

## 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 individuals who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. We will post your nick name on a board in the office, with a little red dot placed for each months contribution so you can track of your contribution. (We don't remind you, or otherwise keep track of it for you, and we will send you a newsletter whether or not you have remembered to send in your pledge.) You can contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly, and if you check the receipt box and are on the News 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

I was introduced to AA's Twelve Concepts for World Service four years ago as a new GSR attending my first quarterly assembly. During the preliminaries of the Business Meeting, they read the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions, and then proceeded to something called the Twelve Concepts. These made little sense at the time. I had no sense either of where they came from or what their purpose was.

The memory of this confusion was jostled a bit when a new GSR in District Six submitted a piece on the First Concept to this newsletter, which after consulting with others I decided not to use, because it described the bewilderment accurately enough but never explained the Concept itself. The piece reminded me that the Concepts are a key feature of AA, and are either unknown to the bulk of the membership, or very imperfectly understood. The *Twelve Steps* of Alcoholics Anonymous provide the framework within which individuals achieve and maintain sobriety. The *Twelve Traditions* pertain principally to the functioning of groups and meetings.

The *Twelve Concepts* are an interpretation of AA's World Service Structure, and therefore, unless a person is a GSR or Area Officer, he or she has no opportunity to encounter a situation in which a Concept might apply. However, since AA is a thoroughly democratic organization, with most of the decision-making left to home groups and individuals, understanding how the larger service structure works is a part of being a fully involved member of the fellowship.

The most recent (2003-2004) edition of the AA Service Manual includes Bill Wilson's 1962 pamphlet explaining the Twelve Concepts. For understanding the reasons for why we do what we do, at the national and international level, this reference is invaluable. Copies are available for purchase in the EVI office.

Bill Wilson's introduction speaks eloquently for itself:

“The “Twelve Concepts for World Service” to be described in this Manual are an interpretation of A.A.'s world service structure. They reveal the evolution by which it has arrived in its present form, and they detail the experience and reasoning on which our operation stands today. These concepts therefore aim to record the “why” of our service structure in such a fashion that the highly valuable experience of the past, and the lessons we have drawn from that experience, can never be forgotten or lost.

Quite rightly, each new generation of AA world servants will be eager to make operational improvements. Unforeseen flaws in the present structure will doubtless show up later on. New service needs and problems will arise that may make structural changes necessary. Such alterations should certainly be effected, and these contingencies squarely met.

Yet we should always realize that change does not necessarily spell progress. We are sure that each new group of workers in world service will be tempted to try all sorts of innovations that may produce little more than a painful repetition of earlier mistakes. Therefore it will be an important objective of these Concepts to forestall such repetitions by holding the experiences of the past clearly before us. And if mistaken departures are nevertheless made, these Concepts may then provide a ready means of safe return to an operating balance that might otherwise take years of foundering to rediscover.

There will also be seen in these concepts a number of principles which have already become traditional to our services, but which have never been clearly articulated and reduced to writing. For example: the “Right of Decision” gives to our service leaders a proper discretion and latitude; the “Right of Participation” gives each world servant a voting status commensurate with his (or her) responsibility, and “Participation” further guarantees that each service board or committee will always possess the several elements and talents that will ensure effective functioning. The



# News

June 2005

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# 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. (653-1988)  
ARCHIVIST: Open  
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. (896-3574)  
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 I. (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 (It Pays to Clean up Your Language)*

We're all familiar with the stronger obscenities, as well as with language which is too coarse for the pulpit but has a place in the narration of coarse events. There are times in AA, certainly, when the most direct way of expressing something is to call a spade a spade, or to put it another way, to call B.S. - Bullshit. Most of us occasionally use even the F- word when angry or unpleasantly surprised.

A monologue in which every other word is a strong obscenity is another matter. Initially it is done for one of two reasons - to give the appearance of hostility to anyone listening, or because the speaker is brain damaged. Later, it may become a habit, and a very troublesome one. Swearing is actually handled by a different part of the brain - the 'reptilian brain' - from articulate speech. It does not require rational thought. People who have suffered head injuries often become foul-mouthed. Almost no thought goes into speech that is replete with curses, and very little is communicated beyond the attitude of the speaker. If you consistently refer to anyone with whom you are upset as a mother\*\*\*\*er, how is the listener to know that one is dishonest, one is making unwanted sexual advances, and a third is arrogant about his money?

Forcing yourself to think and express yourself in articulate, civil English is fourth/tenth step work. Taking the time to recognize exactly what it is you dislike about a person or situation, telling an offender to call his sponsor instead of telling him to go to Hell, is a useful habit of thought. Count to ten. Use the time between impulse and utterance to rephrase the thought in a manner which gets the point across without arousing additional hostility.

Very few people in AA think habitual swearing is "cool" or view it as a sign of maturity. By cleaning up your language, you'll increase the likelihood that people will listen to you attentively and respect what you say. In return, you'll respect yourself more. Civil speech is a minor matter compared to honesty, but like honesty, it is its own reward.

