

The Chairman

...discusses the Third Step...

MADE a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God, as we understood him.

The Chairman of the Mid-Week closed Group laid his pipe down and continued: "This Third Step is one of the basic Steps of the whole AA Program. Yet many, many newcomers—and Old-Timers, too, have trouble with it. I've known men to give up the Program in despair because they couldn't get it. And I've seen others who had no end of trouble because they tried to ignore it. . .Pete, as an ex-agnostic, how did you get around this phase of the AA Program?"

Pete stretched his six feet three inches from a lounging position to a sitting posture: "I'll tell you, Doc, what got me was that phrase, 'God as we understood him.' For my book that leaves the thing wide open, providing that the newcomer keeps an open mind. You know I had to make a hell of a spiritual adjustment when I came into AA, but from my observations I'd suggest keeping an open mind on the Third Step, while we work our way through the rest of the Steps. In fact, many of our personality faults will come to light if we honestly practice the rest of the Program. In getting over these hurdles we will soon discover that we are now ready to accept Step Three. And as I said, the phrase—'God as we understood him' was the thought that made it possible for me to latch onto the spiritual phase of the Program."

"Well, Pete, at least you eventually became willing to admit that there was a Power greater than yourself that helped keep you sober," added the Chairman. "You see the first three steps in our Program actually point up the three fold disease known as alcoholism. The First Step points out the ravages of liquor upon our physical being, the Second Step what occurred to our mental capacities and the Third Step shows how our spiritual happiness had been affected. Our recovery is dependent upon realizing the extent of the injury we have suffered because of our compulsion for alcohol. It is important that we understand the treatment of our physical and mental illness, but in my opinion complete and happy recovery is never attained until our spiritual sickness is cleared up. . . Yes, Mary, what's on your mind?"

"My experience with the Spiritual side of the Program proved to be one in which I developed slowly, over a long period of time. In fact many of my friends noticed a change in me long before I was aware that I had ever had a spiritual awakening. But when I realized the change, I knew that I could never, never have done it alone. Then I realized that I had tapped some other source, which I now identify as my Power greater than myself. Had I not

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July 2009

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Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401-3509
(541) 342-4113

AA Meetings



New Meeting:

The Family Afterward

(women and babies)
St Marys Episcopel
166 E 13th
Fri noon-1pm

If we examine every disturbance we have, great or small, we will find at the root of it some unhealthy dependency and its consequent unhealthy demand. Let us, with God's help, continually surrender these hobbling liabilities.

Then we can be free to live and love; we may then be able to Twelfth-Step ourselves, as well as others, into emotional sobriety.

- Bill W.

Time Change:

McKenzie River Mtg

Now from 6:00 - 7:00pm
Wednesday

Please be aware that the EVI News staff is always looking for worthy submittals! Articles having to do with your AA experience / wisdom, etc., are always welcome. Keep in mind that editing for appropriateness and length may occur.

E-mail submittals to:

evinews@yahoo.com

*not later than the last Monday of the month,
or mail/drop it off at the EVI office
c/o EVI News.*

Please include a contact phone number.

Please remember to let us know of your group changes by submitting the NEW OFFICIAL FORM at the EVI office. Thanks!

Minutes – EVI Business Meeting

June 8, 2009

Before the meeting Wes distributed a list of possible topics for an EVI Group inventory and asked group representatives to fill them out on the spot. People on the inventory planning committee collected these forms, tabulated the answers, and generated a group inventory sheet with the three questions that received the most votes. A copy of the sheet listing the questions was distributed at the end of the Business Meeting to each EVI representative to take back the groups for discussion and feedback.

The meeting proper commenced at 6:35 pm with the Serenity Prayer. Those present introduced themselves by name and service position. A total of 24 voting members were present, constituting a quorum.

Wes (chair) called for announcements. Sandra announced the Founder's Day barbecue, potluck and speaker meeting at Washington Park on June 14. Teffany (literature) asked about a note in her box: "pamphlets needed." Nobody knew anything about it.

Open Positions

EVI Chair Co-chair. There were no nominations or volunteers. We still have no one to serve as backup if the chair is unable to come to the business meeting and no one is prepared to rotate into the position.

Member-At-Large. There were no nominations or volunteers.

CPC/PI Co-chair (summer only). There were no nominations or volunteers. The chair position is filled and there is someone available for the co-chair position in September.

Newsletter co-chair. Laura is available. She gave a service resume that included publication experience. After some discussion about whether a recent relapse in another program disqualified someone for a position it was pointed out that our by-laws only mention sobriety. Laura was elected unanimously.

Old Business

EVI Annual Inventory – Wes briefly reviewed the questions on the sheet and urged people to get completed questionnaires to the folks in the computer room.

