

# AA Myths

## ***Let's take another look at some of the things we say and believe***

Like any other organization that survives and grows over a period of years, AA, it seems to this alcoholic, has accumulated its own body of myths. Or maybe it would be more accurate to call them over- simplifications of basic AA truths. Whatever they are, they have little to do with AA reality.

Only a few short weeks ago, I heard a member say, "I thought I should give John some advice, because it might help him with his sobriety. But then I pulled back. After all, they tell us we can't change anyone except ourselves." They do tell us that, and it is true. But, and it is a large but. . .

Change must come from within the person himself, *but* I can *help* another person change. And that is an important difference. Those who refuse to speak to a fellow member about some obvious problems of growth, using the excuse "I can't change him or anyone," are copping out.

A basic concept of our program is that we believe all human beings have the potential for change, that all of us, no matter how far down the road we may have gone, can have a new life. Those who turn their backs on that belief miss a great deal, because they are buying a myth.

I heard a woman member say, "I have been sober ten years, and alcoholism is no longer my problem. Living is. I have had no desire to drink since my first year of sobriety, and I don't ever think about drinking. Living is my number one problem." Living a sane, healthy, and happy life, to the best of our individual abilities, is indeed a big problem; whether it is number one or two is immaterial. But drinking, or rather the *thinking* that can lead to the bottle again, never disappears as a problem for us drunks. It is there "cunning, baffling, powerful," and also jealous and patient. And those who think otherwise are treading dangerous ground, in my opinion. So scratch *that* myth.

Another persistent myth results from confusion between attraction and promotion. Recently, I heard a friend -call him Bernard- boast that, though an alcoholic next door was drinking himself to death, he (Bernard) had never approached this man about his problem. "He knows I don't drink; he may even know I'm in AA, although I've never told him. When he reaches his bottom, I figure he'll come to me-all in God's good time. I'm not promoting AA to him. It wouldn't do any good." As the cruder folk say, b.s.! And to drag God into it makes it worse. We are not, it is true, proselytizers. We do not drag drunks off barstools in our zeal, or try to push our program down the throats of all who drink, whether they want it or not. But where is it written that when we see someone suffering from the disease, we do not take an opportunity to tell him about our own recovery, at the appropriate moment? I have done that time and time again. If it doesn't work, at least I know I have tried. If that's "promoting" AA, I plead guilty. And I try to convince as many other members of the Fellowship as I can to join me in that kind of "promotion."

Bill W. did not wait for Dr. Bob to come to him. If Bill had regarded such face-to-face carrying of the message as "promotion," Dr. Bob -and the rest of us million or more alcoholics now in AA- might have died drunk. Those who use the idea of promotion as an excuse not to share on an individual basis are actually misusing a part of the Eleventh Tradition. The

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# E.V.I. News

July 2003

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

# AA Meetings:



## A Friend of Bill W's

New:None!

Changed:Women's Road to Recovery, which meets on Mondays at noon, now ends at 1pm.

No AA Plays Doctor, which meets on Tuesday evenings at 6pm, now ends at 7:30pm

Canceled:None!

Meetings of Interest:

H&I Meeting Coordinator Changes (please call before showing up)

Willamette Family Women's Big Book Study, Sunday 6:30-7:30pm, Leslie 606-5776, Mindy H. 954-2048 Please call first.

Lane County Psychiatric Hospital, Wednesday 5:50-7:10pm, Todd J. 302-6377, Bruce P. 302-3050 Please call first.

Lane County Jail, Wednesday 7:50-9:10pm, Ted H. 338-8380 Please call first.

VA Meeting, Friday 11am-noon, Dennis 607-5127, Charles T. 345-0461 Please call first.

Serenity Lane, Saturday 8-9pm, Cindy D. 988-0183, Jason 912-8217 Please call first.

*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 guess I always believed that you can't have much fun without alcohol. This idea was so entrenched in my mind that when I attended my first AA meeting in Pinetown, South Africa (after two years of trying to hide from booze in the Middle East), I thought all those laughing people must be a bit crazy. I had resigned myself to being bloody miserable (though abstinent). We must just get on with life, I thought, and be glad that we are still alive.

Fear kept me sober for the first month or so - the fear of having to go through another recovery without any form of medication during the withdrawal phase. Step One had taken me, but I had a hard time taking Step Two. Then after about five months, a friend pointed out that I didn't have to believe, I only had to be *willing* to believe. It was that simple. I had almost been trying to force myself to believe in something, when all that was required was willingness.

Another friend said that if I was having trouble with the "God angle," I should take a look at some of the coincidences which were happening around me and see if they were "God- incidences." Here are some that I've noted in the past eighteen months.

