

Alcoholics in Action

This article is being included here in honor of a young man celebrating five years of sobriety this month. He just moved to the area a few months ago, and told me that the most important thing he has learned in AA is to be of service. The following article highlights the service one woman was able to give because of her recovery from alcoholism.

In 1951, Bill W. wrote "Our Twelfth Step - carrying the message - is the basic service that the AA Fellowship gives: this is our principal aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles: it is a society for alcoholics in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth may die." (*The AA Service Manual*, p. 57)

Service starts every time I sit down in a meeting. Imagine the new-comer coming through the open door: the chairs are set up, a pot of hot coffee is brewing, but the room is empty. If I'm not there to welcome the suffering alcoholic, more than likely he or she will not stay. The very act of being there for each other is service. Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole is dynamic. Think for a moment of a group without a General Service Representative. How does the group make known its conscience to other groups or AA as a whole? As GSR for my home group I take that conscience to our district and area level meetings. In this way every member of our group is in action.

Currently I'm corresponding secretary at the district level. There are about eighty to eighty-two groups and six service committees in our district. Part of my job is to keep accurate up-to-date rolls which list the group name, group number, the initials of the DCM and alternate DCM, the current GSR's name, address, and phone number, and lastly, the place name of the meeting along with the location and meeting days and time.

I also maintain an up-to-date list of the district committee members - DCMs and alternate DCMs, the six committee chairs - Public Information, Grapevine, Corrections, Cooperation with the Professional Community, Treatment, and Accessibility; the recording secretary, treasurer, and corresponding secretary.

The entire roll is passed at every GSR meeting for each individual to initial their name. Any changes are made at this time so corrections, additions, or deletions are forwarded to our Area Registrar within twenty-four hours of the GSR meeting. She then sends the new information along to GSO within the week. The area registrar is responsible for providing this new information to our area recording secretary whose job it is to send all area minutes and other pertinent paperwork to the GSRs, DCMs/Alternate DCMs, and officers of the district. Our area recording secretary has recently noticed a drastic decline in returned mail marked address-addressee unknown. This saves the area a good deal of postage and time.

Sobriety and service: the two are so intimately interconnected for me on a day-at-a-time basis that it is hard to imagine my life without them. Naturally sobriety had to come first for without sobriety service would be unavailable for me. I'm not only a grateful sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous, but gratefully a trusted servant also.

Debbie S., Salt Lake City, Utah

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E.V.I. News

June 2003

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

AA Meetings: A Night on the Diverter

New:None!

Changed: Greater Metro Jasper, Wednesday 7:30-9pm is now a closed meeting

Emotional Sobriety, Sunday, is now from 6-7pm. It's still at the JESCO Club.

Womens Bedrock, Tuesday 6:45 - 8:00pm. Disregard "no children" reference.

District 19 meeting is now at 5:30 pm, and is still on the first Wednesday of the month at the EVI office.

Canceled: None!

Meetings of Interest: The Old Firehouse Group meets every Sunday night from 7-8pm at The Peace Presbyterian Church. Come share your sobriety with us!

The Bottom Line Book Study meets every Tuesday night from 7-8pm at 1241A Coburg Road. Book study groups are great ways to get the essence of the program.

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. To submit changes of any kind please fill out a form in the "Meeting Book Changes" book at the EVI office. Ask a volunteer at the front desk for it. Thanks!

I am a diverter person. I took this service position a year and a half ago thinking it would be an easy way to do some service work. "WRONG!!" It's not easy. I told you all some time ago about the young man who found me at a meeting and told me I had saved his life. He called the E.V.I. office and told me he was going to kill himself and I lost it. Fortunately things worked out well.

Well I want to tell you about last Tuesday evening and night - - - and the next morning. Phew!! It was a loooooong night. I spent Tuesday afternoon at the office as usual, but my buddy got a REAL job and my side kick was out sick, so now I am there alone. That's O.K.

Well! A young woman came in and we ended up spending the entire afternoon together. We found we had a great deal in common and I really enjoyed her. When I locked up and got into my truck to go home my cell rang. "Good Evening, AA, may I help you?" It was Mr. Cross Country Business man calling me from his hotel on Franklin Blvd. and he would like to go to a meeting at 5:30. It was 5: 20 already so I hurried and found the Koinonia Center meeting for him. He thanked me and off he went. Just as I was getting onto I-5 headed for Pleasant Hill and home the thing rang again. Another man searching for a meeting. I found him one as well and we said good-bye.