Martha S., Eugene, Oregon

## Briefly Noted

(Under this heading the Newsletter will print reports of ongoing or past Fellowship Events. Please feel free to submit brief (ca 100 word) summaries of events of interest.)

**The South Valley AA Groups Workshop Committee** thanks EVI for supporting the workshop held in Cottage Gove on April 9. We had a lot of fun and enjoyed working with all of you. Enclosed is \$27.50, half the donations collected. The other half went to District 20.

**The Veneta Gratitude Group** is sponsoring a hospitality room at Summerfest for the third year in a row, and recommends this as a service opportunity. They pass the basket a second time at their meeting for this purpose.

## EVI Business Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2005

**6:30** Meeting opened with the Serenity Prayer, Bob T. chairing. A quorum was present.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summerfest: There will be a volunteer signup committee meeting at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, June 27 at 6pm.

Al-Anon Carolyn (521-8581) Announced an Alateen campfire meeting, Saturday, June 25. Regina announced the upcoming Western Area Young People's Conference. Those who would like to help should come to the committee meetings at 5:30 pm on the last Saturday of the month.

### OLD BUSINESS

Kayce was elected chair of H & I.

Activities Committee still needs a co-chair.

### NEW BUSINESS: Vacant Positions:

The EVI Financial Advisory Board needs a third member. Three year position requires two years sobriety and preferably business training or experience.

Open Committee Chair Positions We still need a **PI Chair**. We discussed duties and encouraged EVI reps to publicize this in groups The **Assistant Office coordinator** position is also open. Please go back to your groups to discuss this. The person should have 1 year of sobriety and be able to commit about 6-10 hours per week.

### 7:10 COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Activities Committee

The April Hilyard Dance was well attended, and almost broke even. The meeting to plan THE NEXT DANCE is on the second Sunday of the month at 5:00 pm at EVI.

Archivists: Johanna plans to rotate material which is on display in the case.

#### Communications

Website: Karla appreciates getting e-mail updates.

Meeting Directory: New directory now delivered; starting on next edition.

Newsletter: Martha distributed May newsletters, and repeated request for contributions.

H&I The H&I committee meets 6:00 pm AT THE evi OFFICE; H&I meeting; notes and other information are also on the EVI website.

CPC: Doug presented a written report. He has contacted Sacred Heart and the Oregon Medical group.

Literature: Tim submitted a large book order in April, hoping to build up stocks before GSO raises the price of some items on July 1. The Treasurer held back part of this order, filling which would have meant dipping into our prudent reserve. There was a lengthy discussion followed by voting to take the issue back to groups, soliciting suggestions on how best to handle the situation. All agreed that better communication between the Literature Chair and the Treasurer was necessary.

Office Coordinator Roger is now Office Coordinator. Still exploring getting rebuilt cartridges for our printer.

Outreach: Lee submitted resignation; co-chair is unable to rotate into chair position, so position is open.

Speaker Meeting Flyers are out on the website. Budget \$10 in red due to bulk purchase; meeting generally doing well. Sylvia and Donna rotating out of chair and co-chair positions respectively.

Treasurer's Report Bob E. reported that April came out all right, with YTD net income of \$2127.45. A utility charge of \$700 was paid, as per our lease, although the office does not get heat. Tax returns are done. We haven't taken any action on the one group that is still using the EVI ID number on their account.

Steering Committee: Bob T. gave a brief recap; all the items were discussed again at the Business meeting.

**7:50** Meeting closed with the serenity prayer

Respectfully Submitted,

Cress B. - EVI Secretary (abridged by newsletter chair)

# Intergroup:

## EVI Office

1259 Willamette  
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](http://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. **Please include a contact phone #.** Contributions may also be submitted by e-mailed to: msherw@darkwing.uoregon.edu. Communication Committee (Newsletter & Web Site, Meeting Book) meetings are held at 6 pm the first Friday of each month at the EVI office.

# Contributions:

May, 2005

Group Contributions (month/ytd)

