

Faithful Fiver Pledge:

- 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.
- I will mail or drop off my contribution quarterly (\$15 each).
- I will mail or drop off my contribution once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

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

Receipt

“Faithful Fivers” are individuals who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. A Faithful Fiver pledge is recognized by a mailed subscription to the EVI Newsletter. We will post your nickname on a board in the EVI office. We don't remind you or otherwise keep track of your contributions, and we will send the Newsletter whether or not you remember to send in your pledge. You may contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly. If you check the “Receipt” box, we will send you a receipt at the end of the year. If you would like to save EVI postage, write “No news” next to your address, and pick up your copy of the Newsletter at a meeting or at the EVI office.



Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity

At the closing brunch on Saturday morning of the 36th General Service Conference in 1986, Bob P., a soon-to-retire G.S.O. senior adviser, gave a powerful and inspiring closing talk to the 36th Conference. Here is the transcript of that talk.

This is my 18th General Service Conference--the first two as a director of the Grapevine and A.A.W.S., followed by four as a general service trustee. In 1972, I rotated out completely, only to be called back two years later as general manager of G.S.O., the service job I held until late 1984. Since the 1985 International Convention, of course, I have been senior adviser. This is also my last Conference, so this is an emotionally charged experience.

I wish I had time to express my thanks to everyone to whom I am indebted for my sobriety and for the joyous life with which I have been blessed for the past nearly 25 years. But since this is obviously impossible, I will fall back on the Arab saying that Bill quoted in his last message, “I thank you for your lives.” For without your lives, I most certainly would have no life at all, much less the incredibly rich life I have enjoyed.

Let me offer my thoughts about A.A.'s future. I have no truck with those bleeding deacons who decry every change and view the state of the Fellowship with pessimism and alarm. On the contrary, from my nearly quarter-century's perspective, I see A.A. as larger, healthier, more dynamic, faster growing, more global, more service-minded, more back-to-basics, and more spiritual--by far--than when I came through the doors of my first meeting in Greenwich, Connecticut, just one year after the famous Long Beach Convention. A.A. has flourished beyond the wildest dreams of founding members, though perhaps not of Bill himself, for he was truly visionary.

I echo those who feel that if this Fellowship ever falters or fails, it will not be because of any outside cause. No, it will not be because of treatment centers or professionals in the field, or non-Conference-approved literature, or young people, or the dually-addicted, or even the “druggies” trying to come to our closed meetings. If we stick close to our Traditions, Concepts, and Warranties, and if we keep an open mind and an open heart, we can deal with these and any other problems that we have or ever will have. If we ever falter and fail, it will be simply because of us. It will be because we can't control our own egos or get along well enough with each other. It will be because we have too much fear and rigidity and not enough trust and common sense.

If you were to ask me what is the greatest danger facing A.A. today, I would have to answer: the growing rigidity--the increasing demand for absolute answers to nit-picking questions; pressure for G.S.O. to “enforce” our Traditions; screening alcoholics at closed meetings; prohibiting non-Conference-approved literature, i.e., “banning books”; laying more and more rules on groups and members, laying more and more rules on groups and members. And in this trend toward rigidity, we are drifting farther and farther away from our co-founders. Bill, in particular, must be spinning in his grave, for he was perhaps the most permissive person I ever met. One of his favorite sayings was, “Every group has the right to be wrong.” He was maddeningly tolerant of his critics, and he had absolute faith that faults in A.A. were self-correcting.

