

March, 2000

E.V.I. News

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1



Emerald Valley Intergroup
(541) 342-4113

Jack Alexander of Saturday Evening Post Fame Thought A.A.'s Were Pulling His Leg

A.A. History Corner, about the March 1941 article that helped bring A.A. to the attention of the public, two years after the Big Book was published.

Ordinarily, diabetes isn't rated as one of the hazards of reporting, but the Alcoholics Anonymous article in the Saturday Evening Post came close to costing me my liver and maybe A.A. neophytes ought to be told this when they are handed copies of the article to read. It might impress them. In the course of my fact gathering, I drank enough Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, ginger ale, Moxie and Sweetie to float the Saratoga. Then there was the thickly frosted cake so beloved at A.A. gatherings, and the heavily sweetened coffee, and the candy. Nobody can tell me that alcoholism isn't due solely to an abnormal craving for sugar, not even a learned psychiatrist. Otherwise the A.A. assignment was a pleasure.

It began when the Post asked me to look into A.A. as a possible article subject. All I knew of alcoholism at the time was that, like most other non-alcoholics, I had had my hand bitten (and my nose punched) on numerous occasions by alcoholic pals to whom I had extended a hand unwisely, it always seemed afterward. Anyway, I had an understandable skepticism about the whole business.

My first contact with actual A.A.s came when a group of four of them called at my apartment one afternoon. This session was pleasant, but it didn't help my skepticism any. Each one introduced himself as an alcoholic who had gone "dry," as the official expression has it. They were good-looking and well dressed and, as we sat around drinking Coca-Cola (which was all they would take), they spun yarns about their horrendous drinking misadventures. The stories sounded spurious, and after the visitors had left, I had a strong suspicion that my leg was being pulled. They had behaved like a bunch of actors sent out by some Broadway casting agency.

Next morning, I took the subway to the headquarters of Alcoholics Anonymous in downtown Manhattan, where I met Bill W. This Bill W. is a very disarming guy and an expert at indoctrinating the stranger into the psychology, psychiatry, pharmacology and folklore of alcoholism. He spent the good part of a couple of days telling me what it was all about. It was an interesting experience, but at the end of it my fingers were still crossed. He knew it, of course, without my saying it, and in the days that followed he took me to the homes of some of the A.A.s where I got a chance to talk to wives, too. My

Continued on page 2

EVI Office

1262 Lawrence Street, No. 7
Eugene, OR 97401
Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Drop by for a visit!

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

Newsletter & Web Site Committee meetings are held the last Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the E.V.I. office at 1262 Lawrence St., No. 7.

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!

skepticism suffered a few minor scratches, but not enough to hurt. Then Bill shepherded me to a few A.A. meetings at a clubhouse somewhere in the West Twenties. (ed.note - New York City, garment district, a little rough at the time) Here were all manner of alcoholics, many of them, the nibblers at the fringe of the movement, still fragrant of liquor and needing a shave. Now I knew I was among a few genuine alcoholics anyway. The bearded, fume-breathing lads were A.A. skeptics, too, and now I had some company.

The week spent with Bill W. was a success from one standpoint. I knew I had the makings of a readable report but, unfortunately, I didn't quite believe in it and told Bill so. He asked why I didn't look in on the A.A.s in other cities and see what went on there. I agreed to do this, and we mapped out an itinerary. I went to Philadelphia first, and some of the local A.A.s took me to the psychopathic ward of Philadelphia General Hospital and showed me how they work on the alcoholic inmates. In that gloomy place, it was an impressive thing to see men who had bounded in and out of the ward themselves patiently jawing a man who was still haggard and shaking from a binge that wound up in the gutter.

Akron was the next stop. Bill met me there and promptly introduced me to Doc S., who is another hard man to disbelieve. There were more hospital visits, and A.A. meetings, and interviews with people whom a year or two before were undergoing varying forms of the blind staggers. Now they seemed calm, well spoken, steady handed and prosperous, at least mildly prosperous.

