

## 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): \_\_\_\_\_

"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.) Our "Faithful Fivers" Program is new this last year, and was a great help. The idea came from an article in the G.S.O. Newsletter "Box 4-5-9 on similar programs at other Intergroups.

GET THE NEWS!



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## New Beginings

It was late spring and the weather was turning warm. I should have been thinking about fishing, but the only thing on my mind was getting drunk. I know that it would be my last for a long time. I was down to my last ten dollars that I had promised to my dad for gas to take me to Albany. What the hell, it was not like I had kept any promise to him in the last three years. So, I went about doing what I had done best since I was thirteen. With the lingering of last nights drunk, I set off on the journey that lead me to a new and better life.

The day after my last drunk I was sentenced to five years in prison. Over the next month I was processed in to a system I had only seen on TV. With me I brought my alcoholism, my old belief system, and my old thinking process. With all these things I fit right in with the rest of the people there. A new place where my old life could be reinforced.

I finally landed at Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution. I had been there for about three months refining my criminal thinking. I was running a black market pornography service. I would do most of my trading in the yard, which meant that I would take things like coffee out to the rec yard and trade it for magazines. One day I got caught by a guard who searched people randomly. As a result of my behaviors I ended up being restricted to my cell for thirty day. Not a very harsh punishment some might say, but what it did for me was to give me my moment of clarity.

I came to believe during those thirty day that something was going to have to change. The question I needed to answer was; Am I going to leave prison and commit the same behaviors or was I going to change the way I think? By the end of those thirty days I had decided that I was not going to return to society with the same cognitive processes that brought me to prison in the first place.

From that point forward I sought out programs that would address my thinking processes and my alcoholism. In a substance abuse program it was suggested that we attend the prison AA meeting. I was still the alcoholic who did not need a bunch of drunks telling me how to live my life, but the program counselor made the request a part of the program.

I had been to about four AA meeting prior to prison. I sat in the back and did not say a word. There was no way that I could be an alcoholic. I was not like these guys who seemed to have lost everything. Something had change at the prison meetings. When I listened to the people leading the meeting I heard similarities to the experience that I had with alcohol. After twenty years of alcoholic drinking and thinking I had finally reach the point where my mind was open to the possibility that I was an alcoholic. This is where my true journey started.

Over the next four years in prison I attended meetings when I could between work, school and other programs. What I got from those forty or so

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# E.V.I. News

January, 2001

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Emerald Valley Intergroup  
1259 Willamette Street  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Emerald Valley Intergroup  
1259 Willamette St. Eugene, OR  
97401 (541) 342-4113

# People:

OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR  
Gus P. 688-8454/ Judy B. 687-9389

LITERATURE  
Rich F. 744-7902, Dave S. 465-1767

ANSWERING SERVICE  
Frank K. 345-7131/ Dan

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN  
Linda 345-5827

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)  
Brad 744-3861

COOPERATION PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY  
Cathy B. 343-1962/ Alan 988-3595

ACTIVITIES  
Sandi D 463-0586

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS  
Newsletter: Robert S. 485-8866/ Zeb G.  
Website: Michael W. 343-2566  
Meeting Books: Doc M. 461-4800/Angel 431-4924

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING  
Al D. 345-2058/ Gaylene G. 953-3425

OUTREACH  
HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)  
Chair: Harold B. 342-1557 barton@continet.com  
Vice: Bruce 338-9892  
Secretary: Gus P. 343-4815

COOPERATION WITH TREATMENT FACILITIES (CTF)  
Tim A. 726-8558

HOSPITALS  
Michael G 338-4920

CORRECTIONS  
Karl B. 345-7466 karl@rpginvest.com.  
Scott H. 747-7417  
Jail: Co-coordinator: Scott H. 747-7414  
Co-coordinator: Lee E. 726-6669  
ITU coordinator: Jack C. 463-1040  
Alma Work Camp Coordinator: Karl B.  
Pathways coordinator: Gary C. 935-2557  
Garver B. 302-8156  
Haag Home: Gary R. 485-7777  
Randy G 541-466-3027  
Serbu Detention

