482)
- 3rd Mon Outreach, 5:30 pm, EVI office, Angela D. (683-3551)
- Tues Public Information, 6:00 pm
- Sat There will be no EVI Dance this month.
- Last Wed H&I Committee, 6:00 pm
- Thur Outreach, 6:30 pm, EVI office
- Sat W.A.C.Y.P.A.A.. 5:30 pm, EVI office

Fellowship Events

Delegate's Post-conference Report, Sunday, August 28, 1:00-3:00 pm at the EVI office. Hosted by District 19

The Mill Creek Group at the Oregon State Penitentiary invites people to attend a speaker meeting at 5:30 pm on Thursday, August 4 and also to attend their regularly scheduled meetings. Contact Ray Austin for clearance: 503-378-2289 or ray.p.austin@doc.state.or.us

The EVI monthly speaker meeting, featuring both local and regional AA and Al-Anon speakers, takes place on the second Saturday of the month, 7:30 pm, at Living Hope Church, 2801 W. 18th, Eugene.

The September, 2005 Oregon Area Assembly meets at the Yamhill County Fairgrounds, McMinville, September 16-18, 2005.

There is an AA *Comes of Age* book study meeting at Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid, on Wednesdays, from 5:45-6:45 pm.

Portland Area AA women are preparing a bid to host the International Women in AA conference in Oregon in 2008. They would love help from outside Portland. The EVI office has contact information.

The EVI office has flyers and information about all of the above events, as well as others that are out of state or otherwise of limited interest.

Gratitude:

Currently Available Service Positions

H&I has an ongoing, and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work.

Public Information needs both a chair and a group of people to perform volunteer functions.

The Diverter seeks volunteers to take calls to the local AA number after hours. Contact Joe (232-1267) for details, or obtain information and application forms from the EVI office.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions for one four-hour shift per week. Contact Roger (935-7260), or stop by the EVI office for information.

The Activities Committee urgently needs more volunteers to help plan and staff events. Please get involved if you want to continue having fun events. There is no minimum sobriety requirement. The time commitment is flexible. Call Sylvia, 485-3482.

Addresses for Group Contributions:

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Contributions for Districts 6, 19, 20, and 33 may also be sent to the above address. Indicate the district on the envelope, include the group number (found in the Oregon Area Directory), and make check out to the District.

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
PMB 172
1972 NE 3rd St.
Bend, OR 97701

AA General Service Office
PO Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163-0459