12th Step Workshop. Wes announced that there will be a planning meeting on Sunday the 14th at 6:30 pm. Myron and David have been working on putting together the workshop and updating the Diverter packet. Dave P. would like input from anyone with experience making 12th step calls. Brenda suggested passing out fliers announcing the committee meeting. The old committee meeting information is in the printed newsletter (it has been corrected in the online version). Mark the copies you are taking to your groups.

New Business – There was no new business.

Reports

Outreach, CPC/PI, Activities, and the Treasurer submitted typewritten reports. Communications turned in a handwritten report. Thank you to committee chairs who prepare written reports. It ensures that our records are complete and gives EVI representatives something concrete to take back to their groups.

Activities (Sandra): The softball/root beer event had a large turnout. If they sell burgers at future events they will need to charge more to cover costs. Remember to mark your calendars for the Founder's Day event June 14. The Activities Committee will be signing up people to work in their particular segment of Summerfest Fourth of July Weekend. Other volunteer opportunities are available through Summerfest itself. Next Activities business meeting is July 12 at 6 pm.

Archivist (Lana): Is doing inventory and spring cleaning, and wonders if she has a budget.

Intergroup:

EVI Office

(541) 342-4113

1259 Willamette St.

Eugene, OR 97401-3509

Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Saturday 9 am – 4 pm

Drop by for a visit!

EVI Web Site

www.eviaa.org

Meeting Schedules, business

Meeting minutes and more.

Save a bookmark!

EVI News

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

EVI news is about, by and for members of the AA fellowship. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to AA as a whole, nor does publication of any article, event or notice imply endorsement by either Alcoholics Anonymous or EVI. (Exceptions: Quotations from AA books or pamphlets, which are reprinted with permission of AA World Services, Inc.) EVI News reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, length, language and editorial policy.

Contributions are 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 EVI News. Please include a contact phone number.

Submissions and comments may be sent by e-mail to:
evinews@yahoo.com.

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Contributions

June 2009

Month

YTD

Contributions/Group:

11th Step Meeting	26.00	26.00
Are We Done Yet	22.00	22.00
As Bill Sees It	0.00	20.00
Attitude Adjustment Group	186.00	1131.00
Cottage Grove Gratitude	20.00	20.00
Downtown AM group	0.00	882.00
District 19	0.00	150.00
EASYPAA	0.00	70.00
Fireside Group	0.00	45.00
Friday Night BB	0.00	240.00
Fresh Start at Noon	0.00	50.00
Freedom of Choice	0.00	75.00
Get Well Group	0.00	160.00
Host Of Friends	0.00	80.00
How It Works	0.00	123.00
McKensie River Grp	0.00	50.00
Monday Noon Stag	41.00	41.00
Monday Mens Stag	40.00	40.00
New 11th Step Mtg	0.00	13.00
New Freedom	100.00	300.00
New Freedom 2	70.00	70.00
Pass It On	0.00	53.00
SAG	40.00	160.00
Saturday Morn Steps	0.00	198.00
Search for Serenity	0.00	20.00
Serenity On Sunday	50.00	50.00
Serenity Seekers West	0.00	22.00
6:45 AM Stag	40.00	161.00
Sober Awakenings	0.00	1289.30
Sober Chicks	0.00	10.00
Sobriety for Life	0.00	60.00
Spiritual Kindergarden	0.00	4.00
Springfield Men's Stag	0.00	40.00
Sunday AM BB	0.00	300.00
Sunday Book Study	0.00	40.75
Sunday Morn Sunshine	0.00	350.00
Sunday Ngt Womens Step	0.00	141.28
Thursday Men's Book Study	216.10	216.10
Try God	0.00	806.00
Wednesday Night Men's	0.00	354.00
Wed Men's Noon Grp	55.65	55.65
Womens Courage	0.00	288.92
Womens Road to Recovery	156.75	156.75

Total Group Contribution 1063.50 8644.75

Contributions/Individual:

Faithful Fivers	105.00	355.00
Other	20.65	275.60
Total Individual	125.65	630.60
Total Contribution	1189.15	9275.35

NEED SERVICE?

Current Open Service Positions at EVI:
(attend EVI Business Meeting)

Chair co-chair
Member-at-large
CPC-PI co-chair

Recently Filled Service Positions at EVI:

Newsletter co-chair - Laura H.
Treasurer co-chair - Jack N.
Meeting Guide co-chair - David P.
Archivist - Lana Y.

Upcoming Openings:

Office personnel (ongoing need)



Addresses for Group Contributions

Contributions for districts 6, 19 and 20 may also be sent to the below address. Please indicate the district on the envelope.

