

MYNAH BIRD

HAWAII AREA #17 NEWSLETTER



Area Website: www.aa17aa.org
to: mynahbird@aa17aa.org

Articles

November 16, 2019 Committee Meeting
Windward District 4

Hawaii Area Committee
P.O. Box 1413
Honolulu, Hawaii 96806

P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Who should attend:

Committee Meetings: Attendance by DCMs, Area Standing Committee Chairs, and Area Officers is required. GSRs are not required to attend but strongly encouraged.

Assemblies: GSRs, DCMs, Area and District Standing Committee Chairs, Area Officers, others as necessary.

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things, I cannot change, courage to change the things, I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

In this issue:

Service Article - Lea V. (Maui Newsletter)

West Hawaii Delegate Report back - Jeannie G. (DCM)

Article of A.A. History - Kauai newsletter

19 yrs. due to service - Ernest S. (Mynah Bird)

GSR? DCM? District? Area? GSO? - Karen N. (Registrar)

Delegate Report Back District 11 - Michelle C-R. (DCM)

Come to Realize - Deborah L. (P.I.)

Delegate Report back District 17 - Bill M. (DCM)

Bill W's. Last Message.

OIG and HICYPA - Summer bash - Freddy P. (HICYPA)

General Service - Rachel S.

Delegate Report back District # Kauai - Janice McK.

Finding balance doing service - Deborah S.

Funny Kine -

Word Search - Delegate Report Back

Service Article

My first sponsor, instilled being of service within my first week of sobriety. She had me putting books away or washing coffee cups. In a couple of months, I had a coffee position. Then at six months I stood for a secretary position. I learned early on having a responsibility to the group helped keep me sober and was a way I could give back to Alcoholics Anonymous.

I continued this type of service for the next two years and worked on the Steps. At just over a year I had finished the Steps and at about a year and a half I knew it was time to get uncomfortable and switch sponsors.

After my last secretary commitment was completed and I had 2 years of sobriety, I knew I needed to challenge myself with my next service commitment. I knew at the end of the year that our group Treasurer and our General Service Representative (GSR) positions would be available. I discussed both positions with my sponsor and saw I had a lot of fear around the GSR position. I didn't know what it entailed, and it involved traveling to the other islands and home staying with strangers. My sponsor and I discussed the responsibilities and the qualifications, and I knew my higher power would help me walk through the fear.

I stood and was elected the GSR for my home group. I started my GSR commitment and met new people at District meetings and Area Assemblies. I slowly learned what my service commitment meant and enjoyed being of service at that level. The friends I met in my new service position allowed me to expand my friendships when some others were changing because I was changing. The first time I had to travel as a GSR was to Kona for the Budget Assembly and home stayed with a wonderful woman and her family. I felt welcomed and comfortable and enjoyed meeting new people on each of the islands and assemblies. I have developed friendships on all the islands because of my willingness to be of service. I have opened my home to others who are being of service and have friendships that will last a lifetime.

I never thought that I would be so grateful for the willingness to walk through the fear and be of service as a GSR. I am currently the Alternate District Committee Member for the No Ka Oi District 5 on Maui. My sponsor says she found her tribe in general service and so have I. I have friendships that will last the rest of my life, and I have continued to stay sober with the help of my higher power. This is the little way that I can help to make sure Alcoholics Anonymous is around for generations to come.

In Love and Service,
Lea V.

West Hawaii District 8

Our Founders' Day Delegate Report Back event at Spencer Beach Park on June 8th was a success with about 60 members in attendance. Our agenda included:

- A talk given by Cheryl on how Alcoholics Anonymous was founded.
- Coleen did a great presentation on her experience at the General Service Conference. We loved that she covered the results of our Area 17 panel assignments, even if they didn't all go our way. We have Coleen slated for next years delegate report back on June 6th, 2020 and have secured the venue at Spencer Beach Park.
- We had a potluck lunch with hamburgers and hot dogs provided by District.
- Archives had a table and invited four long-timers up to the mic to share their experience, strength and hope relating to the formation of their home group.
- We presented a funny play titled "The Anonymity Police" which included music, sound effects, audience participation and even a few undercover agents. Even though it was humorous it contained a clear message of Tradition 11, personal anonymity at the public level, with the main focus on social media.
- District had a literature table. Grapevine Chair gave away a few books and a subscription to the Grapevine Magazine.
- We ended the day with an A.A. meeting.

