

# Can 'Slippers' Help Us?

Are "Slippers" helpful to AA? In answer to my own question, I would like to say: Yes, I think so.

I completed one year of *good* sobriety on August 14, 1975, but this happened only after five grueling, wonderful, lousy, euphoric, nervous, happy years in AA.

The preceding paragraph might indicate to some that I am still sicker than others. Perhaps that is true. You see, I was a slipper. The adjectives I used are correct! In those years of attending meetings, I did experience every emotion I named.

Having been a "hard to handle" member of AA, and having slipped enough times to pave my driveway with white poker chips, which are given in our area of Central Florida for the first meeting without a drink, I now firmly believe that by sharing my experience, strength, and hope with my fellow alcoholics, I will be able to encourage the newcomer not to go down in defeat as I almost did.

It's *not necessary* to have a slip! In other words, these newcomers need to know and understand that they don't have to follow the long, insane, crooked, sometimes tedious path I did to find the kind of sobriety I am experiencing now. The AA way is simple!

As for the old-timers, the people who are in a position to claim any number of sober years, the slipper can remind them that they, too, are only one drink away from a drunk. Some of them have a tendency to get complacent at times, miss meetings, and eventually get out of touch with their main source of continuous help. This happened recently to an AA member in our group. It was a tragic experience for him, but he soon got back to AA, and now he has more to give to the Fellowship than ever before. He is an inspiration to old and new members alike.

In all honesty, I should say my entry into AA was *not* made with the purely selfish motive of becoming sober for myself first. I was ushered into AA by a very supportive family, and I might add that they are still supportive. This goes for all the many AA friends I have made along the way.

Yes, I knew that my life was unmanageable, and I did admit that I was an alcoholic during all of the past six years. But the more meetings I attended, the less I could identify with the speakers and their stories. I was strictly the typical lonely, "out of touch with the world" (or so I thought) housewife, who needed more and more alcohol each day to avoid the loneliness and self-pity that plagued me.

My resentments (and I made it plain to myself and others that I did not have *any!*) grew and grew until I became sick with guilt. The guilt was real, because I was sitting on a lie, and I know now that I had no chance of getting completely sober until that lie surfaced. I am speaking of tranquilizers and the way I used them. To me, they were a doctor recommended prescription, which I *needed*, according to the doctors. (God bless them; they tried to be helpful.) But I soon found out that "crutch" in AA is a dirty word.

I continued to use my tranquilizers and even celebrated a couple of scattered years of sobriety, but I didn't feel good - about anything! I even went so far as to experiment with vanilla extract to come off the pills, and then use pills to come off the vanilla. The idea of drinking vanilla was given

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# E.V.I. News

February 2003

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



# Emerald Valley Intergroup

## Business Meeting Minutes - January 13, 2003

### New:

**G-d Wrestlers:** Monday 7:00pm - 8:00pm.  
2550 Portland Ave. Temple Beth Israel.  
Open. Handicap access. Speaker last  
Monday of the month meeting.

**"Meeting in Halsey":** Wednesday 8:00pm.  
925 1st.

### Changed:

**Language of the Heart:** (Page 21) Saturday  
8:00pm - 9:00pm. *Parking at Instant Lube  
next door.*

**Women's Bedrock:** (Page 11) Tuesday  
6:45pm - 8:00pm. 1376 Olive - First  
Methodist Church. *Room 19*

**Springfield Study Group:** (Page 11)  
Tuesday 7:00pm - 8:00pm. 418 N. A St. First  
Christian Church. *Parking and entry in rear.  
Handicap access.*

**Sobriety For Life Group:** (Page 21)  
Saturday 6:30pm - 7:30pm. 13th & Hilyard,  
Sacred Heart Hospital. *Handicap access.*

**Canceled: AA Literature Study:** (Page 11)  
Tuesday 7pm - Brownsville. Spaulding Ave,  
Presbyterian Church.

*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!*

Called to order at 6:30 pm by Harold B. with Serenity Prayer. Twenty five EVI representatives present for a quorum.