Doc S. drove us both from Akron to Cleveland one night and the same pattern was repeated. The universality of alcoholism was more apparent here. In Akron it had been mostly factory workers. In Cleveland there were lawyers, accountants and other professional men, in addition to laborers. And again the same stories. The pattern was repeated also in Chicago, the only variation there being the presence at the meetings of a number of newspapermen. I had spent most of my working life on newspapers and I could really talk to these men. The real clincher, though, came in St. Louis, which is my hometown. Here I met a number of my own friends who were A.A.s and the last remnants of skepticism vanished. Once rollicking rumpots, they were now sober. It didn't seem possible, but there it was. When the article was published, the reader-mail was astonishing. Most of it came from desperate drinkers or their

wives, or from mothers, fathers or interested friends. The letters were forwarded to their A.A. office in New York and from there were sent on to A.A. groups nearest the writers of the letters. I don't know exactly how many letters came in, all told, but the last time I checked, a year or so ago, it was around 6,000. They still trickle in from time to time, from people who have carried the article in their pockets all this time, or kept it in the bureau drawer under the handkerchief case intending to do something about it. I guess the letters will keep coming in for years, and I hope they do, because now I know that every one of them springs from a mind, either of an alcoholic or of someone close to him. Which is undergoing a type of hell that Dante would have gagged at. And I know, too, that this victim is on the way to recovery, if he really wants to recover. There is something very heartening about this particularly in a world which has been struggling toward peace for centuries without ever achieving it for very long periods of time.

Jack Alexander. The Saturday Evening Post. Philadelphia, Pa. Reprinted with permission of A.A Grapevine, Inc. The Text of the Jack Alexander Article can be found in the AAWS pamphlet "The Jack Alexander Article" (P-12)

3 Sharing Session held on Relocation

Sunday, February 27th a Sharing Session was held to discuss relocating the EVI Office. Good Food, but attendance was sparse. Those participating later agreed that it must indicate a high confidence in the trusted servants working on the question. Dann L., Chair of the Relocation Committee, opened the session with the serenity prayer Comments noted: (not exact quotes, but from notes)

"Would be nice to stay downtown, but have visited other intergroups and managed to find them wherever they were located, people will find us" "Think there is a better place for us, and that moving would be good for EVI, don't see much reason for staying where we are." "Downtown, look into renegotiating with (property manager, current location)" "Many people walk or bus or bicycle, should be convenient" "If we move out of the general downtown area probably would have to change phone number, we are now in the new phone book, etc." "A new place could bring a new attitude, help us get past some of the old attitudes left from the bookstore troubles." "We don't need a store front, there is a place, part of a house or office space something downtown which would work well for us, we should ask around the membership"

"Where we are is over priced for what we get, the Property Management is not fun to work with – they don't like us or want us, would be nice to have a landlord who wanted us there." "If we could stay where we are for \$500 month might be worth it, otherwise move" "Home group doesn't think it matters where it is" "Landlords are not in the business of doing favors, The property manager (current location) will probably raise the rent to 700-750 at the end of lease. Space now is clearly convenient, there is a price for convenience, but at some point it isn't worth it." "Issue should be settled, not drawn out on a month to month basis" "EVI is headed in a good direction. People will get wherever you go." "Everything now is viable if it stays the same. Will see if they offer us a lease renewal. Phone is an issue if we move out of downtown in any direction but west.- River Road or Glenwood would be a change in number" "New to this stuff, have lost drivers license like many new people. Population has increased, and will keep increasing, meaning more alcoholics, more service, money shouldn't be a problem. Change is great – time for a change, sometimes you have to take a risk." "Would suggest highly that we relocate if we can't get them to lower the rent where we are." Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer

People

TREASURER

Treasurer / Gary R. 485-7777
Vice Treasurer / Mel M. 345-4450
Bookkeeper / Wendy W. 431-6920
 wwwhite@efn.org

(rotating out)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Gus P. (Bill B. 689-5421)

LITERATURE

Rich F. 744-7902, (Wendy W. 431-6920)

ANSWERING SERVICE

Frank K. 345-7131, (Johanna M. 302-9086)

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Linda 345-5827

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Jim P. 684-0619 (Barney 726-6980)

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Gene C. 726-7457 (Angel 431-4924)

