

HAWAII AREA COMMITTEE OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

15th Area Assembly  
June 8, 1980, 2:00 p.m.  
Kapahulu Library

PRESENT: Carole C., Herb W., Richard V., Tracy D., Herb B., Mac McF., Calvin K., Kimo, Jim S., Mart H., Dan L., Buzz B., Beth McK., Kevin McK., Sunny T., Bernie S., Jack H., Dorothy H., Tom McC., Katy K., Monica M., Margaret A., Ken J., B. L. H., Ron H., Joseph L., Dick J., Allen K., Tim H., Sam B., Harry L., Warren S., Sleman D., Beth McG., Skip B., John J., Benajmin C., Sam W., Pat P., Rick F., Jerry B., Vic B., Jack B., Ben M.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 2:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

The minutes of the 14th Area Assembly were approved as circulated.

Finance: The Treasurer reviewed the May financial report which was approved as circulated.

Delegate: The Delegate's report from the G.S.O. Conference was presented in the May 1980 Mynah Bird.

There are quite a few groups in Hawaii who have not contributed to G.S.O. This information should be taken back to the groups.

The Delegate reported that he had received a communication from G.S.O. regarding the American Bar Association who will be holding their annual convention in Honolulu July 31st-August 6th. Hawaii A.A. will have a booth at this convention and volunteers are needed to man the booth.

Steering Committee: Don and Diane A. are co-chairman for the Fall Round-Up which will be held at Mokuieia September 19-21st. The cost will be \$35.00.

The November Conference Committee had their first operational meeting last week, and all of the key positions have been filled. The individual chairmen are looking for people to work on their committees. Principle points of contact are Hugh L., Jack H. or Fran R.

Ad Hoc: The committee is in abeyance until we receive more information from G.S.O.

Central Office: Ben reported that in the last Mynah Bird the Central Office had asked for groups to update their 12-step lists. He has gotten response from some groups but would like to hear from more.

Public Information: Monica M. is new P.I. Chairman. Carol C. is working with her.

Inter-Group: No report.

Honolulu: There has been some discussion regarding the money that was used to assist DCM's to go to the Pacific Area Regional Conference in Anaheim in March. It was approved that this will be an agenda item at the next Assembly.

Leeward: The same subject was brought up in their district. One of the problems is that the GSRs do not have time to take these matters back to their groups to get a group conscious.

Windward: Things are going well on the Windward side. The Friday night meeting at St. Christopher's has gotten rather small and needs a little support.

Hilo: Jerry reported that the Hilo group has contributed about \$40.00 to Central Office, and that the Kona people have contributed the same amount. The outer islands feel that they do not benefit too much from Central Office on Oahu. They are left up to their own devices. Most of the money that the groups turn in is used to run their answering service, newspaper ad, telephone and rent. The possibility was suggested of getting a toll-free answering number for all islands.

Corrections: Women at Malahia have been moved to the new prison. The committee is looking for someone to be in charge of the women's meeting there.

Men's Prison: There are about twelve outside people attending the Oahu Prison meetings and about 40-50 inmates attending. They are running their own meetings.

Grapevine: Mac said he had packets for the DCMs to give to their GpV chairmen. There is no Honolulu district GpV chairman. The Grapevine now costs \$6.00 per year or \$10.00 for a two-year subscription.

Mynah Bird: Jim reported that he has volunteers to assist with the Mynah Bird, Paul P. and Betty P. The Mynah Bird ... will come out before the next assembly.

Hospitals: Hina Mauka (Friday night meeting) has been revived and is presently sponsored by the Malia Discussion Group. Additional listing for Grapevine subscriptions are being prepared for outside islands and clinics. Listing are being prepared for distribution of Big Books to hospitals. Volunteers are needed for general on-call or for specific hospitals twelve-step work. Members attending meetings at Queen's are asked to call Kekela Ward to see if anyone needs to be escorted.

At this point the group broke up for the workshops (report below).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

WORKSHOP TOPICS: In view of increasing attendance at A.A. meetings, what is the need to form new groups? How should we go about it?

Workshop Committee discussed the topics as follows:

Some meetings are too large for the physical facilities and largeness limits individual participation. Some newcomers tend to get large in large meetings, however, this is what some newcomers desire.

Large meetings are a sign of success as large attendance is due to desire of members to be there. However, this situation can also be the result of there being only a single meeting available in the geographical area.

Individual groups should review their individual situations and determine if they are meeting the need. Should the group have more than one meeting a week? Should different types of meetings be held? Should members be encouraged to visit other meetings as a group?

Districts should review their situation to determine availability of groups and meetings.

Committee conclusions as follows:

There are individual areas where additional groups and/or meetings are needed.

The establishment of new and/or additional meetings should not be the action of the Area Committee, but should be the action of the Districts and Groups.

By this workshop, District Trusted Servants and Group Trusted Servants should take it back to their Districts and Groups that consideration be given to District and Group evaluations to determine if individual actions should be taken to establish additional Groups and/or meetings.

Literature from Central Office and General Service Office.