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE  
Chair: Chris H. 345-7405 chelmers@efn.org  
Vice-Chair: Bruce 942-6954 bruce@fish-world.com  
Secretary: Tom L. 343-2465  
Treasurer: Mel M. 345-4450  
At-Large: Michael W. 343-2566m@mlwebb.com  
At-Large: Dann 484-2330 Dann@lowinsure.com  
At-Large: Gary R. 485-7777  
At-Large: Todd 607-6349 kritler@netscape.net  
Vice Treasurer:  
BOOKKEEPER / Bev. L

Salem Soberfest  
Feb 2-4

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meetings was a clear understanding that there was an group of men and women on the outside who could help me stay sober. With this knowledge in hand the day finally came for me to be free again.

I ventured out into the real world with a bar and a convenience store on every corner. I had many fears in those first few days, but they where relieved with the first AA meeting I attended. I had paroled to a town where I knew no one, so I walked into this meeting of total strangers and was welcomed as if I had been attending all my life. They did not shy away when I told them that I had been to prison. They just opened their arms wider and told me I was in the right place, and for the first time in my life I believed it was true. I have never returned to that meeting, because I moved to Eugene a few days later, but I am eternally thankful to those people. They gave me the courage to reach out and make all the great friends that I have in AA today.

It has been five years since I left prison and I am still attending meetings and am involved in service work. My life today is not perfect, but I wake up each morning and know that I did not harm anyone or myself by drinking. I ask my Higher Power for another day of freedom from alcohol and go about my day with Him by my side.

*Doc (Edwin) M.  
First Dexter Group  
Dexter OR.  
Friday 7:30 - 9:00 PM*

## January Calendar:

### E.V.I. and District Committee Meetings:

1st	Mon	Steering Committee 7:00
	Tue	District 20 418 A St. Karla B. 744-0509
	Tue	District 33 6:30 EVI office. Tom S. 686-8388
	Wed	District 19 6:30 Tracy R. 338-4320
	Thur	Speaker Mtg Committee 7:00 EVI Office
	Sat	Cooperation w/Prof. Community, 12N EVI Office
2nd	Mon	EVI Business Meeting 6:30
	Tues	Activities 7:00
	Wed	District 6 6:30 Larry W. 334-3609
	Sat	Answering 9AM EVI Speakers Meeting, 7:30 Country Club Rd Sun
3rd	Mon	Public Information 6:30
	Tue	Office Volunteer 5:30
	Tue	Communication Committee 7:30 2495 Columbia
	Thur	Cooperation Prof. Community
Last	Wed	H&I Committee 6:00
Last	day	Literature Committee 6:30

\* H&I Service Meetings are now listed in the back of the new meeting books!

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Those admissions of mine are not necessarily identical to scientific diagnosis of the disease of alcoholism, of course. Anywell-trained physician, alcoholism counselor, or other professional familiar with the symptoms of alcoholism can correctly determine whether or not a given drinker has the symptoms.

But such diagnosis by another person is not a step toward recovery for the drinker — until he himself takes the First Step. I took it blindly at the start, and that was not the best way for me, although any beginning is better than none. In subsequent AA years, through conscious, systematic efforts to understand and practice all the Steps, I have found that they repeatedly come to have new and surprising values.

For me, the hardest part of that First Step has been in the implications of the statement that my life had become unmanageable. With the effects of booze a bit behind me, I could see more plainly than ever what a mess my life was, what a job lay before me. And it became clearer than ever that, in order to stay sober, I had to undertake a mammoth overhaul of myself in many aspects which, at first, seemed unrelated to drinking.

In short, stepping into the first footprint that led from the dismal swamp of alcoholism toward the sunlight of sobriety would not take me far enough. Would I muddle along on some little trail of my own in the weeds, vaguely paralleling the clearly marked AA road? Or would I choose to follow in the exact footsteps of the AAs who had preceded? The choice was up to me. I could do either, but I had to cover the whole trail if I wanted to get where the others were. Since I had already taken Step One, I could decide to stop right there. I could just dry up, period. I could survive like a raisin the rest of my life.

