

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):

GET THE NEWS!

"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.)



Entertaining an Angel

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2.)

I'm not normally a Bible-thumper, or a Big-Book thumper for that matter, but sometimes it's useful to recognize the source for an often-quoted aphorism. The notion that a stranger, possibly one who is threatening or unsavory, might be an angel in disguise works on many levels. There is the literal meaning: the idea that a supernatural heavenly being might cross your path in disguise, ready to bestow unanticipated blessings - *provided* he is treated with respect. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews undoubtedly believed in supernatural occurrences, which doesn't exclude the possibility that he was also speaking metaphorically.

But suppose you do not believe in supernatural beings with wings and halos, disguised as a miserable alkie scrounging for cans behind a student apartment complex but fully capable of morphing into a six-foot shining androgynous fellow in a white robe, ready to reward virtue and smite evildoers? Suppose your concept of an angel goes no further than your tireless sponsor, or a sweet old lady who volunteers in a soup kitchen? Do angels such as these disguise themselves, and do we entertain them unawares?

I think they do. If ever there was an unlikely "angel," it was the man who was responsible for my coming into Alcoholics Anonymous. God knows the ladies who volunteer in soup kitchens, the undisguised if unglamorous angels we meet every day, tried. Their intentions were good, but their efforts were too soft-spoken and polite to get through. I needed a good clout on the side of the head with a spiritual baseball bat, and I got it. Mind you, I don't recommend the sort of reckless behavior that led up to it. There are safer ways of getting to the same point. Complete lack of concern for my own safety nearly proved my undoing. Ultimately, it also led to my redemption.

You see, when I was at the absolute nadir of an alcoholic bottom, feeling I had nothing to live for, I let a stranger into my life. If Rex was an angel, he was an awfully well disguised one. I met him on a hot July day in 2000. As was my custom in those awful days, I was making my way towards the library to do some research. Realizing I needed some Old English 800 to steady me, I ducked into Albertsons for a bottle and then into the woods by Amazon creek to polish it off. Rex, a homeless alcoholic, found me there, looking and behaving as if I were as down and out as he actually was. To my alcohol-befuddled brain he sounded harmless and in need of help. I offered to let him stay in my house in exchange for doing some long-neglected chores. Stupid? Incredibly! I lived alone except for a reclusive Japanese woman who rented a room from me, and had all the soundness of judgment of a suicidally depressed alcoholic idealist in the throes of apocalyptic paranoia. But I was definitely showing hospitality to strangers.

For a few days, it seemed as if things might work out. The house looked cleaner, and some of the jungle in the yard started disappearing. Rex was interested in eating, and he browbeat me into cooking some semblance of dinners. This improved state of affairs didn't last. Whether this man's attempts to reform were merely a show to finagle a few crumbs out of the system or whether he had some intention of following through didn't matter. He was a late stage alcoholic, mentally imbalanced, paranoid, given to bursts of violence, and completely incapable of refraining from drinking if obtaining alcohol was a possibility. Seeing him, I could see where I was headed. I still had quite a few "not yets," but I was aware that my physical health was starting to deteriorate, and my mental state was downright dangerous.

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News

February- March 2005

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Note: The February, 2005 EVI Newsletter was never printed and distributed due to ongoing computer difficulties. Despite near-herculean efforts by Doug, Karla, and several other volunteers, the computer stubbornly refused to communicate with the printer. Calls to technical support proved futile and frustrating. This issue contains all the articles and information from February, plus updated announcements, financial statements and rosters.



Continued from Page 1 (Entertaining an Angel)

Rex had nothing good to say about AA. In his eyes, it was a useless and onerous obligation forced upon a person by the courts. Still, he did talk about it, and knew a little about how it operated, which was more than the well-meaning ladies at church did. Hearing someone I *didn't* respect rant against AA made me curious. Up until that time, my only contact with AA had been through my alcoholic father, a college professor whose intellectual objections carried considerable weight. AA didn't work for him. In the end, he drank himself to death. I'm very much like my father in temperament, and I suspected it wouldn't work for me. Rex frothing at the mouth made me willing to try.