Concluded on page 2

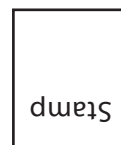


May 2006

Contents:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity | 1 |
| What Harms AA? | 2 |
| AA Meeting Changes | 2 |
| Intergroup News | 3 |
| April EVI Business Meeting Minutes | 3 |
| Contributions to EVI | 4 |
| Calendar and Events | 5 |
| Service Opportunities | 5 |
| Whose Message Are We Carrying? | 6 |
| People | 6 |
| AA Bingo | 7 |
| Rule 62 | 7 |

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401-4113
(541) 342-4113
www.efn.org/~eviaa



AA Meetings:

New

Sober Bucks in Veneta (Men's)

Friday 7:00-8:00 pm
25133 Broadway
Valley Methodist Church
(Downstairs), Veneta

Changed

Tuesday Night Book Study

2500 Maxwell
New time: 6:00-7:30 pm

The Great Fact Group

Tu, Th, Sat. 7:00-8:00 am
Moved to: 1761 E Street
Nazarene Church
Springfield

Creswell 12 x 12

Monday 7:00-8:00 pm
New Location:
298 Oregon Avenue
Creswell Grange Hall

Cancelled

Keep it Simple

Thursday 7:00-8:00 pm
Emerald Baptist Church
19th. and Patterson, Eugene

Serenity Seekers, West

Saturday 12:00-1:00 pm
Friends Church
3495 W. 18th., Eugene

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

Our Greatest Danger: Rigidity

Continued from Page 1

And I believe this, too, so in the final analysis we're not going to fall apart. We won't falter or fail. At the 1970 International Convention in Miami, I was in the audience on that Sunday morning when Bill made his brief last public appearance. He was too ill to take his scheduled part in any other convention event, but now, unannounced, on Sunday morning, he was wheeled up from the back of the stage in a wheelchair, attached with tubes to an oxygen tank. Wearing a ridiculous bright orange, host committee blazer, he heaved his angular body to his feet and grasped the podium, and all pandemonium broke loose. I thought the thunderous applause and cheering would never stop, tears streaming down every cheek. Finally, in a firm voice, like his old self, Bill spoke a few gracious sentences about the huge crowd, the outpouring of love, and the many overseas members there, ending (as I remember) with these words: "As I look over this crowd, I know that Alcoholics Anonymous will live a thousand years--if it is God's will."

Bob P. (G.S.O. senior adviser)

What Harms AA?

Comments on Bob P.'s speech from two members of our local AA community.

I enjoyed reading Bob P.'s address, and I believe his words are definitely true. I also believe that along with increasing AA rigidity, circuit speakers and long-term sobriety have created a disturbing pecking order in AA...but the truth is: I can do very little about either of those issues. Over the years I have been on every side of the issue of "Enforcing AA Rules". I have been on committees to decide if meetings should be listed in our local directory and if H&I meetings and the members in them are following AA Traditions. I have even been the self-appointed "Sergeant-At-Arms" for my home group. I have loosened up over the years, primarily due to the subtle influences of the old-timers in our group. Things like: We are more than happy to sign court slips, even though ours is a closed meeting. If court slips start showing up in the basket, we will often announce that we will sign them at the beginning, and if our visitors want to leave, they can do so right after their slips are signed. We wouldn't have Angel in our group today if we weren't willing to sign his slip years ago. We have allowed the occasional clergy to come in and check out a meeting or two, even though ours is a closed meeting. None of these things have ever seemed to defocus or derail our meetings, and we've been around since 1954. We call on people to share on a pre-established prepared topic. To be honest, that seems to solve all of the possible problems that could arise, imagined or real.

In our home group, we try to wear this program like a loose shirt, but don't get me wrong: We do wear this program wherever we go. I try to remember that it's up to me to decide whether or not I am a real alcoholic or not--not anyone else. So I try to practice these principles, both the Steps and the Traditions, and not enforce either on anyone. When I try to enforce, people seem to like me less.

Harold B.

Continued on Page 4

AA Bingo

Do you keep falling asleep in meetings? Do you get tired of the same old Slogan Babble, or members who continue to deal with the same problems, same defects, and same painful relationships *for years*? Here's a way to change all that...

1. Before your next meeting, prepare yourself by drawing a 5" x 5" square. Divide the square into into a table of five columns and five rows, giving 25 one-inch blocks.