Going the whole route looked too hard — until someone said to me, “One step at a time.” So I looked ahead, along the path marked by the footprints of hope, commitment, and action. All around me were many happy, sober people who had walked that path. Listening intently to their stories, I heard some more horrifying than mine, others less so. But it was plain that all these alcoholics had once *felt* the same hopelessness, fear, pain, and anger I had experienced. It was also obvious that people with drinking troubles like mine could come out of them and —unbelievable as it seemed at first — laugh at them! It was evident, too, that these people had much knowledge of alcoholism that I did not have. They knew that it was an illness, that it could decieve it’s victims, that the danger lay in the first drink.

They had some magic or information, secrets or power which I lacked, but which might get me out of the fix I was in. I had to believe what I saw: that some power wiser, stronger, or greater than mine could restore me to health. Next came a decision I did not even notice making at the time: to try this AA plan of theirs, even though I did not understand it. Some said it was God doing the good work, but I saw unbelievers like me being helped, too. So what had I to lose by going along?

Beginning with the First Step, I have found the following Steps out of alcoholism to be true and benevolent. I still know of no other suggestions more effective as a program of recovery.

*B.L., Manhattan, N.Y.  
Grapevine January 1970*

# Intergroup:

## EVI Office

1259 Willamette  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm  
Thursday 9:00am- 8:00pm  
Saturday 9:00 am - noon  
Drop by for a visit!

## EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and much more.

The little squiggle in the address is found right next to the exclamation point on the keyboard. Save a book mark or favorite and check back often!

## E.V.I. 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 publication of any article or event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions: 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 due last Monday of each month. To submit articles or event information, mail them or drop them off at the EVI office c/o EVI Newsletter. Submissions can also be e-mailed to: eviaa@efn.org

Communication Committee (Newsletter & Web Site, Meeting Book) meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at 2495 Columbia St. Eugene. OR 97401 (call and check 343-2566)

# Contributions:

- (Dec/year to date)  
 As Bill Sees It 0/100.00  
 Attitude Adjustment 334.20/1,811.80  
 Autumn Group 0/0  
 Backwoods Bunch 180.00/180.00  
 Cottage Grove Gratitude 0.00/100.00  
 Cottage Grove Noon 0/25.00  
 Creswell Steps & Traditions 30.00/30.00  
 Downtown AM group 120.61/1,262.47  
 Drop The Rock 0/248.53  
 District 20 16.00/16.00  
 Fireside group 0/0  
 First Monroe Group 0/0  
 First Things First 0/324.17  
 Four Corners 0/70.00  
 Freedom Of Choice 0/230.50  
 Friday Big Book Study(M) 0/74.00  
 Friday Physical Awakening 0/88.13  
 Fri night young people 0/180.00  
 From the Heart 171.00/271.00  
 Gratitude Group 0/226.15  
 Harrisburg Group 0/0  
 Jasper Group 0/60.00  
 Last Chance Study Group 0/180.00  
 Language of the Heart 0/52.80  
 Life By The Book 0/0  
 Lowell Lakeside 0/80.00  
 McKenzie Bridge 0/60.00  
 McKenzie River Group 5.00/5.00  
 Monday Mens Stag 50.00/150.00  
 Monday Night Cont. Study 0/0  
 Monday Night New Group 0/0  
 New Freedom 0/935.00  
 New Freedom 2210.69/1,169.29  
 Physical, Mental, Spiritual 0/80.00  
 Plug in the Jug 0/70.00  
 Recovery by Big Book 26.71/26.71  
 Saturday Night Beginners 0/0  
 Saturday Step 0/269.05  
 Sober Awakenings 300.00/900.00  
 Sobriety for life 0/223.25  
 Springfield Monday Night 0/130.00  
 Springfield Study Group 30.00/30.00  
 Stairway to Sobriety 60.00/180.00  
 Sunday Morning Big book 0/505.00  
 Sunday Night 12x12 0/20.00  
 Men's Sponsorship 0/320.00  
 Sunday Women's Step Stdy 10.00/10.00  
 There Is A Solution 0/50.00  
 Thursday Voyagers Group 0/65.24  
 Thurs PM Rush Hour 14.00/14.00  
 Tuesday Night Book Study 0/10.00  
 Unknown 0/40.15  
 We Need Each Other 0/0  
 Wednesday Mens Noon 0/110.00  
 Wednesday Men's Stag 0/90.00  
 Who am I Group 121.00/205.00  
 Womans Road to Recovery 14.00/254.00  
 Women's How It Works 0/183.00  
 Total Contributions (month/year to date)  
 Group ytd 1,516.71/11,773.36  
**Fundraising:**  
 EVI Speakers Meeting 200/1,700.00  
 Faithful Fivers, individual 273.25