As I was fixing dinner for my husband and I, the phone rang again. It's now 7:10. It's Mr. Cross Country Businessman and he would like to go to another meeting later in the evening. I found a meeting for him but he acts like he would like to chat a while. I take the cell to our office and sit and chat with him for about a half hour. We talked about his children and the way things are where he's from. He told me he loves Oriental food and there sure a lot to choose from here in Eugene. He's off to a meeting at the JESCO club.

My husband and I have dinner and just as we're finished the cell rings. It is a young woman who had called me earlier that day and she wants to talk. She is having a hard time but she told me she would do "whatever it takes" to stay sober. We talked for over two hours. She told me a lot about her life and how desperate she feels. She asked me to be her sponsor. I told her to meet me at my home group and we could talk, face to face. She didn't show but ya never know do you?

I went to bed around 11 and at 1:15 the cell rang. It was a young woman who needed to talk. We talked . . . for an hour and a half. I went back to bed and at 3:30 I was called again by the young woman and she was in tears and we talked for about 45 minutes. I got back to sleep and my husband woke me at 8:15. The lady wanted to talk and we talked until 10:15. She wasn't drinking but felt she might if she didn't get some help. I told her all the stuff she KNEW I would tell her and she told me she was glad to hear it all anyway. I am sure we will see each other at meetings in the future. She had 14 years sober and was having some crises in her life and needed a hand. All in all it was a great night. I have had nights where the phone would ring only two or three times and all they needed was the 'when and where' of a meeting. I have never had a night like last Tuesday before. Yes I was tired. Yes I took a nap that afternoon. Yes!! I felt great that God gave me the chance to be there when someone felt they needed to reach out.

Early in the evening my husband suggested that maybe EVI should have an answering service. I told him I would tell others. I have. BUT! I hope we in this area never have to turn this privilege over to a cold and clinical, or even worse, a mechanical resource instead of the warm-blooded, warm hearted, living and feeling fellow alcoholic that shares our experience, strength and hope and carry our message to that alcoholic that still suffers. I wouldn't miss it for anything. DBH



The Real McCoy

Collier's and American Mercury printed the term in connection with liquor in 1922 and 1930. During prohibition, alcohol was still plentiful and relatively easy to obtain. There were two options: One could buy illegally (bootlegged) distilled liquor (which often was a horribly tasting and even poisonous brew). The "real" stuff was smuggled into the country from overseas. The most famous rum runner was Bill McCoy, hence the "real McCoy", which simply meant: real quality liquor.

Editorial

The preceding story (A Night on the Diverter), while not typical of a shift on the EVI Diverter, illustrates the importance of maintaining an around the clock contact for the alcoholic in trouble. EVI does this, and goes the extra length of maintaining contact with a fellow alcoholic rather than an answering service after office hours.

In some of my conversations with other Intergroup and Central office volunteers, it seems that our Diverter approach is none too common. Desirable, but tough to launch and maintain. Some of the reasons I have heard seem obvious, and perhaps we in the Emerald Valley are beginning to take for granted something we should re-embrace.

When an alcoholic on the fence, but reaching out gets the voice of an "operator" it is easy to guess upon which side they will fall. When a fellow alcoholic chats for even just a few minutes, that person may be able to point the caller to a specific type of meeting suited more to their needs. And then there are the callers that may just need someone to talk to, someone who is not sympathetic, but empathetic. Someone that shares their experience to let the caller know they are not alone. Someone to share their strength to keep them from doing something stupid. Someone to share their hope and show that the meeting may well be worth their while.

For the last several years the diverter function has been handled by 13 EVI Groups. These groups have done a great job for the main part and kept the 24/7 personal answering system active. This has been no small feat. However, it may be time to open this opportunity for service work to a wider number of EVI members. This will be evaluated in the next month or so. Hopefully, a larger number of volunteers to draw from will relieve some of the problems that have recently cropped up that can only be attributed to "burn-out" within the ranks of the stalwarts who held the line for so long.