After I'd been sober about fifteen months, I had made direct amends to those I remembered harming over years. The one exception was the traffic policeman who had arrested me for drunken driving. I was verbally abusive to him in a very cutting way. For months after the arrest, I schemed how best to get my revenge on the guy - in a manner satisfying to my sick condition of mind at the time.

One day I received a twelfth-step call and when my friend and I arrived I thought the drunk looked familiar in some way. But I didn't put two and two together until just before we left, when I asked him what he had done for a living before becoming a full-time drinker. He said that he'd been working at a packaging company since he'd been kicked out of the police force. Only then did I recognize his face. Here was the very same traffic policeman who had arrested me, now sitting before me at his rock bottom. All those years of hatred suddenly changed to feelings of compassion and fellowship.

Recently I asked the "God of my understanding" if there might not be a way for me to get home to Scotland in order to carry a message of hope to my mother, who was in a sorry state with her drinking. Two days later, my boss asked me to go to the United States and it took only a little effort to arrange a stopover in London and a quick jaunt up to my home in the Orkney Islands. When I left, my mother was sober and reading the Big Book. I'm leaving her recovery in the hands of someone much more powerful than I am.

During the return trip, I decided late one evening to stop over in Livingstone and find a meeting in Adelaide Street. I was hopelessly lost and stopped the first person I saw. When enquiring for Adelaide Street, the guy looked at me with surprise and said, "You must be a friend of Bill W's. I'd better come along with you." If I hadn't found the Adelaide Street meeting, I could have gotten to one the next day, but I thought: What if the guy who helped me needed to be there?

Are all these events coincidences? Who knows. But I do know that AA works if you want it - and you work it.

Mike C., Edenvale, South Africa

From the April 1991 Grapevine. Reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

# What Happened to Them Could Happen to Me



The first time someone close to me slipped, I was shattered and amazed. How could it have happened? What dramatic crisis had caused this tragic situation? My friend, who fortunately got back to AA, seemed confused when he tried to explain his slip. No crisis, real or imagined, had occurred. He said he just decided to take a drink.

As time passed, my initial horror and concern abated. I decided my friend was an unusual person and, since he was safely back in the program, all was well. But then another friend slipped. And others. They didn't all come back, and some will never be able to make it back, as they have passed from this life.

I began to fear that this would happen to me. What caused these slips? What happens to an individual who apparently seems to understand and live the AA way, yet decides to drink again? What can I do to keep this from happening to me?

Without realizing it, I found myself attracted to these slippers. In fact, I began to study them. I got close to them and tried to learn as much as I could about what had happened in each case. I learned that it's quite possible for me to slip, too. I can identify with these AAs before they slip, when they tell bits of my story and express my own feelings - and then they drink again. I had better believe that what happened to them can happen to me.

Is there any consistency among slippers? Are there common denominators that seem to apply? I found some. They don't apply 100 percent, but they come close enough to be startling.

In almost every instance, the returned slipper says, "I stopped going to meetings" or "I got fed up the same old stories and the same old faces" or "My outside commitments were such that I had to cut down on going to meetings" or "I felt I had received the optimum benefits from meetings and sought further help from more meaningful activities." In short, they stopped going to meetings. There is an AA saying, "Them which stops going to meetings are not present at meetings to hear about what happens to them that stops going to meetings." It's so very true.

Another common denominator is too little use of the Twelve Steps. The comments heard most are "I never did work the Steps," "I never got past the First Step," "I worked the Steps too slow" or "too fast" or "too soon." In essence, these slippers considered the Steps, but did not conscientiously and sincerely apply the Steps to their lives. Finally, I found, many of them felt dissatisfaction with today. "I forgot we live a day at a time" or "I began to anticipate the future" or "I began to project" or "I began to plan *results*, not just plan." They seemed to forget that all we have is Now. Life continued to get better for them, and, as many of us do, they forgot how bad it had been and began to think how dissatisfying it was compared to what it could be. In my own opinion, we tend to forget our blessings and try to compare today with tomorrow. This leads to disappointment when tomorrow's blessings do not measure up to our specifications. We must compare today to yesterday, so we may realize, by that contrast, what great benefits and blessings we have today.

