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## **Memorandum**

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: Truisms from a trialist

### **The people who like to travel haven't**

If you like flying try tucking a 6'6" frame in the center seat in sardine. As I quipped, years back to an Eastern Airlines flight attendant (when Eastern Airline still existed and advertised themselves as "the wings of man"), "You may be the wings of man, but you have not left much room for his feet".

I have been to lots of places but have not seen much save for airports and meeting rooms. In my years of travel I have prepared for a crash landing and experienced a "compressor shutdown" (engine quits) in mid flight.

Before there was reserved seating I had various strategies to "save" the center seat. It was a flight to LA where I had managed to save the only open seat on the plane. I was relieved when they closed the door ready to push back. Praise the Lord! Then the flight attendant opened the door and in walked a 300 lb woman with her left arm in a gadget to hold it out and up. She squeezed in beside me with her left arm in my face. I ended up helping her cut her food on the way to LA.

### **Working lunches don't work**

How much work have you gotten done at "working lunches"?

### **It is easier to get lots of money than a little**

My batting average would not get me a position on the Yankees, but my slugging percentage was high. In baseball slugging percentage is total number of bases divided by number of at bats. In trials it is amounts awarded divided by number of attempts.

I have written lots of funding applications, but the most trouble I have had is for small amounts of money.

### **Ask for what you need and you won't get funded**

Honesty is not always the best policy.

### **The way to cure a disease is to start a trial**

How often have you heard "Recruitment will be a piece of cake. We see people like these all the time" only to have them disappear as soon as you start the trial?

### **The rule of twos**

In trials, it will take twice as long to recruit half the number planned and the event rate will be half of what was expected.

### **Meetings breakup three hours before the earliest plane departure**

It was two hours before 9/11.

**In meetings, the person with the least distance to travel will be last to arrive and first to leave**

**Two moves equal one fire**

**Whatever can go wrong will**