AA WORD SEARCH

admit	life
alcoholics	list
anonymous	peace
amends	power
awakening	powerless
believe	prayer
came to	ready
concepts	remove
continued	sanity
defect	serene
direct	spiritual
drink	steps
fearless	traditions
glum	unmanageable
God	were
harmed	will
higher power	willing
human being	wrong
inventory	

CGODWRLMTIYPDAARTWILL
 STPECNOCSGNORWKDLISSO
 TORMSTEOAKAWCASERENET
 LEORGFTAGNIEBNAMUHIOL
 ENAAEESITIQRLCNRPSKIR
 EAPDMVVSJMRXURXIABDFHK
 PJAATCERIDEEAATHNETIO
 ALCOHOLICSANONYMOUSGA
 TMXTNARALDU'TTWRUXNIHR
 SSELRAEFYEHFILLARIBEE
 EOPNUSWTABBLINVENTORY
 VAMVDEOSAWLSJREAFNLPA
 ORUIASPIRITUALACPOQOR
 MELBAEGANAMNUNZSACRWP
 EQGOTJOGNINEKAWASEOEA
 RAASLTRADITIONSIZOPRA

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!

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 at 6pm the first Friday of each month at the EVI office. Call John G with any questions.

Contributions: The Worst AA Meeting

(May/year to date)

Anonymous/Unknown 0/10.00
As Bill Sees It 25.00/25.00
Attitude Adjustment 184.20/856.43
Brown Bag Group 0/100.00
Caduceus 0/113.00
Cottage Grove Noon 0/2.00
Courage to Change 0/78.00
Downtown AM Group 183.00/564.01
Early Firehouse Group 30.00/30.00
Freedom of Choice 0/296.00
Friday Night BB Study 0/119.22
Friday Night Stag 0/0
From The Heart 0/100.00
Get Well Group 0/20.00
Gratitude Group 0/50.00
The Great Fact Group 0/10.00
How It Works 0/258.00
Last Chance Study Group 0/60.00
McKenzie Bridge Group 0/0
Men's Daily Reflections 0/0
Monday Mens Stag 0/131.50
Monday Night Beginners 0/0
New Freedom 0/207.00
New Freedom II 0/240.00
Primary Purpose 0/0.50
Recovery By the Big Book 0/0
Recovery By The Steps 0/65.00
Rush Hour Group 33.00/53.00
Saturday Morning Steps 0/220.00
Search For Serenity 0/298.36
Serenity Seekers West 0/0
Sober Awakenings 0/300.00
Sobriety for Life 0/90.00
Springfield Monday Night 6.00/12.00
Sponsorship 0/0
Stairway to Sobriety 25.00/100.00
Sunday Morning B.B. 263.40/781.15
Sunday Sunshine 0/185.00
Sunlight of the Spirit 0/0
Sunday Night 12x12 0/0
SW Sunset 0/0
Thursday Men's Book Study 0/0
Thurs. Men's Spons. Group 0/0
Try God Group 0/536.70
Tuesday Men's Sponsorship 0/0
Tuesday Beginners 0/0
Veneta Gratitude Group 0/30.00
We Need Each Other 0/0
Wednesday Mens Noon 0/0
Wednesday Men's Stag 0/0
Women's How It Works 0/10.66
Womans Rd. to Recovery 0/205.25
Women's Wednesday 2.00/2.00
Total Contributions (month/year to date)
Group month/yt 751.60/6159.78

Contributions/Individual

Anonymous/Unknown 0/152.00
Faithful Fivers 140.00/459.40
Ind. Contributions/Other 139.83/229.23
Total Contributions/Ind. 279.83/840.63

To grateful AA members, of whom I am one, there are only three kinds of meetings: good, better, and best. But one of the most helpful lessons our Fellowship has taught me resulted from the *worst* AA meeting I ever attended. It happened during my first week.

In the beginning, I plunged into AA as compulsively as I have always done everything, trying to gulp it all as fast as possible. I set out to get acquainted with every group in the county, attending a different meeting each night. I pestered the inter-group office with phone calls for information and dropped in once to size up the operation in person. I bought the Big Book and accumulated an armload of pamphlets; I went to the public library and skimmed all available references to the AA movement and its philosophical heritage from the Oxford Group.

During the first six days of my new life, I met beautiful people by the roomful and heard a string of personal stories that made me catch my breath time and again. I could truly identify with these friendly human beings and their bygone tragedies. I was pointed straight up and gaining altitude by the minute.

Then came a rainy Thursday, which happened to be the seventh day. It was overcast and squally outside and just as miserable inside. Nothing went right at the office. I lost my favorite ball-point pen and won a needless argument with an important client, who hasn't been back since.