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successful reestablishment of their careers. All I can say is that, with me, the greatest factor was *time*. Time soothed the harshness of adjustment and some how eased me into a comfortable new niche.

With the raise I have just received, I am now earning exactly what I was five years ago when I joined AA. That may not be the wildest kind of progress, but I've noticed an important reaction to the paycheck on my part. Today I really work for my money; I am no longer concerned that someone will call my bluff and fire me.

B., Falls Ghurch, Va.~  
**June 1965 Grapevine**

## MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING

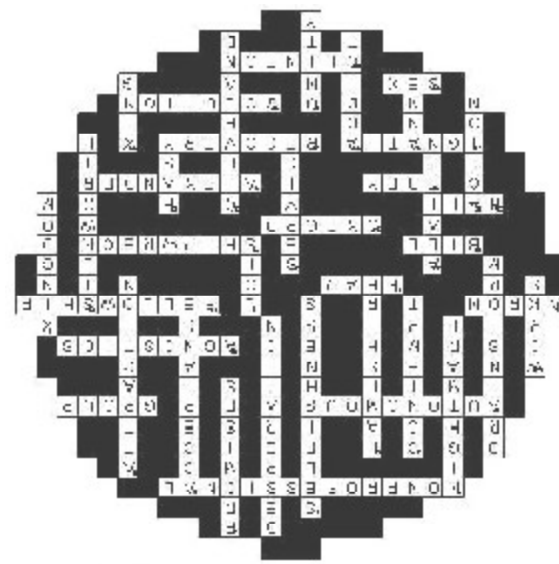
*The notebook with the meeting notes seems to have wandered off, so in the meantime here is a short review of the last business meeting, subject to short term memory loss. Elections were the only order of business.*

December 11 Business meeting.  
 (23 EVI reps present, quorum 15)  
 Committee reports were given. In general things were going well, although both the Office, and H&I have serious need of volunteers.

Elections:  
 Regular December Steering Committee elections, the following folks were elected:  
 Bruce (Cottage Grove) 942-6954, bruce@fish-world.com, elected Vice-Chair  
 Tom L. 343-2465 elected Recording Secretary  
 Gary R. 485-7777 elected Member-at-Large  
 Todd 607-6349, kritler@netscape.net, elected Member-at-Large  
 Vice-Treasurer election postponed til January, as nominees were not able to attend.

