



# EVI Newsletter

Experience  
Strength  
Hope

December 2011

## A Letter from My Uncle August 2010 Grapevine

When I was growing up in Ohio, my parents lived far away from their families in Texas. So when my mother's sister and her husband, Aunt Iris and Uncle Richard, moved to Akron, we were so excited. Finally we had family to spend the holidays with! And we did. We went there for Easter, they came to see us on Thanksgiving and we made a lot of wonderful memories together. Uncle Richard was always cracking jokes and laughing, and my aunt made wonderful homemade meals and desserts.

Growing up I always felt different from everyone else. When I was 12 years old I was accepted to study dance at a ballet youth program that was located in Akron. My parents were much more willing to see me go study dance for the summer knowing that Aunt Iris and Uncle Richard would be close by.

My aunt and uncle were farm kids who had met at a local dance held under a big tent in central Texas. My uncle had come riding up to the dance on his tractor and took my aunt's breath away. He drank, she took care of him, and thus it went for many years. I had years of my own, after these dance camps, where I found my independence and began drinking and doing all the things that accompany that lifestyle. I grew up quickly in those times.

My family returned to Texas and my drinking really took off in high school. Five years later, after three psychiatric ward visits and a suicide attempt, I was at the lowest low I had ever known. I felt I had no one.

I remember sitting in a treatment center on Thanksgiving eating my turkey from a hospital tray and feeling totally alone in the world.

No one came to see me that day because I had pushed them away while drinking. Shortly after that day, I received a letter from my Uncle Richard. He told his story at length. He had gotten sober when I was 10 years old in Akron in 1984. During all those times growing up, I had never known that he was suffering from alcoholism. Many years later my aunt told me that he'd been concerned when he got sober and asked, "What will I tell the girls?" My aunt told him, "Nothing; they will just see that change in you over the years." And I did.

He asked me once, "So how are the people at your meetings?" I replied "Pretty good." And then he said, "Good, that means you are doing OK." I said, "How do you know." He told me, "When you think the people at your meetings stink, it means that you really are the one who stinks." I barely understood then, but now I see the simple wisdom in those words.

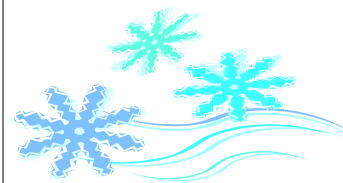
Uncle Richard had a liver transplant in 1993, when he was 10 years sober. He and Iris left Akron and moved to mom's hometown in Texas. A few years ago his health started to decline and his body was not able to process all the toxins from his liver anymore. He began to have dementia-like symptoms. At times, he was himself, and other times he was confused and disoriented. My aunt stood by his side and cared for him at home as long as she could until he needed to be hospitalized.

This year, our family Christmas gathering was to be at my aunt and uncle's home, though his health continued to be poor and he was currently at the nursing home. Many of my family members have made it into Al-Anon or AA

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**Emerald Valley Intergroup**  
1259 Willamette  
Eugene, Oregon 97401  
(541) 342-4113

[www.eviaa.org](http://www.eviaa.org)  
email: [evinews@yahoo.com](mailto:evinews@yahoo.com)

### CHUCKLES

"The drunk went to the police station to speak with the burgler who had broken into his house the night before. "You'll get your chance in court," said the desk sergeant. "It isn't that," said the drunk. "I want to know how he got into the house without waking my wife. I've been trying to do that for years."