It was a fun day!
Jeannie G.
District 8 DCM



**The Best of Big Book Dave:
The Month of August in Our History:**

Highlight for this Month: August 1946,

Bill W. said: “**The Grapevine** will be the voice of the Alcoholics Anonymous movement. Its editors and staff will be primarily accountable to the AA movement as a whole. Within the bounds of friendliness and good taste, the Grapevine will enjoy perfect freedom of speech on all matters directly pertaining to Alcoholics Anonymous. Like the AA movement it is to mirror, there will be but one central purpose; The Grapevine will carry the AA message to Alcoholics and practice the AA Principals in all its affairs.”

August 1909: Book published: “**Twice Born Men,**” Author Harold Begbie. It is one of eleven books (including the Bible) that will influence how the Big Book will be written.

August 1938: Personal stories are being written by members and sent to Bill. Our Big Book First Edition’s first printing will be going to press in eight months!

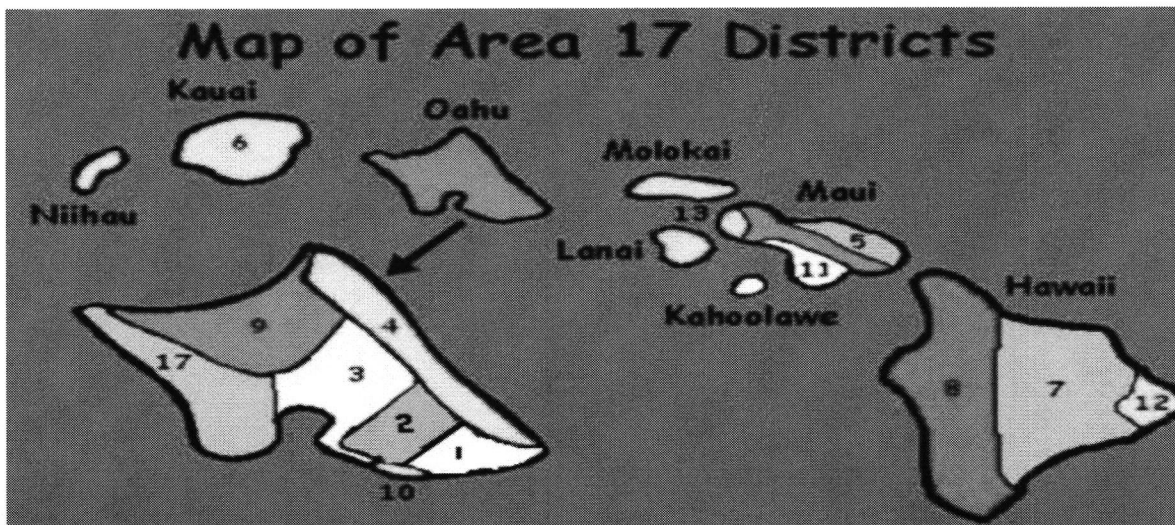
August 16th, 1939: The first admission of an alcoholic into a hospital, St. Thomas, Akron, Ohio, for treatment of alcoholism as a medical condition. Sister Ignatia and Dr. Bob, side by side, will treat over 5000 alcoholics over the next ten years.

August 1944: In the front our Big Book the two letters by Dr. Silkworth is accepted by the A.M.A. on alcoholism as a disease.

August 1981: The millionth copy of the Big Book is printed.

From ‘Big Book Dave’, Elected Archivist, Interior Alaska

~ Submitted by Mathea A.



Aloha everybody my name is Ernest and I'm an Alcoholic, Kalihi-Sobriety is my homegroup. My sobriety date is July 22nd, 2000. We recently celebrated 19 year's sober.

When I came back into A.A. after 4 attempts in treatment, I decided the only thing to do now, is to give this A.A. thing a try. So, I reconnected with my sponsor, made "Wilder" my homegroup and re-joined a step study. Despite my skepticism, the A.A. suggestions given were actually working. After making my 1st year sober, for the 4th time, I decided to follow the suggestion of getting into service. I started making coffee for the Happy Hour group. I found that service had really help me get out of self which made it easier for me to introduce myself to other alcoholics. I didn't particularly like making coffee, but I did it long enough to where it became a part of a routine for me. I started out as a coffee maker then went on to be a greeter for my homegroup. Did the literature position for a year and became the secretary for my home-group, Then I got involved with service with the Annual Hawaii Convention. Later, I changed home-group because my work schedule changed, and Kalihi-Sobriety became my home-group in 2008. I continued service work at the homegroup level but in 2011 my group elected me as their GSR for Panel – 61. After my two year's was up, I was so intrigued with area service that I moved on as Alt. DCM in Panel – 63 Then in Panel – 65 I stood and became the DCM for District 2 the Honolulu District. Another two years flew by and in Panel – 67 my name was drawn from the hat to serve as Treatment Chair for Hawaii Area 17. And now in 2019 for Panel – 69, I'm honored to serve as your Mynah bird Chair.