New group packet from GSO

Includes all the information to start new meetings.

Packet sometimes available from Central Office

Sponsorship recommended -- home group stressed to help newcomers get involved.

Methods of attraction - greeters. Greeters are important to help new members feel welcome.

A.A. and Non-A.A. Literature

GSO recommends groups not sell non-A.A. literature.

Group autonomy up to selling non A.A. literature.

It was recommended that displaying of Non-A.A. literature be by group conscience vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Margaret L. A. [Redacted]*

Margaret L. A. [Redacted]  
Secretary

HAWAII AREA A. A. COMMITTEE

FINANCIAL REPORT - FEBRUARY 29, 1980  
MARCH 31, 1980

BALANCE (2/29/80)		\$ 980.88
Donations - Groups		244.96
7th Tradition - Area Meeting		16.00
Transfer from Savings		<u>140.00</u>
	Total	\$1,381.84

EXPENSES:

Operational	\$ 47.40	
Hospitals-Book Bank	70.07	
Correctional	140.00	
(tickets, Roundup)	<u>          </u>	
	Total	<u>257.47</u>
	Bank Balance (3/31/80)	\$1124.37

DONATIONS - GROUPS	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Alii	10.00	20.00
Aloha Friday	-----	40.00
Aloha Sunday	20.00	-----
Castle	-----	11.00
Groper"s	7.00	-----
Head Start	10.00	-----
Hina Mauka - Friday	6.60	-----
Kailua Step Study	-----	14.96
Kailua Monday	7.10	-----
Kailua Friday	-----	12.00
Kailua Wednesday Stag	7.50	-----
No Hands - ARD	(Dec) 20.00	
" " "	18.00	20.00
Pioneer	6.98	-----
Turning Point - Maui	-----	10.00
Wahines - Diamond Head	-----	15.00
Waialua-Haleiwa	33.00	-----
Mililani	10.00	-----
Big Book Study	3.85	-----
Kaiser Step Study	15.00	-----
Kaneohe - Tuesday	4.00	-----
Wilder	-----	50.00
Aiea Step Study	-----	2.00
Waikiki Stag	-----	<u>50.00</u>
TOTALS	\$179.03	\$244.96

Savings \$1,360.00

MAILING ADDRESSES

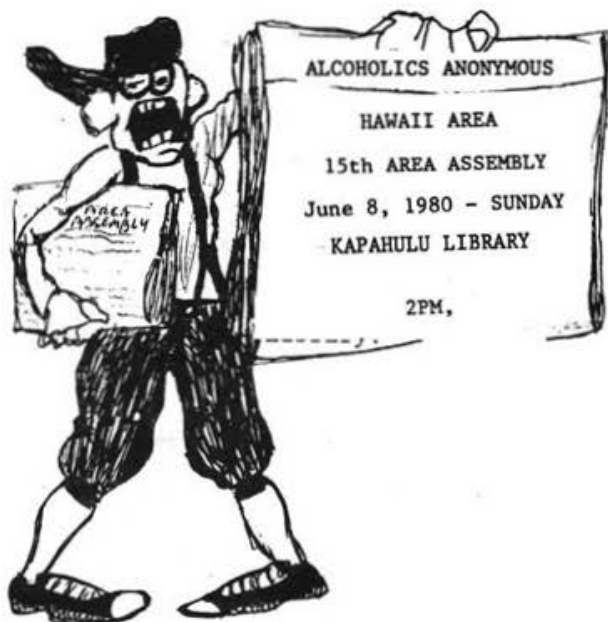
# A LITTLE MORE TRADITIONAL...

"This really rocked him. But as he calmed down he began to listen while I tried to show him that humility was the main key to sobriety. Finally he saw that I wasn't attempting to change his religious views, that I wanted him to find the Grace in his own religion that would aid his recovery. From there on we got along fine.

"Now," concludes the old-timer, "suppose I'd been obliged to talk to this man on religious grounds? Suppose my answer had to be that A.A. needed a lot of money; that A.A. went in for education, hospitals and rehabilitation? Suppose I'd suggested that I'd take a hand in his domestic and business affairs? Where would we have wound up? No place, of course."

Years later this tough Irish customer liked to say, "My sponsor sold me one idea, and that was sobriety. At the time, I couldn't have bought anything else."

From the text "Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions." Reprinted with permission of Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, Inc. solely for the purpose of encouraging discussion.



## AGENDA

1. OPENING
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS
3. SECRETARY'S REPORT
4. TREASURER'S REPORT
5. SYNOPSIS OF AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS
6. DELEGATE'S REPORT
7. OLD BUSINESS
8. NEW BUSINESS

COFFEE BREAK

9. WORKSHOPS
10. REPORT OF WORKSHOPS
11. OPEN FORUM
12. ADJOURNMENT

### WORKSHOP TOPICS:

- 1)
  - (a) In view of increasing attendance at A.A. meetings, what is the need to form new groups?
  - (b) How should we go about it?
- 2)
  - (a) What assistance is available to new groups?
  - (b) How do we handle A.A. and non-A.A. literature?
  - (c) Methods of attraction - Greeters, Sponsorship, introducing new members, etc.