2. Write one of the following words or phrases randomly in each block:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Issues | Inner-child |
| Living amends | Meaningful relationship |
| Didn't mean to... | I'm stuck on Step... |
| Couldn't find a meeting | My sponsor has been out of town. |
| Can't/Won't change | I've been thinking... |
| Yeah, but... | Oh, the pain |
| My disease | But, don't you think... |
| Misunderstood | Never |
| Rational | My recovery |
| Recovering person | Searching (as in, "for answers") |
| She/He said | Dysfunctional |
| I heard | Rage |
| I don't know much about this, but... | |
| I know what it I need to do, but... | |

3. Check off the appropriate block when you hear one of the words or phrases.

4. When you get five blocks horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, stand up and shout "BULLSHIT!"

TESTIMONIALS FROM SATISFIED AA BINGO PLAYERS:

--"I had been in the meeting for only five minutes when I won."

Adam W., Atlanta

--"My attention span at meetings has improved dramatically."

David T., Tampa

--"What a gas! Meetings will never be the same for me after my first win."

Dan J., NY City

--"The atmosphere was tense in the last "Gratitude" meeting as 14 of us waited for the fifth box. "

Ben G., Denver

--"The speaker was stunned as eight of us screamed out "BULLSHIT" for the third time in 20 minutes."

Joe J., Miami

Play AA Bingo at your next meeting!

Fill with mingled cream and amber, I will drain that glass again.
Such hilarious visions clamber, Through the chamber of my brain.
Quaintest thoughts, queerest fancies, Come to life and fade away.
What care I how time advances; I am drinking ale today.

--Edgar Allen Poe

Rule 62:

I like beer. On occasion, I will even drink beer to celebrate a major event such as the fall of communism or the fact that the refrigerator is still working.

I've kinda been a drinker all my life though. In college, I was voted the man most likely to dissolve.

Discovering too late that a watermelon spiked with vodka had accidentally been served to a luncheon meeting of local ministers, the restaurant's owner waited nervously for the clerics' reaction. "Quick, man," he whispered to the waiter, "what did they say?" "Nothing," replied the waiter. "They were all too busy slipping the seeds into their pockets."

Things that are difficult to say when you're drunk:

- * Cinnamon
- * Indubitably
- * Innovative
- * Preliminary
- * Proliferation

Things that are very difficult to say when you are drunk:

- * British Constitution
- * Loquacious Transubstantiate
- * Passive-aggressive disorder
- * Specificity

Things that are impossible to say when you are drunk"

- * Thanks, I don't want to have sex
- * Nope, no more booze for me
- * Sorry, but you're not my type
- * Good evening officer, isn't it lovely out tonight?
- * Oh, I just couldn't. No one wants to hear me sing.
- * You're right; I can't jump over that table



ACTIVITIES
Sylvia (913-7115), Denna (346-7996)

ANSWERING SERVICE
Joe H. (337-6565), Dave W. (653-1788)

ARCHIVIST
Johanna (302-9086)

BOOKKEEPER
Kurt J. (747-89250)

COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY (CPC)
Bill H. (653-1474)

DIVERTER COORDINATOR
David W. (653-1788), Mike B. (607-0910)

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS
Meeting Director: Odessa Q. (513-1913),
Newsletter: Greg W. (349-0294)
Website: Bill (914-5351)

E.V.I. OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Karen S. (484-5299, cell 913-0664)

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING
Karen H. (688-2189), Janet

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE
Chair: Angel (689-2892)
Co-Chair: Bill (653-1474)
Secretary: Darrell B. (515-3593)
Treasurer: Brad (968-5399)
At-Large: Cress B. (913-1791)
At-Large: Frank K. (345-7131)
At-Large: Linda K. (741-7845)
At-Large: Lori P. (343-2515)

HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS (H&I)
Chair: Annie (342-4690)
Cooperation with Treatment Facilities:
Kurt J. (447-8925), Brenda K. (968-6680)
Hospitals: Open position
Johnson Unit: Jill (302-1311), David L. (335-1145)
VA Clinic: Jack H. (689-4681), Ray T. (607-2090)
Corrections: Lee H. (689-0570)
Alma Work Camp: Lee H. (689-0570),
C.C.C. Women: Paula L. (689-6458)
C.C.C. Men: Scott H. (688-5220)
Lane County Jail (Men): Lee H. (689-0570)
Lane County Jail (Women): GayLynne M. (914-2313)
Serbu Detention: Tanya E. (510-9031)

Treatment Centers:
CarltonHouse: Paul H. (685-0463)
Pathways: Doug R. (461-3872)
Serenity Lane:
B.T.G.: Kurt J. (747-8925)
Fri. Speaker: Mark Z.. (344-4329)
S.N.L.: Darian M. (345-3532)
W.F.T. Friday Night: Michelle W. (461-7246)

LITERATURE
Rick S. (465-1053)

OUTREACH
Bob S. (915-2929), Angela D. (683-6551)

PUBLIC INFORMATION
Deb B. (520-7503), Pam (747-4731)

Whose Message Are We Carrying?

Several years ago, when I was secretary of my home group, I used to read a statement called "The Friendly Reminder." It asked members to refrain from profanity when sharing in AA meetings, by reminding us that our primary purpose was "to carry the message of the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous" when speaking in meetings of AA. I loved to read it since it was a personal reminder to me that we are a spiritual program, and when I'm in an AA meeting I'm supposed to carry AA's message and not my own.

Today I'm confused and frightened when what I hear in meetings is not the message of AA. I was at a meeting recently where someone preached his religion and played a religious song on a tape player to close the meeting. I walked out and felt sorry for any newcomer in that meeting who might be wondering if he or she was in the right place. I'm grateful I'm not a newcomer dependent on today's meetings, because I don't believe I could get sober.

My group sanctions non-AA literature by using it for topics of discussion in meetings, making no distinction between non-AA literature and Conference-approved AA literature. We also buy and sell more non-AA literature than we do AA literature in our group, and I wonder whose message we are carrying. I have nothing against other publishers, but I didn't get sober because of their message; I got sober because of the Big Book and other AA literature that carries the message of the AA program. AA saved my life. It's the only message that has worked for me and millions like me who are searching for an answer to alcoholism.

But what I often hear at meetings is the message of treatment centers and their philosophy. I hear the message that addictions are all the same, that drugs are all the same, and that AA is for anyone who has a problem with the "drug of their choice." I sit there with my pack of cigarettes, containing an addictive drug called nicotine, and my coffee or Pepsi, loaded with the drug caffeine, and wonder whether I am sober according to these criteria. I wonder if people in meetings who identify themselves as "addicts" are like me—powerless over taking that first drink. I begin to wonder if I'm in the right place.

I hear psychobabble from self-help group programs incorporated into many AA meetings. The purpose of these meetings seems to be "to feel good about yourself." I believe that if I stay sober through the spiritual principles of AA, one of the fringe benefits will be self-esteem. I was told that as a result of working the Twelve Steps I can recover from alcoholism a day at a time and become a woman of dignity and honor.

During the moment of silence that opens every meeting I attend, I ask for help carrying the message of AA's Big Book and not my own message. I sit in meetings day after day and hear half the remarks made by members prefaced with: "This is just my opinion, but . . ." I was told when I came into AA that meetings are not a forum for opinions. My opinions are not what got me sober; if left to my own opinions, I'd still think it was a good idea to drink. Thank God that when I came through AA's doors many years ago, people didn't share their opinions with me—they shared, instead, their strength, hope, and experience. And the latter was their experience in AA.

I need an AA group united by AA principles to stay alive. I need the message of AA carried to me and I need to carry the AA message to other alcoholics—my very life depends on it. I listen in AA meetings and seek AA's message, not somebody else's message.

I believe that the AA program is a gift from God. I also believe that if self-will runs riot in our groups, we can screw this thing up. The last thing Dr. Bob said to Bill before his death in 1950 was, "Remember, Bill, let's not louse this thing up. Let's keep it simple!" Dr. Bob was referring to the AA program. I think of his statement every time I am in an AA meeting. I sincerely believe he was speaking to all future AAs, not just to Bill W.