## 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.

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# Contributions:

(June/year to date)

Anonymous/Unknown 0/10.00  
As Bill Sees It 0/25.00  
Attitude Adjustment 0/856.43  
Brown Bag Group 0/100.00  
Caduceus 0/113.00  
Cottage Grove Noon 8.74/10.74  
Courage to Change 0/78.00  
Downtown AM Group 0/564.01  
Early Firehouse Group 0/30.00  
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 5.00/15.00  
How It Works 135.00/393.00  
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 0/53.00  
Saturday Morning Steps 0/220.00  
Search For Serenity 147.00/445.36  
Serenity Seekers West 0/0  
Sober Awakenings 0/300.00  
Sobriety for Life 0/90.00  
Springfield Monday Night 0/12.00  
Sponsorship 0/0  
Stairway to Sobriety 25.00/125.00  
Sunday Morning B.B. 0/781.15  
Sunday Sunshine 0/185.00  
Sunlight of the Spirit 50.00/50.00  
Sunday Night 12x12 0/0  
SW Sunset 0/0  
Thurs. Men's Book Study 100.00/100.00  
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  
Vet's and Friends 40.00/40.00  
Wednesday Mens Noon 0/0  
Wednesday Men's Stag 0/0  
Women's How It Works 5.00/15.66  
Womans Rd. to Recovery 0/205.25  
Women's Wednesday 0/2.00  
Total Contributions (month/year to date)  
Group month/ytd 515.74/6675.52  
**Contributions/Individual**  
Anonymous/Unknown 0/152.00  
Faithful Fivers 45.00/504.40  
Ind. Contributions/Other 27.94/257.17  
Total Contributions/Ind. 0/840.63

*continued from page 1 (AA Myths)*

Tradition states: "Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion," and goes on to clarify *where* this shunning of promotion is to apply: "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films." Those who cling to the myth that the anti-promotion admonition bars us from carrying the message are misinterpreting the Eleventh Tradition in order to shirk the responsibility of practicing the Twelfth Step.

Let's turn to yet another myth: "I came on this program an ornery, self-obsessed, scared s.o.b. five years ago," some have said, "and I'm still the same ornery, self-obsessed, scared character, with this difference-now I'm sober." At one time or another, we have all heard that. "Tain't true, McGee. No one, no thing, remains static. Life is a constant process of flux, and we are part of life. The person who made the foregoing statement may be an even worse s.o.b. than when he arrived at his first AA meeting -unlikely though that is- but he's not the same. Maybe he would even like to be the same, hanging on to his old miseries, but he's changed. He can't see it; others can. There is either growth or deterioration in all of us, all the time. We in AA choose growth. At least, I hope we do. Even those who hang on to the myths.

B. I., North Hollywood, California

From the August 1977 Grapevine. Reprinted with permission of the A.A. Grapevine, Inc.



*continued from page 3 (What Happened to Them Could Happen to Me)*

Most important of all the lessons I wanted to learn: What do we say to a slipper who returns or to a slipper who calls for help? I seem to be completely ready and equipped to give the message to newcomers; if they will listen, I'll talk to them for hours. But what do I have to tell the slipper who has had years on the program, has read the Big Book, knows the Steps, and has attended hundreds or thousands of meetings? For a long time, I wasn't at all competent in this area. Finally, a slipper told me what to say and, more important, what to do. He told me what he most wanted to hear and feel when he returned. Later, other slippers confirmed his advice. He said that when the slipper returns or says he wants to return, we should tell him that we love him and are happy he is back, and that we want to help all we can. And we must mean it.

Since then, I have told slippers just that. For me, it has been easy to mean it, because I can still "go to school" and continue to learn from them.

Vic B., Hawaii

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



**What a great picnic!** With James at the BBQ helm it was easy to tell which shin-dig was ours. A big man, always with a smile and hearty "hello" was a great welcome as you approached our shelter. This member estimates he flipped patties and dogs for about 150 or more. The weather was perfect ... not too hot and plenty of shade. And of course the company was wonderful.

I noticed a balloon toss, perfect for the warm weather. There was music all around including some good ol' fiddle playing. Martha was doing portraits in pastels. Then there was Ben and Terry juggling pins to one another. Ben explains that they are pins when all is going well, clubs when you drop or miss one!

How about the raffle? Angel donated a plant that was a start from one of the plants in Bill Ws hospital room! There were lots of prizes and they all went to holders of orange or red tickets! Interestingly, there were a few of the youngsters that protested this fluke, but upon inspection of the box ... sure enough, all of the tickets and colors were there!

While I could not stay for the meeting, I understand Paul did a great job of chairing the topic of gratitude. There were about a dozen or so folk that participated.

This alcoholic would like to thank Mindy, her crew and everyone that helped make this happen. The fruits of your labor were absolutely wonderful!