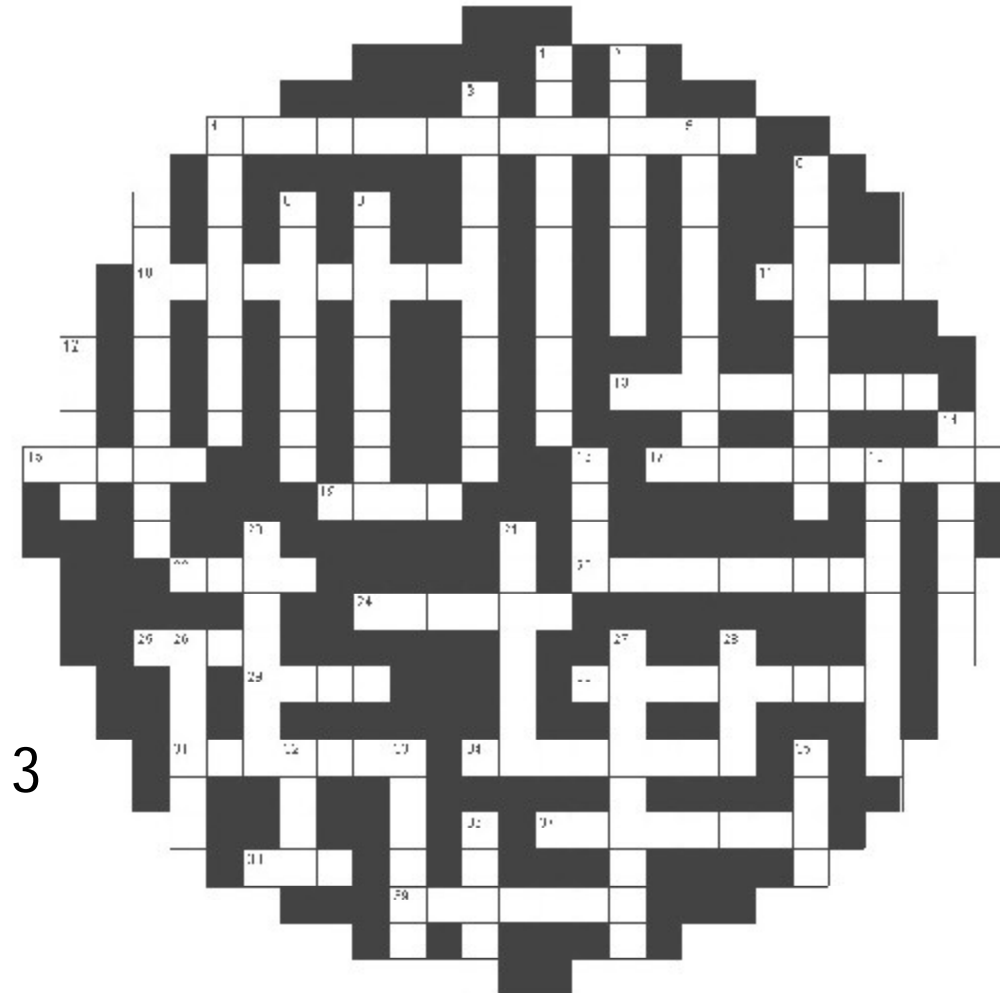
also, in held over elections,  
 Doc M. 461-4800 mcleode@hotmail.com, elected chair of Meeting Book  
 Angel 431-4924, angel@efn.org, elected vice chair of Meeting Book

meeting adjourned per usual



## AA Crossword

This one is a little tougher, for those who know their AA history. Clues and answers taken from the Big Book, Dr. Bob and the GoodOldtimers, and Pass it On.



Across:

4. "Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever \_\_\_\_\_"
10. Each group should be \_\_\_\_\_.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ conscience
13. We \_\_\_\_\_
15. Ohio city with first group
17. there is a substitute
19. hundred forms of \_\_\_\_\_
22. Dr. Bob's sponsor.
23. great liner
24. groups before 1939
25. hungry, angry, etc.
29. Bill W.'s sponser
30. Saturday Evening Post author
31. Saint Thomas sister
34. first legacy
37. common \_\_\_\_\_
38. God alone can judge our \_\_\_\_\_ situation
39. 1935 Wilson house, \_\_\_\_\_ Street

Down:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of drowning men
2. page 83
3. root of our troubles
4. Doctor Bob's \_\_\_\_\_
5. page 449
6. Our public relations policy is based on \_
7. The grouch and the \_\_\_\_\_ were not for us
8. \_\_\_\_\_ prior to investigation
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Grenadier
12. faith without \_\_\_\_\_ is dead.
14. the Keys of the \_\_\_\_\_
16. Bill's wife
18. Towns Hospital doctor
20. teen program
21. General \_\_\_\_\_ Conference
26. Into \_\_\_\_\_
27. \_\_\_\_\_ Plain Dealer
28. "\_\_\_\_\_ does it"
32. Bob's wife
3. doctor, alcoholic, \_\_\_\_\_
- 35 Dr. Bob's home group, \_\_\_\_\_ school
36. second legacy

answers on page 6.