The PACIFIC REGION SERVICE ASSEMBLY took place in ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA at the end of February. Among those in attendance from Hawaii were VIC B., JACK H., CHARLIE R., DANNY L. AND HERB W. All participated in the program and brought back new ideas on service, which they have been sharing at meetings since then. If you are interested in becoming more involved in service it is suggested that you take these people aside after the meetings and "pick their brains". Alcoholism is an equal opportunity disease - and A.A. has a position waiting for YOU.

Danny L.

# A LITTLE MORE TRADITIONAL...

## TRADITION FIVE

"Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

"Shoemaker, stick to thy last" ... better do one thing supremely well than many badly. That is the central theme of this tradition. Around it our society gathers in unity. The very life of our fellowship requires the preservation of this principle.

Alcoholics Anonymous can be likened to a group of physicians who might find a cure for cancer, and upon whose concerted work would depend the answer for sufferers of this disease. True, each physician in such a group might have his own specialty. Every doctor concerned would at times wish he could devote himself to his chosen field rather than work only with the group. But once these men had hit upon a cure, once it became apparent that only by their united effort could this be accomplished, then all of them would feel bound to devote themselves solely to the relief of cancer. In the radiance of such a miraculous discovery, any doctor would set his other ambitions aside, at whatever personal cost.

Just as firmly bound by obligation are the members of Alcoholics Anonymous, who have demonstrated that they can help problem drinkers as others seldom can. The unique ability of each AA to identify himself with, and bring recovery to, the newcomer in no way depends upon his learning, eloquence, or on any special individual skills. The only thing that matters is that he is an alcoholic who has found a key to sobriety. These legacies of suffering and of recovery are easily passed among alcoholics, one to the other. This is our gift from God, and its bestowal upon others like us is the one aim that today animates AA's all around the globe.

There is another reason for this singleness of purpose. It is the great paradox of A.A. that we know we can seldom keep the precious gift of sobriety unless we give it away. If a group of doctors possessed a cancer cure they might be conscience-stricken if they failed their mission through self-seeking. Yet such a failure wouldn't jeopardize their personal survival. For us, if we neglect those who are still sick, there is unremitting danger to our own lives and sanity. Under these compulsions of self-preservation, duty, and love, it is not strange that our society has concluded that it has but one high mission - to carry the A.A. message to those who don't know there's a way out.

Highlighting the wisdom of A.A.'s single purpose, a member tells this story: "Restless one day, I felt I'd better do some Twelfth Step work. Maybe I should take out some insurance against a slip. But first I'd have to find a drunk to work on. "So I hopped the subway to Towns Hospital where I asked Dr. Silkworth if he had a prospect. 'Nothing too promising' the little doc said, 'There's just one chap on the third floor who might be a possibility. But he's an awfully tough Irishman. I never saw a man so obstinate. He shouts that if his partner would treat him better, and his wife would leave him alone, he'd soon solve his alcohol problem. He's had a bad case of d.t.'s, he's pretty foggy, and he's very suspicious of everybody. Doesn't sound too good, does it? But working with him may do something for you. So why don't you have a go at it?'

"I was soon sitting beside a big hulk of a man. Decidedly unfriendly, he stared at me out of eyes which were slits in his red and swollen face. I had to agree with the doctor - he certainly didn't look good. But I told him my own story, I explained what a wonderful fellowship we had, how well we understood each other. I bore down hard on the hopelessness of the drunk's dilemma. I insisted that few drunks could ever get well on their own steam, but that in our groups we could do together what we could not do separately. He interrupted to scoff at this and asserted he'd fix his wife, his partner, and his alcoholism by himself. Sarcastically, he asked, 'How much does your scheme cost?' I was thankful I could tell him, 'nothing at all.' His next question: 'What are you getting out of it?' Of course my answer was, 'My own sobriety and a mighty happy life! Still dubious, he demanded, 'Do you really mean the only reason you are here is to try and help me and to help yourself?' 'Yes,' I said. 'That's absolutely all there is to it. There's no angle.'

"Then, hesitantly, I ventured to talk about the spiritual side of our program. What a freeze that drunk gave me! I'd no sooner got the word 'spiritual' out of my mouth than he pounced. 'Oh!' he said. 'Now I get it! You're Proselyting for some damn religious sect or other. Where do you get that "no angle" stuff? I belong to a great church that means everything to me. You've got a nerve to come in here talking religion!'

"Thank heaven I came up with the right answer for that one. It was based foursquare on the single purpose of A.A. 'You have faith,' I said. 'Perhaps far deeper faith than mine. No doubt you're better taught in religious matters than I. So I can't tell you anything about religion. I don't even want to try. I'll bet, too, that you could give me a letter perfect definition of humility. But from what you've told me about yourself and your problems and how you propose to lick them, I think I know what's wrong.' 'Okay,' he said. 'Give me the business.' 'Well,' said I, 'I think you're just a conceited Irishman who thinks he can run the whole show.'