ACTIVITIES

Linda L. 345-5827

E.V.I. NEWSLETTER

Chair/Matt D. 302-6865

Vice/Adrian M. 349-1275

Website/Michael W. 343-2566

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

John G. 741-7163 Al D. 345-2058

OUTREACH

Tim H. 726-8558, Michele H. 688-0862

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair / Harold B. 342-1557

barton@continet.com

Secretary / Gus P. 343-4815

COOPERATION WITH TREATMENT FACILITIES (CTF)

Gus P. 343-4815

HOSPITALS

Susan J. 895-4421

Jean D 688-3791

CORRECTIONS

Karl B. 345-7466

JAIL

Co-coordinator / Karl B. 345-7466

karl@rpginvest.com.

Co-coordinator / Debbie M. 736-9336

Haag Home / Gary R. 485-7777

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

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edrogers@efn.org

Vice-Chair/Chris H. 345-7405

chelmern@efn.org

Secretary/Deana. 345-8750

Treasurer/Gary R. 485-7777

At-Large/Michael W. 343-2566

mlwebb@pond.net

At-Large/Debbie M. 349-0885

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At-Large/Bill N. 747-7486

rubberspur@aol.com

At-Large/Dann L. 484-2330

dann@lowinsure.com

The Gift of the Alcoholics Anonymous

God, in His wisdom, selected this group of men and women to be the purveyors of His goodness. He went not to the proud, the mighty, the famous or the brilliant; He went to the humble, the sick, the unfortunate. He went straight to the drunkard, the so-called weakling in this world. Well might He have said to us:

"Unto your weak and humble hands, I have entrusted a power beyond estimate. To you has been given that which has been denied the most learned of your fellows. Not to statesmen, not to wife or mother, not even to my priests or ministers, have I given this gift of healing other alcoholics, which I entrust to you. It must be used unselfishly, it carries with it grave responsibility; sometimes the difference between life and death. No day can be too long; no demands upon your time can be too urgent; no case be too pitiful; no task too hard; no effort too great; it must be used with tolerance, for I have restricted it's application to no race, creed, and no denomination. Personal criticism you must expect; lack of appreciation will be common; ridicule will be your lot; your motives will be misjudged. You must be prepared for adversity, for what men call adversity is the ladder you must use to ascend the rungs to spiritual perfection. And, remember, in the exercise of this power, I shall not exact of you beyond your capabilities. You are not selected because of exceptional talents. Be careful, always, if success attends your efforts, not to ascribe to personal superiority that to which you lay claim only by virtue of My gift. If I had wanted learned men to accomplish this mission, the power would have been entrusted to to the physician and the scientist. If I had wanted eloquent men, there would have been many anxious for the assignment, for talk is the easiest used of all the talents with which I have endowed mankind. If I had wanted scholarly men, the world is filled with better qualified men than you, who would be available. You were selected because you have been the outcasts of the world, and your long experience as drunkards has made, or, should make you humbly alert to the cries of distress that come from the lonely hearts of alcoholics everywhere. Keep ever in mind the admission you made on the day of your profession in A.A. that you are powerless and that it was only with your willingness to turn your life and will unto My keeping that relief came to you."

Author Unknown , from an email AA Group post.

"We did not always come closer to wisdom by reason of our virtues; our better understanding is often rooted in the pains of our former follies. Because this has been the essence of our individual experience, it is also the essence of our experience as a fellowship."