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette St.
Eugene, OR 97401-3509

District 33
P. O. Box 40163
Eugene, OR 97404

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

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

Calendar

(all meetings held at EVI office unless otherwise noted)

- 1st** Mon Steering Committee, 6:30 pm
Tues District 20, 6:30 pm, 418 "A" St., Richard T

Tues District 33, 6:30 pm, LynDee R.

Sun Activities Comm, 6:00 pm, Sandra
2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting, 6:30 pm
Wed District 6, 6:30 pm, Rhonda

3rd Thur Outreach Committee, 6:30 pm
2nd to last Sun Literature committee 1pm to 5
4th Tues CPCPI Committee, 6:30 pm
Last Wed H&I Committee, 6:00 pm
Last Thur Grapevine Committee, 5:30 pm
Sat 12 Step Workshop Development Committee 4:31pm
Contact Michael S. David

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not later than the last Monday of the month, or mail/drop it off at the EVI office c/o EVI

EVENTS

(application forms at EVI office)

32nd Annual South Coast Round-Up
Brookings OR
July 24-26

Sisters in Sobriety Campout
Sutton Camp ground near Florence
July 31-August 3rd

Redwood Coast Roundup
Fortuna, CA
Aug 21-23

WACYPAA
Hilton, Eugene
Dec 31 2009- Jan 3 2010
WACYPAA13.org

Anonymous Co-ed Softball Team

Looking for players
(Need more women)
will be joining the city league

Practice on Thursdays at 5:30
Field behind Roosevelt Middle school
Show up if interested.

People:

(continued from page 3)

ACTIVITIES

Dawn Sandra E Brian
ANSWERING SERVICE
Mike B
ARCHIVIST Lana Y.
BOOKKEEPER: Ric H
CPC/PI (Coop. w/Profess. Commun/Public Info.)
Lyndee R Brandon
DIVERTER COORDINATOR
Myron Dee
EVI COMMUNICATIONS
Meeting Guides: Bill David P.
Newsletter: Angela M Laura H
Website: Alan U Bill H
EVI OFFICE MANAGER
Michael Marika C.
EVI SPEAKER MEETING
Gene S. Scott
EVI STEERING COMMITTEE
Chair: Wes H (co-chair open)
Secretary: Martha S.
Treasurer: Chuck Jack N.
At-Large: Andre K.
At-Large: Breyer
At-Large: Greg
At-Large: Ted H.
At-Large: Bill
GRAPEVINE
Chair: Gus
Co-Chair: Chris
H&I (Hospitals and Institutions)
Chair: Brenda K Co is open
Corrections: Annie O Co is open
Lane County Jail (Women): Rose B Karla B

Lane County Jail (Men): David
Ron L.
C.C.C. (Women): Melody Denna S
C.C.C. (Men): Bob S
Alma Work Camp: Lee H
Pathways: Joe N Co is open
Serbu Detention: Jack Co is open
Cooperation w/Treatment Facilities: Jeff C
Carlton House: Mark Z
WFTS: Johanna D.
Serenity Lane:
Fri. Speaker: Richard
B.T.G.: Tim a
S.N.L.: Greg D
Shelter Care: Hank Angela D
Hospitals: Both positions open
Johnson Unit: Jill David L
VA Reintegration Cntr: Both positions open
LITERATURE
Teffany Doug S.
OUTREACH
Rebecca Jeff

Communications

Website (Alan): Has removed committee chair phone numbers from the online version of the newsletter (they are still in the print version). Do not use the EFN email address to communicate with him.

Meeting lists (Dave P.) Has not met with chair. The trifold abridged version that some committees use is on the website – people needing copies should download it and arrange printing themselves.

Newsletter: Chair is rotating in favor of Angela M. at the end of the month.

CPC/PI (Lyndee). Met with Area CPC and PI chairs who have put together some information for clergy; Area is encouraging groups that meet in churches to make literature available to them. This effort is mainly coordinated through GSRs. CPC is working with the Public Defender's Office to inform Attorneys on what AA is and what it is not. The Doctor's information packet project has been a success. Packets are available to take to your physician.

Diverter (Myron, via Wes) Has contacted District DCMs in an effort to get involvement in the 12th step workshop. Would encourage people who are picking up the diverter after the close of EVI office hours to call the EVI office to let them know the diverter is being picked up. The phone system is working smoothly.

H&I (Brenda). There are a few openings for jail volunteers. The Area Corrections Chair will be in Eugene to talk about the Bridge program. Volunteers are needed for Serbu. The coordinators for various facilities are rotating in the fall and there is a shortage of people ready to step into these positions.