### Announcements:

Group reps/secretaries please pick-up flyers and announcements about Meetings, Speakers, Retreats, Area Assemblies etc. from the EVI Office, there are lots of them in the office.

There is now a "BIG ASS CALENDAR" in the office that will list various things happening around our area. Stop in and check it out.

### Motions - NONE

### Committee Reports:

**H&I:** Karl B. Going well.

**Speakers Meeting:** Angel, Thank you to all for an outstanding work this past year. Meeting is doing well.

**Treasurer:** Tom L., Group contributions ARE ONLY counted as group contributions IF SO MARKED and CLEARLY IDENTIFIED AS SUCH INCLUDING GROUP NAME. It is an accounting procedural thing. End of year discussed.

**Office:** Bob E., EVI officers please identify yourselves to the folks on duty in the office before using the office equipment. Continue recruitment of office volunteers along with reallocation of volunteers between shifts to help offset expected attrition and male/female shift imbalances.

**Literature:** Todd P., New literature on its way.

### Communications:

**Website:** Darren D., No problems.

**Meeting Books:** Elizabeth R., Doing well.

**Newsletter:** Teffany, Doing well.

**Answering Service:** Carola, Meeting called for week of 1-13-03 for all diverters. Doing the best we can.

**Public Information:** Tom S., Doing well with their small group of dedicated volunteers.

**CPC:** Frank, Doing well.

**Outreach:** Ted H., Doing well.

**Activities:** N.P., Report given by Lori B. Activities are planning on 5-6 events per year. Volunteers are needed to help plan and hold these events throughout the year. Activities committee meets 1st. Sunday of month at 5 pm. in the EVI office

**Steering Committee:** Harold B.

**Statement:** Steering committee goal is to reduce conflict and promote harmony within EVI. So we can do better service work in carrying the message to the alcoholic who still suffers. Diverter needs a new system for it to work better with as little impact on groups and volunteers as possible. Would like to see Books and Literature sales at the EVI Business Meetings.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Elections were held for various positions:

Office Co-Chair: Bill B. - 685-9216  
Public Information Co-Chair: OPEN  
Hospitals Co Chair: Todd J. - 302-6377  
Steering Committee  
Vice Treasurer: Lori B. - 684-8670  
Member-at-Large: Amanda W. - 988-9650 2 year term  
Member-at-Large: OPEN 1 year term - vacated by Lori B.  
H & I Co-Chair: Larry W - 513-5626  
CTF Co-Chair: Cayce C. - 520-5635  
Corrections Co-Chair: OPEN

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Literature Co-Chair elected: Todd P. - 689-4646  
Budgets Approved:  
H&I \$1500.00  
CPC \$540.00  
Outreach \$250.00  
Communications Committee \$1285.00  
Office Budget \$16896.00  
Public Information \$2200.00  
Steering Committee \$800.00  
Archivist \$100.00  
Diverter \$100.00

Submitted By Roger H., Secretary

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*continued from page 1 (Slippers)*

to me “free” by a speaker who had been in the Army as a cook and used to drink it while cooking. Oh my! We do learn a lot of new drinking tricks by listening to speakers and by sharing at our AA tables. One morning, I talked myself into getting some liquid Geritol, because I heard someone mention that it, too, had alcohol. I didn’t get any, because for once I was wise enough to call my sponsor in time.

Inevitably, I was sent to an alcoholic rehabilitation center, where, by the grace of God, I was comprehensively inventoried and suffered the agonies of withdrawal from pills, vanilla, vodka, and gin, which I had used unsparingly for about two weeks before my visit to this center.

I never went to jail, never drank in bars after becoming an alcoholic, never wrecked a car. But I did reach a very low bottom - which I know now is quite common to women alcoholics - right here in my own living room.