So, as we celebrated 19 year's sober last month, I have to say, and without a doubt, that SERVICE really played a vital part in my recovery. Thank you Alcoholics Anonymous for allowing me to serve and for giving me a life second to none.

Ernest S.
Mynah bird Chair
Hawaii Area 17

***Event:**



GSR? DCM? District? Area? GSO?

I got sober in Northern California and spent the first 10 ½ years of my sobriety there. I had service positions in the local Fellowship as well as in some stand-alone meetings. The groups that I attended did not participate in General Service although we contributed financially to the various entities. When I moved to Maui in 2007 my eyes were opened to a new world of Alcoholics Anonymous.

I got hooked on General Service when a fellow AA member told me that she was planning on standing for Kihei District DCM and she suggested that I stand for Treasurer. She didn't stand for DCM – I stood for Treasurer and began my journey in General Service.

My first assembly was an Inform the Delegate Assembly which I attended as Alternate GSR for my home group. I was impressed and wanted more.

I have served the Area as the Cooperation with the Professional Community Chair, Area Treasurer, Cooperation with the Elder Community Chair and am currently serving as the Area Registrar. The short answer to the question about the challenges and the rewards of service at the Area level is that I have a tremendous debt to pay to Alcoholics Anonymous and service at this level allows me to chip away at that debt.

The main challenge that I faced as Standing Committee Chair for Cooperation with the Professional Community and as Chair for the Cooperation with the Elder Community was the lack of knowledge and/or misinformation about Alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous. Thankfully Alcoholics Anonymous has a wealth of literature and I was able to use some of it while participating in presentations to the professional community – mainly the judicial system. I was also able to distribute literature at events directed to the Senior Community and the professional community. I hope in some small way that the perception about alcoholism and Alcoholics Anonymous has been made more positive and that more people will be willing to come to us to seek help for alcoholism.

As Area Treasurer, I learned more about the importance of our Seventh Tradition. Every month I would get a small contribution from one certain group. I'm pretty sure it was a small group and their contribution made clear how important the participation of each one of us is in supporting Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. As Area Registrar, I get to meet everyone who comes to Assemblies – I get to put a face to all those contributions that I received as Treasurer! The challenges that I have faced as Registrar have been minimal, mainly dealing with the data system at GSO. They are currently migrating to new system with the goal of providing increased efficiencies, security, and enhanced overall support of the A.A. community – more will be revealed!!!

Mahalo for letting me be of service.

Karen N.
Area 17, Panel 69 Registrar

Aloha!

On July 13, 2019 the Waianae District #17 hosted a Delegate Report Back event at Pokai Bay. It was a great day to fellowship with members from various districts under the bright sun and next to the beautiful ocean. Members enjoyed great food and games that stirred up much laughter among each other. Approximately 40 or more members showed up for the event. Talks with long-timers about the "good old days of AA" and stories that about memories embedded in each other forever. By the time our Delegate Colleen A. came to give her report the audience was all ears. The delegate spent about an hour reporting to members on topics like; the amount an AA member can contribute to AA, the importance of AA presence utilizing technology and her personal experience with entire conference to say the least. I for one thought her report was very informative to include questions by some of the members who were present. When I looked around, I could see how everyone was very attentive to the subject matters and I felt that same feeling I got when I got to AA "This is where I belong". Everyone applauded the Delegate for job well done and continued to mingle after the report. Members indulged in more food and fun in the sun. The District event ended with and AA related Jeopardy challenge where members broke out into teams and challenged each other on topics like Big Book, 12X12 and other AA related history. Everyone laughed their hearts out. I admit, I engaged in questionable behavior! What can I say, I still have that competitive spirit and still not well! (lol) The main thing is that everyone laughed the whole time and had fun playing the game. It was fun for everyone! Thank you, "WCW" for making our event a fun-filled experience. Everyone helped with breaking down the tents and loading up. In the end, I contemplated what Dr. Bob wrote in the Big Book that has stuck with me for many years about being in service. He said, "it becomes a sense of duty" For me, I truly understand what he meant.