Literature (Teffany). Has put in a book order. GSO is raising literature prices July 1.

Office Coordinator (Michael). Both shifts on Friday and Saturday are short on volunteers – recently the office closed early on Friday because no one showed up for a shift. Otherwise things are going well.

Outreach (Rebecca). Described trying to persuade a small meeting to have an EVI representative. She would like shelf space for outreach packets.

Speaker Meeting – flier distributed for the next speaker meeting, no report.

Treasurer: Distributed a financial report for May and YTD, to which there were some corrections. Group contributions are covering ongoing expenses, but we are still operating below prudent reserve. One area of concern is an outstanding debt of \$2200 the IRS stemming from late filing of the 2005 taxes; it resulted from sending the taxes to the wrong address. Debt is all interest and penalties, and has been appealed. EVI has filed for an extension on our 2008 taxes, and the Steering Committee has okayed having a professional tax preparer do them, to avoid future problems with the IRS. If anyone has a recommendation of a tax professional, see the treasurer.

Steering Committee: Minutes of the June meeting were distributed; Wes had nothing to add.

Ric announced the results of our voting on the inventory questionnaire, and distributed forms listing the three top inventory questions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 with the Responsibilities Statement.

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been able to keep an open mind, as Pete suggested, I am certain that I would still be struggling futilely with my own stubborn will.”

“I remember your approach to the Third Step, Mary. You really practiced ‘Easy does it.’ . . . on the other hand Snuffy over there,” said the Chairman pointing to a bright-eyed little chap, “became hooked up almost immediately. How do you account for that, Snuffy?”

“I guess ‘I’m what you guys calls a miracle. An’ I guess I really had a spiritual awakening that punched it right home to me. It was this way, if you don’t mind my tellin’ it again”—the little fellow paused.

“Go right ahead, Snuffy. Some of us haven’t heard it, and it won’t hurt those of us who have to hear it again.” said the Chairman.

“For over three years I’d been on the Bowery. On one of my many trips to Bellevue hospital, the Docs discovered that one half of my brain had been paralyzed from a fall I got when I was a youngster. The other half of my brain was affected by alcohol.

“I’d never learned to read or write. Had been an elevator operator most of my life. One night I even bummed a cop for four bits—some of ‘em are pretty good that way—an’ after I’d spent it for some kind of booze, something told me to go to Twelfth Step House an’ get a flop. I’d heard about AA an’ that the guys over there would help a guy who really wanted to quit drinkin’.

“Well, to make my story short, I stopped drinkin’ that night. I worked around Twelfth Step House, doin’ odd jobs. Then one night a couple of nicely dressed guys picked me up an’ said we was goin’ to Staten Island to talk to a group. I was scared stiff. Me talk? ‘Bout what? I hadn’t done anything for no one. But on the way over on the Staten Island Ferry we talked about things. Kind of exchanged experiences. They’d had some pretty tough times too. It was cloudy and dark goin’ over, but when we came back the moon was out and I never seen so many stars in the sky. As we passed the Statue of Liberty, I shouted—‘Lookit! Ain’t that beautiful?’ The two gents laughed. ‘Haven’t you ever seen Her before?’

“I shook my head. Nope. Lived here most of my life—anyway I never thought She was so beautiful. Looks like I imagined an angel might look.’ Then do you know what one of my friends said?

“‘Snuffy, you gave your first AA talk tonight. It lasted about two and a half minutes. But you said a mouthful. Especially when you wound up saying, ‘If I can do it, you can. . . When you sat down you were a different man from the scared little guy who stood up to talk. I don’t know if you ever pray, but out there in the harbor, shining for all She’s worth, is a symbol of your Greater Power. Think of Her, pray to Her. Believe that she can help you stay sober. It’s your one chance for happiness.’”

“When he finished I wiped my eyes an’ told them how much they had helped me. An’ I said I sure wish I could help them some day. . . You know what they said? They both patted me on the back and said, ‘Snuffy, you’ll never know what you’ve given us tonight’ . . . It took me some time to figure that out. But now, I guess I know. Anyway, folks my Greater Power is out in the middle of the New York harbor. And She shines every night for ole Snuffy, an’ his sobriety.”

The Chairman put his pipe on the table. “See what we mean by ‘God as we understand him’ and how it simplifies our acceptance of the all-important Third Step?

April 1951
Vol. 7 No. 11

* Reprinted with permission from the Grapevine archives.

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:

Phone:

GET THE NEWS!

“Faithful Fivers” are people who donate \$5 or more per month to help support Intergroup. You can contribute monthly, quarterly or yearly, and if you check the receipt box on this form and you are on our 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.)



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