

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!



stamp

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette Street
Eugene, Oregon 97401

Who Do You Think You Are?

I WILL never forget a pigeon named Karl. A buddy of mine, Mac, and I had received a call through a physician friend of AA. We were put on the trail of this character who, we were told, wanted to sign himself into a big state hospital which had an alcoholic rehabilitation program. We found the man all right, at the home of his ex-wife. He was well dressed and well spoken. And, unknown to us, he was on the outside of a fifth of vodka. He told us he had had one or two. We mentally allowed him six or eight. But not a whole fifth. On our way to the hospital (some eighty miles from where we picked him up) he began to shake and begged us to pull up at an oasis so he could have a double shot. I whispered to Mac, "If we get him in a saloon we may never get him out. Let's pick up a pint and let him nibble until we get him out there."

Mac got the pint. Our pigeon got the cap off the pint and up-ended the bottle. When he took it down it was about a quarter reduced. When we got to the hospital we had an inert mass of beef. The pint was empty. Karl passed out so cold we could not wake him! The hospital wouldn't accept him unless he signed himself in. Mac said, "Let's leave this body at the nearest hotel and reclaim it tomorrow morning."

We paid eight bucks for the room and toted Karl upstairs. In the room we pulled off Karl's jacket and shoes, loosened his tie, covered him with a blanket and left a note telling him to stay put and we would be around for him in the morning.

We got there bright and early but Karl was not in his room. We found him in the dining room. He had just finished breakfast-two eggs, two- and-a-half-minutes each, melba toast and a pot of coffee.

His hair was uncombed, his shirt was filthy. He had not a nickel in his pants. And when we got there he was reading the financial section of the morning paper which he had grandly sent the waiter to get for him at the newsstand in the lobby. When we converged on him he greeted us with condescension and offered us some good advice about his favorite stocks.

Now this man had been in and out of hospitals, on and off skid row, again and again in the past ten years.

It had been at least fifteen years since he was in the brokerage business. Yet his image of himself, undiminished and unchanged by reality, was that of a prosperous broker, a pillar of the community, too well-bred to be a snob but very much aware of his social position. He was living in a fifteen-year-old dream. And the tragedy of it was that he never came out of it. The hospital was able only to dry him out, not to reach the real man. And a year or two later we heard of his death.

The tragedy of Karl started me to thinking, more actively than ever, on the mystery of a man's image of himself. As practicing alkie we were great actors, always the heroes, naturally, of melodramas we wrote, costumed, directed and played out in our own minds. We stood at the bar and were G-men trailing a dangerous international spy; we were explorers just returned from the steaming jungles of Boolaboola. We were Casanova, reborn, in slacks and sports jacket, and with every drink, up to a point, we seemed to look more dashing and romantic in the amber-tinted mirror behind the bar. All of it the stuff of dreams.

But what of the waking moments, in the grim, harsh light of the next morning, trying to shave without slicing ourselves to ribbons? Was our view of ourselves any more realistic then? Did we really know who and what we were? I began to wonder.

Years after I finally got dried out in AA I came across a discussion of this question of "Who do you think you are?" in a book "The Way of Zen," (Pantheon Books, 1959) by the philosopher, Alan Watts. He wrote: "... the conventional 'self' or 'person' is composed mainly of a history consisting of selected memories. . . . According to convention I am not simply what I am doing now. I am also what I have done, and my conventionally edited version of my past is made to seem almost more the real 'me' than what I am at this moment. For what I *am* seems so fleeting and intangible but what I *was* is fixed and final. It is the firm basis for predictions of what I will be in the future and so it comes about that I am more closely identified with what no longer exists than with what actually is!"