To sum up my reasons for writing this article, I would like to repeat: Slippers do have a very useful place in AA. I know that there may be many alcoholics new in the program who, like me, *admit* but do not *accept* (First Step); completely ignore the *insanity* of the disease (Second Step); latch on to the Third Step (that way, I was able to blame God for all my troubles!); skip to the Eleventh Step; hungrily take the Twelfth Step. Some, as in my case, perhaps even have the audacity to go on Twelfth Step calls *alone*, completely bereft of anything to give (except half measures, which availed me nothing). It’s unbelievable that two people I called on have not had as rough a time as I have had in the Fellowship.

So let’s go, slippers, and everybody: “Keep it simple”; go to meetings because you *want* to; and above all, “Let go and let God”!

L. D., Ocala, Fla. *Reprinted from The Grapevine March 1976*



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 (686-5602) with any questions.

# Contributions: To The Newcomer



(January/year to date)

Anonymous/Unknown 0/0

As Bill Sees It 0/0

Attitude Adjustment 0/0

Autumn Group 0/0

Brown Bag Group 0/0

Caduceus 113.00/113.00

Cottage Grove Noon 2.00/2.00

Cottage Grove Speaker Mtg 0/0

Courage to Change 0/0

District 19 0/0

Downtown AM Group 186.41/186.41

Drop The Rock 0/0

Fresh Start at Noon 0/0

Friday Night Stag 0/0

Get Well Group 10.00/10.00

Gratitude Group 0/0

The Great Fact Group 0/0

How It Works 65.00/65.00

McKenzie Bridge Group 0/0

McKenzie River Group 0/0

Men's Daily Reflections 0/0

Monday Mens Stag 10.00/10.00

Monday Night Beginners 0/0

New Freedom 0/0

New Freedom II 0/0

Primary Purpose 0/0

Recovery By the Big Book 0/0

Recovery By The Steps 0/0

Saturday Morning Steps 220.00/220.00

Search For Serenity 59.00/59.00

Serenity Seekers West 0/0

Sober Awakenings 0/0

Sobriety for Life 90.00/90.00

Springfield Monday Night 3.00/3.00

Sponsorship 0/0

Stairway to Sobriety 0/0

Sunday Morning B.B. 100.00/100.00

Sunday Sunshine 0/0

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 0/0

Tuesday Men's Sponsorship 0/0

Tuesday Beginners 0/0

Veneta Gratitude Group 0/0

We Need Each Other 0/0

Wednesday Mens Noon 0/0

Wednesday Men's Stag 0/0

Women's How It Works 0/0

Women's Monday Night 0/0

Womans Road to Recovery 0/0

Total Contributions (month/year to date)

Group month/ytd 858.41/858.41

**Fundraising:**

Anonymous/Unknown 152.00/152.00

Faithful Fivers 65.00/65.00

Ind. Contributions/Other 12.95/12.95

*The following story is a letter recieved at EVI from Jeff P. - Blythe California. A powerful message for anyone who may consider a drink before even that short drive home. This story will continue in the coming month(s) and the letter, in its entirety, will be made available from EVI.*

I am writing to you from a California State Prison located outside Blythe on the California/Arizona Border. Unfortunately, I am not an employee of this prison, but an inmate serving a sentence of 15 Years to Life as the result of an alcohol related automobile accident that occurred in Rancho Mirage, California on May 5, 1992, and involved the life-long friend of Frank Sinatra, Mr. Jilly Rizzo. This accident, which resulted in Mr. Rizzo's death, was a tragedy that destroyed the lives of many, many individuals, the least of which was mine. This accident was also the result of the same type of behavior that many of you reading this article may be attempting to overcome. Maybe not. With luck, you will be successful. Or, at least, more successful than myself. In all truths, just the fact that you are reading this article indicates that you are already taking positive steps necessary to change your life. Steps that many people wish they would have taken sooner, including me.