Shirlene H., Bountiful, UT

AA Grapevine Archives, Apr 2000



## New Meetings

### Coburg Fire Stoppers

Coburg Fire House  
91232 N Coburg Rd, Coburg, OR  
Friday 7:00–8:00 pm  
*Handicap Access, A.A. Literature*

### Sisters of Sobriety

Berean Baptist Church  
12th & Chambers, Eugene, OR  
Thursday. 12:00–1:00 pm.  
*Childcare (group also meets Tues. noon)*

### Wednesday Night Big Book Study

Jesco Club  
340 Blair Blvd, Eugene, OR  
Wednesday 8:00–9:15 pm  
*Open Meeting*

### Saturday Night Special

Jesco Club  
340 Blair Blvd, Eugene, OR  
Saturday 11:00 pm to midnight  
*Open Meeting*

### Saturday Night Big Book Study

First Church of the Nazarene, 8th & Madison  
(around the side & upstairs)  
Eugene, OR (Begins Sat June 4)  
Saturday 7:00–8:00 am  
*Closed Meeting, Steps & Traditions*

### Women's Bedrock

St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
13th & Pearl, Eugene, OR  
Saturday 6:30–7:30 pm  
*Women's Meeting, Child Care*

### The Way Home

North Park Community Church  
3484 Harlow Rd, Eugene, OR  
Tuesday/Thursday 4:30–5:30 pm  
*Open Meeting, Discussion*

### Where the Rubber Meets the Road Group

51 E 2nd St., Lowell, OR 97452  
Tuesday 7:00–8:00 pm  
*Book Study & Step Maintenance Meeting*

### One Day at a Time

American Legion Hall  
8th & C St, Springfield, OR 97477  
Monday & Friday, 5:30–6:30 pm  
*Handicap Access,*

## Canceled Meetings

### Great Reality Group

First Congressional Church  
1050 E. 23rd Ave., Eugene, OR  
Monday 6:30–8:30 pm

### Sunlight of the Spirit

3495 W 18th, Eugene, OR  
Monday 7:00–8:00 pm

### McKenzie Bridge Group

First Christian Church  
Hwy 126  
Mondays and Fridays 6:00–7:00 am

### No Rules

390 Vernal St  
Eugene, OR  
Saturday & Sunday cancelled 7:00–8:00 am  
(still meets Monday through Friday)

### Steps

First Christian Church  
80280 Old Lorane Hwy  
Lorane, OR 97451  
Thursday 6:00–7:30 pm

## Meeting Changes

### 11th Step Meditation Meeting

**LOCATION & NAME CHANGE**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**1376 Olive Street**, Eugene, Oregon  
(formerly 11th Step Meeting at 350 Pearl)  
Saturday 9:00–10:00 am  
*Open Meeting, Handicap Access*

### We Need Each Other

enter Choir Rm on Oak, left of Stone Columns  
1166 Oak, Eugene, OR  
Friday 8:00–9:30 pm  
*Gay/Straight*

### Sobriety for Life

### **LOCATION CHANGES, Two Meetings**

formerly at Sacred Heart Hospital

### **NEW LOCATIONS:**

#### **FRIDAY: St. Mary's Episcopal Church**

13th & Pearl, Eugene, OR

Friday 5:30-6:30 pm

*Handicap Access*

#### **SATURDAY: Emerald Baptist Church**

19th & Patterson

Eugene, OR

Saturday 6:30–7:30 pm

### Autumn Group

TIME CHANGE

St Mark's Catholic Church

1760 Echo Hollow Rd, Eugene, OR

Tuesday 7:00–8:30 pm

*Handicap Access, Open Meeting*

### Free to Be Group

TIME CHANGE

First Christian Church

1166 Oak Street, Eugene, OR

Saturday 7:30–9:30 pm

*Gay/Straight*

### Springfield Monday Night

TIME CHANGE

8th & C, American Legion Hall

Springfield, OR

Monday 8:00–9:00 pm

*Handicap Access*

### Women's Bedrock Speaker's Mtg

TIME CHANGE

727 W Broadway

Thursday 6:00–7:00 pm

*Women's Meeting, Child Care*

### Friday Night Real Recovery

TIME CHANGE

Jesco Club

340 Blair Blvd., Eugene, OR

Friday 7:00–8:15 pm

*Open Meeting*

## Declaration of Intent to Serve

AA members wishing to carry AA's message of recovery into hospitals & institutions are encouraged to pick up, from your \*Home Group literature tables, the new blue H&I service flier - DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SERVE.

