

May, 2000

E.V.I. News

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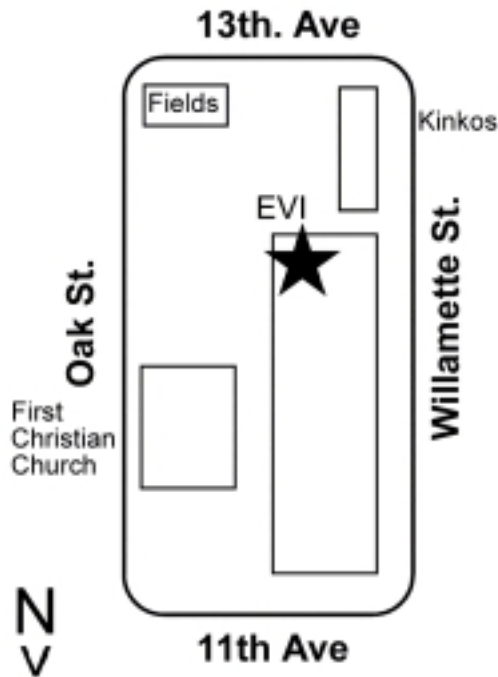
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Emerald Valley Intergroup
(541) 342-4113

We Moved!

Visit our new Intergroup office: 1259 Willamette, Eugene.



Thanks to all those who helped with the move, the groups for their support, and those who donated time, money and materials to make the new office useful and comfortable.

Please mention our new location in your home group announcements, so we can get the word out.

Our phone number, zip code, hours, etc remain the same, only our street address has changed.

Talk to your EVI rep for all the details, or see last months

Is Sponsorship Disappearing?

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics.”

This opening sentence of Chapter Seven in the Big Book, “Working With Others”, is further emphasized in *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*:

“The joy of living is the theme of AA’s Twelfth Step, and action is its key word. Here we turn outward toward our fellow alcoholics who are still in distress. Here we experience the kind of giving that asks no rewards.. - the kind of love that has no price tag on it.”

How well is our Fellowship doing with this vital practice since the time when Bill W. and Bob first put this most basic principle of AA into action? Is your home group geared toward our primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers? Are today’s sponsors passing on to newcomers what AA really is all about? Are we living up

Continued on page 2

EVI Office

1259 Willamette Street,
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 7:30 pm at the E.V.I. office at 1259 Willamette Street

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!

to our responsibility to share our experience, strength, and hope of recovery in the AA Program? Or are we diluting the simple and powerful AA message with non-AA philosophies and ideas, suggestions and advice that are, though perhaps well intentioned, actually misguided and even harmful?...

AA groups whose members are actively engaged in sponsorship tend to have a warm, open atmosphere for newcomers and traveling AA's who want, or need, a meeting. That kind of group is a good source of practical experience for those beginning the habit of sponsorship to draw on.. Sponsors growing up in these groups have more to offer newcomers than the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions.. They are the very life of our Fellowship and the basis of our future...

Some AA members share their participation in service with those they sponsor. We often hear DCM's or Delegates say their sponsors took them to their first general service assembly. Many members learned the importance of our Central Offices when their sponsors suggested they volunteer to answer phones at the local AA office or intergroup...

Bill W. wrote on several occasions of the profound effect that his friend Ebby (whom he always called his sponsor) had on him when Bill was barely sober, lying in a hospital bed. Ebby told Bill he had to "admit you're licked; ..get honest with yourself;..talk it out with somebody else;•make restitution to the people you have harmed; ..give of yourself without stint;..and pray to whatever God you think there is."

In a nutshell, Ebby handed Bill the germ of what we call AAs Twelve Step Program. It is what we, as sponsors, have the responsibility to share with newcomers. When those early members went out to carry the message. Bill tells us over and over, all they were sharing was their own experience, and they were doing it to insure their own sobriety. Their only expertise was their past drunken lives and their experiences in sobriety.