# July Calendar

- 1st Mon Steering Committee 6:30PM  
Tue District 20, 6:30PM 418 A St. Ken L. 747-8270  
Tue District 33, 6:30PM Allen U. 741-2617  
Wed District 19, 5:30PM Jennifer W. 937-1070  
Thur Speaker Mtg Committee, 7:00PM Angel 431-4924  
Fri Communication Meeting, 6:00PM John G. 686-5602  
Sat Cooperation with Professional Community, Noon  
Sun Activities, 5:00PM Mindy 954-2048  
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, CANCELED FOR JULY  
3rd Wed Public Information, 6:00PM Bob P. 434-1045  
Last Wed H&I Committee, 6:00PM  
Last Day Literature Committee, 6:30PM



## Fellowship Events

**August 3, 2003, Eugene, OR. 1:30pm - 3:30pm. 1st Sunday Speaker Meeting.** 2580 Hilyard Street. Real time captioning for deaf and HoH. Wheel chair accessible. Child care provided. Hugh McC. Eugene.

**August 15-17, 2003, Astoria, OR. Youngs River Round-Up 3rd Annual Camp Out for Recovery.** For information contact Rita Mc. at 503-458-5314 or email [youngsriverroundup@yahoo.com](mailto:youngsriverroundup@yahoo.com)

**August 15-18, 2003, McKenzie River, OR. 4th Annual Sisters in Sobriety Campout.** Roaring River Group Camp. This is a weekend about having fun and fellowship (women only). Call Diana at (541) 345-0436 for more info and registration.

**September 11-14, 2003, Sacramento, CA. 18th Annual Northern California Big Book Seminar.** For information contact Ken P. at (916)456-8836 or email [BBSeminar@yahoo.com](mailto:BBSeminar@yahoo.com)

**September 19-21, 2003, Hermiston, OR. Oregon Area Quarterly Assembly.** Hermiston Community Center. For more information contact Andy S (541) 377-1491 or Sherri M (541) 377-3896.

## Gratitude:



### Currently Available Service Positions:

EVI is in need of an office volunteer co-coordinator. They also are in need of an archivist chair to fill a one year position. CPC, Cooperation with the Professional Community, is in need of a co-chair. For more information on these positions, go to an EVI business meeting, or ask your EVI representative.

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 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. (685-9216), Open

## ACTIVITIES

Mindy H. (954-2048), Holly S. 338-0316

## ANSWERING SERVICE

Bob E. (747-2246)

## ARCHIVIST

Open

## COOP. PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY(CPC)

Carola K. (736-8041), Open

## E.V.I. COMMUNICATIONS:

John G. (686-5602)

Newsletter: Teffany 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

Angie E. (606-6433), Vicki K. 688-5042

## LITERATURE

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

## OUTREACH

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

## PUBLIC INFORMATION (PI)

Bob P. (434-1045), Bill D. (741-7709)

## HOSPITALS & INSTITUTIONS (H&I)

Chair: Larry W. (513-5626)

## HOSPITALS

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

## COOP. TREATMENT FACILITIES(CTF)

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

## CORRECTIONS

Chair: Tom R. (465-1832), Bob L.(689-6960)

## H&I Coordinators

Lane County Jail: 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),

Mindy H. (954-2048)

Serenity Lane-Speaker: Cayce (746-6990)

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

Serenity Lane-Sat. Cindy D. (988-0183),

Jason 912-8217

L.C.P.H.: Todd(302-6377), Bruce(302-3050)

Johnson U.: Steve(914-9258), Jill(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: Jenne B. (688-1189)

BOOKKEEPER: Kurt

# Emerald Valley Intergroup

## Business Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2003

Meeting opened at 6:30 by Harold B. with the Serenity Prayer. Twenty three representatives were on hand for a quorum, including Districts 19 and 20 EVI liaisons. AIS representative also in attendance.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Open positions      C.P.C. Co-Chair  
   Office Co-Coordinator  
   Archivist

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Announcements:** EVI representatives. Please let your GSRs know that each of the four districts (6, 19, 20 and 33) EVI Liaisons now have a voice and vote at our monthly business meetings.

EVI Steering Committee has created an Ad-Hoc committee to look at improving the current diverter system and would like as many Group Diverter Coordinators as possible to be involved.

EVI representatives please check the printed announcements in the office and also check the "BIG ASS CALENDAR" while you are there.

As always help is always needed in all areas and positions. If you are thinking about doing some service work and "Carrying The Message", the list of contact people is in the office, or come to the monthly business meeting--second Monday of the month -- and volunteer.

### MOTIONS:

Tom L. To Create an Archivist Committee modeled after the state Archivist. No dollar impact to EVI. Chair would rotate every year. This would bring some continuity to the Archivist position, by having a committee instead of a single person handling the position.