Fill out the form: Tell us the service positions that interest you and bring it with you to any H&I Meeting held monthly at 6:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday at the EVI Office (1259 Willamette) where it will be entered in the H&I Volunteer Registry.

We look forward to meeting you! If there is not currently an opening in the desired service position, you will be notified by H&I when there is. When you come to the H&I Meeting, you may find we have another opening in which you may be of immediate service. H&I is intent on extending its opportunities for participation in service to the entire AA community and availing itself of the special skills of each AA member.

**\* Home Group Literature Persons may pick up the forms at EVI for distribution at their meetings.**



# EVI Business Meeting Minutes— Nov 14, 2011



Meeting opened with moment of silence and the Serenity Prayer at 6:30. Introductions around the room and confirmation of quorum - 18 reps present

### Early Reports:

Chaz - **Archives:** some people assisting with inventory and sorting files; Chaz is researching cost of electronics he wants for data gathering.

Becca - **EVI Meeting Guide:** new meeting guides coming in, problems with Website listing/database due to loss of most recent file corrected... (big thanks for this effort to Chaz and Becca)

### Open Positions:

**EVI Co-Chair-** LynDee R. Nominated, gave service resume including being DCM and CPC/PI chair. Unanimously elected, ... LynDee is prepared to step in at normal rotation. Thank you, LynDee!

**Outreach Co-Chair** - (Katrina has stepped down as chair, co-chair (Shannon) was not present, no action re rotation or electing a co-chair took place.

**Archivist Co-Chair** - None nominated/stood

**Meeting Guide Co-Chair** - None nominated/stood

**Newsletter Co-Chair** - None nominated/stood

### Old Business:

Martha reported on Steering Committee action on request by CPC-PI for funds, originally budgeted, to pay for Public service announcements on television. Request approved. One consideration was the recommendation from Gus, Area Chair, that that fundraising for separate individual activities/committee is unwise.

Review of budgeting practice and scheduling to be reviewed by Financial Advisory Board. The board has not met since last

EVI business meeting. The matter is not urgent since it is too late to make any changes in budgeting procedures for 2012.

### New Business:

Karen S. suggested that open positions be listed on the website. Denna called attention to the new SOS (Service Opportunity Secretary) in H&I. Web Co-Chair agreed to list service opportunities on website. Office coordinator will write open positions on the white board in the EVIAA office, as was done formerly.

Martha mentioned that a large number of copies had been made on the EVI account at the UPS store on south Willamette and asked that people making copies there charge them to specific committees. There was some discussion in which it developed that the Newsletter chair had made, and paid for, a thousand copies, leaving unexplained why the thousand prepaid copies Martha purchased with Steering Committee funds in October were missing at UPS and three hundred of the copies the newsletter purchased were showing up on the books. The matter is being investigated.

### Committee Reports:

**Activities** - no report

**Archivist** - (see above)

**Website** - New Newsletter loaded, database for meeting guide restored. The URL [webmaster@eviaa.org](mailto:webmaster@eviaa.org) is now "good" for contacting EVI webmasters

**Meeting Directories** - (see above)

**Newsletter** - 1000 copies paid for (not charged, so not part of the 'mystery' charges... check for potential of mischarge at UPS) Minutes from the last business meeting do not appear in this month's newsletter as they were unavailable from secretary at time of publication

**CPC-PI** - Written report submitted. Next meeting November 22nd at 5:30

This month's efforts saw discussion of CPC-PI work with public defenders, parole offices, and delivery of pamphlets and meeting guides to them. Writing of a public service announcement to be broadcast on KRVM radio at Sheldon

## Intergroup

### **EVI Office**

(541) 342-4113  
1259 Willamette St.  
Eugene, OR 97401-3509  
Monday thru Friday 9 am-5 pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9 am-4 pm  
Drop by for a visit!

### **EVI Web Site**

[www.eviaa.org](http://www.eviaa.org)  
Meeting schedules, business meeting minutes and more.  
Save a bookmark!