Bill's words on sponsorship offer a promise for each of us and for our Fellowship; "Showing others who suffer how we were given help is the very thing which makes life seem so worth while to us now. Cling to the thought that, in God's hands, the dark past is the greatest possession you have - the key to life and happiness for others. With it you can avert death and misery for them:" (Pg. 124)

Adapted from BOX 4-5-9 Apr/May 1991

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Summerfest History by Connan L.

You don't have to go very far to find some AA history in Eugene these days: Summerfest 2000 will be back for its 24th consecutive year.

One rumor will tell you that Summerfest was originally started as an alternative to the Oregon Country Fair, which, after a lot of research, I have found is not necessarily true. Coincidentally Summerfest 2000 is scheduled this year for July 14, 15 & 16 at the Hilton Conference area.

The original three-day event was put together by some of those who have now become old-timers in the program. Some have moved away while others are since deceased. Carol J., one of the few who is still a local resident fondly recalled how the idea quickly became a reality. "It was patterned after the Young Peoples Round Up in Vancouver. We came back from Portland and while we were up there, they had an Oktoberfest convention going on... We asked ourselves, 'why can't we have something like that for us here (only sober) where we can share our experience, strength and hope?'" This brought the opportunity to invite the dynamic speakers (from out of town) that people from Eugene had only heard about. The problem for this ambitious group was that there was not a lot of tradition to build on: few, if any, had the experience of putting on a convention.

The first couple of Summerfest's were held at the Roadway Inn on Gateway. "Fred volunteered the coffee and I was the program coordinator. (Glenn L) It was moved over to the Hilton after a couple of years, they tried to go back to the Roadway but it was just too big."

At the Hilton this year you can expect to see the pictures of co-founders Bill W. and Bob S. hanging from each corner aside the speaker's podium. Many folks may even recall a giant A.A. Bigbook that used to be part of the memorabilia. No one is sure exactly what happened to it. It was there for the Saturday night about 10 years ago, but when they showed up for the Sunday breakfast it was gone. The format remains much the same though.

The convention itself begins with a "Get acquainted meeting" from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. The dynamic speakers that were so heavily sought in the beginning continue to come to Summerfest year after year. Many will remember when in 1994 Clancy I. (Los Angeles) spoke to a full house at the Saturday night speaker meeting. Never before had the convention room itself in Eugene seen so many alcoholics gather to hear one person's story. People lined the isles and stood in the back of the room to hear his story. A similar crowd may be expected again at this year's gathering with the expected lineup of speakers. Giuseppe D. (Montebello, Ca.), Cahuenga B. (West Hollywood, Ca.), Bob E. (Los Angeles, Ca.) and John A. (Dallas, TX) have all been scheduled to share their experience, strength and hope in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Along with the 4 A.A. speaker's meeting attendees can get a taste of 2 Al-Anon speaker meetings and the Al-Anon Indoor and Walking Meeting. Jan M. and Ajit S. are scheduled to give their stories from Al-Anon Family Recovery.

People

Chair, vice-chair, (rotating out)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Gus P. 688-8454

LITERATURE

Rich F.

ANSWERING SERVICE

Frank K. 345-7131,

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Linda 345-5827

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Jim P. 684-0619 Michele S. 485-6916

COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)

Gene C. 726-7457 Don T. 485-5470

ACTIVITIES

Linda L. 345-5827

E.V.I. NEWSLETTER

Chair/Matt D. 302-6865

Website/Michael W. 343-2566

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

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

OUTREACH

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)

Tim A. 726-8558, Bob T. 302-3040

HOSPITALS

Susan J. 895-4421

Jean D. 688-3791

CORRECTIONS

Karl B. 345-7466, Scott H.

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

Chair/Ed R. 726-9490

edrogers@efn.org

Vice-Chair/Chris H. 345-7405

chelmers@efn.org

Secretary/Deana. 345-8750

Treasurer/Gary R. 485-7777

At-Large/Michael W. 343-2566

m@mlwebb.com

At-Large/Angel L. 431-4924

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At-Large/Bill N. 747-7486

rubberspur@aol.com

At-Large/Dann L. 484-2330

dann@lowinsure.com

TREASURER

Treasurer / Gary R. 485-7777

Vice Treasurer / Mel M. 345-4450

Bookkeeper / Bev.