Bill W. Grapevine, Nov 1961

AA Meetings

7:30-8:45 PM Saturday

Beginner's Group

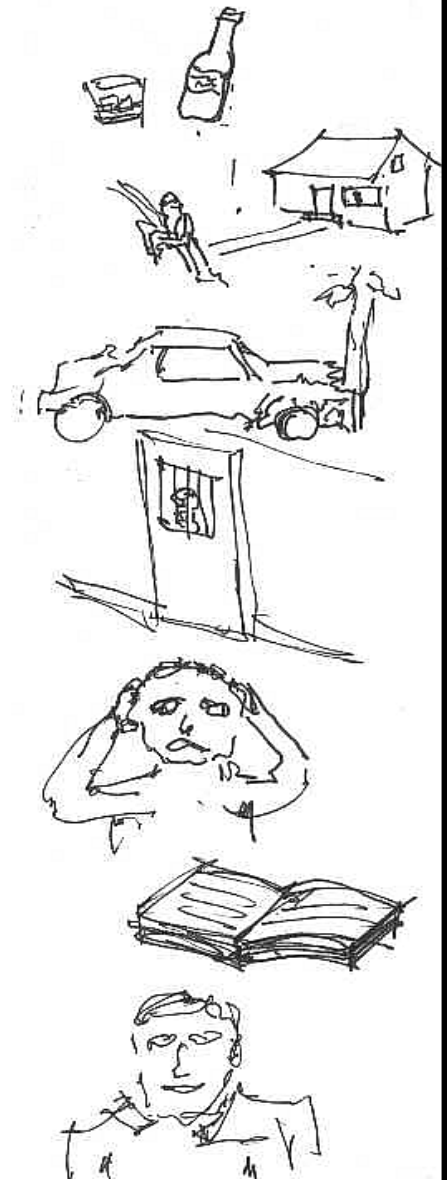
840 Monroe, First Evangelical Church
(formerly 8pm, Lambs Cottage)

8:00-9:00 AM Tuesday

Coffee Cake Group

Springfield 285 S. 42nd Street,
Mt. Vernon Church -New!
(in the meeting book, but somehow
the A in AM turned into a P.)

All other recent changes are in the
New March Meeting Book



EVI Service and Fellowship Calender - March

All events at EVI office and in the PM unless noted.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	29	1	2	3	4
			District 19 (GSR) 6:30 Bruce H. 302-0501		Answering/12 St Johanna 302-9086	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Steering Committee 5:30 Spkr Mtg Committee 7:30 779 V St. Spfd	District 20 (GSR) 7pm Creswell Libr. Lisa B 302-9255 District 33 (GSR) 6:30 Woodland Apt Tom S. 686-8388	District 6 (GSR) 6:30 Larry W. 334-3609			Outreach Committee 10:00 AM EVI Speakers Meeting 7:30 989 Country Club Road Eug.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	EVI Business Meeting 6:30		Activities Committee 7:00	Cooperation Prof. Committee 6:30		Cottage Grove Alano Club Speakers Mtg 8:00 PM 519 E. Main St. C.G.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Public Information Committee 6:30	Office Volunteer Meeting 5:30				District Potluck and Oregon Delegate report 12:30-3:30 777 Coburg Rd
26	27	28	29	30	31	APRIL 1
	Newsletter Committee 7:30		H & I Committee 6:00 District 19 (GSR) 6:30 Bruce H. 302-0501		Liteerature Committee 6:30	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Steering Committee 5:30 Spkr Mtg Committee 7:30 779 V St. Spfd	District 20 (GSR) 7pm Creswell Libr. Lisa B 302-9255 District 33 (GSR) 6:30 Woodland Apt Tom S. 686-8388	District 19 (GSR) 6:30 Bruce H. 302-0501		Answering/12 St Johanna 302-9086	Outreach Committee 10:00 AM EVI Speakers Meeting 7:30 989 Country Club Road Eug.

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Contributions

Business Meeting February 14th, 2000

(February/year to date)