### **EVI Newsletter**

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 the last Friday 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 also be sent by e-mail to: [evinews@yahoo.com](mailto:evinews@yahoo.com).



<u>Contributions/Group</u>	October	Jan-Oct
11th Step Meeting	25.00	75.00
6:45 a.m. Stag	0.00	360.00
Attitude Adjustment Group	37.69	1,685.92
Brown Bag Group	0.00	160.00
Carpe Diem	0.00	156.00
Creswell Group	0.00	75.00
District 19	200.00	400.00
District 33	0.00	300.00
Downtown AM Group	373.72	1,389.52
Drop the Rock	0.00	132.00
Eye Opener Meeting	0.00	50.00
Fire Station Group	0.00	200.00
Following Directions	0.00	100.00
Freedom of Choice	0.00	142.00
Fresh Start at Noon	0.00	75.00
Good Grief Saturday Group #000600398	38.85	101.44
Group #000600398	0.00	148.62
In The Middle	0.00	395.00
Lambda Group	0.00	10.00
Let's Talk about your Dog	0.00	50.00
Monday Men's Stag	0.00	100.00
New Found Freedom	0.00	14.05
New Freedom	50.00	143.00
No Rules Group	0.00	66.25
One Day at a Time	0.00	200.00
River Road Recovery	0.00	128.15
Rush Hour Group	0.00	200.00
SAG	0.00	30.00
S.O.S. Sisters of Sobriety	0.00	40.00
Saturday Morning Steps	72.49	517.20
Saturday Night Beginners	0.00	18.00
Serenity at Noon	0.00	100.00
Serenity on Sunday	75.00	150.00
Serenity Seekers West	0.00	530.00
Sober Awakenings	750.00	2,000.00
Sobriety for Life	0.00	70.00
Spiritual Kindergarten	0.00	117.00
Springfield Men's Stag	0.00	64.00
Stairway to Sobriety	0.00	225.00
Sunday AM Big Book	0.00	360.00
Sunday Morning Sunshine	0.00	85.00
Sunday Night Book Study	0.00	35.00
Thursday PM Rush Hour	0.00	425.00
Thurston Bell Ringers	66.06	66.06
Tuesday Night Steps Workshop	14.00	14.00
Try God	0.00	1,295.46
Unknown	0.00	217.70
Uptown/Downtown	20.00	20.00
Veneta Gratitude Group	0.00	150.00
Voyagers	0.00	60.00
Wed Beginners	0.00	40.00
Wednesday Men s Noon	100.00	400.00
Women's Courage to Change	215.86	215.86
Women's How It Works	76.09	184.00
Womens Rd to Recovery	0.00	140.00
Group Totals Sept	1,756.21	14,540.01

<u>Contributions/Individual</u>	Oct 2011	Jan-Oct
	Month	Jan-Oct
Faithful Fivers	195.00	1,016.00
Unknown	0.00	21.65
Individual Donations	48.35	1,274.05
Total Ind. Donations	243.35	2,311.70

<u>Contributions/Fundraisers</u>	Month	Jan-Oct
EVI Speaker Meeting	0.00	200.00
Total Fundraisers:	00.00	200.00

## Gratitude

### Addresses for Group Contributions

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

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

District 33  
EVI Office, 1259 Willamette St  
Eugene, OR 97401

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.)

<b>1st</b>	
Mon	Steering Committee, 6:30 pm
Tues	Dist. 20, 6:30 pm, 418 "A" St., Richard T.
Tues	District 33, 6:30 pm Kirk S.
Sun	Activities Comm, 6:00 pm Vince H.
<b>2nd</b>	
Mon	EVI Business Mtg, 6:30 pm
Wed	District 6, 6:30 pm Rhonda
Sat	EVI Speaker Mtg, Living Hope Church 7-9 pm

## 2nd to last Sun

Literature Committee 1-5 pm

**3rd** Thur Outreach Committee 6:30 pm

**4th** Tues CPC/PI Committee 5:30 pm

## Last

Wed H&I Committee, 6:00 pm

Thur Grapevine Committee, 5:30 pm

### **~A Letter from My Uncle, continued from page 1**

over the years, though the rowdy, drinking crowd still makes up a large part of the family. Uncle Richard and Aunt Iris' son also has gotten sober and they have had recovery in their home for many years.