I picked up the phone and called the EVI office. By the grace of God, the woman at the other end of the phone sensed in my tentative request for information on a meeting the voice of someone who needed a 12-step call right then. She asked if I could avoid picking up a drink until 5:30. It was then about four, and I was jonesing for a forty ounce, but I said I'd wait. She promised she'd pick me up at 5:30. I went with her to a woman's meeting on River Road, and got just enough encouragement to try a morning meeting in my own neighborhood two days later. Throughout that early period, the willingness of individuals to talk to me and make me feel welcome was very important. AA just wouldn't let me sit in the back and be invisible. At the morning meeting there was a time set aside for newcomers and visitors. I felt obligated to share, if only to say that I was feeling lousy and that I hadn't succeeded in going 24 hours without a drink. When I got home, Rex would quiz me on what went on at the meeting and who chaired – so he could fake it on some paperwork he needed to turn in to get food stamps. Well, one of us was getting something out of the system.

Going to a seven o'clock meeting and having a pretty active day before succumbing to temptation had a positive effect. I started feeling physically better. I looked forward to the morning meeting, and I became less and less tolerant of Rex's deteriorating behavior. On the evening of August 16, after an active day, I ran into Rex in Dairy Mart. He was there on the same errand as I, and he was out of his mind. As we walked through Tugman Park, he swung at imaginary leprechauns with a johnny brush, and then began beating me with it. I was understandably frightened – but the pull of the Old English was too much for me; I went home, and finished off the bottle. The next morning I resolved not to drink. I spent the entire day at the computer, writing the history of my alcoholism, and then called a woman from the morning meeting to take me to an evening meeting, where I picked up a 24 hour chip. I haven't had a drink since.

Would I have stayed sober without the "fallen angel" in my rec room? I don't know. I do know that his refusing to leave when I asked him, and showing up late at night, drunk out of his mind, shouting death threats at me, strengthened my resolve not to drink. I needed my wits about me. The first time he threatened me, the police arrested him on an outstanding warrant, but released him almost immediately. He was gone for a week, and then showed up in the middle of the night, insanely drunk, and smashed his way through a plate glass window. The police found him in the middle of the rec room, dripping blood and screaming death threats at the top of his lungs. They arrested him, and advised me to leave the house for my own safety. Two days later he was out on the streets again, calling me repeatedly and threatening me with dire bodily harm if I pressed charges. One day, fortuitously, he reached my brother-in-law, who convinced Rex he was a member of the Mafia and had me under his protection.

That was the last I heard of the "angel" I entertained unawares. His final service to me consisted of making me so angry that I wanted to stay sober out of spite. The good intentions of good people didn't get me sober. Professionals with degrees and certificates didn't get me sober. Rough-edged recovering alcoholics with a simple but compelling message helped get me sober in the end, but something had to get me to a place where I would listen to them. That something was a down-and-out late stage alcoholic bum, active in his disease, who barring some miracle (and miracles do happen) is probably dead by now.

Life is full of strange coincidences, and unexpected turns. I wonder – are there other angels out there, whom I might be entertaining? I like to think so. I like to think that kindness to the unlikely and unlovable stranger, however, misdirected, is somehow service to my Creator, and bound to bear fruit.

Martha S., Eugene, Oregon

New:

Creswell

Veneta

Veneta

Changed:

Cancelled

Please remember to let us know if your group stops meeting. This will save people frustration or worse when they really need a meeting. To submit changes of any kind please fill out a form in the "Meeting Book"

Echoes in the Valley

Echoes in the Valley is a collection of wit and wisdom heard at area meetings. While not always original, they represent local shares by your fellow recovering alcoholics. Quotes are credited to the speaker with permission - otherwise, they are anonymous. Please submit contributions to this department - people share bits of wisdom all over town, not just in the meetings your newsletter chair attends.

(On Step 2). I didn't have a higher power, and I didn't think I was insane. I got the "came" part, but everything else was a problem.
Bob, Downtown AM.

A bad back takes the fun out of being dysfunctional for me.
Mel, Sober Awakening

I believe that God can restore us to sanity, but when I look around I sometimes wonder whether God might find it amusing not to do so too quickly.
Anonymous, Downtown AM

Just sit here long enough, and you'll get it by what one funny guy I knew called "ass-mosis."
Ric H., Sober Awakening

Jody [a much respected member with long term sobriety, now deceased] once said to me: "Remember, don't sweat the petty things - and don't pet the sweaty things."
Bobbi, Sober Awakening

I've always believed in Karma, but now I don't have to BE Karma.
Steve M., Search for Serenity

So there I was, passed out on the sidewalk, and when I woke up I found a copy of the 20 Questions in my pocket. Now don't you people have anything better to do than plant AA literature on people who are just...resting??
Heard at a woman's retreat in Newport.