Love and Service,
Bill M.
District #17

"I have found that the process of discovering who I really am begins with knowing who I really don't want to be."

— Alcoholics Anonymous

**The best apology is
changed behavior.**

Bill's Last Message

Bill was one of A.A.'s two cofounders.

My dear friends,

Recently an A.A. member sent me an unusual greeting which I would like to extend to you. He told me it was an ancient Arabian salutation. Perhaps we have no Arabian groups, but it still seems a fitting expression of how I feel for each of you. It says, "I salute you and thank you for your life."

My thoughts are much occupied these days with gratitude to our Fellowship and for the myriad blessings bestowed upon us by God's Grace.

If I were asked which of these blessings I felt was most responsible for our growth as a fellowship and most vital to our continuity, I would say, the "Concept of Anonymity."

Anonymity has two attributes essential to our individual and collective survival; the spiritual and the practical.

On the spiritual level, anonymity demands the greatest discipline of which we are capable; on the practical level, anonymity has brought protection for the newcomer, respect and support of the world outside, and security from those of us who would use A.A. for sick and selfish purposes.

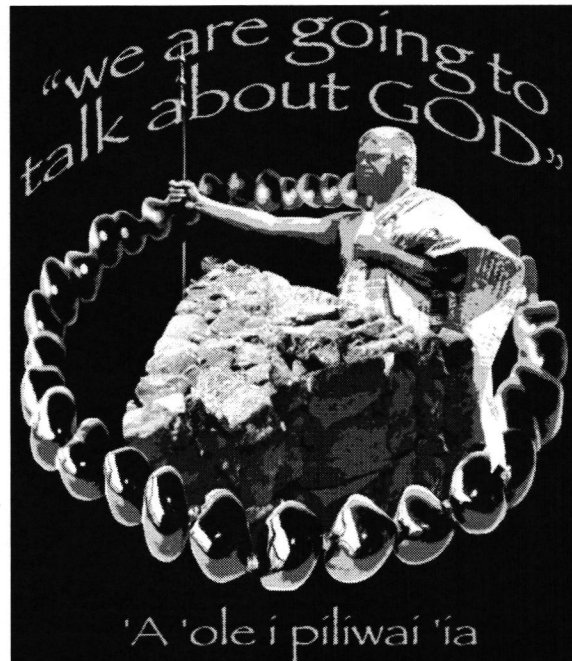
A.A. must and will continue to change with the passing years. We cannot, nor should we, turn back the clock. However, I deeply believe that the principle of anonymity must remain our primary and enduring safeguard. As long as we accept our sobriety in our traditional spirit of anonymity, we will continue to receive God's Grace.

And so—once more, I salute you in that spirit and again I thank you *for your lives*. May God bless us all now, and forever.

**The 58th
Annual
Hawaii
Convention**
October 31 - November 3,
2019
**Marriott Waikiki
Beach Resort & Spa**
**"We Are
Going to Talk
About God"**
'A'ole i piliwai 'ia

Registration is limited to 800

As of July 24th, 2019: 614 members have registered. Only 186 registrations remain.



On July 6th, Oahu Intergroup and the 2019 HICYPAA Host Committee joined forces to put on a summer bash at the Susannah Wesley Community Center. The event came together smoothly from set-up to breakdown thanks to great unity, recovery, and service from everyone involved. The theme was “A New Freedom,” underlined by two great speakers who shared their experience, strength, hope, and the freedoms they enjoy in sobriety! There were festive decorations, one sweet treats, and fresh coffee and lemonade for all in attendance.

After the meeting, the kitchen started cranking out hot dog dinners and the DJ started pumping everyone’s favorite jams. Folks flocked to the dance floor as soon as the music started, and members in service cleaning up were still dancing as we closed the venue down at the end of the night. Not only was it a fun night out for our community and their families with about 80 people in attendance, it was also a successful fundraiser for Oahu Intergroup, and will help them continue the service work they do for our fellowship!

In Love and Service 2019 HICYPAA Host Committee

Article submitted by: Freddy Pacheco



HICY!!!...HICY!!!...HICY!!!...

PAA!!!...PAA!!!...PAA!!!...