As Bill Sees It 0/0
Attitude Adjustment 230.59/441.64
Autumn Group 0/0
Brown Bag Group 0/0
Cottage Grove Gratitude 0/0
Cottage Grove Noon 0/0
Courage to Change 0/0
District 20 0/0
Downtown AM group 0/208.61
Drop The Rock 0/0
EVI business meeting 25.37/58.37
Fireside group 0/0
First Monroe Group 0/0
First Things First 50.00/50.00
Franklin Fellowship 0/0
Franklin Monday Night 0/0
Freedom Of Choice 0/61.00
Friday Back Road Bunch 0/0
Friday Big Book Study(M) 0/74.00
Friday Physical Awakening 0/48.13
Friday night young peoples 0/0
From the Heart 0/100.00
Gratitude Group 60.15/60.15
Harrisburg Group 0/0
Last Chance Study Group 0/0
Last House on the Block 0/0
Life By The Book 0/0
Lowell Lakeside 0/80.00
McKenzie Bridge 0/0
Monday Mens Stag 0/0
Monday Night Cont. Study 0/0
Monday Night New Group 0/0
New Freedom 0/0
New Freedom 2 179.90/179.90
Old Time AA 0/0
Physical, Mental, Spiritual 0/0
Plug in the Jug 10.00/10.00
Saturday Night Beginners 0/0
Saturday Step 132.00/132.00
Sober Awakenings 0/0
Sobriety for life 44.00/44.00
Stairway to Sobriety 0/60.00
Sunday Morning Big book 0/0
Men's Sponsorship 25.00/25.00
Sunday Women's Step Stdy 0/0
Sutherland Group 0/0
There Is A solution 0/0
Thursday Candlelight 0/0
Thursday Night Group 0/0
Thursday Voyagers Group 0/0
Tuesday Beginners 0/0
Unknown
We Need Each Other 0/0
Wednesday Mens Noon 0/0
Wednesday Men's Stag 0/90.00
Who am I Group 0/54.00
Womans Road to Recovery 0/60.00
Women's How It Works 72.00/72.00
Women In the Solution 0/0

Total Contributions (February/year to date)
Group 813.64/1,860.58

Fundraising:

EVI Speakers Meeting 0/500.00
Faithful Fivers, individual 194.25/349.37

Emerald Valley Intergroup Meeting
February 14, 2000

6:30 Opened meeting with Serenity Prayer.

Minutes for January meeting accepted as read by Ed .

Quorum at 6:45 to conduct business.

Budgets: All requested amounts passed and are as follows:

Answering Service- 25.00

Public Information- 750.00 (for special tape player, tapes and mailings)

CPC-200.00

Activities-No budget needed

EVI Newsletter- 1167.00

Outreach- 125.00

Hospitals- 300.00

CTF- 300.00

Corrections- 300.00

EVI Office-18,166.50

Archivist- 50.00

Ed brings up quorum issue (while we still have one) and a motion is passed that if at any point during the meeting the number of reps drops below 21 the committee members votes will be counted to make up the minimum number of 21 for the quorum so that we may continue to conduct business.

Old Business-

Tabled issue of one page meeting lists brought back by Mel. After some discussion a motion is passed to have EVI print this single sheet meeting list for meetings and individuals to distribute and copy at will.

New Business-

1. Summerfest announces that they are now their own corporation.

2. A motion is made, that when a call of the question is made that all persons with their hands raised should be heard from. After some discussion the motion is defeated and Dann clarifies the "point of information clause" with states that anyone can

interrupt before a vote and ask for clarifying information pertaining to that vote, so that all persons voting are making an informed choice.

Reports:

Vice Treasurer Mel-see attached
Office-Bill says he's still working with a skeleton crew. Ongoing need for volunteers.

Lit- No rep

Answering Service- need alternating Thursday slot filled

CPC- Angel- "Sponsors" went well, WSMC left literature, CODA left literature

PI- Jim- Went in to 3 schools, Health Fair, Churches, writing new letters to send out to schools.

Activities- Valentines Dance lost money.

EWEB wants the dances over and cleaned up by 12:00. Next meeting 2-15 requests that people come and give suggestions for new place. May 13th next danced scheduled.

EVI News-Matt-going well.

Speakers Meeting-John 2800.00, + 338.27 - 823.00 as of 1-31-00, 2324.13. Larry G. from Walla Walla next month.

H&I- Harold- Small turnout at last meeting, doing ongoing recruiting, but overall going well.

Relocation- Dann- Lease is up in April.

Sharing Session about move scheduled for 2-27 from 1 to 4pm at Knights of Pythius.

We will vote next month on the move.

Archivist- needs tapes

Adjourned 8:15

Deana Dartt

EVI Secretary

District Potluck !

March 25th,

12:30-3:30

Westminister Presbyterian Church, 777
Coburg Rd, Eugene

Potluck, fellowship and preconference report for the Oregon Area Delegate. Check with your DCM for more info, or show up!