I used to think I was like Mickey Mouse - a nice low key guy. But really I'm more like Donald Duck. I'm glad I don't have to respond to my "inner duck" any more.
Hank, Sober Awakening

Alcohol doesn't come up on my computer screen any more when my options are listed.
J.P., Sober Awakening

A college math instructor who was uncommonly fond of the fruit of the vine walked into his performance review confident that his contract would be renewed. Sure, he'd made an ass of himself at the Christmas party, and maybe he'd been a little ... impaired during a lecture or two, but his student evaluations were good, and he'd managed to publish a textbook. Much to his surprise, the Dean handed him a pink slip. "But..." I stammered our instructor, "I've been doing my job. Can't you give me another chance?" "Sorry," said the Dean. "We've got a zero-tolerance policy here. You've been giving lectures in Calculus 201 when you were under the influence. We simply cannot allow our faculty to drink and derive."

Rule 62:



A drunk who got a temporary job with an auction house was sent to a mansion to make a list of the articles it contained in preparation for a sale. At first the inventory progressed well enough. Each item was duly recorded: furniture, pictures, silver, and so forth. Then this item appeared on the list: "One quart 15 year old scotch, full." The work went on, and somewhat later our friend recorded "One quart scotch, half full." And finally, "One whisky bottle, empty." The next item on the list was "two revolving oriental carpets."

Clarification: Rule 62 is "Don't take yourself too damn seriously." An explanation is found on page 142 of *12 Steps and 12 Traditions*. Briefly, the story involves an early AA group with 61 rules and regulations. They communicated these to the AA Central Office, which suggested that possibly they were overdoing things. The group nearly foundered. After the dust had cleared, they sent a message to the New York Office with the above "Rule 62" on it, superseding the previous 61.



People: **

OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
Doug R. (461-3872) Roger B. (935-7620)
ACTIVITIES
Sylvia (485-3482, cell 913-7115), Vincent (606-1296)
ANSWERING SERVICE
Julien X.(541-520-7408), Joe H. (232-1267)
ARCHIVIST open
CPC
Nadine P. (683-5730)
E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS:
Newsletter: Martha S. (687-9569),
Greg W. (349-0294)
Website: Karla B. (744-0509),
Lisa A. (343-5848)
Meeting Directories: Denna (344-7996),
Odessa Q. (896-3574)
E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING
Vicki K. (688-5042), Donna H. (689-2335)
LITERATURE
Tim A (726-8558), Aaron B. (914-1687)
OUTREACH
Lee F. (302-1408), Angela D. (683-6551)
PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)
Shevach (683-5254)
HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)
Chair:Larry W. (513-5262)
HOSPITALS
Chair: Steve S.(914-9258),Todd (302-6377)
COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES(CTF)
Kaycee (520-5635)
CORRECTIONS
Chair: Tom R. (465-1832), Bob L. (689-6960)
H&I COORDINATORS:
Lane County Jail: Bob L. 689-6960
C.C.C. (Women's): pAULA I. (689-6458)
C.C.C. (Men's): Jim H. (543-9653)
Alma Work Camp: IEE h. (689-0570)
Pathways: Doug R. (461-3872)
Serbu Detention: Tom R. (465-1832)
Carlton House:Robert S. (684-9439)
W.F.T.-Friday Night: Teffany (746-1438)
W.F.T.-Book Study: , Mindy S. (954-2048)
Serenity Lane:
Speaker: Phillip S. (342-2180)
B.T.G.: Gus P. (463-1691)
Sat. Cindy D. (988-0183), Jason (912-8217)
Saturday Night Live Hank A. (484-6259)
Johnson Unit: Jill (302-1311)
E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE
Chair: Bob T. (342-1588)
Co-Chair:Tom L. (343-2465)
Secretary: Cress B. (913-1791)
Treasurer: Bob E. (747-2246)
Vice Treasurer: Brad (968-3599)
At-Large:Deb B. (302-4839)
At-Large: Ken L. (747-8270)
At-Large: Lori P. (343-2515)
At-Large: Frank K. 345-7131
BOOKKEEPER: Elizabeth R.
**Last updated 1/30/05 - some positions have since rotated.

continued from page 5 (January Birthday Meeting)

of how he started going to AA in an effort to help one of his few remaining friends, not recognizing the extent of his own problem, and how he stayed because his own life improved dramatically - resonates with many of us. How many of us walked around with pains and burdens we no longer even recognized, without a clue how much better life could be? Bobbi had the entire meeting in stitches with her drinking stories. Earlier in sobriety she was reluctant to share them. If we stay in the program long enough, we relearn how to be ourselves naturally, without extra social lubricants.