Coming of Age

Reprinted from the May 1995 issue of the Grapevine

The co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, Bill W. was what might be called a constructive worrier: he could easily imagine worst-case scenarios, but he could also imagine workable solutions to problems. By the mid nineteen-forties, Bill looked around at the Fellowship, and this worrisome question came to him: What will happen to AA when the old-timers are gone? It was a question that most AAs didn't want to think about.

The Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous began as an organization of loosely associated entities - the AA groups - bound only by suggestions, "principles," and "traditions," not rules or regulations. The natural autonomy of the groups was balanced only by the need to have a centralized source for information, literature, and public relations. In the Fellowship's early years, this source was Headquarters: the New York office and the Alcoholic Foundation (a rather grand term for what was essentially a board of trustees consisting originally of five members - three nonalcoholics and two AAs). For a long time, the office was mostly Bill, his nonalcoholic secretary Ruth Hock, and an assorted staff of volunteers. The Alcoholic Foundation, which was set up in 1938, monitored the legal, business, and financial end of AA.

This arrangement was fine as long as AA was in its infancy. But as the AA population grew, thrived, and stabilized, it became apparent that this program for recovery was no mere experiment - it was going to endure - and Bill saw two problems for the future. First, there was no link between the AA members and Headquarters. Second, AA's policy was being set by the trustees, who were not directly responsible to those they served.

Bill's worst-case scenario about the future went like this: "When death and disability finally took us few old-timers out of the picture, where would that leave the Trustees and the Headquarters? A single blunder on their part might cause a failure of confidence that could not be repaired. Lacking the moral and financial support of the groups, the whole Headquarters effort might collapse completely. Our services might never be reinstated because nobody could be authorized to do the job."

Bill knew that the Fellowship was used to relying on him and Dr. Bob and other old-timers, but he felt that eventually, AA members would want to run their own affairs. And whether they wanted to or not, they were going to have to face a growing-up process; after all, the old-timers were - as Bill put it - "perishable." Bill believed it was critical that the authority of AA should derive from AA itself - that is to say, from the broad spectrum of the membership. This authority, he came to believe, should be funneled through a practical body - an elected conference or an advisory council - which would be primarily representational and democratic. The AA membership, Bill wrote in a letter, should "assume some responsibility for its all too isolated Headquarters Services and, at the same time, afford our Trustees a real cross-section of AA opinion for their better guidance."

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.)

8:00-9:00 PM Thursday

Thursday Night Candlelight

1414 Kincaid st.
Koinonia Center
Needs support!!

7:00-8:30 PM Sunday

Last House on the block

601 W. 13th
Green House on the corner
Needs Support!!

New Meeting? Is your Meeting moving? Do you know of a meeting that needs help? If so drop by the office, or send us an e-mail at: eviaa@efn.org, attention newsletter

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Be Seen Not Heard!!

Be the first in your homegroup to contribute to the EVI newsletter! send all submissions via E-mail to: eviaa@efn.org subject: newsletter

Or drop by the New EVI office at: 1259 Willamette next door to kinko's.

EVI Service and Fellowship Calender - May

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	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 Frank 345-7173	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	EVI Business Meeting 6:30		District 6 (GSR) 6:30 Larry W. 334-3609			Speaker, Dance, EWEB 7:00 EVI Speakers Meeting 7:30 989 Country Club Road Eug.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
5	Public Information Committee 6:30	Office Volunteer Meeting 5:30	Activities Committee 7:00	Cooperation Prof. Committee 6:30		Cottage Grove Alano Club Speakers Mtg 8:00 PM 519 E. Main St. C.G.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	Newsletter Committee 7:30		H & I Committee 6:00 Literature Committee 6:30		Answering/12 St Frank 345-7173	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	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			