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E.V.I. News

June, 2002

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

People:

OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Bob E. (747-2246)

ACTIVITIES

Leetha (687-6623), Mindy H. (687-9369)

ANSWERING SERVICE

Carola K. (736-8041)

ARCHIVIST/HISTORIAN

Linda (345-5827)

COOPERATION PROFESSIONAL

COMMUNITY

Frank K. (345-7131)

COOPERATION W/ TREATMENT

FACILITIES (CTF)

Laura K. (345-5788) Cathy B. (342-6675)

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: Kurt (747-8925),

Teffany (746-1438)

Website: Michael S. (349-0504),

Darin (342-1098)

Meeting Books: Amanda W. ()

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Angel (439-4924), Mary Jean (485-7854)

LITERATURE

Michelle: (232-0101)

OUTREACH

Bill N. (747-7486), Ted H. (338-8380)

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Tom S. (686-8388) Ryan M. (465-1053)

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Karl B. (688-1047)

karl@rpginvest.com

HOSPITALS

Larry W. (334-3609)

CORRECTIONS

Ron B. (988-1827), Tom R. (465-1832)

H&I Coordinators

Lane County Jail: Ron B. (988-1827)

C.C.C. (Women's): Kari M. (344-8147)

C.C.C. (Men's): Chris D. (349-0923)

Alma Work Camp: Ron B. (988-1827)

Pathways: Glen B. (689-8539)

Serbu Detention: Jack C. (463-1046)

Carlton House: Joe C. (554-3558)

W.F.T.-Friday Night: Janis. (935-8833)

W.F.T.-Book Study: Cindy. (988-0183)

Serenity Lane-Speaker: Bill B. (434-6563)

Serenity Lane-B.T.G.: Gus P. (463-1691)

Serenity Lane-Sat. Kurt (747-8925)

L.C.P.H.: Todd J. (302-6377)

Johnson Unit: Steve S. (683-3564)

V.A. Meeting: Ray T. (689-8429)

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Jim P. (688-7915)

Vice-Chair: Harold B. (579-8087)

Secretary: Open

Treasurer: Ryan A. (513-6498)

Vice Treasurer: Tom L. (683-7706)

At-Large: Todd (607-6349)

At-Large: Sandi (463-0586)

At-Large: Lori B. (684-8670)

At-Large: Bruce P. (338-9892)

BOOKKEEPER

Kurt

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Watts goes on to point out that the memories which make up a man's picture of himself are highly selective. The number of events to choose from is infinite and a man picks to suit his own personality needs, and conventional standards. If we try to pick a new set without guidance we run into difficulties.

The "I" which I have taken for granted for so long, turns out to be not a solid structure at all but a shifting, fluid thing, like a handful of water. The question, "Who am I?" so frightened a friend of mine that he wound up in a mental hospital after a bad breakdown. The psychiatrist who put him together again sternly forbade him to think about who he was and told him to concentrate his mental energies, after working hours, on a hobby. He has been quietly gardening in summer and building fine furniture in winter ever since, dutifully obeying the doctor's injunction not to wonder just who he is.

For this lad, flight from the tormenting question, "Who am I?" was probably the only safe measure. But we in AA seldom find so drastic a remedy advisable. In taking our "fearless moral inventory" we find out some surprising things about who this individual is who bears our name. And in the Steps dealing with the removal of character defects we come to learn that the ego-image, a mosaic of memories, is not a fixed and static thing. Old virtues appear from the past, blessing us; good actions we had forgotten lighten the picture for us a little. We recover the memory of times which we had forgotten when we *were* brave, and when we *were* unselfish and when we *were* understanding and tolerant of others' weaknesses and wickedness.

It seems to me, after a good many sober twenty-four-hour periods, that one of the greatest things AA brings to us is a change in the image of ourselves. And the point of change is the Eternal Now which is the country of God.

I once walked down a famous street with an AA friend, a former confidence man. He pointed out the hangouts of dope peddlers, hotels where he had once "taken off a score" from some larceny-minded "mark," bars inhabited by pimps and steerers. That stroll through the streets of a familiar city was like a guided tour of evil. Finally he said, musingly, "That guy was really an anti-social character. He just sort of turned into smoke and drifted away my first week in the Fellowship. I don't know where he went but I'm sure glad he's dead." He was speaking of himself-that-used-to-be. He had made the change-over to the New Man so completely that he could talk about his former adventures as if they had happened to someone else. As, in very truth, they had.