I remember when Gloria, the two-year-old, came in, one of a batch of 2003 New Years Resolution folks, all of them pretty high bottom. She's the only one who made it this far without a relapse. The scientist in me wants to analyze her behavior in order to predict who will succeed and who will fail in AA. But I resist temptation. Whatever the lesson I'm supposed to learn from watching a newcomer make it, it's definitely *not* how to do triage, consigning people with a less promising prognosis to the "don't bother" pile. In any case, there's no obvious difference. Possibly that's because she laid all her cards on the table early on, while the others were less than candid.

Then there were the month anniversaries. Maybe picking up that nine month chip, or that thirty day chip, seemed to those people like an anticlimax after all the long-term sobriety. Believe me, it does not appear that way to most home group members. There's something incredibly heartening about seeing a person put together a few months, during which his physical and emotional health improve dramatically. So do his chances of recovery. Relapse danger never disappears entirely, but with even thirty days of uninstitutionalized sobriety, relapse no longer looks inevitable, and by nine months, a person begins to realize that long-term sobriety is do-able. When I was a complete newcomer, those people picking up monthly chips inspired me in a way no old-timer could match. Now that I have a few years, they inspire me to service work. This thing really works - spreading the message and mentoring the newcomer do pay off for all concerned.

Yes, let's celebrate birthdays, sobriety and otherwise. It's a wonderful way of being grateful for life.

Martha S., Eugene, Oregon

Vaguely About Wine and Sex:

Did you know that the humble brewer's yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (the name is Latin for "sugar fungus from beer") is the lowest life form on earth known to have sex? Is this just a coincidence, or did the alcohol-soaked life style of this microscopic plant contribute to its adding sex to its repertoire?

Mind you, sex for a fungus isn't awfully exciting. A yeast cells goes along converting sugar into alcohol until the sugar runs out; then two cells fuse, do that meiosis thing you learned about in Bio 101 and promptly forgot, and produce a packet of spores. To get more excitement than this from sex, you need something that moves, like a cockroach or a crow. Us large-brained humans naturally think self-awareness adds a whole lot more, but that's only frosting on the cake. Brewer's yeast does the basics just fine. Do consider, when you're pouring out the chablis and contemplating the NEXT MOVE, that you're only repeating what *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* figured out about a billion years ago. -M.A.S.

EVI Business Meeting Minutes

10 January 2005

6:32: Open with the Serenity Prayer, Bob T. Chairing, Quorum present.

Old Business

Committee service position openings

EVI Archivist Co-Chair is still open.

New Business

Announcements: Carol (Alanon) thanked EVI for support, and distributed fliers for the Alanon breakfast of February 5.

Sylvia (Activities) clarified that the 'missing' \$1000 prudent reserve in the Activities Committee budget was probably spent on activities; records are poor, but there is no suspicion of malfeasance.

Committee Reports:

Activities: Sylvia. New Year's Eve Dance was a success. A Valentine's dance is planned. Would like to have an activity a month, plans to request \$100 a month from EVI for 6 months to build up prudent reserve [this request is included in the draft budget].

Diverter: Ken (for Joe) - Now needs co-coordinator. Call Joe (337-6565 or 741-1035) for information. Diverter meeting second Saturday, 10 am at EVI. All slots are filled for January and February.

Communications/ Website: Karla. New Computer is up and running, but there are still glitches. Is updating website.

Meeting Directories: Denna. Have received 700 more new directories. Has available a flier listing meeting changes resulting from closure of Alano Club in Cottage Grove.

Newsletter: Martha. Newsletter delayed because of computer switchover - will be available later in the month, and also on line.

Office Coordinator: Doug. Volunteers are needed for some shifts.

Hospitals and Institutions: Larry. There was no H&I meeting in December. Reminder of changes in procedures for jail clearances. Alma work camp meeting is up and running; may change to Saturday evening. Contact Lee H. for information and clearance. The 1st and Bertelsen VA meeting has moved to Santa Clara. This is an open meeting, and women are welcome. H&I meets at 6:00 pm on the last Wednesday of the month at EVI. Prospective volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Speaker Meeting: Sylvia: Doing well financially. Speakers lined up until June

Treasurer: Bob E. December group contributions only 62% of average, literature sales also lower than December average. Groups able to make group donations in January should not hold off. Yearly total - revenues up 4%, costs down 2%. Balance in accounts of 12,650.72 is close to calculated 2005 prudent reserve of 12,669.39. Treasurer is working with bank to reduce number of accounts using EVI tax ID number to 3; use of this ID number by groups has potential to cause problems though nothing serious has yet arisen. Treasurer distributed a 2005 budget. EVI voted to approve prudent reserve amount, remainder of budget to be taken to groups for discussion.