I am attempting to reach out to many of you in order to let you know how drastic your life can change if you allow yourself to be deceived by the euphoria of alcohol and/or drugs. I would expect that some of you reading this message are thinking that this is ridiculous because you don't have a drinking problem. Possibly though, something happened in your life that places you in a position that allows this message to be received. Maybe you were talked into attending a meeting of Alcoholic's Anonymous, or, just as likely, a concerned individual, or organization, saw to it that a copy of this life-saving message was placed in your hands. There could be a million different reasons for you reading this, but when you cut through all the layers of baggage, it all boils down to the same thing..... Maybe, just maybe, you have been living life on the edge, unaware, so to speak, of a very dangerous consequence to a seemingly harmless action. Just remember, having a drinking problem is not a prerequisite to finding yourself on the wrong side of a very bad situation. Individuals who partake in alcohol and drugs in a socially becoming manner find themselves in tight situations as well.

The goal of this message is to make an impact on those who choose to drink and drive. I make no claim to be a talented writer. I only hope that my tragic experience will be able to benefit you. With that in mind, I will do my best to keep it simple. I will do my best to keep you from attending the Alcoholic's Anonymous meeting that I am the Chairman of here at Chuckawalla Valley State Prison every Monday night. Most of those that attend this meeting now are serving a life sentence for murder. I am also convicted of murder as a result of the accident that I mentioned due to changes in the law regarding drinking and driving. There was a time when the laws used to partially protect the individual who found themselves in a bad situation as the result of making a terrible choice while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or, both. This was called a "Diminished Capacity Defense." This was available in regards to automobile accidents, but also, an array of criminal charges that resulted while under the influence. However, this is no longer the case, and rightfully so. Now the law is designed to protect the innocent victims from actions taken by those who, even for a second, forget about personal responsibility and the acceptable norms of our society. Now you may not be an alcoholic or a drug addict, but someone who decided to drive after consuming alcohol. This alcohol may have been consumed in an acceptable manner, among, acceptable people. But, if after you drank, you made a conscious, or

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# February Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee 6:30PM  
Tue District 20, 6:30PM 418 A St. Ken L. 747-8270  
Tue District 33, 6:30PM Pam G. 895-5478  
Wed District 19, 5:15PM Jennifer W. 937-1070  
Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00PM Angel 431-4924  
Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00PM John G. 686-5602  
Sat Cooperation w/Prof. Community, Noon
- 2nd Mon EVI Business Meeting 6:30PM  
Wed District 6, 6:30PM Tim A. 726-8558  
Sat Answering/Diverter, 9:00AM  
Sat EVI Speaker's Meeting 7:30PM Country Club Rd.
- 3rd Mon Public Information, 6:30PM  
Wed Activities, 6:30PM
- Last Wed H& I Committee, 6:00PM  
Last Day Literature Committee, 6:30PM



## Fellowship Events

**February 21-23, 2003, Beaverton, Oregon, "Willingness is the Key" Oregon Area Quarterly Assembly.** Greenwood Inn, Beaverton. Call (800)289-1300 for rooms. For information contact Colleen A. at (503)359-5963 or Wayne D. at (503)846-0997.

**February 28-March 2, 2003, McKenzie Bridge, OR, Men's Spring Retreat, "Keeping In A Fit Spiritual Condition".** St. Benedict's Lodge. Contact Frank at (541)953-4024.

**March 2, 2003, Eugene, Oregon. 1:30pm - 3:00pm. 1st Sunday Speaker Meeting.** 2580 Hilyard Street. Real time captioning for deaf and Hard of Hearing. Wheel chair accessible. Speaker - Laurie K., Oregon.

**March 7-9, 2003, Reno, Nevada, PRAASA Pacific Regional AA Service Assembly.** Panels, roundtables, and much, much more! Registration forms available on the Oregon Area Website.

**March 13-16, 2003, Newport, Oregon, Woman To Woman 2003.** 20th Annual Oregon Coast Women's Retreat. Registration forms and information is available at the EVI office.

## Gratitude:



### Currently Available Service Positions:

**Women Volunteers** are especially needed at the EVI office. **EVI Office Volunteers** work a four hour shift, once a week, or every two weeks. This is a fun way to get involved and get to know some other AA's in the community. It is recommended that volunteers have 3 months of sobriety. If you are interested, call the EVI office at 342-4113 ... or drop by!