I pray daily that God will sustain us in unity in our AA groups all over the world. I pray, too, that I may do my part, in every meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous I attend, to preserve the message of the Big Book, Alcoholics Anonymous. Whenever I speak in meetings, chair a discussion meeting, or share one on one with another alcoholic, I want to carry the message of AA so that it can always be here, and so that future generations of alcoholics can recover in this life-giving Fellowship.

J.J.

Belton, South Carolina

Reprinted with permission from *The Grapevine*, May 1995

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2006

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

6:35 OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer Vice-Chair. Wes was re-nominated and voted in.

Meeting Schedules. Odessa will work with Bill starting over with a fresh template. This should be completed before next printing.

Office Clean-up Person. This matter is closed.

Al-Anon may make announcements during normal announcements at EVI meeting. No special report time set aside.

Web site. Bill was nominated. Bill does not have the required one year of sobriety. Special circumstances motion to override the requirement was made and assed with opposition. Opposition heard. Nomination and vote passed. Need Co-coordinator. Bill - 914-5351

7:00 NEW BUSINESS

Outreach Co-Chair. Abigail was nominated and elected.

Literature Chair. Rick #2 was nominated and elected. Need Co-Chair.

EVI Co-Chair. Bill was nominated and elected. 653-1474

7:20 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities. Memorial Day softball game with root beer keg.

Archivist. Johanna is busy cleaning the back room and working on Buckley project.

Diverter. Going well with no gaps in coverage.

Web site. Bill will study site and work with Brad on budget.

Meeting Lists. Need Co-Chair. Odessa will step down in September. Need new template.

Newsletter. No report. Please give Greg any newsletter phone list changes ASAP.

Literature. The new Chair Rick #2. Need Co-Chair.

Office. Need a few more volunteers who can work on short notice to fill in for absent volunteers. The back room has been cleaned out and re-organized. All committees need to mark their inventories stored at the office so they don't get mixed in with the regular inventory and sales. A co-coordinator is needed and a reminder to all that EVI is a safe, fun place to hang out. People are stealing toilet paper. Several books missing and toilet paper is being stolen.

Outreach. The primary goal at this time is to establish a database of all meetings within the EVI area. Looking for GSR and EVI representation and group business meetings. Abigail nominated and voted in as Co-Chair.

PI. Public service announcements have been distributed to radio stations and news papers. A workshop is planned.

Speaker Meeting. Over 100 attended the last meeting. The meeting is growing. Raffle donations are needed. It should be stressed by reps that speakers are coming to Eugene from long distances with long term sobriety and they need your support.

Treasurer. Income is \$400 ahead for the year. Prudent reserve is up. Donations a little slow. Wes finally voted in.

Steering Committee. Angel reviewed last Steering Committee meeting.

7: 50 Meeting closed with the serenity prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Darrel B., EVI Secretary
(Edited by Newsletter Chair)*



EVI Office

1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
Monday-Friday 9:00 am -5:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes, and more. (The tilde is found next to the exclamation point on the keyboard.) Save a book mark of a favorite and check back often.

EVI News

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

E.V.I. News is about, by and for the members of the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, nor does publication of any article, 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.) E.V.I. News reserves the right to edit 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 articles or event information, mail them or drop them off at the EVI office c/o E.V.I. News. Please include a contact phone number. Submissions may also be sent by e-mail to: EVINews@comcast.net.