As Bill Sees It 00

Attitude Adjustment 312.60/636.60

Blue River Sunday 00

Brown Bag Group 75.00/75.00

Caduceus 152.00/152.00

Cottage Grove Al-Anon 50.00/50.00

Cottage Grove Gratitude 00

Cottage Grove Noon 10.00/60.00

Cottage Grove S. Valley 27.50/27.50

Creswell Al-Anon 00

Daily Reflections 00

Downtown AM Group 215.64/901.82

Drop the Rock 184.39/184.39

Early Firehouse Group 75.00/75.00

Freedom of Choice 98.00/98.00

Friday Night BB Study .00

Friday Night Men's 100.00/300.00

Friday Nite Young People 00

From The Heart /120.00

Gratitude Group 67.20/67.20

Host of Friends 75.00/75.00

How It Works 10.00/62.00

Lanugage of the Heart 00

Last Chance Study Group 50.00/50.00

McKenzie River Group 00

Mohawk Brown Bag 00

Monday Mens Stag 00

New Freedom 60.00/60.00

Pass it On 30.00/30.00

Physical Awakening 140.00/140.00

Recover by Big Book 30.00/30.00

Rush Hour Group 00

Saturday Morning Steps 100.78/259.53

Search For Serenity 112.00/317.00

Serenity at Noon 00

Serenity Seekers 00

Sober Awakenings 637.63/637.63

Springfield Study Group /35.00

Stairway to Sobriety 50.00/150.00

Sunday Sunshine - 00/50.00

Thurs. Men's Book Study 100.00/100.00

Tues Night Young People . 00/187.76

Tuesday How it Works /138.00

Try God Group 302.90/995.37

Tuesday Sponsorship Group 50.00/50.00

Veneta Gratitude 47.57/47.57

Wednesday Beginners.00

Wednesday Men's Noon 70.00/70.00

Wed. Night Men's Stag 180.00/430.00

Women's Bedrock 50.00/50.00

Women's How it Works 5.00/30.00

Women's Road to Recovery 195.00/195.00

**Total Contributions Group**

month/ytd 927.14/6875.33

**Individual Contributions**

Faithful Fiver 180.00/585.00

Anonymous 67.05/338.40

**Total Contributions Individual**

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

113.15/676.35

## It's Worth Cleaning up Your Language

There's one in every crowd. He (sometimes it's a she, but statistically, men predominate in this department) crawls into the meeting late, wearing an expression of hostile resentment, slouches in his chair, appearing indifferent to the contributions of others, and when his turn comes to share, unleashes a string of ear-searing profanity, interspersed with a few connecting expressions which may or may not organize the obscenities into some semblance of a train of thought. Those who have "been there, done that" recognize themselves, and think: 'That fellow has a long way to go.' Those of us who have been on the receiving end of abuse to which generalized profanity is often a precursor cringe. We distance ourselves mentally from the speaker, and if such outbursts are of frequent occurrence in a meeting, we vote with our feet.

Cursing is a bit like smoking. A small minority feel compelled to indulge in it. The majority of people have no strong feelings on the subject, but would probably prefer that the practice be limited to situations where strong negative emotions have already been aroused. A substantial minority, on the other hand, find persistent casual use of obscenities to be intimidating. A person who in meetings indulges in any behavior which discourages some segment of the alcoholic community violates the primary purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous.

It is not up to a group to micromanage the language of its members. Many groups include general guidelines on sharing etiquette in the chairperson's opening remarks, but trying to codify what is and is not objectionable so far as expression is concerned would be an exercise in futility. At times it is helpful if someone with long experience with a group takes an individual aside after the meeting and tactfully points out that certain aspects of a share were objectionable. This applies not only to profanity, but to other sensitive material, including racism, explicit sexual remarks, and attacks on other individuals. Since it is more likely that a relative newcomer will be discouraged by being interrupted and called to order while sharing, than that a person more secure in his sobriety will have his sobriety threatened by a newcomer's inappropriate remarks, approaching the offender privately after the meeting is almost always preferable to interrupting a share.

Ultimately, however, restraint of tongue and pen is up to an individual. Is the pervasive use of profanity a character defect, and is it remediable? I believe the answer to both questions is yes. Language is learned behavior, after all. By consciously trying to modify his language, a person can reach the point where civil speech becomes automatic. He will have 'acted his way into right thinking,' and the results will be evident not only in a more amicable relationship with his acquaintances, but in a greater degree of internal serenity.

*Continued on page 6*

## June Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee, 6:30 PM  
 Tue District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Myron M. 345-582  
 Tue District 33, 7-8 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  
 Sat Activities, 5:00PM, Sylvia, 485-3482  
 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  
 3rd Tues Public Information, 6:00 PM  
 Sat Meeting and DANCE, Hilyard Community Ctr., 7:00 pm  
 Last Wed H&I Committee, 6 PM  
 Thur Outreach, 6:30 PM, EVI Office  
 Sat W.A.C.Y.P.A.A.. 5:30 pm. EVI office

## Fellowship Events

- There will be an EVI Dance, with AA meeting at 7:00 pm and dance at 8:30, on June 18 at the Hilyard Community Center, 250 Hilyard Street. Sponsored by the EVI Activities Committee. Dances will henceforth be scheduled every third Saturday of the month.  
 The EVI monthly speaker meeting takes place on the second Saturday of the month, 7:30 pm, at Living Hope Church, 2801 W. 18th, Eugene. It features both local and regional AA and Al-Anon speakers.  
 Summerfest '05 is scheduled for July 1-3 at the Eugene Hilton. Check out the website, [www.aa-summerfest.org](http://www.aa-summerfest.org) or call the chair, Ryan A. (541-513-6498) for more information.  
 Pathfinders (formerly Recovery Riders) organizes outdoor events for AA members and their families. Check their website, [www.geocities.com/dailypath](http://www.geocities.com/dailypath)  
 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. Office has contact information.  
 The 19th Annual Flying M. AA campout happens June 17-19 in Yamhill.

The EVI office has flyers and information about all of the above events, as well as others which 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; 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