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.

The following positions are open: These positions take varying time commitments and are great ways to be of service. Contact the committee chairs for more information.

**Member at Large:** One year term (normally a two year term). Two year sobriety requirement.

**Office Co-Coordinator:** Position opens in March. Business office experience helpful, retired person also helpful.

# People:

## OFFICE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Bob E. (747-2246), Bill B. (685-9216)

## ACTIVITIES

Mindy H. (954-2048), Valerie Z. (683-1936)

## ANSWERING SERVICE

Carola K. (736-8041), Jana (431-3839)

## ARCHIVIST

Linda (345-5827)

## COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY(CPC)

Frank K. (345-7131), Vicky K. (688-5042)

## E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS:

John G. (686-5602)

Newsletter: Taffany H. (746-1438),

John G. (686-5602)

Website: Darren (485-3474), Jessie (485-3474)

Meeting Books: Elisabeth R. (747-5814),

Lee P. (741-9824)

## E.V.I. SPEAKER MEETING

Angel (431-4924), Mary Jean (485-7854)

## LITERATURE

Letha M. (687-6623), Todd P. (689-4646)

## OUTREACH

Ted H. (338-8380), Annie B. (431-6610)

## PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Tom S. (686-8388), Todd J. (302-6377)

## HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Larry W. (513-5626), Open

## HOSPITALS

Chair: Steve S. (914-9258), Todd J. (302-6377)

## COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES(CTF)

Janis B. (935-8833), Cayce (520-5635)

## CORRECTIONS

Chair: Tom R. (465-1832), Open

## H&I Coordinators

Lane County Jail: Brenda K. (484-6773),

Ted H. (338-8380)

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

C.C.C. (Men's): Tom R. (465-1832)

Alma Work Camp: Bud W. (935-8833)

Pathways: Kenny (461-2937)

Serbu Detention: Jack C. (463-1040)

Carlton House: Joe C. (554-3558)

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

W.F.T.-Book Study: Leslie B. (606-5776)

Serenity Lane-Speaker: Cayce (746-6990)

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

Serenity Lane-Sat. Kurt J. (747-8925)

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

Johnson Unit: Jill S. (302-1311)

V.A. Meeting: Dennis (607-5127)

## E.V.I. STEERING COMMITTEE

Chair: Harold B. (579-8087)

Vice-Chair: Kurt J. (747-8925)

Secretary: Roger H. (688-3641)

Treasurer: Tom L. (683-7706)

Vice Treasurer: Lori B. (684-8670)

At-Large: Amanda W. (988-9656)

At-Large: Bob T. (342-1588)

At-Large: Steve O. (431-1205)

At-Large: Open (1 year term)

BOOKKEEPER: Kurt

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unconscious, decision to get behind the wheel of a car and drive that short distance home, without even knowing it you just gambled with the lives of innocent people, including the ones that you love the most. By law, this is what is called a, "Careless Indifference to Human Life." Truly, there can be no better explanation. The severe ramifications are the same, whether you knew what you were doing, or not. This careless indifference is occurring all the time. In fact, as I write this message inside Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, surrounded by gun towers, a lethal electrical fence and miles of concertina wire, there are hundreds of vehicles being driven around this country by drivers who have a measurable amount of alcohol in their system. Most of which are not even aware of the disaster they are flirting with. Prior to May 5, 1992, I was also carelessly indifferent to the ramifications of this type of behavior, even after numerous experiences that should have provided the motivation necessary to make some serious changes. Unfortunately, I knew that something like this would not happen to me. Never once did I think that I would be serving a life sentence in prison. I was a successful businessman, a husband, a father, a person who harbored the false security that bad things only happen to others. I received a rude awakening when I found myself standing before a Court of Law facing serious criminal charges as the result of actions erroneously conceived as being harmless at the time. We must all be prepared to answer for any choice we make, whether good or bad, conscious or unconscious, justified or unjustified. The concessions that were prevalent in the past have been removed.