Everyone had started to clear out from the Christmas gathering and my parents, my husband and I were scheduled to get back on the road shortly. But as I stood there in my uncle's house looking at his things, I knew he would not be coming home. I heard God's voice urging me to go to him and say goodbye. I began to cry and my parents, my husband and I all went to the hospital to see him.

When I saw him in his bed I knew he was not long for this world. All we could do was pray, so we held hands and prayed for him. My aunt and cousin showed up and joined us. My uncle Richard died the next morning, 27 years sober.

The next day I was in a Big Book meeting. We were reading about Dr. Bob and Bill W.'s first meeting and the early days of AA in Akron. I began to cry and laugh as I read. Without that very first meeting, the men who carried AA to my uncle in Akron would never have helped him get sober and then he would not have carried the message to me. I was still sad, but at peace, because I knew that Uncle Richard is up at the big meeting in the sky watching over me until I can join him.

Jenna H, Austin TX

printed courtesy of AA Grapevine Archives



**Emerald Valley Intergroup's Mission**

The Emerald Valley Intergroup operates in many ways to promote sobriety and happy living in our community.

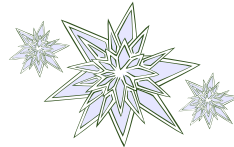
- 1) We give alcoholics a number to call 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, where another alcoholic will answer.
- 2) We maintain a safe place for alcoholics to go in early sobriety when the mental obsession and physical craving seem insurmountable.
- 3) We act as a service clearing house for alcoholics who need relief from the bondage of self.
- 4) We train other alcoholics to make 12th step calls when asked.
- 5) We serve as a store for AA literature so that every alcoholic has immediate access to vital information.
- 6) We inform the professional community and the public about what AA can do for alcoholics, by making presentations, preparing informational packets and distributing books and pamphlets.
- 7) We work with alcoholics in treatment facilities, hospitals and correctional facilities.
- 8) We distribute a newsletter of AA related information.
- 9) We publish a book with all the meetings in the area.
- 10) We communicate pertinent information electronically via the EVI web-site.
- 11) We recruit speakers to share their experience, strength and hope.
- 12) We refer people to other twelve-step programs when appropriate and to our sister group AI-Anon.
- 13) We organize sober activities so that AA's from around the area may meet one another.

**Help Wanted  
Service Positions**

**Open EVI Positions**

- ◆ EVI Co-Chair
- ◆ EVI Office Co-Chair
- ◆ Outreach Chair
- ◆ Newsletter Co-Chair
- ◆ Archivist Co-Chair
- ◆ Meeting Guide Co-Chair

AA's with a desire to serve in these positions may attend the EVI Business Meeting  
**Monday  
 December 12, 2011  
 6:30 p.m.**  
 Emerald Valley Intergroup Office  
 1259 Willamette St.  
 Eugene, OR 97401



AVAILABLE  
**Hospital & Institutions  
 Positions**

Most positions are co-coordinators, and are a one-year commitment (unless indicated). Current openings include:

~Serenity Lane (multiple positions)

~Johnson Unit (2 positions);

For the H & I positions, Please contact Denna S through the EVI office to inform her of your interest.

Also, complete a Blue Copy of "Declaration of Intent to Serve" available at the EVI office, and

Bring it in person to the H & I Service meeting held the last Wednesday of each month at the EVI Office, 6:00-7:00 pm



**PASS IT ON!**

**New Locations**

for Popular Friday and Saturday Evening Meetings

**Sobriety for Life**

former location  
 Sacred Heart Hospital auditorium

**Friday, 5:30 –6:30 pm**  
**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
**13th & Pearl**  
**Eugene, OR**

**Saturday, 6:30-7:30 pm**  
**Emerald Baptist Church**  
**19th & Patterson**  
**Eugene, OR**

*Peace and serenity are our gifts to share with each other.*





## People

## Events

### Officers in Service

#### ACTIVITIES

Chair, Vince H, Co-chair, Lori W

#### ANSWERING SERVICE

Mike B.