Our first jolt of reality, as alcoholics, comes on that awful day when we realize that something is the matter with the booze or at least its effect on us. Just maybe we can't handle it any more! And from there, the honest look at ourselves, begins the transformation miracle.

Fifteen years ago I did an out-standing piece of work in my profession; people are still talking about it. But it is as if they are concerned with something another man did for I have hardly one single trait in common with that man back there. The things that he loved, or thought he loved, proved false. The things he hated proved objects of compassion. The things he wanted turned into shadows. Many of the things he despised proved to be treasures of the heart. That man is dead. I, thanks to God and AA, am alive.

I do not mean that I have cut off all memory of my past life. But it has been reinterpreted. I appreciate people whom I ignored then. I have compassion for people I admired then but admire no longer. Every- thing is changed, including my ego- image of myself. It is no longer solid, immovable. It is a light, airy thing, built of the breath of the Creator. The old, proud boast, "I'm going to live my own life!" has become non- sense. I have a definite feeling that instead of living "my own" life, as I would tie "my own" shoelaces, that I am *being lived*.

The girls in AA also need to make a new selection from the memories of the past when they are building, through the program, the New Woman. Alcoholic girls can get into such messy situations and are so cruelly exploited and abused, tormented by their own consciences worst of all. I think that the girls, even more than the alcoholic men, need to be able to pick a new set of particles from the past to make a strong and confident "self."

When we have taken the final drink, been to the first meeting, taken the initial

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inventory, helped with the first Twelfth Step call, when we have learned the beauty of life in the Everlasting Now, each of us must perform the office of coroner for the old self. Casting a steady backward glance we must be able to say to ourselves, "That man is dead." Standing at the pinpoint of Now is a new man, a child of God, constantly reborn.

All right. Just who do you think you are? *L. C., Detroit, reprinted from the Grapevine July 1962*

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printed and distributed this quarter. Amanda will be getting price quotes on an additional 500 to 1,000 books per printing. Thanks, Amanda.

Newsletter: Kurt J. (747-8925) Kurt distributed the current newsletter and requested feedback. Thanks, Kurt.

Answering Service: Jana P. (431-3839) filled in for Carola K. (736-8041) Jana confirmed that they are updating the 12-step list. Thanks, Jana.

Public Information: Tom S. (686-8388) Tom met with Michael W. to review the public service announcements Michael created. P.I. is currently recruiting volunteers. They will be bringing literature into the Oakridge library and local police stations and are outreaching to the LCC campus. They will begin to collaborate with H&I to ensure that they are not duplicating their efforts. Thanks, Tom.

Cooperation with Professional Community: Frank K. (345-7131) Frank received the information he needs to restructure the position and will get the ball rolling. Thanks, Frank.

Activities: Letha (687-6623) Not present.

Speaker Meeting: Angel (431-4924) Not present.

Outreach: Bill N. (747-7486) Harold and Larry spoke recently at the Post Conference Delegates Report at the Franklin Fellowship. Ted delivered the message to a group last month. Lori will be carrying the message to the Expect a Miracle women's meeting in Goshen. Thanks, Bill.

Archivist: Linda L. (345-5827) Not present.

Steering Committee: Harold B. reported (579-8087) Harold noted that we will have someone staff the cash register after the meeting to provide EVI reps with the opportunity to purchase literature for their groups.

Here are some of the agenda items from the last meeting:

- There is a quirk in the prudent reserve system. As the policy is currently written, you need to get approval from the body to write a check for over \$1,000. Every couple of months, the Literature Committee needs to place a book order for over \$1,000. Given the tight deadline they often face, it would not be prudent for them to wait for the next business meeting to seek the body's approval. We will be holding a business advisory meeting soon to discuss a solution, which will most likely include an adjustment to the prudent reserve policy and changes to the way the Literature Committee purchases books. The recommendations from that meeting will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and then brought before the body for a vote.

- We will be adding an ongoing account ledger for each committee's budget to the Treasurer's report.