Contributions

(April/year to date)

As Bill Sees It 0/25.00
Attitude Adjustment 241.69/761.93
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 98.21/393.42
Drop The Rock 0/0
EVI business meeting /58.37
Fireside group 0/0
First Monroe Group 0/0
First Things First 60.00/110.00
Four Corners 0/10.00
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 10.00/88.13
Friday night young people 180.00/180.00
From the Heart 0/100.00
Gratitude Group 0/60.15
Harrisburg Group 0/0
Jasper Group 60.00/60.00
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 60.00/60.00
Monday Mens Stag 0/0
Monday Night Cont. Study 0/0
Monday Night New Group 0/0
New Freedom 250.00/525.00
New Freedom 2 268.70/448.60
Old Time AA 0/0
Physical, Mental, Spiritual 75.00/75.00
Plug in the Jug 10.00/10.00
Saturday Night Beginners 0/0
Saturday Step 132.00/132.00
Sober Awakenings 600.00/600.00
Sobriety for life 55.00/99.00
Springfield Monday Night 70.00/70.00
Stairway to Sobriety 0/60.00
Sunday Morning Big book 60.00/60.00
Sunday Night 12x12 20.00/20.00
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 5.60/115.87
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 60.00/120.00
Women's How It Works 72.00/72.00
Women In the Solution 0/0
Total Contributions (February/year to date)
Group ytd 4,434.58
Fundraising:
EVI Speakers Meeting 0/500.00
Faithful Fivers, individual 45.00/448.10

Business Meeting March 13th, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Ed Rogers.

Treasurer's Report. Profit and Loss statement showed that we had a net loss of \$194.44 for the month of March, however, we paid rent at both the old and new location for the month, so we were in good shape for the month.

Office Coordinator report. All shifts are covered, but the office is always looking for volunteers for regular and fill-in shifts.

Answering Service. There is a diverter vacancy every other Friday night, but all other shifts are filled.

Literature. The office has a good supply of books and pamphlets. If there are additional items that we may want to stock check the literature catalog and let Rich know what additional items you may want.

PI. Committee has not had a meeting yet. It is set for the third Wednesday, but didn't happen last month. Web site is up and averaging 300 hits per month.

Activities. The committee lost its co-chair and needs additional volunteers.

Donations for prizes for the May 13th dance are needed.

EVI Newsletter. Newsletter is going well. The vice chair resigned and a new vice chair is needed.

Speakers Meeting. Speaker' Meetings are going well and the committee is inviting some "all star" speakers. It was noted that the next speakers meeting is being held on May 13th, the same night as the dance.

H & 1. A written report was submitted outlining all of the major activities.

Qualified volunteers are needed for about all of the facilities. Contact the committee for details.

Archivist. Old timer tapes are being collected and copied. There was some concern that some material is being borrowed and not returned.

Steering Committee Report: The steering committee approved an agreement with the new bookkeeper to provide the bookkeeping services for the same rate of \$350 per month. The EVI secretary will be gone for 3 meetings and Mel M. will take notes and prepare minutes. A building committee was appointed to oversee the remodel. The new lease was signed after changes recommended by the attorney were made. Copies of the lease are available at the EVI office.

Building Committee Report. The renovation is going well. A couple of walls were removed. New carpet will be installed. New cabinets are being build. Two donations totaling \$350 were made and added to the \$1200 budget for the remodel, which will come in within budget. EVI will move the last weekend of the month and needs volunteers to help with the move.

Elections: Corrections Vice Chair. Scott H was nominated and elected.

Activities: No nominations for Vice Chair.

Outreach: No nominations for Chair.

Newsletter: No nominations for Vice Chair.

Old Business.

1. The single sheet meeting list is available at the EVI office.

New Business:

1. Harold made a motion to allow non-steering committee members to speak on any issue at steering committee meetings. The motion was seconded. After discussion the motion was defeated.

2. Gary indicated that a member had offered to contribute \$50.00 toward the cost of an EVI open house at the new office. Activities is to plan and organize an open house.