**ARCHIVIST** -Chaz H,Co-chair, OPEN

**BOOKKEEPER:** Ric H.

**CPC/PI** (Coop. w/Profess. Commun/Public Info.)

Karen S. Bill B.

**DCM** (District 6) Ben C.

**DCM** (District 19) Will M.

**DCM** (District 20) Glen H.

**DCM** (District 33) Kirk S.

#### DIVERTER COORDINATOR

Alan U. Co-chair, Richard T.

#### EVI COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting Guides: Chair: Becka; Co-chair: Open

Newsletter: Chair: Kathy B, Co-chair: Open

Website: Chair: Wes H; Co-chair: Colin R.

#### EVI OFFICE MANAGER

Ms. Michael S.; Amber T.

#### EVI SPEAKER MEETING

Patricia D.; Co-chair Jacob K

#### EVI STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Martha S.,Co-chair: LynDee R.

Secretary: Liz W.

Treasurer: Sharon, Co-treasurer: Jeff W.

At-Large: Elizabeth R.

At-Large: Greg

At-Large: Ted H.

At-Large: Bill

#### GRAPEVINE

Chair: Rebecca

#### H&I (Hospitals and Institutions)

Chair: Denna S., Secretary: Christina A. ,

Corrections: Chaz N., co-chair OPEN

Lane County Jail (Women): Liz W/Melody D.

Lane County Jail (Men): Marty F. Darin D. ,

Pathways (Men): Harold B. , Mike S. ,

(Women) Chair: Paula L. Maria B.

Serbu Detention: Kathy H. Chris W.

Cooperation w/Treatment Facilities: Chair: Jordan C.

Co-chair: Chace A.

Carlton House: Lee F., Tom L.

WFTS: Chair: Jen S., Co-chair: Faye

Serenity Lane:

Fri. Speaker Coordinator: Alexa H., Cheri L.

B.T.G.: Jordan C., Mike B.

S.N.L.: Cheri J. ,Co-coordinator: OPEN

Hospitals: Chris P. ; Dave C

Johnson Unit: Reyne M. co-coordinator: OPEN

VA Reintegration Center: Both positions OPEN

#### LITERATURE

Chair: Sheila S. ; Co-chair: open

#### OUTREACH

Chair (open); Co-chair Shannon L

## EVI Speaker Meeting and Holiday Potluck

December 10, 2011

Living Hope Church

2801 W 18th, Eugene

5:30-6:30 Turkey & Ham provided, bring side dish

7:00-9:00 p.m. Speakers & Raffle

AA Speaker Phil B. Portland

Al-Anon Debee B, Eugene

## New Year's Eve Dance

Midnight Surprise!!!

Saturday, Dec 30, 2011

7:00 pm—midnight

Living Hope Church

2801 W. 18th Ave., Eugene

Hosted by EVI Activities Committee

## Men's March Retreat

**"The Root of Our Problem"**

Charlie P., Austin, TX, presenter

March 2-4, 2012

St Benedict's Lodge

McKenzie Bridge, Oregon

pre-registration required

contact Chaz N.

or Frank K.

**Note:** Please submit changes to the "People" list in writing to the NEWLETTER box at EVI with phone numbers of the new representative and of the person who is submitting the change.

Thank you.



### EVI Business Meeting Minutes (cont)

High School and a contract completed with KVAL-TV to show GSO approved 30-second TV spots from November 28<sup>th</sup> through January 6 at a preferred non-profit rate (part of the CPC-PI budget for this year)

**Diverter** - Diverter ran about as usual - a few lapses, but quickly resolved. Information as to 12-step volunteers in Divert packet...submit volunteer sign up requests to the Diverter Chair mailbox at EVI... (list updated every three months or so.)