6

Reach out and grab one

Rule 62

When I first came in the doors of AA, the two things I heard the most were, "Go to meetings" and "Get a sponsor." At the place I was, which was desperate, I did just that. For me, I could not be where I am today if it had not been for the experience, strength and hope that my sponsor has shared with me.

After being around for a few 24 hours, I began to hear others talk about how important it is to be a sponsor. To me it just seemed like too much work! Plus, I could not imagine my having anything anyone would want. There had been a couple of times when someone asked me to sponsor them, but they either quit calling or went back out. Last fall, a young woman asked me if I would sponsor her and I agreed. I had no idea what an experience it would be. She only had three months when she asked me so we started at Step One and began working our way up. Guess what? I worked Step One and all the others right along with her. I remember thinking when I first started the steps with my sponsor, that once I worked these the first time, there were some I felt sure I would never need to work again. Wrong!! For me. Not only that, sometimes when I had a choice of the "next right thing" or that other "choice", I chose "the next right thing" because I thought 'what if my sponsee had a similar situation arise, which choice did I want to share?' It stopped me dead in my tracks. We do have similar situations arise, because we are alcoholics and this disease for me today has some really good side effects.

In July of this year, my sponsee celebrated her 1-year anniversary. I don't know who was more excited, her or me. If you have not had the opportunity to sponsor someone yet, reach out and grab one. I know they are out there. In my experience, it has been the third most important thing I have done in this program.

*Robin H., Grateful Alive Group,
Franklin, TN - From the Messenger, Nashville Intergroup Newsletter*

Every night, Frank would go down to the liquor store, get a six pack, bring it home, and drink it while he watched TV.

One night, as he finished his last beer, the doorbell rang. He stumbled to the door and found a six-foot cockroach standing there. The bug grabbed him by the collar and threw him across the room, then left.

The next night, after he finished his 4th beer, the doorbell rang. He walked slowly to the door and found the same six-foot cockroach standing there. The big bug punched him in the stomach, then left.

The next night, after he finished his 1st beer, the doorbell rang again. The same six-foot cockroach was standing there. This time he was kneed in the groin and hit behind the ear as he doubled over in pain. Then the big bug left.

The fourth night Frank didn't drink at all. The doorbell rang. The cockroach was standing there. The bug beat the snot out of Frank and left him in a heap on the living room floor. The following day, Frank went to see his doctor. He explained events of the preceding four nights. "What can I do?" he pleaded.

"Not much" the doctor replied. "There's just a nasty bug going around."

Did you hear about the agnostic, dyslexic alcoholic insomniac? He lays awake at night wondering if there's really a dog.

An alcoholic walks out of a bar and sees a bum panhandling on the corner. And the bum says, "Mister, do you have a dollar you could spare me?" The alcoholic thinks about the question for a bit and asks the bum: "If I give you a dollar, are you going to use it to buy liquor?" "No," says the bum. The man then asks the bum: "If I give you a dollar, are you going to use it for gambling?" Again the bum says, "No." So the man says to the bum, "Do you mind coming home with me so I can show my wife what happens to someone who doesn't drink or gamble?"

7

Be Seen Not Heard!

Put it in writing and send it to the EVI News.
We are looking for some local material - your stories, articles, interviews, or something you would like to see in the News!
email: eviaa@efn.org or drop off at the EVI office

Faithful Fiver Pledge:

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1262 Lawrence Street #7
Eugene, Oregon 97401

GET THE NEWS!

- 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: _____

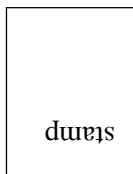
Address: _____

when you acknowledge my contribution, please list me as (first name, initial, or nickname): _____

Please cut and return with your first donation (or drop by the office). If you would like the EVI News mailed to you, we will need your address

"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.

Become an EVI "Faithful Fiver" and get the EVI News mailed to you each month. Your contribution of \$5 per month will help support Intergroup service activities, so that when someone reaches out, we are here.



Emerald Valley Intergroup
1262 Lawrence Street #7
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