# Gratitude:

## Currently Available Service Positions:

EVI Service Committees:  
**Vice-Chairs** for the following committees:

**Outreach:** Visits Meetings to let them know about Intergroup, how to get involved in local service.

**Hospitals.** Coordinates bringing meetings and info into local hospitals, Lane Psychiatric, and the Johnson unit. You don't have to be crazy to do this.

Other volunteer opportunities:

**H&I** has a constant, and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work. The opportunity for this type of service has really expanded, and H&I has been doing a great job, but they need the AA community to step up and volunteer. This is real service work.

H&I is looking for a few good women!

**Public information** - takes speakers into schools, and in general lets the public know that AA didn't die out in the '40's, and is, in fact, alive and well. We could particularly use someone with some enthusiasm for getting some public service spots on local TV and radio.

relaxing, enjoyable, rewarding service work? volunteer at the Office!

**EVI Office Volunteers** work a four hour shift, once a week, or every two weeks. Not very demanding, bring a good book; but you do get to answer the phone, talk to folks who stop by, etc. If you have a little time available, whether you are a year sober, or twenty, this can be pleasant service work, and worth doing.

**Twelve-Step list.** If you would like to be on the list that is called by the office or the diverter for twelve step calls, there are sign up sheets going around, or stop by the office. People available during the day, and folks willing to give rides are particularly helpful.

# AA Meetings:

New:

5:30-6:30 PM Thursday Recovery by the Big Book (C) 390 Vernal Street, Eugene

Changed:

Dexter Men's Group now meets on Thursday, 7:30-8:30 PM, 38965 Dexter Rd. # 5

Veneta Friday night 12-Step Group meets from 7:00-8:00 PM (C) at Valley Methodist, 25133 Broadway, Veneta

Ooops: - not in meeting book:

Women's Continuous Study 7:30-9:00 pm Mon Eugene, (W) 3935 Hilyard Church of the Resurrection

New Meeting Books available at Office

Current meeting schedules are also posted on the EVI website.

Please let us know if your meeting information changes - particularly if your meeting stops meeting, or changes time or place, as it can be discouraging for a newcomer to hunt down a meeting and it not be there. We don't want them to repair to the bar instead!

You can fill out the form at the EVI office, or email EVI at: eviaa@efn.org

A current meeting list can be very important to a newcomer

## Get A Fresh Start

From personal experience and observation, I would say there are a number of us in AA who have almost more difficulty with jobs after we get sober than we did while drinking.

I know that before AA I was firmly established in the public relations and editorial field. I should qualify "firmly" to this extent: I had manufactured an aura of efficiency about my daily operations that fooled a lot of people. I was always being complimented by acquaintances who were not my bosses. And until the last year of my drinking, even the bosses felt fortunate to have me on their staff.

But came the shakes, long lunch hours, procrastination, and I resigned — before I was fired!

I became a "free-lancer" in public relations. I was really unemployed, but the former description sounded better on a resume.

Through a process of elimination (I was the cheapest available), I became editor of two small trade magazines, which were already failing miserably. As I was little more than a zombie, their downward spiral continued. I never reached the office before 10:30 AM, left at 11:30 for "luncheon dates," came back tipsy at two, and worked feverishly until five.

There were, of course, many days when I skipped the office altogether. But I always managed to meet the magazine deadlines. Frequently, when the finished product was placed before me, I didn't recognize it. I would read parts I had written while drunk which I swear I had never seen before.

I was still with the magazines when I joined AA. I became beautifully sober, gloriously happy with the pink cloud of a newcomer — and three weeks past deadline on the January 1959 issue. I never caught up! I even combined two months into one issue (we had very tolerant or indifferent subscribers), and that still left me overdue on the current month's copy.

It wasn't only the magazines — I felt out of step with the whole atmosphere of my drinking world. I tried having lunch with close friends but their talk bored me. I was absorbed in a new life of AA, and the entire process of earning a living suddenly lost all its previous excitement and intrigue.

I quit the magazine, even left the city and found the dulllest possible job in the suburbs. New faces surrounded me; I no longer had to make decisions, and I loved it — for three months.

I struggled for years to become established in a different field and today am happily engrossed in that career.