- Harold handed out keys to committee chairs for the room that houses the copier, computer and supplies. If anyone else feels they need a key, please come to the Steering Committee to request one.

- Public Information currently uses their own receipt book for their purchases. In order to simplify and ensure the accuracy of his work, the bookkeeper is requesting that we only use the receipt book at the front desk.

Thanks, Harold.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM, closed with Serenity Prayer.

Intergroup:

EVI Office

1259 Willamette (in the alley behind the copy shop)

Eugene, OR 97401

Monday-Friday 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - noon

Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.efn.org/~eviaa

Meeting schedules, late breaking news, 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 immediately following the EVI business meeting the second Monday of each month.

Contributions:

(May/year to date)

Anonymous/Unknown 0/122.90
 As Bill Sees It 0/0
 Attitude Adjustment 213.90/599.84
 Autumn Group 0/75.00
 Backwoods Bunch 0/0
 Brown Bag Group 60.00/265.00
 Cottage Grove Noon 0/55.00
 Courage to Change 0/141.00
 Creswell Steps & Traditions 0/0
 Downtown AM group 249.50/798.36
 Fireside group 0/0
 First Monroe Group 0/0
 First Things First 0/0
 Freedom Of Choice 0/0
 Friday Night Stag 0/150.00
 Friday Physical Awakening 0/0
 From the Heart 0/0
 Get Well Group 0/10.00
 Gratitude Group 0/0
 Last Chance Study Group 0/0
 Language of the Heart 0/0
 Lowell Lakeside 0/0
 McKenzie Bridge 0/0
 McKenzie River Group 0/0
 Monday Mens Stag 50.00/150.00
 Monday Night Cont. Study 0/0
 Monday Night Beginners 0/3.00
 New Freedom 102.00/425.00
 New Freedom II 0/300.00
 Plug in the Jug 0/0
 Recovery By the Big Book 0/30.00
 Saturday Morning Steps 00/180.00
 Search For Serenity 95.00/494.00
 Serenity Seekers West 0/50.00
 Sober Awakenings 0/300.00
 Sobriety for life 0/0
 Springfield Monday Night 3.00/6.00
 Springfield Study Group 0/0
 Stairway to Sobriety 50.00/325.00
 Sunday Morning Big book 0/100.00
 Sunlight of the Spirit 0/75.00
 Sunday Night 12x12 0/45.00
 SW Sunset 0/34.50
 Try God Group 82.50/371.50
 Tuesday Men's Sponsorship 0/50.00
 Tuesday Beginners 0/11.50
 Thursday Voyagers Group 0/0
 Thurs PM Rush Hour 0/0
 Tuesday Night Book Study 100.00/100.00
 Veneta Gratitude Group 0/65.39
 We Need Each Other 0/100.00
 Wednesday Mens Noon 0/120.50
 Wednesday Men's Stag 150.00/210.00
 Who am I Group 12.00/72.00
 Womans Road to Recovery 0/60.00
 Women's Bedrock 0/0
 Total Contributions (month/year to date)
 Group month/ytd 1167.90/5892.59
Fundraising:
 Anonymous/Unknown 77.05/107.50
 Faithful Fivers, individual 140.00/611.00

and His Spirit led me slowly but surely I back to glorious sobriety through membership in AA.

After five months of sobriety, I contacted a friend, and it was suggested that I become more intimately acquainted with AA members. Although I did not want to drink anymore, I was not yet convinced I was an alcoholic. Attending an AA Dance one Saturday night, I was invited to attend a meeting on Monday. Doing so, I listened to a speaker who made a powerful impression on me. I followed his suggestions, keeping an open mind, becoming willing to attend meetings frequently, reading the AA Book, trying to work the suggested Twelve Steps to recovery, finding many true and sympathetic friends in AA. I met and married a member of A.A.

My marriage helped me even more in my efforts to find and preserve an absolute sobriety. My husband had a double problem-sedatives and whiskey-and had been sober seven months when we married. Before that, it had taken him over three years to find sobriety, even with AA, because of his combination problem. Going deeper into the AA program, we combined our efforts to assist others who were similarly addicted with this dual addiction.