For the last eight years, I have endured the madness of confinement. During this time, I have come into contact with thousands of other prisoners and listened to their painful stories. These prisoners have ranged in age from 16 to over 70 years old. Through all these stories there is one common thread, alcohol or drugs. Every single person that I have ever spoken to within the walls of prison have indicated that either alcohol, drugs, or both, played a significant role in their charged offense. This is a powerful- statistic in itself which is impossible to ignore. If you feel confident that you will be able to make the right choice every single time that you indulge in alcohol or drugs, I may one day be hearing your story. However, before this occurs, I truly hope that you will take an inventory on what you have now, and compare it to what you will have within these walls. You would surely want to take into consideration that the true tragedy of suffering a personal disaster is not to you, but to those you harm, and those you love. These are the individuals who will suffer the most as a result of your choices. After this is clearly thought through, then, and only then, can you add to the list the items you will be sacrificing personally. That list would include literally hundreds, if not thousands, of things. If you like privacy, it will be gone within these walls. If you enjoy seeing the stars at night, hearing the waves crash on the shore, watching your children grow, embracing your wife, sharing a moment with a friend, building a life, personal security, birthday parties, anniversaries, family reunions, helping your siblings, helping your parents, sports, vacations, and on, and on, and on. ... Every single day in this nightmare will remind you of another thing to add to your list. Another thing lost, never to be recovered again. Once you have a partial picture of what you will lose, it may be a good idea to make a list of things that you will gain...

***To be continued next month ...***

# 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 have a defective piece of equipment between these ears."  
Bob S - Harrisburg Group

"... then this guy asks me "So why are you still going to meetings?"  
Kayman - Friends of B.S.

"It's so cool to just fall back and know He's got you."  
Kelly - Old Time AA

"It's not so much knowing what to do, but doing what you know."  
Anonymous - The Great Fact Group

"Alcohol is an imperfect spiritual quest."  
Donna T - Primary Purpose Group

"No one screams louder than a thief (who was) stole from."  
John H - Monday Noon Men's Stag

"I always thought good people had to sacrifice joy."  
Harold B - Wednesday Stag

"You know a high bottom drunk because his head is on the curb."  
Eileen H - Springfield Monday Night

"I've got butt wounds from catching all the arrows from being a good scout."  
Dennis - Vets and Friends

"I had no 'laters' left."  
Rip S - Language of the Heart



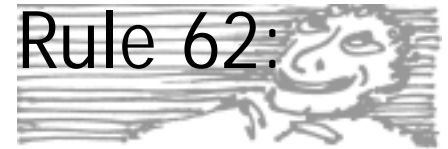
**Sister Ignatia Gavin**  
1889 - 1966  
Sisters of Charity  
of St. Augustine

## The Alcoholics "Angel of Hope"

On August 16, 1935, Sister Ignatia Gavin, a Catholic sister in charge of admissions at St. Thomas Hospital in Akron, Ohio, with the help of Dr. Bob, admitted the first alcoholic patient. It is believed that this made St. Thomas Hospital the first hospital in the world to treat alcoholism as a disease.

At the time, alcoholism was considered a moral deficiency, not a disease, so hospitals usually refused patients. Dr. Bob had struck up a friendship with Sister Ignatia and began asking her to admit his patients. Although against regulations she admitted them, usually by claiming "acute gastritis."

It is estimated that during her career, Sister Ignatia helped over 10,000 alcoholics.



## Useless Alcoholic Trivia:

The largest bottle size of wine is called a Nebuchadnezzar. It holds about four gallons, or 20 regular bottles worth, of wine.

"Fat Bastard Chardonnay" is a French wine label.

Abraham Lincoln held a liquor license and operated several taverns.

One out of every three snake bite victims are intoxicated.

40% of people killed by falling off a horse are drunk.

Moron is the name of a wine sold in Italy.

It is estimated that at any one time, 0.7% of the world's population is drunk.

In medieval England, beer was often served with breakfast.

Thermometers date back to the 1600s - at the time, however, they were filled with brandy, not mercury.



# 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):

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stamp

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