Before I found a foothold, however, there was much despair on my part because I had had to leave *everything* behind. There was, of course, no valid reason I could not have perhaps even Saved those little magazines; no reason except my sobriety and my sanity. Regardless of what anyone else might have done under the same circumstances, I could not have wrestled with all the pressures of the old business and stayed sober.

I see people getting sober in AA every week who continue in the same job they've had for years. And they do such a bang-up *sober* job, they get promotions. This, to me, is fantastic and I envy them.

But there are persons who have had my experience: an accountant who became a contractor; a bank teller who opened a dress shop; a housewife who is now a barber; a trade association employee turned college professor.

I know of others who have left their former employment and are still floundering. I wish I had words to give them that would unlock the secret to

*continued on page 6*

## First Step

Before I came to AA, I took Step One slowly, over a period of years. It was not AA people who helped me with it. Instead, it was all the nonalcoholics who misunderstood and mistreated both me and my disease. In retrospect, I am grateful for their harshness. It forced me to AA, twenty-five years ago this month.

That first faltering step I took to AA recovery was not placed exactly in the first of the twelve footprints left us as a guide by the earliest AA members. But before I came to AA I had begun to realize that my drinking was causing me trouble. This, of course, was hard to believe; so many other people who drank did not get into trouble. My life presented a tough sequence of problems, yes; but I argued (with myself) that drinking surely was not the cause. Fate had just handed me unfair breaks: my family, my love life, my bosses and jobs, my unsteady finances, my friends, my insomnia, my nervousness.

So I desperately kept trying to prove that drinking was not one of my problems. If I was a failure at drinking, rather than a success, it wasn't for lack of trying! Looking back, it is not so hard to understand now why it was difficult for me, as it has been for others, to accept this inability to drink (for which pharmacological addiction provides a simple explanation). The rewards, pleasures, and gratifications of drinking were so overpoweringly great. Drinking was easy to do, and it worked almost instantaneously, anesthetizing any discomfort as if by magic. It was socially acceptable; my whole social life, all the activities I considered fun, were accompanied by drinking.

The idea of *not* drinking was so unfamiliar to me that it was frightening. If I thought of a nondrinking life at all, I thought of it as a cheerless existence devoid of grace and charm. To give up drinking would mean turning into the bluenosed, narrow-minded, Puritan type.

It is important now for me to remember that my entire style of life was at stake, not just the apparent benefits of alcohol. Lying to people and sinking into gloomy self-pity were habits neither unfamiliar to me nor frightening. I was thoroughly comfortable with them — even, in a way, found them enjoyable. Besides, "I was drunk at the time" was a marvelous excuse to have when I did shameful things.

Giving up drinking, then, looked like an unpleasant, unendurably long-term proposition. Anyhow, it wouldn't be necessary, would it, if other people would just change?

But they didn't. They got worse. My family, in their displeasure with me, pointed clearly to drinking as the source of my troubles. Friends who expressed concern and bosses who fired me helped drive home that truth. Kind strangers and bartenders who shook their heads while being helpful all said in effect, "You should not drink." A cop who jailed me for being drunk and disorderly, a doctor who scolded me for drinking too much, a grocer who wanted his money, and a bouncer who shoved me out a tavern door all reinforced the lesson,

My repeated solo failures to "do better" kept building an interior despair which finally crushed my false reasoning and false pride. Hung there at the edge of madness, I read a newspaper story about AA.

And so, on the day I first telephoned AA, I was not struggling too hard against the mountains of undeniable proof that my life was one awful mess because of my drinking. I had also already admitted, unwillingly, that I could not handle alcohol.

*continued on page 7*



## Fellowship Events

EVI Speaker Meeting  
Grace Community Church  
989 Country Club Road  
January 13th @ 7:30  
Speaker: Tim W/ Portland  
Raffle-Child Care-Tapes Available

Early Registration for Salem Soberfest 2001  
Pick up forms at EVI office and send in by Jan 15th

Have a Friend that needs a little AA Service Work?

- Intergroup has openings in a variety of service opportunities

More comfortable writing than speaking in public?

- If you have a story about getting sober, or AA service work, or how a particular step made a difference in your life - contribute to the EVI News!