After work, I ate a greasy dinner in a restaurant, alone. From there, I drove to an Episcopal church in a strange neighborhood, where the local AA group was having an open meeting at 8:30.

It was a terrible place to find. The church was located just off a traffic circle in a web of one-way streets and parkways. It cost me ten minutes and considerable nervous energy to solve the traffic pattern. I hurried into the meeting hail with barely enough time to draw a cup of coffee - which turned out to be watery and barely lukewarm.

I sat down beside a lean, white-haired fellow and, for openers, remarked on the wretched coffee. "It's better than what you get in the stockade," he growled. It was the first time I had been growled at by an AA member.

There were two speakers on the program, a middle-aged woman and a man in his retirement years. I disliked the woman instantly; her sharp features and expressions reminded me of a bad-tempered aunt on my mother's side of the family. I was bored stiff by the man's talk, undoubtedly because his big-city, prep-school, Ivy League background was utterly foreign to mine.

It was impossible to concentrate. My mind turned inward to my own problems, and I was glad when we finally stood up to say the Lord's Prayer. Driving home, I told myself how lucky I had been to get half a dozen inspiring meetings under my belt as fortification for that evening's letdown.

Next morning, I woke up an hour late. I grabbed the alarm clock and found I hadn't set it. "Here we go again," I thought.

Strangely, at that instant, I remembered the words that the lady speaker had used in telling about her discovery of the Serenity Prayer. "Never in my life had I heard a prayer like that. It was dynamite to me!" she had said.

Instead of jumping out of bed, I lay there a few seconds and recited the Serenity Prayer. Then I delayed a little longer, mentally flipping through my appointment calendar to find out what had to be done at the office. Come to think of it, there was no reason - absolutely none - to hurry. I didn't even bother to call in that I would be late.

Cool, clear air had moved in during the night, and it was a brilliant, delightful morning. Friday traffic is usually intolerable on my express-way, but it was moving briskly that day, perhaps because I was running late and missing the bumper-to-

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June Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee 6:30PM
Tue District 20, 6:30PM 418 A St. Ken L.
Tue District 33, 6:30PM Alan U.
Wed District 19, 5:30PM Jennifer W.
Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00PM Angel
Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00PM John G.
Sat Cooperation with Professional Community, Noon
Sun Activities, 5:00PM Mindy
2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting 6:30PM
Wed District 6, 6:30PM Tim A.
Sat Answering/Diverter, 9:00AM
Sat EVI Speaker's Meeting 7:30PM Country Club Rd.
3rd Wed Public Information, 6:00PM Bob P.
Last Wed H& I Committee, 6:00PM
Last Day Literature Committee, 6:30PM



Fellowship Events

June 29, 2003, Eugene, Oregon. Recovery Riders Iron Mountain-Cone Peak Wildflower Hike - 9:00a.m. at Alton Baker Park (in the parking lot near the duck pond). Contact info Tom S.

www.geocities.com/recoveryriders

July 4, 2003, Eugene, OR. EVI Picnic. At Emerald Park (River Road Park). 4PM, 7:30PM Gratitude Meeting. For information contact Mindy H.

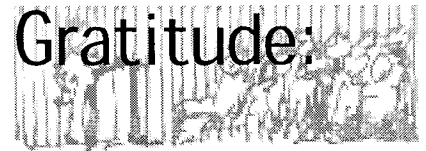
July 4-6, 2003, Beaverton, OR. Pacific Northwest Conference. At the Greenwood Inn with room rates beginning at \$59.00 a night. Registration information is at the EVI office.

July 6, 2003, Eugene, Oregon. 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 1st Sunday Speaker Meeting. 2580 Hilyard Street. Real time captioning for deaf and HoH. Wheel chair accessible. Child care provided. Speaker - Suzie L., Salmon, Oregon.

July 11-13, 2003, Springfield, Oregon - Summerfest. Doubletree Hotel, 3280 Gateway St. 97477. Hotel contact Summerfest contact - Lori L info@aa-summerfest.org. See the website - www.aa-summerfest.org.

August 15-18, 2003, McKenzie River, OR. 4th Annual Sisters in Sobriety Campout. Roaring River Group Camp. This is a week-end about having fun and fellowship (women only). Call Diana at for more info and registration.

Gratitude:



Currently Available Service Positions:

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.