Seconded and Passed. No statements from the minority.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Speaker Meeting:** Angie E. July speaker meeting canceled because of Summerfest. Doing great.

**Public Information:** Bill D. No report

**H&I:** Larry W. Doing well. Meeting last Wednesday 6pm, Group representatives welcome.

**Treasurer:** Tom L. Group contributions are down. Went over Profit/Loss and Committee budgets.

**Office:** Bill B. Cleaning out back hallway, claim what's there or it gets tossed.

**Literature:** Todd P. WE HAVE BOOKS. Inventory in progress. GSO order on its way.

### Communications:

**Website:** Darren D. Up and running. Check it out!

**Meeting Directories:** Lee P. No report

**Newsletter:** Teffany H. Good newsletter this month. Need more articles or ??

**Diverter:** Jana P. We have some rough spots that need to be taken care of. All is not well with the diverter program. Ad-hoc Committee formed by the Steering Committee to try and improve Diverter.

**CPC:** No report

**Activities:** Mindy H. Breaking even on our events. July Fourth Picnic.

**Outreach:** Ted H. Have four invites to groups. Things are looking up.

**Steering Committee:** Harold B. Restroom cleaning fee \$40.00 to be split with neighbor \$20.00 / EVI, \$20.00 with Neighbor. Copier is fixed. Steering committee has OK'd to go to Kinkos IF copier goes down.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 with the Serenity Prayer.

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.)

"The only thing worse than the end of my drinking was the beginning of my sobriety."

Steve S – EVI Office

"What do I need a 4<sup>th</sup> step for? I'M the victim!"

Fred D early in sobriety – Wednesday Night Stag

"... Yeah, yeah. You just don't understand."

John H speaking to his first sponsor – Wednesday Night Stag

"Hoof and Mouth disease. Open mouth, insert hoof."

Big John – Friday Night Stag

"A good use of my own will is to work on my defects."

Bob E – Monday Men's Nooner

"Asking what part of the program is spiritual is like asking what part of water is wet."

Anonymous - Springfield Sunday Big Book Study Group

"The 12 Steps IS the easier, softer way."

John S. – Wednesday Night Men's Stag

"It all started with one simple prayer ... "God, please help me."

Philip S – Old Time AA

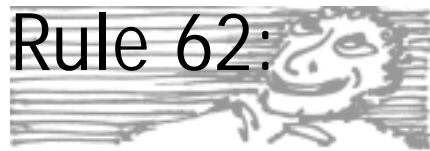


It was a cold December night in West Orange, New Jersey. Thomas Edison's factory was humming with activity. Work was proceeding on a variety of fronts as the great inventor was trying to turn more of his dreams into practical realities. Edison's plant, made of concrete and steel, was deemed "fireproof". As you may have already guessed, it wasn't!

On that frigid night in 1914, the sky was lit up by a sensational blaze that had burst through the plant roof. Edison's 24-year-old son, Charles, made a frenzied search for his famous inventor-father. When he finally found him, he was watching the fire. His white hair was blowing in the wind. His face was illuminated by the leaping flames. "My heart ached for him," said Charles. "Here he was, 67 years old, and everything he had worked for was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, 'Charles! Where's your mother?' When I told him I didn't know, he said, 'Find her! Bring her here! She'll never see anything like this as long as she lives.'"

Next morning, Mr. Edison looked at the ruins of his factory and said this of his loss: "There's value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God, we can start anew."

What a wonderful perspective on things that seem at first to be so disastrous. A business failure, divorce, personal dream gone sour . . . whether these things destroy an individual depends largely on the attitude he or she takes toward them. Sort out why it happened, and learn something from the blunders. Think of different approaches that can be taken.



The most expensive bottle of wine was sold at an auction at Christies, London, in December 1985. The buyer paid £105 000 for a bottle of 1787 Chateau Lafitte claret that was engraved with the initials of Thomas Jefferson. Eleven months after the sale, the cork dried out, slipped into the bottle and spoiled the wine, making it the most expensive bottle of vinegar!

In 1930, Frank Mars, a Chicago candy-maker told his son Forrest to get out of the country and not come back. Forrest went to England with a few thousand dollars and the recipe for his dad's Milky Ways. He set up shop and began selling the candy. While in England, he discovered Smarties, and candy-covered chocolate. He bought the rights to market them in the US. He went into business with a man named Bruce Murrie. They were called M&Ms, short for Mars and Murrie.

The first draught serveth for health, the second for pleasure, the third for shame, the fourth for madness  
Sir Walter Raleigh (1552 - 1618)



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