Contributions:

May, 2006

Group Contributions (month/ytd)
 Attitude Adjustment 366.60/734.40
 Autumn Group .00/75.00
 Brown Bag Group .00/15.00
 Cottage Grove Gratitude .00/0.00
 Cottage Grove New Beginnings .00/10.00
 Cottage Grove Noon .00/10.00
 Cottage Grove South Valley .00/0.00
 District 19 100.00/100.00
 Downtown AM Group .00/559.33
 Drop the Rock .00/0.00
 Early Firehouse Group .00/92.00
 Freedom of Choice .00/0.00
 Fresh Start at Noon .00/30.00
 Friday Night Men's .00/200.00
 From the Heart .00/0.00
 Get Well Group .00/0.00
 Gratitude Group, Venetta .00/48.00
 Great Fact Group .00/20.00
 Host of Friends 28.93/120.93
 How It Works, Tuesday 100.00/100.00
 How It Works, Women's .00/100.00
 Keep it Simple .00/37.23
 Language of the Heart .00/165.00
 Last Chance Study Group .00/0.00
 Men's Daily Reflections Group .00/0.00
 Monday Men's Stag 255.00/306.25
 Monday PM St Jude 100.00/100.00
 New Beginning .00/20.00
 New Freedom 60.00/60.00
 One Dat at a Time 45.00/105.00
 Pass It On 39.00/39.00
 Saturday Morning Steps .00/0.00
 Search for Serenity 87.00/87.00
 Serenity at Noon 50.00/50.00
 Sober Awakenings .00/275.00
 Spirituaal Approach .00/25.00
 Stairway to Sobriety 50.00/50.00
 Sunday Morning Big Book .00/300.00
 Sunday Night Book Study 90.00/90.00
 Sunday Sunshine .00/60.00
 Thurs. Men's Book Study 50.00/50.00
 Try God Group .00/706.33
 Tuesday Night Book Study .00/15.00
 Tuesday Night Young People .00/135.50
 Tuesday Sponsorship Group .00/0.00
 Wednesday Men's Noon .00/0.00
 Wed. Night Men's .00/180.00
 Women's Courage to Change .00/75.00
 Women's Road to Recovery 135.00/135.00

Total Group Contributions:
 1506.53/5970.84

Individual Contributions

Anonymous: .00/50.00
 Faithful Fivers: 40.00/297.00
 Other: 18.30/26.03

Total Contributions (ytd): 6029.14

What Harms AA?

Continued from Page 2

Bob P.'s speech deserves some attention since he made it when retiring from the position of General Manager of GSO. I am informed by the AA History List online (www.groups.yahoo.com/group/AAHistoryLovers) that his is the final story in the Big Book 4th Edition, entitled "To Handle Sobriety." He obviously has wideranging experience in AA at many levels, and we are always counseled to speak of our experience, not our theories. A lot of talk I hear on the topic of "What harms AA?" is fear-driven and theoretical. I say we treat those thoughts the way we treats all our fears—inventory them and find out what's actually underneath.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, the question of "What harms AA?" can be surveyed through experience, which takes us to Tradition Four: "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or AA as a whole." We have lived with this dangerous level of autonomy for many years and thrived, though not without bumps and bruises along the way, because, as a group, we are the folks who need to go pee on the electric fence, just to be sure the warning sign is correct. The chapter on Tradition Four in the "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions" makes it clear that Bill W.'s first experiences of what actually harmed AA as a whole were affiliation, running treatment business operations, "other people's money", and taking ourselves too damn seriously (Rule 62). In my experience of AA, I have not seen anything new to add to the list. Bill P.'s address covers the "taking ourselves too seriously" problem admirably. The problems many fear of having the "wrong people" in meetings are, in my experience, self-correcting. If people need another solution for a different problem than alcoholism, they drift off. If someone is stalking a meeting for their own "hit" (sex, attention, adrenaline, whatever), they leave when they don't get it. If someone comes to attack AA, we give them their 3 minutes, smile and say "Keep coming back,"— rattles the hell out of them.