CPC, Cooperation with the Professional Community, is looking for a co-chair. For more information come to the EVI business meeting.

The Promises

If we are painstaking about this phase of our development, we will be amazed before we are half way through. We are going to know a new freedom and a new happiness. We will not regret the past nor wish to shut the door on it. We will comprehend the word serenity and we will know peace. No matter how far down the scale we have gone, we will see how our experience can benefit others. That feeling of uselessness and self-pity will disappear. We will lose interest in selfish things and gain interest in our fellows. Self-seeking will slip away. Our whole attitude and outlook upon life will change. Fear of people and of economic insecurity will leave us. We will intuitively know how to handle situations which used to baffle us. We will suddenly realize that God is doing for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Are these extravagant promises? We think not. They are being fulfilled among us, sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly. They will always materialize if we work for them.

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People:

OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Bill B. , Martha S.

ACTIVITIES

Mindy H. , Holly S.

ANSWERING SERVICE

Jana , Bob E.

ARCHIVIST

Linda

COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY(CPC)

Carola K. , Open

E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS:

John G.

Newsletter: Teffany H.

John G.

Website: Darren , Jessie

Meeting Books: Elisabeth R.

Lee P.

E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Angie E. , Vicki K.

LITERATURE

Letha M. , Todd P.

OUTREACH

Ted H. , Annie B.

PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Bob P. , Bill D.

HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Larry W.

HOSPITALS

Chair: Steve S. , Todd

COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES(CTF)

Janis B. , Cayce

CORRECTIONS

Chair: Tom R. , Bob L.

H&I Coordinators

Lane County Jail: Brenda K.

Ted H.

C.C.C. (Women's): Open

C.C.C. (Men's): Tom R.

Alma Work Camp: Bud W.

Pathways: Kenny

Serbu Detention: Jack C.

Carlton House: Joe C.

W.F.T.-Friday Night: Janis

W.F.T.-Book Study: Leslie B.

Serenity Lane-Speaker: Cayce

Serenity Lane-B.T.G.: Gus P.

Serenity Lane-Sat. Kurt J.

L.C.P.H.: Todd J.

Johnson Unit: Jill S.

V.A. Meeting: Dennis

E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Harold B.

Vice-Chair: Kurt J.

Secretary: Roger H.

Treasurer: Tom L.

Vice Treasurer: Lori B.

At-Large: Amanda W.

At-Large: Bob T.

At-Large: Steve O.

At-Large: Jenne B.

BOOKKEEPER: Kurt

Emerald Valley Intergroup

Business Meeting Minutes - May 12, 2003

Meeting called to order by Harold B. at 6:30 with Serenity Prayer. Twenty five EVI representatives on hand for a quorum.

Announcements:

District EVI Liaisons now have a voice and a vote in EVI business meetings. Check the Big Ass Calendar in the office for other announcements and events, also check for other current announcements on paper. As always we are in need of volunteers in all areas for service work. Check out our website. www.efn.org/~eviaa

Speaker Meeting: Angie. Doing well.

Activities: Mindy. July 4 Picnic.

H&I: Larry W. Doing O.K. Needs help.

Treasurer: Tom L. \$190.00 gain from last month. Contributions are down. Overall holding our own.

Office: Bill B. Running with a few bumps, overall generally good. Copier discussed.

Archivist: Linda L. to come in to do some archiving.

Literature: Todd P. Serenity Lane really needs to put in a separate order for books, etc. because they can deplete our inventory to nothing. We can use Portland Intergroup as a stopgap only. Need to keep better control of Literature.

Communications:

Website: Darren D. Everything is on the website.

Meeting Directories: Lee P. New directories are out. Open for suggestions to make it better. EVI & GSR Reps PLEASE keep your meeting times places and other pertinent information current.

Newsletter: Teffany. Copier acting goofy. Newsletter is on website and is printable.

Answering Service: Bob E. Please be RESPONSIBLE for your shift. Posted schedule was off by a week. It is no easy task to coordinate 24/7 someone to do this.

Public Information: Bob P. NEED HELP. Putting together lots of things. Would like to coordinate with CPC on some things or merge.

CPC: Carola K. Lots of things are happening.

Outreach: Ted H. Working the groups. Willing to come to your group to put on a presentation on what Outreach can do for you.