Steering Committee: Bob T. said we should be recruiting more volunteers, and encouraged us to remember that "service is love."

Outreach, Literature, Public Information, CPC and Archives representatives were absent.

Adjourned 7:50 pm, closed with Serenity Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Cress Bates, Secretary

Abridged by the Newsletter chair

Business Meeting, February 14, 2005

No minutes received. Details of elections and rotated positions will be included in the April newsletter.

Due to sparse attendance a quorum was not achieved until late in the meeting, when the only old item of business, approving the 2005 budget including \$100/month seed money for the Activities Committee, passed by a substantial majority. The question of Committee chairs who have missed several meetings in succession was discussed, and a motion made to remove any committee chair who had missed two meetings without arranging for an alternate. Motion tabled.. Activities Committee reported that their supplies, plus cash which had not been deposited, were stolen from the EVI office storeroom in January, either during office hours or by someone who had a key.

Intergroup:

EVI Office

1259 Willamette
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 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!

EVI 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 by 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. **Please include a contact phone #.** Submissions can also be e-mailed to: eviaa@efn.org or msherw@darkwing.uoregon.edu. Communication Committee (Newsletter & Web Site, Meeting Book) meetings are held at 6pm the first Friday of each month at the EVI office.

Contributions:

January & February, 2005

Group Contributions

As Bill Sees It 00
 Attitude Adjustment 324.00/324.00
 Blue River Sunday 00
 Brown Bag Group 75.00/75.00
 Buckley Pass it On 00
 Cottage Grove Gratitude.00
 Cottage Grove Noon 50.00/50.00
 Creswell Al-Anon 00
 Daily Reflections 00
 Dexter Women's Group 00
 Downtown AM Group 185.00/446.00
 Drop the Rock 00
 Early Firehouse Group .75.00/75.00
 Freedom of Choice 00
 Friday Night BB Study .00
 Friday Night Men's 100.00/100.00
 Friday Nite Young People 00
 From The Heart 00
 Gratitude Group 67.20/67.20
 Host of Friends 75.00/75.00
 How It Works 42.00/52.00
 Lanugage of the Heart 00
 Last Chance Study Group 00/
 McKenzie River Group 00/
 Mohawk Brown Bag 00
 Monday Mens Stag 00
 Pass it On 00
 Physical Awakening 140.00/140.00
 Recovery By The Steps 00
 Recover by Big Book 30.00/30.00
 Rush Hour Group 00
 Saturday Morning Steps 158.75/158.75
 Search For Serenity 114.00/114.00
 Serenity at Noon 00
 Serenity Seekers 00
 Sober Awakenings 00
 Sobriety for Life 00
 Springfield Study Group 20.00/20.00
 Stairway to Sobriety 50.00/50.00
 Sunlight of the Spiri t 00
 Thurs. Men's Book Study 100.00/100.00
 Tues Night Young People . 73.20/73.20
 Try God Group 692.47/692.47
 Veneta Gratitude Group 00
 Vets and Friends 00
 Wednesday Beginners.00
 Wed How it Works 00
 Wednesday Men's Noon00
 Wed. Night Men's Stag 00/
 Women's Bedrock 50.00/50.00
 Women's Courage to Change 00
Total Contributions Group
 month/ytd 397.00/2942.62
Individual Contributions
 Faithful Fiver 20.00/165.00
 Anonymous 64.43/76.48
Total Contributions Individual
 84.43/176.48

January Birthday Meeting

What is it about Sobriety Capricorns? Somehow there are an awful lot of them, and moreover, their lust for sobriety eclipses that of just about every other AA sign. Or so it seemed at our monthly Sober Awakening Birthday Meeting last Saturday, when all those January folks picked up their coins and told their stories. There wasn't a dull one in the lot, nor a story with a false or unsatisfying ring. These were people who were enjoying their sobriety. Possibly their "happy, joyous and free" received a boost from surviving yet another treacherous holiday. Perhaps the sheer comfort in numbers created a synergistic effect. Whatever the reason, Unity Church was humming at 7 am on a Saturday morning.