Does one group foundering harm AA? Clearly not. My old home group died, AA is alive, and well and I'm still sober, as are many former members. Does AA being illegal in a country harm it? Romania is a good example that it does not. We know how to operate underground better than most. Thirteenth stepping can tip over a group for a while, but AA as a whole? Clearly not. Many of us thrash through the dreaded relationship in the first year and stay alive and sober to tell the awful tale. Does public misinformation about AA harm us? Apparently not that either, since GSO's unvarying response to such questions is Tradition Ten: "We have no opinion." The rest of the Traditions deal with what the experience of the early members indicated might harm AA: straying from primary purpose, money, property and prestige, breaks in anonymity at the public level, and proselytizing. The Traditions are unenforceable. That is their strength. As Clancy likes to joke, we have no AA police, no one knocking on your door late at night in a trench coat, saying "Did you say 'Screw you!' to your sponsor? When try to enforce the unenforceable, we may harm AA.

When we have questions about any of this, we have a bastion of experience in GSO. Last year, I wrote GSO about an invitation my home group received to attend a luncheon sponsored by the church in which we have met for many years. It seemed harmless enough on the surface, but something about it made us uncomfortable. We were informed that it could be an attempt at affiliation, and even if it wasn't, anything that even looks that way should be avoided. Another long time member in another state told me that several churches in her area had made similar invitations—as an attempt to recruit church members from the AA groups. That made it very clear why we should politely refuse.

What threatens AA's future? Not "supply," for it is unlikely that there will be a lack of alcoholics. Not lack of promotion, since we don't have to bend over backwards to promote AA—alcohol does that for us. I'm with Bob P. Taking ourselves too seriously and lack of Primary Purpose might do us in, but since we operate from the bottom up instead of the top down, it's hard to see how that would do the whole trick. Some groups would survive in the hinterlands, still carrying the coffee pot and the message. And I've seen the young people in AA, and I say we are in good hands.

Jean C.

May Calendar

| | | |
|------|------|---|
| 1st | Mon | Steering Committee, 6:30 PM |
| | Tue | District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Teffany H. 746-1438 |
| | Tues | District 33, 6:30 PM, Ray B. 517-2428 |
| | Wed | District 19, 5:30 PM, Martha S. 687-9569 |
| | Thur | Speaker Mtg. Committee, 7:00 PM, Vicki 688-5042 |
| | Sun | Activities Committee, 6:00 PM, 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, David W. (653-6565) |
| | Sat | EVI Speaker Meeting, 7:30 PM, 2801 W. 18th Ave. |
| 3rd | Thur | Outreach Committee, 6:30 PM |
| Last | Wed | H&I Committee, 6:00 |

(All meetings are held at the EVI Office, unless otherwise noted.)

Fellowship Events

AA Group Camp Out

May 12-14, Horse Creek Group Campground
 Campfire Meetings Friday and Saturday, Potluck Saturday Night

Knock 'Em Down: Bowling Night

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 pm
 Southtowne Lanes, 2486 Willamette St.
 Information: Terry (345-8575)

Information Day, Sponsored by District 2

Saturday, May 13, 10:00 am-2:00 pm
 Speakers, open forum, and potluck
 Newport Adult Activities Center, Newport, OR
 Information: Richard (574-9255)

An Afternoon of Softball, Sponsored by EVI Activities Committee

Memorial Day, Monday, May 29 2:00-5:30 pm
 Amazon South Ballfield
 Information: Sylvia (913-7115)

Summerfest '06

June 30-July 2
 Eugene Hilton

Gratitude:

Currently Available Service Positions:

EVI Committees: Chairs and/or Co-Chairs are needed for several EVI committes. Contact Angel (689-2892)

Hospitals and Institutions has an ongoing and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work. See page 6 for contact information for various facilities

Public Information needs people for various volunteer functions.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions. Contact Karen S. (484-5299, cell 913-0664)

Literature Committee needs a co-chair. Contact Rick S. (465-1053)

Newsletter needs a co-chair. Contact Greg W. (349-0294)

The Activities Committee needs volunteers to help plan and staff events. There is no minimum sobriety requirement, and the time commitment is flexible. Call Sylvia (485-3482) or Denna (346-7996).

Addresses for Group Contributions

Emeral 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. Please indicate the district on the envelope.

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
 1900 NE 3rd Street, Suite 106-172
 Bend, OR 97701

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