General Service

Many moons ago, in a land far, far away, my sponsor took a clueless, 2 years sober Sponsee to the Area Elections Assembly. At that assembly, I was "volun-told" into service - nominated, told to accept the nomination, and voted in by acclamation as Area Secretary. I had little inkling as to what Area was or what Area did. At that time, I had no idea the awesome impact that General Service at the Area level would have on my sobriety and my life. I will be forever grateful to that sponsor for my exposure to Area General Service.

Within Area Service, there have been many spiritual lessons and growth opportunities. First, the invaluable realization that by participation, I am truly a "part of" AA. While I've heard General Service described as "just politics", the bottom line truth for me is that General Service boils down to life and death for us and future generations of alcoholic. The longevity and the future of AA lay within the hands of its members and groups, and that by participating in General Service, we become the stewards of the Steps, the Traditions and the Concepts, responsible for passing those principles on. One ego-shattering lesson was that Service is not about me and that I need AA more than AA needs me. These were gifts given by participating in General Service with those members who both give back and pay it forward through Service beyond the Group level.

What is challenging about Area Service? My biggest challenge is my ego, my pride, and my knowing what is "right". There are so many life lessons that I have been gifted in General Service. I've learned how to truly listen to others, with compassion, and not interrupt. I've grown towards being open and willing to allow shifts in my thinking instead of being stuck in "I'm right". I have witnessed a group conscience shift from fear to love just by hearing the courageous voice of one of our members from the microphone. I have had countless exercises on how to engage in loving debates about difficult topics and at the end, still be able to respect myself and others. I have learned how to agree to disagree and be at peace. Ultimately, I have learned to think beyond the walls of "Me - Myself, My Group, My life" and realize AA is a global entity, affecting recovery in individual lives worldwide.

What is satisfying about Area Service? The sheer joy I receive in watching the passion and fire for AA bloom in the alcoholic who is new to General Service. The gifts I've been given of meeting AA members that I would otherwise never encounter and of creating lasting friendships that I never expected. The knowledge that we do the best we can to be good stewards of the service positions with which we have been honored and entrusted. The ongoing lessons in being a tool in the process of AA without any expectation of return for myself. Most of all, the satisfaction of passing on what I have learned, giving back to the program which saved my life, and paying it forward to the future generations of alcoholics who will need and want AA.

Rachel S.
Area 17 Treasurer

I would like to give a huge thanks to Hui Ohana for hosting an awesome 4th of July celebration at Lydgate Park. Upon arriving, I really was amazed by how much time and love everyone put into making the pavilion so festive and inviting. The tables were decorated with balloons, flowers, red white and blue tablecloths and streamers. There was beautiful music, lots of food, great speakers and wonderful fellowship. Also attending was our Delegate from Maui Coleen A. In April, Coleen attended the General Service Conference in New York where she relays the voice of our home groups and votes on behalf of our Area's group conscience.

She prepared and presented a clear and concise report of her experience at the conference and the results of the agenda items that the conference voted on. Coleen's report addressed many topics such as finance, literature, how many new groups there are (1,641 new groups in the U.S. and 91 new groups in Canada were listed with G.S.O.), international conventions, archives and Grapevine. She also had many moving experiences speaking with GSO staff, touring the GSO office and getting to know new and incumbent delegates. I'm very grateful our District and Area is connected to the General Service Office. We are informed, which means we are doing our part in keeping AA alive and healthy for newcomers and old timers alike. If you weren't able to attend, Coleen's report can be found on our Area website

<http://www.area17aa.org/panel63/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/69th-GSC-Report-Back-rev-2.pdf>

Also presented at the celebration was the \$8.06 on 8/06 Challenge. This really cool idea was started by an Area in Oregon. AA has 1,418,177 members however it costs GSO \$11,426,835 to keep itself afloat. The difference in revenue is made up from literature sales. Overall, it costs GSO \$8.06 each year per AA member to keep itself afloat.

Here is how the challenge works:

- Pass a special basket in every group –
- Every member contributes \$8.06 on or before 8/6 –
- Groups send contributions to GSO after 8/6 -

I will provide GSR's with more details for the challenge and they will present it to home groups. If your group does not have a GSR you are still welcome to participate in the challenge. The flyer is on the website under 8/6 Challenge.

Janice McK. DCM #6

Aloha, I'm a sober alcoholic, my name is Deborah S. Alternate Chair for Hawaii Area, Panel 69.