In 1951, I started a small informal group of alcoholics also addicted to drugs. For three years I have devoted my time and efforts to trying to help those who had a two-fold addiction problem, those who substituted drugs for alcohol, and vice versa. My work indicated that the principles of AA, unchanged and unaltered in precept or goal, will work for them if they faithfully practice AA principles, inasmuch as the same basic personality problems, mental disturbances, and character deficiencies are essentially the underlying cause of either alcoholism or drug addiction. This is just my personal opinion, but it has worked for me and is working for many others whom I have helped and with whom I am acquainted.

Today, thank God, I am happy, sober, and have a new understanding and appreciation of life. In 1952, I visited my mother in Montana, after a separation of thirty-six years. I was instrumental in bringing her into AA, as a "loner." Now, my oldest son and his family are proud and happy to see the complete change in my life. My years of unhappiness and frustration have prompted me to dedicate my life to helping others who have been depending upon alcohol and/or drugs to sustain them through life.

I now have faith in a Power greater than myself; I stay sober one day at a time; I try to help others who still suffer; I try to gain an understanding of the problem so prevalent today- the use of drugs as a substitute for alcohol. I pray I may continue to carry the message of hope to others; I live to the best of my ability by the principles and traditions of AA, carrying the message to alcoholics and addicts in society and in prisons throughout the country. In this way, my own sobriety is assured for the rest of my life.

B. T., Santa Monica, California, July 1954

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June Calendar:

E.V.I. and District Committee Meetings:

All meetings at EVI office unless otherwise noted.

- | | | |
|------|------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1st | Mon | Steering Committee 7:00 |
| | Tue | District 20, 6:30 418 A St. Ken L. 747-8270 |
| | Tue | District 33, 6:30 Pam G. 895-5478 |
| | Wed | District 19, 6:30 Tracy R. 338-4320 |
| | Thur | Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00 Angel 431-4924 |
| | Sat | Cooperation w/Prof. Community, Noon |
| 2nd | Mon | EVI Business Meeting 6:30 |
| | Mon | Communication Committee, 7:30 |
| | Wed | District 6, 6:30 Gus P. 463-1691 |
| | Sat | Answering/Diverter 9AM |
| | | EVI Speakers Meeting, 7:30 Country Club Rd |
| 3rd | Mon | Public Information, 6:30 |
| | Tue | Office Volunteer, 5:30 |
| | Wed | Activities, 6:30 |
| Last | Wed | H&I Committee, 6:00 |
| Last | Day | Literature Committee, 6:30 |



Gratitude:

Currently Available Service Positions:

EVI is currently operating without a **secretary**. Position is mostly taking the minutes at the intergroup business meeting. Anyone interested in filling this position can talk to one of the volunteers at the EVI office.

There is now an opening for a **Volunteer co-coordinator**. It is no small job keeping volunteers trained and scheduled to fill shifts at the office and Bob could use a little help.

A **Co-Chair for the Literature Committee** is needed. Handles orders of Big Books, pamphlets, and other conference approved literature for groups, treatment centers, and inventory at the office.

Volunteers are needed at the EVI 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.

Other volunteer opportunities: **H&I** has a constant, and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work. There is also a special need for women volunteers for Lane County Jail, CCC, Willamette Valley Treatment, etc. 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.



AA Meetings:

Changed:

Attitude Adjustment
1465 Coburg Road, St. Thomas Church
M-Sat. 7-8 am.
Please use side entry.
Alterable access.

Please remember to let us know if your group stops meeting - it's a lot easier to remember when you are starting a meeting, but if you stop meeting remembering to remove it from meeting lists may save someone frustration and more when they really need a meeting.



Emerald Valley Intergroup

Business Meeting Minutes-June 10, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm and opened with the Serenity Prayer. The Chair, Jim P., facilitated the meeting. Welcome back, Jim!

Those present introduced themselves. All present were requested to sign the attendance roster. A headcount quorum of 18 EVI Reps was present to conduct business.