Steering Committee: Harold B. Copier discussed. Need better communication between Office and Literature. We will use Portland as an emergency stopgap only, for those times when literature does run low because of unexpected demand. All volunteers are given a BIG THANK YOU for your efforts.

Old Business:

CPC Co-Chair open

New Business:

Co-Chair change. Activities Holly S.

Chair change. Speaker Meeting Angie E.

Co-Chair Speaker meeting Vicki K.

Submitted by Roger H., Secretary

Echoes in the Valley

(Echoes in the Valley is a collection of wit and wisdom heard in and around the valley. While not always original, they are shared by local folk at local events. If you hear anything at a meeting that you think others would enjoy or benefit from, please drop it off in the Newsletter Box at EVI. Quotes are credited to the speaker with permission, otherwise they are anonymous.)

"I was so sick of coming out from under a drunk."
John S - Friday Night Stag

"I found working my own issues takes all the time to work your issues."
Vicki C - Friends of BS

"Every day is a good day, some are better than others."
George V - Monday Noon Mens Stag

"I don't want to be with the old me again ... he tried to kill me."
James M - Primary Purpose

"How can I lessen the burden of "self" by myself?"
Harold B - Wednesday Night Stag

"The self searching ... the leveling of pride does not come easy to us alcoholics."
Julien - Friday Stag

"That was illuminating, and I've been well lit before."
Harold B - EVI Business Meeting

"I turned a heart of gold into steel."
Rip - Language of the Heart

continued from page 4 (The Worst AA Meeting)

bumper crowd. I could relax at the wheel, look around. I saw a pretty girl on a motorbike and a couple of kids in pajamas grinning through the top window of a cab-over camper.

And I pulled into my parking lot at eight o'clock straight up, only five minutes late after all. I'm in the habit of getting to my desk at eight, but that's another bit of compulsion. In my kind of job, nobody watches to check when I arrive. I wasn't really five minutes late; in reality, I was in great shape to start the day.

I forget what projects I was working on, but I know it was a very lively and very productive day. All that sticks in my mind is the fact that my secretary popped into my office about eleven and interrupted me to ask, "Why have you been whistling 'You Belong to My Heart' all morning?" I couldn't recall the last time I had heard the tune. And whistling is not one of my habits. So I did not know why, but I said I'd try to stop if it bothered her.

By midafternoon, I noticed that my secretary was humming as she worked. Now she was hooked on "You Belong to My Heart." It was a good day for all of us.

However, this is no testimony to the power of prayer. For me, it is quite enough to enjoy a good day without trying to analyze where it came from.

What lesson did I learn? I received firsthand affirmation of a piece of wisdom I have heard voiced by many AA members at different times: I may not get what I *want* out of an AA meeting, but I will get what I *need*.

Dan, Miami, Fla.

From the June 1973 Grapevine. Reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.



A man is sitting in the coach section of a flight from New York to Chicago biting his finger nails and sweating profusely.

Noticing his disturbed expression, a flight attendant walks over and says, "Sir, can I get you something from the bar to calm you down?"

The man gives a nod of approval while shaking terribly. Seconds later she comes back with a drink. He downs it quickly and stops shaking.

Ten minutes later, the flight attendant sees the same man shaking and biting his nails. She brings him another drink which he swallows immediately. A half hour later she returns to see that the man is shaking uncontrollably, and apparently crying.

"My goodness," the flight attendant says, "I've never seen someone so afraid to fly."

"I'm not afraid of flying," says the man.

"Then what's the matter?"

Sobbing loudly he says, "I'm trying to give up drinking."

"My wife said, 'You never drank like this before we were married!' I said, 'Oh, so you admit it's your fault!'"

"Booze makes you loud. It's written on the label ... Alcohol percent by volume."

"People who don't understand this disease look at us as handicapped. However, you don't see them giving us our own special parking places at the Mall."

"I was relieved when the doctor told me I wasn't crazy--but that I just had a problem with drugs and alcohol. So I asked him, "Doc, can you give me something for that?"

Mark L.

Faithful Fiver Pledge:

Emerald Valley Intergroup
1259 Willamette
Eugene, Oregon 97401

GET THE NEWS!

- I pledge \$5 per month to support EVI and service work in my community
- I'm feeling grateful, I can send _____ per month
- I will mail or drop off my contribution: Monthly
- Four times a year (\$15 each)
- Once a year (\$60)

Name:

Address:

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

"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.)



stamp

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