I love birthday meetings. Important passages in life need to be noticed – but that actual moment of "sober awakening" is generally the diametric opposite of festive. Since we can't stage balloons and party hats around that one last miserable humiliating incident or cataclysmic hangover, we might as well liven up the commemoration. A year ago, or ten, or twenty, an alcoholic embarked upon a new life. It's helpful to the "birthday kid" to reflect back upon the last year, and then upon the whole span of sobriety. It's helpful to others to hear such reflections voiced in an open forum, especially when that forum is a home group.

A home group birthday meeting is a family celebration. This January, we had a fellow celebrating twenty-two years of sobriety, another with nineteen, a woman of twenty and another of twelve, a man with ten, a woman with nine, a woman who turned two on New Years' day, and some people who were still in the months. I've watched all of these people mature in sobriety during the four and a half years I've attended that meeting. Probably none of them realizes quite how valuable seeing the process of growing up in sobriety is to other AA members.

For those in the double digits the change has been subtle. Indeed, I'm uncertain how much of it has taken place in them, and how much in me. Four years ago a person with twenty years of sobriety appeared like the guru atop his lofty pinnacle, living in an atmosphere too rarefied for a wretch like me. Now, their stories demonstrate in concrete terms that there is still room for growth after twenty years, and that the absolute pace of learning need not slow even though the relative amount of improvement declines as the years accumulate and the most glaring problems are resolved.

The people who've gone from five to ten years have changed more dramatically. When I joined the group, Ric was still on the lower rungs of the ladder as far as rejoining the human race socially. On Saturday his new bride was by his side to celebrate. His simple story -

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February Calendar

1st Mon Steering Committee 6:30 PM
 Tue District 20, 6:30 PM, 418 A St. Myron M. 345-582
 Tue District 33, 7-8 PM, Alan U. 741-2617
 Wed District 19, 5:30 PM, Sandy V. 485-4827
 Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00PM, Vicki 688-5042
 Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00 PM
 Sat Activities, 5:00PM, 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, Julien 520-7408
 Sat EVI Speaker Meeting, 7:30 PM, 2801 W. 18th
 3rd Tues Public Information, 6:00PM, Shevach, 683-5254
 Last Wed H&I Committee, 6 PM
 Thur Outreach, 6:30 PM, EVI Office

Fellowship Events

Pathfinders (formerly Recovery Riders) organizes outdoor events for AA members and their families. Check their website, www.geocities.com/dailypath

The EVI monthly speaker meeting takes place on the second Saturday of the month, 7:30 pm, at Living Hope Church, 2801 W. 18th, Eugene. It features both local and regional AA and Al-Anon speakers.

Summerfest '05 is scheduled for July 1-3 at the Eugene Hilton. Ckeck out the website, www.aa-summerfest.org or call the chair, Ryan A. (541-513-6498) for more information.

The Downtown AM meeting continues to offer a newcomer's workshop every Wednesday from 7-8am at the First Christian Church, 1166 Oak. Sessions include presentation on AA basics and a question and answer period.

A Chance to Live, Oregon Area Woman to Woman conference, meets March 10-13 at the Shilo Inn in Newport.

The Rogue Roundup is May 6-8 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. For information contact Rick or Jeri at 541-474-5521 or website, www.rougueroundup.com

Convencion Hispana de Alcoholicos Anonimos del Estado de Oregon, 25-27 Marzo, Jantzen Beach Doubletree Hotel, Portland. Para mas informacion llamar a comite organizador, 503-848-0102.

The EVI office has flyers and information about all of the above events, as well as others which are out of state or otherwise of limited interest.

Gratitude:

Currently Available Service Positions

H&I has an ongoing, and varied need for people willing to do a little to a lot of service work.

Public Information needs people with transportation to deliver literature. There is no minimum sobriety requirement for most PI service positions.

The Diverter seeks volunteers to take calls to the local AA number after hours. Contact Julien (520-7408) for details, or obtain information and application forms from the EVI office.

The EVI Office can always use people who are able to answer phones and perform office functions for one four hour shift per week. Contact Doug (461-3872), or stop by the office for information.

The Activities Committee urgently needs more volunteers to help plan and staff events. Please, if you want to continue having fun events, get involved. There is no minimum sobriety requirement; time commitment is flexible. Call Sylvia, 485-3482.P

Addresses for Group Contributions

Emerald 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. Indicate the district on the envelope, include the group number (found in the Oregon Area Directory), and make check out to the District.

Oregon Area 58 Treasury
 PMB 172
 1972 NE 3rd St.
 Bend, OR 97701

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