**Grapevine** - no report

**H & I** - Written report submitted. People stepped up to service in H & I: Paula L. to CTF chairperson, Darrin to Corrections Coordinator and the Serenity Lane Friday night Coordinator position filled. Lots of Declaration of Intent forms filled out, now a new SOS (Service Opportunity Secretary) position to be created. Jerry from Oregon Area 58 will present on Bridging the

Gap at the next H & I meeting on Wed. Nov. 30th. Question re: jails being covered in similar bridging the gap manner... seems to be a lack of support for those on very short stay basis for this type of bridging contact. Note: see [www.aaoregon.org](http://www.aaoregon.org) to learn about the bridge program on Oregon-wide basis

**Literature** - Sheila taking over from Scott, temporary delays in shipments seem to be worked through

**Office Coordinator** - Need 2 Sunday Morning volunteers... continuing to have some new people come into the office, staying within budget. Will need new Office Co-Coordinator at elections in January...this at odds with by-laws due to lag in filling of position

**Speaker Meeting** - Meeting last month went well, well attended with good speakers, meeting arranged for this month, flyers distributed.

**Treasurer** - Sharon distributed a printed report noting that it contained many errors, mainly due to mixing figures from September and October and not proof-reading due to a time crunch. The positive balance of \$2500 is not correct. Actual amount is about a positive \$1000 due to missed payments and single double credited contribution. Despite all, a good month for collections and people are staying within budgets. Revised report to be created and made available.

**Steering Committee** - Martha noted that most of meeting was about the CPC-PI check request for Holiday TV spots and the Speaker Meeting/EVI sort out. All seems to be on track.

Motion to adjourn made and passed at 7:30, closed with the Unity Statement.

Notes taken by Wes H. acting for secretary who was not present, with a few revisions by Martha S

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## More Than I Can Handle

“God never gives you more than you can handle” proclaims an AA slogan. For me, that slogan is misleading and is contradicted by my spiritual growth in the program. God has given me more than I could handle—several times. And I thank God that I couldn’t handle those situations, because my inability to do so left me only one refuge, to turn to my Higher Power with the simple plea, “Thy will, not mine, be done.”

Being forced to turn to my Higher Power at these desperate times has enabled me to put aside many of my life-long compulsions to control and manage, allowing me to learn to turn to my Higher Power rather than to one more control scheme.

With four years’ sobriety, I couldn’t handle a situation in which a severe asthma attack left me unconscious and put me in the hospital in Colorado Springs. The last thing I remember before I lost consciousness was saying, “Thy will, not mine, be done.” The next thing I remember was waking up in a hospital bed in time to see a magnificent sunrise over Colorado’s Eastern Plains.

I remember not being able to handle being a hit-and-run pedestrian victim, waking up in restraints in a hospital bed five days after I was run down on a nighttime walk. I couldn’t handle the burst of emotions that the accident had released in me. I was forced to admit my powerlessness and to turn to my Higher Power as I began struggling toward emotional sobriety after over seven years of physical sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

A few years after my accident, I couldn’t handle my first marriage ending, at my then-wife’s request, and I couldn’t handle my son’s slide into heroin addiction. My inability to handle these situations led me to participation in Al-Anon and to psychotherapy, two tools necessary for me to fulfill AA’s promises and to emerge “happy, joyous and free.”

And I have . My second marriage, the happiest event of my life, is two years old, and my wife and I have returned to Santa Barbara, CA, our home, after a sojourn in the Midwest that was a powerful learning experience.

That experience taught me once again that when God gives me something I can’t handle, I can take the next right step each day, asking God for the courage to change the things I can. And, as always, I must end my Serenity Prayer as it does in the Third Step of the “Twelve and Twelve,” with “Thy will, not mine, be done.”

*John M., Santa Barbara, CA, from AA Grapevine Archives April 2000*



Experience  
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Hope

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