Old Business:

· The position of **Secretary** is still open. No nominations were made. Harold stressed that EVI is required to have a Secretary in order to maintain our nonprofit status. It is a crucial position that has remained unfilled for four months.

· The positions of **Office Coordinator Co-chair** and **Literature Co-chair** are also open.

New Business:

· Ryan confirmed that the Activities Committee received the funds they requested at the last business meeting. The Assembly Host Committee still needs to receive their requested funds. Ryan received the information he needs to cut that check.

· One of the office volunteers, Richard, submitted a proposal to hold an informal gathering at the EVI office on Saturday afternoons (1-4 PM) for people who have a difficult time maintaining their sobriety. According to our by-laws, meetings cannot be held in the office. Given the fact that this is an informal gathering versus a meeting, however, no one disagreed with the proposal.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Ryan A. (513-6498) Month end profit and loss statements were distributed to those present. Ryan distributed a profit and loss accounting printout for the month of May. The total current inventory is _____. Total assets are at _____. The current liquid accounts are at _____. Ryan offered to address any questions or requests for detailed information after the meeting. He also noted that he met with the current Vice Treasurer, Tom, and the former Treasurer, Mel, to discuss the need for new figures for the prudent reserve. Thanks, Ryan.

Volunteer Coordinator: Bob E. (747-2246) We are developing a good pool of experienced volunteers, but we would still like to see more women volunteer in the office. We are employing a security firm on a trial monthly basis at \$35/month to help ensure the safety of the office. Hopefully that will increase the comfort level of the volunteers. It should also address the issues of goods disappearing from the office and the need for safety when money is being counted.

· We spent almost \$300 on copier maintenance. In order to keep our costs down, we will keep some spare parts on hand. Michael W. will do most of the maintenance and supply purchasing.

· Volunteers verified daytime numbers on the diverter list. The Diverter Committee will be confirming evening numbers. A new list will be coming out soon and will be updated quarterly. A couple more improvements: Bob is creating an office manual, and, yes, EVI is open on Saturdays from 1-4. Thanks, Bob.

H & I: Karl B. (688-1047) H&I Committee minutes were submitted. Two more men are needed every Wednesday for the meeting at the Lane County Jail. Women volunteers are much needed there, as well. There are currently 100 inmates at Alma Work Camp, so male volunteers are needed. Willamette Family Treatment could definitely use more women volunteers. Karl reviewed some of the volunteer guidelines and noted that they are in the process of creating new coordinator guidelines. He also noted that they are having problems with their notes that are posted on the website. Thanks, Karl.

Literature: Michelle H. (232-0101) Michelle successfully conducted her first inventory. She asked for people to leave a note with the office volunteer if they would like to see a piece of literature added to our collection. Thanks, Michelle.

Website: Darin (342-1098) filled in for Michael S. (349-0504) Darin confirmed that all is well with the website. Thanks, Darin.

Meeting Books: Amanda W. (988-9656) The next edition of meeting books was going to print the next day. There was a 35% increase in the number of books that were

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Rule 62:

Hopelessly Confused Dept.:

One of our very own-before his enlightenment-was in charge of a do-it-yourself planning service. One day he received a letter of complaint from an unhappy customer. It read: "Built birdhouse according to your stupid plans. Not only is it too big, but it keeps blowing out of the tree."

After a certain amount of searching back correspondence-and his soul-our buddy was forced to write the following reply: "Dear sir, I apologize. I sent you the sailboat plans by mistake. Please return them, so I can send them to another customer, who is having trouble sailing in a leaky birdhouse."

Gone Flying Dept.:

One of the brethren of the bushes went for an airplane trip. He was very frightened of the whole thing and fortified himself with large doses of Old Shoesole. It numbed his head, but did nothing for the state of his stomach. As luck would have it, the flight was turbulent, and our half-bagged warrior of the skies deposited most of his lunch on the chest of a very large Texan sleeping in the next seat. Now our buddy was *really* scared.