The next EVI business meeting will be May 8, 2000 at the new EVI office at 1259 Willamette Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mel M. - Acting Secretary

A NOTED DIVINE REVIEWS "ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS"

By ELRICK B. DAVIS

In a recent series, Mr. Davis told of Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization of former drinkers banded together to beat the liquor habit. This is the first of two final articles on the subject.

Reprinted from the November 2, 1939 Cleveland Plain Dealer with permission

Truth

"This book represents the pooled experience of 100 men and women who have been victims of alcoholism—and who have won their freedom and recovered their sanity and self-control. Their stories are detailed and circumstantial, packed with human interest. In America today the disease of alcoholism is increasing. Liquor has been an easy escape from depression. As an English officer in India, reprimanded for his excessive drinking, lifted his glass and said, "This is the swiftest road out of India," so many Americans have been using hard liquor as a means of flight from their troubles until to their dismay they discover that, free to begin, they are not free to stop. One hundred men and women, in this volume, report their experience of enslavement and then of liberation.

"The book is not in the least sensational. It is notable for its sanity, restraint and freedom from over-emphasis and fanaticism.

"The group sponsoring this book began with two or three ex-alcoholics, who discovered one another through kindred experience. From this a **7** movement started; ex-alcoholics working for alcoholics, without fanfare or advertisement, and the movement has spread from one city to another.

"The core of their whole procedure is religious. They are convinced that for the helpless alcoholic there is only one way out—the expulsion of his obsession by a Power Greater Than Himself. Let it be said at once that there is nothing partisan or sectarian about this religious experience. Agnostics and atheists, along with Catholics, Jews and Protestants, tell their story of discovering the Power Greater Than themselves. 'Who are you to say that there is no God,' one atheist in the group heard a voice say when, hospitalized for alcoholism, he faced the utter hopelessness of his condition. Nowhere is the tolerance and open-mindedness of the book more evident than in its treatment of this central matter on which the cure of all these men and women has depended. They are not partisans of any particular form of organized religion, although they strongly recommend that some religious fellowship be found by their participants. By religion they mean an experience which they personally know and which has saved them from their slavery, when psychiatry and medicine had failed. They agree that each man must have his own way of conceiving God, but of God Himself they are utterly sure, and their stories of victory in consequence are a notable addition to William James' 'Varieties of Religious Experience.'"

Part 2 of our series on the History of AA. These articles were written around the time that the big book was first published. Next month we'll examine an article on Dr. Silkworth. If you have any ideas or sources of interesting AA history, please contact us at newsletter@www.efn.org/~eviaa or drop by the EVI office.—Editor.

"So we think cheerfulness and laughter make for usefulness. Outsiders are sometimes shocked when we burst into merriment over a seemingly tragic experience out of the past. But why shouldn't we laugh? We have recovered, and have been given the power to help others. Everybody knows that those in bad health, and those who seldom play, do not laugh much. We are sure God wants us to be happy, joyous, and free. We cannot subscribe to the belief that this life is a vale of tears, though it once was just that for many of us."

The Top 12 Signs You're Drinking Too Much Coffee

1. You go to other 12 Step Fellowships just for the free coffee.
2. Jaun Valdez names his donkey after you.
3. You haven't blinked since the last solar eclipse.
4. You sleep with your eyes open.
5. You're employee of the month at the local coffee shop, and you don't even work there.
6. You grind your coffee beans in your mouth.
7. You're so jittery that people at meetings ask you to stir their coffee by holding their coffee mug.
8. When cleaning up after a meeting, you lick the coffee pot clean.
9. You've built an addition to your house out of stir sticks.
10. You named your Basic Text and It Works books Cream and Sugar.
11. You are the coffee maker for 27 committees and 11 home groups.
12. You think Instant coffee takes too long.

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: _____

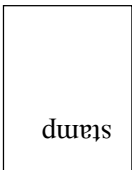
Address: _____

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
Eugene, Oregon 97401