Gosh, It feels so good to be in service to others. Makes me feel better about everything. My journey in general service started with a willingness to offer myself to serve out a 2-year commitment. I took it to prayer, shared my desire to serve with my spouse and family. I considered my regular work obligations and my ability to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the service position. I also asked my service sponsor if he would help me. I have found much fulfillment in all my general service position roles, each commitment required me to manage my time and set boundaries. I experienced both challenges and gratifying experiences. As alternate chair one of my responsibilities is "arrange meeting places and hospitality for all Area assemblies and committee meetings". "Planning" activities from a small business meeting to a corporate event satisfies my creative side, and pumps oxygen into my blood. I am thrilled when I see an event come to pass. This is a personal and professional satisfaction.

Doing the do's in my service position "proves" to me that I'm on the beam. It feeds my emotional sobriety, I feel real good in my heart when I can do for someone. I agree when we think of others and do for others, we feel better about everything. There will be challenges. I've had some. When family time, paid employer work-time and A.A. service work-time are booked into the same 24 hours I've got to be mindful of my time and most important for me, is to keep my spouse in the loop. My Daily Reprieve. It's imperative I make time for my sobriety. I connect and ground myself in AA meetings. I think by doing so challenges are minimal.

It is wise for me to remember "All is as it should be". "God is in the experience." "Plan of Action." It is wise, for me to thank my higher for everything both the challenges as well as the rewards of general service.

Mahalo, Deborah S.
Area 17 Alt Chair Panel 69



**KEEP
CALM
AND
WORK THE
STEPS**



**JUST
DO THE
NEXT
RIGHT THING**

(Heard in a meeting:)

**I would rather go through
life sober, believing I am an
alcoholic, than go through**

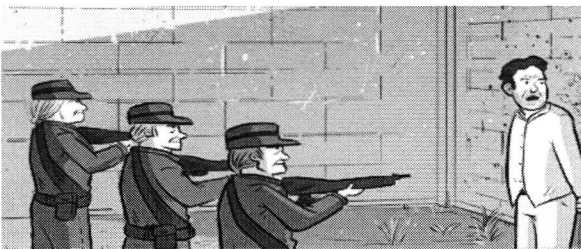
**life drunk, trying to convince
myself that I am not an
alcoholic.**

**Life begins when you are ready to step out of your
comfort zone**

Identify with others but never try to compare your struggles.

Funny Kine!

A gambler, a drug addict and an alcoholic, is arrested in a foreign country for committing unspeakable acts due to their afflictions. They are each sentenced to death by a firing squad. Next day they bring out the Gambler, then the firing squad and then the marksman, who yelps Ready!... Aim!.....The Gambler, with his quick thinking yells out "Title Wave!...Title Wave!..." Everyone on the firing squad turns around to look. The Gambler breaks free, jumps the wall and escapes to freedom. Next day they bring out the Drug addict, the firing squad, followed by the marksman who again proceeds to yelp Ready!....Aim!....The Drug addict screams out "Tornado!...Tornado!.... Again, everyone on the firing squad turns around to look. The Drug addict breaks free, jumps the wall and he too escapes to freedom. The Alcoholic witnessing both escapes already has natural disaster in mind and awaits his freedom. Brimming with confidence the Alcoholic walks out onto the field with a nonchalant attitude, not a care in the world, possessing the "No worry, I get'em!" attitude. Then out comes the firing squad. Out comes the marksman and once again starts yelping "Ready!...Aim!..." Thus yells out the Alcoholic



"Fire!...Fire!..."

Delegate Report Back

S I G Q R S N O I S I C E D P
D L N L E A I G B G R Y E P C
N I I A S B C H I E R T W O A
O S T N P E J C B A U O M P T
P P O G O Z N M O B P M U R R
S U M U N I E I I R U M A P C
E B O A S M T R V N D N A I H
R L R G I K T A I E S A Y C A
R I P E B S W C R L P N N V L
O S U S I G A B A O N A D C L
C H C D L T E T L U P H R H E
G I D A I S E E T S U R T G N
W N H O T D E W E N E R O W G
R G N X Y C O N F E R E N C E
S N O I T U B I R T N O C L U

ACCORDANCE
COMMUNICATION
CORPORATION
DISTRIBUTED
LANGUAGES
PUBLISHING

CAMPAIGN
CONFERENCE
CORRESPONDS
GRAPEVINE
MEMBER
RENEWED

CHALLENGE
CONTRIBUTIONS
DECISIONS
GROUP
PROMOTING
RESPONSIBILITY