He thought seriously of making an abrupt departure, but, while he was trying to figure out where to find a parachute, the Texan woke up and looked down at the terrible sight on the front of his shirt. He looked up at the drunk, fire beginning to burn in his eyes. The lush, in a moment of desperate inspiration, looked straight back and said sympathetically, "Feel better now?"

The philosophizing drunk found an appropriate quote: "Each man kills the thing he loves." And he proceeded to open another fifth.

reprinted from The Grapevine, June, 1973

ALCOHOLISM in my family caused an accumulation of unhappy events in my life for the past fifty years. To start this grim cycle of empty years, my mother was an alcoholic. This created in me a fear of life, a withdrawal from reality, and an utterly insecure attitude. To help my mother, we traveled the world and finally settled in California. The ultimate separation of my parents left me even more insecure, unsettled and dismayed. I married young, thoroughly despising liquor for splitting my family.

Nevertheless, I took my first drink in 1918, realizing even then that I could never drink socially. Within three years, I had lost my home, my husband, and was separated from my two children. I went downhill fast, working in various cafes as an entertainer, drinking being an integral part of my life. I was arrested twice, slipping deeper into despair as time went on. Foreseeing the consequences, I took up nursing, hoping to solve my drinking problem.

This enterprise had little beneficial effect. I continued to drink heavily and excessively. I was always sick; I was experiencing "blackouts"; my hangovers were frequent and intense. Soon, I resorted to morphine to help cure my terrible hangovers. Later, I became addicted to heroin, and it almost killed me. This addiction caused a recurrence of arrested TB. Spending several months in a sanatorium, I was able to lose my addiction.

Released from the sanatorium, I moved to Southern California. My health was poor; there was no immediate prospect for a happy life; I had difficulty adjusting to new surroundings and circumstances. A year later, I started drinking again, but with no apparent disastrous effects. As the years passed, however, continued heavy drinking warped my personality and character. I acquired a selfish attitude; I became dishonest, despondent, and bewildered. I blamed everything and everybody for the troubles fermenting within my heart and soul.

In 1939, in a drunken stupor, I walked in front of an auto. Suffering serious injuries, I was hospitalized for nine months. This could have been the turning point in my life. I almost accepted the challenge offered me as a result of those long months of meditation and reflection. While I was still hospitalized, my youngest son had volunteered to serve in the Eagle Squadron. Friends drove me to the airport to bid him goodbye. I was still helpless and crippled. I needed false courage to face this parting under such critical circumstances. Easily, I permitted whiskey to bolster my courage. I was drunk when I parted with my son, and I never saw him again. He was killed in action four months later. When this happened, all hope disintegrated. I lived in a wild nightmare for over four years, escaping life and its problems in a sea of alcohol.

In 1945, I attended an AA meeting with a friend. Although interested, I felt I did not need this program. *A year later, my friend stopped attending meetings, and a short time ago she died, addicted to sleeping pills and alcohol. Looking back, I know I owe this woman my life, as it was through her that I initially found AA.*

I realized now that I must make a change in my way of living, but I knew I must first alter my thinking patterns. I attended a Medical Secretarial Course, moved away from old enticements, secured a good position, attained financial security, had every thing I needed for a sober life. It was too good to last. I became a secret drinker, and became addicted to the narcotic effect of muscatel wine. Working hard each day, drinking nights and weekends, feeling low in spirits, needing pep for the daily grind, I became addicted to benzedrine. The combination of benzedrine and muscatel was truly a nightmare. This lasted nearly five years. Despite spasmodic efforts, I could not stop my course of action. I became increasingly frightened, resentful, hostile, and suffered frequent blackouts. Through all this, I dragged myself to work each day.

By now, I was licked, full of self-pity, lonesome and bitter. Leaving my position, I spent the money I had saved, drinking until I reached the point of no return in preparation to end my life, a fitting conclusion to a miserable existence. But, on the 11th of December 1949, I took my last drink. I had a spiritual experience quite impossible to describe. The Power greater than myself had penetrated my tortured heart at the last moment,

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